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Projected Population of Scotland (2010-based)

National population projections by sex and age, with
UK and European comparisons

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Main Points

The key points in this report are as follows:

Principal projection

- The population of Scotland is projected to rise from 5.22 million in 2010 to 5.49 million in 2020, and to continue to rise to 5.76 million in 2035 – an increase of 10 per cent over the 25 year period.
- Between 2010 and 2020 the number of children aged under 16 is projected to increase by 5 per cent from 0.91 to 0.96 million. It is then projected to decrease slightly to 0.94 million in 2035 (a 3 per cent increase compared with 2010).
- The number of people of working age¹ is projected to increase from 3.27 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020 (an increase of 6 per cent). Following a small dip, the projected working age population then increases to 3.50 million by 2035 (an increase of 7 per cent from 2010).
- The number of people of pensionable age² is projected to rise from 1.04 million in 2010 to 1.07 million in 2020 (an increase of 3 per cent). It is then projected to rise more rapidly, reaching 1.32 million in 2035 (an increase of around 26 per cent compared with 2010).
- The number of people aged 75 and over is projected to increase by around 23 per cent in the first ten years of the projection period, from 0.41 million in 2010 to 0.50 million in 2020. It is then projected to continue rising, reaching 0.74 million in 2035 – an increase of 82 per cent over the 25 year period.
- The dependency ratio – the ratio of people aged under 16 and over pensionable age to those of working age – is projected to rise from around 60 per 100 in 2010 to 64 per 100 in 2035.
- The populations of the other three countries in the UK are projected to increase more than Scotland's with England's population projected to increase by 19 per cent, Wales' by 12 per cent and Northern Ireland's by 11 per cent between 2010 and 2035.

Variant projections

- Under each of the alternative scenarios illustrated by the nine available variant projections, Scotland's population is projected to increase between 2010 and 2020. All but the natural change only variant also show an increase over the first 25 years of the projection.
- All the variant projections show Scotland's population ageing significantly over the next 25 years with the number of people aged 75+ projected to increase by between 69 per cent and 95 per cent under these variant assumptions.

¹ Working age is 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 working age becomes 16-64 for women. Between 2024 and 2026 working age for both men and women becomes 16-65, and changes again to 16-67 by 2046.

² Pensionable age is 65 for men, 60 for women until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 pensionable age for women increases to 65. Between 2024 and 2026 the pensionable age for both men and women increases to 66, and changes again to 68 by 2046.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Office for National Statistics (ONS), on behalf of the Registrars General, prepares population projections for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries. This paper presents the main results of the latest, 2010-based, projection for Scotland and outlines the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions used in its preparation. Some additional tables showing more detailed figures for Scotland can be found on the [National Records of Scotland \(NRS\) website](#) whilst full results of the (2010-based) projections can be found on the [ONS website](#).
- 1.2 The results in this paper concentrate on the period up to 2035, although they occasionally refer to up to 75 years ahead and ONS makes available projections up to 2110. However, projections this far ahead become increasingly uncertain.
- 1.3 As well as producing the main principal projection, ONS also produces variant projections using alternative plausible assumptions. At the time this paper was written (26 October 2011) ONS had published nine variant projections on the ONS website. Additional variants will follow in November 2011. More information on the variant projections is given in [Section 8](#).
- 1.4 Population projections were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) in May 2011, along with other population and demographic statistics for Scotland. These statistics can now be designated as National Statistics, subject to meeting the requirements set out in the assessment report³. One of the five requirements set out by the UKSA was 'Review the summary text in the population projections release to convey more prominently the nature of projections and their difference from forecasts, to aid user understanding', and the following section addresses this.

2. Uses and limitations of projections

- 2.1. It is increasingly important to have high quality population statistics and also projections of the population, for both policy development and for planning and providing public services in different geographic areas.
- 2.2. The primary purpose of the national projections is to provide an estimate of the future population of Scotland as a common framework for use in national planning in a number of different fields such as education and health. Projections are used for teacher workforce models, and looking at the implications of an ageing population. They are also used for making national and international comparisons, benchmarking other projections, and as a control for smaller area projections.
- 2.3. But population projections have limitations. A projection is a calculation showing what happens if particular assumptions are made. The population projections are trend-based. They are, therefore, not policy-based forecasts of what the government expects to happen. Many social and economic factors influence population change, including policies adopted by both central and local government. The relationships between the various factors are complex and largely unknown.
- 2.4. The effect of the assumptions about future migration, fertility and mortality is often limited by the inertia in population change, the future population of an area is strongly influenced by the initial base population. As the process of change is cumulative, the reliability of projections decreases over time. Change affects some

³ UK Statistics Authority (2011). [Assessment Report 113: Statistics on Population and Demography in Scotland](#).

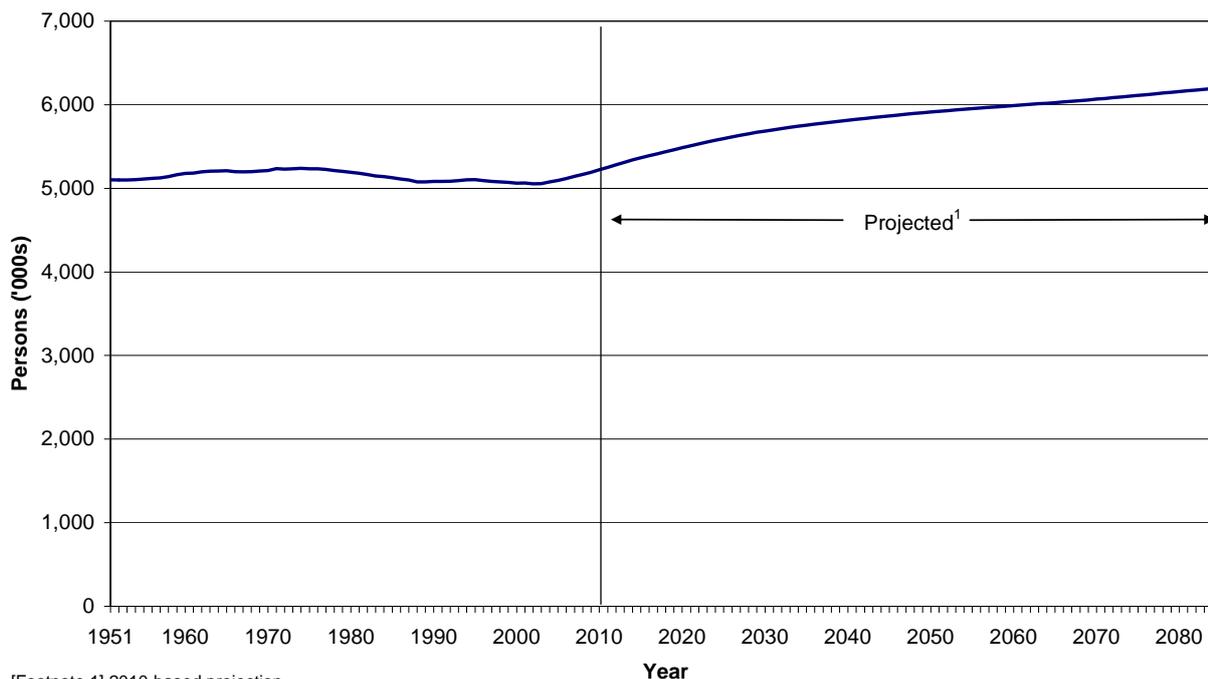
populations more rapidly and more seriously than others. Projections of the number of adults are usually more reliable than those for children because of difficulties in projecting levels of fertility and parental migration. The size of the migration flows, and the uncertainty of future trends, mean that for many areas the migration assumptions are more critical than the fertility and mortality assumptions.

- 2.5. Population projections, like some other types of projections, may indicate that existing trends and policies are likely to lead to outcomes which are judged undesirable. If new policies are then introduced, they may result in the original projections not being realised. However, this means the projections will have fulfilled one of their prime functions, to show the consequences of present demographic trends with sufficient notice for any necessary action to be taken.
- 2.6. It should be noted that as these population projections are trend based, they are less reliable in periods of rapid change. For example, the change in volume of migrants from the A8 accession countries to Scotland was not picked up by earlier projections.
- 2.7. The Scottish Government has set a target to match average European (EU15) population growth over the period from 2007 to 2017. More details can be found on the [Scotland Performs website](#).

3. Summary of results

- 3.1. The results of this new set of projections, summarised in [Table 1](#) and illustrated in [Figure 1](#), show the total population of Scotland increasing from 5.22 million in 2010 and rising above Scotland's record 1974 population of 5.24 million in the first year of the projections. After this, the population is projected to reach 5.49 million in 2020 (an increase of about 264,000 or 5 per cent compared with 2010) and then 5.76 million by 2035 (a 10 per cent increase on the 2010 level). Looking further ahead, the population is projected to continue to rise, reaching around 6.20 million by 2085.

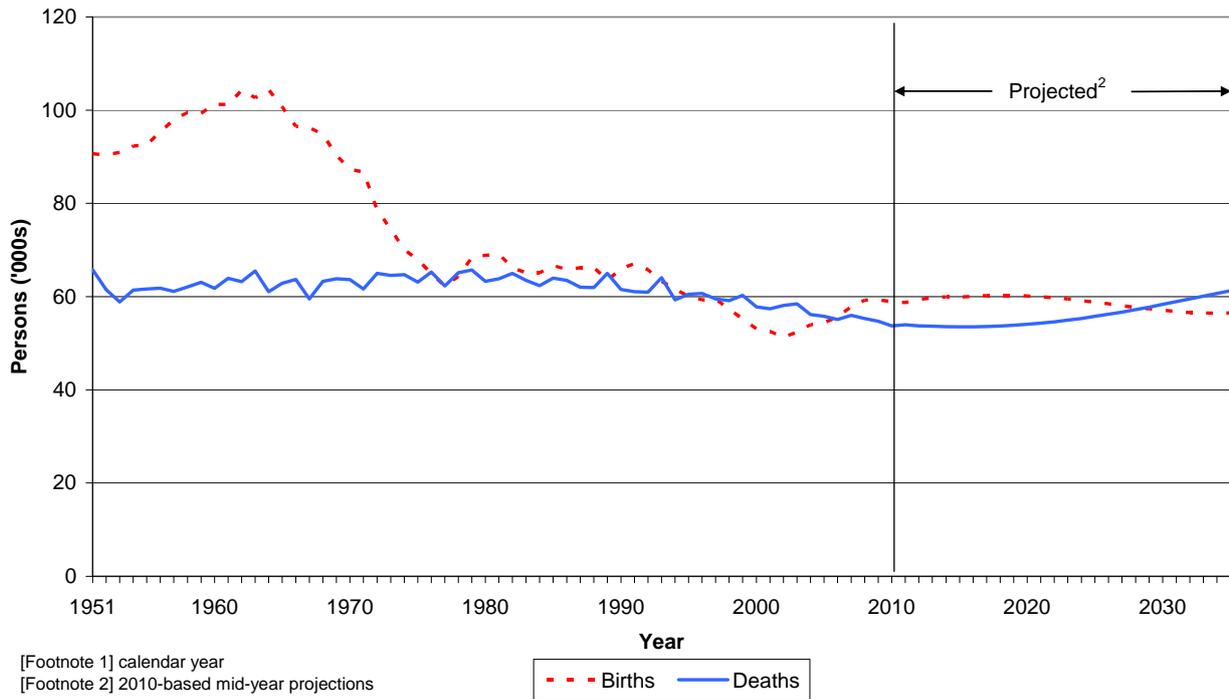
Figure 1 Estimated population of Scotland, actual and projected, 1951-2085



