

<b>About this publication</b>	<b>Description</b>
Publication title	Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland
Description	Population estimates for Scotland and its administrative areas by age and sex on 30 June 2020
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population Estimates
Format	Excel workbooks, Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) and Comma Separated Value (CSV)
Data source(s)	<p>Numbers of births and deaths are obtained from the civil registration system.</p> <p>International migration from Long Term International Migration (LTIM), data on refugees and data on asylum seekers are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).</p> <p>Overseas migration was previously estimated using the International Passenger Survey (IPS) as the main source of data for measuring Long Term International Migration (LTIM) at Scotland level. However, in March 2020 the IPS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ONS led research into alternative data sources including <a href="#">using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration</a> over this period.</p> <p>Migration within the UK and distribution of international migrants within Scotland is based on the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and the Community Health Index (CHI).</p> <p>Armed forces data comes from the 2011 Census and from Ministry of Defence: Defence Statistics.</p> <p>Data on prisoners based in Scotland is obtained from Justice Analytical Services in the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Quality assurance uses electoral statistics, dwelling counts and household size, new house completions and national insurance number allocations to overseas nationals.</p>
Date that data is acquired	<p>On-going through the year:</p> <p>Prisoners – Autumn 2020</p>

	<p>Births and deaths - Winter 2020  Armed Forces – Winter 2020  The last of the migration data was finalised in April 2021</p>
Publication Release date	25 June 2021
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	<p>The estimates refer to the population as at 30 June each year. The mid-year population estimates are usually published 10 months after this date. The mid-2020 statistics were delayed due to delays in receiving migration data.</p>
Continuity of data	<p>Scotland level mid-year estimates are available back to 1855. Council and NHS Board area mid-year population estimates are available for the period from 1981 based on the Council area boundaries introduced in 1995.</p> <p>During this period NHS Board area boundaries have changed twice.</p> <p>The dissolution of NHS Argyll &amp; Clyde occurred in April 2006, reducing the number of NHS Board areas from 15 to 14. Argyll &amp; Bute (council area) was allocated to NHS Highland and the rest of NHS Argyll &amp; Clyde was used to create NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde by combining it with NHS Greater Glasgow.</p> <p>Boundary changes, effective from 1 April 2014, mean that the boundaries for all 14 NHS Board areas are now aligned with Council area boundaries.</p> <p>Other small changes to Council and NHS Board area boundaries have taken place over this time.</p>
Revisions statement	<p>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 - a copy of which is available on the <a href="#">Scottish Government</a> website.</p>
Concepts and definitions	<p>The notes and definitions for this publication can be found at the end of the Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland, Mid-2020 document on the NRS website.</p>
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	<p>These statistics are used for the allocation of government funds to Scotland, Council and NHS Board areas. They have a wide range of uses. They are a main component of many other statistics such as population projections and are used as the denominator for per capita statistics.</p>

Accuracy	<p>Population estimates are based on the 2011 Census and updated annually by 'ageing on' the population and applying information on births, deaths and migration.</p> <p>Births and deaths are estimated using data from the civil registration system, which is considered to be virtually complete. Between March and late June 2020, registration offices were closed to the registration of births. Significant work was undertaken to catch up with the backlog of birth registrations and most of the postponed registrations have now taken place. While there may still be a very small number of birth registrations outstanding, the impact on these statistics will be minimal.</p> <p>Migration is more difficult to estimate because there is no comprehensive registration system in the UK. Migration is derived from the NHSCR and CHI for migration within the UK.</p> <p>Overseas migration was previously estimated using the IPS as the main source of data for measuring overseas migration at Scotland level. However, in March 2020 the IPS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ONS led research into alternative data sources including <a href="#">using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration</a> over this period.</p> <p>NRS are working with the ONS, and other Government Statistical Service partners, as part of the <a href="#">transformation programme</a> to improve international migration statistics. This should help address user demand for more evidence on the impacts of international migration, particularly at local level, as well as provide the best estimate of international migration to feed into Scotland's population statistics.</p>
Completeness:	<p>The estimated population of an area includes all those usually resident there, whatever their nationality. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address. Members of UK and non-UK armed forces stationed in Scotland are included; UK forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded. Short-term international migrants are excluded.</p>
Comparability	<p>Population estimates for Scotland are comparable with population estimates from the rest of the UK and most countries around the world.</p>
Accessibility	<p>It is the policy of NRS to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the <a href="#">Accessibility</a> section of the NRS website.</p>

Coherence and clarity	<p>The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV format. They are designed to be consistent and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.</p> <p>The spreadsheets have been designed to make it easier to use the estimates in the way users want, e.g. current year files as well as time-series files.</p> <p>The methodology is that used by many countries across the world with small changes to account for different data inputs.</p>
Value type and unit of measure	Counts of people by sex and single year of age.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics.
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	<p>The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated this publication as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The UKSA reassessed our population estimates and projections in 2016 and published an <a href="#">assessment report</a>, available on their website.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the <a href="#">UK Statistics Authority-Assessments</a> section on the NRS website.</p>
Help email	<p><a href="mailto:statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk">statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>There is more <a href="#">contact details</a> available on the NRS website.</p>
Date this form was published	25 June 2021