National Records of Scotland

Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland, Mid-2018

Published on 25 April 2019

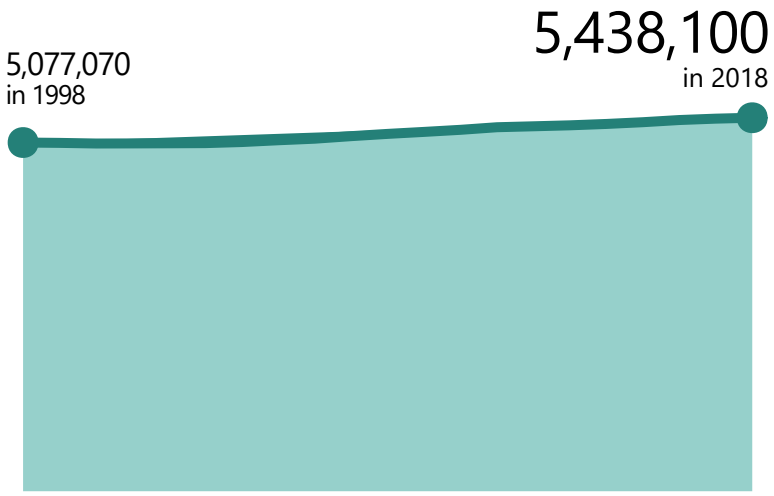
This statistical report provides population estimates for Scotland, its council areas and NHS boards, by sex and age.

Scotland's population has increased in recent years

The latest estimate of Scotland's population (on 30 June 2018) is 5,438,100 – the highest ever and an increase of 13,300 people (0.2%) over the last year.

Since 1998, Scotland's population has increased by 7%.

Number of people

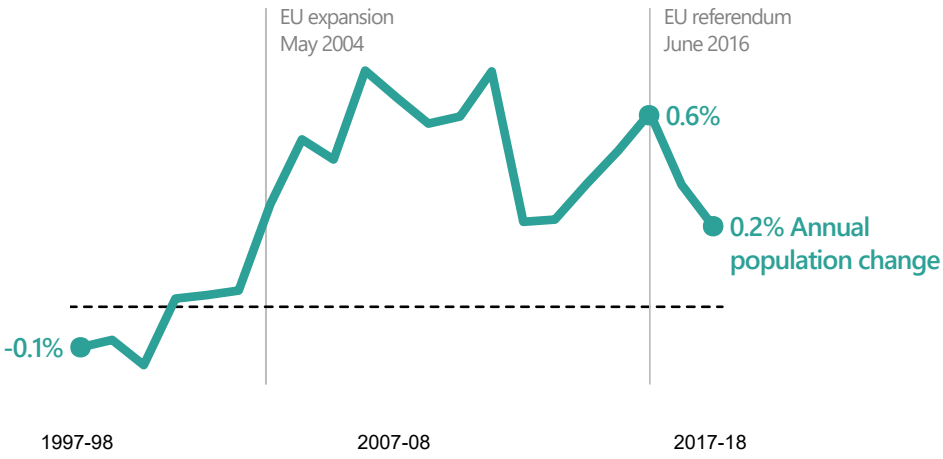


Population growth has slowed over the past two years

Scotland's population has been growing each year since the 30 June 2000, but the level of growth has varied over this period.

In the two years since 30 June 2016, Scotland's population growth has slowed from 0.6% to 0.2% growth.

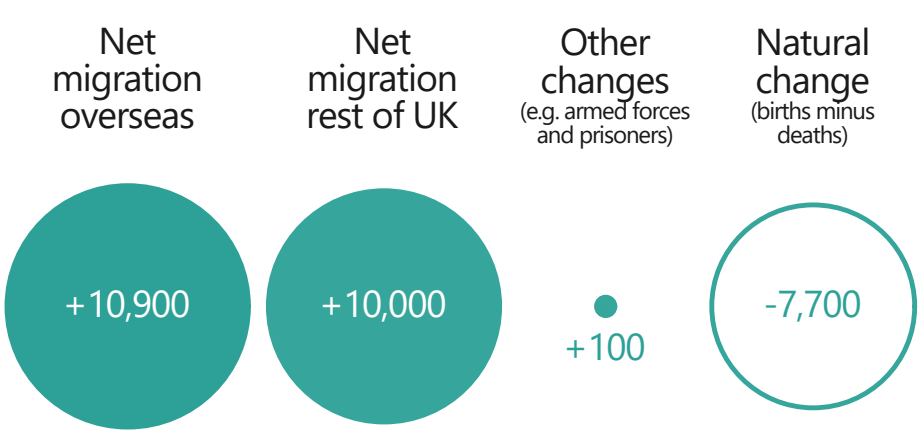
Annual percentage change in number of people



Migration is the driver of Scotland's population growth

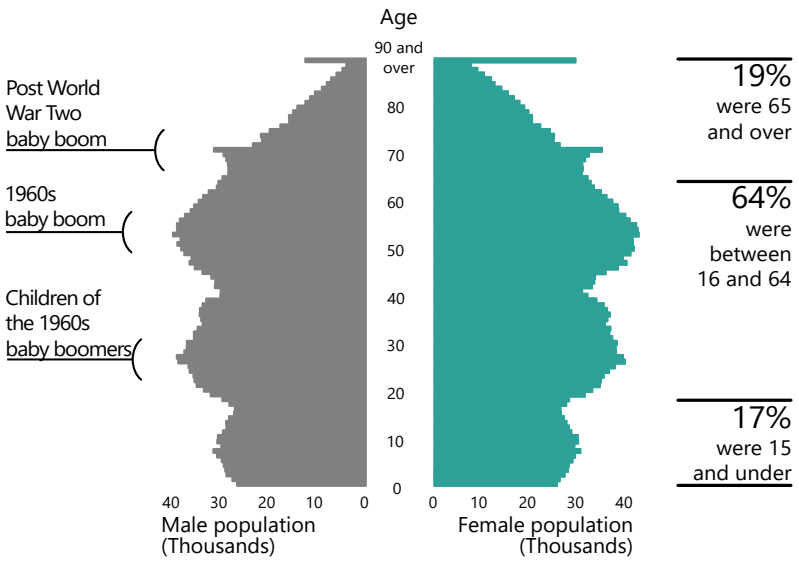
In the year to 30 June 2018 there was a net gain of 10,900 people from overseas and 10,000 people from the rest of the UK.

There were 7,700 more deaths than births and other changes (such as in the number of armed forces and prisoners) resulted in an increase of 100 people.



Mid-year population estimates, Scotland 2018

Summary



In 2018, just under one in five people (19%) in Scotland were aged 65 and over

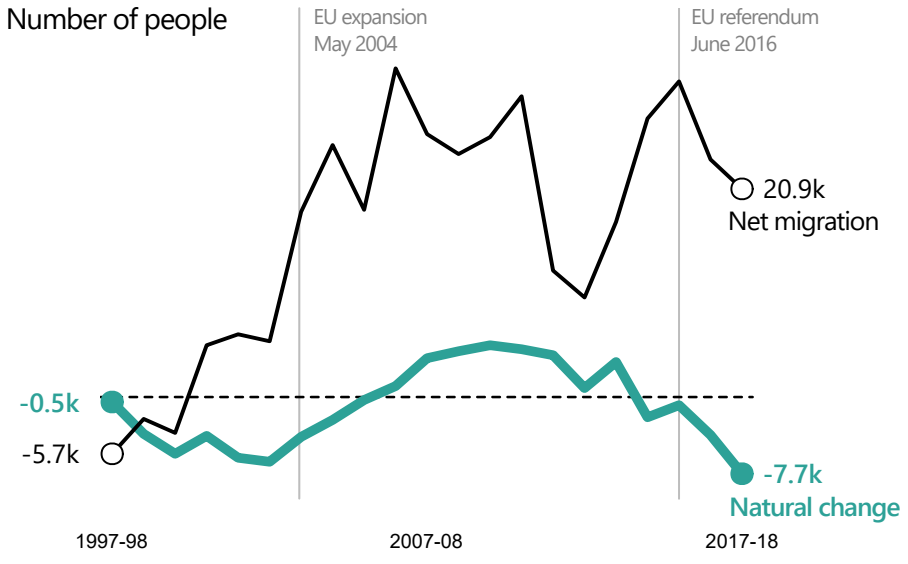
Over the last 35 years, the proportion of people aged 65 and over has increased from 14% to 19% of Scotland's population.

In 2018, people aged under 16 made up 17% of the population and 64% of people were aged 16 to 64.

Scotland's population is ageing

The increase in the population of older age groups has been much higher than younger age groups over the last 20 years.

The largest increase has been in the 75 and over age group (+31%) whereas the population of children aged 0 to 15 has decreased the most (-8%).



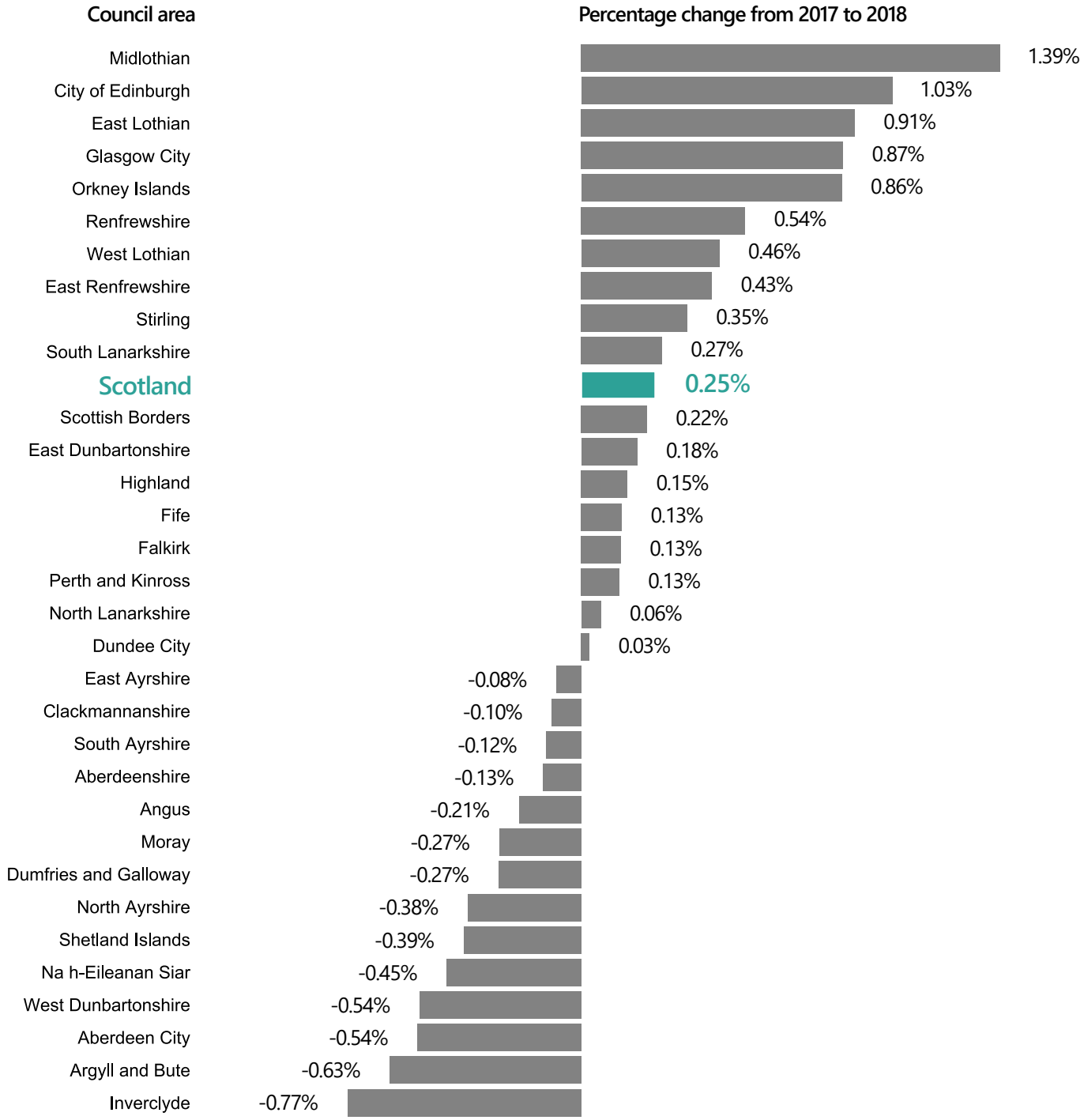
Since 2000, Scotland's population increase has mostly been due to positive net migration