[Footnote 1] 2010-based projection

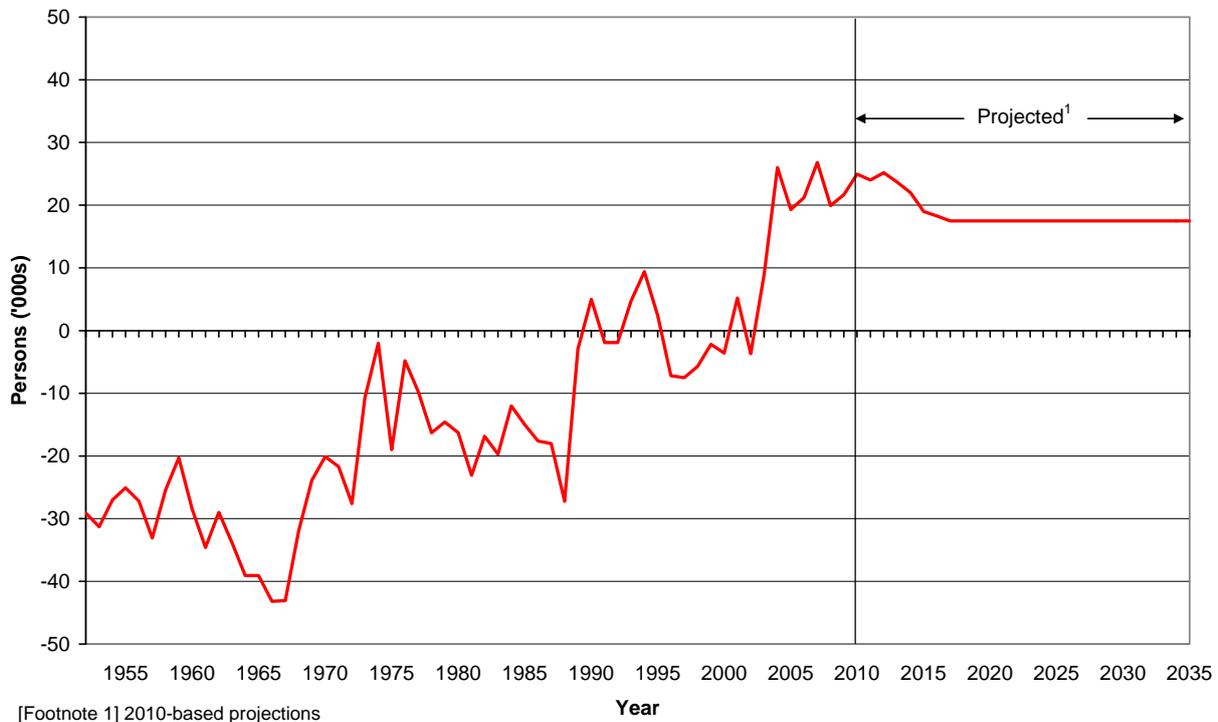
- 3.2. [Table 2](#) provides information on the projected components of change between 2010 and 2035. The table shows that up until around 2028 natural change and migration both act to increase the size of the population as the number of births exceeds the number of deaths and there are more people coming to Scotland than leaving. After that point, the number of deaths exceeds the number of births whilst net in-migration continues.
- 3.3. As [Figure 2](#) shows, the number of births in Scotland fell significantly between the early 1960s and 2002, dropping below the number of deaths in 1995. Between 2002 and 2009, the number of births increased steadily but then it dipped slightly (by around 400 births) in 2010. The increase in births resulted in positive natural change – more births than deaths – from 2006 onwards, and although the number of births decreased slightly in 2010 the number of deaths also fell resulting in positive natural change for this year too. The projections suggest a slight increase in the number of births until a peak in 2018 of around 60,300. Thereafter births generally decline but only to about 56,500, remaining well above the historically low number of births observed in 2002. Meanwhile, the number of deaths is projected to fall until 2015 reaching a low of around 53,500, before increasing back to the levels experienced in the 1990s by 2035.

Figure 2 Births and deaths, actual¹ and projected², Scotland, 1951-2035



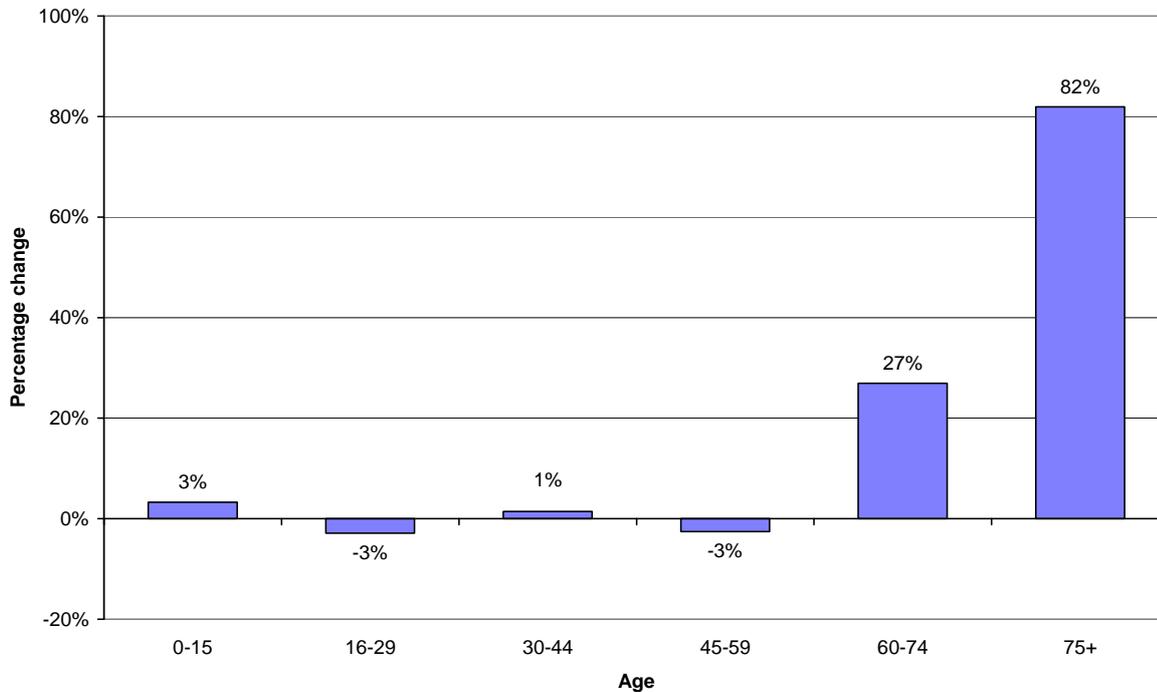
3.4. As Figure 3 shows, Scotland has historically been a country of net out-migration with more people leaving the country than coming. However, since 2002 Scotland has experienced net in-migration, and therefore these projections have assumed that Scotland will continue to experience a net inflow. The size of this net inflow is assumed to rise to 25,200 in 2011-12 before falling steadily to 17,500 by 2016-17, and staying at this level for the remainder of the projection period.

Figure 3 Estimated and projected net migration, Scotland, 1951-2035



- 3.5. More detailed information on the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions leading to these results is given in [Section 4](#) and [Annex A](#), [Annex B](#) and [Annex C](#).
- 3.6. A summary of projected populations in broad age groups is given in [Table 3](#), and projected populations by sex and five year age groups are given in [Table 6](#). These tables and Figure 4 show that the age structure of the population is projected to age noticeably between 2010 and 2035.

Figure 4 The projected percentage change in Scotland's population by age group, 2010-2035



- 3.7. Scotland's population is projected to increase by 10 per cent between 2010 and 2035, however this increase is not spread evenly across all age groups of the population. As [Figure 4](#) shows, the population aged under 60 is projected to remain fairly constant whilst the number of older people is projected to increase significantly.
- 3.8. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of children (aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 5 per cent from 0.91 to 0.96 million. It is then projected to peak at 0.97 million in 2023 before decreasing steadily to 0.94 million by 2035 (a 3 per cent increase compared with 2010).
- 3.9. The figures for working age and pensionable age take into account the increases in the state pension age which will rise from 60 to 65 for women between 2010 and 2020, and then from 65 to 66 for both men and women between 2024 and 2026. A further increase to age 68 for both men and women will occur between 2034 and 2046.
- 3.10. With the changes to state pension age included, the population of working age is projected to increase from 3.27 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020 (an increase of 6 per cent). It is then projected to increase slightly to a peak of 3.50 million in 2026, before falling slightly to 3.46 million in 2033 and then rising to 3.50 million in 2035 (an increase of 7 per cent compared with 2010).

- 3.11. The number of people of pensionable age is projected to rise from 1.04 million in 2010 to 1.07 million in 2020 (an increase of 3 per cent). It is then projected to rise more rapidly, reaching 1.32 million in 2035 (an increase of around 26 per cent compared with 2010). There are a few dips in the projected population for this age group over the period but these can be explained by the changes in state pension age.
- 3.12. Were it not for these changes to state pension age, the population of working age would be projected to decrease by around 2 per cent and the population of pensionable age to increase by 53 per cent by 2035.
- 3.13. The number of people aged 75 and over is projected to increase by around 23 per cent from 0.41 million in 2010 to 0.50 million in 2020. It is then projected to continue rising, reaching 0.74 million in 2035 – an increase of 82 per cent over the 25 year period. This is due to the ageing of the baby boomers born after the Second World War who will be in their mid eighties by 2035, and also because mortality rates are projected to improve, increasing the population at older ages.
- 3.14. A useful summary measure of the age structure of a population is the dependency ratio – the ratio of people aged under 16 and those over pensionable age, to those of working age. [Table 4](#) shows that the dependency ratio is projected to remain more or less stable at around 59 per 100 until 2020. Between 2020 and 2024 the dependency ratio is projected to increase to 62 per 100 working age population. It then dips back down to 60 in 2026 before rising steadily to 66 in 2034. It dips again in 2035 to 64. The relatively slow initial increase in the dependency ratio and the dips throughout the projection period are mainly due to the changes to the state pension age ([Section 3.9](#)). In the absence of these changes, the dependency ratio would be projected to rise to 79 per 100 by 2035.
- 3.15. In 2010, the 60 dependents per 100 working age population were made up relatively evenly of children (28 per 100) and pensioners (32 per 100). By 2035 the distribution is projected to have changed to 27 children and 38 pensioners per 100 population of working age.

