

SCOTLAND'S POPULATION 2008

The Registrar General's Annual Review
of Demographic Trends

154th Edition



General Register Office
for
SCOTLAND
information about Scotland's people

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland.

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(Laid before the Scottish Parliament pursuant to Section 1(4) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965)

SG/2009/98

Published 7 August 2009

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL
of BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES for
SCOTLAND
2008

154th Edition

To Scottish Ministers

I am pleased to let you have my Annual Report for the year 2008, which will be laid before the Scottish Parliament pursuant to Section 1(4) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965.

Duncan Macniven
Registrar General for Scotland
August 2009

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Introduction

In 2008, as in recent years, there were interesting changes in Scotland's population. The total population in the middle of 2008 was the highest since 1981. The number of births was the highest since 1995 – the sixth yearly increase in a row. For the third year in a row the number of births was higher than the number of deaths – and that natural increase (of over 4000) was the highest since 1992. Scotland continued to be an attractive place for people to move to. Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, more people came to Scotland than left – 11,500 from the rest of the UK and 7700 from overseas. Though the overseas figure was slightly lower than in 2007, there was little evidence that the recession was having an effect on the size of Scotland's population.

The population figure from the middle of 2008 gave us the first opportunity to measure progress against the target the Scottish Government set in November 2007 – to match the average population growth of the countries in the European Union before new members joined in 2004 (EU 15), over the period from 2007 to 2017. In the first year the target applied, Scotland's population increased by 0.47% but EU 15 population growth was slightly higher (0.60%). So, for that first year, Scotland's population was not quite on track to achieve the long-term target.

Migration plays a large part in how the population changes, but we do not know enough about the number and characteristics of the people who move in and out of Scotland (including how long they stay). The UK does not have a detailed system of recording the number of people who move in and out of the country, particularly those leaving. My department is closely involved in work to improve migration statistics, led by the Office for National Statistics. We plan to use the improved information to publish better estimates of the population, including:

- the number of short-term migrants;
- better estimates of the number of international migrants to each council area;
- indicators of migration at council level;
- early indications of changes in trends; and
- projections (estimates for future years largely based on past trends) of the local population and number of households.

My department is also publishing a wider range of other statistics, in response to demand from people who use them. Recent examples include:

- the number of people aged over 100 in Scotland (prompted by the growing number of very elderly people in Scotland);
- extra information on our website about the numbers of deaths from particular causes, such as MRSA and Clostridium difficile (in response to the increasing concern about infections caught in hospital); and
- projections of the population and number of households in national parks, and the areas around the four main cities, to help planning in these new areas.

Each year, my report includes a chapter on a 'special subject' which is part of our work. This year, the topic is improving the registration service in response to the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006. The Act was the first major reform of the registration service since 1965 and was designed to improve the service in a variety of ways. The Act has made life easier for the people of Scotland. People can now register births and deaths anywhere in Scotland, rather than only in the registration district where the person lived, or where the event took place. In 2008, almost 5900 events (about one in 20 of all births and deaths) were registered in a place which would not have been possible before the Act. The arrangements for change of name were speeded up and the number of applications increased by almost 50% between 2006 and 2007. Registration information was used more widely to prevent fraud and to help local councils improve how efficient they are. Scotland can now be proud that we have the most modern and customer-friendly registration service in the UK, and indeed in Europe.

Important points

Population

The estimated population of Scotland on 30 June 2008 was 5,168,500.

The population of Scotland grew by around 24,300 in the 12 months between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, an increase of 0.5%.

The increase in the population in the 12 months between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008 was mainly due to:

- 20,000 more people coming to Scotland than leaving; and
- 3900 more births than deaths.

The age of the population of Scotland was as follows:

- 18% of people were aged under 16.
- 63% of people were at working age.
- 20% of people were at pensionable age.

Scotland's population has been fairly stable over the past 50 years. It peaked at 5.24 million in 1974 before falling to 5.05 million in 2002. It then increased in each of the following six years, largely due to migration, to reach 5.17 million in 2008.

Changes in the population vary across Scotland. In the 10 years from 1998 to 2008, the council areas which had the highest population increases and reductions were as follows.

- West Lothian – up 11%
- East Lothian – up 9%
- Perth and Kinross – up 7%

- Inverclyde – down 6%
- Eilean Siar – down 5%
- Dundee City – down 5%

In the 10 years from 1998 to 2008, the ageing of the population was reflected in the number of children under 16 reducing by 9%, and the number of people aged 75 and over increasing by 13%.

Current projections (estimates for future years largely based on past trends), suggest that the population of Scotland will rise to a high of 5.37 million in 2031, before slowly reducing. These estimates also suggest the population will age significantly, with the number of people aged 60 and over expected to increase by 54%, from 1.12 million to 1.72 million.

Migration (moving in and out of the country)

Since the 1950s, more people have tended to leave Scotland than move here. However, since 2002, this has changed.

In the year to 30 June 2008, the number of people moving to Scotland from other parts of the UK, and out of Scotland to other parts of the UK, meant that the population increased by around 11,500 people.

- 53,300 people came to Scotland from the rest of the UK.
- 41,800 people left Scotland for other parts of the UK.

In the year to 30 June 2008, the number of people moving to Scotland from overseas, and out of Scotland to go overseas, meant that the population increased by around 7,700 people.

- 38,500 people came to Scotland from overseas.
- 30,800 people left Scotland to go overseas.

Most people moving to and from Scotland are young – between 16 and 34. As a result of people moving to and from the rest of the UK, Scotland's population was boosted for every broad age group. Moves to and from overseas countries provided increases to the numbers of people in every age group up to 35.

Births

There were 60,041 births registered in Scotland in 2008.

The number of births has increased over the past six years, and the total for 2008 was the highest since 1995.

The average age of mothers has increased from 27.4 in 1991 to 29.4 in 2008. Similarly, the average age of fathers has increased from 30.0 in 1991 to 32.3 in 2008.

The percentage of babies born to unmarried couples has been rising steadily for several years. 2008 was the first year this was more than 50% for Scotland as a whole.

87% of mothers who gave birth in 2008 were born in the UK, including 77% who were born in Scotland. 5% of mothers had been born in other countries in the European Union (EU), including 3% from the countries which joined the EU in 2004 (such as Poland).

Deaths

There were 55,700 deaths registered in Scotland in 2008.

The number of deaths each year has slowly reduced over the past 30 years. The total for 2008 was the second lowest since 1855 (when civil registration was introduced).

The main causes of deaths were as follows.

- 15,269 (27%) from cancer.
- 8841 (16%) from ischaemic (coronary) heart disease.
- 7443 (13%) from respiratory system diseases (such as pneumonia).
- 5367 (10%) from cerebrovascular disease (stroke).

The percentage of deaths caused by coronary heart disease has fallen from 29% in 1981 to 16% in 2008, but the percentage of deaths caused by cancer has risen from 22% to 27%.

Death rates from cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke in Scotland are well above the rates for the other countries in the UK.

In 2008, there were 1411 deaths from causes entirely related to alcohol. After a sharp rise in the 1990s, the number of deaths from these causes appears to have levelled off in the last few years.

There were 325 stillbirths and 253 infant deaths in 2008. Death rates for both have improved significantly. The rate of stillbirths has dropped from 13.1 for every 1000 births (live births and stillbirths) in 1971 to 5.4 in 2008. The infant death rate fell from 19.9 for every 1000 live births in 1971 to 4.2 in 2008.

Standardised mortality ratios compare the average death rate in Scotland to those in different areas of Scotland, taking into account differences in age. There are large variations across Scotland, ranging from Glasgow, which has a standardised mortality ratio of 27% higher than the Scottish average, to East Dunbartonshire which is 19% below the Scottish average.

Life expectancy in Scotland has improved greatly over the last 25 years, increasing from 69.1 years for men and 75.4 years for women born around 1981 to 75 years for men and 79.9 years for women born around 2007.

Despite recent improvements, Scottish men and women have poor life expectancy compared to most of the EU – about four years lower for men, and almost five years lower for women, when compared to the countries where life expectancy is highest.

Marriages and civil partnerships

There were 28,903 marriages in Scotland in 2008. This includes 7354 marriages (25%) where neither the bride nor groom lived in Scotland, but does not include people living in Scotland who marry elsewhere.

For first marriages, the average age at which people marry has increased by around two and a half years in the last 10 years, to 32.5 years for men and 30.6 years for women.

Just over half of all marriages (53%) were civil ceremonies, carried out by a registrar – compared to just under one-third (31%) in 1971. Just under half of these civil ceremonies took place in registration offices, with most of them in ‘approved premises’ such as hotels and castles.

Most religious marriages were carried out by Church of Scotland ministers (7007), with clergy from the Roman Catholic Church carrying out 1873 marriages. Celebrants from the Humanist Society of Scotland, authorised to carry out marriages since 2005, officiated at 1026 marriages.

In 2008 there were 525 civil partnerships – 245 male couples and 280 female couples. This is a drop of around 500 compared to 2006, which was the first full year in which civil partnerships could be registered.

Divorces and dissolutions

In 2008, there were 11,474 divorces and 14 dissolutions of civil partnerships (when a civil partnership is ended) in Scotland.

Adoptions

In 2008, there were 418 adoptions recorded in Scotland. The number of adoptions each year has approximately halved since the early 1990s.

Households and housing

In the middle of 2008, there were 2.3 million households in Scotland – around 290,000 more than in 1991.

The number of households has been increasing steadily but this growth has slowed over the last year. Between 2007 and 2008, the increase in the number of households (17,500) was lower than in any other year for the last five years.

By 2031, projections suggest the number of households in Scotland will increase to 2.7 million, which is an average of 17,600 extra households each year.

Most of that expected increase in the number of households is the result of an ageing population, and more people living alone or in smaller households, not an increase in the population.

Across Scotland in 2008, 2.8% of homes were empty and 1.4% were second homes, though there is wide variation across the country. There are more empty homes in more deprived areas, and more second homes in the remote rural areas.

Improving choice in the registration system

The Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 was the first major change in registration law since 1965.

The Act gave people the freedom to register a birth or death in Scotland at any Scottish registration office. Nearly 6000 births and deaths in 2008 (around 5% of the total) were registered in registration offices that would not have been allowed before the Act. This ranged from 31% of registrations in East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire to less than 1% in the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

The Act meant that people no longer needed to use their new name for two years before the change could be registered. The number of applications for name changes increased by 48% in the year after the Act.

Events registered abroad (for example, births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships), can now be added to the Book of Scottish Connections – a new register held by the Registrar General for Scotland. By 31 May 2009, nine events had been recorded in the Book of Scottish Connections. These were:

- two deaths;
- four births;
- two marriages; and
- one civil partnership.

The Act allows the Registrar General for Scotland to provide registration information, already publicly available, to any relevant government organisation. In certain circumstances, we can give information on death registration to other organisations – for example, through the UK-wide Disclosure of Death Registration Information scheme, which aims to reduce identity fraud.

The Act allowed the Registrar General to keep a central register of high-quality information about people, to help efficiently run the NHS and local councils in Scotland. This gave clear legal powers to the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR), which the Registrar General already ran on behalf of the NHS in Scotland. It also allowed the information on the NHSCR to be used to help run the local councils' 'Citizen's Account' programme.

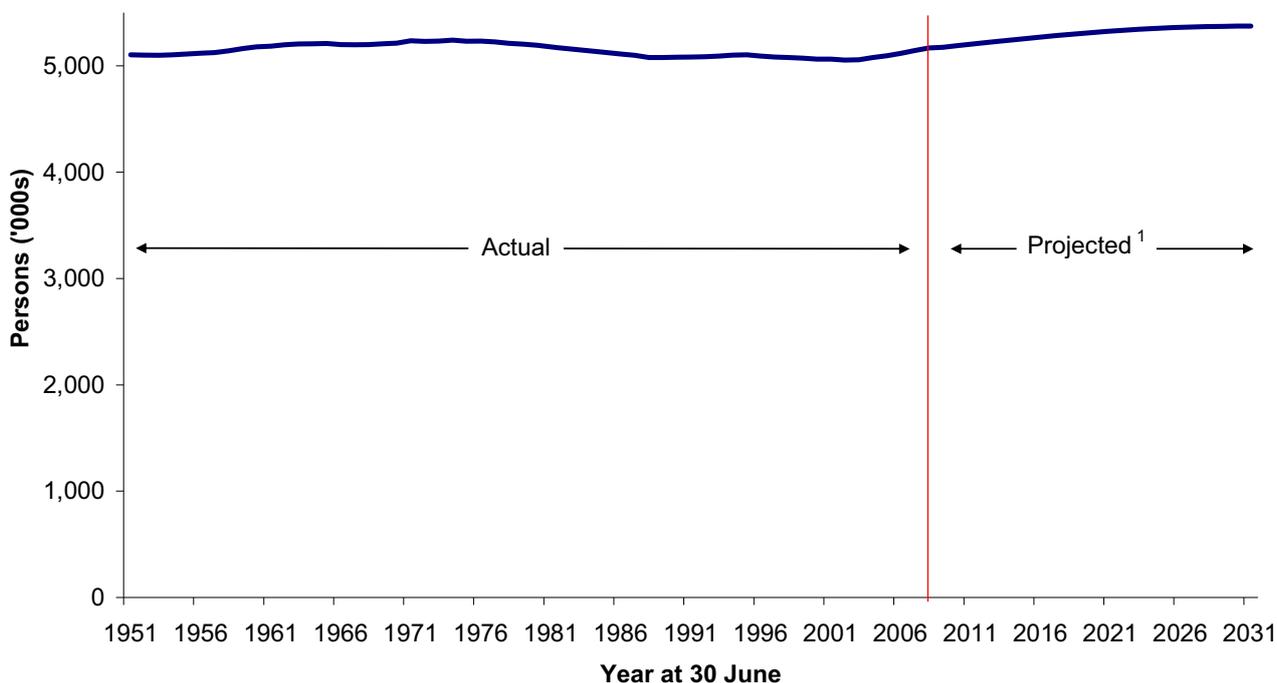
Chapter 1 - Population

The latest estimate of Scotland's population (on 30 June 2008) is 5,168,500 – the highest since 1981 and an increase of 24,300 people on the previous year. There are almost 114,000 more people in Scotland than in 2002, when the population hit its lowest level since just after the Second World War.

The recent increase in Scotland's population has been driven mostly by net in-migration although, recently, there have also been more births than deaths. In the twelve months to 30 June 2008, in-migration exceeded out-migration by 20,000. This included a net gain of around 11,500 from the rest of the UK and a net gain of around 7,700 from overseas (including asylum seekers). Movements to and from the armed forces showed a net gain of around 800. In the same period, there were around 3,900 more births than deaths (59,240 births and 55,290 deaths), the number of births having risen by more than 2,500 and the number of deaths having fallen by almost 400 compared to the year to end June 2007.

The rise in Scotland's population in the last six years should be seen in the context of the relative stability of the population over the last 50 years, as shown in Figure 1.1. The population reached a peak of 5.24 million in 1974 before falling to 5.05 million in 2002 and then rising again in the last six years.

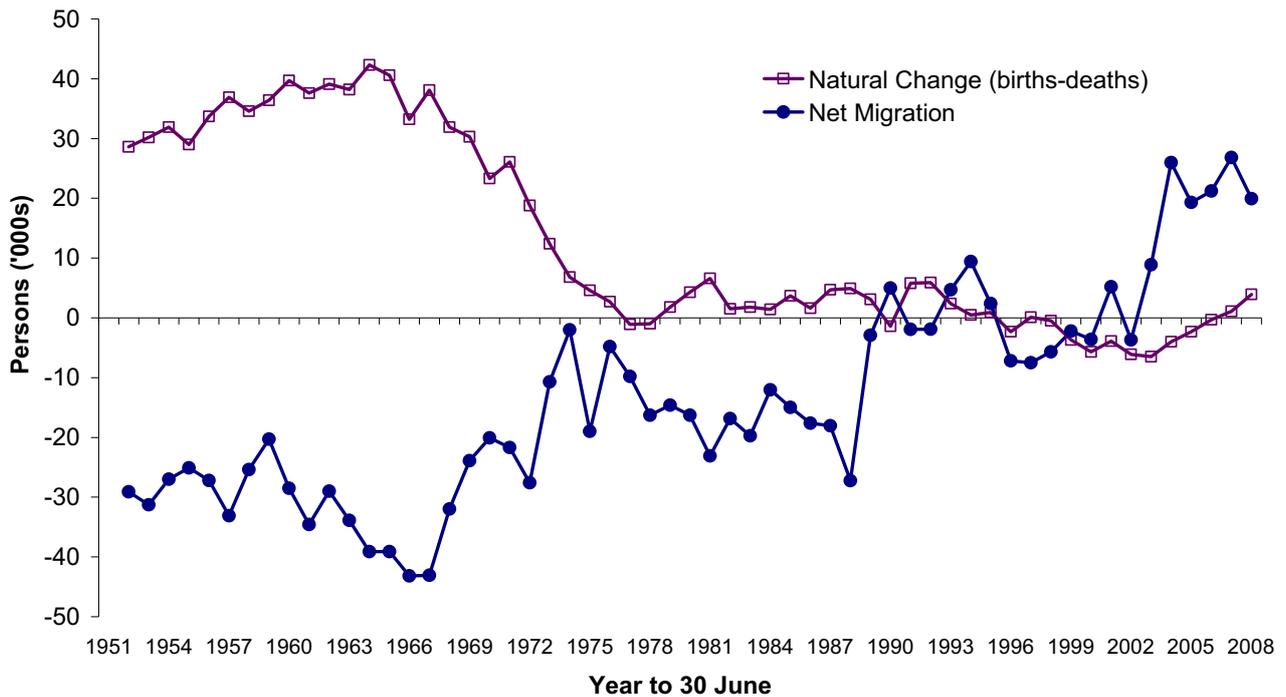
Figure 1.1 Estimated population of Scotland, actual and projected, 1951-2031



¹ 2006-based projections.

Figure 1.2 shows the trends in natural change (births minus deaths) and migration. Between 1966 and 1974, both natural change and net out-migration fell dramatically, although the natural increase generally remained greater than net out-migration. This resulted in a growth in population up to 1974. From that point on, through the late 1970s and the 1980s, net out-migration was higher than the natural increase, causing the population to decline. In recent years the gap between births and deaths has closed, and for some years reversed, and Scotland has experienced record levels of net in-migration resulting in small increases in the population over each of the last 6 years.

Figure 1.2 Natural change and net migration, 1951-2008

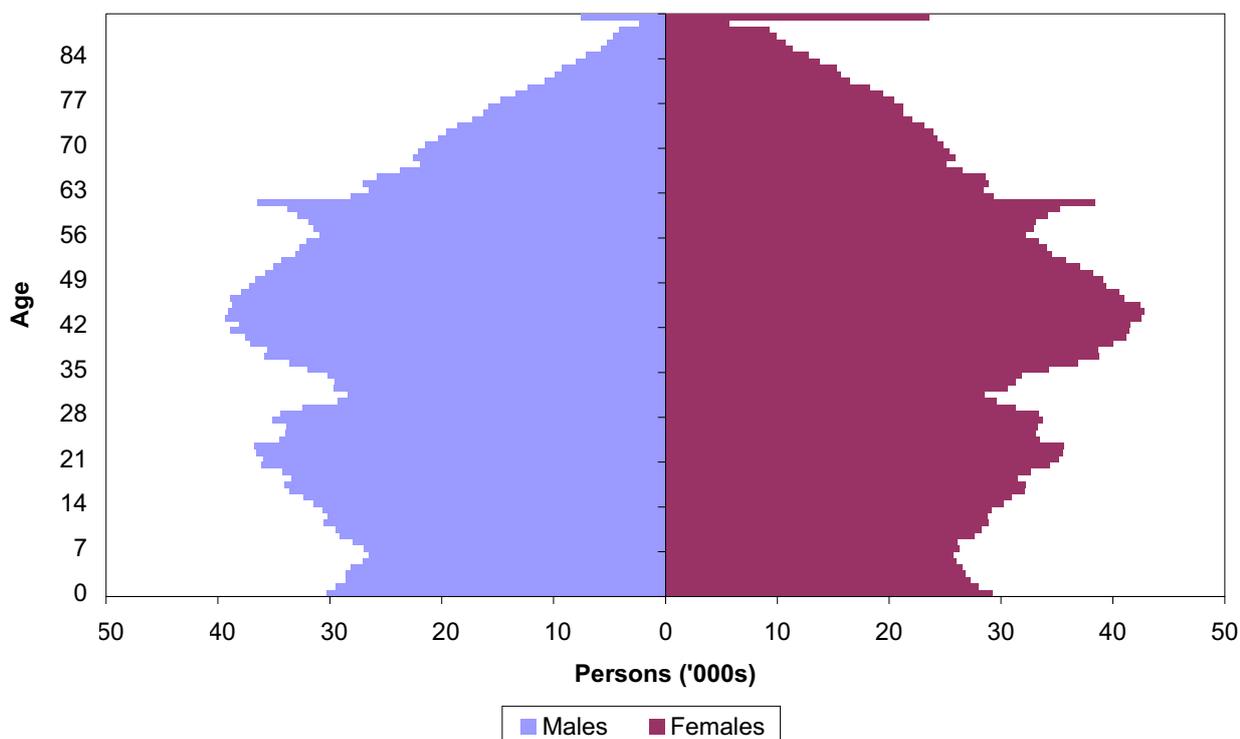


Age Structure

The age/sex composition is one of the most important aspects of the population, as changes in the number of men and women in different age groups will have different social and economic impacts. For example, increases in the elderly population are likely to place a greater demand on health and social services.

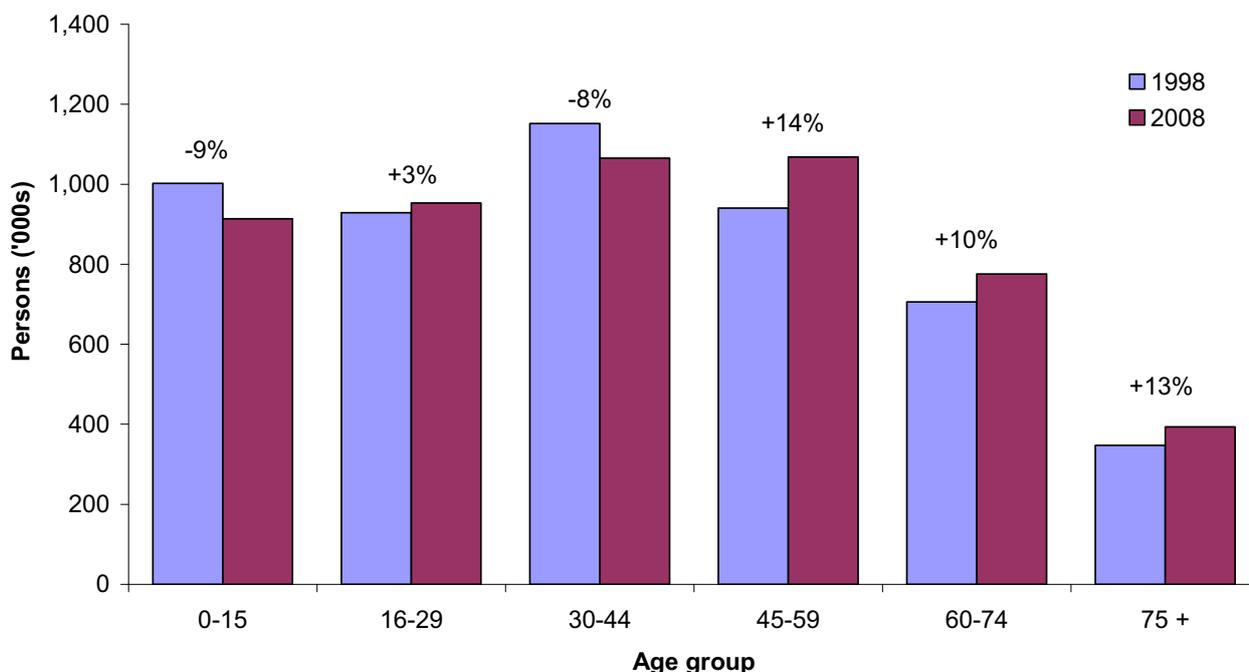
Figure 1.3 shows the age structure of the population in 2008. Eighteen per cent of the population was aged under 16 while 20 per cent was of pensionable age (60 and over for women and 65 and over for men) and the remaining 63 per cent of working age (16-59 for women, 16-64 for men). Amongst older people, particularly those aged over 75, the higher number of females reflects the longer expectation of life for women, partly as a result of male mortality rates during the Second World War. The sharp peak at age 61, and the bigger bulge between the ages of around 35 and 50, are the result of the two baby booms of 1947 and the 1960s.

Figure 1.3 Estimated population by age and sex, 30 June 2008



The changing structure of Scotland's population since 1998 is illustrated in Figure 1.4. During this period the population has increased by around 91,400 (1.8 per cent), from 5.08 million to 5.17 million. Of particular note is the decrease of 9 per cent in the number of children under 16 and the increase of 13 per cent in the number of people aged 75 and over. The ageing of the population is also evident in the rise of 14 per cent in the number of people aged 45-59 and of 10 per cent in the 60-74 age group.

Figure 1.4 The changing age structure of Scotland's population, 1998-2008



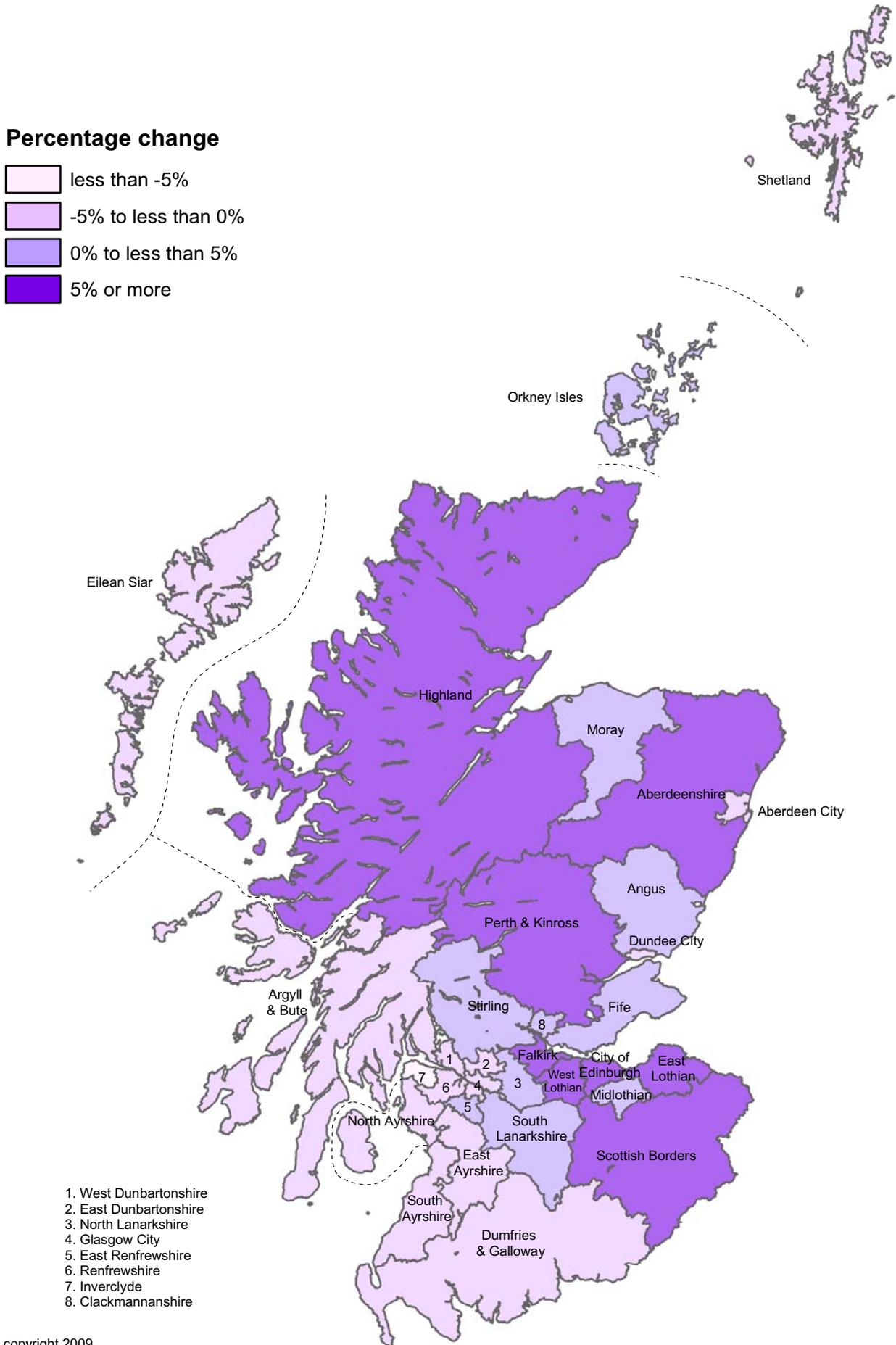
Changes within Scotland

The map at [Figure 1.5](#) shows the percentage change in population between 1998 and 2008 for each Council area.

The Council areas in which the population fall was greatest were Inverclyde (-5.9 per cent), Eilean Siar (-4.9 per cent) and Dundee City (-4.8 per cent). The largest absolute reduction in numbers was in Dundee City (-7,210). West Lothian (+10.6 per cent), East Lothian (+8.8 per cent) and Perth & Kinross (+7.1 per cent) saw the greatest percentage increases, with the largest increase in absolute numbers in City of Edinburgh (+25,410).

Figure 1.5 Percentage population change by Council area, 1998-2008

Percentage change



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The relative importance of migration and natural change differs between areas. In some areas of population increase, such as West Lothian and Aberdeenshire, the gain is attributable both to migration and to natural increase. In other areas, the population increase is due to in-migration, despite the number of deaths exceeding the number of births. These included Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders, Highland and Orkney Islands. Other areas with a population increase but with a near-zero natural change were East Lothian, Falkirk and Stirling.

Similarly, some areas of population decline, such as Inverclyde, Dundee City, West Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire have experienced decreases both from migration and natural change. In contrast, the main factor in the population decline of East Dunbartonshire, Shetland Islands and Aberdeen City is net out-migration. In other areas such as Argyll & Bute and North, East and South Ayrshire the population decline was mainly attributable to more deaths than births. This analysis is shown in Table 1.1, which compares the rates of natural change and migration per 1,000 population across the local authority areas.

Table 1.1 Components of population change for Council areas: 1998-2008

	Natural change ^{1,2}	Net civilian migration and other changes ^{1,2}	Percentage Population change ^{2,3}
SCOTLAND	-0.5	2.3	1.8
Council areas			
Inverclyde	-2.5	-3.4	-5.9
Eilean Siar	-4.8	-0.1	-4.9
Dundee City	-1.6	-3.2	-4.8
West Dunbartonshire	-1.4	-2.8	-4.2
East Dunbartonshire	-0.3	-3.7	-4.0
Shetland Islands	1.8	-4.9	-3.2
Renfrewshire	-0.8	-2.3	-3.1
Aberdeen City	0.0	-2.4	-2.4
South Ayrshire	-3.6	2.2	-1.5
Argyll & Bute	-4.0	2.7	-1.3
North Ayrshire	-1.4	0.3	-1.1
East Ayrshire	-1.6	0.7	-0.9
Glasgow City	-1.3	0.8	-0.5
Dumfries & Galloway	-3.0	2.8	-0.1
Angus	-2.1	2.6	0.5
Midlothian	0.9	-0.3	0.5
East Renfrewshire	0.7	0.4	1.0
North Lanarkshire	1.2	-0.2	1.0
Moray	-0.4	1.6	1.1
Orkney Islands	-1.9	3.4	1.5
South Lanarkshire	-0.2	2.4	2.2
Clackmannanshire	0.4	3.8	4.3
Stirling	-0.2	4.5	4.3
Fife	-0.3	4.7	4.4
Highland	-0.9	5.9	5.1
Falkirk	0.3	5.1	5.3
Edinburgh, City of	0.4	5.3	5.7
Scottish Borders	-2.3	8.4	6.0
Aberdeenshire	1.5	5.3	6.7
Perth & Kinross	-2.0	9.1	7.1
East Lothian	-0.2	9.0	8.8
West Lothian	4.0	6.6	10.6

¹ Per year per 1,000 population at 1998

² The underlying data used to produce these figures can be found in Table 7 of the 'Mid-2008 Population Estimates Scotland' publication.