Over the past two years, net migration has fallen, although there are still more people coming to Scotland than leaving.

Over the past four years, there have been more deaths than births each year, with natural change now the most negative on record.

The level of population change varies across Scotland's council areas

Over the last year, more than half of Scotland's council areas (18 councils) increased in population while the remaining 14 councils experienced a population decrease.



There is more information on Scotland's council areas in the interactive data visualisation accompanying the 2018 population estimates which is available from the NRS website (https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/stats-at-a-glance/infographics-and-visualisations#data)

Contents

Key Findings

- On 30 June 2018[1], the population of Scotland was 5,438,100, the largest population ever in Scotland for the ninth year running. Scotland's population has been increasing for the past 18 years.

- Scotland's population increased by 13,300 people (0.2%) in the year to mid-2018, however population growth has slowed in each of the two years since mid-2016.

- Natural change (births minus deaths) has not contributed to Scotland's recent population growth. Across Scotland, there were 7,700 more deaths than births in the year to mid-2018, compared with 3,800 (more deaths than births) the previous year. This is the largest natural decrease on record, due to both more deaths and fewer births. The drop in natural change is more pronounced than in recent years and can be attributed to an increase in winter deaths (between December 2017 and March 2018).

- In the year to mid-2018, the increase in Scotland's population was driven by migration with 20,900 more people coming to Scotland than leaving; +10,900 from overseas and +10,000 from the rest of the UK.

- Net migration has decreased over the past two years, although still remains positive with more people coming to Scotland than leaving. The recent decrease has been driven mainly by a reduction in the number of people moving to Scotland from overseas (between mid-2016 and mid-2017; although remained stable over the most recent year to mid-2018) and an increase in the number of people moving out of Scotland to overseas (each year between mid-2016 and mid-2018).

- Scotland's population is ageing. In mid-2018, 19% of the population were 65 and over compared with 16% in mid-2008.

- Population growth varies across Scotland. More than half of Scotland's council areas (18 councils) increased in population over the year to mid-2018. While the population decreased in 14 council areas, three more than in the previous year.

- The greatest percentage increase in population was in Midlothian which grew by 1.4% while the greatest percentage population decrease was in Inverclyde which decreased by 0.8% over the year to mid-2018.

[1] Commonly referred to as mid-2018.

1. Introduction

This publication provides headline estimates of the population of Scotland, its council areas and NHS board areas as at 30 June 2018 (commonly referred to as mid-2018). These estimates are based on the census and are updated annually to account for population change in the period from 1 July to 30 June. They relate to the usually resident population which covers people living in Scotland for a period of at least 12 months.

The two main contributors to population change are natural change (births minus deaths) and net migration (the difference between long-term moves into and out of Scotland or local areas).

Population estimates are used for a variety of purposes including resource allocation and planning of services such as education and health. They are also used for calculating rates and performance measures, informing local and national policy, weighting surveys and in modelling the economy.

More information about the estimates published in this release is available in the background notes section of this document with more detailed information on the methodology and quality, including strengths and weaknesses, found in the Mid-Year Population Estimates for Scotland Methodology Guide.

How to find data

What are you looking for?	Where is it?
The data used in this publication	Excel tables
Open data	statistics.gov.scot
Demographic profiles of Scottish Council areas	NRS Council area profiles
To select and compare population estimates for specific areas	Interactive data visualisation

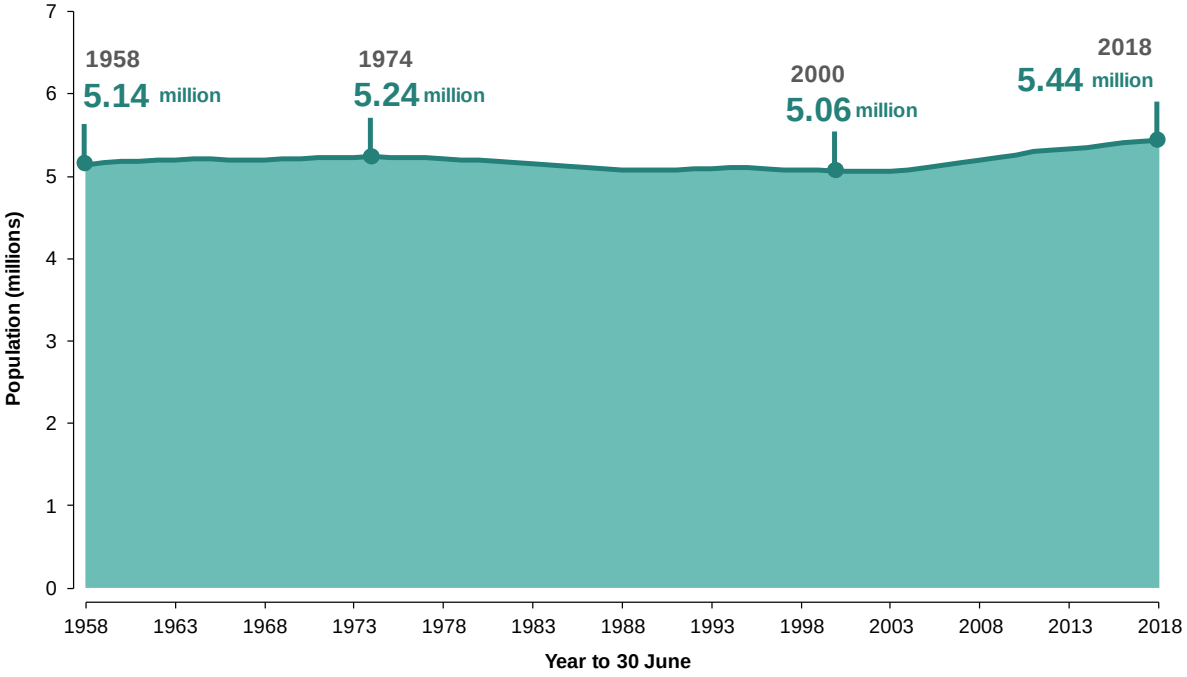
2. The population of Scotland

Scotland's population is increasing

On 30 June 2018, Scotland's population was the highest ever at 5,438,100. In the latest year to mid-2018, Scotland's population increased by 13,300 people (0.2%).

Over the last 60 years, the population of Scotland increased from 5.14 million in 1958 to 5.24 million in 1974 before declining to a low of 5.06 million in 2000, as seen in Figure 1. Since then, Scotland's population has increased every year for the past 18 years to a record high of 5.44 million in 2018.

Figure 1: Estimated population of Scotland, 1958 to 2018

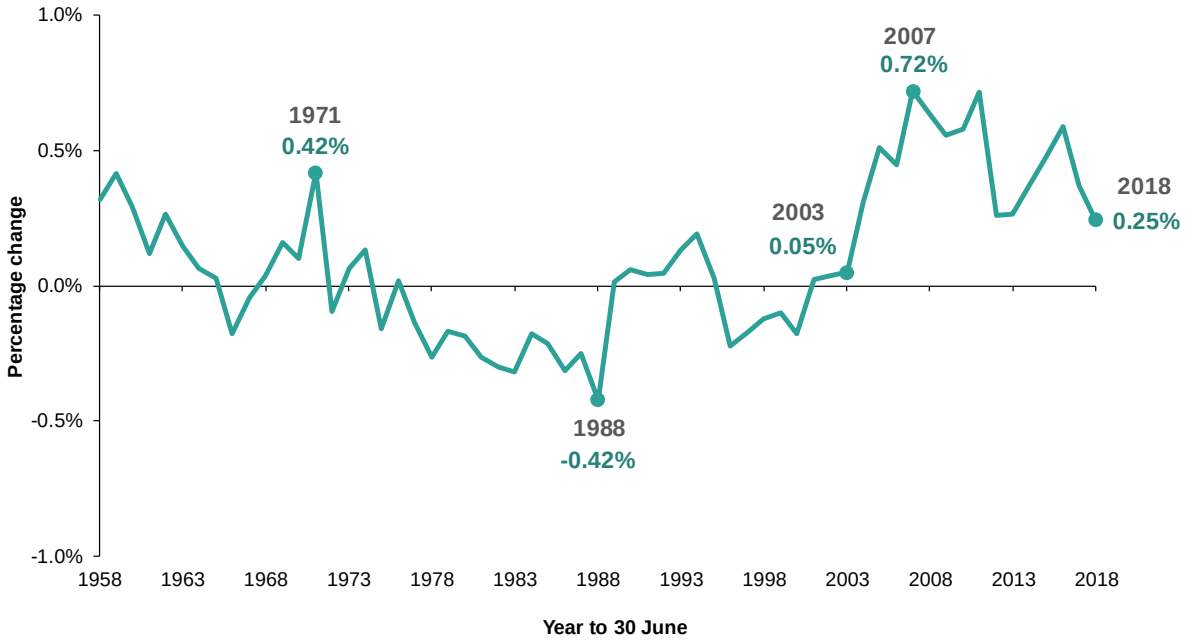


Scotland's population growth has **slowed** over the past two years.

Over the last 60 years, the rate of annual population change in Scotland has fluctuated between -0.4% and 0.7%, as shown in Figure 2. Between 2008 and 2018, the population of Scotland increased by a total of 235,200 people with an average year-on-year increase of 0.4%.