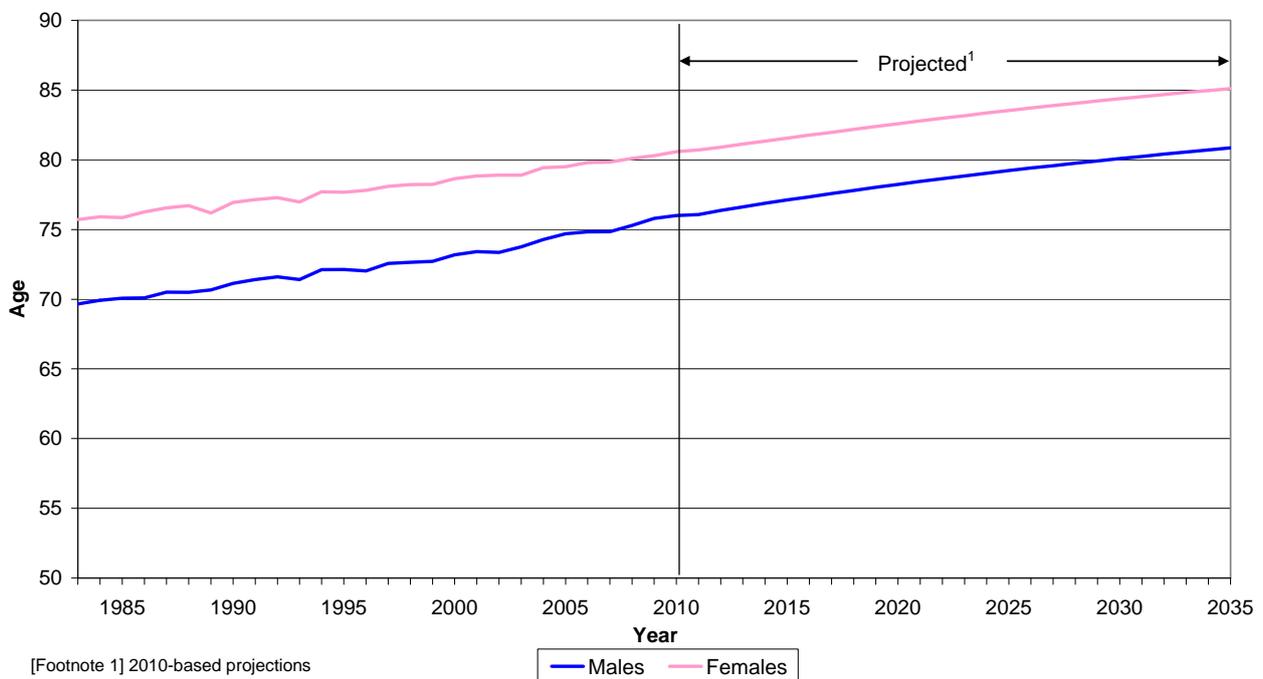
4. The base population and assumptions used in the projections

- 4.1. **The base population:** The projection is based on the National Records of Scotland's population estimates for mid-2010. The population covered includes all persons usually resident in Scotland, whatever their nationality. Members of HM and non-UK armed forces stationed in Scotland are included; HM forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address.
- 4.2. The assumptions about future patterns in fertility, mortality and migration are based on analysis of past trends. The final decisions on assumptions take into account the views of a range of groups who are consulted including a UK expert advisory panel and key users in Scotland. These consultations discussed the likely impact of, for example, increasing child obesity and the economic downturn.
- 4.3. **Fertility:** The fertility rates used in the projection are based on assumptions about the average completed family size of successive cohorts of women. It has been assumed that the average completed family size will continue to decline from

around 1.85 children per woman for those born in the early 1960s and now reaching the end of their childbearing lives, before levelling off at 1.70 for those born in the 2000s and later. The number of births is expected to rise initially from its 2010 level of around 58,900 to a peak of around 60,300 in 2017-18 before falling to around 56,500 by 2035. More details on the fertility assumptions are available in [Annex A](#).

- 4.4. **Mortality:** Future improvements in mortality rates are based on the trend observed in the period 1961 to 2009. It is assumed that the reduction in mortality rates will tend towards a common reduction at each age of 1.2 per cent per year by 2035 for most ages and then continue to improve at this constant rate thereafter. Based on these rates, expectations of life at birth are projected to increase from 75.8 in 2009 to 80.9 in 2035 for males; and from 80.3 in 2009 to 85.1 in 2035 for females as shown in Figure 5. More details on the mortality assumptions are available in [Annex B](#).

Figure 5 Expectation of life at birth, Scotland, 1983-2035

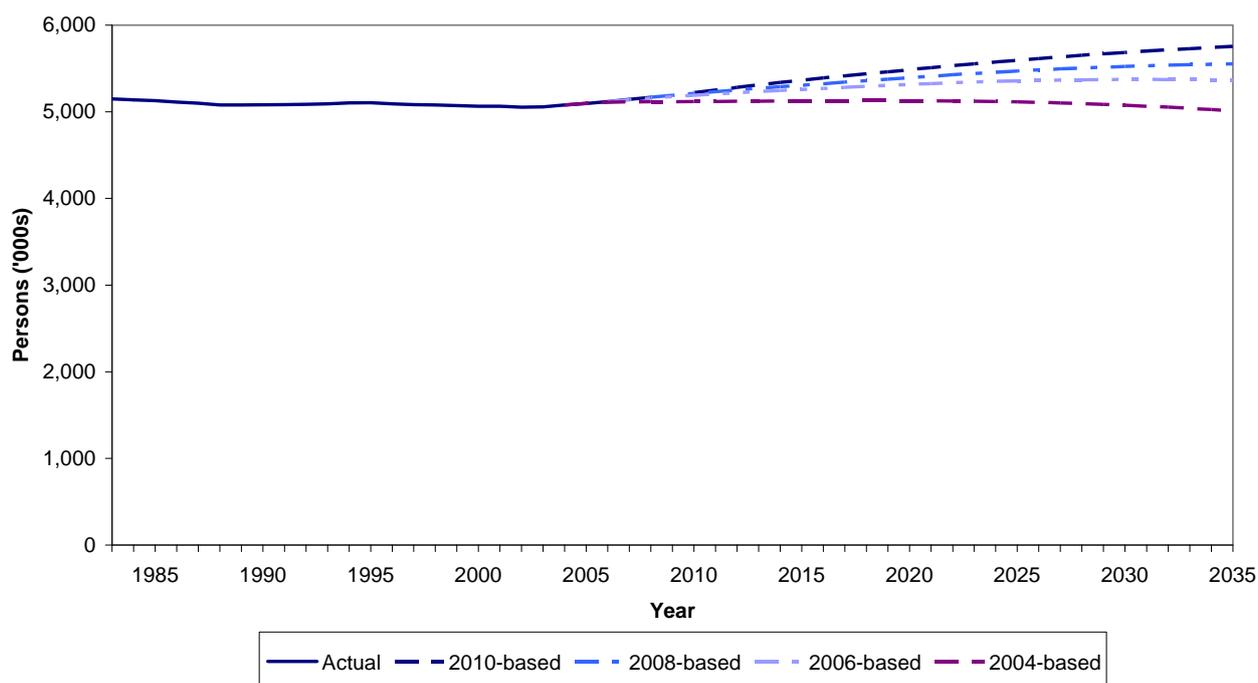


- 4.5. **Migration:** In the first six years of the projection higher net inflows are assumed reflecting recent migration trends as described in [Section 3.4](#). From 2016-17 onwards, it is assumed that there will be a net inflow of 17,500 people per year to the end of the projection period, (i.e. the total number of people entering Scotland as migrants is assumed to be 17,500 greater than the number leaving Scotland). This assumption has been derived from analyses of trends in civilian migration to and from the United Kingdom as well as cross-border migration between the four constituent countries. Migration from A8 and A2 countries is also projected to converge to zero by 2016. Go to [Annex C](#) for more details on the migration assumptions.

5. Comparison with previous projections

- 5.1. The last set of projections, published in October 2009, were based on the mid-year population estimates for 2008. Previous projections were based on the mid-2006 population estimates, and the mid-2004 population estimates. The key changes from previously published projections in terms of births, deaths and total population are shown in [Table 5a](#), [Table 5b](#) and [Table 5c](#) respectively. [Section 5.5](#) looks at the differences in the migration assumptions between the projections. National projections are usually produced every two years, but with the 2011 Census the pattern may change slightly in coming years, as has happened in the past when census results have been published.
- 5.2. Figure 6 compares the 2010-based projection with previous projections. It shows that the level of the population under the latest projection is higher than for earlier projections and that the population is projected to continue to rise over the next 25 years. Looking further ahead, the population is projected to rise continually until 2110, whereas the 2004-based, 2006-based and 2008-based projections all showed the population declining at some stage during the projection period.

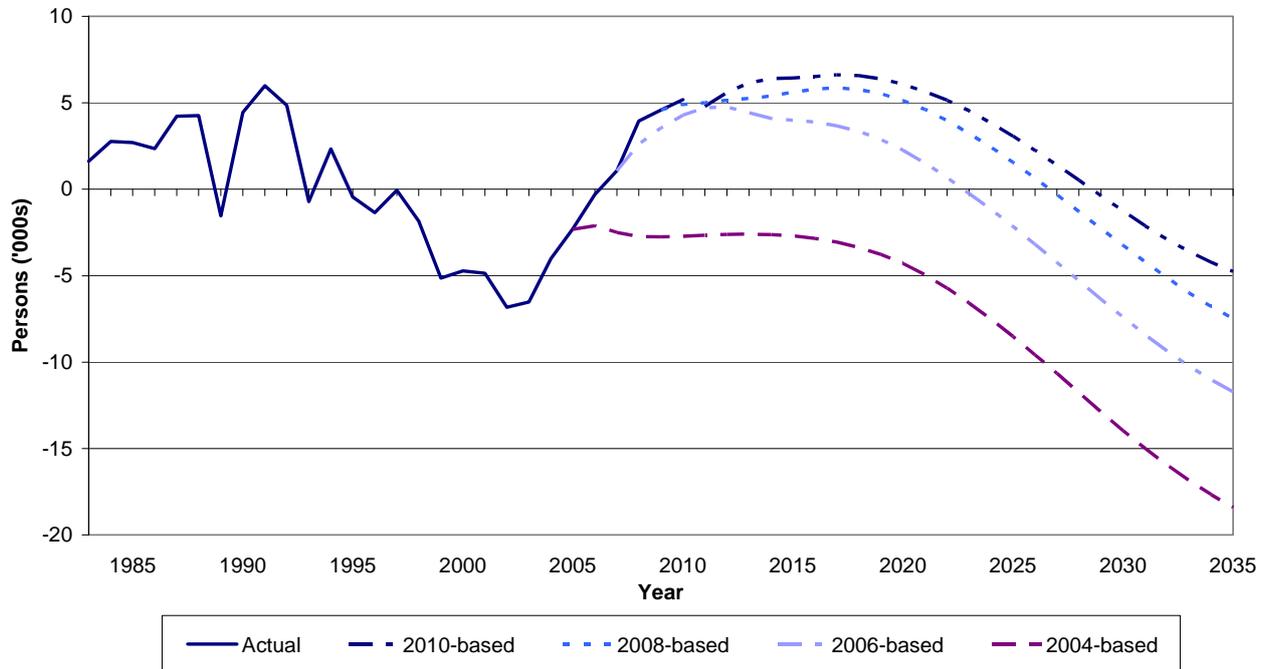
Figure 6 Actual and projected total population compared with previous projections, 1983-2035



- 5.3. The difference between the projections is due in part to the fact that the population in mid-2010 (on which the projections are based) was around 10,700 higher than the 2008-based projections assumed, and in part to the different assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration.
- 5.4. [Figure 7](#) compares the natural change (the difference between the number of births and deaths) underlying the 2010-based projection with that underlying previous projections. Looking at the first 25 years of the projection period and comparing with the 2008-based projections, the number of births is projected to be higher (by an average of around 2,700 per year) and the number of deaths