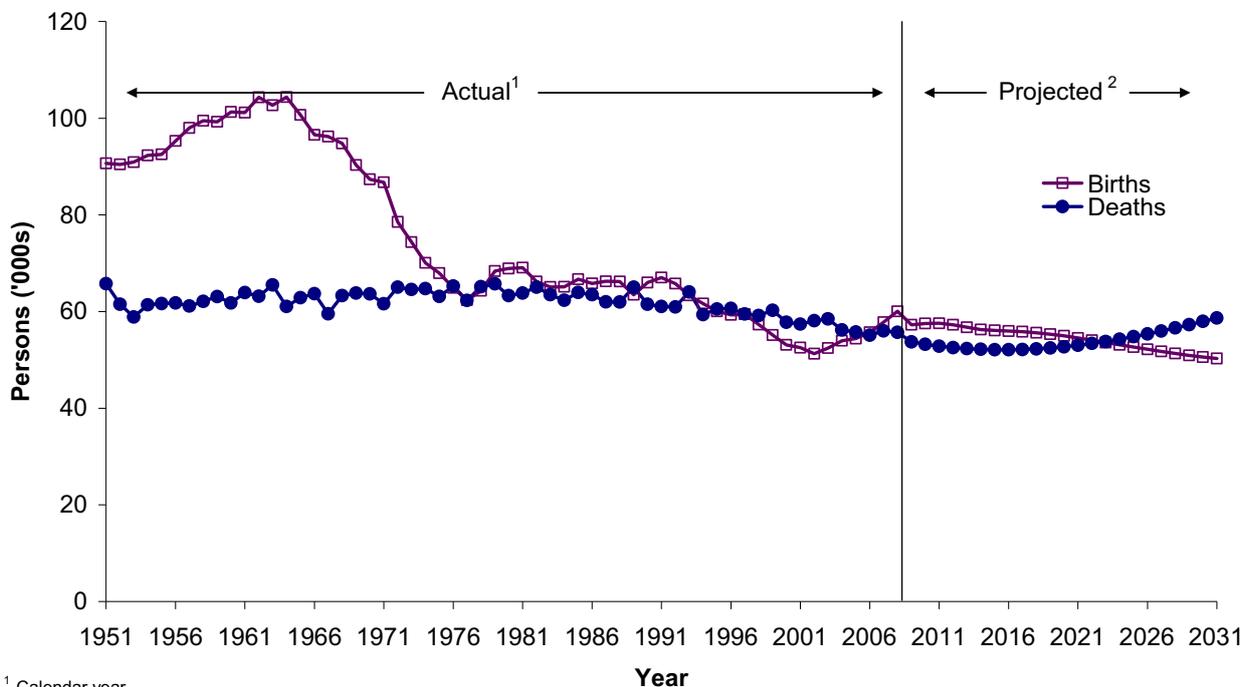
³ Ordered by population change.

Projected population

The latest population projections are based on the estimate of Scotland's population at 30 June 2006. These projections, based on existing trends and making no allowance for the future impact of government policies and other factors, show the total population of Scotland rising from 5.12 million in 2006 to 5.37 million in 2031 (Figure 1.1). Longer term projections show the population peaking in 2031 and then slowly declining.

Until around 2021, 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 is net in-migration. After that point, the number of deaths exceeds the number of births whilst the net migration into Scotland continues. By 2031, the natural decrease more than cancels out the net in-migration and so Scotland's population begins to fall - as Figure 1.6 shows.

Figure 1.6 Births and deaths, actual and projected, Scotland, 1951-2031

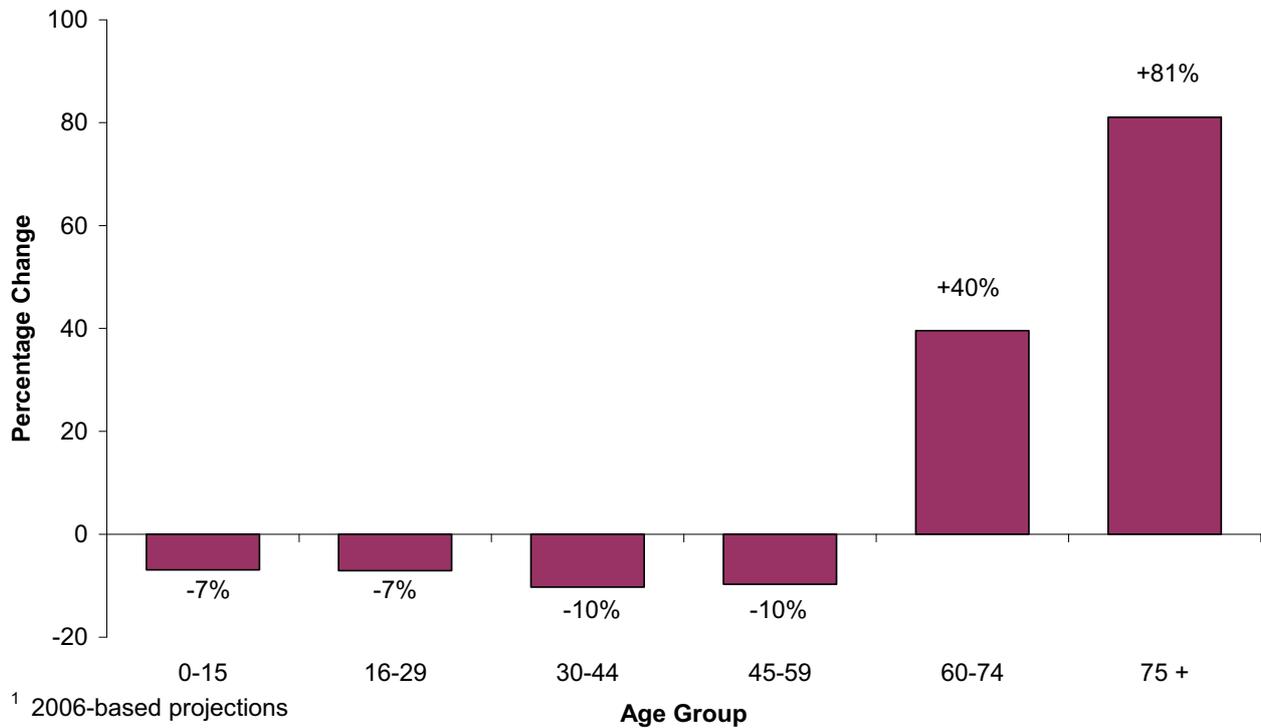


¹ Calendar year.

² 2006-based mid-year projections.

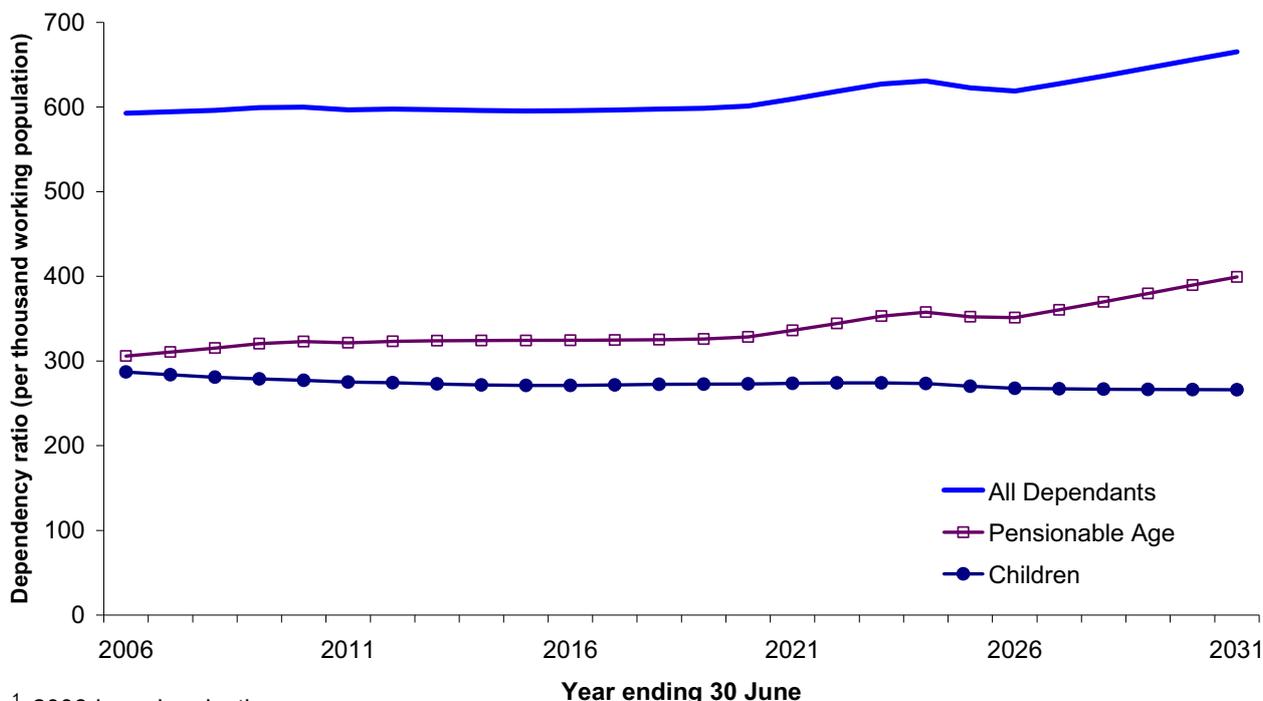
Between 2006 and 2031, Scotland's population is projected to age markedly. As shown in Figure 1.7, the number of children aged under 16 is projected to decrease by 7 per cent, from 0.92 million to 0.86 million. The number of people aged 60 and over is projected to rise by 54 per cent, from 1.12 million to 1.72 million.

Figure 1.7 The projected percentage change in age structure of Scotland's population, 2006-2031¹



'Dependency ratios' are the number of dependants - children aged under 16 and people of pensionable age - per 1,000 working age population. Figure 1.8, which takes account of the increase in the pensionable age for both men and women¹, shows little overall change in these ratios over the next 15 years, but a fairly rapid increase in the pension age population relative to the working age population in subsequent years.

Figure 1.8 Dependency ratios¹(per thousand working population), 2006-2031



¹ 2006-based projections

As demographic behaviour is uncertain, a number of variant projections of the future population have been calculated, based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration, in addition to the 'principal projection' on which the previous paragraphs are based. The variant projections give users an indication of this uncertainty. They illustrate plausible alternative scenarios, rather than representing upper or lower limits of future demographic behaviour. These variant projections, and the assumptions used, can be found on the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) website:

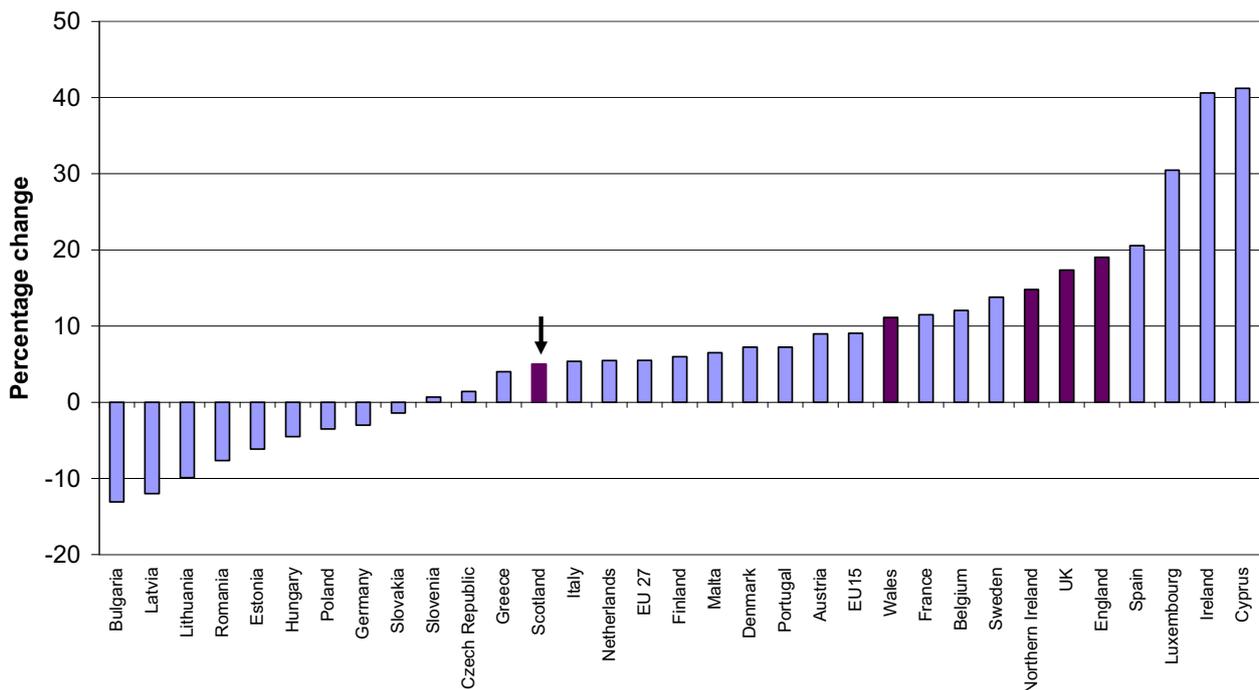
<http://www.gad.gov.uk/>.

¹ Pensionable age is 65 for men, 60 for women until 2010; between 2010 and 2020 pensionable age for women rises to 65. Between 2024 and 2026 the pensionable age for both men and women increases to 66 and changes again, in two further steps, to 68 by 2046.

Scotland's position within Europe

The population of most of the countries in Europe is projected to increase over the next few years. Scotland's population is projected to rise by 5.0 per cent between 2006 and 2031. However countries such as Ireland and Spain, as well as the rest of the UK, are projected to have much bigger increases. The population of Europe (EU-27) is projected to increase by 5.5 per cent and the EU-15 by 9.1 per cent during this period. However Germany, and a number of Eastern European countries, have a projected population decline as Figure 1.9 shows.

Figure 1.9 Projected percentage population change in selected European countries 2006-2031



Source: ONS (UK and constituent countries) and Eurostat. Projections for the UK and its constituent countries are 2006-based whilst Eurostat projections are 2008 based. As a result Eurostat population estimates for 2006 have been used to allow comparison between 2006 and 2031 throughout. See "Appendix 2 - Notes and Definitions" for definition of EU15 and EU27.

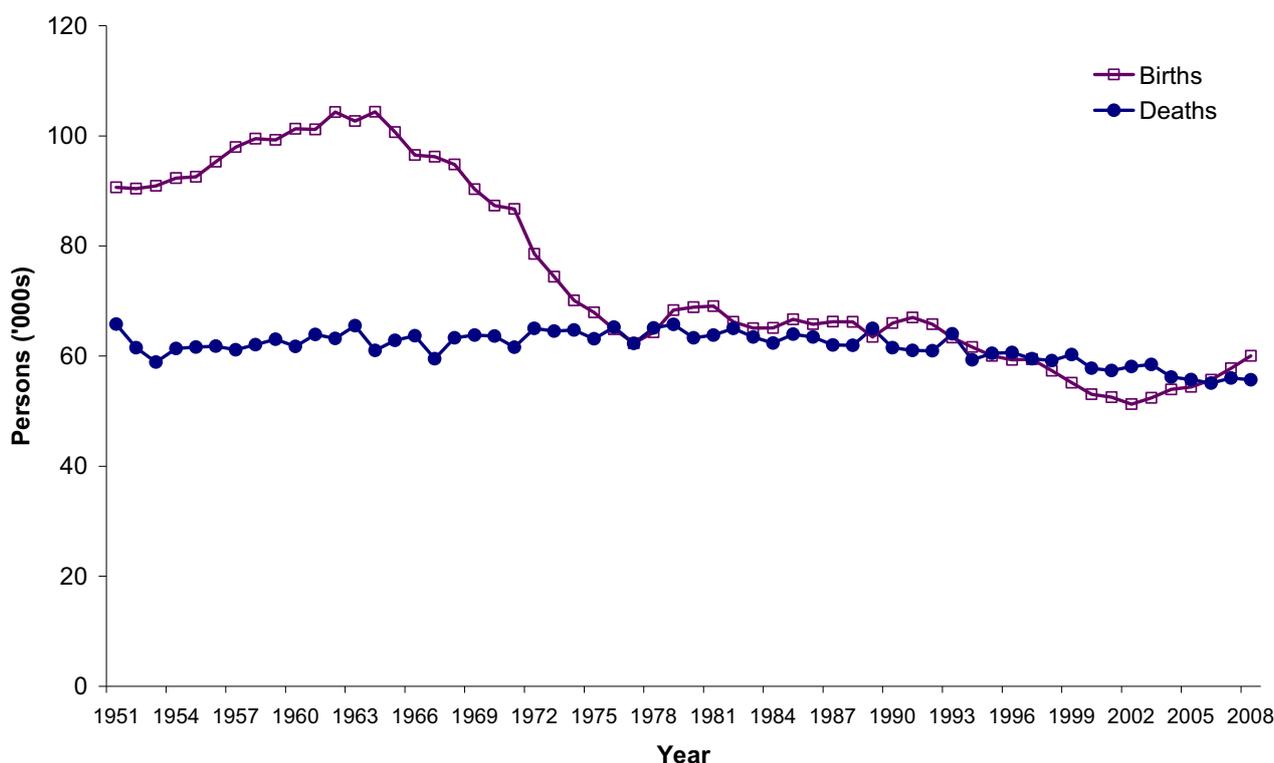
Scotland is not alone in having an ageing population. The pattern of change over the last twenty years, and the projected change in the age distribution, is similar to that of other countries in the UK and Europe, although the rate of change varies.

Chapter 2 - Births

Numbers

The number of births registered in Scotland in 2008 was 60,041. There have been increases each year since 2002, and the total for 2008 was 2,260 (4 per cent) more than in 2007, and the highest number since 1995. However, it was still well below the most recent peak of over 100,000 per year in the early 1960s, and the level of around 65-70,000 per year between the mid-1970s and the early 1990s, as Figure 2.1 shows.

Figure 2.1 Births and deaths, Scotland, 1951-2008



The proportion of births to unmarried parents (including births registered solely in the mother's name) has continued to rise, reaching 50.1 per cent in 2008 compared to 38.9 per cent ten years earlier and 24.5 per cent in 1988. However, the proportion of births registered solely in the mother's name has remained around 6-7 per cent over the past twenty years, suggesting that the increase in births to unmarried parents has been in babies born to unmarried partners who are in a stable relationship.

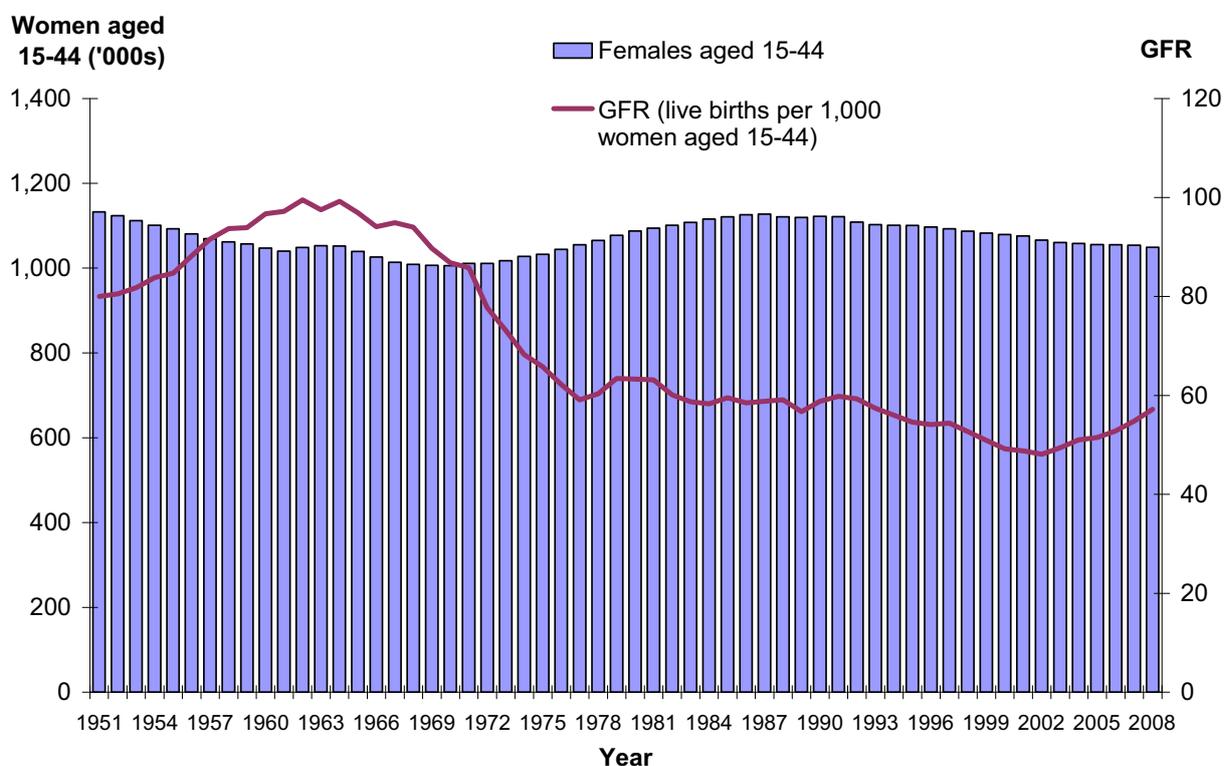
Fertility Rates

The simplest fertility rate is the crude birth rate which is defined as the number of live births per 1,000 total population. [Appendix 1 Table 1](#) on page 90 shows that in 2008 the crude birth rate for Scotland stood at 11.6 compared with around 20 forty years ago. Because it takes no account of the age/gender structure of the population, the crude birth rate has only limited value (e.g. for giving rough comparisons between areas with broadly similar age/gender structures). [Appendix 1 Tables 2 and 3](#) present crude birth rates for

administrative areas in Scotland and selected European countries. [Appendix 1 Table 2](#) also gives standardised birth rates for the administrative areas of Scotland: these adjusted birth rates take account of the population structures in the different areas.

A better approach is to consider the general fertility rate (GFR) which is based on the numbers of women of childbearing age. Figure 2.2 shows the general fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15-44), along with the number of women aged 15-44. During the 'baby boom' of the 1960s, the GFR reached 99.5 (in 1962). It then fell sharply to around 60 during the late 1970s and 1980s before declining more slowly during the 1990s, eventually dipping below 50 at the start of the 21st century. It has risen slightly over the last few years to its 2008 value of 57.2. Interestingly, the female population aged 15-44 was relatively low during the baby boom of the 1960s. Moreover, the levelling off in the annual numbers of births during the 1980s was in part associated with the increasing numbers of women born in the 1950s and 1960s, passing through their childbearing years.

Figure 2.2 Estimated female population aged 15-44 and general fertility rate (GFR), Scotland, 1951-2008



A more detailed picture is given by the age specific fertility rates (ASFRs) by mother's age, in five-year age groups, in [Figure 2.3](#). This shows many significant age-related features of the pattern of childbearing over the last fifty years. The key point is that, as well as choosing to have fewer babies, women are also choosing to have them later in life. Other points of interest are:

- The 'baby boom' of the 1960s was mostly due to increased birth rates of women in their twenties.
- Since the early 1960s, women in their twenties have experienced a dramatic fall in fertility. For women aged 20-24 the fertility rate has fallen by around two-thirds, and for those aged 25-29 it fell by more than half.

- The rate for 15-19 year olds fell by around one-third during the 1970s and has remained around 30 births per 1,000 women for following twenty years.
- Fertility rates for women aged 30 and above have gradually increased over the last thirty years; in particular, the rate for 30-34 year olds overtook that of 25-29 year olds in 2002 and now stands at 105 births per 1,000 women.
- Despite the recent increases, rates for women aged over 30 are still generally slightly lower than they were in the 1950s and 1960s.
- All the rates except that for teenagers showed a slight rise in recent years.

The net result of these changes in fertility rates is that, since the mid-1970s, there has been a trend towards having children at older ages. The percentage of births to mothers aged under 20 fell from about 11% (on average) between 1976 and 1980, and around 8% in 1991-95, to 7% in 2008. Mothers aged 20-24 accounted for roughly a third of all births in 1976-1980, about 22% in 1991-95, and 19% in 2008. The percentage of births to mothers aged 25-29 has also fallen, from around 35% in 1976-1980 and about 36% in 1991-95, to 27% in 2008. As a result, women aged over 30 accounted for almost half of all births in 2008: 27% were to mothers aged 30-34, 17% were to 35-39 year olds and 4% were to women aged 40 and over - figures which are all above the levels of 15 and 30 years earlier.

Figure 2.3 Live births per 1,000 women, by age of mother, Scotland, 1951-2008

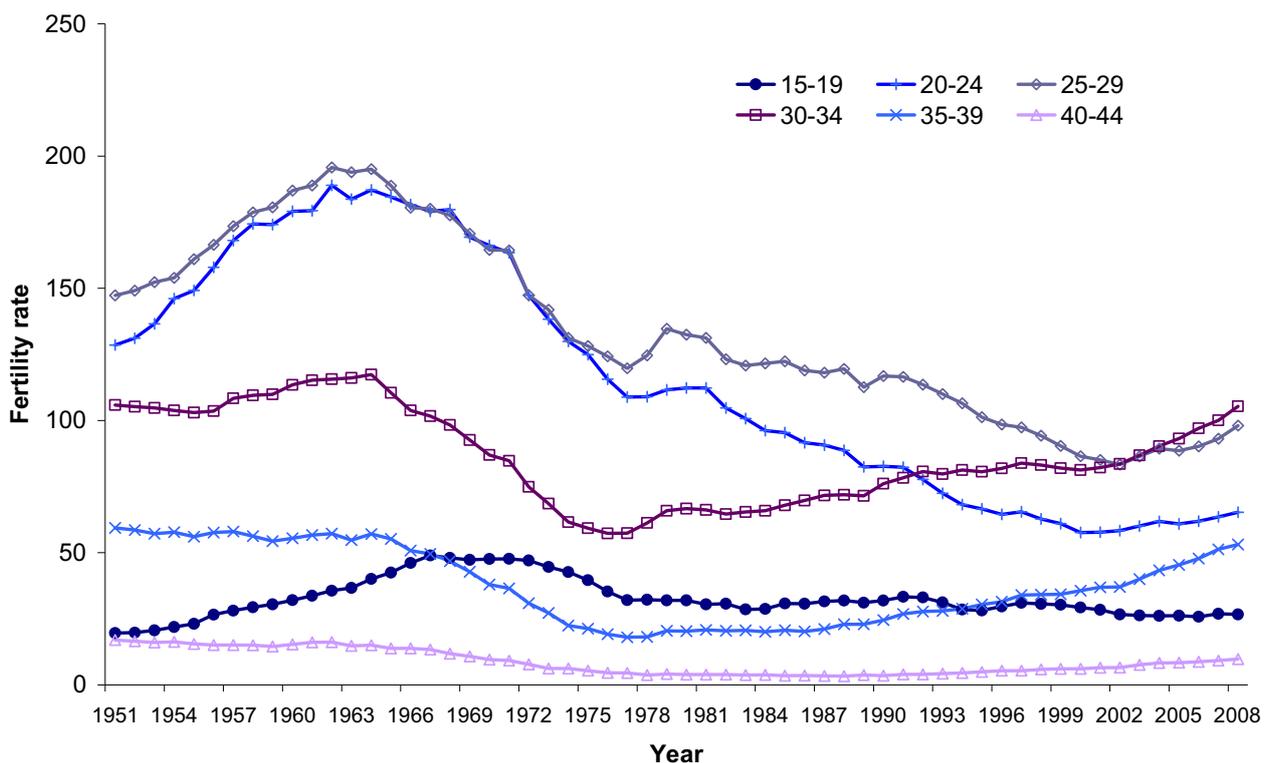
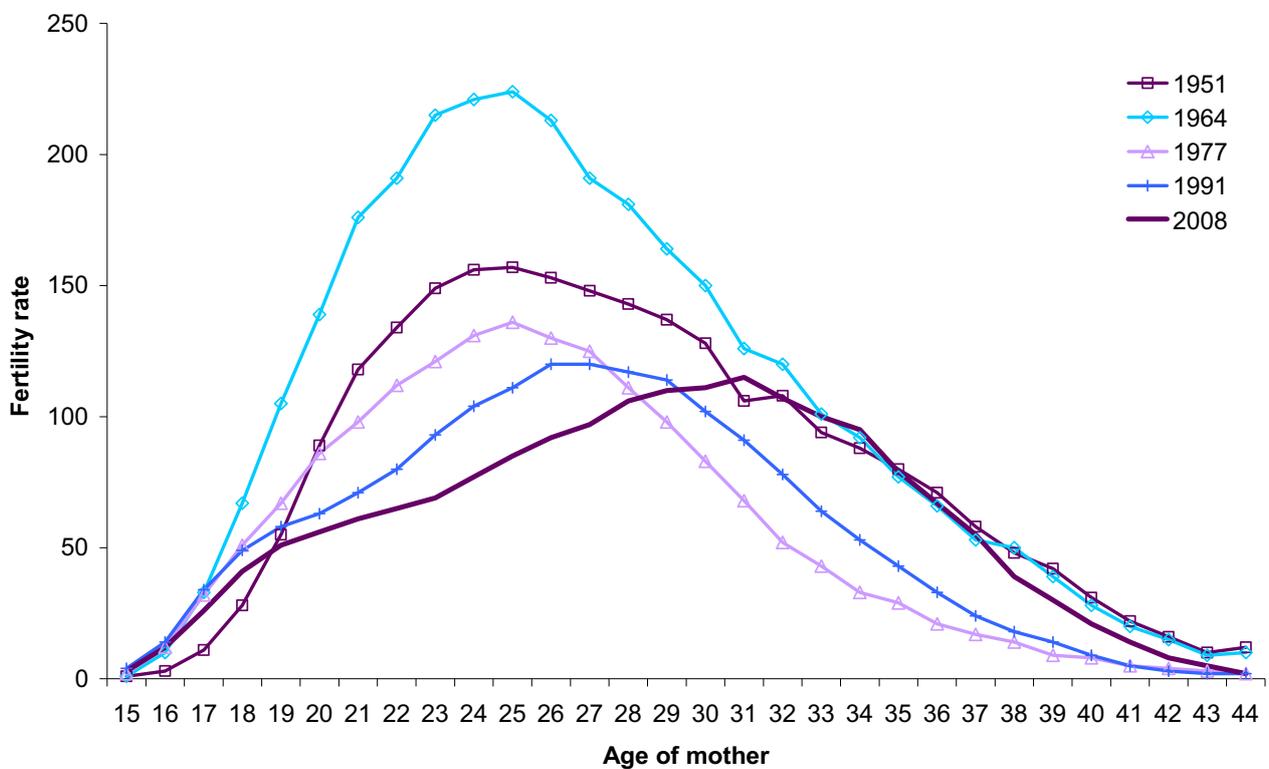


Figure 2.4 further illustrates the ageing pattern of fertility by showing detailed ASFRs for selected years: 1951, 1964 (peak number of births), 1977 (end of steep decline), 1991 (recent peak) and 2008. Though the levels differed considerably, the age patterns of fertility for 1951, 1964 and 1977 were roughly the same. However, the age distribution for 1991 shows a distinctly older peak and that for 2008 reveals the large reduction in fertility of women in their twenties, mirrored by an increase for women in their thirties.

The trend towards later childbearing is underlined by changes in the average age of mothers for all births. This was 29.4 in 2008, compared with 27.4 in 1991, 26.1 in 1977, and 27.4 in 1964.

Similarly, the average age of fathers has increased to 32.3 in 2008 compared with 30.0 in 1991 and 28.6 in 1977. These figures exclude births registered in the mother's name only, where the father's details were not provided.

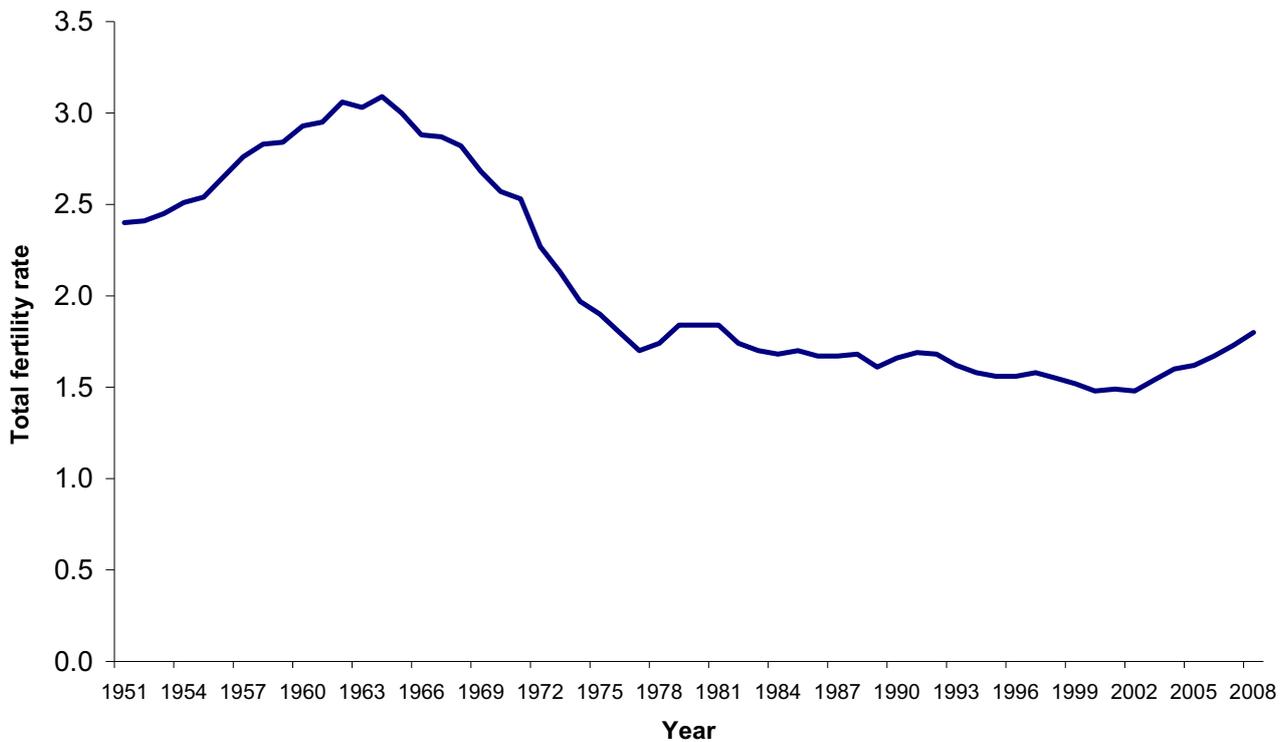
Figure 2.4 Live births per 1,000 women, by age, selected years



The total fertility rate (TFR) is a commonly used summary measure of fertility levels calculated by summing the age specific rates for a single year. It gives the average number of children that a group of women would expect to have if they experienced the observed ASFRs in each of their childbearing years. For a population to replace itself, the TFR needs to be around 2.1.