Population growth has slowed in the past two years from 0.6% in the year to mid-2016 to 0.2% in the year to mid-2018. While growth has slowed in recent years, it remains higher than any year between mid-1972 and mid-2003 (these range between -0.4% and 0.2%).

Figure 2: Annual population change for Scotland, 1958 to 2018



Why is the population increasing?

Population change is driven by two main components, natural change and net migration. Natural change is the difference between the number of births and deaths and net migration is the difference between the number of people entering and leaving the country.

The latest increase in Scotland's population was driven by positive net migration, with 20,900 more people arriving than leaving in the year to mid-2018 (from both overseas and the rest of the UK). In contrast, Scotland had negative natural change with 7,700 more deaths than births over the same period.

Other changes over the year to mid-2018 resulted in a small increase of 100 people. This includes changes in the prison population, changes in the number of armed forces personnel and small rounding adjustments.

How do the latest figures compare with past trends?

Natural change

Historically, Scotland had positive natural change with many more births than deaths each year, as seen in Figure 3. However, in the decade to mid-1975 natural change fell dramatically. Since mid-1975, natural change has fluctuated between -7,700 and 6,600.

Over the past four years, there have been more deaths than births resulting in negative natural change. In the latest year to mid-2018, there were 7,700 more deaths than births in Scotland, the largest natural decrease on record. This is due to an increased number of deaths (2,700 more deaths than the year to mid-2017) and a lower birth rate (1,200 less births than the year to mid-2017). A time series of mid-year births and deaths in Scotland are available in tables[2] on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website.

The drop in natural change in the year to mid-2018 is more pronounced than in recent years. This can be attributed to a 10% increase in the number of deaths in winter 2017/18 (between December 2017 and March 2018), compared with winter 2016/17[3]. Winter 2017/18 had the largest number of winter deaths since 1999/2000. However, provisional figures of the number of deaths in the last two quarters of 2018 are 4% lower than in the same period of 2017, suggesting that this is not a continuing trend[4].

Net migration

Migration has been the **main driver** of Scotland's population growth over the past 18 years.

Prior to the 1990s, there were more people migrating out than into Scotland. This was at an all-time low in 1966 when 43,200 more people left than came to live in Scotland, however many more births than deaths at the time meant that this had only a small impact on the overall population.

Since mid-2001, net migration has been positive with more people coming to Scotland than leaving every year.

Over the past two years, net migration has declined from 31,700 over the year to mid-2016, to 23,900 in the year to mid-2017, and most recently to 20,900 over the year to mid-2018. This coincides with the period after the EU referendum which took place in June 2016.

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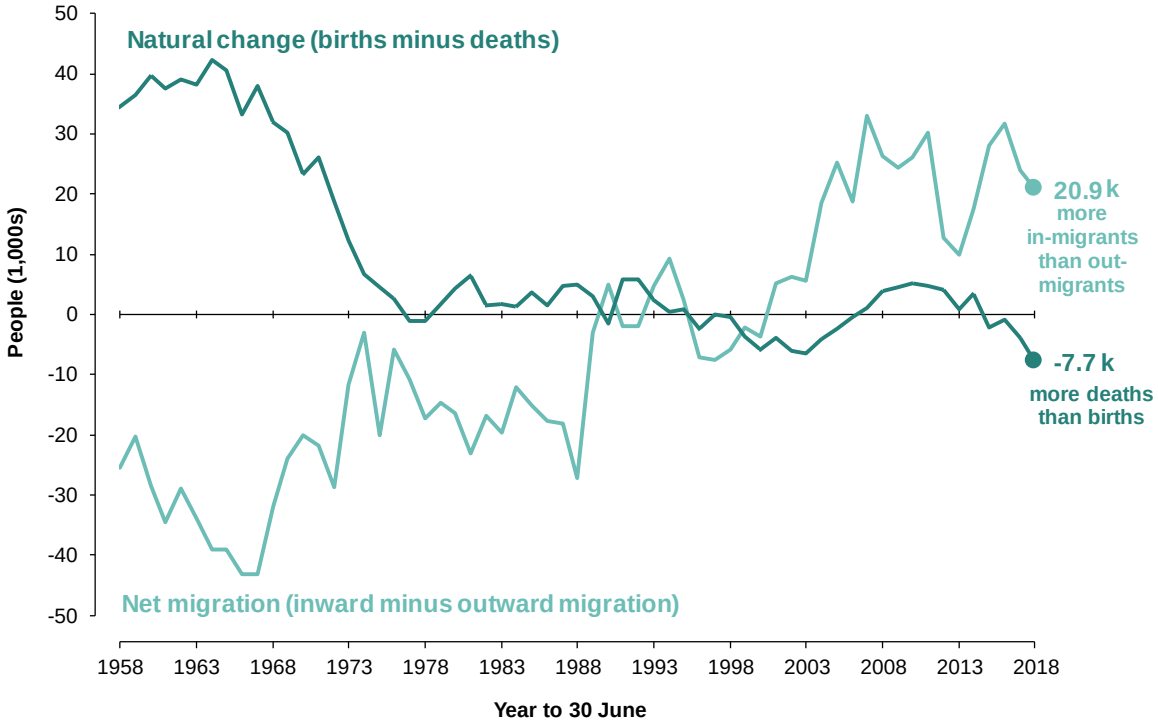
[2] Table 10: Births and deaths at mid-year, Scotland, mid-2008 to mid-2018
[3] More information about the seasonal increase in mortality can be found in the Winter Mortality in Scotland 2017/18 publication on the NRS website.
[4] More information can be found in the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events – Quarterly Figures on the NRS website.

Figure 3: Natural change and net migration, 1957-58 to 2017-18



Where are people coming from and going to?

In the latest year to mid-2018, Scotland experienced positive net migration with 20,900 more people coming to Scotland than leaving, in comparison to 23,900 the previous year. As well as understanding trends in overall net migration, it is also helpful to consider where people are coming from and going to, as illustrated in Figure 4. The data sources used allow us to identify migration from overseas and the rest of the UK, but not the individual country.

Looking at change over the latest year, there were small increases in both the number of people moving to Scotland from the rest of the UK and the number of people moving out of Scotland to the rest of the UK. Over the latest year to mid-2018:

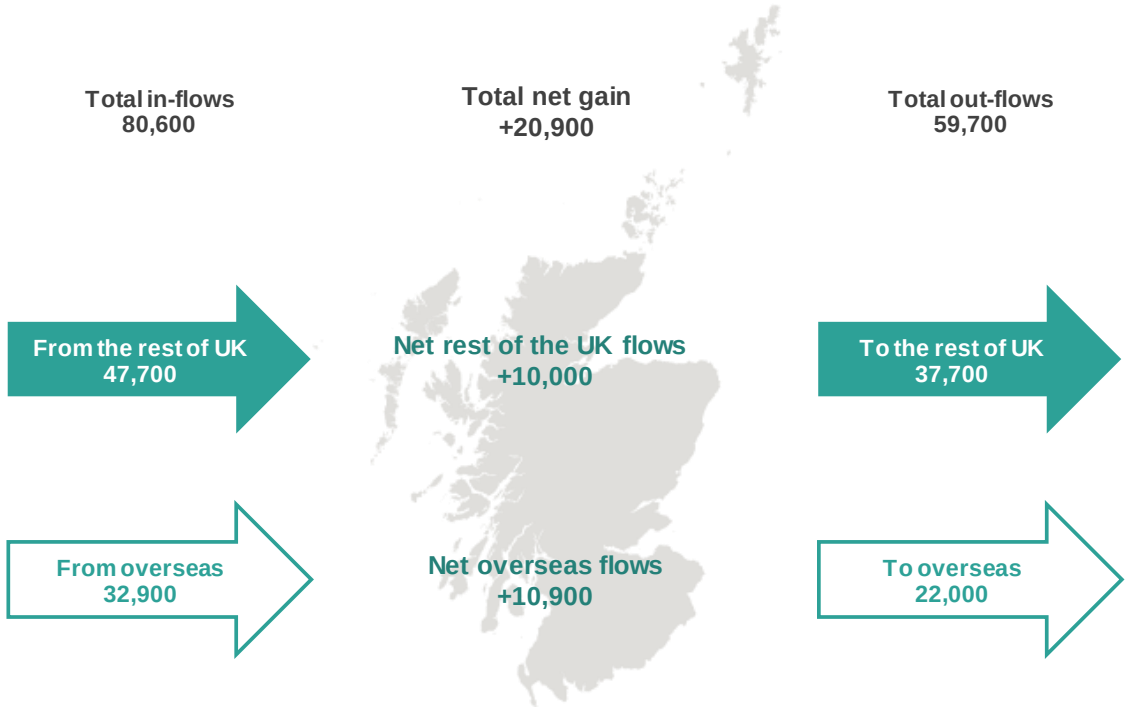
- 47,700 people came to Scotland from the rest of the UK; 100 more than in 2017.
- 37,700 people left Scotland for the rest of the UK; 600 more than in 2017.
- This resulted in positive net migration of 10,000 people from the rest of the UK; 500 fewer than the comparable figure in 2017.

In contrast, over the latest year, the number of people moving to Scotland from overseas was unchanged but there was an increase in the number of people moving out of Scotland to overseas. Over the year to mid-2018:

- 32,900 people came to Scotland from overseas; the same number as in 2017.
- 22,000 people left Scotland for overseas; 2,500 more than in 2017.

- This resulted in positive net migration of 10,900 people from overseas. While this is still positive net migration, it is lower than in mid-2017 when 13,400 more people arrived from overseas than left.

Figure 4: Movements to/from the rest of the UK and overseas, mid-2017 to mid-2018



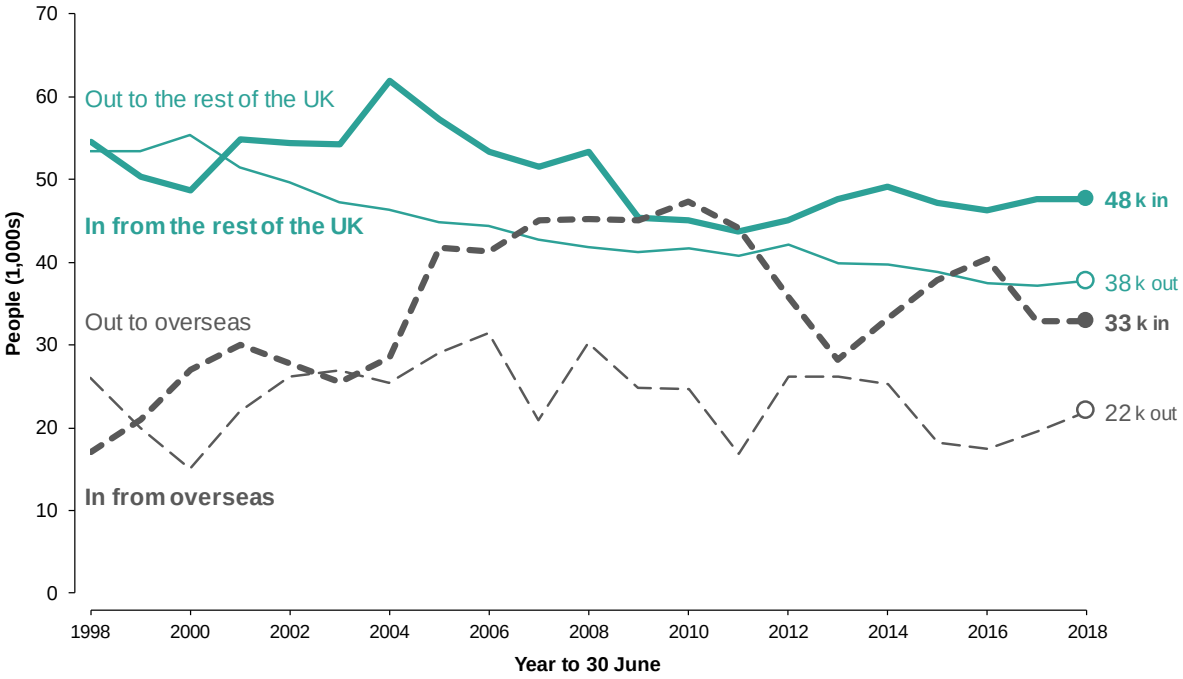
How are migration patterns changing?

