
Population by Country of Birth and Nationality: 2016

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland.

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1. Main Points

Country of birth refers to the country that a person was born in and cannot change.

Nationality refers to the nationality stated by the respondent when they were interviewed and can be subject to change (for example someone who was born abroad, but has gained British citizenship, and identifies as British).

Country of Birth

- In 2016, there were estimated to be 457,000 people living in Scotland who were born abroad. This accounts for 9% of the usually resident population of Scotland, and compares with 393,000 (7%) in 2015. This is a statistically significant change.
- Of the usually resident population born abroad, 218,000 (48%) were born in the EU and 239,000 (52%) were born out-with the EU.
- The most common country of birth for the usually resident population born abroad was Poland, with an estimated 81,000 residents born there (18% of the total non-UK born population of Scotland).
- The council area with the highest proportion of non-UK born residents was Aberdeen City, with 21% (48,000 people) of its population born abroad. The council area with the highest number of non-UK born residents was Glasgow City with 91,000 (15% of its population).

Nationality

- In 2016, there were estimated to be 337,000 people living in Scotland who had non-British nationality. This accounts for 6% of the usually resident population of Scotland, and compares with 295,000 (6%) in 2015.
- Of the usually resident population who had non-British nationality, 209,000 (62%) were EU nationals and 128,000 (38%) had non-EU nationality.
- The most common non-British nationality for the usually resident population was Polish with an estimated 91,000 residents (27% of the total non-British national population of Scotland).
- The council area with the highest proportion of residents with non-British nationality was Aberdeen City, with 19% (43,000 people). The council areas with the highest number of non-British nationals were Glasgow City and the City of Edinburgh with 69,000 non-British nationals each.

2. Introduction

This publication summarises the latest estimates of the Scottish population by country of birth and nationality, for the year ending December 2016. These estimates are produced using the Annual Population Survey (APS), which has a sample size of around 300,000 respondents in the whole of the UK, and is the largest household survey in the UK (other than the census and census coverage survey). In 2016, the sample size for Scotland was around 36,000 people.

The estimates from the APS differ from the official mid-year population estimates (MYE) as the APS is a household survey, so does not include most communal establishments. The mid-year estimates also refer to a mid-year period (as at June), rather than the calendar year period covered by the APS. The MYE provide estimates of the population by sex and age, whereas the APS can be used to provide estimates by country of birth and nationality.

Country of birth refers to the country that a person was born in and cannot change. Whereas, nationality refers to the nationality stated by the respondent when they were interviewed and can be subject to change.

In addition to the findings presented in this publication, council area level estimates can be accessed on the NRS website.

3. Population by Country of Birth

In 2016, there were estimated to be 457,000 people living in Scotland who were born abroad, representing 9% of the population. The breakdown of the non-UK born population is shown in Table 1.

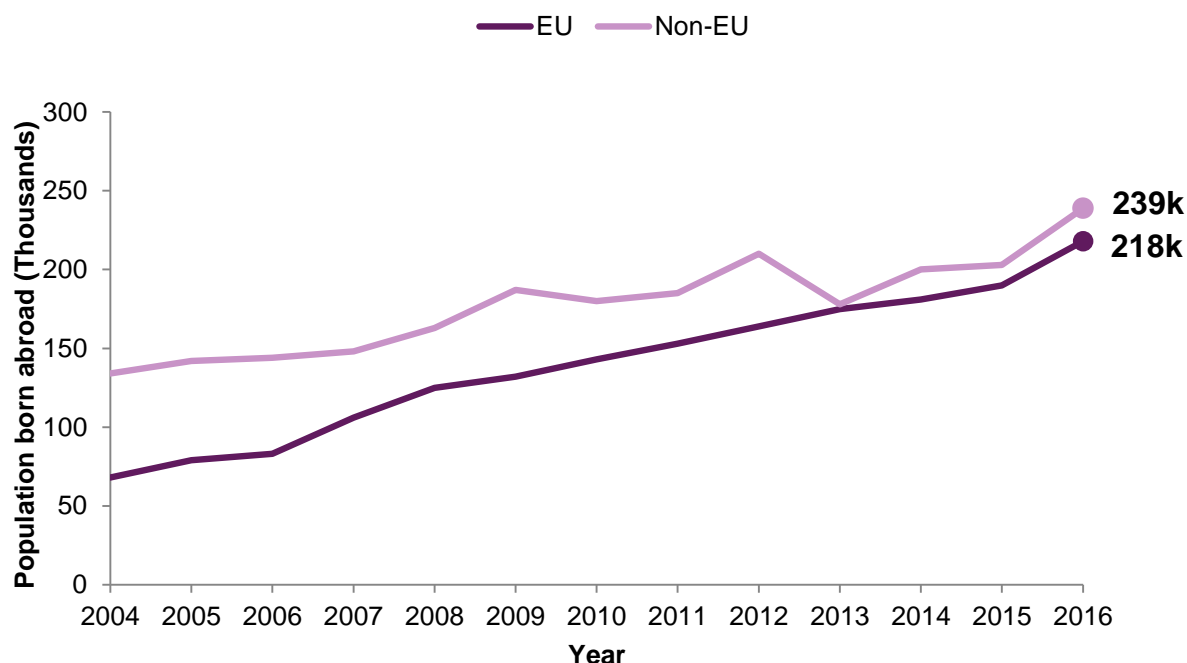
Table 1: Population by Country of Birth, Scotland, 2016