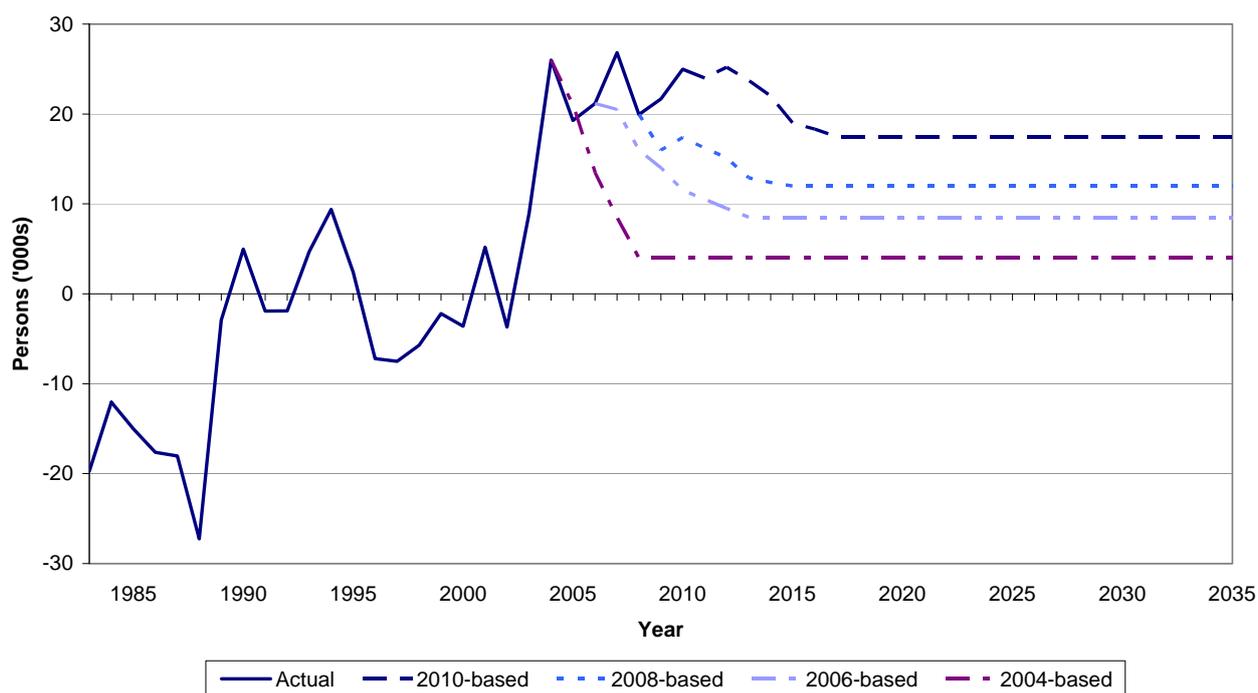
also slightly higher (by an average of around 1,200 per year). As a result there is a higher natural increase for the 2010-based projections from 2011 onwards. More information on the reasons for the differences is given in [Section 4](#) and in [Annex A](#), [Annex B](#) and [Annex C](#).

Figure 7 Actual and projected natural change (births minus deaths) compared with previous projections, 1983-2035



5.5. As [Figure 8](#) demonstrates, the long-term migration assumption has been increased from +12,000 in the 2008-based projections to +17,500. This is largely because there has continued to be relatively high net in-migration to Scotland since the previous set of projections (+21,700 in 2008-09 and +25,000 in 2009-10). Although migration is assumed to reduce from current levels (notably because migration from Eastern Europe is unlikely to continue to be so high), the previous assumption no longer seems plausible. Migration levels have been so variable in recent years that a trend is hard to identify, and these figures should be treated with caution. The migration variants in [Section 8](#) show what would happen to the population under various different levels of migration.

Figure 8 Actual and projected net migration compared with previous projections, 1983-2035



5.6. Table A and Table B below summarise the differences between the 2010-based and the 2008-based projections. The difference in results for the projected age structure of Scotland is fairly small, but the 2010-based projections show a slightly smaller percentage of the population to be of pensionable age by 2035. There are slightly higher percentages of children and working age for most years of the projection period for the 2010-based projections although the difference is slightly smaller. As a result the projected number of dependents per 100 of working age is lower in 2035 for the 2010-based projections than in the 2008-based projections.

Table A Projected age structure of Scotland's population (percentage of total population)

Age Group	2008-based		2010-based	
	2010	2035	2010	2035
Children	17%	16%	17%	16%
Working age	63%	60%	63%	61%
Pension age	20%	24%	20%	23%

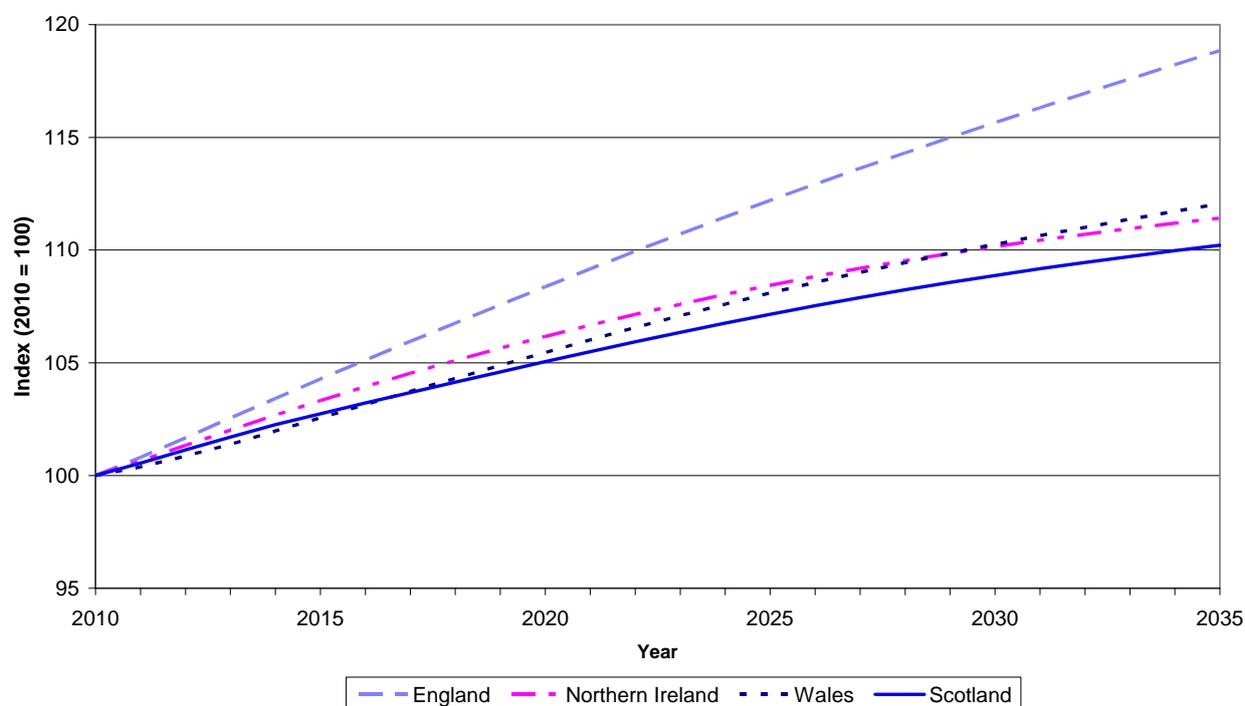
Table B Projected number of dependents per 100 population of working age, Scotland

Age Group	2008-based		2010-based	
	2010	2035	2010	2035
Children	28	27	28	27
Pensioners	32	40	32	38
All dependents	60	67	60	64

6. Scotland's position within the United Kingdom

- 6.1. The United Kingdom population is projected to increase from an estimated 62.3 million in 2010, reaching 67.2 million in 2020, rising above 70 million in 2027 and Figure 9 reaching 73.2 million by 2035. Over the 25 year period this equates to a 18 per cent increase – a slightly bigger increase than projected in the 2008-based projections.
- 6.2. Figure 9 illustrates the projected change in the populations of the four countries of the United Kingdom from 2010 to 2035. It shows that the populations of England, Wales and Northern Ireland are all projected to grow quicker than that of Scotland. By 2035 England's population is projected to be 19 per cent higher than in 2010, Northern Ireland's is projected to be 11 per cent higher and Wales' 12 per cent higher. During the same period Scotland's population is projected to grow by 10 per cent.

Figure 9 Comparison of population change for UK countries, 2010-2035

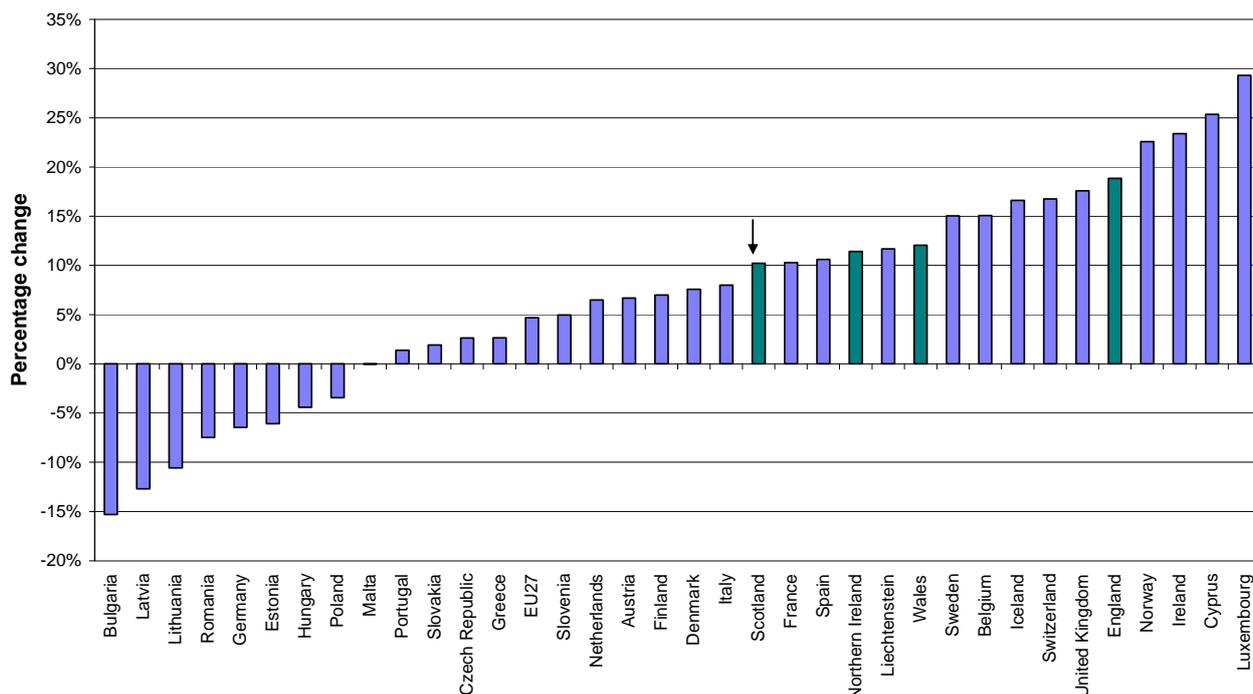


7. Scotland's position within Europe

- 7.1. [Figure 10](#) compares the projected change in Scotland's population between 2010 and 2035 with that for other countries in Europe. For UK countries these have been calculated using the 2010-based principal projection. For the other countries the figures are taken from Eurostat's 2010-based convergence scenario projection⁴. Countries such as Germany and most of the recent accession states in eastern Europe are projected to experience a decline in population. The populations of Portugal, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Greece, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Denmark and Italy are all projected to increase but by less than in Scotland. The population of the remaining 12 EU member states, including the UK, are projected to increase by more than Scotland.

⁴ More information on the Eurostat projections can be found on the [Eurostat website](#).

