

| About this publication | Description |
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| Publication title | Projected Population of Scotland (2014-based): Additional Variants Using Alternative European Union Migration Assumptions |
| Description | National population projections by sex and age, additional variants using alternative European Union migration assumptions, with UK comparisons |
| Theme | Population and Migration |
| Topic | Projections |
| Format | Excel workbooks, Comma Separated Value (CSV) and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files |
| Data source(s) | <p>Base year population data is taken from the 2014 mid-year population estimates.</p> <p>Past trends in fertility, mortality, life expectancy and migration are used for setting assumptions for the projections.</p> <p>The assumptions for these additional variants are the same as for the principal projection published on 29 October 2015, except for the international migration assumption.</p> <p>The international migration assumption is based largely on International Passenger Survey data (IPS). This provided estimates of the proportion of migrants coming to and from Scotland with European Union citizenship over the previous three years. This proportion was then applied to the overseas migration assumptions used in the main projection and adjusted for each of the different variants.</p> <p>The cross-border migration assumption is based on NHS Central Register (NHSCR) data.</p> |
| Date that data is acquired | Ongoing. |
| Publication Release date | 23 November 2016 |
| Frequency | One-off |
| Timeframe of data and timeliness | The 2014 mid-year estimate is used as the base year for the projections as this is the latest year for which the principal national projections for Scotland have been published. |
| Continuity of data | <p>These additional variants have been produced as a one-off and are not directly comparable with projections of Scotland's population published in the past.</p> <p>For the principal projections, data is available on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website going back to the 2001-based national population projections, and limited data is available for 1994-based projections. On the ONS website historic data back to the 1971-based Scotland population projections is available. Data from each set of projections is based on a different base population.</p> |

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| Revisions statement | <p>Projections are not subject to scheduled revision.</p> <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 Scottish Government website.</p> |
| Concepts and definitions | <p>The three additional variant projections that have been produced are: zero future European Union migration; 50 per cent future European Union migration (50 per cent less future European Union migration); and 150 per cent future European Union migration (50 per cent more future European Union migration).</p> <p>Further information on these additional variants can be found within the Projected Population of Scotland (2014-based): Additional Variants Using Alternative European Union Migration Assumptions publication on the NRS website.</p> |
| Relevance and key uses of the statistics | <p>The primary purpose of these additional variant projections is to provide an estimate of the future population of Scotland under certain assumptions about the future level of international migration. They have been produced for illustrative purposes only.</p> |
| Accuracy | <p>The assumptions about future patterns in fertility and mortality 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.</p> <p>Migration is the most difficult component of population change to estimate; there is no comprehensive system which registers migration in the UK. Estimates of migration therefore have to be based on survey data and the best proxy data that exist.</p> <p>The overseas migration estimate for Scotland from the International Passenger Survey is based on a very small sample size (around 220 contacts between mid-2014 and mid-2015). Therefore, the past trends in migration used to create the migration assumptions contain a degree of uncertainty. The proportion of overseas migrants with EU citizenship migrating to and from Scotland from the IPS was calculated to derive the international migration assumptions for these additional variants. Breaking the IPS down by citizenship in this way increases the uncertainty around migration further. More information on the quality of International Passenger Survey is available on the Office for National Statistics website.</p> <p>Errors affecting mainly the age distribution of the mid-year population estimates that feed into the projections were found in October 2015. More information can be found in the Population section of the NRS website.</p> |

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| Completeness | The published statistics are population projections at Scotland level, including components of change, and variant projections. |
| Comparability | These additional variant population projections have been produced for Scotland and the UK as a whole. Some comparisons are made within the publication with the UK. |
| Accessibility | It is the policy of the National Records of Scotland 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 | The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV format. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate. |
| Value type and unit of measure | Counts of persons, males and females by single-year of age. |
| Official Statistics designation | These additional variant projections, using alternative European Union migration assumptions, have been designated as Official Statistics. They have been created for illustrative purposes only. Unlike the National Population Projections published by ONS on 29 October 2015 and 26 November 2015 , these variant projections do not have National Statistics status. This is because the method for creating these additional migration assumptions was not subject to the same rigorous quality assurance and assessment process. National Statistics are assessed by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority as meeting the requirements of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics . |
| UK Statistics Authority Assessment | Unlike the Projected Population of Scotland (2014-based) statistics released on 29 October 2015 , these additional variant projections have been created for illustrative purposes only and have not been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority. The report for the Projected Population of Scotland (2014-based) statistics released on 29 October 2015 can be found within the UK Statistics Authority website. |
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