The TFR for Scotland since 1951 is plotted in Figure 2.5. Not surprisingly, it follows the same general pattern as the GFR described above. It rose to 3.09 in 1964 before dropping sharply to 1.70 in 1977. Since then, with a few minor fluctuations, it fell more slowly to the 2002 rate of 1.48 before increasing to 1.62 in 2005 and 1.80 in 2008 – its highest level for 26 years.

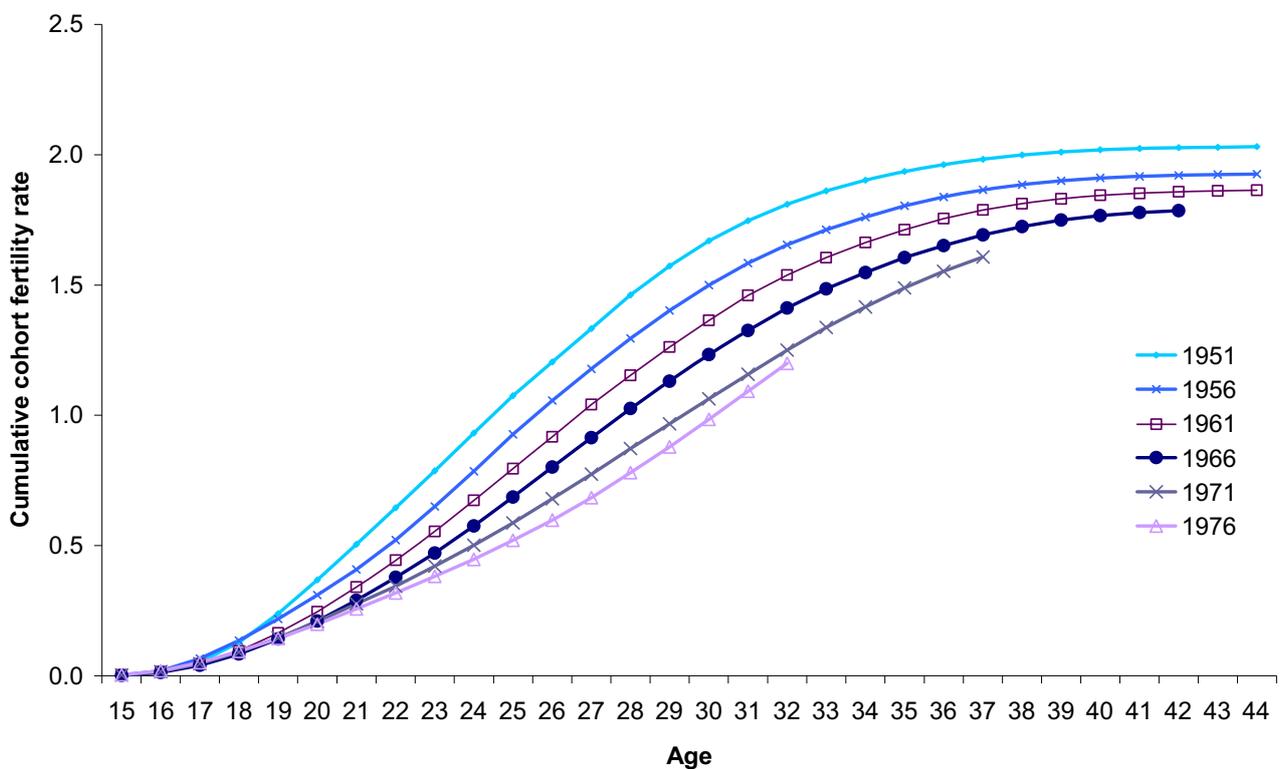
Figure 2.5 Total fertility rate, Scotland, 1951-2008



Though widely used, in part because it is relatively easy to calculate, the TFR has serious deficiencies as it is based on only one year's observations. For example, when women are delaying childbearing, as they have been in Scotland, the TFR is likely to underestimate the number of children women will eventually have.

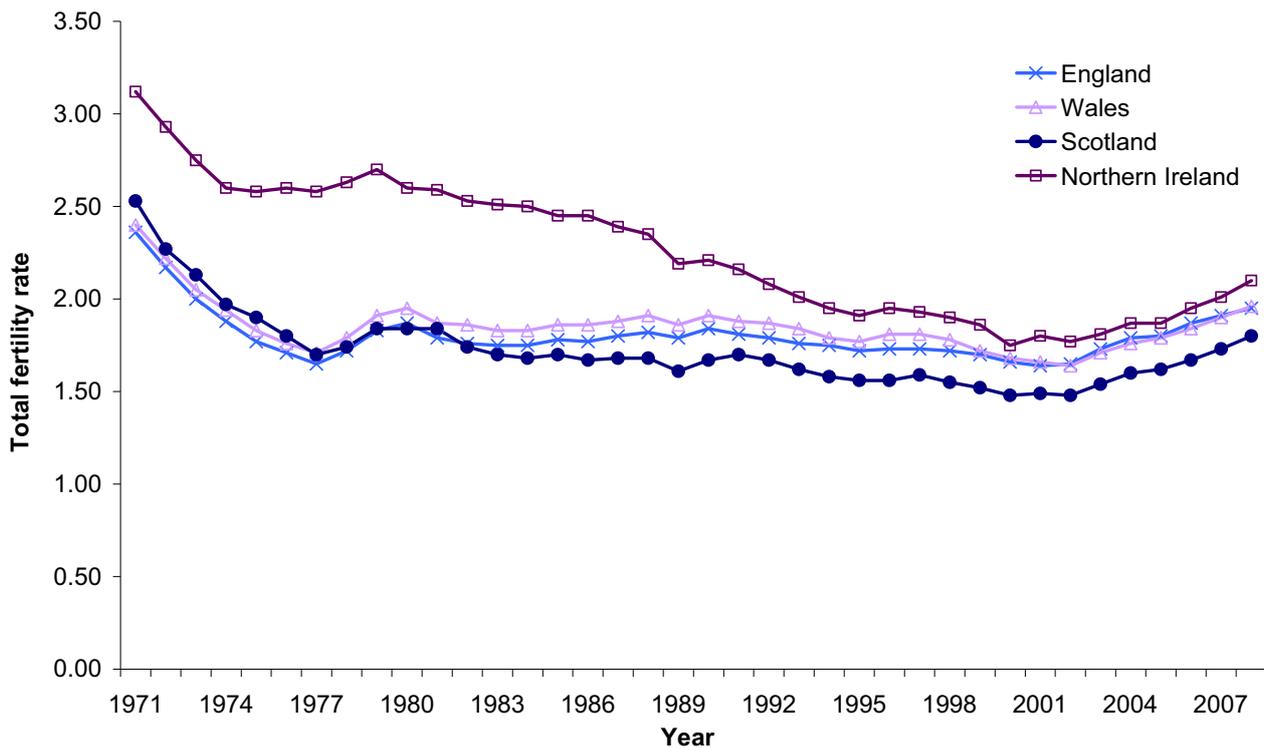
A more satisfactory measure is average completed family size. Figure 2.6 shows the completed family size (or cumulative cohort fertility) by age for women born in selected years. Those born in 1951 had attained an average completed family size of 2.03 by the time they reached 45, whereas for those born in 1956 and 1961 the figures were 1.93 and 1.87 respectively. The figure also permits the comparison of family size at selected ages for the various cohorts as they pass through the childbearing ages. Of crucial importance is the extent to which the later cohorts are falling behind in family building. For example, by age 30 the cumulative childbearing of the 1976 cohort is about 0.5 lower than that of the 1956 cohort. Whilst the increasing fertility rates of those aged over 30 may lead to some catching-up, it is highly unlikely that this will increase the average completed family size to the levels attained as recently as the cohorts born in the 1960s.

Figure 2.6 Cumulative cohort fertility rate for selected birth cohorts, Scotland



Since the early 1980s, Scotland's fertility has been lower than fertility in the other parts of the United Kingdom. Figure 2.7 compares the TFRs for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland since 1971 with those for Scotland. Until the late 1970s, Scotland's TFR was slightly higher than that for England and Wales. However, since the early 1980s, Scotland's TFR has dropped steadily below the levels for England and Wales. In 1971, the TFR for Northern Ireland was markedly higher than for the other three countries. However, since then the differential has been significantly reduced. It is interesting to note that the recent rise in fertility levels in Scotland has been paralleled elsewhere in the UK.

Figure 2.7 Total fertility rates, UK countries, 1971-2008



Country of birth of parents

87% of births in 2008 were to mothers who had been born in the UK, including 77% to women who were born in Scotland. A further 5% of mothers had been born in other European Union countries, including 3% from the countries which joined the EU in 2004 (like Poland). Commonwealth countries were the birthplace of 4% of mothers including 2% from the Indian sub-continent. The equivalent figures for fathers are broadly the same.

Chapter 3 - Deaths

Numbers

55,700 deaths were registered in Scotland in 2008. This was 286 (0.5%) fewer than in 2007, and was the second lowest total recorded since the introduction of civil registration in 1855.

[Figure 2.1](#) on page 25 shows that from 1951 up to the early 1990s the annual number of deaths remained relatively stable at about 60-65,000 a year. The total then declined slowly to just under 55,100 in 2006, which was the lowest annual total recorded.

Causes of death

[Table 3.1](#) shows major causes of deaths, by age group. In 2008 more than half of all deaths were due to the so-called "three big killers". There were 15,269 deaths from cancer, (27 per cent of all deaths), 8,841 deaths from ischaemic (coronary) heart disease, (16 per cent of all deaths) and 5,367 deaths from cerebrovascular disease (stroke) (10% of all deaths).

Since 1980, the numbers of deaths from these causes have changed, as shown in [Table 3.2](#). The percentage of deaths accounted for by the so-called "three big killers" was 65% in 1981 and 1991, falling through 61% in 1996 and 59% in 2001 to 53% in 2008. The proportion of deaths caused by ischaemic heart disease has fallen from 29% in 1981 to 16% in 2008, and cerebrovascular disease declined from 14% to 10%, whereas the proportion caused by cancer has risen from 22% to 27%.

Cancer

Of the 15,269 deaths from cancer in 2008, cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung was the most common type, accounting for over a quarter (27 per cent) of all cancer deaths.

The next most frequent type of cancer death was bowel for men (839 deaths, of which 44 per cent were aged 75 and over) and breast for women (1,043 deaths, of which 45 per cent were aged 75 and over). Death rates for these two causes have been relatively stable in recent years. Cancers of the lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue caused 1,002 deaths and prostate cancer caused 792 deaths.

Death rates, by sex, for some of the most common causes of death are shown in [Table 3.3](#). Over the last 25 years or so, male death rates from lung cancer have fallen by almost 30 per cent (from 119 per 100,000 population in 1980-82 to 85 in 2008). By contrast, the rates for women, though still lower than those for men, have increased by 80 per cent (from 41 per 100,000 population in 1980-82 to 74 in 2008).

Table 3.1 The most common¹ causes of death, Scotland, 2008

Persons	All ages	0-14	15-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
All cancers (C00-97)	15,269	19	79	267	877	2,391	4,291	7,345
Trachea, bronchus and lung (C33-34)	4,080	-	4	22	197	706	1,351	1,800
Bowel (C18-21)	1,585	-	3	29	85	237	450	781
Breast (C50)	1,050	-	4	61	113	179	217	476
Lymphoid, haematopoietic etc (C81-96)	1,002	4	20	18	39	121	279	521
Urinary tract (C64-68)	875	-	1	10	34	108	237	485
Oesophagus (C15)	831	-	-	13	61	149	241	367
Prostate (C61)	792	-	-	-	8	62	189	533
Pancreas (C25)	642	-	-	10	41	108	181	302
Stomach (C16)	511	-	-	9	27	65	129	281
Other cancers (e.g. bladder, liver, ovary)	3,901	15	47	95	272	656	1017	1,799
Ischaemic heart disease (I20-25)	8,841	-	14	115	399	971	1,834	5,508
Respiratory system diseases (J00-99)	7,443	13	25	41	127	501	1,229	5,507
Cerebrovascular disease (I60-69)	5,367	3	15	49	131	275	705	4,189
Mental + behavioural disorders (F00-99)	3,362	-	238	198	134	123	189	2,480
Diseases of the digestive system (K00-93)	3,119	2	40	178	403	540	573	1,383
Diseases of the nervous system (G00-99)	1,613	21	62	44	86	147	296	957
Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-99)	1,279	-	3	9	13	48	171	1,035
Accidents (V01-X59, Y85-86)	1,261	23	179	80	122	114	115	628
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-90)	991	12	28	26	70	112	212	531
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)	936	7	16	29	42	52	147	643
Males	All ages	0-14	15-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
All cancers (C00-97)	7,729	9	39	111	433	1,319	2,370	3,448
Trachea, bronchus and lung (C33-34)	2,114	-	1	11	98	400	726	878
Bowel (C18-21)	839	-	1	16	50	139	262	371
Breast (C50)	7	-	-	1	-	1	2	3
Lymphoid, haematopoietic etc (C81-96)	539	3	15	8	28	75	167	243
Urinary tract (C64-68)	525	-	1	6	22	74	149	273
Oesophagus (C15)	520	-	-	11	44	115	172	178
Prostate (C61)	792	-	-	-	8	62	189	533
Pancreas (C25)	319	-	-	5	23	64	99	128
Stomach (C16)	300	-	-	5	16	49	80	150
Other cancers (e.g. bladder, liver)	1,774	6	21	48	144	340	524	691
Ischaemic heart disease (I20-25)	4,852	-	13	85	313	739	1,225	2,477
Respiratory system diseases (J00-99)	3,276	7	13	18	70	255	664	2,249
Cerebrovascular disease (I60-69)	2,051	1	9	30	82	153	392	1,384
Mental + behavioural disorders (F00-99)	1,335	-	188	158	98	86	112	693
Diseases of the digestive system (K00-93)	1,531	-	22	106	258	324	323	498
Diseases of the nervous system (G00-99)	717	10	35	25	49	78	155	365
Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-99)	511	-	-	4	6	27	83	391
Accidents (V01-X59, Y85-86)	696	16	148	67	89	81	76	219
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-90)	498	7	20	16	34	68	122	231
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)	380	4	7	13	31	34	57	234
Females	All ages	0-14	15-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
All cancers (C00-97)	7,540	10	40	156	444	1,072	1,921	3,897
Trachea, bronchus and lung (C33-34)	1,966	-	3	11	99	306	625	922
Bowel (C18-21)	746	-	2	13	35	98	188	410
Breast (C50)	1,043	-	4	60	113	178	215	473
Lymphoid, haematopoietic etc (C81-96)	463	1	5	10	11	46	112	278
Urinary tract (C64-68)	350	-	-	4	12	34	88	212
Oesophagus (C15)	311	-	-	2	17	34	69	189
Pancreas (C25)	323	-	-	5	18	44	82	174
Stomach (C16)	211	-	-	4	11	16	49	131
Other cancers (e.g. bladder, liver, ovary)	2,127	9	26	47	128	316	493	1,108
Ischaemic heart disease (I20-25)	3,989	-	1	30	86	232	609	3,031
Respiratory system diseases (J00-99)	4,167	6	12	23	57	246	565	3,258
Cerebrovascular disease (I60-69)	3,316	2	6	19	49	122	313	2,805
Mental + behavioural disorders (F00-99)	2,027	-	50	40	36	37	77	1,787
Diseases of the digestive system (K00-93)	1,588	2	18	72	145	216	250	885
Diseases of the nervous system (G00-99)	896	11	27	19	37	69	141	592
Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-99)	768	-	3	5	7	21	88	644
Accidents (V01-X59, Y85-86)	565	7	31	13	33	33	39	409
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-90)	493	5	8	10	36	44	90	300
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)	556	3	9	16	11	18	90	409

¹ The causes are listed in descending order of their total numbers of deaths. International Classification of Diseases codes (ICD10) are also shown.

Table 3.2 Number of deaths from selected causes, by sex, 1980-2008

Year	Cancer		Ischaemic heart disease		Cerebrovascular disease	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1980-82 ¹	7,269	6,634	10,173	8,150	3,470	5,638
1990-92 ¹	7,664	7,324	8,964	7,846	2,913	5,029
2000-02 ¹	7,674	7,394	6,342	5,664	2,465	4,250
2008	7,729	7,540	4,852	3,989	2,051	3,316

¹ Average over 3 year period.

Table 3.3 Death rates from selected causes, by sex, Scotland, 1980-2008

Males - rates per 100,000 population					
Year	Cancer			Ischaemic heart disease	Cerebrovascular disease
	All types	Trachea, bronchus and lung	Prostate		
1980-82 ¹	291	119	19	408	139
1990-92 ¹	314	111	27	367	119
2000-02 ¹	321	93	32	261	101
2008	309	85	32	194	82

Females - rates per 100,000 population					
Year	Cancer			Ischaemic heart disease	Cerebrovascular disease
	All types	Trachea, bronchus and lung	Breast		
1980-82 ¹	247	41	45	304	210
1990-92 ¹	278	57	48	297	191
2000-02 ¹	288	64	43	216	162
2008	283	74	39	149	124

¹ Average over 3 year period.

Heart disease and stroke

Table 3.3 shows that, in contrast to the rises for cancer, death rates for ischaemic heart disease (coronary heart disease) and cerebrovascular disease (stroke) have shown significant declines. Between 1980-82 and 2008, rates for males had improved by 52 per cent for ischaemic heart disease and 41 per cent for stroke compared with improvements of 51 and 41 per cent respectively for females.

Some other major causes of deaths

Other major causes of deaths registered in 2008 included:

- respiratory system diseases (7,443 deaths, or 13% - e.g. pneumonia);
- mental and behavioural disorders (3,362 deaths, or 6% - e.g. due to alcohol or drugs);
- diseases of the digestive system (3,119 deaths, or 6% - e.g. chronic liver disease);
- diseases of the nervous system (1,613 deaths, or 3% - e.g. Alzheimer's disease);
- diseases of the genitourinary system (1,279 deaths, or 2% - e.g. renal failure);
- accidents (1,261 deaths, or 2% - e.g. falls, transport accidents); and
- endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (991 deaths, or 2% - e.g. diabetes);
- certain infectious and parasitic diseases (936 deaths, or 2% - e.g. septicaemia).

Alcohol-related deaths

As well as alcoholic liver disease, there are numerous causes of death that are considered to be 'alcohol-related'. The main additional category is 'mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol'. There are several other causes that are specifically alcohol related (e.g. alcoholic pancreatitis) as well as some (e.g. oesophageal cancer) where alcohol consumption is only responsible for a proportion of deaths. Following wide consultation, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) proposed a selection of diseases to be used for high-level public health monitoring of alcohol-related deaths. This includes only the causes of death which are regarded as most directly due to alcohol consumption and for which figures can be obtained from the death registration statistics. It does not include every kind of alcohol-related death: for example, it does not include deaths as a result of road accidents, falls, fires, suicide or violence involving people who had been drinking; or from some medical conditions which are considered partly attributable to alcohol.

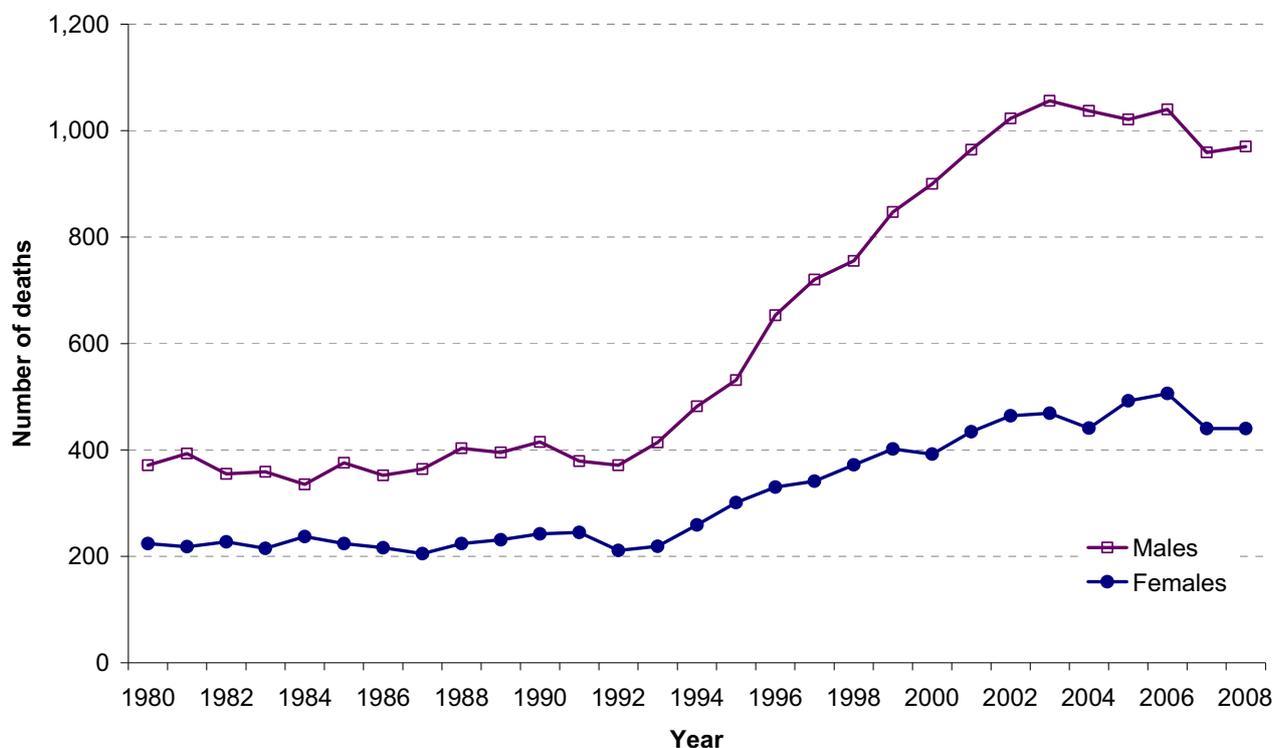
On the basis of this definition, there were 1,411 alcohol related deaths in 2008. Figure 3.1 shows that the trends in alcohol-related deaths for both sexes were relatively stable during the 1980s, but there have been significant increases, particularly for men, since the early 1990s. Further analysis of the data shows that the number of deaths have generally been rising in all age groups, with the largest increases being among those aged 45-59. In recent years the number of deaths appears to level off.

The reasons underlying these changes are not fully understood, but changing social attitudes, increased affluence and relative price levels, and licensing changes are all thought to have contributed to increased alcohol consumption.

Further information about the definition, and a more detailed breakdown of the numbers of alcohol-related deaths is available from the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) website, at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/deaths/alcohol-related-deaths/index.html>

Figure 3.1 Alcohol-related deaths, Scotland, 1980 - 2008



Probable suicides

In 2008, deaths from intentional self-harm numbered 569 (441 males and 128 females), 52 more than in 2007. To allow for any under-recording of suicides, it is conventional to combine deaths classified as 'events of undetermined intent' with those for 'intentional self-harm', as most of the former are believed to be suicides - so these are the numbers of "probable suicides". The total number of deaths classified to these two groups in 2008 was 843 compared with 838 in 2007 and 765 in 2006.

For men the most frequent cause of these deaths was hanging, strangulation and suffocation, whereas for women it was poisoning. Suicide is the most common cause of death for men aged 15-44.

Further information about the numbers of probable suicides is available from the GROS website, at: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/deaths/suicides/index.html>

GROS publishes a wide range of other statistics on causes of death. In some cases, the figures are subject to caveats, for example because of the complexity of the definitions. This report is not an appropriate place to publish such figures: they are available from the relevant parts of the GROS website (which include some background information on the basis of the statistics):

- drug-related deaths:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/drug-related-deaths/index.html>;

- deaths involving healthcare associated infections (Clostridium difficile and MRSA)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/deaths/clostridium-difficile-deaths/index.html>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/deaths/mrsa-deaths/index.html>;

- increased winter mortality:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/increased-winter-mortality/index.html>

Main causes of death by age and sex

The main causes of death vary in frequency by age and sex. Accidents were the largest single cause amongst boys aged 1-14, followed by cancer. For girls aged 1-14, cancer was the most common cause, followed by accidents.

For males aged 15-34, the largest cause was suicide (intentional self-harm plus events of undetermined intent) followed by mental disorders (almost entirely associated with drug and alcohol abuse) and accidents. For females in this age group, suicide was also the largest category. Mental disorders and cancer were the next most common causes.

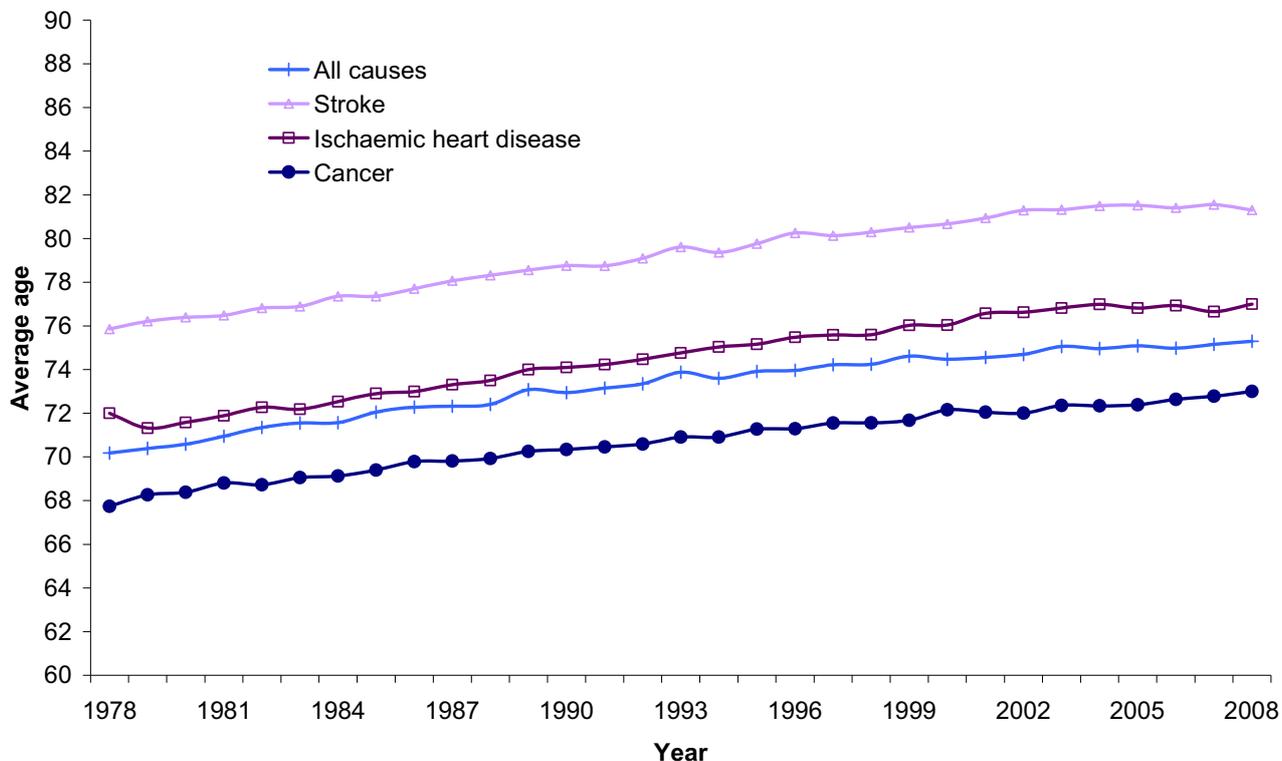
Suicide was also the most frequent cause of deaths for males aged 35-44, mental disorders were second followed by cancer. For women aged 35-44, cancer was the main cause.

For both sexes and all age groups between 45 and 74, cancer was the main cause of death. Cancer was responsible for a slightly higher proportion of deaths in these age groups for men than for women.

Average age at death

The average age at death has increased steadily over the past thirty years. Figure 3.2 shows that the average ages at death for cancer, heart disease and stroke have generally increased in line with the average for all deaths.

Figure 3.2 Average age at death, selected causes, Scotland, 1978-2008



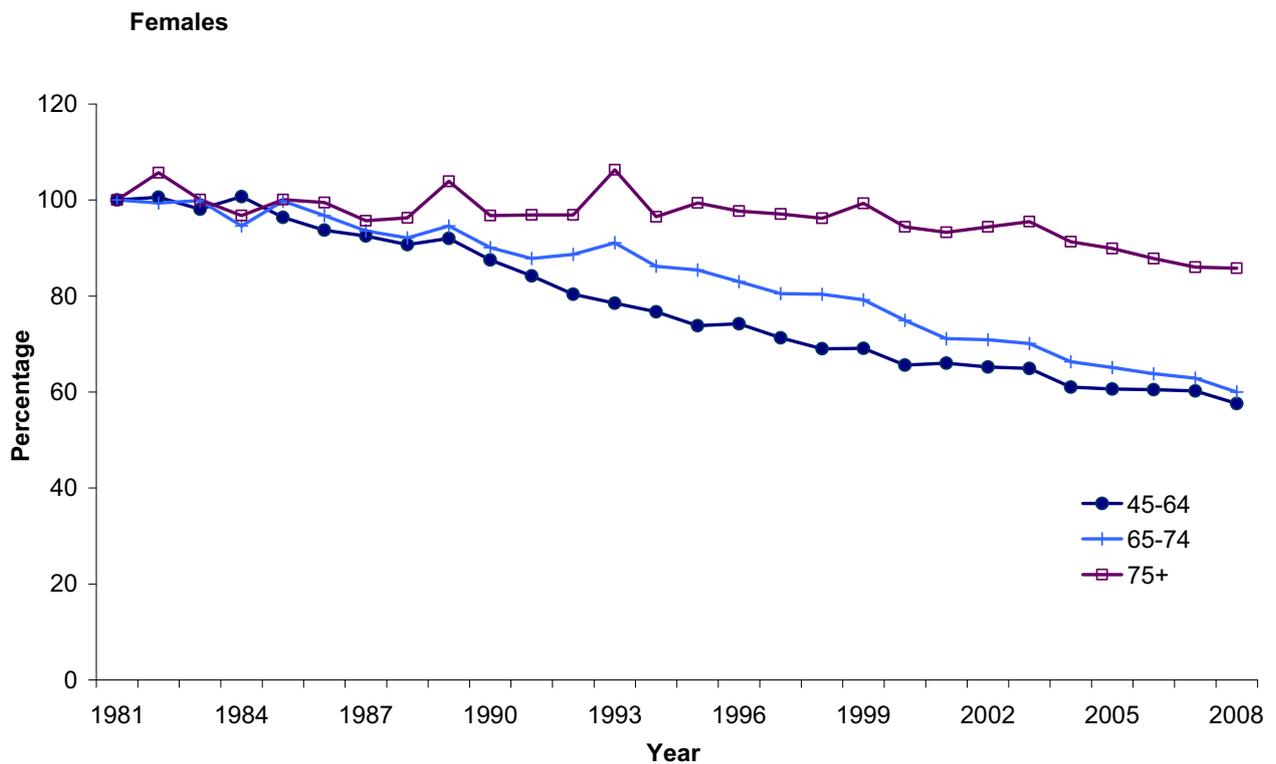
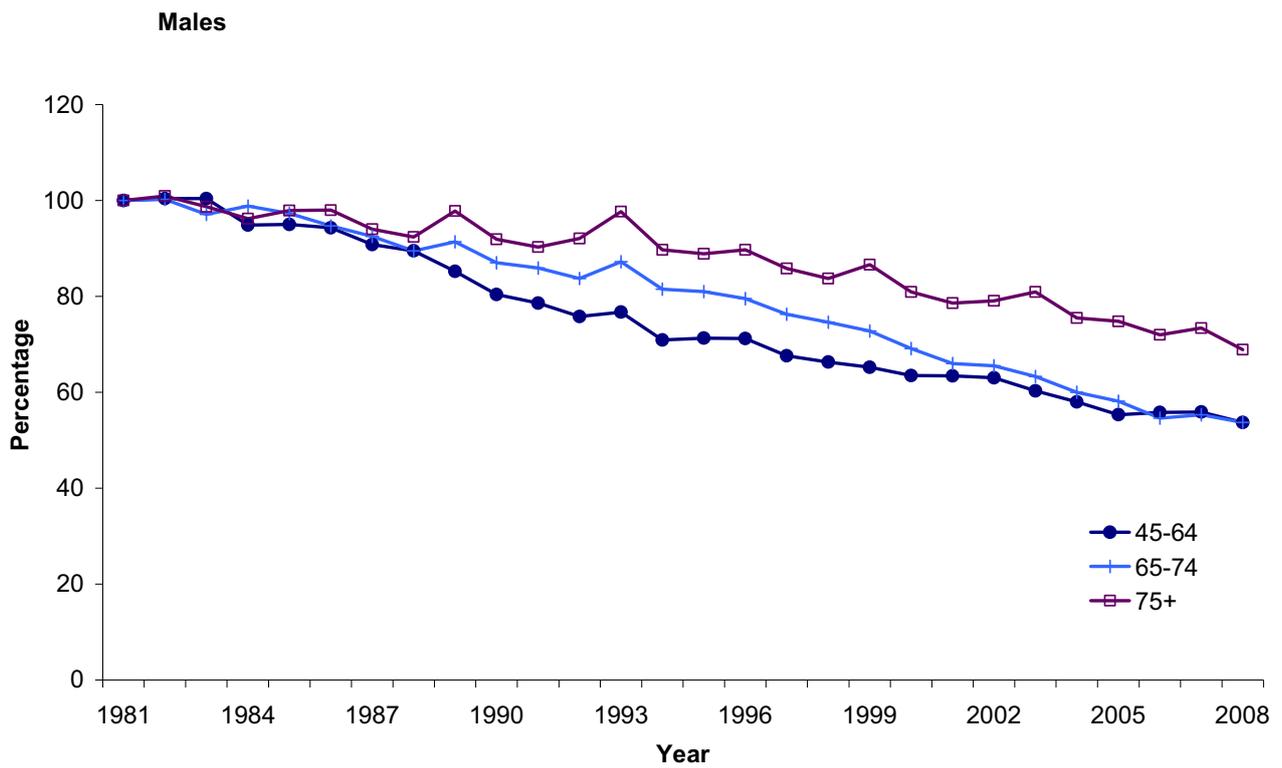
Mortality by age

About 60 per cent of deaths were of people aged 75 and over, and a further 19 per cent were between the ages of 65 and 74.