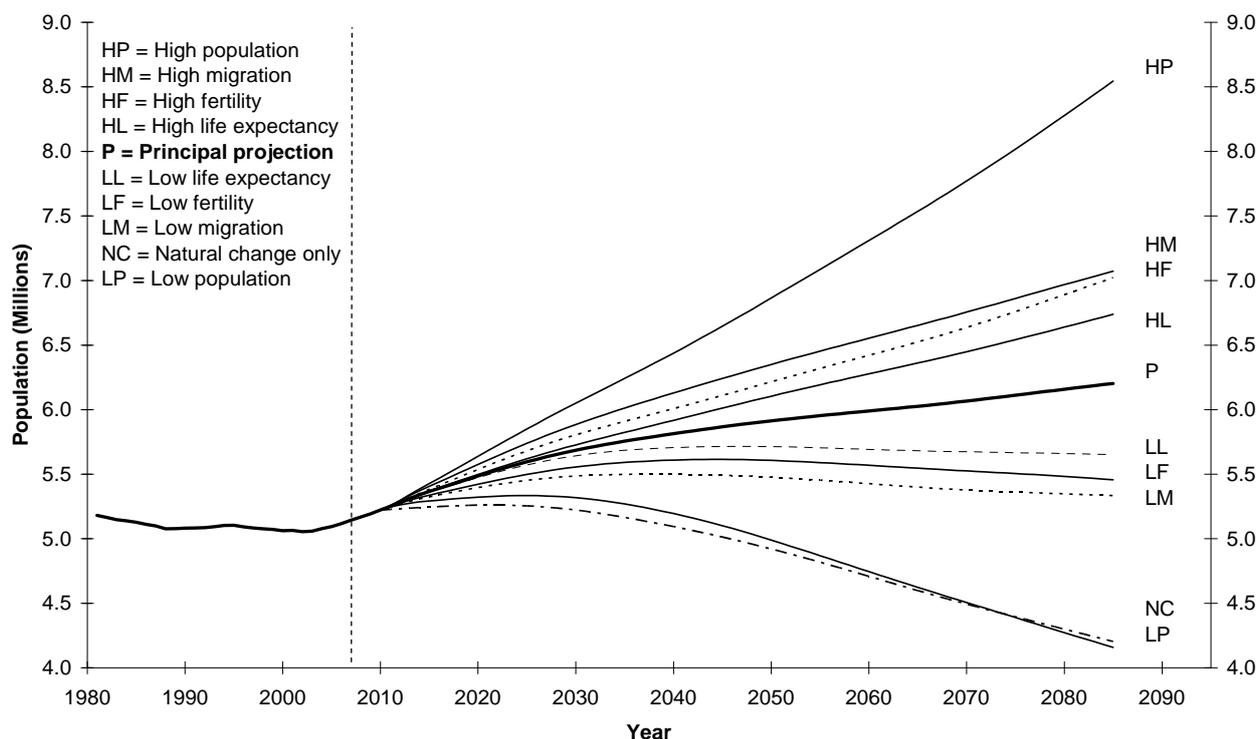
Figure 10 Projected percentage population change in selected European countries, 2010-2035



8. Long term and variant projections

- 8.1. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces projections for Scotland for up to 100 years ahead. Results for the 100 years of this period are available from the [ONS website](#). The reliability of projections decreases as you go further into the future.
- 8.2. This report concentrates on the principal projection but ONS also produces a number of variant projections. These variant projections are based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. The variants are produced to give users an indication of the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour, especially for the long-term projections. The purpose is to illustrate plausible alternative scenarios and not to represent upper or lower limits for future demographic behaviour. These projections are simply scenarios (the certain outcome of a given set of assumptions), rather than forecasts of the most likely course of future events.
- 8.3. The scenarios in this publication, in addition to the principal projection, are six standard high/low variants associated with the three components of fertility, life expectancy and migration, a special case zero migration variant (with natural change only), and the combination variants which produce the high and low population. These final two variants are produced by combining the high (or low) variant assumptions for fertility, life expectancy and migration and can, for all practical purposes, be considered as giving plausible upper and lower bounds for future total population size. [Annex D](#) gives more information about these variants, and the remaining variants which will be released in November.
- 8.4. [Figure 11](#) and [Table 7](#) show Scotland's population under each of the alternative variant projections.

Figure 11 Actual and projected total population of Scotland, under the 2010- based principal and selected variant projections, 1981-2085



- 8.5. The high fertility variant results in a 2035 population that is 0.15 million higher than the principal projection. This is due to the extra births associated with the higher fertility assumption. In contrast, the low fertility variant results in the population in 2035 being 0.16 million lower than the principal projection.
- 8.6. The high and low life expectancy variants project the population to be 0.07 million higher or lower than the principal projection respectively, due to the changes in the number of projected deaths.
- 8.7. In [Figure 11](#) it can be seen that the single component variants which lead to the highest and lowest projected population for 2035 are the migration variants. [Table 8](#) focuses on the migration variants, and shows the projected components of population change in the period to 2035 for the principal projection, the high and low migration variants and the zero migration variant. This shows the effect of different migration assumptions on the size of the future population. Under each of these projections the fertility and mortality assumptions are the same but the number of births and deaths change. This highlights the fact that the numbers of births and deaths are partly dependent on the assumed level of net migration. For the high migration variant the increase in the population over the 25 year period due to natural change is 0.12 million whereas with the principal projection natural change only results in an increase of 0.07 million.
- 8.8. The principal projection shows Scotland's population increasing by 0.53 million (10 per cent) between 2010 and 2035. By comparison, the zero migration projection indicates a 0.06 million (1 per cent) decrease and the high migration variant projects a 0.79 million (15 per cent) increase. The total effect of migration in the principal projection summed over the first 25 years is to add 0.46 million people to Scotland's population by 2035 and, under the high migration variant, to

add 0.67 million – and this is not taking into consideration the increase in natural change as the result of increased migration. It is clear that the projected increase in Scotland’s population between 2010 and 2035 under the principal projection is dependent on continuing migration into Scotland.

8.9. As Figure 12 shows, under all of the variant projections, and the principal projection, Scotland’s age structure is projected to change dramatically between 2010 and 2035. In each case, the number of people aged 60 and over is projected to increase significantly, (particularly the number aged 75+) while, in most cases, the numbers in each of the age categories below 60 are projected to decrease. This is further demonstrated by Figure 13 which shows that the average age of Scotland’s population increases steadily across the projection period under all of the available variant projections.

Figure 12 Percentage change in age structure under the 2010-based principal and selected variant projections, 2010-2035

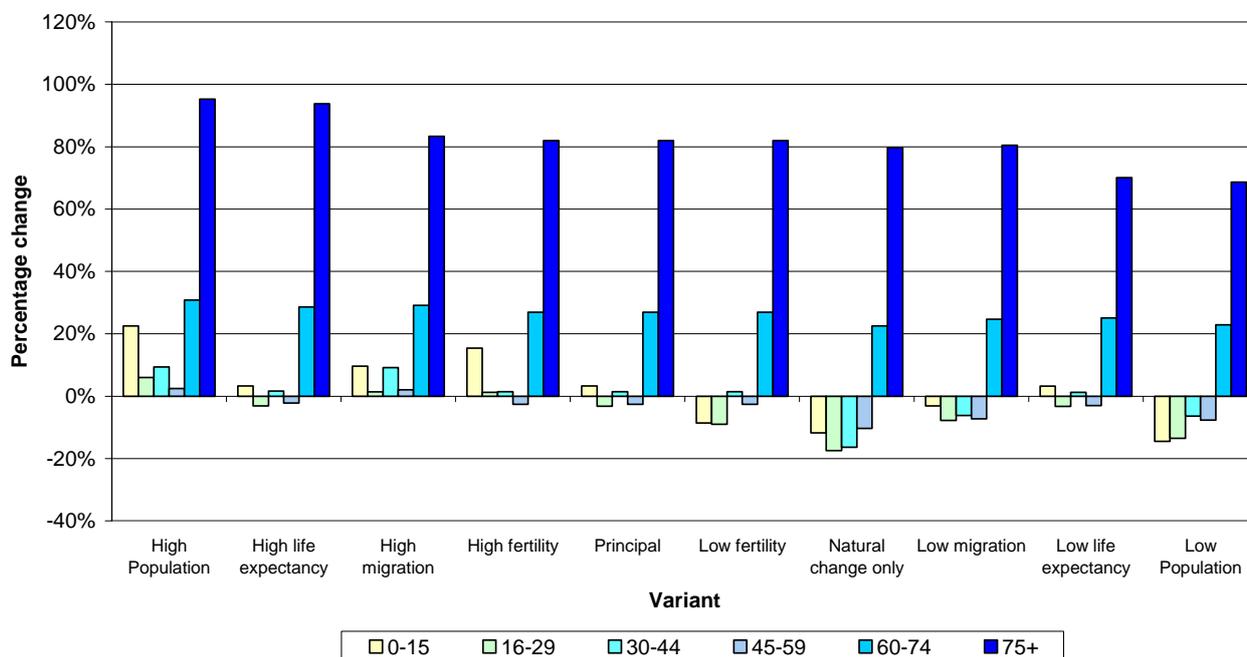
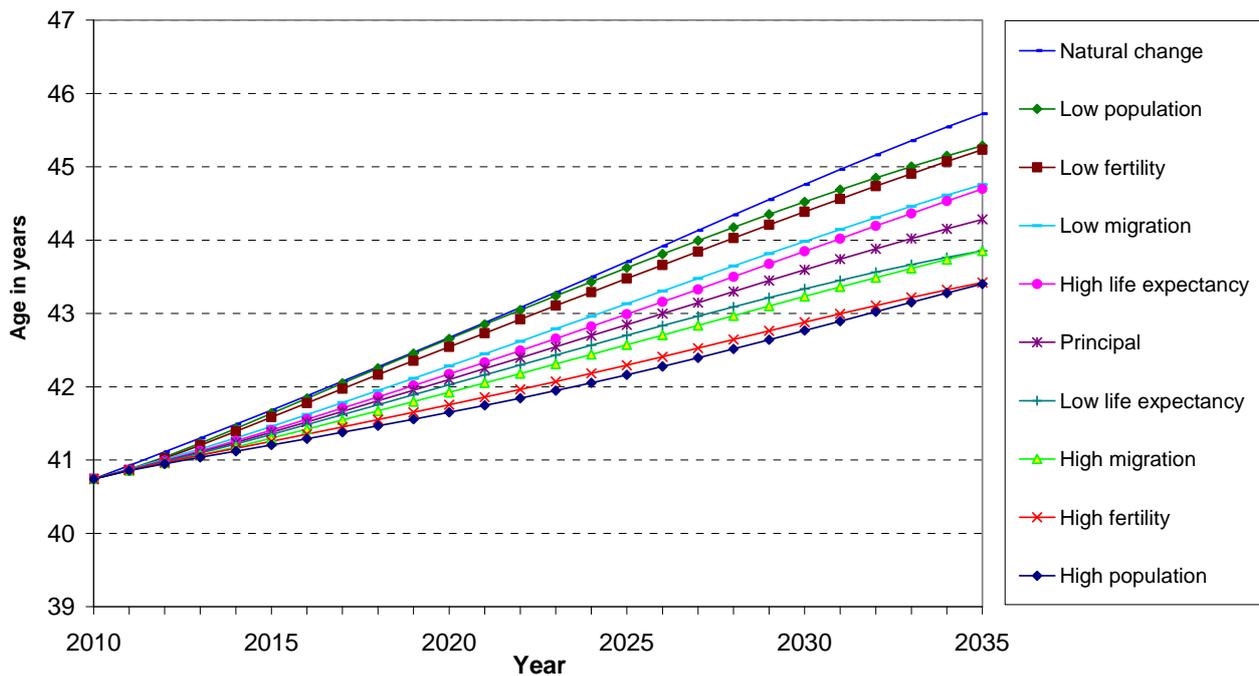
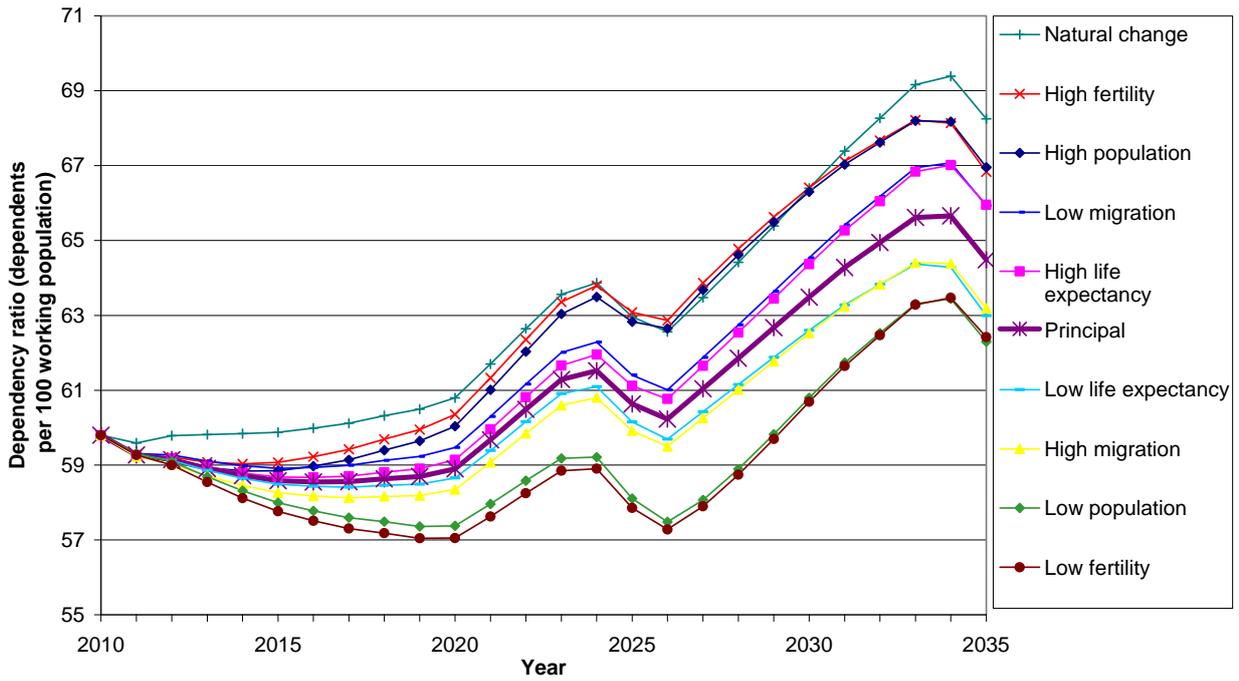


