

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Mid-2008 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland
Description	Population estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population Estimates for Special Areas
Format	Tables available in Excel, CSV and PDF
Data source(s)	<p>Overall population estimates are based on data from the Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) publication. Therefore, all data sources feeding into the SAPEs also feed into Settlements and Localities.</p> <p>Royal Mail delivery point information is used for allocating populations to postcodes.</p> <p>To improve the accuracy of the estimates, the most up-to-date communal establishment data are also used. For the 2008 publication this included the following data sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces data collection • Residential Children's Services in Scotland • Continuing Care Census • Scottish Health Resource Utilisation Groups (SHRUGS) • General/Acute Inpatient and Day Case data (SMR01) • Mental Health Inpatient and Day Case data (SMR04) • Pupils Census • Adult Care Home Census • Scottish Prison Statistics • 2001 Census
Date that data is acquired	<p>SAPE populations are acquired in September the following year.</p> <p>Communal Establishment data is collected from mid-year to three months before publication.</p> <p>Royal Mail delivery point information is collected and made available every summer.</p> <p>For example the mid-2008 estimates were based on Royal Mail data available from August 2008, SAPE data from September 2009 and communal establishment data collected from June 2008 till December 2009.</p>
Publication Release date	30 March 2010 (although we have been improving on this for the past few publications)

Frequency	Biennial
Timeframe of data and timeliness	The estimates refer to the population as at 30 June. The mid-year population estimates for Settlements and Localities are currently published 21 months after this date.
Continuity of data	Mid-year population estimates for settlements and Localities in Scotland are available for 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2008. Currently it is a Biennial publication.
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 via the following link: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats
Concepts and definitions	Further information on the General Register Office for Scotland's Mid-2008 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland can be found via the following link: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/special-area/settlements-localities/mid-2008-pop-est-settlements-localities/background-info.html
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	These statistics are used by both local authorities and central government for various purposes. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding into the 'Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification' biennial publication • As part of the non-domestic rates legislative programme, they are used to update the Non-Domestic rating (rural areas and rateable limits) (Scotland) Order. • It feeds into the Community right to buy in Part 2 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
Accuracy	The publication is heavily reliant on data from the SAPE publication which in turn is based on the mid-year population estimates. The 'About this publication' files for these two publications can be accessed at the following links: <p>http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/population-estimates/mid-2009/mid-09-pop-est-about.pdf</p> <p>and</p> <p>http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/small-area-population-estimates/sape-2008-about.pdf</p> <p>The main issue with accuracy is the quality of the postcode estimates that are produced for the publication. Data zone populations are aggregated down to postcode populations based on the number of residential dwellings obtained from the Royal Mail. Dwellings' populations can vary and some are vacant or used as second homes. This method assumes all dwellings have a proportionate share of the data zones population. In most cases, data zones are contained</p>

	completely inside Settlements and Localities so the postcode breakdown is irrelevant. The accuracy is instead reliant on the quality of the SAPE publication (as detailed above).
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	It is recommended that users exercise caution when comparing the settlement or locality population estimates with previous years. Whilst an increase in population may be due to new build, it may also be due to the inclusion of existing housing which had previously been separated from the settlement by a low density postcode (and vice versa for a population decrease).
Accessibility	It is the policy of General Register Office For Scotland (GROS) to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available at: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/accessibility.html
Coherence and clarity	The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.
Value type and unit of measure	Count of people estimates to be in a settlement or locality.
Official Statistics designation	Official Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Awaiting assessment by UK Statistics Authority.
Help email	customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk there is also a contact form on http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/enquiries.html
Date this form was published	27 July 2010