

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Mid-2021 Population Estimates Scotland
Description	Population estimates for Scotland and its administrative areas by age and sex on 30 June 2021
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population Estimates
Format	Excel workbooks and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF)
Data source(s)	<p>Numbers of births and deaths are obtained from the civil registration system.</p> <p>The total estimates of international migration to and from Scotland are calculated by ONS. For the year ending June 2021, these use a different method to those previously published. They rely less on International Passenger Survey (IPS) data and make greater use of administrative data. This means that the latest figures on international migration may not be comparable with previous estimates produced from the IPS or more recently using some statistical modelling (for the year ending June 2020).</p> <p>Different sources are used for international migration for non-EU nationals, EU nationals and British nationals. Estimates of non-EU nationals are based on the Home Office exit checks dataset. Estimates of EU nationals is based on previous research to measure international migration using the Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID). British nationals are based on IPS data, supplemented by modelled data for the period when the IPS was suspended.</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>

	Quality assurance uses electoral statistics, dwelling counts and household size, new house completions and national insurance number allocations to overseas nationals.
Date that data is acquired	On-going through the year: Prisoners – November 2021 Births and deaths – February 2022 Armed Forces – January 2022 The last of the migration data was finalised in May 2022
Publication Release date	13 July 2022
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	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-2021 statistics were delayed while new methods were developed for producing international migration data.
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 & Clyde occurred in April 2006, reducing the number of NHS Board areas from 15 to 14. Argyll & Bute (council area) was allocated to NHS Highland and the rest of NHS Argyll & 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> <p>Methods to produce international migration estimates changed for mid-2020 and mid-2021. This means that these figures on international migration may not be comparable with previous estimates produced from the IPS.</p>

Revisions statement	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 Scottish Government website.
Concepts and definitions	The notes and definitions for this publication can be found at the end of the Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland, Mid-2021 document on the NRS website.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	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.
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. 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 using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration over this period.</p> <p>International migration estimates for the year ending June 2021 are using a different method to those previously published. They rely less on IPS data and make greater use of administrative data. This means that the latest figures on international migration may not be comparable with previous estimates produced from the IPS or more recently using some statistical modelling (for the year ending June 2020).</p> <p>NRS are working with the ONS, and other Government Statistical Service partners, as part of the transformation programme 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:	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.
Comparability	Population estimates for Scotland are comparable with population estimates from the rest of the UK and most countries around the world.
Accessibility	It is the policy of NRS to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website.
Coherence and clarity	<p>The statistics are provided in Excel and PDF 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 assessment report, available on their website.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the UK Statistics Authority-Assessments section on the NRS website.</p>
Help email	<p>statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk</p> <p>There are more contact details available on the NRS website.</p>
Date this form was published	13 July 2022