Figure 13 Average age of Scotland's population under the 2010-based principal and selected variant projections, 2010-2035



8.10. Figure 14 shows that the dependency ratio (number of dependents per 100 people of working age population) will rise under all available variant projections although the increase in the state pension age to 66 for both men and women between 2024 and 2026 will result in a short term decrease. Amongst the available variants, the biggest projected increase in the dependency ratio occurs under the natural change only variant, increasing the dependency ratio from its 2010 level of 60 to 68 in 2035. The smallest increase over the period occurs under the low population variant as it only increases to 62 by 2035.

Figure 14 Dependency ratios (dependents per 100 working age population) under the 2010-based principal and selected variant projections, 2010-2035



9. Further information

Corresponding data for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries, along with detailed information on the assumptions which are made, is available from the [ONS website](#) or by contacting ONS at:

Office for National Statistics
Population Projections Unit
Room 2300
Segensworth Road
Titchfield PO15 5RR

Tel: 01329 444652

E-mail: natpopproj@ons.gov.uk

More detailed age and sex breakdowns of the Scottish results are available from the [NRS website](#), from our customer services team, or from the [ONS website](#).

The next set of sub-national projections for Council and NHS Board areas in Scotland are due to be released in February 2012. These will be consistent with the latest 2010-based projection for Scotland. Further details can be obtained from:

Customer Services
National Records of Scotland
Statistics Information Services
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
EDINBURGH EH12 7TF

Telephone: 0131 314 4299

E-mail: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Table 1 Projected population of Scotland (2010-based): 2010-2080

	('000s)										
	2010 (base)	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	<i>Longer term projections</i>				
							2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
All Ages	5,222	5,365	5,486	5,596	5,686	5,755	5,814	5,913	5,990	6,067	6,158

Table 2 Projected components of population change, Scotland, 2010-2035

	('000s)						
	2010 -2011	2011 -2012	2012 -2013	2013 -2014	2014 -2015	2015 -2016	2016 -2017
Population at start	5,222	5,251	5,282	5,312	5,340	5,365	5,390
Births	59	59	60	60	60	60	60
Deaths	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
Natural change	5	6	6	6	6	7	7
Migration	24	25	24	22	19	18	18
Population at end	5,251	5,282	5,312	5,340	5,365	5,390	5,414
Total change	29	31	30	28	25	25	24

	('000s)						
	2017 -2018	2018 -2019	2019 -2020	2020 -2021	2021 -2022	2022 -2023	2023 -2024
Population at start	5,414	5,438	5,462	5,486	5,509	5,532	5,554
Births	60	60	60	60	60	59	59
Deaths	54	54	54	54	55	55	55
Natural change	7	6	6	6	5	5	4
Migration	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Population at end	5,438	5,462	5,486	5,509	5,532	5,554	5,575
Total change	24	24	24	23	23	22	21

	('000s)						
	2024 -2025	2025 -2026	2026 -2027	2027 -2028	2028 -2029	2029 -2030	2030 -2031
Population at start	5,575	5,596	5,615	5,634	5,652	5,669	5,686
Births	59	58	58	58	57	57	57
Deaths	56	56	57	57	58	58	59
Natural change	3	2	1	1	-0	-1	-2
Migration	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Population at end	5,596	5,615	5,634	5,652	5,669	5,686	5,701
Total change	21	20	19	18	17	16	15

	('000s)			
	2031 -2032	2032 -2033	2033 -2034	2034 -2035
Population at start	5,701	5,716	5,729	5,743
Births	57	56	56	57
Deaths	59	60	61	61
Natural change	-3	-4	-4	-5
Migration	18	18	18	18
Population at end	5,716	5,729	5,743	5,755
Total change	15	14	13	13

Table 3 Projected population of Scotland (2010-based), by age group, 2010-2035

	('000s)					
	2010 (base)	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
All Ages	5,222	5,365	5,486	5,596	5,686	5,755
0-15	912	922	959	968	959	941
16-29	975	979	920	895	910	944
30-44	1,036	1,017	1,067	1,125	1,107	1,051
45-59	1,092	1,149	1,117	1,035	1,014	1,064
60-74	801	851	925	983	1,040	1,017
75+	406	447	499	589	656	738
Children	912	922	959	968	959	941
Working ages ¹	3,268	3,383	3,452	3,483	3,478	3,499
Pensionable ages ²	1,042	1,060	1,075	1,145	1,249	1,315

[Footnote 1] Working age is 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 working age becomes 16-64 for women. Between 2024 and 2026 working age for both men and women becomes 16-65 and changes again to 16-67 by 2046.

[Footnote 2] Pensionable age is 65 for men, 60 for women until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 pensionable age for women increases to 65. Between 2024 and 2046, state pension age will increase from 65 years to 68 years for both sexes.

* Note: Not all figures will sum due to rounding.

Table 4 Projected number of dependents per 100 population of working age, Scotland, 2010-2035

Age group	2010 (base)	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
All dependents	60	59	59	61	63	64
Children under 16	28	27	28	28	28	27
Pensionable ages ²	32	31	31	33	36	38

[Footnote 1] Working age is 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 working age becomes 16-64 for women. Between 2024 and 2026 working age for both men and women becomes 16-65 and changes again to 16-67 by 2046.

[Footnote 2] Pensionable age is 65 for men, 60 for women until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 pensionable age for women increases to 65. Between 2024 and 2046, state pension age will increase from 65 years to 68 years for both sexes.

Table 5a Projected number of births¹, Scotland, 2014-2035

	2014-15	2019-20	2024-25	2029-30	2034-35
2010-based	60,000	60,100	58,800	57,100	56,500
2008-based	57,600	57,600	56,000	54,200	53,600
2006-based	56,100	55,000	52,600	50,600	49,700
2004-based	51,400	51,100	49,200	46,700	44,800

[Footnote 1] Rounded to nearest 100

Table 5b Projected number of deaths¹, Scotland, 2014-2035

	2014-15	2019-20	2024-25	2029-30	2034-35
2010-based	53,500	54,100	55,700	58,300	61,300
2008-based	52,000	52,500	54,400	57,500	61,000
2006-based	52,100	52,700	54,800	58,000	61,400
2004-based	54,100	55,400	57,700	60,600	63,200

[Footnote 1] Rounded to nearest 100

Table 5c Projected population, Scotland, 2015-2035

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
2010-based	5,365	5,486	5,596	5,686	5,755
2008-based	5,306	5,394	5,470	5,524	5,554
2006-based	5,258	5,316	5,357	5,373	5,365
2004-based	5,125	5,128	5,114	5,076	5,012

Table 6 Projected population of Scotland (2010-based), by sex and age group, 2010-2035

Age	Sex	Estimated population 30 June 2010	Projection year				
			2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
All ages	Persons	5,222	5,365	5,486	5,596	5,686	5,755
	Males	2,530	2,612	2,678	2,737	2,786	2,823
	Females	2,692	2,754	2,808	2,858	2,900	2,932
0-4	Persons	294	299	302	298	290	284
	Males	150	153	155	153	149	146
	Females	144	146	147	145	141	139
5-9	Persons	270	296	302	305	301	293
	Males	138	151	154	156	154	150
	Females	132	145	147	149	147	143
10-14	Persons	288	272	298	304	307	303
	Males	148	139	152	155	157	155
	Females	140	133	147	149	150	148
15-19	Persons	324	297	281	307	312	315
	Males	166	152	143	156	159	160
	Females	158	145	138	151	153	155
20-24	Persons	361	358	328	312	338	343
	Males	184	182	167	157	170	174
	Females	177	176	161	154	167	169
25-29	Persons	351	379	369	338	322	348
	Males	178	195	189	174	164	177
	Females	173	184	180	165	158	171
30-34	Persons	311	361	384	374	344	328
	Males	156	184	197	192	177	167
	Females	155	177	187	182	167	160
35-39	Persons	335	317	364	387	376	346
	Males	161	159	184	198	192	177
	Females	174	158	180	189	184	169
40-44	Persons	390	338	318	365	387	377
	Males	187	162	159	184	197	192
	Females	203	176	160	181	190	185
45-49	Persons	402	389	337	318	364	386
	Males	193	185	161	157	182	196
	Females	209	204	176	160	181	191
50-54	Persons	366	400	387	336	317	363
	Males	177	191	184	160	157	182
	Females	189	209	203	176	161	182
55-59	Persons	324	360	393	382	332	314
	Males	158	173	187	181	158	155
	Females	166	186	206	201	175	160
60-64	Persons	327	313	348	382	371	324
	Males	160	151	166	180	174	153
	Females	168	162	182	201	197	172
65-69	Persons	255	308	295	330	363	355
	Males	120	148	141	156	170	165
	Females	134	159	154	174	193	189
70-74	Persons	219	231	281	272	306	338
	Males	100	107	133	128	142	156
	Females	119	124	148	144	163	182
75-79	Persons	176	187	201	247	241	273
	Males	75	82	90	114	110	124
	Females	101	105	111	133	130	149
80-84	Persons	123	136	150	163	204	201
	Males	47	55	63	71	91	89
	Females	76	81	87	93	113	112
85-89	Persons	71	79	93	106	119	152
	Males	24	28	35	42	49	64
	Females	48	51	58	64	70	87
90 & over	Persons	35	45	55	72	92	112
	Males	9	13	18	25	33	42
	Females	26	32	38	47	58	70