The relative stability in the total number of deaths over recent years masks significant improvements in age-specific mortality. Figure 3.3 shows, for both men and women, selected age-specific mortality rates over the last quarter of a century relative to the 1981 rates. The three age groups shown (45-64, 65-74 and 75 and over) account for around 95 per cent of all deaths.

At all these ages, there have been greater improvements in male than in female mortality. In the 45-64 age group, the death rates for men and women improved by 46 per cent and 42 per cent respectively. In the 65-74 age group, males showed an improvement of 46 per cent compared to 40 per cent for females. The greatest differential is in the 75 plus age group, where male mortality has improved by 31 per cent compared to only 14 per cent for females. These changes have narrowed the difference between female and (traditionally higher) male mortality.

Figure 3.3 Age specific mortality rates as a proportion of 1981 rate, 1981-2008



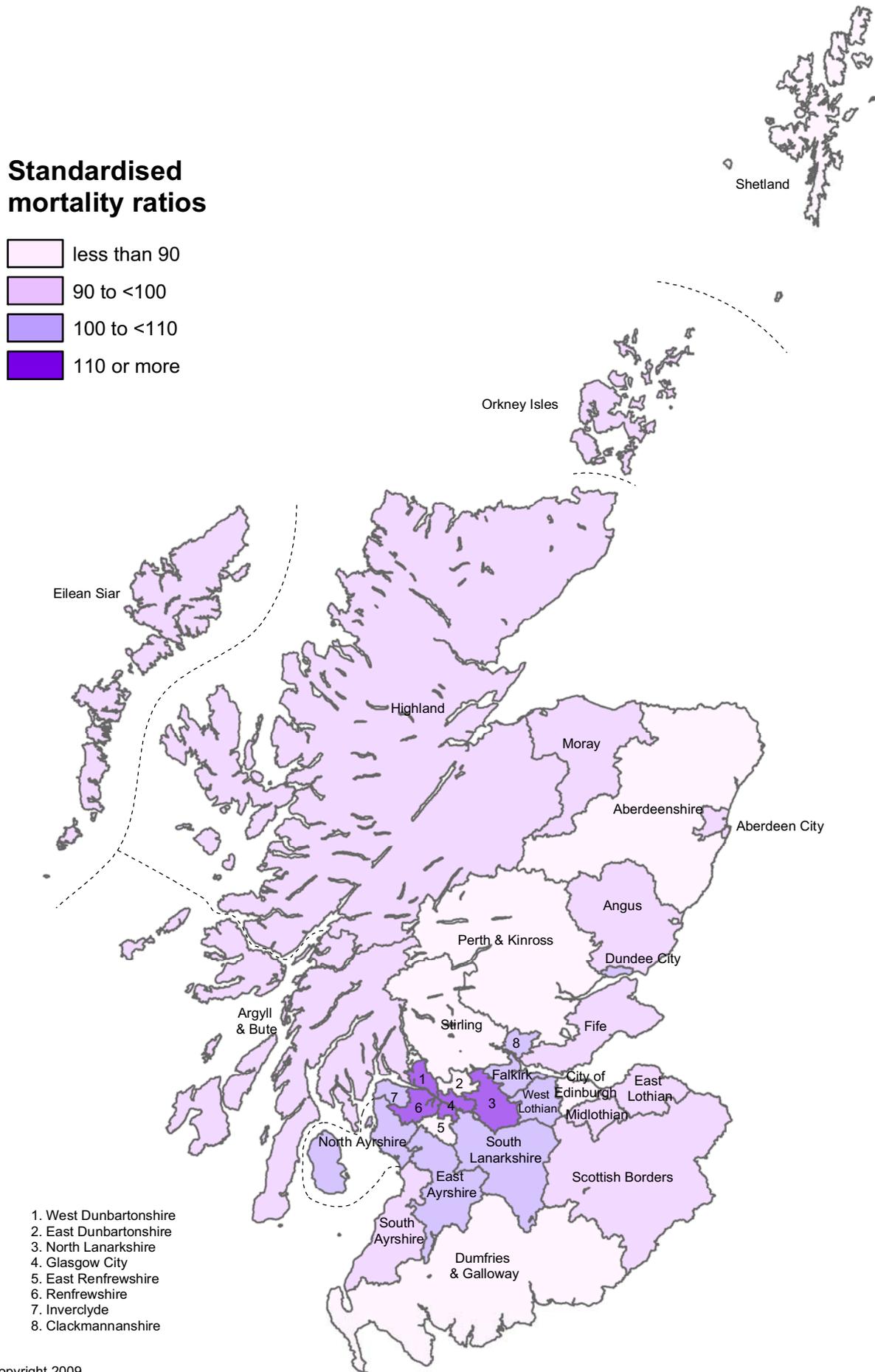
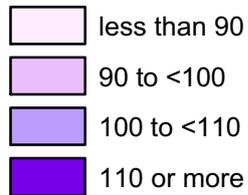
Geographical variations in mortality levels

Standardised mortality ratios (SMRs), which compare local death rates with death rates in Scotland as a whole, taking account of the different population structure of each area, are presented in [Figure 3.4](#). Four of the 32 Scottish Council areas have a standardised mortality ratio that is more than 10 per cent higher than the overall Scottish value of 100. These are all in West Central Scotland. The worst, Glasgow City, is 27 per cent higher than the Scottish average. At the other end of the scale, 8 of the 32 Council areas have a standardised mortality ratio that is more than 10 per cent lower than the Scottish average. The lowest was East Dunbartonshire which was 19 per cent below (or better than) the Scottish average.

Similarly, standardised mortality ratios can be calculated for each of the different parts of the United Kingdom, and compared with the overall UK figure. The standardised mortality ratio for Scotland is about one-sixth (18 per cent) higher than the overall UK figure.

Figure 3.4 Standardised mortality ratios, by Council area, 2008

Standardised mortality ratios

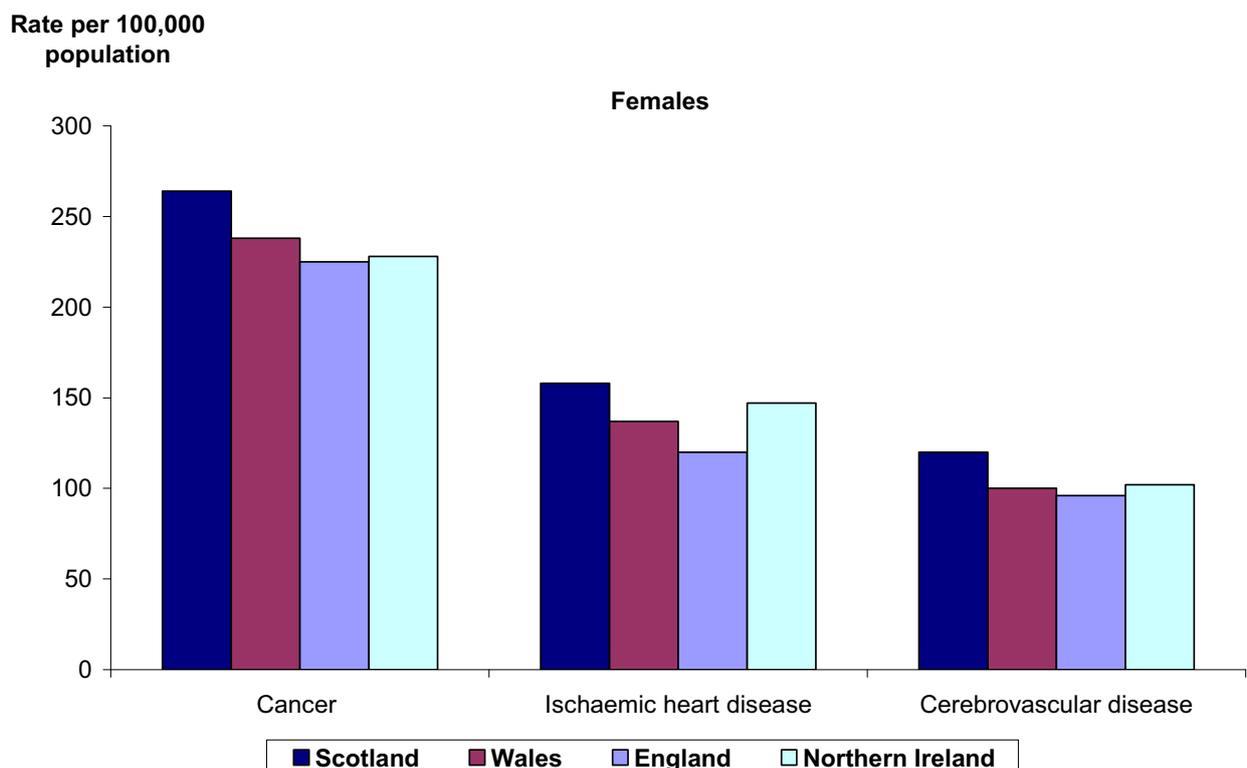
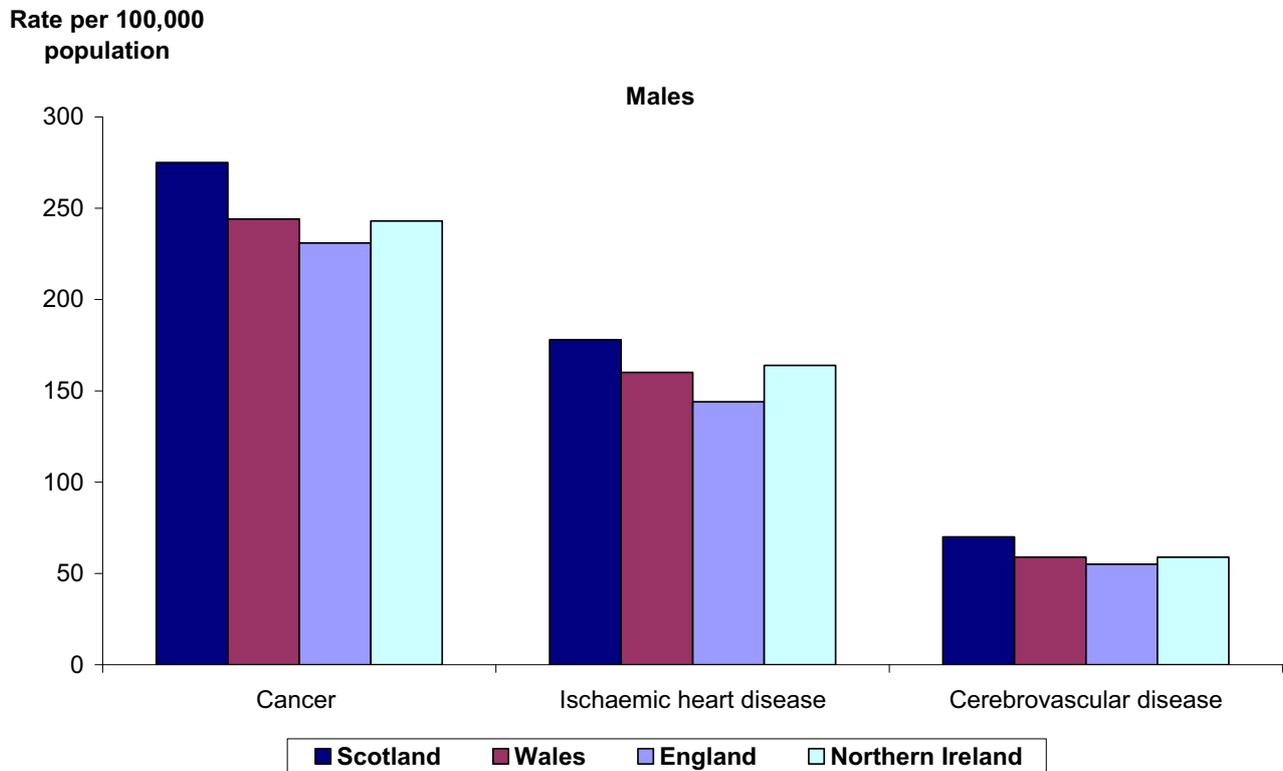


1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire

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Using 2006 data, the latest available, Figure 3.5 compares the death rates for the constituent countries of the UK for selected causes after adjusting for differences in age structure. The Scottish rates for cancer, ischaemic heart disease, and cerebrovascular disease (stroke) are well above the rates for the other countries of the United Kingdom for both men and women.

Figure 3.5 Age-adjusted mortality rates, by selected cause and sex, 2006



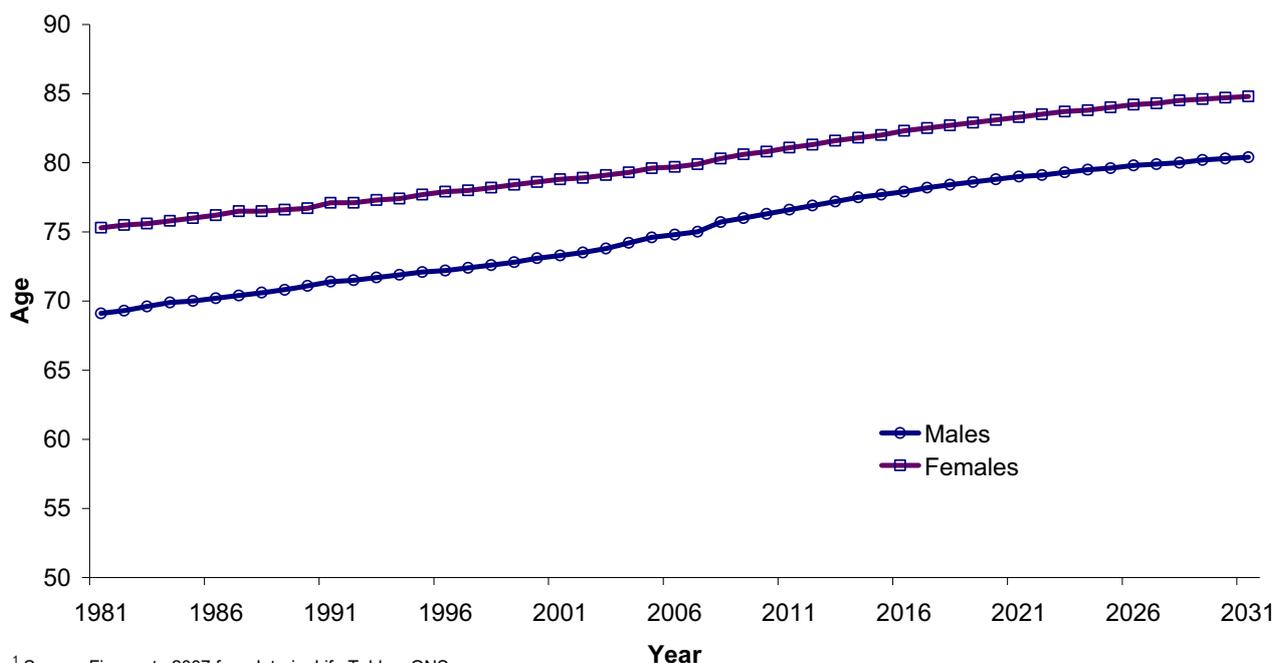
Appendix 1, Table 3 on page 92 shows the overall death rate for each of the European Union member states, and for some other countries in Europe. These are so-called "crude" death rates. They are calculated by expressing the number of deaths per thousand population. As a result, they do not take account of differences in the sex- and age-structures of the countries' populations, and (all else being equal) a country with an unusually high proportion of its population in the younger age-groups could appear to have an unusually low "crude" death rate. The figure for Scotland is higher than those for most of the countries that are shown, but this could be due, to some extent, to the structure of the Scottish population. A better way to compare Scotland's mortality with other countries' is to use the estimates of life expectancy for each country.

Life Expectancy

Although mortality rates in Scotland have generally fallen more slowly than in the rest of the UK and elsewhere in Europe, the improvements are still considerable and the impact is demonstrated in the steadily rising expectation of life.

The expectation of life at birth is a commonly used measure of mortality which is particularly helpful in comparing the 'health' of a nation through time and for making comparisons with other countries. Figure 3.6 shows that the expectation of life at birth in Scotland has improved greatly over the last 25 years or so, increasing from 69.1 years for men and 75.4 years for women born around 1981 to 75.0 years and 79.9 years respectively for those born around 2007. Figure 3.6 also illustrates that improvements in life expectancy at birth are projected to continue, rising to 80.4 years for men and 84.8 years for women by 2031.

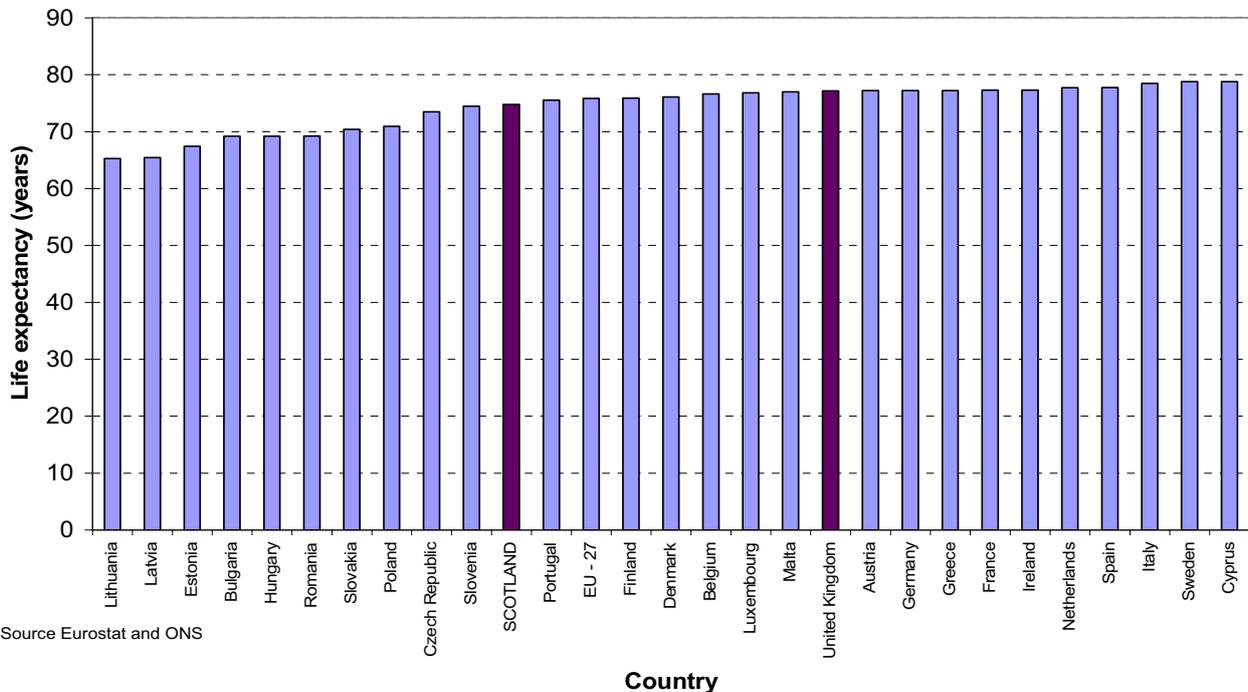
Figure 3.6 Expectation of life at birth¹, Scotland, 1981-2031



¹ Source: Figures to 2007 from Interim Life Tables, ONS.
 These are based on 3 years of data. For example 2007 figure uses data for 2006-2008.
 Figures after 2007 are projected single year life expectancies, ONS.

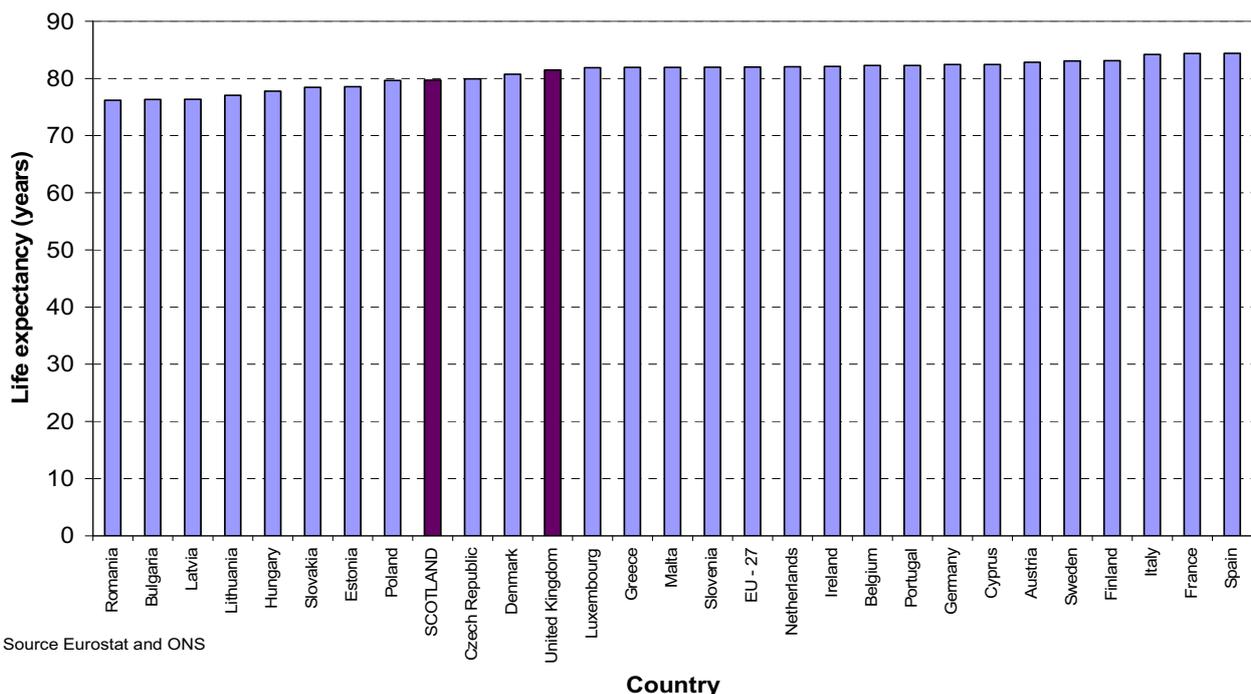
However, Figures 3.7a and 3.7b show that Scottish men and women have relatively low expectation of life at birth compared to much of the European Union. The countries with lower life expectancy than Scotland were most of the Eastern European states which joined the EU on 1 May 2004 as well as Romania and Bulgaria which joined in January 2007. For men the expectation of life in Scotland is about 4 years lower than the countries with the highest expectation of life whilst for women it is almost 5 years lower.

Figure 3.7a Life expectancy at birth, 2006, selected countries, Males



Source Eurostat and ONS

Figure 3.7b Life expectancy at birth, 2006, selected countries, Females



Source Eurostat and ONS

Stillbirths, perinatal deaths and infant deaths

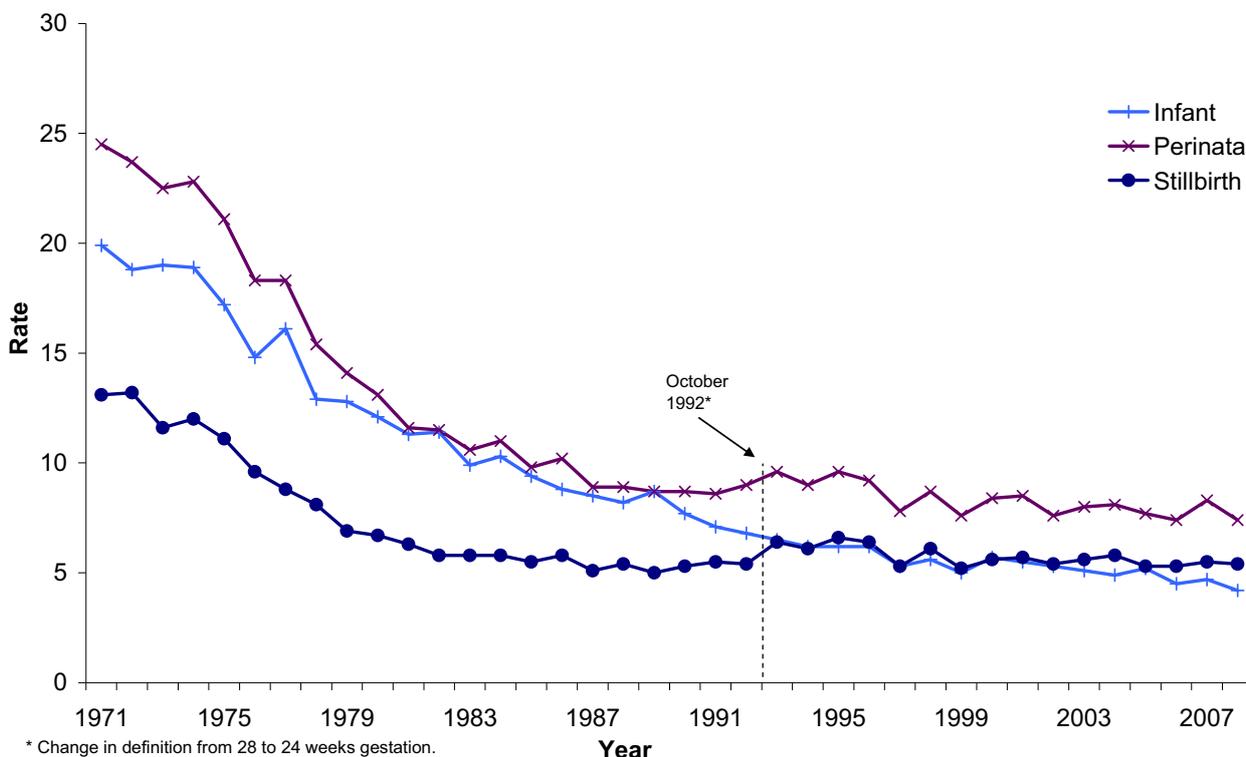
There were 325 stillbirths registered in Scotland in 2008. Stillbirths are registered separately from live births and from deaths, and so are not included in those figures.

Perinatal deaths consist of stillbirths plus deaths in the first week of life (the latter are registered as live births and as deaths). There were 122 deaths of children who were aged under one week old, so there was a total of 447 perinatal deaths.

Infant deaths are deaths in the first year of life, all of which are registered as live births and as deaths. In total, 253 infant deaths were registered in Scotland in 2008 (including those who died in the first week of life).

As can be seen in Figure 3.8, there have been significant improvements in the rates for stillbirths, perinatal deaths and infant deaths in the period since 1971. The stillbirth rate has reduced from 13.1 per 1,000 total births (live and still) in 1971 to 5.4 in 2008, despite a change in the definition of stillbirths in 1992 which reduced the minimum period of gestation from 28 weeks to 24 weeks (thus increasing the numbers classified as stillbirths). The perinatal death rate fell from 24.5 per 1,000 total births in 1971 to 7.4 in 2008 and the infant death rate fell from 19.9 per 1,000 live births in 1971 to 4.2 in 2008.

Figure 3.8 Stillbirth, perinatal and infant death rates, per 1,000 births, Scotland 1971-2008



Whilst the current rates are comparable to those for the UK as a whole, Figures 3.9 and 3.10 show that there are several European countries that have significantly lower rates (see also [Appendix 1, Table 3](#)).

Figure 3.9 Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births, selected countries, latest available figures

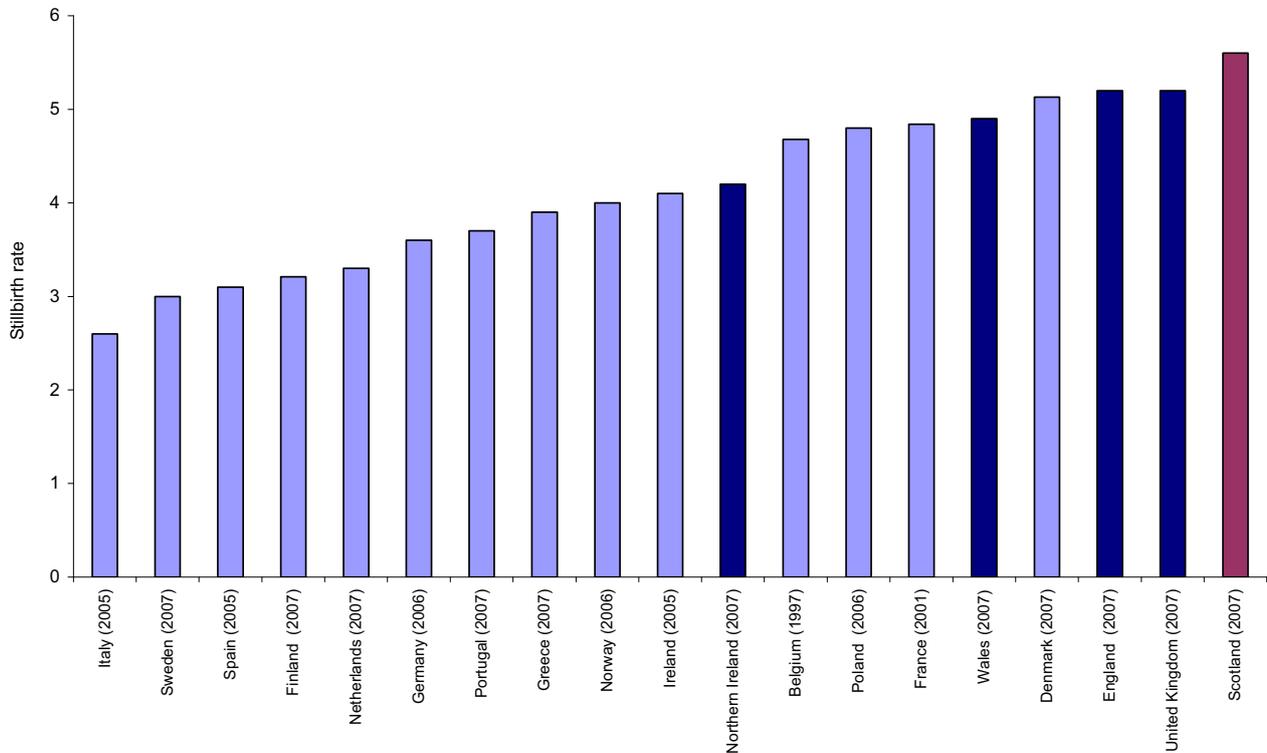
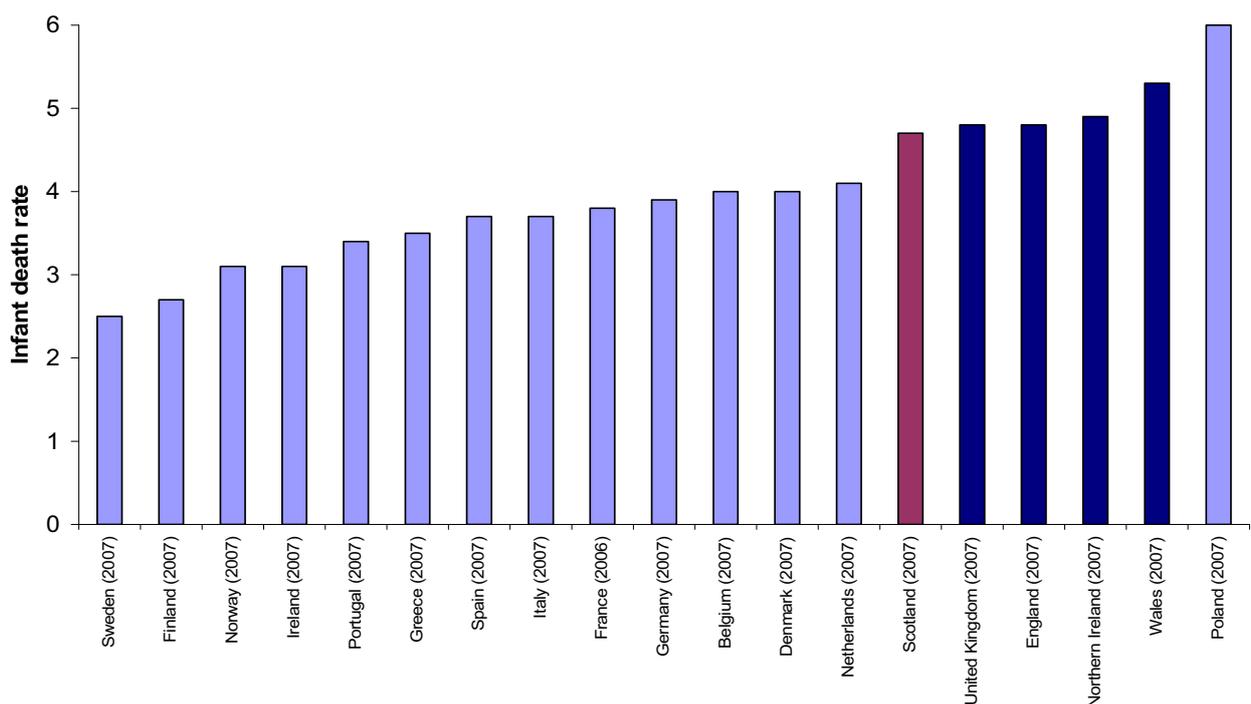


Figure 3.10 Infant death rate per 1,000 live births, selected countries, latest available figures



Chapter 4 - Migration

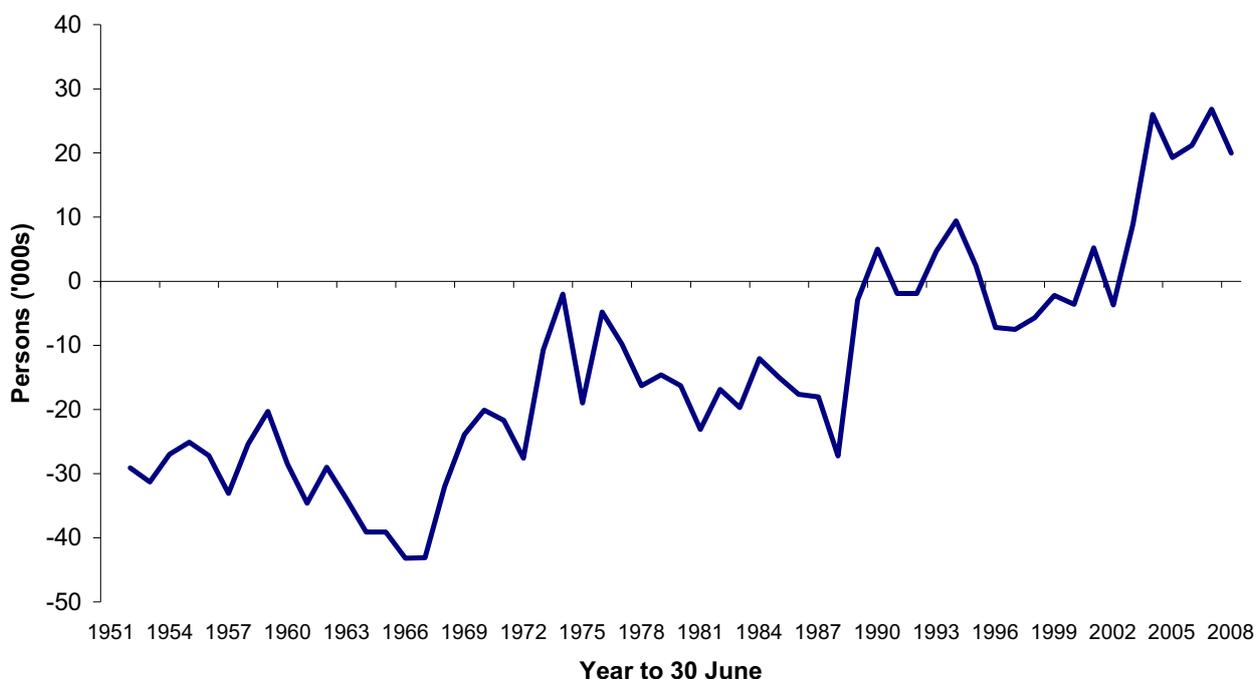
Unlike some countries, the UK does not have a comprehensive system of recording migrants, particularly those leaving the country, nor any legal requirement to notify change of address. So migration is the most difficult component of population change to measure and predict. Migration and the reasons for migrating are also much more susceptible to short-term changes in social and economic circumstances than births and deaths. The Registrar General's Annual Report for 2003 includes a full analysis of migration data for Scotland. This included analysis of Census 2001 information and gave an overview of data used in the population estimates for Scotland. More detailed information on migration methodology is available on our website at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/migration/methodology.html>

Trends in migration since 1951

Historically, Scotland has been a country of net out-migration, with more people leaving Scotland to live elsewhere than moving to live in Scotland. However, since the 1960s, net out-migration has greatly reduced and in some years during the late 1980s and early 1990s Scotland experienced net migration gains. This has also been the case in the last six years, with net gains of around 9,000 to mid-2003, 26,000 to mid-2004, 19,000 to mid-2005, 21,000 to mid-2006, 27,000 to mid-2007 and 20,000 to mid-2008. The net migration gain in 2006-07 was the highest since current records started in 1951; the 2007-08 total was the fourth highest. This can be seen in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1 Estimated net migration, Scotland, 1951-2008



Net migration is the difference between much larger flows of migrants into and out of Scotland. The level of net migration can be significantly affected by relatively small changes in these gross flows from year to year, particularly if one flow rises while the other falls. In the last five years, migration into Scotland has typically been about 90,000 to 100,000 per year whilst migration from Scotland has ranged from around 65,000 to around 75,000.