Figure 5 shows the trend in flows of people between Scotland and the rest of the UK and overseas since the year to mid-1998. For each of the five years prior to mid-2018, there were decreases in the number of people moving out of Scotland to the rest of the UK; 2018 is the first year since 2012 that has seen an increased outflow to the rest of the UK.

The number of people moving to Scotland from overseas decreased for the first time since 2013 in the year to mid-2017; this number remained unchanged in 2018. Whereas, in the year to mid-2017, the number of people moving out of Scotland to overseas increased for the first time since 2012. The number of people moving out of Scotland to overseas increased again in 2018.

The results of the 2016 EU Referendum may be a factor in people's decision to move to or from Scotland, but decisions to migrate are complex and other factors may be influencing the figures.

Figure 5: Movements to/from the rest of the UK and overseas, 1997-98 to 2017-18



How old are people coming to and leaving Scotland?

More than half of the people moving to Scotland were aged 16 to 34 years in the year to mid-2018.

On average, people moving to Scotland tend to be younger than the general population. In the year to mid-2018, 56% of people moving to Scotland were aged 16 to 34 years, compared with 24% of the population as a whole. Of people moving to Scotland from the rest of the UK, 48% were aged between 16 to 34 years and of people moving from overseas, 67% were in this age category.

Figure 6 shows movements of people between Scotland and the rest of the UK in the year to mid-2018 by age group. The most common age group for moves from the rest of the UK to Scotland was 16 to 24 years. Whereas, the most common age group for moves from Scotland to the rest of the UK was 25 to 34 years." The peak age for moves to Scotland from the rest of the UK was 19 years, whereas the peak age for moves from Scotland was 23. These are a result of an influx of students from the rest of the UK starting higher education in Scotland, followed by moves out of Scotland after graduation.

Figure 7 shows the movements of people between Scotland and overseas by age group. The most common age group for migration to Scotland from overseas was 16 to 24 years with a peak at age 23 years. Whereas, the most common age group for moves from Scotland to overseas was 25 to 34 years with a peak at age 25 years. There were more people moving to Scotland from overseas than leaving for each age group from 0 to 54 years.

Figure 6: Movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK by age group, mid-2017 to mid-2018

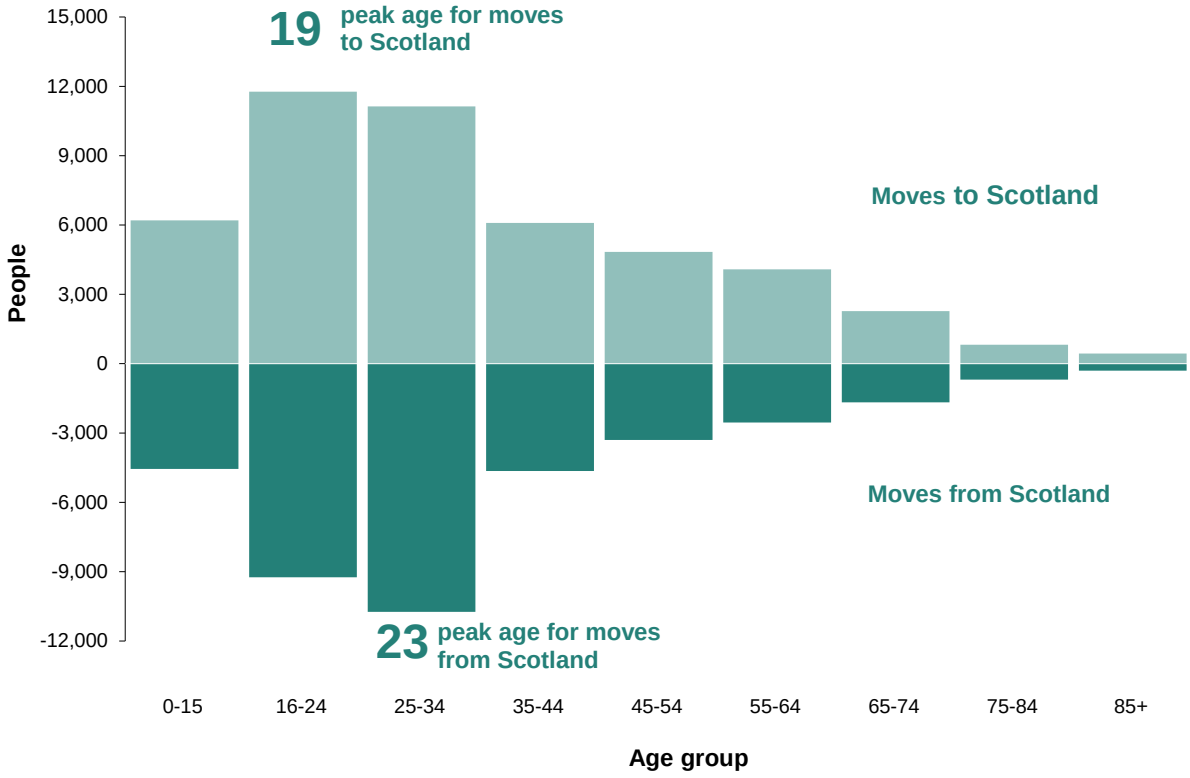
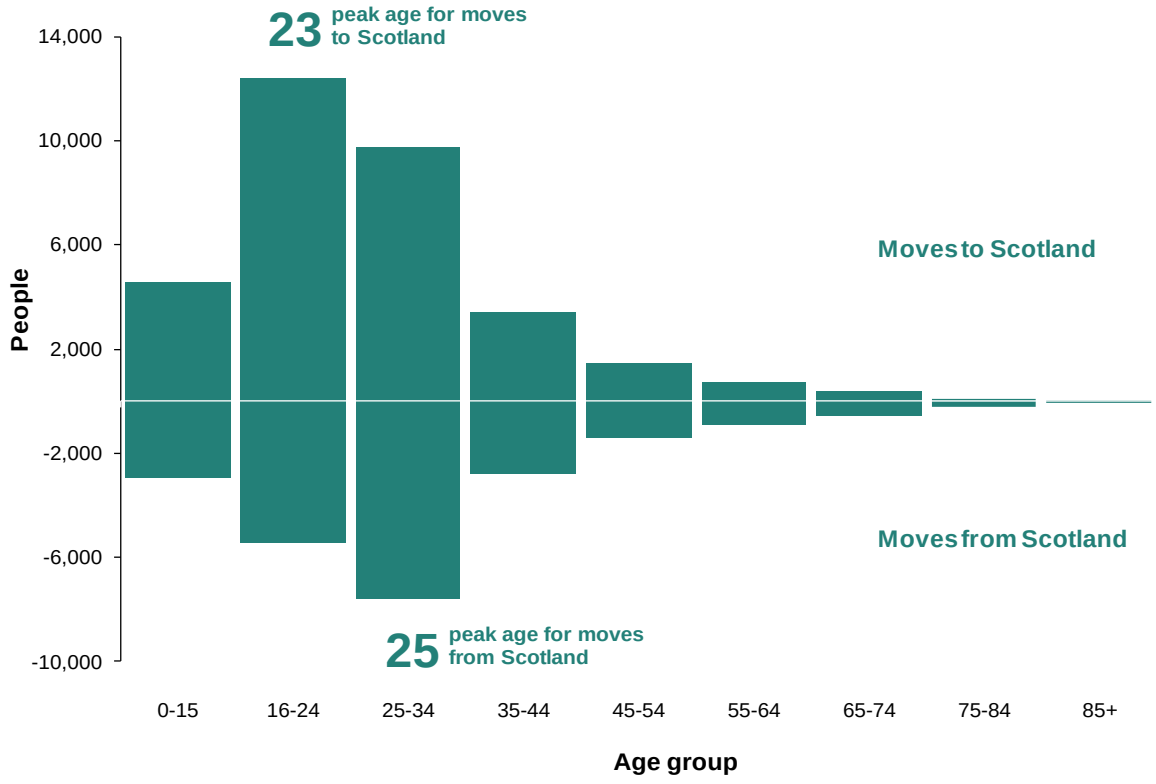


Figure 7: Movements between Scotland and overseas by age group, mid-2017 to mid-2018



3. The age structure of the population

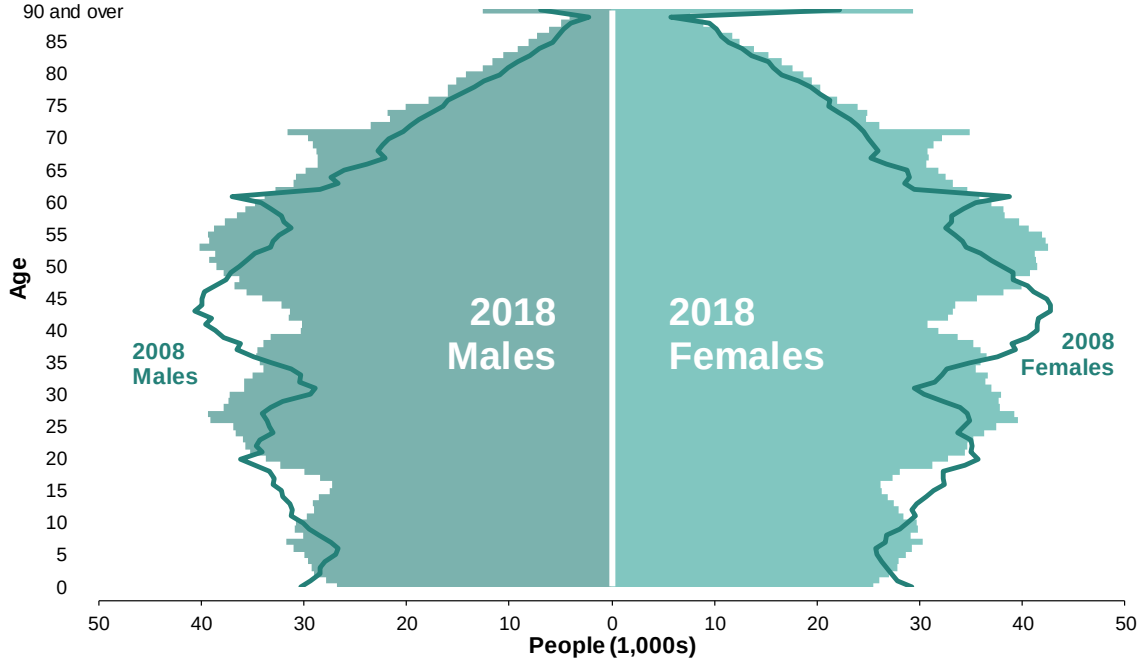
The population of Scotland is ageing

Age composition is one of the most important aspects of the population since changes in different age groups will have varied social and economic impacts. For example, increases in the elderly population are likely to place a greater demand on health and social services.