Note: Not all figures will sum due to rounding

Table 7 Principal and selected variant projections (2010-based), Scotland, 2010 - 2080

	('000s)										
	2010 (base)	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	Longer-term projections				
							2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Principal projection	5,222	5,365	5,486	5,596	5,686	5,755	5,814	5,913	5,990	6,067	6,158
High Migration	5,222	5,406	5,575	5,739	5,885	6,012	6,129	6,350	6,553	6,755	6,968
High Fertility	5,222	5,382	5,536	5,681	5,805	5,909	6,008	6,215	6,421	6,636	6,890
High Life expectancy	5,222	5,370	5,498	5,619	5,727	5,824	5,917	6,104	6,277	6,449	6,639
High population	5,222	5,427	5,639	5,851	6,051	6,242	6,438	6,864	7,310	7,770	8,278
Low Migration	5,222	5,325	5,396	5,452	5,486	5,499	5,499	5,477	5,426	5,378	5,348
Low Fertility	5,222	5,338	5,422	5,499	5,556	5,591	5,609	5,607	5,569	5,525	5,483
Low Life expectancy	5,222	5,361	5,474	5,572	5,643	5,685	5,706	5,713	5,692	5,674	5,659
Low population	5,222	5,293	5,322	5,334	5,318	5,270	5,196	4,990	4,745	4,506	4,273
Natural change only	5,222	5,245	5,260	5,255	5,222	5,165	5,094	4,921	4,709	4,494	4,299

Table 8 Projected population change for selected variant projections (2010-based), Scotland, 2010-2035

	('000s)			
	High migration variant	Principal projection	Low migration variant	Natural change only
Population at mid-2010	5,222	5,222	5,222	5,222
Population change (2010-2035)				
Births	1,524	1,467	1,410	1,325
Deaths	1,407	1,399	1,390	1,382
Migration	673	465	256	0
Population at mid-2035	6,012	5,755	5,499	5,165
Total population change between 2010 and 2035	790	533	277	-57

Annex A Fertility assumptions

Fertility assumptions are agreed in two stages. The long term assumption is decided as part of the consultation process between the UK countries and the Office for National Statistics. Then there is detailed assumption setting to produce the age-specific fertility rates for each year of the projection period that are consistent with the long-term assumption.

The fertility assumptions for the long-term average completed family size have not changed for any UK countries since the 2008-based population projections. Therefore the Scottish assumption is still lower than the assumptions for other UK countries. The assumptions for Scotland and other constituent countries of the UK are given in [Table A1](#).

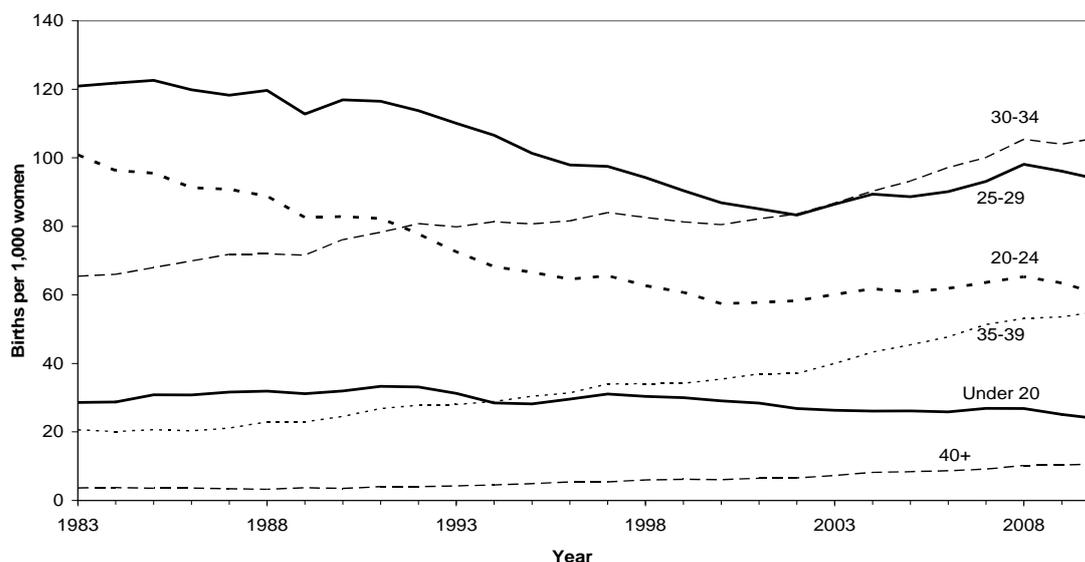
Table A1 Assumptions of long-term average completed family size, 2008 and 2010-based projections

	2010-based	2008-based
England	1.85	1.85
Wales	1.85	1.85
Scotland	1.70	1.70
Northern Ireland	1.95	1.95
United Kingdom	1.84	1.84

The trends in age specific fertility for Scotland are shown in Figure A1. Until 2002, there is a general pattern of falling fertility at younger ages coupled with rises in fertility at older ages.

Recent data have shown increases in fertility rates until 2008, and then a slight decrease in the last two years. The biggest increases in fertility rates are for women in their thirties. Fertility rates increased for women in their twenties from 2001 to 2008, but they have fallen in recent years. Fertility rates for women over 40 is the only age group to see a continued rise to 2010.

Figure A1 Scotland age specific fertility, 1983-2010



Fertility assumptions are formulated in terms of the average number of children that women born in particular years will have. This cohort measure of fertility is more stable than the analogous calendar year or period measure (the total fertility rate). This is because it is affected only by change in the total number of children women have and not by the timing of births within their lives. Period rates may rise or fall if births are brought forward or delayed for any reason.

The assumptions about completed family size are based on family building patterns to date and other relevant data. For the UK as a whole, the steady decline in achieved family size at each age, a clear pattern for the 1945 to 1975 cohorts, appears to be bottoming out among the most recently-born cohorts of women.

For Scotland, fertility rates are assumed to continue to increase for women in their 40s, remain stable for women in their 30s and fall slightly for women in their 20s.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Scotland is projected to remain fairly stable until 2012 before falling to the long-term level.

Annex B Mortality assumptions

The mortality rates for the first year of the projection, mid-2010 to mid-2011, are based on the best estimates that could be made in the autumn of 2011 of the numbers of deaths at each age in 2010-11.

Assumed improvements in mortality rates after 2010-11 are based on trends in mortality rates before 2010. Improvements in mortality rates by age and gender in the base year of the projection are estimated from the trends in years from 1961 to 2009. It is assumed that annual rates of mortality improvement will converge to a common rate of 1.2 per cent per year at 2035 for most ages, and continue to improve at that constant rate thereafter. However, it is assumed that those born in the years 1925 to 1938 (cohorts which have consistently experienced relatively high rates of mortality improvement over the last 25 years) will continue to experience higher rates of mortality improvement until they die, with assumed rates of improvement in and after 2035 rising from 1.2 per cent a year for those born after 1938 to a peak of 2.5 per cent a year for those born in 1931 and 1932 then declining back to 1.2 per cent a year for those born in 1924, and lower rates for those born earlier.

A comparison of period expectations of life (Eols) for Scotland with the UK as a whole (Figure B1) suggests there has been a gradual widening in the difference in expectations of life for males under the age of 80, since the early 1980s. There have also been increases in divergence for females since 2000 (Figure B2).

Figure B1 Period expectations of life (Eol) for Scotland less respective expectation of life for UK – for males at birth and ages 20, 40, 60 and 80, 1983-2010

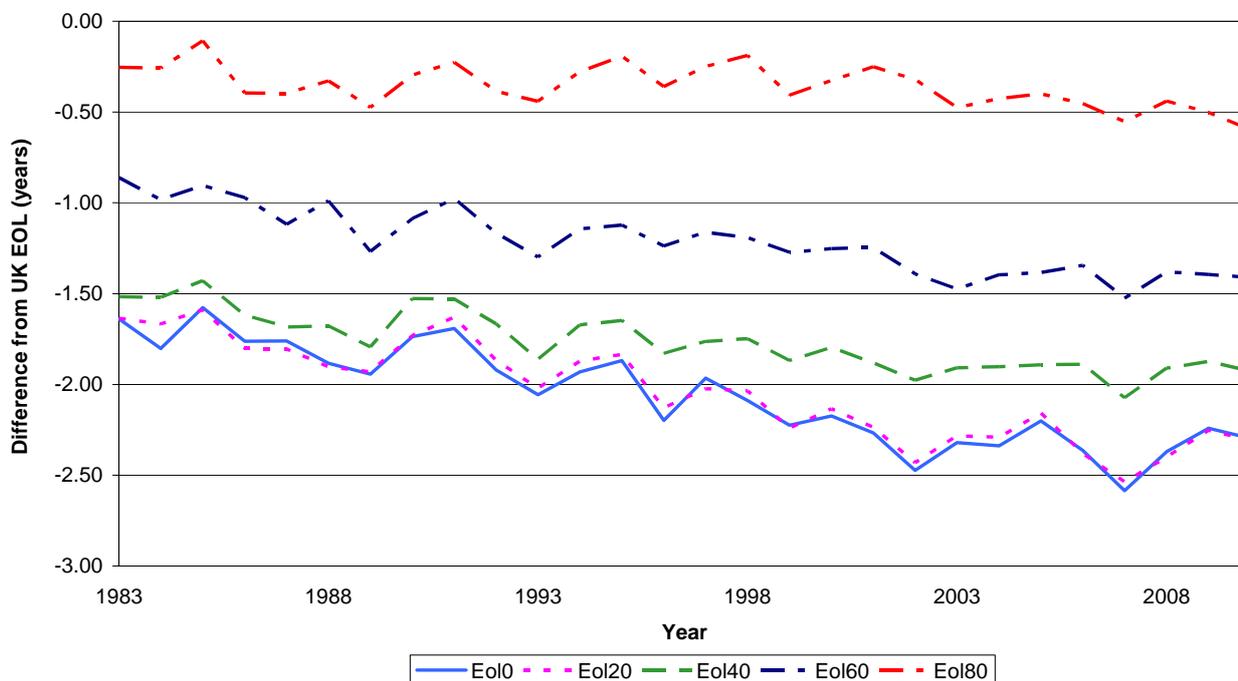
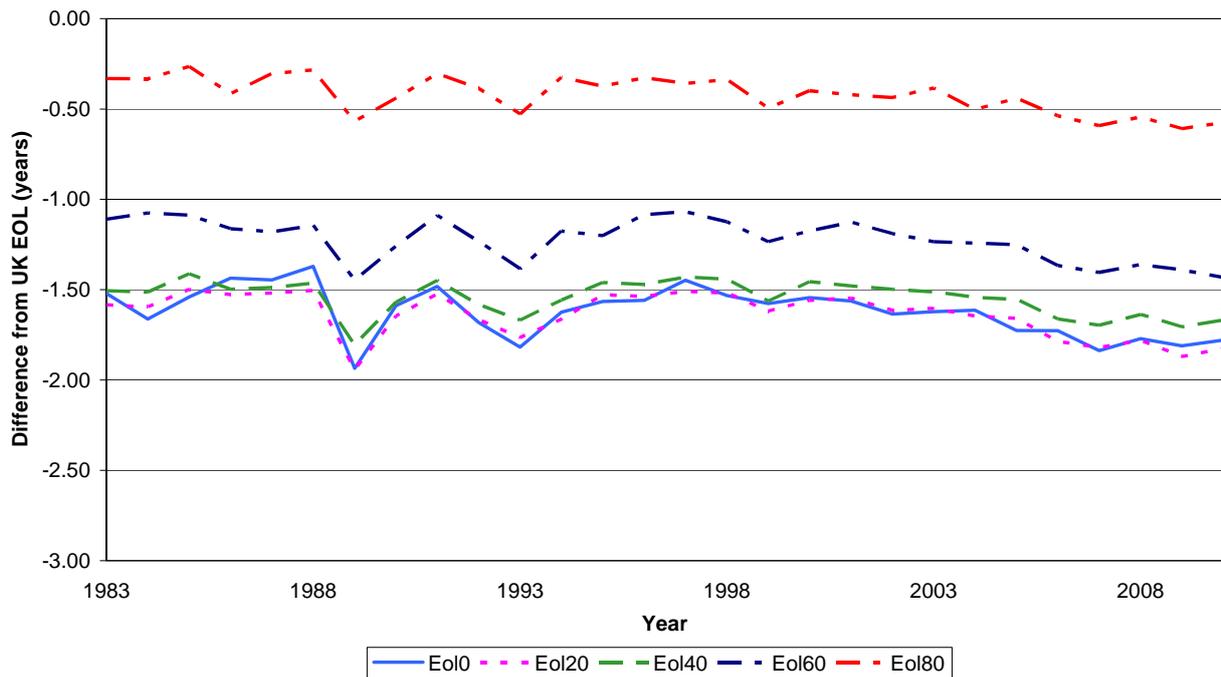