In the year to 30 June 2008, around 53,300 people came to Scotland from England, Wales and Northern Ireland and around 41,800 people left Scotland for the rest of the UK. The net gain of around 11,500 is higher than the previous year's net gain of 8,800.

During the same period, about 38,500 people came to Scotland from overseas and around 30,800 left Scotland to go overseas, giving a net migration gain from overseas of around 7,700. This compares to record net gains over each of the last two years of 12,700 in the year to June 2006 and 16,800 in the year to June 2007. Estimating international migration is particularly difficult as the estimate is based primarily on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). This is a sample survey conducted at main airports and ports across the UK, and the sample size for Scotland is very small (around 210 migrant contacts in 2007-08). Internationally, migrants are defined as people who change their country of usual residence for 12 months or more. So short-term seasonal migrant workers, including many from the Eastern European states which joined the EU in 2004, will not be counted in the migration estimates, and hence will not be included in the mid-year population estimates.

Origins and destinations of migrants

Figure 4.2 illustrates the trend in flows of people to and from the rest of the UK since 1981. This year saw the first rise in in-migration since the peak in 2004, whilst the downward trend in out-migration has continued.

Figure 4.2 Movements to/from the rest of the UK, 1981 to 2008

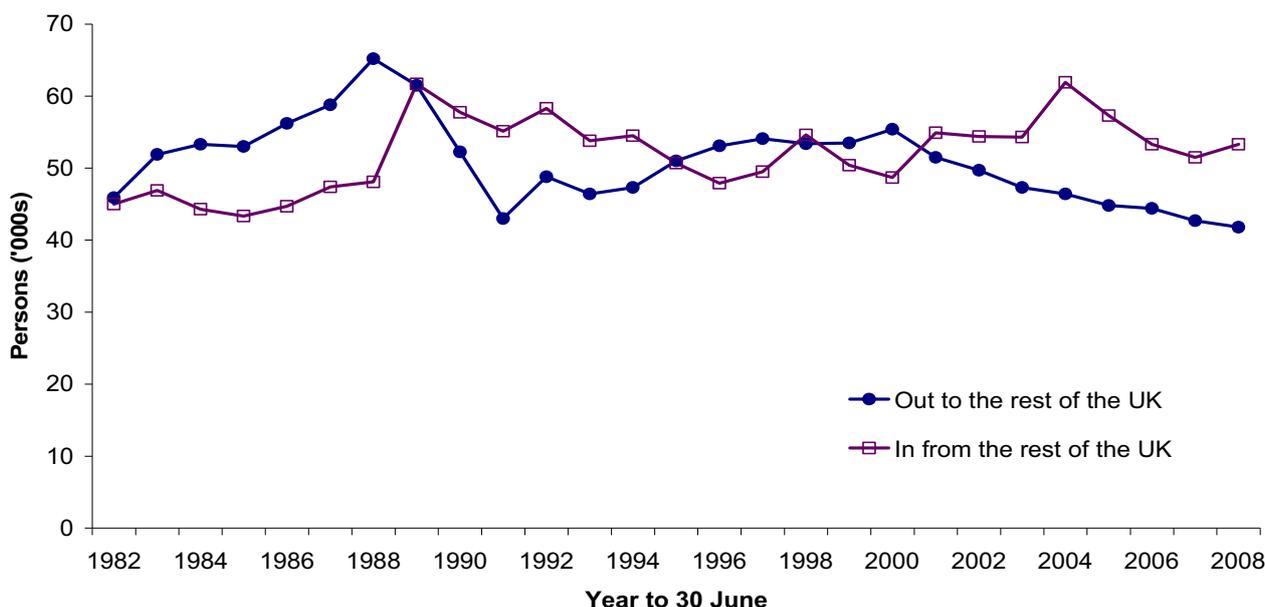
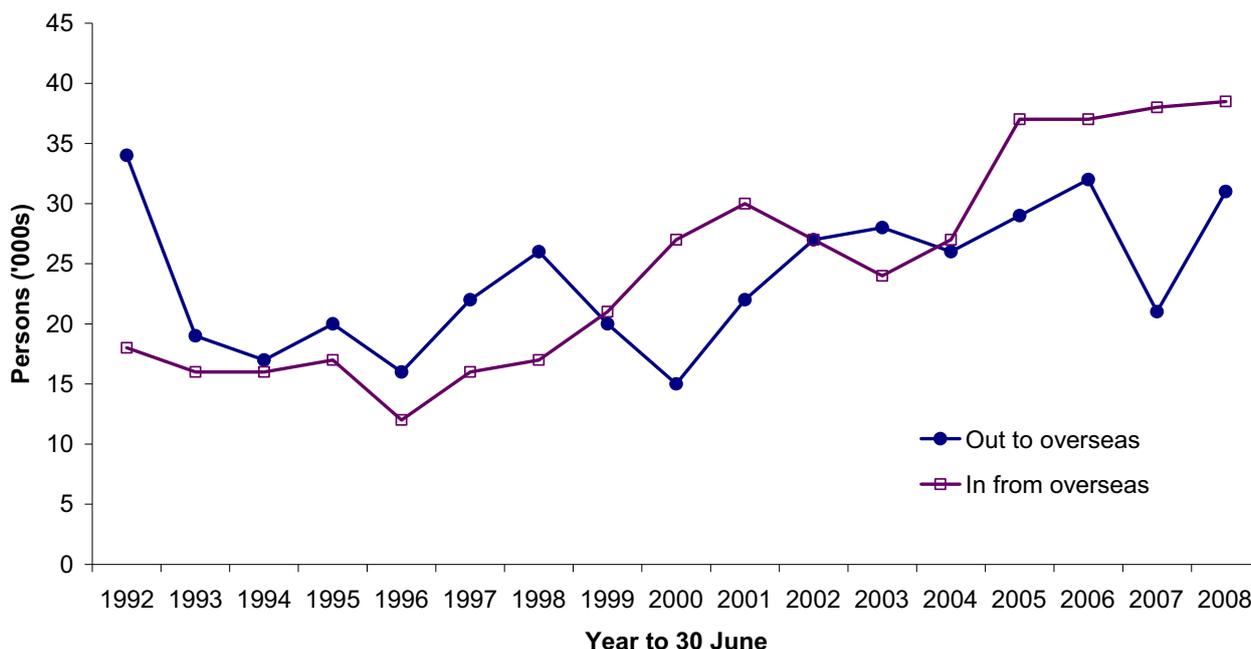


Figure 4.3 shows the trends in flows of people to and from overseas since 1991. In-migration from overseas has been increasing since 2002 and is currently at its highest level since the series began in 1991. Out-migration to overseas has returned to the level recorded two years ago, following low out-migration last year. The figures shown here are from the Total International Migration (TIM) series produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The TIM figures have been used to estimate overseas migration to and from Scotland for only the last two years, so GROS estimates for international migration from earlier years may not match those presented here.

Figure 4.3 Movements to/from overseas, 1991 to 2008



Source: ONS Total International Migration.

Table 4.1 shows that 93 per cent of people coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK came from England. The biggest in flows were of people from the North West, the South East and London. In flows from Wales and Northern Ireland accounted for four and three percent of the total respectively. The proportions of people going to Wales, Northern Ireland and the areas of England from Scotland were similar to those coming from those areas. Scotland gained migrants from every part of the UK except Northern Ireland.

Table 4.1 Movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK by Country and Region, mid-2007 to mid-2008

	Rest of UK inflow 2007-08	% of inflow	Rest of UK outflow 2007-08	% of outflow	Net
England	49,596	93	37,992	91	11,604
North East	4,452	8	3,450	8	1,002
North West	8,085	15	5,893	14	2,192
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,451	10	3,966	9	1,485
East Midlands	3,687	7	2,624	6	1,063
West Midlands	3,650	7	2,650	6	1,000
East	4,736	9	3,405	8	1,331
London	7,496	14	6,414	15	1,082
South East	7,806	15	5,880	14	1,926
South West	4,233	8	3,710	9	523
Wales	1,909	4	1,491	4	418
Northern Ireland	1,822	3	2,335	6	-513
Total	53,327	100	41,818	100	11,509

Age and sex of migrants

Figure 4.4 illustrates the age distribution for people moving between Scotland and the rest of the UK between mid-2007 and mid-2008. The peak age for migration into Scotland is 19, at which age there is a marked migration gain. The peak ages for migrating out of Scotland on the other hand are 23 and 24 and this results in a migration loss at these ages. This results from an influx of students from outside Scotland starting higher education, followed by a further move after graduation.

Figure 4.4 Movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK, by age, mid-2007 to mid-2008

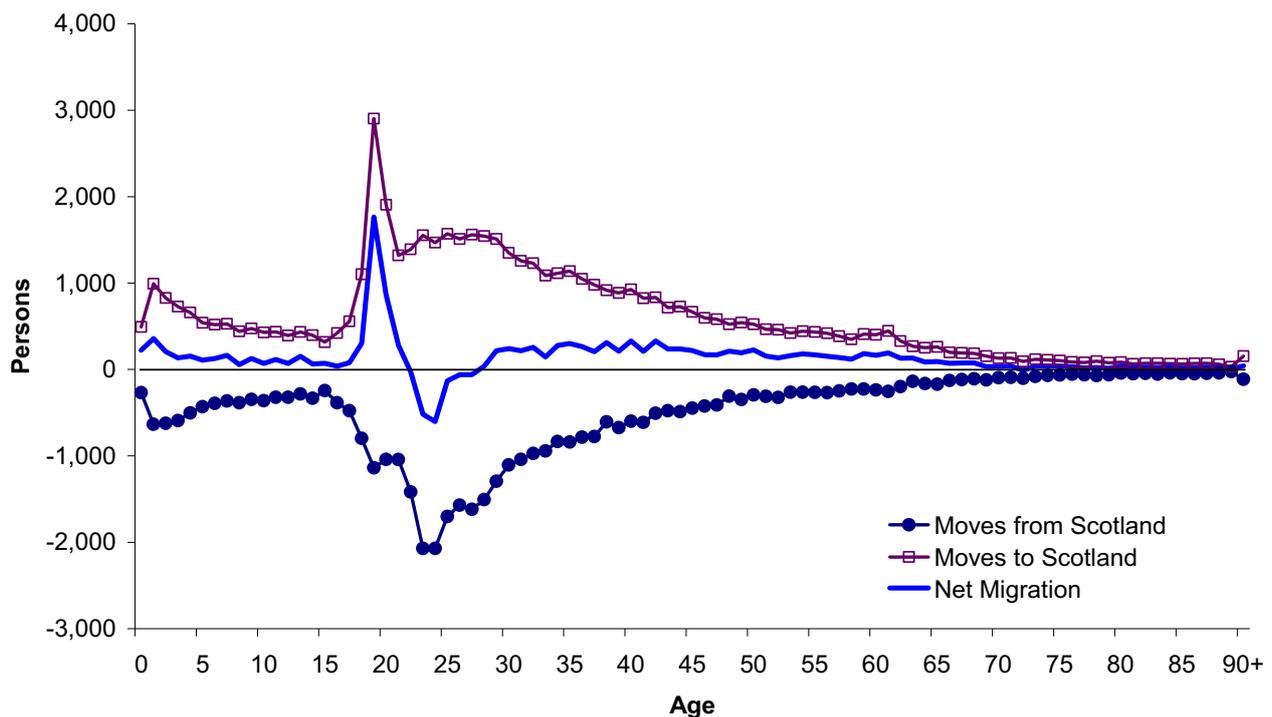
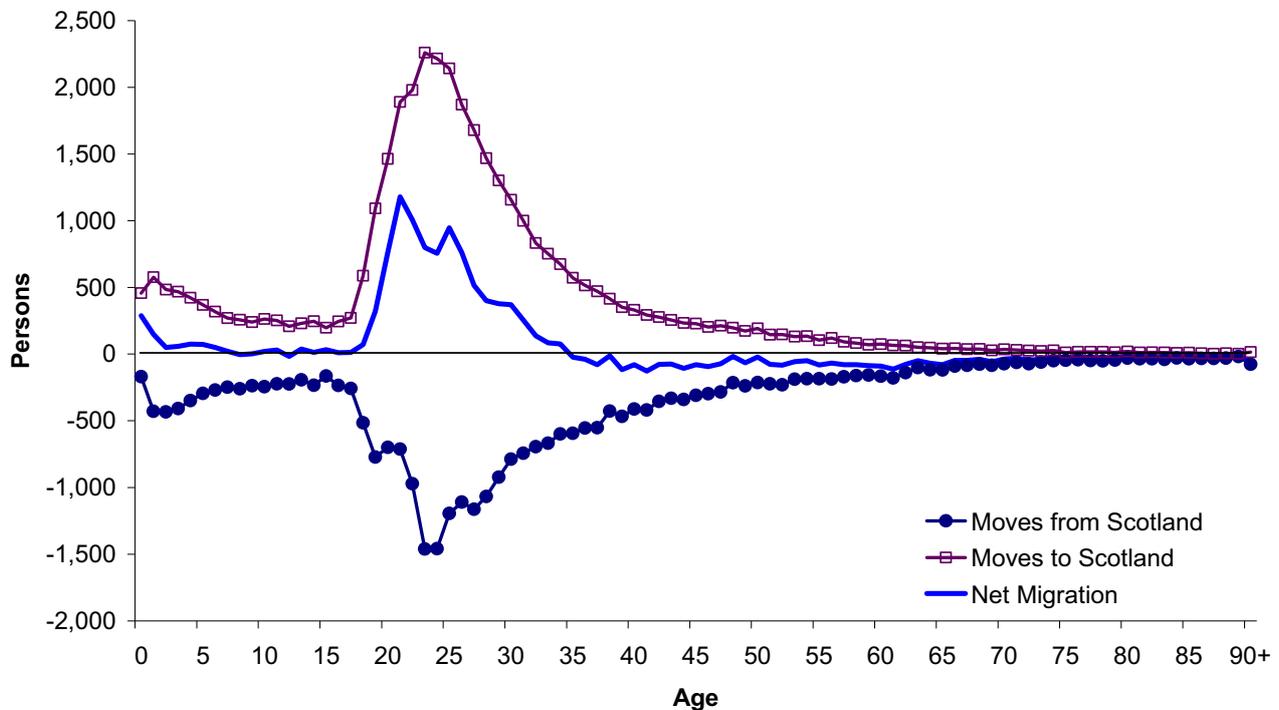


Figure 4.5 shows the age distribution for people moving between Scotland and overseas between mid-2007 and mid-2008. In contrast to moves to Scotland from the rest of the UK, the peak age for migration into Scotland is 23 and there are high numbers of migrants from age 19 to 30. This results in a net migration gain of young adults through to age 35.

Figure 4.5 Movements between Scotland and overseas, by age, mid-2007 to mid-2008



For both rest of the UK and overseas moves, there also tend to be smaller peaks for moves of the very young, under the age of 5, as their parents move home before their children have started school. Later in life, there is no significant "retirement migration" in either direction. The pattern of migration is very similar for men and women.

Table 4.2 shows movements to/from the UK and overseas between mid-2007 and mid-2008 by age group. Migrants tend to be much younger than the general population: 48 per cent of in-migrants from the rest of the UK and 68 per cent of those from overseas are aged 16-34, compared with 24 per cent of the resident population. Only 6 per cent of people coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK were aged 65 and over, as were an estimated 1 per cent of overseas migrants. Scotland had a net gain of UK migrants in every age-group and international migrants at every age-group to 35.

Table 4.2 Rest of UK/Overseas moves by age group: 2007-2008

Numbers

Movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK¹

	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages
IN	8,110	12,203	13,092	8,429	5,049	3,640	1,563	800	441	53,327
OUT	6,089	9,807	12,274	6,153	3,330	2,210	1,082	550	323	41,818
NET	2,021	2,396	818	2,276	1,719	1,430	481	250	118	11,509

Movements between Scotland and Overseas (including asylum seekers, excluding unmeasured migration adjustment)²

	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages
IN	5,564	12,534	13,356	3,901	1,826	794	342	141	42	38,500
OUT	4,426	7,198	9,209	4,579	2,419	1,571	772	401	225	30,800
NET	1,138	5,336	4,147	-678	-593	-777	-430	-260	-183	7,700

Total net migration (including asylum seekers, movements to and from the armed forces and rounding adjustments)³

	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages
NET	3,332	7,507	5,283	1,944	1,215	681	58	-9	-58	19,953

Percentages

Movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK¹

	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages
IN	15	23	25	16	9	7	3	2	1	100
OUT	15	23	29	15	8	5	3	1	1	100

Movements between Scotland and Overseas (including asylum seekers and movements to and from armed forces)²

	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages
IN	14	33	35	10	5	2	1	0	0	100
OUT	14	23	30	15	8	5	3	1	1	100

¹ National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) patient movements mid-2007 to mid-2008.

² Totals are based primarily on International Passenger Survey (IPS) data. However, the sample size in Scotland is too small to give an age breakdown so an age distribution is assumed using NHSCR data.

³ Note that the movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK and overseas will not sum to the total net migration as they exclude movements to and from the armed forces and rounding adjustments.

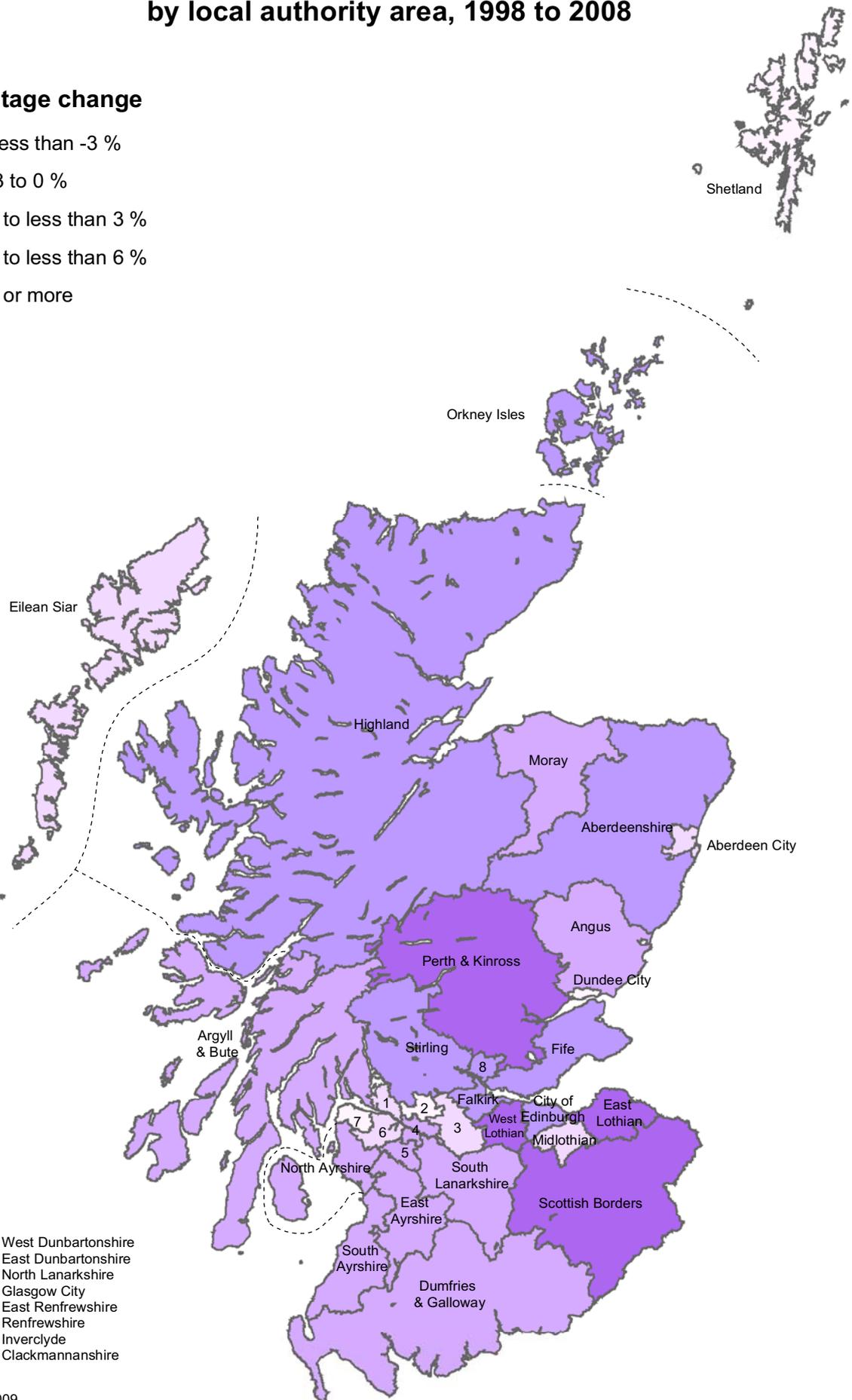
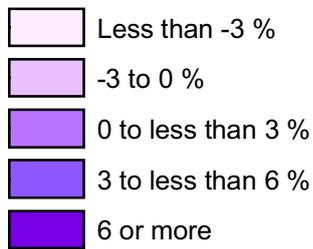
Migration and the distribution of people in Scotland

In many parts of Scotland, migration is the most important component of population change. Net migration rates (here, the amount of net migration between 1998 and 2008 as a proportion of the 1998 population) are a useful indicator when comparing migration between areas of different sizes. Information on net rates for Council areas is shown in [Figure 4.6](#).

The patterns of migration over the period 1998 to 2008 indicate that the highest net out-migration rates were in Shetland Islands, East Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde. The highest net in-migration rates were in Perth & Kinross, East Lothian and Scottish Borders.

Figure 4.6 Net migration as percentage of population by local authority area, 1998 to 2008

Percentage change



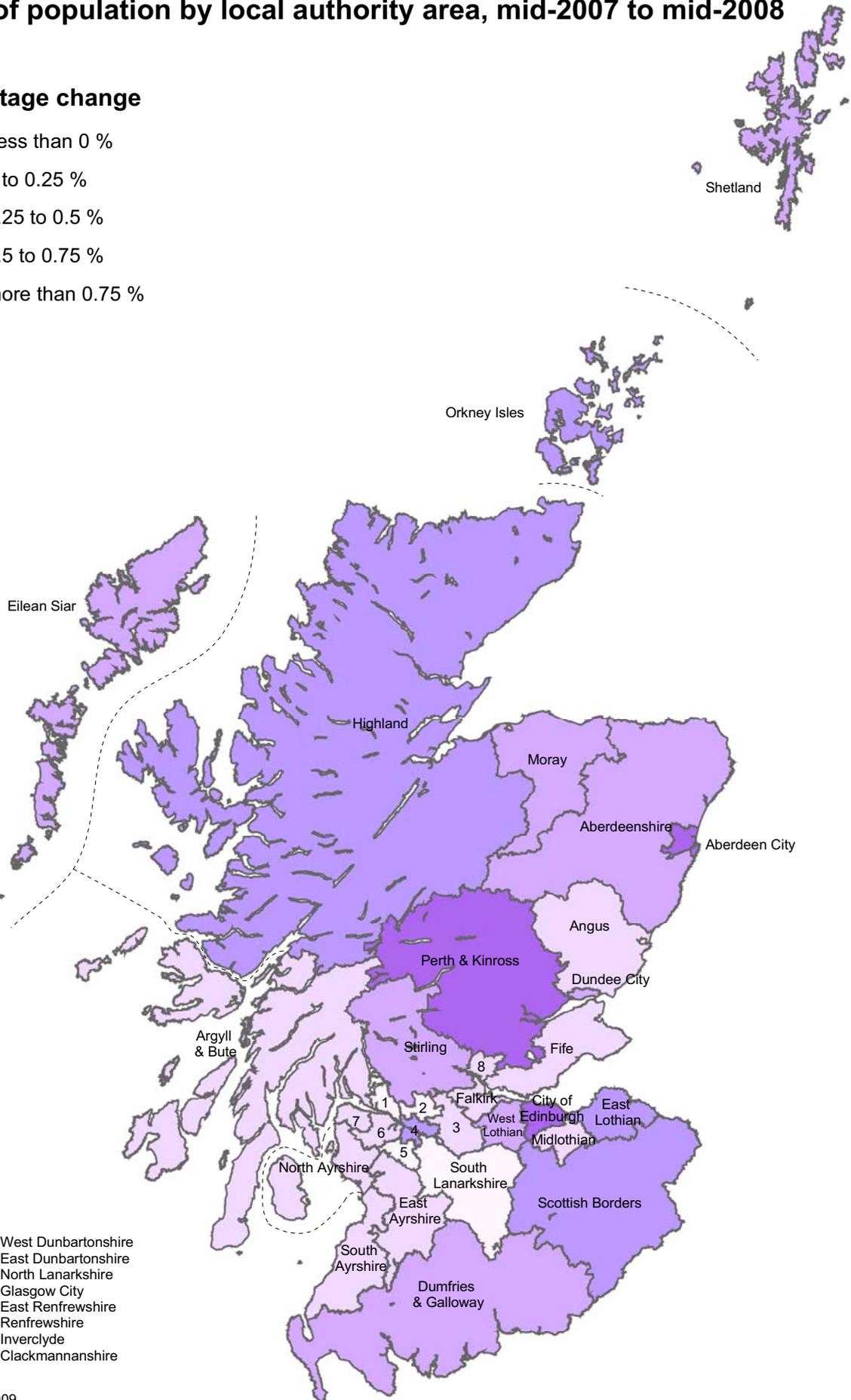
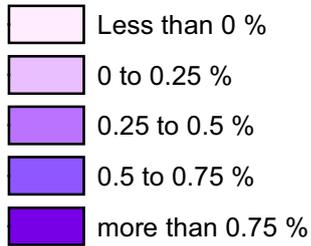
1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire

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The role of outside Scotland migration shows a slightly different pattern. Migration between mid-2007 and mid-2008 to and from areas outside Scotland, as a proportion of the resident population, is shown in [Figure 4.7](#). The highest net in-migration rates were in the city areas of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow as well as Perth & Kinross and Highland. The highest net out-migration rates were in East Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire.

Figure 4.7 Net migration with areas outside Scotland as percentage of population by local authority area, mid-2007 to mid-2008

Percentage change



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Improvements in migration statistics

Since the early 2000s, and especially since Eastern European countries joined the EU in May 2004, migration has played a larger part in Scotland's demographic change than in the previous decade. So it has become more important to have high quality statistics on migration and the population, for policy development and for planning and providing public services. GROS is part of an inter-departmental effort, led by the Office of National Statistics, to improve the estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at a local level. The Improvements to Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) cross-government programme involves:

- Improving the data available on numbers entering and leaving the United Kingdom;
- Making effective use of new and existing administrative and survey data sources;
- Improving local population estimates and projections used in allocating resources and developing services;
- Improving the public reporting of population and migration statistics;
- Establishing a wider range of timely indicators and analysis to inform the evidence base on migration and its impacts on policy and public services.

Within Scotland, we plan to use the improved statistical information thus available, to improve progressively the population estimates and projections which we prepare and publish. This includes:

- The estimation of short term migrant numbers for Scotland;
- A review of the method of allocation of international migrants to council areas;
- The development of indicators of migration at local authority level and early indications of changes in population trends;
- Increased accuracy of estimates of migration, thanks to improvements to the design and sample size of the International Passenger Survey;
- Better quality and more comprehensive information of passenger numbers and movements to and from the UK (although not their destination within the UK), from the e-Borders programme;
- Information on non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals intending to work or study in the UK from the Points Based System.

Chapter 5 – Marriages and civil partnerships

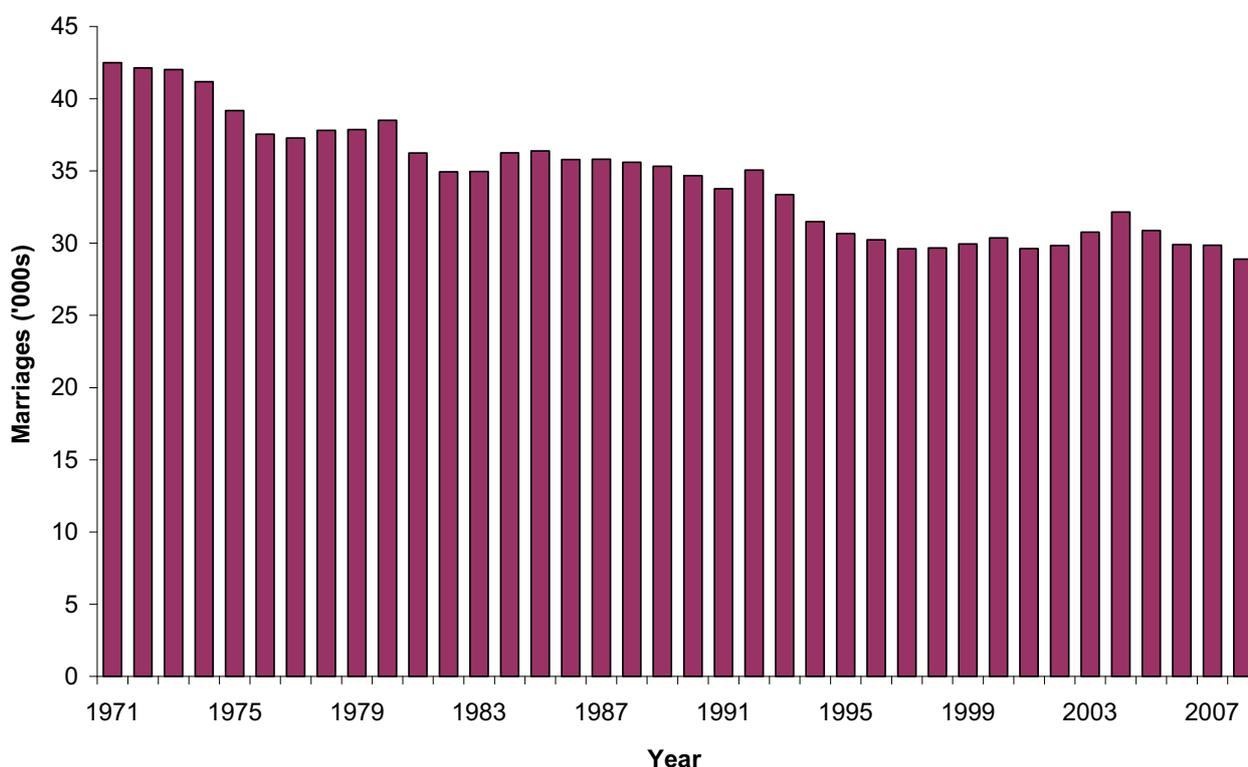
Marriages

There were 28,903 marriages in Scotland in 2008, 963 (3.2 per cent) fewer than in 2007. Figure 5.1 shows that, following a decline from over 40,000 marriages a year in the early 1970s, the annual total has levelled out at around 30,000. The highest total recorded in recent years was 32,154 in 2004 whilst the 2008 total is the lowest since Victorian times.