Scotland's population is ageing with an increasing number of people in the older age groups in mid-2018 compared with 10 years previously, as seen in Figure 8. There is also a higher ratio of females to males in older ages, reflecting the longer life expectancy of females.

The two baby booms of 1947 and the 1960s are visible with a sharp peak at age 71 and another peak at ages in the mid-50s. These baby boomers, along with relatively low fertility rates since the 1960s and increased life expectancy (compared to earlier decades), are the main reasons why Scotland's population is likely to age in the future.

Figure 8: Estimated age structure of the population, mid-2008 and mid-2018



Migration into Scotland can also influence the age structure of the population. For most ages the peaks and troughs present in 2008 are visible in 2018 but shifted 10 years. However, the profile of the age group 10 to 50, specifically ages 20 to 29 is wider than in mid-2008. There were 16% more people aged 20 to 29 in mid-2018 than compared with the same cohort (people aged 10 to 19 years) in mid-2008. Such a change can only be generated through migration into Scotland.

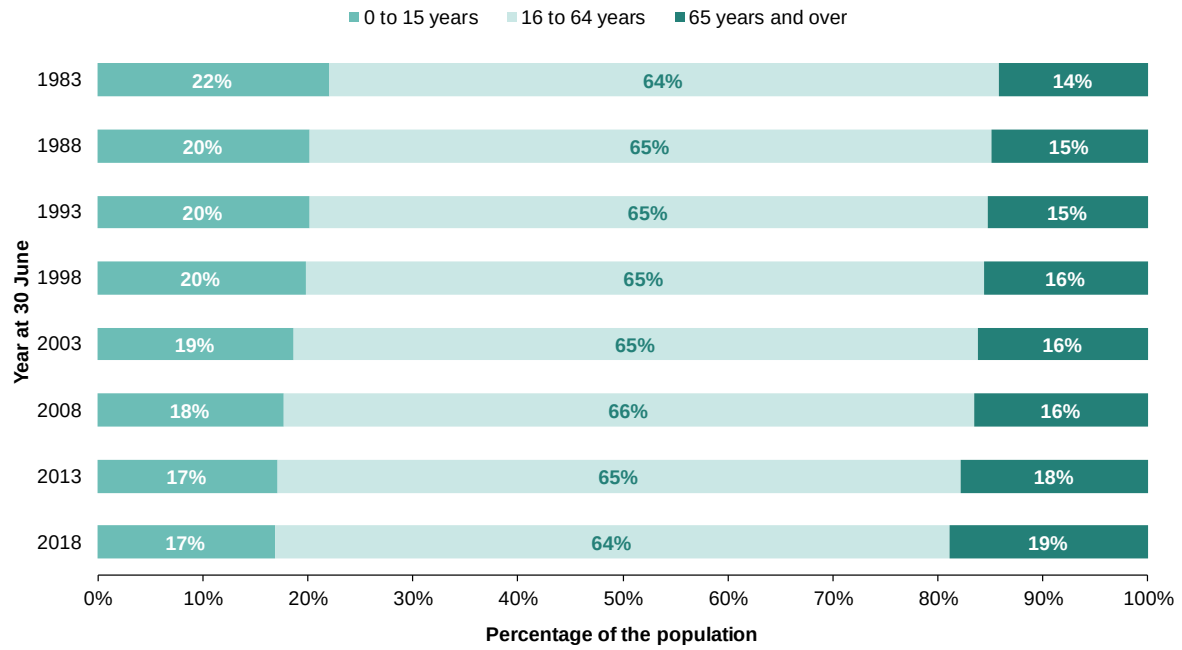
How is the age structure of the population changing?

Figure 9 shows further details of the changing age structure of Scotland's population every five years from mid-1983 to mid-2018. The proportion of the population aged 16 to 64 years, which consists of those most likely to be of working age, increased between 1983 and 2008. However, the proportion of the population in this age group has decreased from 66% to 64% over the last 10 years.

Just under **one in five (19%)** of Scotland's population are aged **65 years and over**.

Whilst the total population of Scotland has grown over the last 35 years, the proportion of children (0 to 15 year olds) in the population has decreased steadily from 22% in 1983 to 17% in 2018. In contrast, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has seen a steady growth from 14% in 1983 to 19% of the population in 2018. This reflects the falling birth rate and ageing population in Scotland.

Figure 9: The changing age structure of Scotland's population, mid-1983 to mid-2018



Footnote
1) This chart shows the proportion of the total population in each of the specified age groups.

4. Population estimates for areas within Scotland

How has the population changed across areas in Scotland?

Over the year to mid-2018 the population of Scotland increased, and it has been doing so since mid-2000. However, it did not increase in every location across Scotland. The council area with the largest increase in population was Midlothian (+1.4%) whereas, the greatest decrease was in Inverclyde (-0.8%).

14 council areas experienced **depopulation** in the year to mid-2018.

The population of 18 of Scotland's 32 council areas increased in the year to mid-2018, with the remaining 14 council areas experiencing depopulation, as shown in Figure 10.

Three council areas, Na h-Eileanan Siar, South Ayrshire and Clackmannanshire, experienced depopulation in the year to mid-2018 after seeing an increase in population the previous year. The change from population growth to depopulation in Na h-Eileanan Siar and Clackmannanshire was mainly due to less migration into these areas than the previous year. For South Ayrshire, this change was driven by less migration into the area and also an increase in the number of deaths in comparison with year to mid-2017.

Figure 10: Components of population change for council areas, mid-2017 to mid-2018

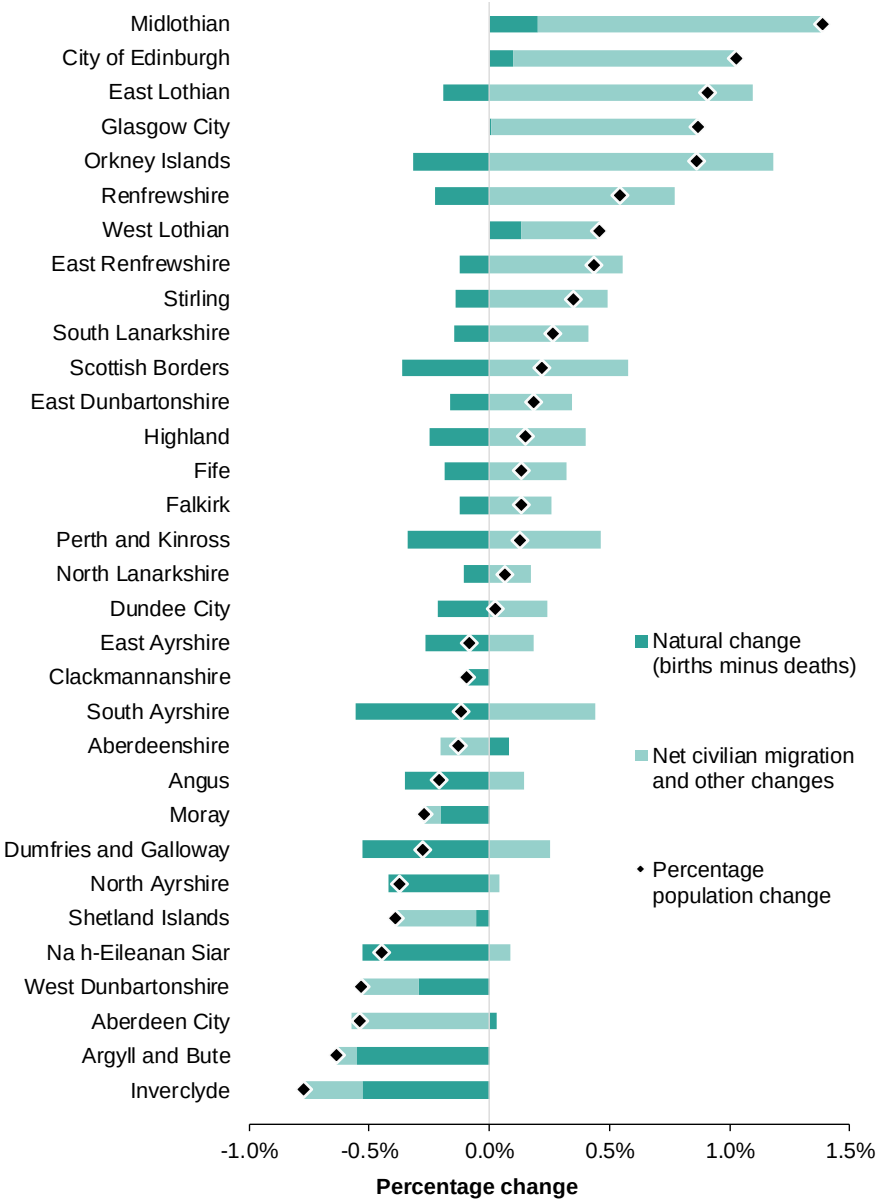
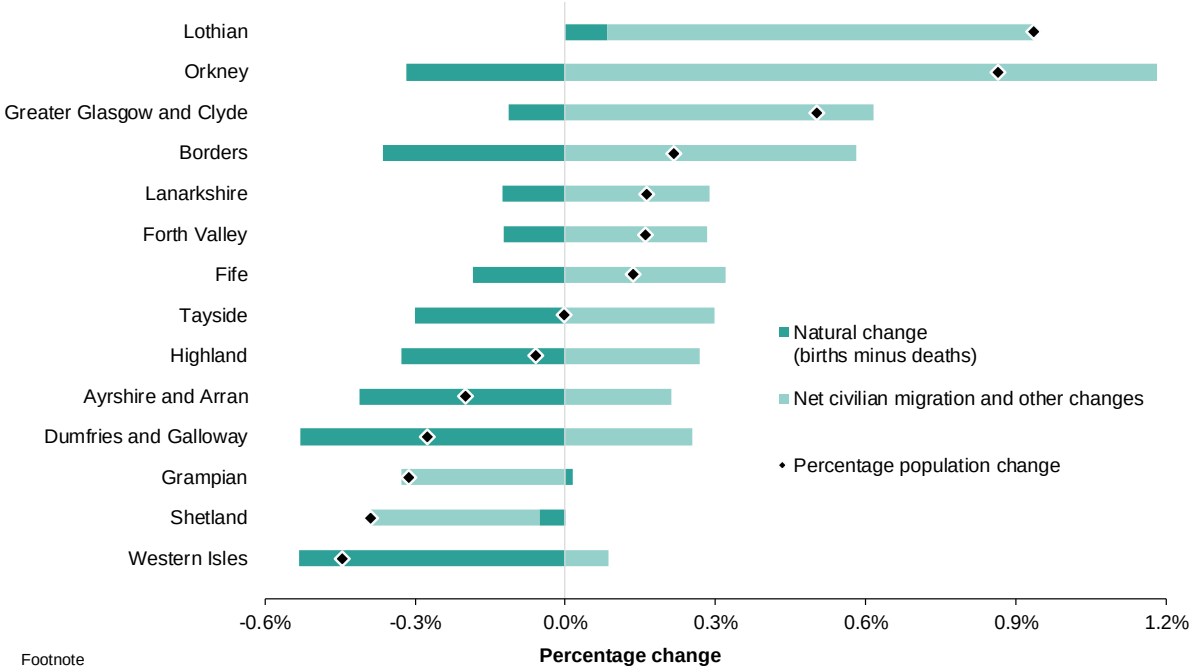