	All Residents	UK Born	Non-UK Born	Of Non-UK Born	
				EU	Non-EU
Persons	5,296,000	4,838,000	457,000	218,000	239,000
<i>Percentage of all residents</i>	-	91%	9%	4%	5%

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), Office for National Statistics

Table 1 shows that, in 2016, of the population of Scotland born abroad, 218,000 were born in the EU and 239,000 were born out-with the EU.

Figure 1: Population of Scotland born abroad, 2004 to 2016



Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), Office for National Statistics

Figure 1 shows the number of people born abroad who were resident in Scotland each year. Overall, between 2015 and 2016, there was a statistically significant increase in the total non-UK born population of Scotland, rising by 16% to 457,000. Over the last decade, the total number of non-UK born people living in Scotland has increased from 227,000 in 2006 to 457,000 in 2016.

In 2016, there were 218,000 people born in the EU living in Scotland, rising by 15% since 2015. The non-EU born population of Scotland was 239,000 in 2016, rising by 18% over the same period.

Table 2 shows the most common non-UK countries of birth for the population of Scotland; split into EU and non-EU countries.

Table 2: Most common non-UK countries of birth, Scotland, 2016

EU countries of birth		Non-EU countries of birth	
<i>Country</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Poland	81,000	India	29,000
Republic of Ireland	26,000	Pakistan	24,000
Germany	20,000	China	20,000
Latvia	11,000	United States of America	18,000
Italy	9,000	Australia	13,000

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), Office for National Statistics

As shown in Table 2, Poland is the most common non-UK country of birth, with 81,000 of the usually resident population of Scotland in 2016 born there. This accounts for 18% of the total non-UK born population of Scotland. India is the most common non-UK country of birth out-with the EU, and is second overall behind Poland.

4. Population by Nationality

In 2016, there were estimated to be 337,000 non-British nationals living in Scotland. The breakdown of the population by nationality is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Population by Nationality, Scotland, 2016