The information in this section covers all marriages registered in Scotland, regardless of where the bride and groom lived. In 2008, there were 7,354 marriages (25 per cent) where neither the bride nor groom was resident in Scotland. This represents a slight fall from 7,959 (27 per cent) in 2007. Gretna continues to be a popular venue for marriages, though the 4,157 registered in 2008 was a quarter down on the record total of 5,555 in 2004. In 2008, 85 per cent (3,536) of the marriages at Gretna did not involve a Scots resident.

Of course, many couples who live in Scotland go abroad to be married. These marriages are not included, and only some come to the attention of the Registrar General through notification to British consular authorities.

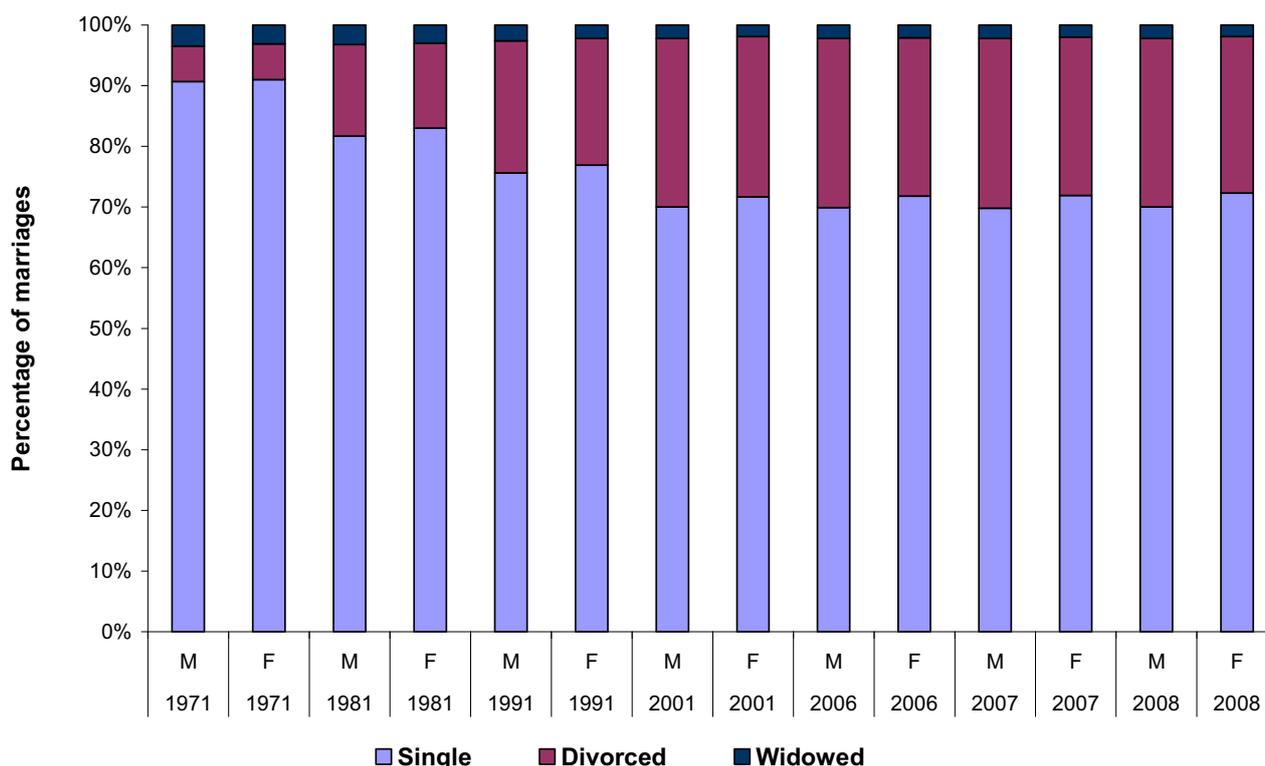
Figure 5.1 Marriages, Scotland, 1971-2008



Marital status at marriage

Figure 5.2 shows the percentage of marriages by marital status at the time of marriage between 1971 and 2008. The percentage of people marrying who had been divorced rose from just under 6 per cent in 1971, to over a quarter in 2008 (28 per cent for grooms and 26 per cent for brides). The majority of this shift reflects a reduction in the proportion of marriages where one of the partners had never been married. However, the proportion of those marrying who were widowed has also declined slightly in 2008, the proportion was just over 2 per cent whereas it was just over 3 per cent in 1971.

Figure 5.2 Marriages, by marital status and sex of persons marrying, 1971-2008



Age at marriage

The average age at marriage continues to rise for both males and females. For first marriages, the average age of grooms who were bachelors has risen from 29.8 in 1998 to 32.5 in 2008; the comparable figures for brides who were spinsters are 27.9 in 1998 and 30.6 in 2008.

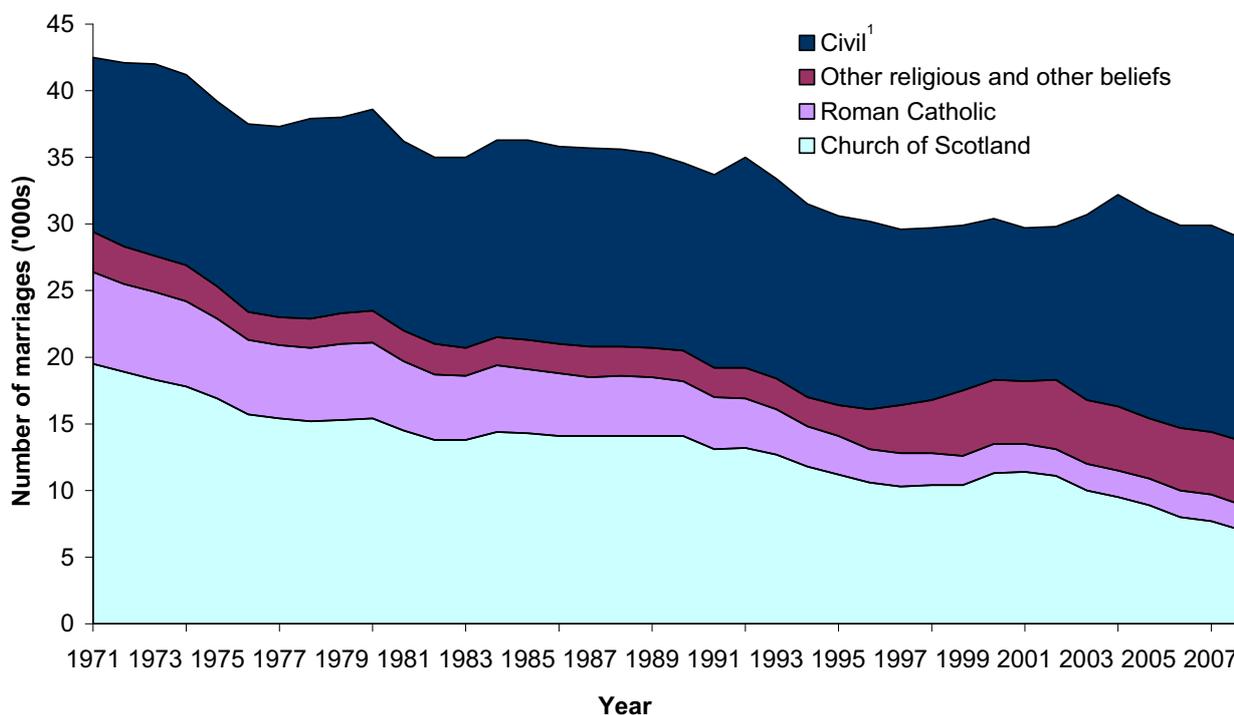
Marriages by type of ceremony

All civil marriages are conducted by registrars, and they have wide discretion over the form of the ceremony, to meet couples' wishes, as long as there are no religious references. There were 15,201 civil marriages in 2008, when they accounted for just over half (53 per cent) of all marriages compared to just under one-third (31 per cent) in 1971 (Figure 5.3). The trend mainly reflects a decline in the number of religious ceremonies during the past thirty to forty years. The small increase in religious marriages observed during the period 1997-2002 was largely associated with the increase of 'tourism' marriages, of which a significant proportion were carried out at Gretna.

Religious and other belief system marriages are conducted by a wide range of celebrants. The largest number of religious marriages were carried out by ministers of the Church of Scotland, who conducted 7,007 marriages in 2008. The other celebrants conducting at least 500 marriages in 2008 were the Roman Catholic Church 1,873, Humanist Society of Scotland 1,026, Scottish Episcopal Church and other churches of the Anglican Communion 727, Assemblies of God 671 and the Methodist Church in Scotland 525.

Humanist celebrants have been authorised to conduct marriages in Scotland since 2005 and, in 2008, they officiated at 1,026 marriages, compared with 710 in 2007 and 434 in 2006.

Figure 5.3 Marriages, by type of ceremony, 1971-2008



¹Civil marriages includes very small numbers of 'irregular' marriages established by Decree of Declaration of the Court of Session.

Until 2002, civil marriages could only be held in registration offices. The Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 allowed registrars to conduct ceremonies in other approved places, from June 2002. In June 2009, there were more than 700 approved venues in Scotland, including castles, hotels, clubs and a small number of outdoor venues in gardens or the countryside.

During 2008, 8,003 civil ceremonies (28 per cent of all marriages and 53 per cent of civil marriages) were conducted at these 'approved places'. Although showing very little change from the 7,987 ceremonies in 2007, this represented an increase of 131 per cent on 2003, the first full year of the new arrangements. There has been a corresponding decrease in the number of religious marriages, from 16,890 in 2003 to 13,702 in 2008.

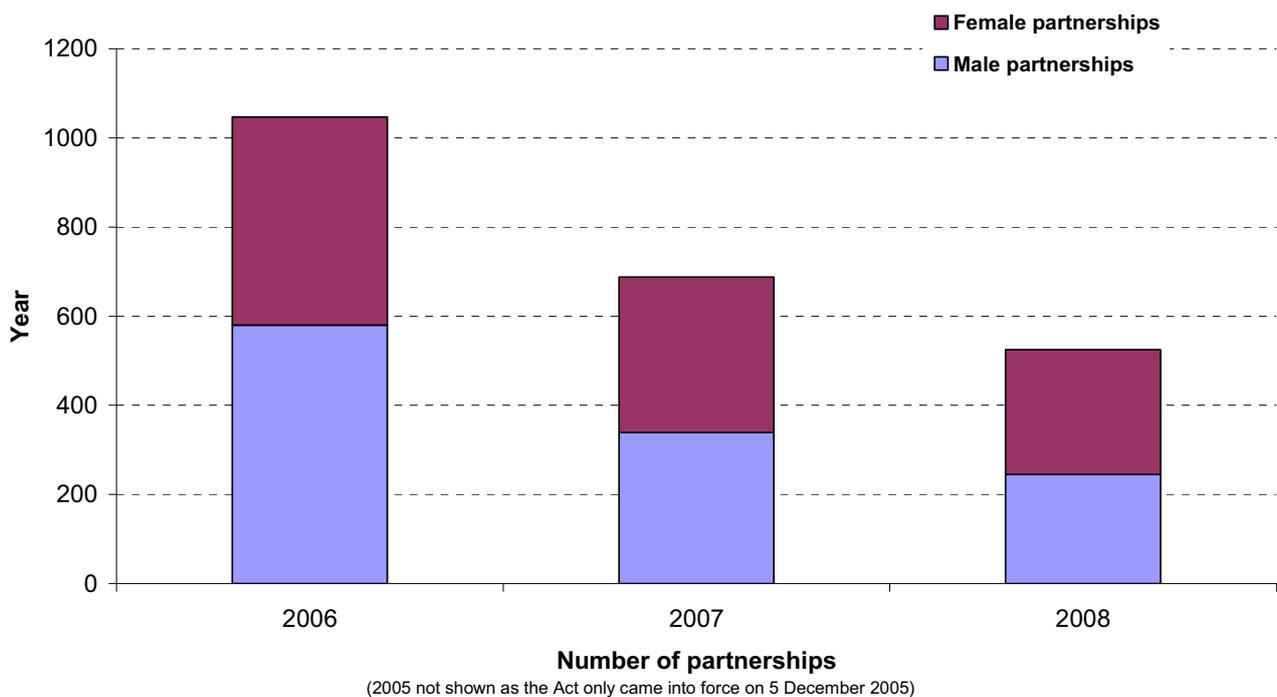
In 2008, 61 per cent of the religious marriages were celebrated in places of worship while just under half (47 per cent) of civil marriages took place in registration offices. Hotels were the venue for about 1,900 religious and 3,300 civil ceremonies, while approximately 900 religious and 700 civil marriages took place in castles and other historic buildings. 64 religious and 103 civil marriages were held on ships and barges or close to water.

Civil Partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act 2004, which applies throughout the UK, came into force on 5 December 2005, allowing same-sex couples to register their partnership.

During 2006, the first full year of operation, 1,047 partnerships were registered in Scotland. In 2007, 688 partnerships were registered - this decrease was expected, because many long-standing relationships would have been registered as civil partnerships in the first full year of registration in 2006. In 2008 there was a further decrease to 525 registered civil partnerships – 245 male couples and 280 female couples (Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4 Civil partnerships, 2006-2008



Chapter 6 - Divorces and dissolutions

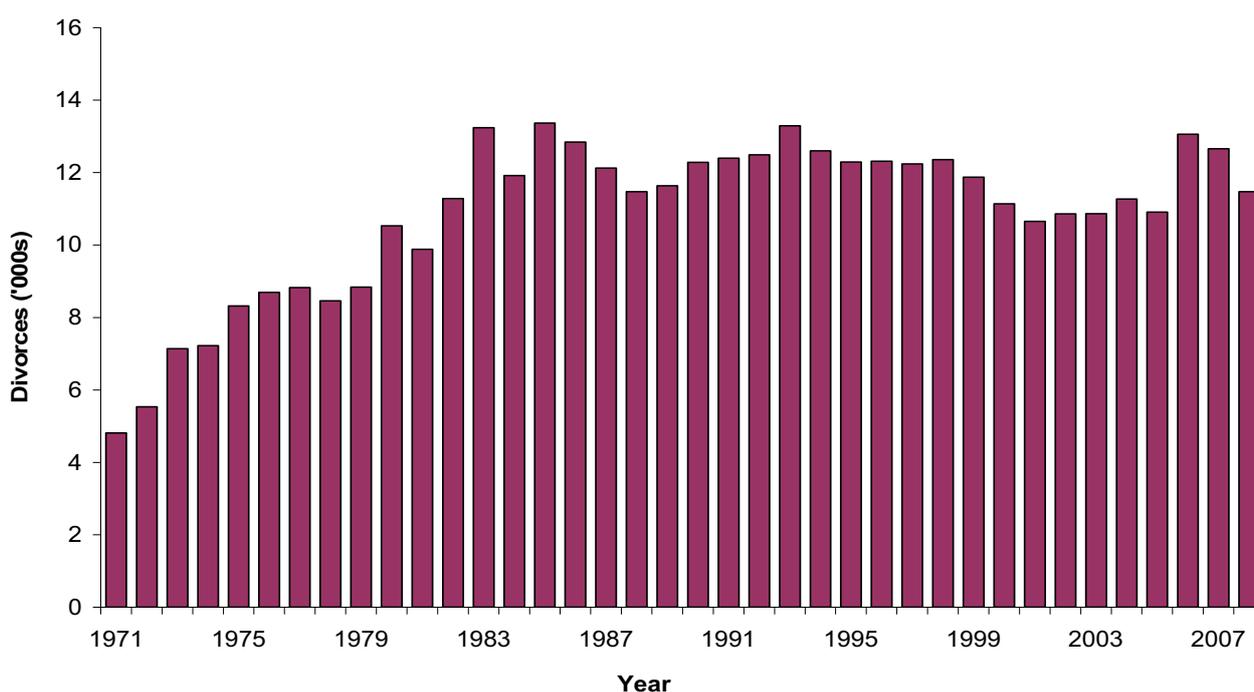
Number of Divorces

The number of divorces in 2008 was 11,474, 10 per cent (1,336) fewer than the 12,810 in 2007. Changes to divorce legislation were introduced by the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006. The changes, which came into effect on 4 May 2006, reduced separation periods for divorce with consent to one year (previously two years) and without consent to two years (previously five years).

Figure 6.1 shows the number of divorces between 1971 and 2008. There was a marked increase in the number of divorces up to a peak of over 13,365 in 1985. Recent years have seen a slight fall from the levels recorded in the late 1980s and 1990s - perhaps because more couples are cohabiting without getting married, since divorce proceedings are not necessary to sever such relationships. The recent peak in 2006 (13,075 divorces), the highest figure since 1993, and the subsequent decreases in annual figures, were expected as a result of the change in legislation, because some divorces which were finalised under the new arrangements in 2006 would, under the old arrangements, have taken place in later years.

The information in this report covers divorces granted in Scotland, regardless of where the marriage took place. Divorces are now counted in the year in which the decree was granted. This is a change from previous reports, when a small proportion of divorces (broadly speaking, those for which GROS received the data more than two months after the end of the year in which the decrees were granted) were counted against the year in which GROS processed the records. The method of producing the figures has now been corrected, and the series has been revised back to 1985, so that it now gives the numbers of divorces which were granted in each year from 1985.

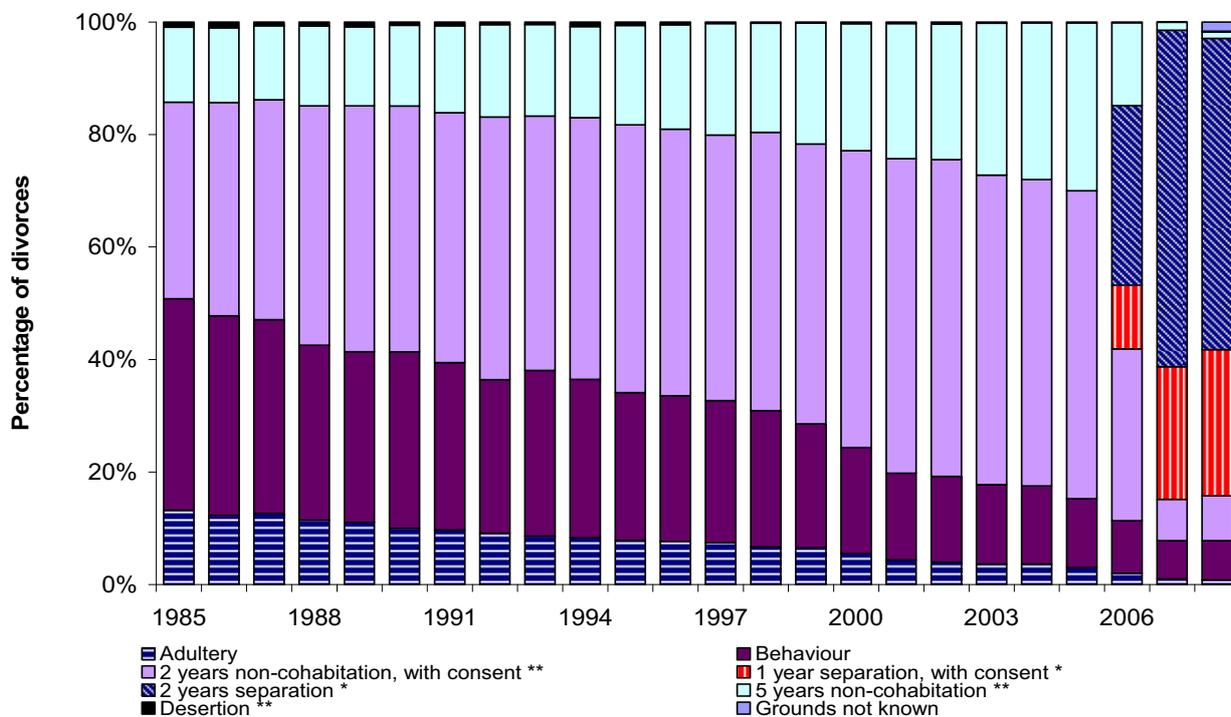
Figure 6.1 Divorces, Scotland, 1971-2008



Grounds for divorce

Figure 6.2 shows the trends in grounds for divorce between 1985 and 2008. From 2006 to 2008, it includes the new categories introduced by the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006. Non-cohabitation / separation was the most frequent reason for divorce, accounting for 90 per cent of all divorces in 2008, nearly double the 48 per cent attributed to the non-cohabitation categories in 1985. Behaviour as the stated reason for divorce fell from 38 per cent in 1985 to 7 per cent and adultery as the stated reason fell from 13 per cent to less than 1 per cent. Since Autumn 2008, a new category of 'grounds not known' has been used for the divorces for which GROS has not been informed of the grounds. These cases were previously included under one of the 'known' grounds.

Figure 6.2 Divorces, by grounds for divorce, Scotland, 1985-2008



* New categories introduced with effect from 4 May 2006 by the Family Law (Scotland) Act, 2006

** Categories not used for divorce applications made after 4 May 2006

Divorces by marital status

Of those divorcing in 2008, 17 per cent of men and 16 percent of women had divorced previously. This compares with 10 per cent for men and 9 per cent for women in 1985. This is consistent with the increase in the proportion of all marriages where one or both participants was divorced previously (now 2 in 5 marriages compared with 1 in 4 twenty years ago).

Duration of marriages that ended in divorce

In 2008 the median duration of marriage ending in divorce was 15 years, compared with 12 years in 1998 and 11 years in 1985. Again, this change is probably due to more couples cohabiting for longer without getting married, since relationships which end before marriage are not subject to divorce proceedings.

Divorce by age at marriage

In 2008, 22 per cent of all divorces involved couples where at least one of the partners was aged 20 or under when they married. This is a significant fall from 58 per cent in 1985, but not unexpected given that the proportion of marriages where at least one of the partners was aged 20 or under has fallen from 25 per cent in 1985 to 2 per cent in 2008.

Dissolutions of civil partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act 2004, which came into force on 5 December 2005, allows same-sex partnerships to be dissolved in the same way that marriages can be ended by divorce.

The first dissolution in Scotland was finalised in 2007. In 2008, 14 partnerships were dissolved by 3 male couples and 11 female couples.

Chapter 7 - Adoptions and gender recognition

Adoptions

The Registrar General recorded 418 adoptions during 2008 – 23 fewer than in 2007, and just over half the number recorded per year in the early 1990s, or around a quarter of the number recorded per year in the 1970s.

Twenty-eight per cent of the children adopted in 2008 were adopted by a step-parent and 67 per cent were adopted by non-relatives of the child. Only 14 per cent of children adopted in 2008 were aged under 2, nearly all being adopted by non-relatives. By contrast, only 13 per cent of the 85 adoptions of children aged 10 or over were by non-relatives.

Gender Recognition

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 came into force on 4 April 2005. The Act applies throughout the UK and enables transsexual people to apply to the Gender Recognition Panel to obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate. Successful applicants are considered from the date of issue of the Certificate to be legally of their acquired gender. A holder of a Gender Recognition Certificate is able to enjoy all the rights appropriate to a person of his or her acquired gender, including obtaining a new birth certificate showing his or her recognised legal gender.

The Registrar General for Scotland has set up a Gender Recognition Register in which the birth of a transsexual person whose acquired gender has been legally recognised is registered showing any new name(s) and the acquired gender. This enables the transsexual person to apply to the Registrar General for Scotland for a new birth certificate showing the new name(s) and the acquired gender. In 2008, there were 16 entries in the Gender Recognition Register, 14 fewer than in 2007. The Gender Recognition Register is not open to public scrutiny.

Chapter 8 - Households and housing

In mid-2008, there were 2.3 million households in Scotland – around 290,000 more than in 1991. The number of households in Scotland has been increasing steadily, by between 11,000 and 23,000 each year since 1991. The rate of growth has slowed in the past year; between 2007 and 2008, the increase in the number of households (17,500) was lower than in any other year for the last five years.

By 2031, the number of households in Scotland is projected to increase to 2.7 million, which is an average of 17,600 additional households per year. Most of the increase is the result of an ageing population and more people living alone or in smaller households, rather than an increase in the overall population. Looking to the future, there is a projected increase in the number of people in older age groups, with a fall in the number of younger people. This has an impact on household structure, as elderly people are more likely to live alone or with just one other person and children tend to live in larger households.

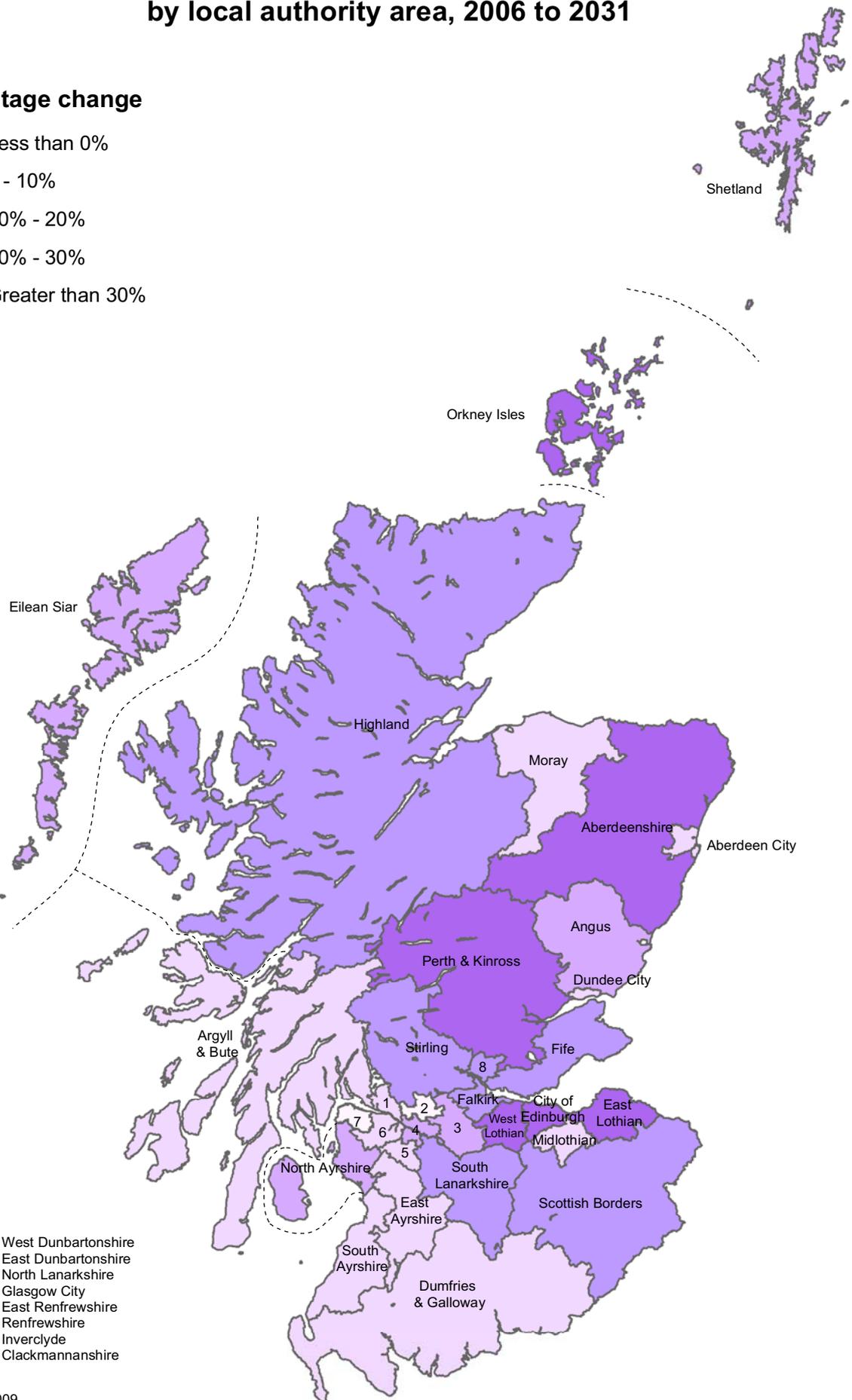
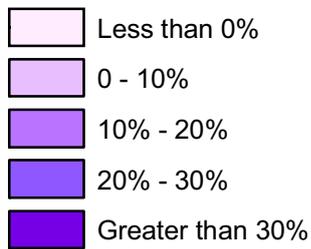
Variations within Scotland

Over the last five years, the number of households has increased in every local authority area in Scotland. These trends are predicted to continue, with the number of households in almost every local authority area projected to increase over the next 25 years. [Figure 8.1](#) shows the projected percentage change in the number of households in each local authority area between 2006 and 2031.

In some areas, the number of households is projected to rise markedly. In 14 of the 32 local authority areas, the number of households is projected to increase by at least 20 per cent. The largest projected increases are in Orkney, West Lothian and Edinburgh (all 35 per cent). Perth and Kinross, Aberdeenshire and East Lothian also have projected increases over 30 per cent. In contrast, Inverclyde has a projected decrease of three per cent over the same period, and East Dunbartonshire has a projected decrease of two per cent.

Figure 8.1 Projected percentage change in households by local authority area, 2006 to 2031

Percentage change



1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire

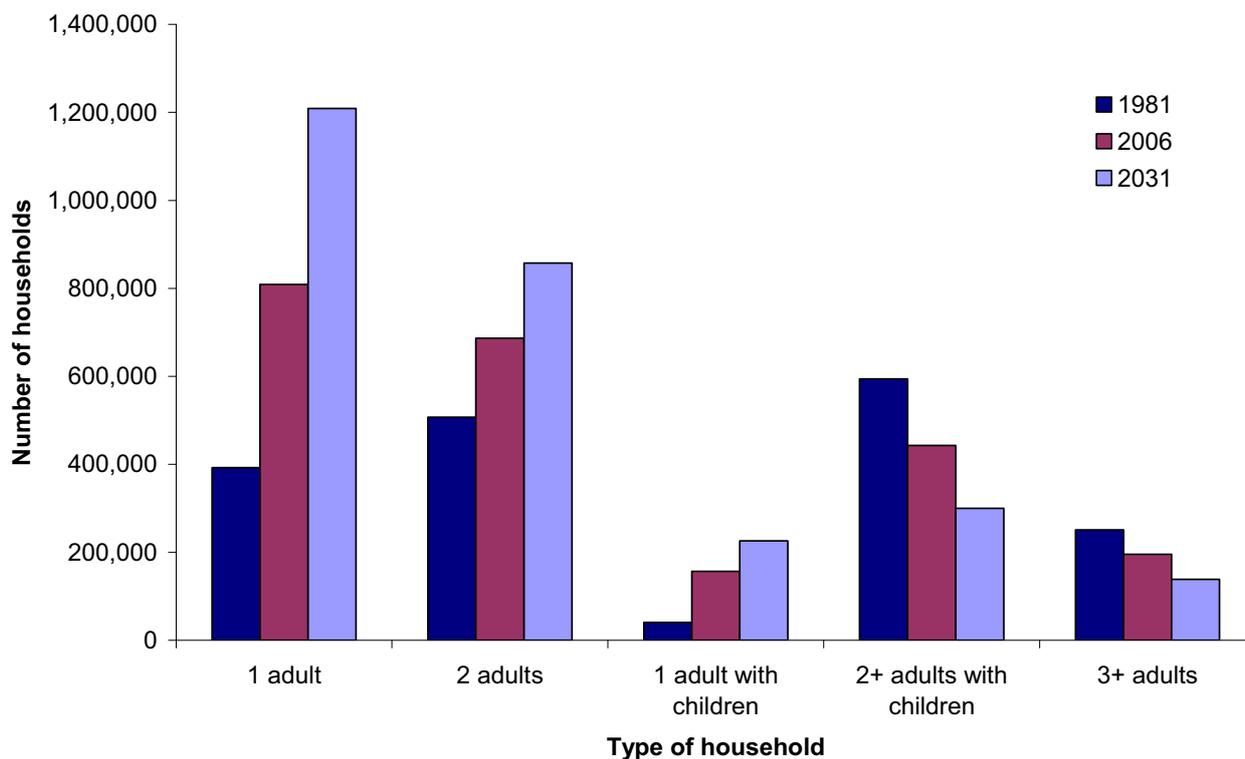
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Household type

Figure 8.2 shows the numbers of households of each type in 1981 and 2006 and the projected number in 2031. There is a substantial increase in households containing just one adult (a projected increase of nearly a half over the next 25 years). There are also increases in households with two adults (a projected increase of around a quarter), and households with one adult with children.