Figure 11 shows the population change of NHS Board areas over the year to mid-2018. Of the 14 health board areas: seven experienced a population increase, six experienced a decrease in population and the population of Tayside health board was unchanged between mid-2017 and mid-2018. The health boards with the greatest increase in population were Lothian and Orkney (both +0.9%). In contrast, the greatest population decrease was in Western Isles and Shetland (both -0.4%).

Figure 11: Components of population change for NHS Board areas[1], mid-2017 to mid-2018



Footnote
1) 2018 NHS Board areas.

More information on the population and components of population change for the year to mid-2018 are available from tables[5] on the NRS website.

Why has the population increased or decreased?

Figure 10 shows the components driving population change in council areas between mid-2017 to mid-2018. For ease of presentation, other changes (such as changes in prison population, armed forces personnel and rounding adjustments) have been included with migration for the analysis in this section.

For most council areas, migration was the driver of population change. This includes migration from other areas within Scotland, the rest of the UK and overseas. Over the year to mid-2018:

- Net migration and other changes was positive for 24 council areas and negative for eight.
- Midlothian and Orkney Islands experienced the largest population increase due to net migration and other changes (both +1.2%).

[5] Table 4: Components of population change by administrative area, mid-2017 to mid-2018

- Population decrease due to net migration and other changes was largest for Aberdeen City (-0.6%).

The other main driver of population change is natural change (births minus deaths). Over the year to mid-2018:

- Natural change was negative (more deaths than births) in 26 council areas and positive (more births than deaths) in six.
- Population increase due to natural change was greatest for Midlothian (+0.2%).
- South Ayrshire and Argyll and Bute experienced the largest population decrease due to natural change (both -0.6%).

Figure 11 shows the components driving population change for NHS board areas between mid-2017 to mid-2018. Lothian and Grampian were the only health boards to experience more births than deaths in the year to mid-2018. Of the six health boards that experienced depopulation in the year to mid-2018, more deaths than births was the main driver in the depopulation of four health boards, whereas the decrease in population for Shetland and Grampian was driven by more people leaving than moving to these areas.

Information on the components of population change over the decade to mid-2018 for Scotland and its constituent council and NHS board areas are available from the NRS website[6].

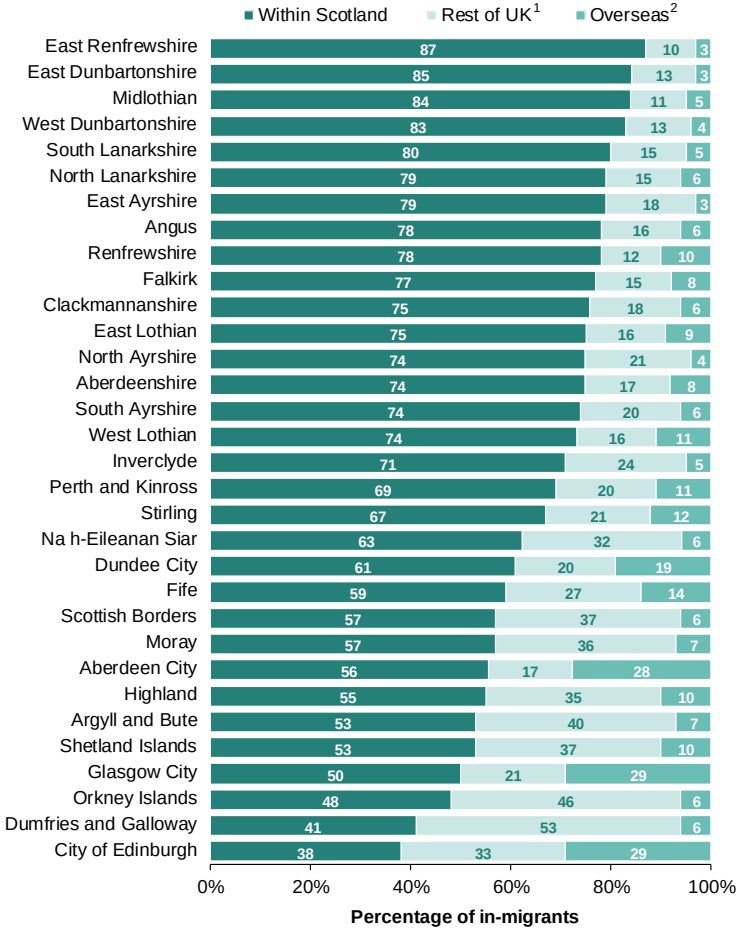
Where do an area's migrants come from and go to?

As Figure 12a shows, different council areas attract people moving from different areas. In all but three council areas (namely City of Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway and Orkney Islands), the majority of people migrating to the areas came from other council areas within Scotland. The council areas with the highest percentage of people moving from within Scotland were East Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire and Midlothian.

Figure 12b shows there are also variations in the destinations of people migrating out of different council areas. For most council areas, the region which most people moved from is also the destination which most people moved to. For example, most people leaving East Renfrewshire are moving to elsewhere in Scotland and most people arriving in East Renfrewshire are moving from elsewhere in Scotland.

[6] Table 6: Components of population change by administrative area, mid-2008 to mid-2018
Figure 18: Components of population change for council areas, mid-2008 to mid-2018
Figure 19: Components of population change for NHS Board areas, mid-2008 to mid-2018

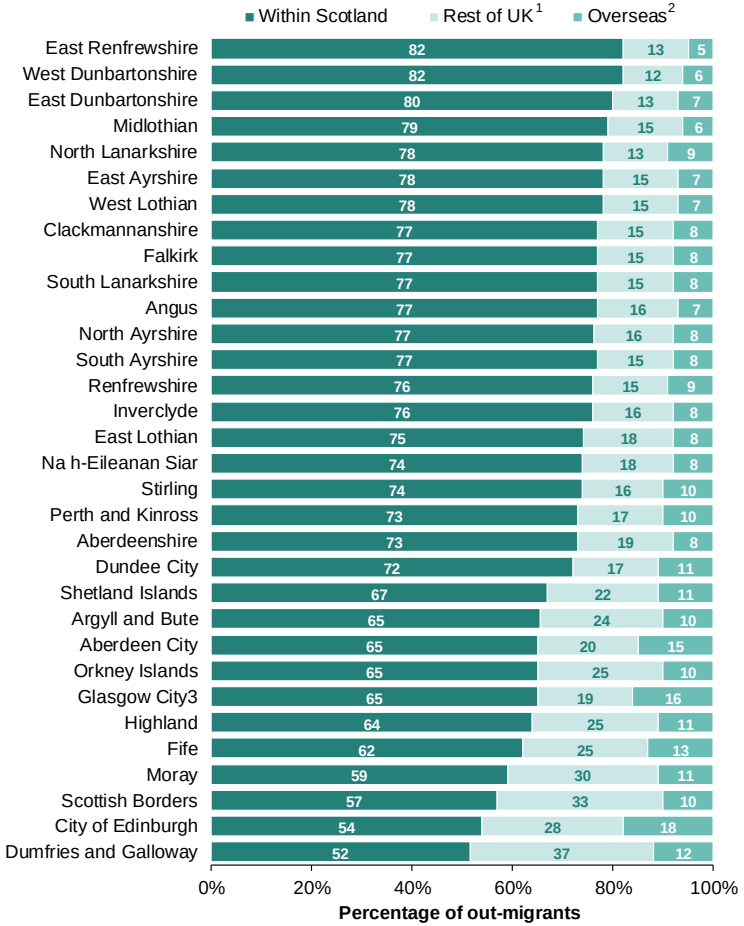
Figure 12a: Origin of in-migrants by council area, mid-2017 to mid-2018



Footnotes
1) Figures for the rest of the UK exclude armed forces moves
2) Figures for overseas include asylum seekers & refugees

Rounded figures are used and may not add up to 100%.

Figure 12b: Destination of out-migrants by council area, mid-2017 to mid-2018



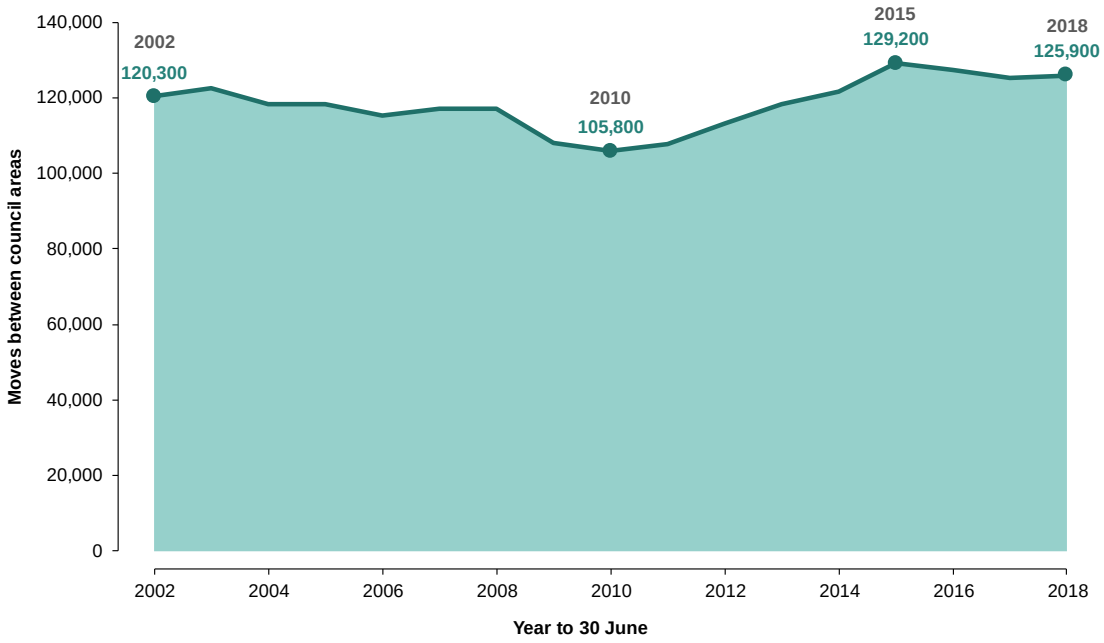
Footnotes
1) Figures for the rest of the UK exclude armed forces moves
2) Figures for overseas include asylum seekers and refugees

Rounded figures are used and may not add up to 100%.