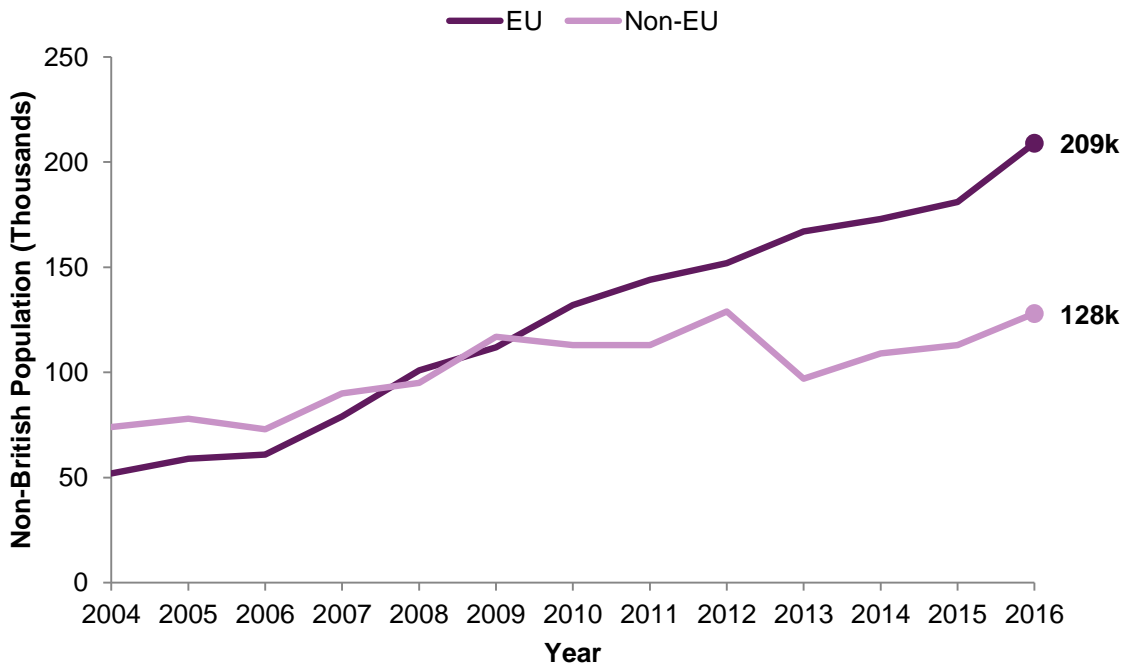
	All Residents	British Nationality	Non-British Nationality	Of Non-British	
				EU	Non-EU
Persons	5,296,000	4,958,000	337,000	209,000	128,000
Percentage of all residents	-	94%	6%	4%	2%

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), Office for National Statistics

Table 3 shows that, in 2016, 6% of the population in Scotland were non-British nationals. Of these non-British nationals, 209,000 (62%) were EU nationals, and 128,000 (38%) were non-EU nationals.

Figure 2 shows the change in the number of non-British nationals living in Scotland since 2004, split by EU and non-EU nationals. From 2010 onwards, there have been more (non-UK) EU nationals living in Scotland than non-EU nationals. The gap between these two groups grew in 2016, with a statistically significant increase in the number of (non-UK) EU nationals living in Scotland, from 181,000 in 2015 to 209,000 in 2016 (an increase of 15%). The number of non-EU nationals living in Scotland also increased over the year, from 113,000 in 2015 to 128,000 in 2016 (up 13%). Over the last decade, the total number of non-British nationals has risen from 134,000 in 2006 to the latest estimate of 337,000 in 2016.

Figure 2: Non-British Population of Scotland, 2004-2016



Source: Annual Population Survey (APS), Office for National Statistics

Listed in Table 4 are the most common non-British nationalities for the usually resident population of Scotland; split into EU and non-EU countries.

Table 4: Most common non-British nationalities, Scotland, 2016

EU Nationalities		Non-EU Nationalities	
<i>Country</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Poland	91,000	India	17,000
Republic of Ireland	22,000	China	14,000
Latvia	11,000	United States of America	12,000
Italy	9,000	Pakistan	11,000
Germany	8,000	Australia	8,000

As shown in Table 4, Poland is the most common non-British nationality, with 91,000 of the usually resident population of Scotland in 2016 holding Polish nationality. This accounts for 27% of the total non-British population of Scotland. India is the most common non-British nationality out-with the EU, and is third overall behind Poland and the Republic of Ireland, respectively.

5. Related statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish the data contained in this report for the whole of the United Kingdom, and also release a comparable UK-level publication on the Population of the UK by Country of Birth and Nationality which can be accessed on the [ONS website](#).

Whilst this publication provides estimates of the non-UK born and non-British nationals population living in Scotland (often referred to as migrant stocks), they are not directly comparable with estimates of long-term international migration (migrant flows). For statistics relating to migrant flows (the number of migrants moving to or from Scotland over a period of time) please visit the NRS [migration tables](#).

For statistics and commentary on the population of Scotland as a whole, National Records of Scotland's [mid-year population estimates for mid-2016](#) were published on 27 April 2017, and contain information about all aspects of population change, including migration.

National Records of Scotland's flagship publication, the [Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends for 2016](#), can also be found on our website. The Annual Review contains an overview of Scotland's population. It includes statistics on births, deaths, life expectancy, migration, marriage and civil partnership, adoption, households and housing, and statutory registration. It also includes an invited chapter on a subject of topical interest.

6. Notes and Definitions

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.

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- 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](#).

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