In contrast, the number of larger households is falling, with households containing two or more adults with children, or three or more adults, projected to decrease by almost a third over the next 25 years.

Figure 8. 2 Households in Scotland by household type: 1981, 2006 and 2031

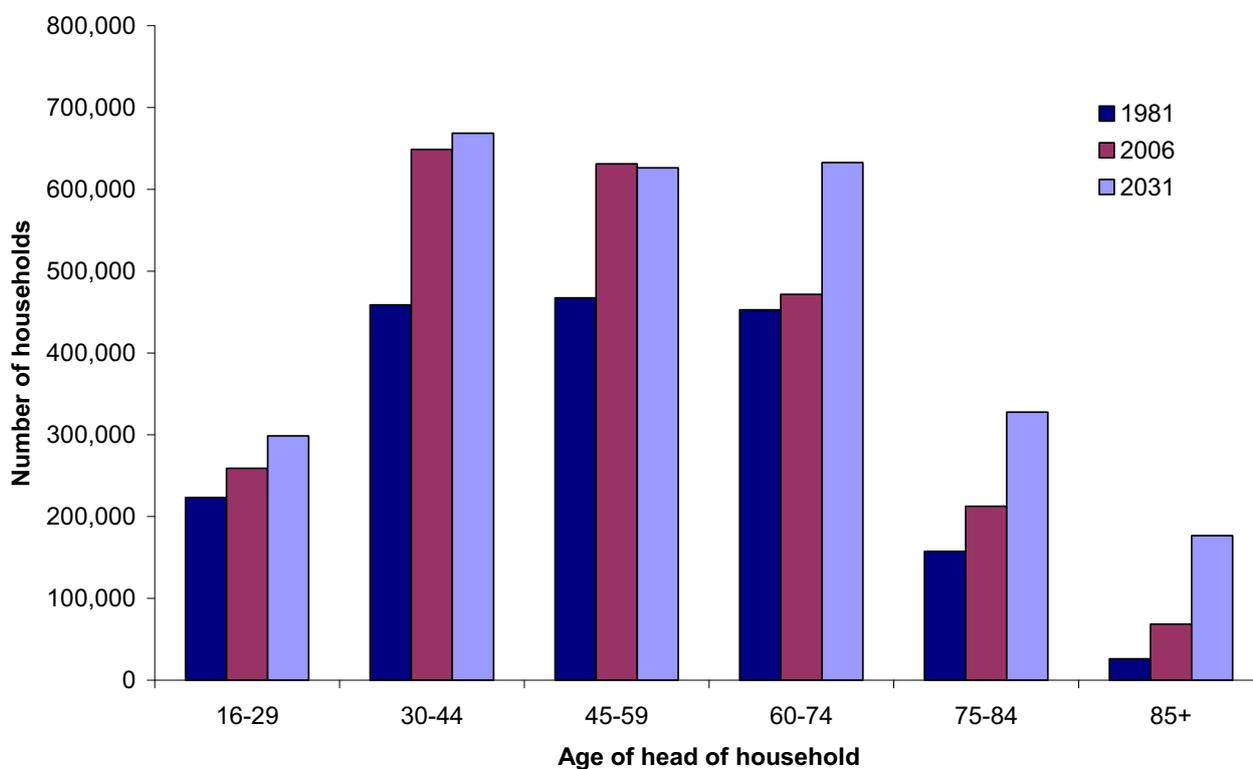


Age group

Figure 8.3 shows the number of households in 1981 and 2006 and the projected number in 2031, by the age of the head of household. The 'head of household' is normally the first person included on the Census form.

Scotland's population is ageing, with a projected increase in the number of people in the older age groups. This trend is reflected in the projected number of households, with the largest increases shown in households headed by people aged 60 or over (an increase of over 50 per cent, from 753,000 to 1,140,000, between 2006 and 2031). In contrast, households headed by someone aged under 60 are projected to increase by just four per cent, to around 1,590,000. The number of households headed by someone aged 85 or over is projected to more than double over the same period, from 69,000 to 177,000.

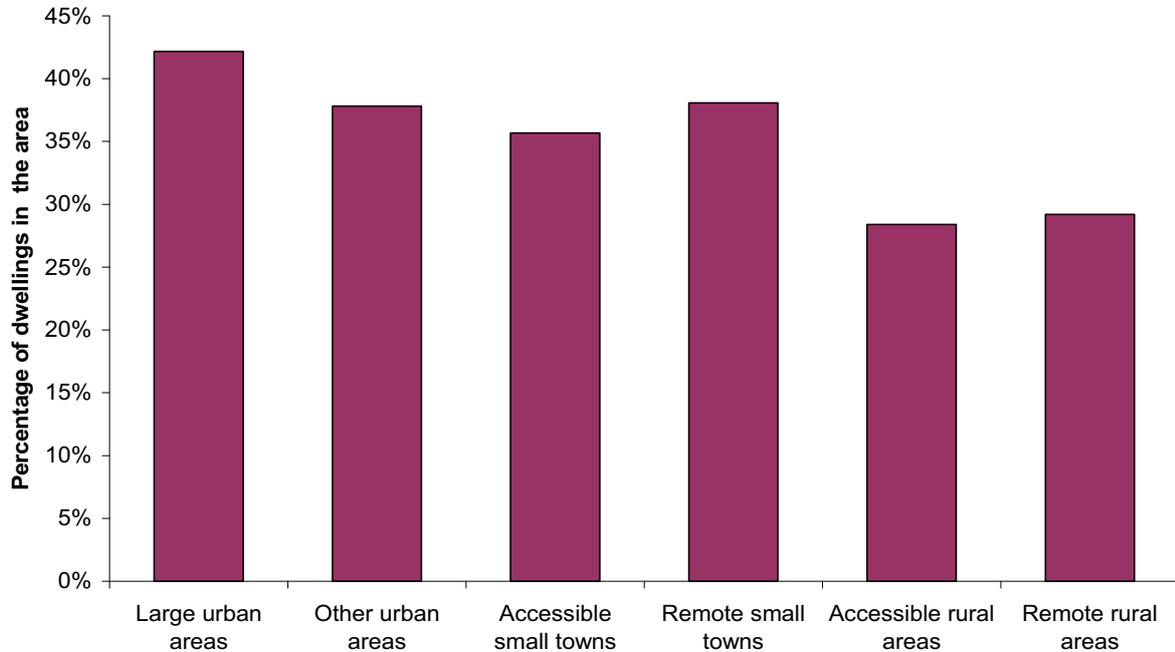
Figure 8.3 Households in Scotland by age of head of household: 1981, 2006 and 2031



One-adult households

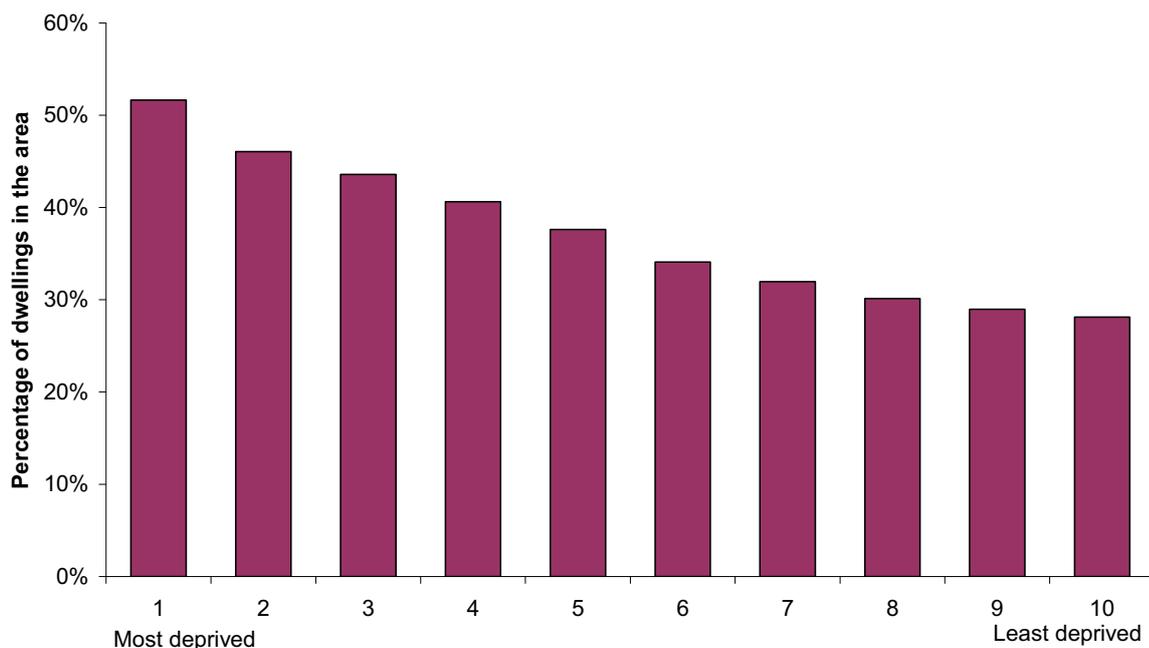
Thirty-eight per cent of dwellings in Scotland are entitled to a Council Tax discount because there is only one adult living there (alone or with children). There are more one-adult households in urban areas (42 per cent in large urban areas, compared to 29 per cent in remote rural areas) and in deprived areas (52 per cent in the most deprived areas, compared to 28 per cent in the least deprived areas), as illustrated in Figures 8.4 and 8.5.

Figure 8.4 One-adult households, by urban-rural classification, 2008



Dwellings entitled to a Council Tax discount, as there is only one adult living there (either alone or with children).

Figure 8.5 One-adult households, by level of deprivation, 2008



Dwellings entitled to a Council Tax discount, as there is only one adult living there (either alone or with children).

Type of housing

There are higher proportions of flats in urban areas, and in more deprived areas, as shown in Figures 8.6 and 8.7. In contrast, there are higher proportions of detached houses in rural areas, and in less deprived areas.

Figure 8.6 Dwelling type, by urban-rural classification, 2008

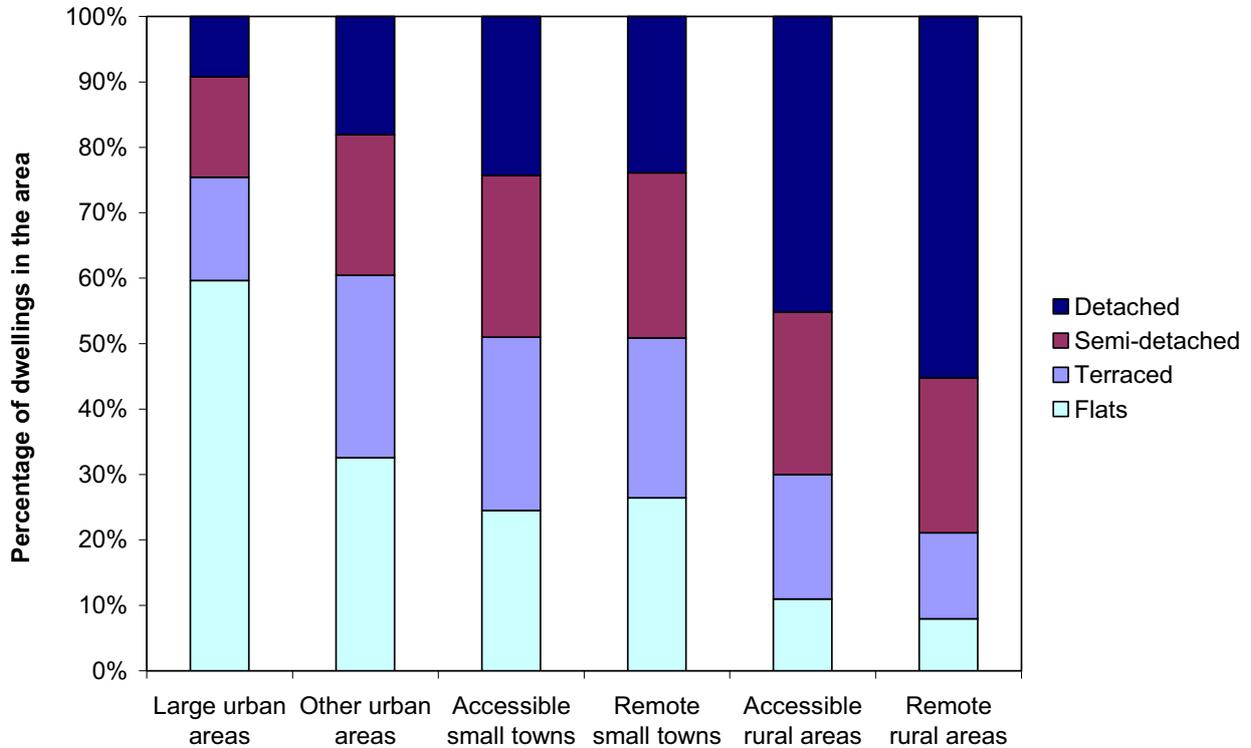
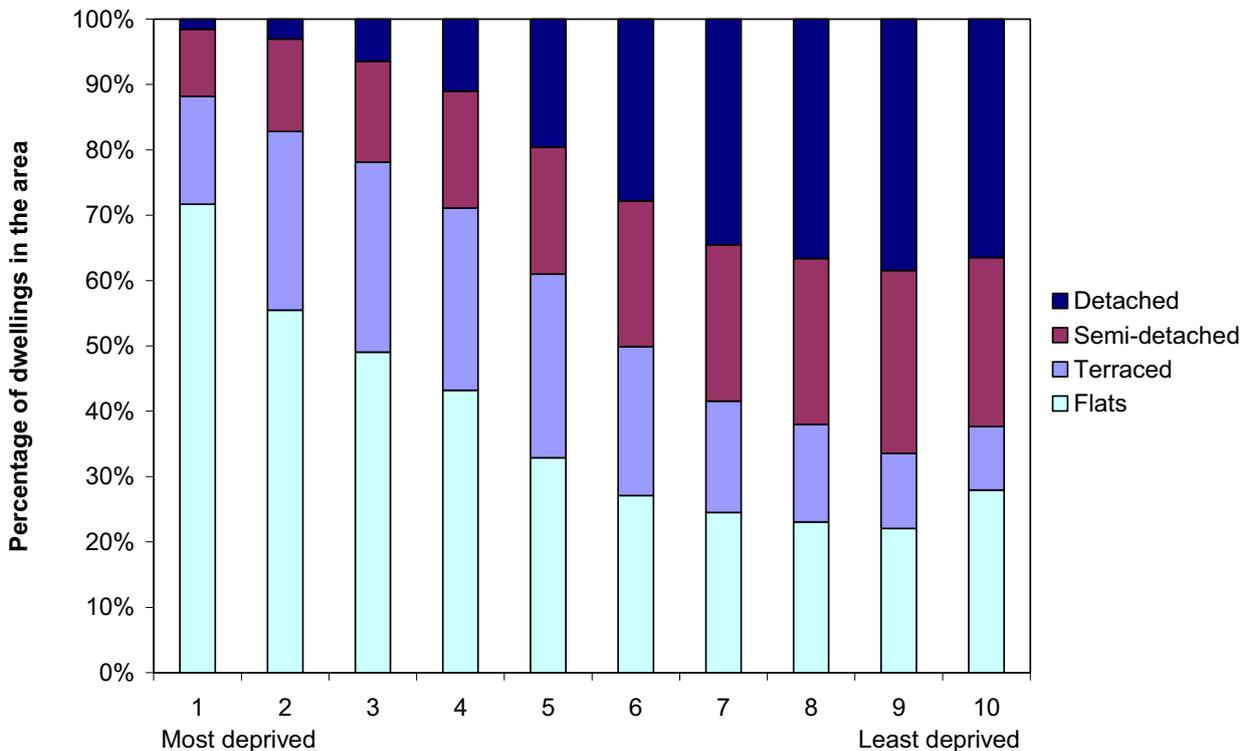


Figure 8.7 Dwelling type, by level of deprivation, 2008



Vacant dwellings and second homes

Across Scotland as a whole, 2.8 per cent of dwellings are vacant and 1.4 per cent are second homes, though there is wide variation across the country. The percentage of dwellings which are vacant or second homes has stayed fairly constant over the last ten years, at around four per cent of all dwellings.

Remote rural areas have the lowest percentage of dwellings which are occupied (88 per cent), with higher percentages of vacant dwellings (four per cent of all dwellings in these areas) and second homes (seven per cent), as shown in [Figure 8.8](#). The most deprived areas have the highest percentage of dwellings which are vacant (six per cent), as shown in [Figure 8.9](#). The local authority areas with the highest percentage of dwellings which are vacant are Dundee City, Inverclyde, and the island authorities.

Figure 8.8 Vacant dwellings and second homes, by urban-rural classification, 2008

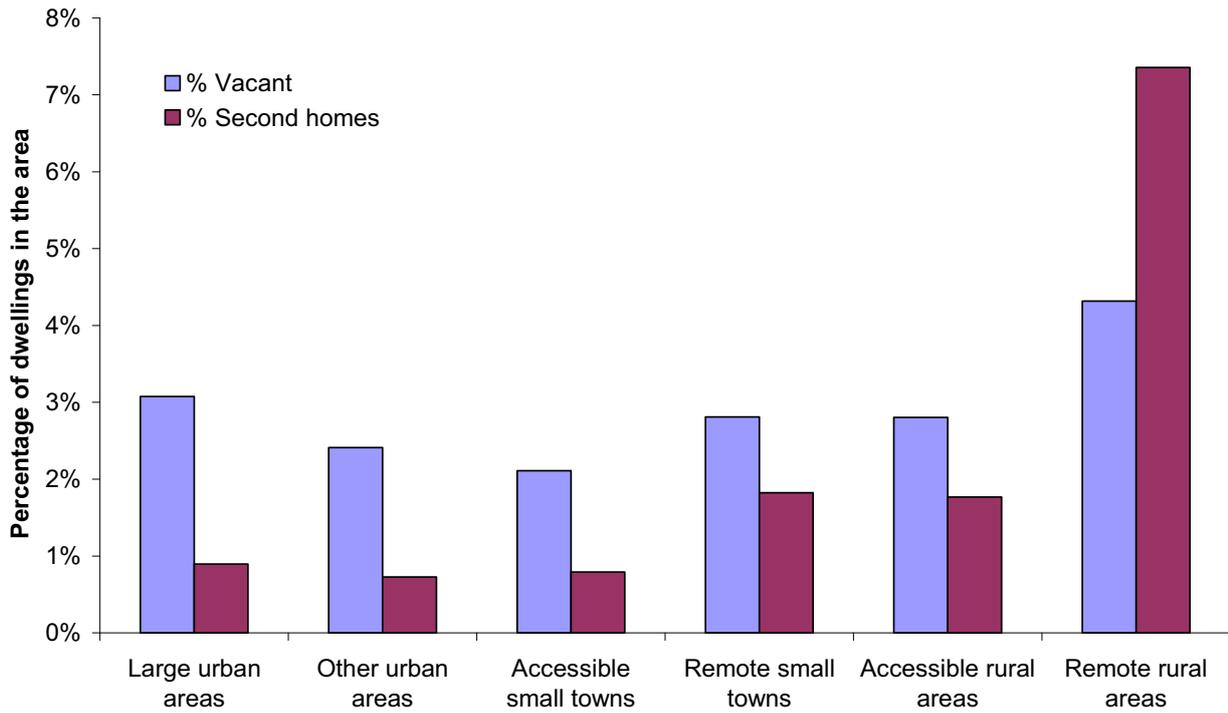


Figure 8.9 Vacant dwellings and second homes, by level of deprivation, 2008

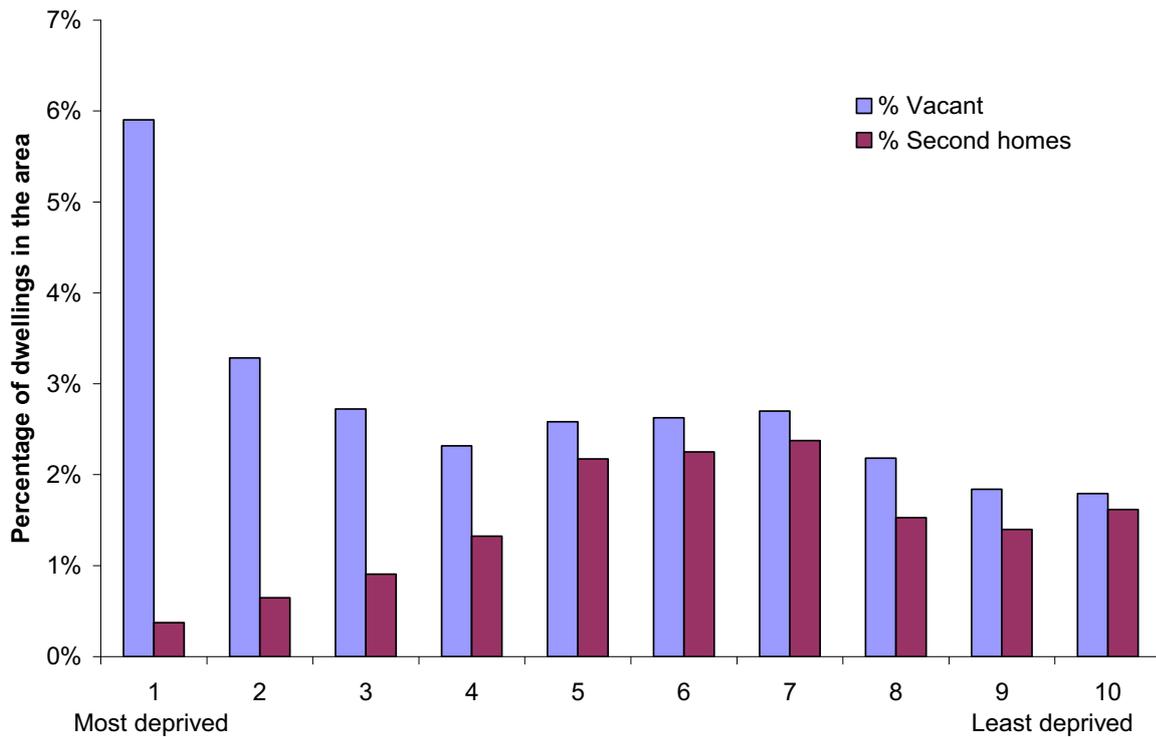
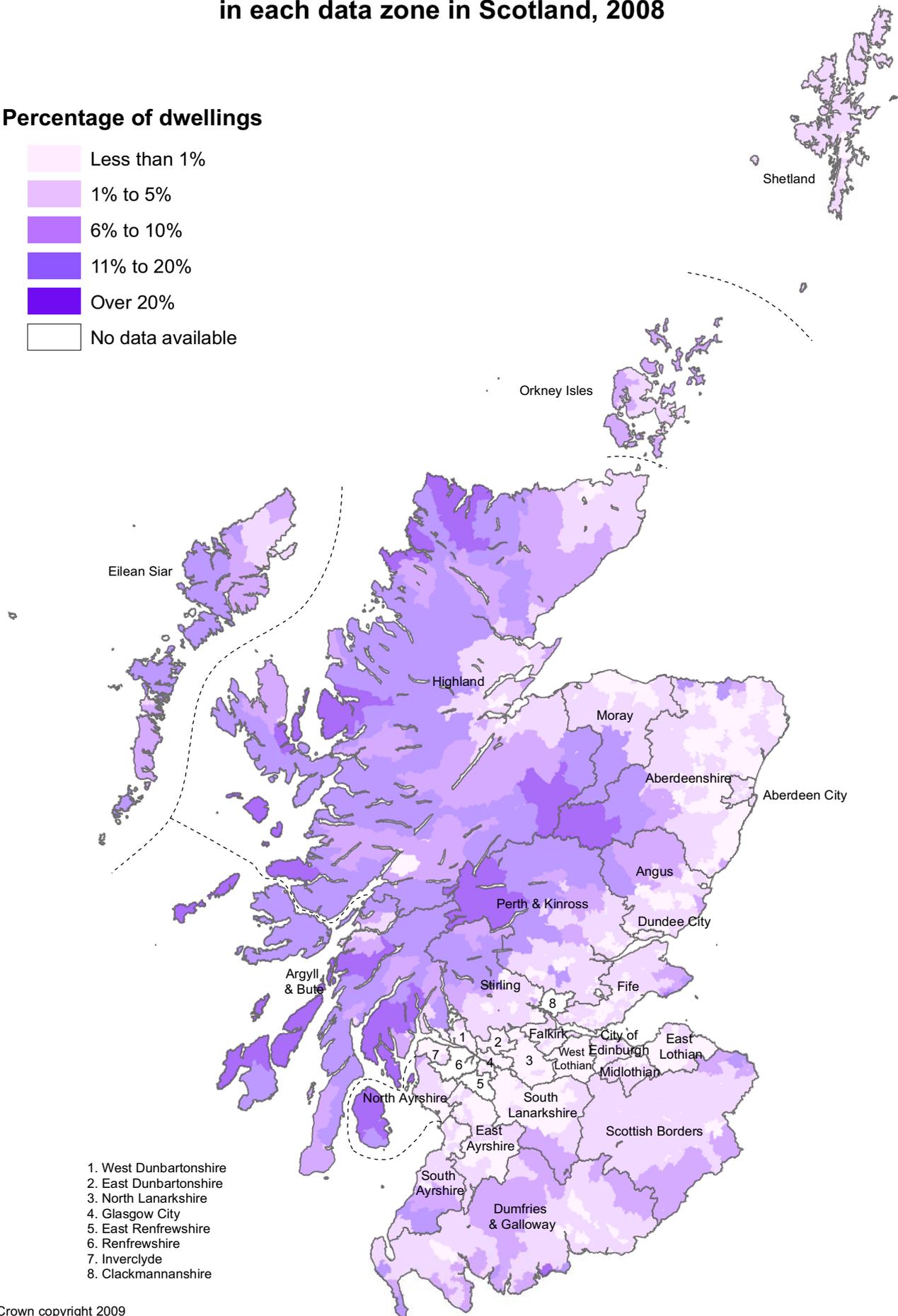
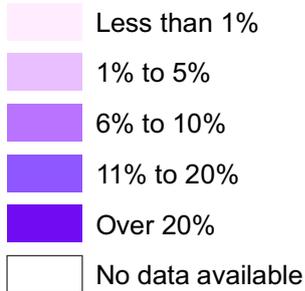


Figure 8.10 shows the percentage of dwellings which are second homes in each 'data zone' in Scotland. A data zone is a standard geography containing an average of around 750 people. Certain remote rural areas have the highest proportions of second homes, particularly parts of the west coast and some of the islands, Highland Perthshire, and the area around the Cairngorms National Park. This also illustrates the variation within local authority areas. For example, an average of eight per cent of dwellings in Argyll and Bute are second homes, but in five per cent of data zones at least one in every four dwellings is a second home.

Figure 8.10 Percentage of dwellings which are second homes, in each data zone in Scotland, 2008

Percentage of dwellings



1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire

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Chapter 9 - Improving choice in the registration system

The Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006

Introduction

In 2000 and 2005, the Registrar General for Scotland consulted widely about how the civil registration system in Scotland could be improved. The two consultation documents¹ were issued in preparation for an opportunity to amend the legislation on the civil registration system, which dated from 1965. That opportunity came in the form of Part 2 of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 - the 'LEARS Act' for short. The text of the Act is at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2006/asp_20060014_en_1

Most of the provisions in the LEARS Act came into force on 1 January 2007. So this is an early examination of the impact of the changes on customers of the registration service.

The registration service in Scotland

The registration service in Scotland is provided by a partnership of the Registrar General for Scotland's department – the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), which is part of the devolved Scottish Administration – and the 32 local authorities. Local registrars work for the local authorities, which are responsible for recruiting and employing staff, for accommodation and for equipment. But their registration work is governed by instructions and guidelines set by the Registrar General under the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 – 'the 1965 Act'. Arrangements for marriage preliminaries and the solemnisation of civil marriages are governed by the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977. Arrangements for civil partnership preliminaries and the registration of civil partnerships are governed by the Civil Partnership Act 2004. The LEARS Act made a number of amendments to these Acts but has not changed that basic framework.

¹ 'Civil Registration in the 21st Century – a consultation paper from the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland', 2000 and 'Registration Services (Scotland Bill) – a consultation paper about proposed legislation from the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland', 2005. Copies available from GROS on request.

Changes to allow births and deaths to be registered at any registration office

Background

Before the LEARS Act, there were 230 Registration Districts (RDs) in Scotland. Some of the RDs matched the area covered by one of the 32 local authorities (a large example was the City of Glasgow; a smaller one Clackmannanshire). More often, a local authority was responsible for more than one RD. In some cases, because of local authority boundary changes, a single RD overlapped a local authority boundary and included part of the territory of an adjacent authority. It was not always obvious to the citizen where the birth of a baby should be registered or in which RD the death of a relative had occurred. The LEARS Act provided that each local authority area would be a single RD. This helped to avoid confusion and also it set the scene for the more radical change of allowing informants to attend any Scottish registration office to tell the registrar about a birth or death in Scotland. No change was needed in the law on marriages and civil partnerships, which already allowed couples to choose a location in any RD in Scotland.

Before the LEARS Act, people had the limited choice of registering a birth in the RD where the birth occurred or - if this was different - in the RD where the child's mother was usually resident. This option was important where a mother was well enough to take her new baby back to her home in another area after only a day or so in hospital, perhaps before the baby's name was chosen. The 2 registrars made cross-indexing arrangements, so that the entry in the birth register could readily be found. Similar restrictions applied to the registration of deaths: a death had to be registered in the RD in which the person had died or in the RD where the deceased person had usually resided.

A change by the LEARS Act (from 1 January 2007), plus a new computerised registration system, allowed a birth or a death to be registered in any Scottish RD, which is more convenient in today's society. The remainder of this part of the Chapter looks at the extent to which, even already, it is possible to measure whether customers of the registration service have been exercising this choice.

Measuring the impact of the changes

The entries in the registers of births and deaths record the RD at which the birth or death was registered. The entries also record the postcode of the place where the event occurred and the child's mother's usual residence (for a birth) or the usual residence of the deceased. GROS also holds a list of postcodes that relate (or related in previous years) to each RD. So it is possible to identify birth and death registrations where people were choosing to register a birth or a death in an RD where, before the LEARS Act came into effect, such a registration would not have been permitted (except with special permission which, in 2006, was given only for 9 births and 27 deaths).

'Gains' versus 'losses'

Table 9.1 shows the total number of births and deaths registered in each local authority area in 2008. It also shows the number, and percentage, of registrations where the local authority area of registration did not match the local authority area where the event could, before the LEARS Act, have been registered. Around 5 per cent of births and deaths in Scotland in 2008 were registered 'outwith the normal local authority area'. There is wide variation across the local authorities, ranging from less than 1 per cent in the Orkney and Shetland Islands to 31 per cent in East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire.

Table 9.1 Registrations of births and deaths in alternative local authority areas, 2008

Council area in which birth/death was registered	All birth/death registrations ¹	Cases where local authority of registration did not match that of residence or event occurrence	
		Number	Percentage
Aberdeen City	5,320	165	3%
Aberdeenshire	4,317	114	3%
Angus	2,241	144	6%
Argyll & Bute	1,881	50	3%
Clackmannanshire	1,081	61	6%
Dumfries & Galloway	3,215	42	1%
Dundee City	4,164	78	2%
East Ayrshire	2,732	57	2%
East Dunbartonshire	2,577	794	31%
East Lothian	2,195	149	7%
East Renfrewshire	2,357	739	31%
Edinburgh, City of	9,870	248	3%
Eilean Siar	606	5	1%
Falkirk	3,542	100	3%
Fife	8,077	133	2%
Glasgow City	12,128	167	1%
Highland	4,806	51	1%
Inverclyde	1,853	49	3%
Midlothian	1,537	113	7%
Moray	1,901	42	2%
North Ayrshire	2,977	65	2%
North Lanarkshire	7,675	315	4%
Orkney Islands	432	2	0%
Perth & Kinross	2,806	80	3%
Renfrewshire	4,180	318	8%
Scottish Borders	2,428	163	7%
Shetland Islands	475	0	0%
South Ayrshire	2,511	130	5%
South Lanarkshire	7,253	681	9%
Stirling	1,809	55	3%
West Dunbartonshire	2,902	644	22%
West Lothian	3,893	111	3%
Scotland	115,741	5,865	5%

¹ 'all registrations' includes very small fraction where Council area of residence or occurrence was not known

The number of registrations 'outwith the normal local authority area' in 2007 was 4,748 and was 5,865 in 2008. This is shown in Figure 9.1 and Table 9.2. It is clear from the jump between 2006 and 2007 that, since the LEARS Act came into force, the number of registrations 'outwith the normal local authority area' has increased markedly for births and deaths. The 2006 figures represent the small numbers of cases where special permission was given or where there was a data error which could not be identified at the time (for example, the post-code had been entered incorrectly).