Where do people move within Scotland?

In the year to mid-2018, 125,900 people moved to a different council area within Scotland, as shown in Figure 13. This is at a similar level to the year to mid-2017 (125,400). The number of moves between council areas each year generally declined after 2003 and dropped to a low of 105,800 moves in the year to mid-2010, around the period in which the Scottish economy went into recession. More people moved between council areas in each of the next five years, with the number of moves between council areas reaching a peak of 129,200 in 2015.

Figure 13: Moves between council areas, mid-2002 to mid-2018



Did you know: In the year to mid-2018, the five most common moves within Scotland were to neighbouring council areas and, with the exception of Aberdeenshire to Aberdeen City, all were from cities to neighbouring areas.

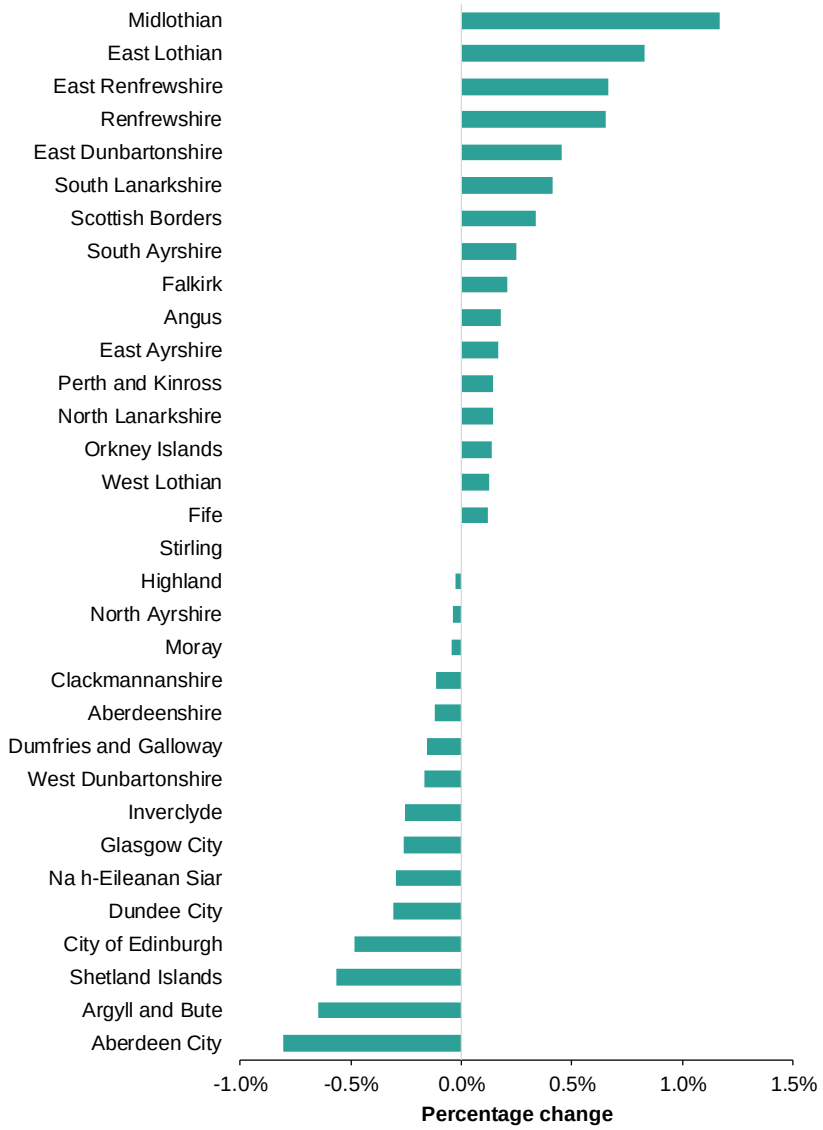
Most common moves within Scotland	Number of moves
Aberdeen City to Aberdeenshire	3,100
Glasgow City to South Lanarkshire	2,880
Aberdeenshire to Aberdeen City	2,320
City of Edinburgh to Midlothian	1,990
Glasgow City to North Lanarkshire	1,980

Explore the latest internal migration trends for Scottish areas in our interactive data visualisation by selecting an area to see the most common moves to and from that area.

Figure 14 shows that the council areas which saw growth from migration within Scotland were the suburban areas outside of the cities. Midlothian grew by the largest amount (by 1.2%) from within Scotland migration between mid-2017 and mid-2018. The next highest were East Lothian (0.8%), East Renfrewshire (0.7%), Renfrewshire (0.7%) and East Dunbartonshire (0.5%) respectively.

All of the cities saw net outward migration to other areas in Scotland in the year to mid-2018, meaning more people left for other areas in Scotland than arrived[7]. The area with the largest proportion of its population leaving for other areas within Scotland was Aberdeen City, which saw 0.8% of its mid-2017 population leave for another council area in the year to mid-2018.

Figure 14: Population change through internal migration between mid-2017 and mid-2018, council areas



[7] This excludes migration to and from rest of UK and overseas.

What is the age structure of the population in Scotland's areas?

Although the pattern of age distribution is complex, some general themes can be observed. Figure 15 shows the proportion of the population aged under 16, 16 to 64, and 65 and over by council area. The councils with the highest proportion of population aged 16 to 64 are Glasgow City (71%), City of Edinburgh (70%) and Aberdeen City (69%). These three areas also have the lowest proportion of population aged 65 and over (13%, 15% and 16% respectively).

More rural council areas tend to have an older age profile. Dumfries and Galloway, Argyll and Bute, Na h-Eileanan Siar and South Ayrshire all have the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over at 25%. These areas also represent some of the areas with the lowest proportion of people aged 16 to 64.

One in four people living in Dumfries and Galloway, Argyll and Bute, Na h-Eileanan Siar and South Ayrshire are aged 65 and over.

Figure 15: Age structure of council areas, mid-2018

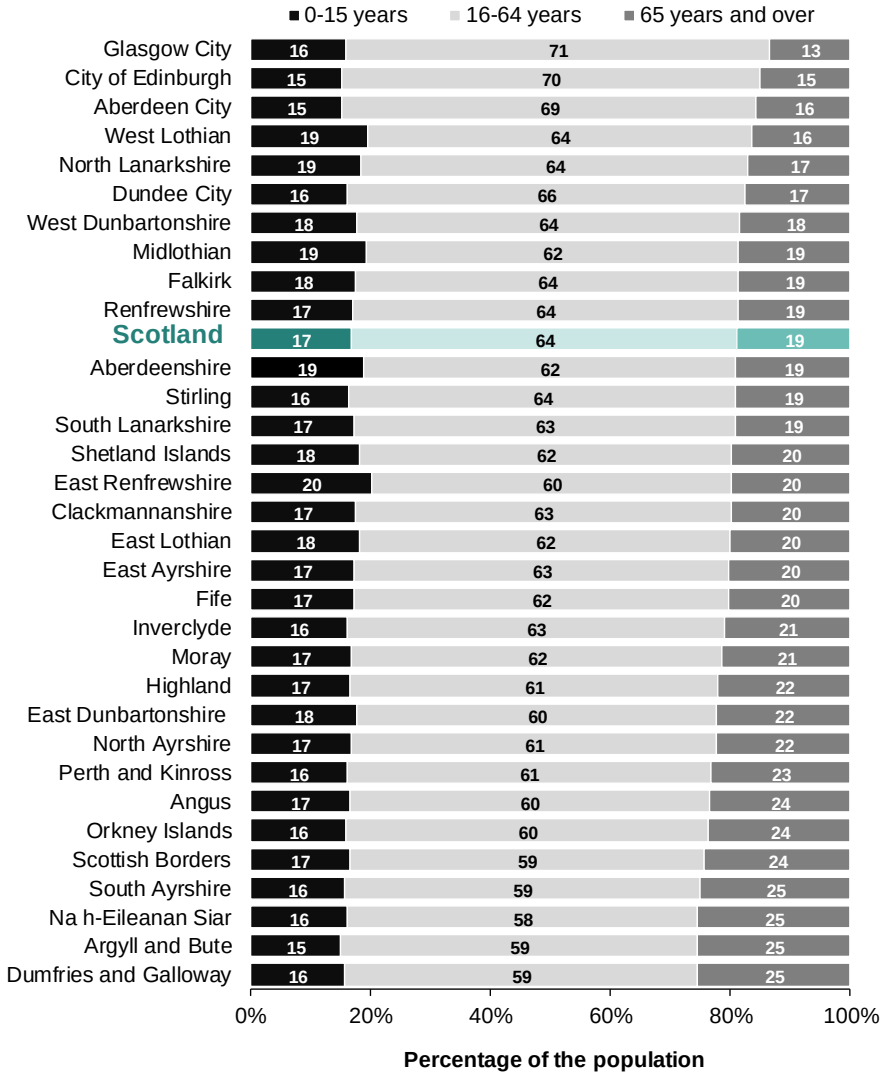
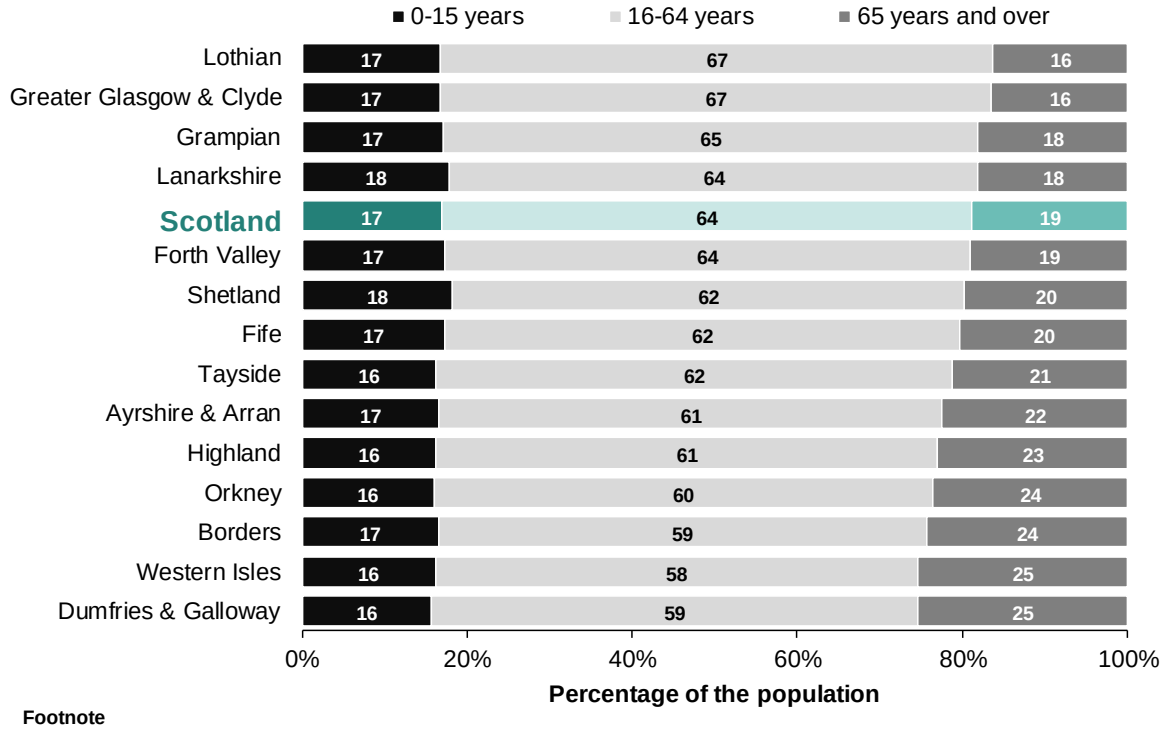