Figure B2 Period expectations of life (Eol) for Scotland less respective expectation of life for UK – for females at birth and ages 20, 40, 60 and 80, 1983-2010



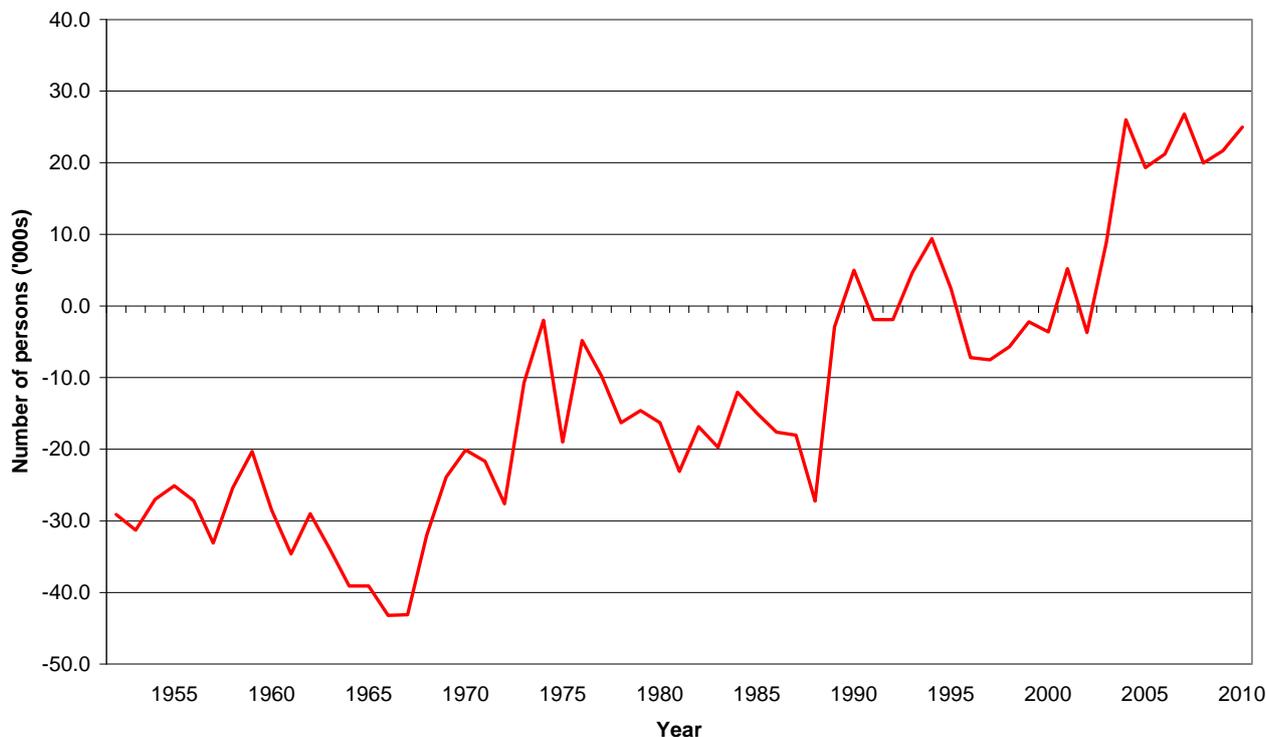
Although there has been decreases in the differentials between Scotland and the UK in 2008 and 2009, this is not sufficient evidence to suggest a change in the overall trend. Therefore, following further analysis (and as similarly done in previous sets of projections), lower rates of improvement were adopted in Scotland for males aged 27 to 59 and 66 to 95, and for females aged 28 to 41 and 65 to 92, than for the UK as a whole. At all other ages the UK levels have been used. By 2035 all improvement rates are projected to converge to the same annual rates of improvement as for the UK.

The impact of these new assumptions can be summarised using the period expectation of life at birth, based on the mortality rates for the given year. Life expectancy is assumed to rise from 75.8 years in 2009 to 80.9 years in 2035 for men, and from 80.3 years in 2009 to 85.1 years in 2035 for women. Compared with the assumptions used in the 2008-based projections for Scotland, the life expectancy for men in 2035 is the same for both sets of projections, but for women it is 0.3 years lower in the 2010-based projections.

Annex C Migration assumptions

The long-term assumption for net migration to Scotland is +17,500 each year compared with +12,000 in the 2008-based projections. This increase stems from the continuing high levels of migration observed since around 2003 compared with previous years. Figure C1 illustrates the trends since 1951.

Figure C1 Estimated net migration, Scotland, 1951-2010



The long-term assumptions comprise of +8,500 from cross-border migration and +9,000 from international migration. The cross-border assumptions are derived from the average of moves recorded through the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) system over the last 10 years. The international migration assumption is based largely on International Passenger Survey data (IPS).

Migration assumptions for the initial years are designed to reflect recent rates of migration, and gradually converge to the long-term assumptions.

The assumptions for total net migration are:

- 2010-11 + 24,000
- 2011-12 + 25,200
- 2012-13 + 23,700
- 2013-14 + 22,000
- 2014-15 + 19,000
- 2015-16 + 18,300
- 2016-17 onwards + 17,500

These reflect recent migration data and also include an additional allowance for migrants from the A8 countries in Eastern Europe which joined the European Union in 2004.

Annex D Variant projections and assumptions

Every two years the Office for National Statistics (ONS), in consultation with the Registrars General, produces a principal population projection and a number of variant projections, based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration, for the UK and its constituent countries. The variants are produced to give users an indication of the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour. There are two distinct types of variant produced: standard variants and special case scenarios.

As well as the principal assumptions, high and low assumptions are prepared for each of the components of population change (fertility, life expectancy and net migration). These are used to generate what are referred to as the standard variants. There are 27 possible combinations of these sets of assumptions although, besides the principal projection, only 12 are published by ONS. These are the six possible single component variants and also six selected combination variants. The single component variants vary one component at a time from the principal assumptions, the purpose being to illustrate plausible alternative scenarios rather than to represent upper or lower limits for future demographic behaviour. The combination variants which are published are those which produce the largest/smallest total population size, the oldest/youngest age structure and the largest/smallest dependency ratios. Dependency ratios show the relationship between the working age population and the two main dependent groups – children under 16 and people of pensionable age.

As well as producing the standard variants ONS produce special case scenarios or what if projections to illustrate the consequences of a particular, but not necessarily realistic set of assumptions. Four sets of special case scenarios are prepared:

- Replacement fertility
- Constant fertility
- No mortality improvement
- Natural change only (or zero migration)

In addition special case projections, based on combinations of these assumptions, will be prepared:

- No change projections – shows what would happen if fertility, mortality and net migration were to remain at current levels
- Stationary projections – shows a population with an unchanging size and age structure using replacement level fertility, constant mortality rates at all ages and zero net migration at all ages

More details on the variants referred to in this paper and their assumptions are contained in [Table D1](#) and [Table D2](#) on the next page.

On the date of the publication of this paper (26 October 2011) only the six standard variants, the high and low population combination variants and the zero migration variant were published. The remaining variants will be published on the ONS website in November 2011. More details about all the variants mentioned in this paper can be obtained from the [ONS website](#).

Table D1 Assumptions for the 2010-based principal and nine variant projections for Scotland

	Assumptions	Long-term Fertility (Total Fertility Rate - TFR)	Life Expectancy Males (2035)	Life Expectancy Females (2035)	Long-term Migration
Standard variants	High variant	1.90	83.3	86.7	+26,000
	Principal	1.70	80.9	85.1	+17,500
	Low variant	1.50	78.4	83.5	+9,000
Special case scenario	Zero migration	1.70	80.9	85.1	0

Table D2 Variants and Scenario

		Fertility	Life expectancy	Migration
1	Principal projection	Principal	Principal	Principal
Standard 'single component' variants				
2	High fertility	High	Principal	Principal
3	Low fertility	Low	Principal	Principal
4	High life expectancy	Principal	High	Principal
5	Low life expectancy	Principal	Low	Principal
6	High migration	Principal	Principal	High
7	Low migration	Principal	Principal	Low
Combination variants				
8	High population	High	High	High
9	Low population	Low	Low	Low
Special case scenario				
10	Zero migration	Principal	Principal	Zero

Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

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

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

National Records of Scotland

From 1 April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) merged with the National Archives of Scotland to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The GROS website will remain active until it is replaced by a new website for NRS.

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](#) on the NRS/GROS website. Statistics from the 2001 Census are available from Scotland's Census Results On-Line ([SCROL](#)) website and the [Census section](#) of the NRS/GROS 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.

Enquiries and suggestions

Please contact our Customer Services if you need any further information.

Email: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our outputs or our standards of service, contact:

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Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
<p>The Scottish Government (SG) forms the bulk of the devolved Scottish Administration. The aim of the statistical service in the SG is to provide relevant and reliable statistical information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.</p>	<p>Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 4.N06, St Andrew's House Edinburgh, EH1 3DG</p> <p>Phone: 0131 244 0442</p> <p>Email: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics</p>
<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also carries out the Census of Population for England and Wales.</p>	<p>Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 4.N06, St Andrew's House Edinburgh, EH1 3DG</p> <p>Phone: 0131 244 0442</p> <p>Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.ons.gov.uk</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The agency is also responsible, for registering births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland, and the Census of Population.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast, BT1 1SA</p> <p>Phone: 028 9034 8100</p> <p>Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>

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