Figure 16 shows the age profiles of all of Scotland's health boards. For both council areas and health boards, those areas which are more urban tend to have a younger age profile than those which represent more rural areas.

More detail on the age and sex structure of council areas and NHS health board areas are available from tables[8] on the NRS website.

Figure 16: Age structure of NHS Board areas[1], mid-2018



Footnote
1) 2018 NHS Board areas.

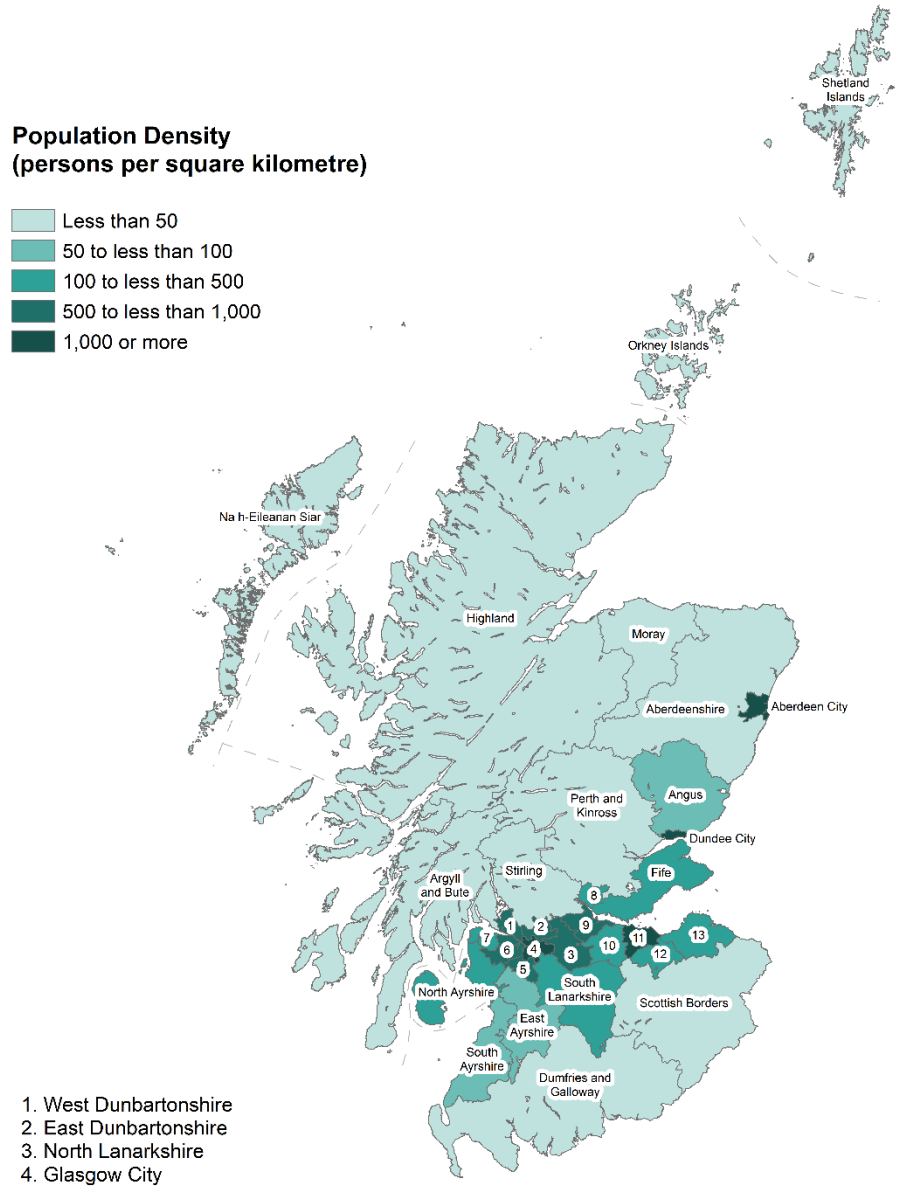
Where is the population located within Scotland?

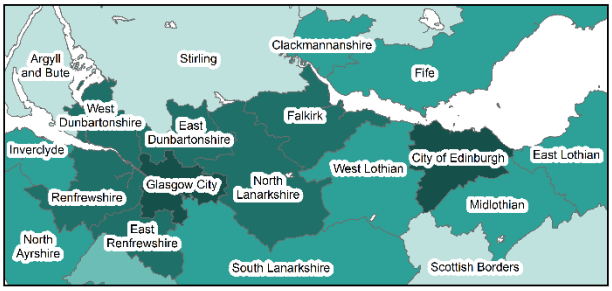
In the year to mid-2018, the population density for Scotland was 70 people per square kilometre, although this varies significantly across areas within Scotland. The most densely populated council area was Glasgow City with 3,600 people per square kilometre. In comparison, in Na h-Eileanan Siar and Highland council areas there were less than 10 people per square kilometre.

Figure 17 shows that most of the high density council areas are clustered in Scotland's central belt with the only exceptions being Aberdeen City and Dundee City. More detail on land areas and population densities for the year to mid-2018 are available in tables[9] from the NRS website.

[8] Table 7: Age and sex structure of administrative areas, mid-2018
[9] Table 9: Land area and population density by administrative area, mid-2018

Figure 17: Population density by council area, mid-2018





5. Background Notes

Population covered

Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population on 30 June of the year shown and ages relate to age at last birthday. Long-term international migrants are included, but not short-term. A long-term migrant is defined by the United Nations (UN) as someone who changes country of residence for 12 months or more, whatever their nationality. Other changes include changes in the armed forces and prison population and any rounding adjustments.

Methodology

The Mid-Year Population Estimates for Scotland Methodology Guide that accompanies this publication provides more detail on the methodology, as well as information on the quality of the data and known uses of the data.

There were no changes to the methodology for the mid-2018 population estimates. However, a summary of recent changes to previous estimates is available in the methodology guide.

Quality of administrative data

A report is available on the NRS website providing information on the quality assurance arrangements for administrative data used in population estimates, along with information on the suitability of each data source used in the production of the population estimates.

Future developments

The methodology used in the mid-year estimates is ever-evolving as more administrative data sources become available to NRS. Any improvements to the data sources and methodology of these statistics are discussed and assessed with the Population and Migration Statistics Committee (Scotland).

Migration improvements

NRS are continuing to review the process for estimating within UK migration using a direct extract of anonymised records from the NHS Central Register for more accurate migration data at council and small area level. NRS are also part of a cross-government programme of work being led by the Office for National Statistics to improve international migration statistics through greater use of administrative data.

New sources of data

Preparations for the 2021 Census involve data linkage and NRS has been utilising this methodology to explore the possible gains from use of a variety of different administrative data sources.

NRS are also exploring the feasibility of using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to improve estimates of student migration.

Revisions

Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections.

NRS have recently corrected an error in the Scottish mid-year population estimates for 2002 to 2010 due to an issue with the method of rebasing the population estimates using the 2011 Census results. This affected the age distribution of older age groups which made the 90+ population too small and the population of those aged 81 to 89 too large. There was no impact on the total population estimates for Scotland other than a very small change in 2006 due to rounding adjustments.

This issue does not affect recent population estimates from 2011 to 2017. A document outlining the statistical outputs affected and the overall impact can be found on the NRS website.

Publication of future population estimates

Mid-year population estimates for 2019 will be published in spring 2020.

6. Links to related statistics

Population estimates for the UK and its constituent countries are available from the Office for National Statistics website.

Population estimates for small area and other special areas within Scotland including 2011 Data Zones, Parliamentary Constituencies, Electoral Wards, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation deciles, Urban Rural Classification and Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics for mid-2018 will be released in August 2019.

In response to user feedback, NRS have published improved Council Area Profiles. These provide a summary of demographic trends for each Scottish council area.

Population projections for Scotland and sub-national areas (2016-based) are available from the NRS website. The Projected Population of Scotland, 2018-based will be published in October 2019.

Provisional data on annual births and deaths in Scotland for 2018 are published in the Vital Events section of the NRS website.

Population estimates of centenarians and people aged 90 and over at Scotland and sub-national levels for mid-2018 will be published in September 2019.

The latest population estimates of settlements and localities within Scotland for mid-2016 area available on the NRS website.

How to find data

Where is it?	What are you looking for?
Tables and figures	The data used in this publication in Excel and CSV format.
Times series data	Time series population estimates.
Open data	The mid-2018 population estimates will be available as open data within one month of publishing.
Migration statistics	Detailed tables on migration statistics for the period covering mid-2017 to mid-2018.
NRS Council area profiles	Demographic profiles of Scottish council areas.
Interactive data visualisation	Select and compare population estimates for Scotland and its council areas.

7. Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the UKSA website).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is National Records of Scotland's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Information on background and source data

Further details on data source(s), timeframe of data and timeliness, continuity of data, accuracy, etc can be found in the About this Publication document that is published alongside this publication on the NRS website.

National Records of Scotland

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland. We do this as follows:

Preserving the past – We look after Scotland's national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.

Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the Statistics section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the Scotland's Census website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

You can also follow us on twitter @NatRecordsScot

Enquiries and suggestions

Please contact our Statistics Customer Services if you need any further information.
Email: statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk

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