Figure 9.1 Registrations of births and deaths outwith normal local authority area in Scotland, 2006-2008

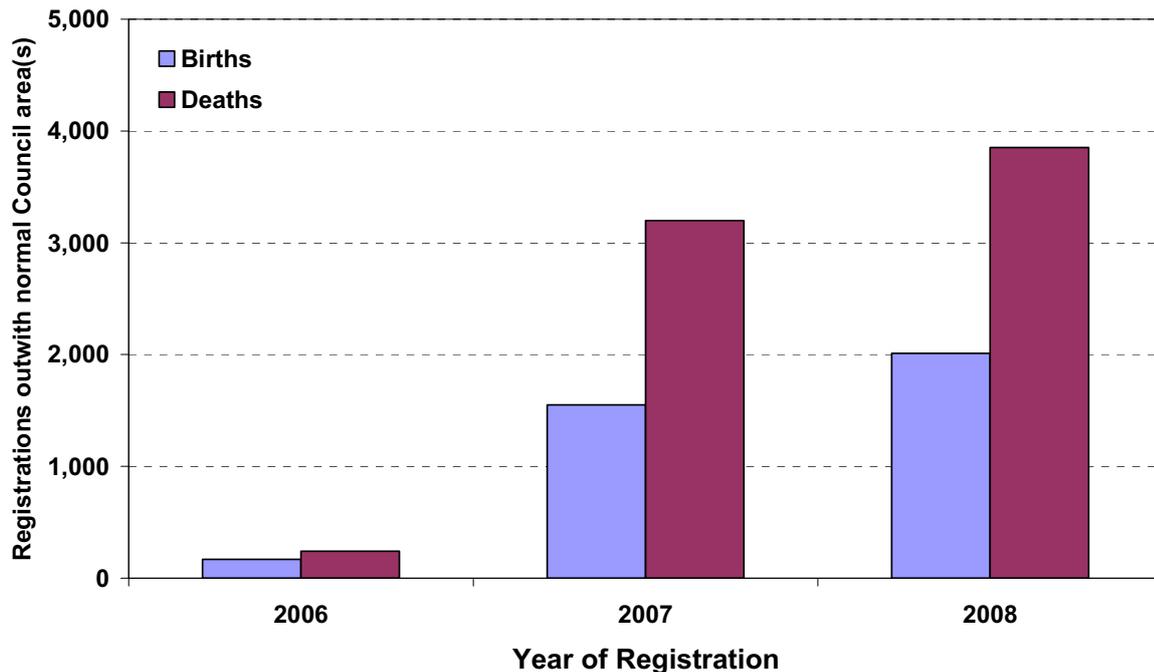
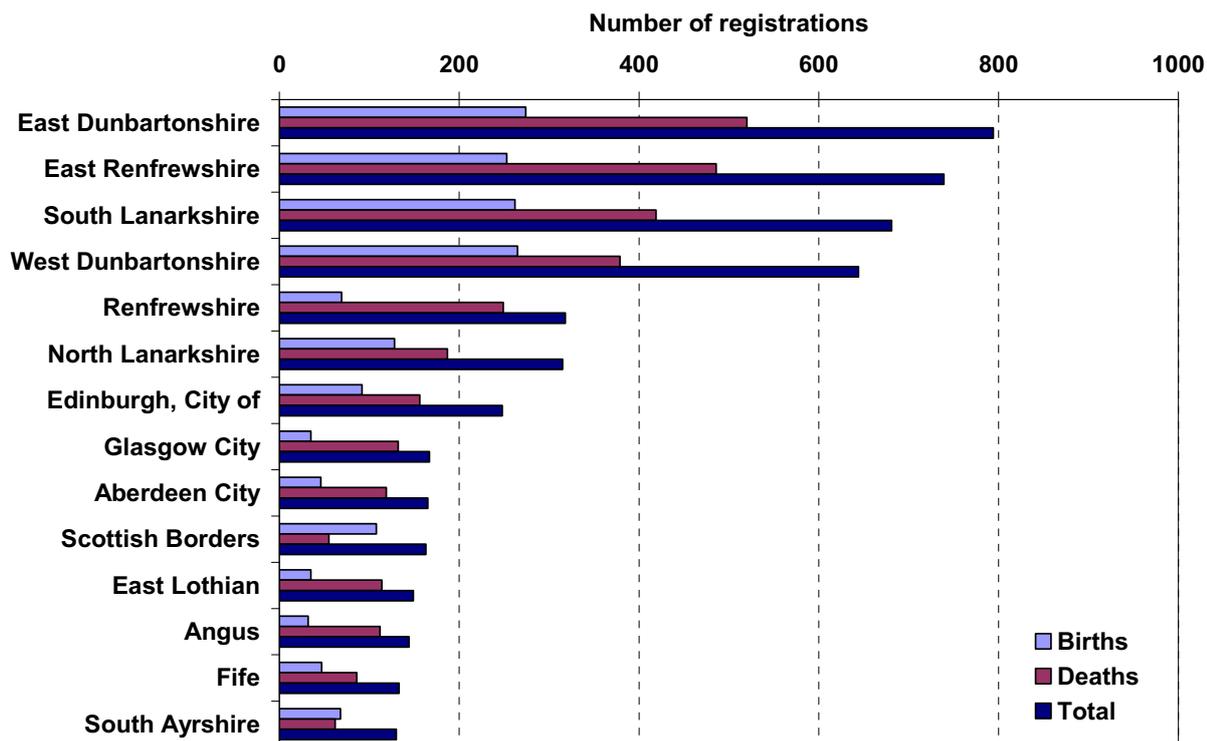


Table 9.2 Registrations of births and deaths outwith normal local authority area in Scotland, 2007-2008

	Registered in different local authority area from residence of occurrence		All registrations	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Births	1,550	2,012	57,781	60,041
Deaths	3,198	3,853	55,986	55,700
Both	4,748	5,865	113,767	115,741

Figure 9.2 illustrates the 14 local authorities that had at least 130 registrations ‘outwith the normal local authority area’. Four local authorities stand out: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire and South Lanarkshire. All registered more than 600 such events. In the first three local authorities, the average ‘gain’ in 2008 was 28 per cent of all registrations of births and deaths. The registrations ‘outwith the normal local authority area’ in both East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire amounted to 31 per cent of the total births and deaths registered there. The top six local authorities listed in Figure 9.2 are the local authorities bordering Glasgow City.

Figure 9.2 Local authorities which gained a significant number of registrations from other local authority areas 2008



While some local authorities ‘gained’ registrations as a result of the change, others ‘lost’. It is possible to plot births and deaths registered ‘outwith the normal local authority area’ against the local authorities where it would previously have been expected that the events would have been registered. In most cases, the local authority area of occurrence is the same as the local authority area of residence, so patterns of registrations ‘outwith the normal local authority area’ are similar whether data based on local authority area of occurrence or residence are examined.

Table 9.3 looks at data based on local authority area of occurrence, and summarises the larger flows of registrations to alternative local authorities. There appear to be three forms of flow of registrations between local authorities. The first is where there is a large flow away from one local authority to one or more other local authorities, with relatively little in the way of a return flow. The clearest example of this is where Glasgow City has lost 2,710 events to 6 other local authorities (East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire), and gained, in total, only 107 events from them. The second form is where a local authority has lost registrations to another but has also gained a broadly similar number of registrations from that other authority. For example, there is a two-way flow of registrations between North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire, with North Lanarkshire receiving 148 events from South Lanarkshire and with South Lanarkshire receiving 62 events from North Lanarkshire. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire have a similar pattern. Lastly, there are more complicated mixtures of flows, such as the City of Edinburgh, which lost some registrations to East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian but also received some registrations from Midlothian (which in turn also lost some registrations to Scottish Borders).

Table 9.3 Flow of registrations between selected local authorities, 2008

		Local authority area in which the birth/death was registered													
		Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	East Dunbartonshire	East Lothian	East Renfrewshire	Edinburgh, City of	Glasgow City	Midlothian	North Lanarkshire	Renfrewshire	Scottish Borders	South Lanarkshire	West Dunbartonshire	West Lothian
Local authority area in which the birth/death occurred	Aberdeen City		82	1	1	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Aberdeenshire	145		.	1	.	2	2	.	.	.	1	1	.	.
	East Dunbartonshire	.	.		.	5	.	20	.	14	2	.	3	15	1
	East Lothian	.	.	.		.	40	3	10	2	1	4	.	2	.
	East Renfrewshire	.	.	2	.		1	16	.	1	10	.	11	1	1
	Edinburgh, City of	2	2	1	105	.		4	88	4	2	8	2	2	76
	Glasgow City	1	2	680	1	639	10		1	75	206	.	568	542	2
	Midlothian	.	.	.	16	.	53	.		.	1	52	1	.	3
	North Lanarkshire	1	1	37	.	4	5	25	.		2	1	62	3	6
	Renfrewshire	.	.	10	.	32	1	15	1	3		.	2	14	.
	Scottish Borders	.	1	.	13	.	11	1	7	.	.		2	1	1
	South Lanarkshire	.	2	4	.	31	4	35	3	148	6	6		3	2
	West Dunbartonshire	.	.	25	.	2	.	6	.	.	2	.	.		.
	West Lothian	.	.	.	3	.	47	2	1	9	1	4	3	1	

Observations

So people who are registering a birth or death are taking advantage of the new flexibility given by the LEARS Act. It may be that the family has links with a particular area of Scotland and wishes to have the event registered there. Or it may simply be more convenient to call at a particular registration office.

There appears to be some difference between birth and death registrations. Although there are similar numbers of events, the number of deaths registered in 2007 and 2008 in a local authority which would not have been permitted before the LEARS Act were about double those for birth registrations. This may be because, when a child is born in a maternity hospital, the child's mother is given a card by the maternity unit. The card lists the baby's details but also gives the address of the local registration office. From this, it may not be immediately obvious to the new parents that they have a wider choice. This is an action point that GROS will take up with local authorities, who print the cards. Additionally, there is anecdotal evidence that funeral directors are making it known to the relatives of deceased that there is now increased choice about where to register deaths.

Changes to change of name procedures

In Scotland, it has always been relatively easy for people to change their forename(s) and/or surname. The Registrar General simply makes a new entry in the birth register, annotating the previous entry to create a link to the new name. Details can be found on the GROS website at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/regscot/change-of-name.html>

Before the LEARS Act, it was necessary for an applicant to provide documentary proof that he or she had used the proposed new name for a period of at least 2 years. The LEARS Act amended the 1965 Act to remove that 2 year time limit, so allowing anyone whose birth has been registered in Scotland to apply to the Registrar General to record an immediate change of forename or surname. A new birth certificate issued after the change shows the new name, together with the former name, for purposes of continuity.

This change of procedure came into effect on 1 January 2007. There has been a considerable increase in demand for changes of name, most likely because of this change. Table 9.4 shows the number of applications for change of name before and after this part of the LEARS Act came into force.

Table 9.4 Applications for change of name, 2005-2008

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number	3,537	3,353	4,962	4,630

Between 2006 and 2007 there was a 48 per cent increase in applications. While demand reduced slightly in 2008, it was still at a much higher level than before the change enabled by the Act.

Marriage at sea

Marriage in Scotland is governed by the 1977 Act. It created two categories of marriage – religious and civil. It allowed religious marriages to be celebrated at any location that meets the requirements of the religious minister. Civil marriages had to be solemnised at registration offices until June 2002, when the Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 allowed them to be solemnised by registrars in a wide range of approved places, including on vessels. Marriage on board a vessel at sea between two places sometimes led to difficulty in deciding the exact RD in which the marriage was solemnised. The LEARS Act amended the 1977 and 2002 Acts to allow religious and civil marriages to be solemnised on vessels in Scottish waters. The LEARS Act refers to ‘Scottish waters’ as defined in the Scotland Act 1998 and set the meaning of ‘vessel’.

The new powers came into force on 1 January 2007 and, by 31 May 2009, 3 religious marriages and 3 civil marriages had been carried out in ‘Scottish waters’. The LEARS Act also amended the 2004 Act to provide similar arrangements for civil partnerships, although the new power has not yet been used.

Book of Scottish Connections

The LEARS Act allows the Registrar General to record certain events in a new register known as the ‘Book of Scottish Connections’ (BSC). In some circumstances and in certain countries, people with a Scots connection were previously able to arrange through the local British Embassy or High Commission for a birth, death or marriage abroad to be recorded in the register held by the Registrar General in Edinburgh, who is thereafter able to issue an official copy, in English, of the entry in the foreign register. The event has first to be registered with the civil registration authorities of the country in question. The BSC offers, for a fee of £40, the option for Scots abroad to apply directly to the Registrar General to add to the records held in Edinburgh a copy of any suitably authenticated entry in a statutory register outwith Scotland, where the subject of the entry has or had a connection with Scotland, to be preserved a part of the family history record.

The events which can be recorded on the BSC are a birth, death, marriage or divorce, formation or dissolution of a civil partnership (or an equivalent overseas relationship). A person qualifies to record a birth if a parent or grandparent of the child was born in Scotland or if the BSC already records an event relating to a parent or grandparent. A person qualifies for the other events if born in Scotland or normally resident in Scotland at the time of the event. A copy of an entry made in the BSC can be purchased and the entry will form part of the family history records held and made accessible to the public by the Registrar General. Details can be found on the GROS website at:
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/regscot/book-of-scottish-connections.html>

The BSC was opened to applications on 5 January 2009 as part of Homecoming 2009 and was formally launched on 6 February 2009 by Jim Mather MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy & Tourism, when the first entry in the BSC was celebrated. By 31 May 2009, 9 events had been recorded in the BSC: 2 deaths, 4 births, 2 marriages and 1 civil partnership.

Abbreviated extract from the death register

Section 44 of the LEARS Act introduced an abbreviated extract from the death register, in addition to the equivalent extract for births which had been authorised by the 1965 Act. An abbreviated extract is issued free of charge by the local registrar at the time of registration of the birth or death. Subsequently, abbreviated or full extracts, can be purchased for a fee. A full extract from the register of deaths shows the full entry on the page of the public register, omitting nothing. In some circumstances, the deceased's executors may wish to have an official document attesting to the fact and date of the death, but leaving out (possibly embarrassing) details of the cause of death. The new abbreviated extract from the death register can be used for purposes such as closing a bank account where the bank manager has no need to know the cause of death of the account-holder. An abbreviated extract from the death register would have been issued free of charge for each of the 55,986 deaths registered in 2007 and 55,700 deaths registered in 2008.

Provision of registration information

Provision of registration information to public bodies

Section 56 of the LEARS Act allows the Registrar General to provide registration information to public bodies and office-holders. To some extent that had previously been allowed under the 1965 Act. The Registrar General could exchange data concerning all births or deaths in Scotland with the National Health Service and could notify deaths to the Department for Work and Pensions as well as to local authority tax departments. Otherwise, the basic information involved in birth, death or marriage registration, though publicly available, was not automatically passed on to other parts of government, even at the citizen's request. So, in the interests of convenience for the citizen and of efficiency of public administration, the new provision in section 56 allows for birth, death, marriage and civil partnership details already visible publicly on the registers to be supplied to any relevant government body. Examples could be the departments interested in family tax credit, driving licence and passport records, benefits, income tax and student loans. This service was designed to allow public bodies to make specific requests for information, which would be provided on payment of a fee to cover costs. GROS is in discussion with a number of public bodies such as Disclosure Scotland and HM Revenue and Customs about introducing arrangements on these lines.

Notification of registration events to private sector bodies

A new section 39A was inserted in the 1965 Act by the LEARS Act. This allows the Registrar General, for a fee, to give official notification of a birth, death, marriage, civil partnership or change of name to nominated private-sector bodies (insurance firms, banks, solicitors, utility firms etc). It must be triggered by a qualified informant (in the case of a birth or death), a party to a marriage or civil partnership, or in the case of a change of name, the person concerned. The request for this service will most likely be made to the local registrar when registering a birth or death or when submitting notice of intention to marry or to enter into a civil partnership. This is a new service, which has not yet been implemented. GROS is exploring with interested parties how to offer this service – probably by sending an electronic copy of the entry in the register, as an alternative, or in addition to, a paper extract from the register.

Disclosure of Death Registration Information scheme

Section 44 of the LEARS Act allowed the provision of death registration information to third parties. GROS is using this new power to contribute to the Disclosure of Death Registration Information (DDRI) scheme. The scheme was opened to applications on 16 January 2008. Its primary objective is to facilitate the detection and prevention of "impersonation of the deceased" fraud. Making death registration data available to organisations that process financial information makes it harder for fraudsters to take on the identities of people who have died. The service is provided by the three UK Registrars General (for England & Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland) and is administered by the General Register Office for England & Wales. GRO England and Wales and GRO Northern Ireland are enabled to provide such information to authorised organisations by section 13 of the Police & Justice Act 2006.

Under the scheme, the General Register Office for Scotland and General Register Office Northern Ireland send death registration data securely to General Register Office England & Wales each week. General Register Office England & Wales collates this into a UK file of data, which is made available to authorised organisations that are able to demonstrate that they will use the information in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences. In addition, organisations need to meet certain security standards, details of which can be found on the GROS website at:

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/aboutus/ddri/index.asp>

The first data was supplied under the scheme on 26 September 2008, since when files containing information on 442,017 death registrations have been made available to the following authorised bodies (from the dates indicated):-

- Tracesmart Ltd - Sept 2008
- Experian Ltd - Sept 2008
- Synectics Solutions Ltd - Sept 2008
- Faraday Tracing Bureau Ltd - Sept 2008
- Rpmi Ltd - February 2009
- CallCredit Ltd - February 2009
- Mortality Manifest Ltd - April 2009

National Health Service Central Register

Section 57 of the LEARS Act empowered the Registrar General to keep a central register of high quality information about people, to help the efficient running of the NHS and local authorities in Scotland. It put on a statutory footing the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR), which the Registrar General already ran on behalf of the NHS in Scotland. The NHSCR, which dates from the early 1950s, contains basic details of everyone born in Scotland, plus anyone else who is (or has been) on the list of a GP in Scotland. The Register exists mainly to allow the smooth transfer of patients who move between NHS Board areas in Scotland (or across borders within the UK).

As well as putting that existing work of the NHS on a clear statutory footing, Section 57 allowed the information on the NHSCR to be used to assist in the operation of the local authority Citizen's Account programme. That is a voluntary scheme, under which each citizen is able to apply to have his or her own account with the local authority, which can be used by the individual or by the local authority to keep the customer's contact details up to date with, for example, change of address or death notification supplied by GROS. Local authorities can also use it to record services to which the citizen is entitled (for instance free bus travel) and transactions (for instance, local authority tax payments). A national infrastructure for the Citizen Account, holding basic contact details of every account holder, is accessible to all local authorities where a particular citizen has opted to allow that, by giving their informed consent. Under Section 57, the Registrar General checks new applicants against the NHSCR and provides to Scottish local authorities a unique reference number which is used by each local authority to provide an index of its own customers – for example, to reduce the risk of any fraudulent applications and to simplify administration. The Registrar General can also alert local authorities when an existing account holder dies. In that way, the Act has allowed the NHSCR to provide local authorities with a similar service to that which it traditionally provided to the NHS in Scotland.

Section 57 also allowed the Registrar General, with Parliamentary approval, to give access to the NHSCR to other bodies. Regulations made in 2006 allowed him to provide information to equivalent bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (continuing its role in the wider UK health service), to the armed forces (in connection with health care of forces personnel and their dependents), to the police or the Security Service (for the prevention or detection of serious crime) and to practising solicitors and to certain charities (to allow the continuation of the NHSCR's existing role in tracing people).

Since Section 57 came into force in November 2006, the main change in the work of the NHSCR has been to provide information to local authorities for the Citizen Account. By 31 March 2009, 921,308 people held Citizen Accounts, many of them as part of a scheme which offers elderly people access to free public transport. Other statistics on the work of the NHSCR in 2008-09 are:-

- information about 1.1 million patients was used for 79 approved medical research projects;
- information about 602 people who appear on the NHSCR was provided to police forces or the Security Service;
- letters were sent to 63 people at the request of charities (such as the Salvation Army) which specialise in putting people back in touch with lost relatives; and
- adoption charities, bone marrow trusts and Blood Transfusion Services received notifications for 506 people.

An important consequence of the Act is that the operations of the NHSCR are more visible than before. It now operates under clear statutory provisions, and the approval of the Scottish Parliament is needed before the Registrar General can provide information from the Register. The NHSCR has a more explicit website than formerly (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/national-health-service-central-register/index.html>) and operates under the supervision of a new Governance Board, involving representatives of its main customers and privacy interests. Confidentiality continues to be an important preoccupation. The computerised Register is securely held and access is closely controlled. There have been no breaches in privacy since the Act came into effect.

Future Changes

The LEARS Act also made various amendments to the 1965 Act that will in due course allow a person registering a birth or death to do so electronically, such as from a home computer, rather than attending personally at a registration office to sign the register in the presence of the registrar. Birth or death registration by internet could be more convenient to the family than the present face-to-face interview with the registrar. E-registration would not be compulsory, but would be offered as an alternative. Many people value the help of the registrar and would prefer to attend a registrar's office. In developing e-registration, GROS would take advantage of advances in NHS information services, which would allow details of births and deaths to be independently corroborated before the registration of the event was finalised. GROS is in dialogue with the NHS in Scotland and the registration service about how e-registration might be implemented to ensure security as well as improve convenience.

Conclusions

It is still too soon to assess the full effect of the LEARS Act. Nevertheless, it is already possible to demonstrate its effectiveness – particularly by giving people more choice in where they can register births and deaths and where they can marry or enter into a civil partnership.

Appendix 1 – Summary tables

Table 1 Population and vital events, Scotland, 1855 to 2008

Year	Estimated population ('000s)	Live births ¹		Stillbirths ²		Infant deaths		Deaths		Marriages	Divorces	Civil Partnerships ⁶	
		Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ⁴	Number	Rate ⁵	Number	Rate ³			Male	Female
1855-60	3,018.4	102,462	34.1	...	...	12,250	119.6	62,644	20.8	20,645	19	...	...
1861-65	3,127.1	109,764	35.1	...	...	13,166	119.9	69,265	22.1	22,013	14	...	...
1866-70	3,275.6	114,394	34.9	...	...	13,971	122.1	71,974	22.0	22,832	9	...	...
1871-75	3,441.4	120,376	35.0	...	...	15,314	127.2	77,988	22.7	25,754	24	...	...
1876-80	3,628.7	126,086	34.8	...	...	14,921	118.3	74,801	20.6	24,956	54	...	...
1881-85	3,799.2	126,409	33.3	...	...	14,864	117.6	74,396	19.6	26,176	74	...	...
1886-90	3,943.9	123,977	31.4	...	...	14,943	120.5	74,320	18.8	25,702	94	...	...
1891-95	4,122.5	125,800	30.5	...	...	15,895	126.4	78,350	19.0	27,962	115	...	...
1896-1900	4,345.1	130,209	30.0	...	...	16,857	129.5	78,021	17.9	31,771	146	...	...
1901-05	4,535.7	132,399	29.2	...	...	15,881	119.9	77,313	17.1	31,838	181	...	...
1906-10	4,679.9	128,987	27.6	...	...	14,501	112.4	75,534	16.1	31,811	195	...	...
1911-15	4,748.3	120,654	25.4	...	...	13,604	112.8	74,466	15.7	33,857	264	...	...
1916-20	4,823.8	109,750	22.8	...	...	10,869	99.0	72,365	15.0	37,437	531	...	...
1921-25	4,879.6	112,245	23.0	...	...	10,299	91.8	67,652	13.9	34,720	427	...	...
1926-30	4,845.1	96,674	20.0	...	...	8,260	85.4	66,017	13.6	32,605	478	...	...
1931-35	4,905.1	89,306	18.2	...	...	7,212	80.8	64,839	13.2	34,986	507	...	...
1936-40	4,956.8	87,734	17.6	...	...	6,650	75.8	67,166	13.5	42,941	750	...	...
1941-45	4,711.9	91,593	19.4	3,393	35.7	6,202	67.7	66,302	13.8	43,772	1,413	...	...
1946-50	5,054.3	101,222	20.0	3,047	29.2	4,789	47.3	63,854	12.6	43,206	2,435	...	...
1951-55	5,103.6	91,366	17.9	2,390	25.5	3,009	32.9	61,838	12.1	41,718	2,274	...	...
1956-60	5,145.2	98,663	19.2	2,307	22.9	2,755	27.9	61,965	12.0	41,671	1,792	...	...
1961-65	5,201.0	102,642	19.7	2,000	19.1	2,568	25.0	63,309	12.2	40,235	2,253	...	...
1966-70	5,204.3	93,033	17.9	1,415	15.0	1,970	21.2	62,797	12.1	42,832	4,056	...	...
1971-75	5,234.7	75,541	14.4	939	12.3	1,421	18.8	63,808	12.2	41,404	6,604	...	...
1976-80	5,213.9	65,758	12.6	529	8.0	900	13.7	64,343	12.3	37,801	9,068	...	...
1981-85	5,151.9	66,422	12.9	389	5.8	695	10.5	63,723	12.4	35,756	11,937	...	...
1986-90	5,089.5	65,544	12.9	350	5.3	550	8.4	62,796	12.3	35,440	12,070	...	...
1991-95	5,093.5	63,571	12.5	382	6.0	418	6.6	61,171	12.0	32,866	12,614	...	...
1996-2000	5,077.5	56,856	11.2	327	5.7	316	5.6	59,478	11.7	29,965	11,983	...	...
1991	5083.3	67,024	13.1	369	5.5	473	7.1	61,041	12.0	33,762	12,400	...	...
1992	5085.6	65,789	12.9	356	5.4	449	6.8	60,937	11.9	35,057	12,487	...	...
1993	5092.5	63,337	12.4	409	6.4	412	6.5	64,049	12.5	33,366	13,292	...	...
1994	5102.2	61,656	12.0	381	6.1	382	6.2	59,328	11.6	31,480	12,601	...	...
1995	5103.7	60,051	11.7	397	6.6	375	6.2	60,500	11.8	30,663	12,292	...	...
1996	5092.2	59,296	11.6	381	6.4	365	6.2	60,654	11.8	30,242	12,313	...	...
1997	5083.3	59,440	11.6	319	5.3	316	5.3	59,494	11.6	29,611	12,241	...	...
1998	5077.1	57,319	11.2	351	6.1	320	5.6	59,164	11.6	29,668	12,354	...	...
1999	5072.0	55,147	10.8	286	5.2	276	5.0	60,281	11.8	29,940	11,872	...	...
2000	5062.9	53,076	10.4	298	5.6	305	5.7	57,799	11.3	30,367	11,139	...	...
2001	5,064.2	52,527	10.4	301	5.7	290	5.5	57,382	11.3	29,621	10,651	...	...
2002	5,054.8	51,270	10.1	278	5.4	270	5.3	58,103	11.5	29,826	10,859	...	...
2003	5,057.4	52,432	10.4	296	5.6	265	5.1	58,472	11.6	30,757	10,863	...	...
2004	5,078.4	53,957	10.6	317	5.8	266	4.9	56,187	11.1	32,154	11,275	...	...
2005	5,094.8	54,386	10.7	292	5.3	284	5.2	55,747	10.9	30,881	10,911	53	31
2006	5,116.9	55,690	10.9	296	5.3	248	4.5	55,093	10.8	29,898	13,075	580	467
2007	5,144.2	57,781	11.2	327	5.6	272	4.7	55,986	10.9	29,866	12,810	339	349
2008	5,168.5	60,041	11.6	325	5.4	253	4.2	55,700	10.8	28,903	11,474	245	280

¹ Live births only, prior to 1939.

⁴ Rate per 1,000 live and still births.

² See Notes and Definitions

⁵ Rate per 1,000 live births.

³ Rate per 1,000 population.

⁶ The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into effect in December 2005.

Table 2 Estimated population, births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, numbers and rates, by Council area, Scotland, 2008

Area	Estimated population at 30 Jun	Live births				Deaths				Civil Partnerships			
		Number	Rate ¹	Standardised Rate	Stillbirths Number	Stillbirths Rate ²	Infant deaths Number	Infant deaths Rate ³	Number		Rate ¹	Standardised Rate	Marriages
SCOTLAND	5,168,500	60,041	11.6	11.6	325	5.4	253	4.2	55,700	10.8	10.8	28,903	525
Council areas													
Aberdeen City	210,400	2,596	12.4	10.7	9	3.5	8	3.1	2,135	10.2	10.7	811	11
Aberdeenshire	241,460	2,771	11.6	13.4	14	5.0	7	2.5	2,257	9.4	9.5	1,205	9
Angus	110,310	1,194	10.9	13.4	8	6.7	3	2.5	1,280	11.7	9.9	447	7
Argyll & Bute	90,500	807	8.8	12.6	4	4.9	2	2.5	1,144	12.5	10.4	912	11
Clackmannanshire	50,480	644	12.9	13.7	2	3.1	3	4.7	515	10.3	11.2	176	5
Dumfries & Galloway	148,580	1,430	9.6	12.5	7	4.9	6	4.2	1,773	12.0	9.6	5,261	65
Dundee City	142,470	1,801	12.7	11.5	15	8.3	6	3.3	1,744	12.3	11.1	465	11
East Ayrshire	119,920	1,371	11.5	12.3	7	5.1	8	5.8	1,389	11.6	11.5	364	3
East Dunbartonshire	104,720	970	9.3	11.7	6	6.1	4	4.1	980	9.3	8.8	275	6
East Lothian	96,100	1,182	12.5	14.4	7	5.9	4	3.4	1,014	10.7	9.9	465	7
East Renfrewshire	89,220	868	9.7	12.2	4	4.6	3	3.5	885	9.9	9.4	397	6
Edinburgh, City of	471,650	5,440	11.6	8.5	26	4.9	27	5.0	4,291	9.2	9.6	2,598	134
Eilean Siar	26,200	256	9.7	12.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	346	13.2	10.4	109	0
Falkirk	151,570	1,949	12.9	12.9	10	5.1	8	4.1	1,623	10.8	11.3	783	14
Fife	361,890	4,350	12.1	12.6	30	6.8	26	6.0	3,916	10.9	10.4	1,693	18
Glasgow City	584,240	7,371	12.7	9.9	46	6.2	41	5.6	6,907	11.9	13.6	2,294	119
Highland	219,400	2,482	11.4	13.6	10	4.0	6	2.4	2,314	10.6	9.7	1,644	14
Inverclyde	80,780	860	10.6	11.6	6	6.9	5	5.8	995	12.3	11.7	273	1
Midlothian	80,560	938	11.8	12.6	3	3.2	0	0.0	793	10.0	10.2	510	4
Moray	87,770	956	11.0	13.8	8	8.3	2	2.1	925	10.6	9.9	396	5
North Ayrshire	135,920	1,481	10.9	12.0	5	3.4	9	6.1	1,628	12.0	11.5	661	7
North Lanarkshire	325,520	4,182	12.9	12.5	20	4.8	13	3.1	3,434	10.6	12.3	1,008	4
Orkney Islands	19,890	214	10.8	13.5	3	13.8	0	0.0	225	11.3	10.2	121	2
Perth & Kinross	144,180	1,443	10.2	12.0	10	6.9	4	2.8	1,547	10.9	9.1	1,062	13
Renfrewshire	169,800	2,012	11.9	12.2	9	4.5	15	7.5	1,982	11.7	12.0	470	2
Scottish Borders	112,430	1,138	10.2	12.9	8	7.0	2	1.8	1,265	11.4	9.7	740	11
Shetland Islands	21,980	278	12.7	14.6	0	0.0	7	25.2	211	9.6	9.4	97	1
South Ayrshire	111,670	1,067	9.6	11.7	5	4.7	5	4.7	1,384	12.4	10.0	758	7
South Lanarkshire	310,090	3,689	11.9	12.4	17	4.6	9	2.4	3,382	10.9	11.3	1,211	10
Stirling	88,350	862	9.8	10.3	6	6.9	4	4.6	817	9.3	9.2	680	8
West Dunbartonshire	90,940	1,104	12.1	12.2	8	7.2	6	5.4	1,150	12.6	13.0	430	4
West Lothian	169,510	2,335	13.9	13.6	12	5.1	10	4.3	1,449	8.6	11.1	587	6

¹ Rate per 1,000 population.

² Rate per 1,000 live and still births.

³ Rate per 1,000 live births.

Table 3 International populations and vital statistics rates, selected countries, latest available figures

Country	Estimated Population ('000s) 2008	Live births per 1,000 population		Stillbirths ² per 1,000 total births (live & still)		Infant mortality per 1,000 live births		Deaths per 1,000 population		Marriages per 1,000 population	
		Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
Scotland	5,168	2007	11.2	2007	5.6	2007	4.7	2007	10.9	2007	5.8
European Union											
Austria	8,332	2007	9.2	2007	3.8	2007	3.7	2007	9.0	2007	4.3
Belgium	10,667	2005	11.3	1997	4.7	2007	4.0	1999	10.2	2006	4.4
Bulgaria	7,640	2004	9.0	2007	7.5	2007	9.2	2004	14.2	2007	3.9
Cyprus	789	2006	11.3	...	...	2007	3.7	2006	6.6	2007	7.5
Czech Republic	10,381	2007	11.1	2007	2.7	2007	3.1	2007	10.1	2007	5.5
Denmark	5,476	2006	12.1	2007	5.1	2007	4.0	2006	10.2	2007	6.7
Estonia	1,341	2005	10.7	2007	4.1	2007	5.0	2005	12.9	2007	5.2
Finland	5,300	2007	11.1	2007	3.2	2007	2.7	2007	9.3	2007	5.6
France	63,753	2006	13.0	2001	4.8	2006	3.8	2006	8.4	2007	4.2
Germany	82,218	2006	8.2	2006	3.6	2007	3.9	2006	10.0	2007	4.5
Greece	11,214	2007	10.0	2007	3.9	2007	3.5	2007	9.8	2007	5.2
Hungary	10,045	2005	9.7	2007	4.9	2007	5.9	2005	13.5	2007	4.1
Irish Republic	4,401	2006	15.1	2005	4.1	2007	3.1	2006	6.5	2006	5.1
Italy	59,619	2006	9.5	2005	2.6	2007	3.7	2006	9.5	2007	4.2
Latvia	2,271	2007	10.2	2007	5.2	2007	8.7	2007	14.5	2007	6.8
Lithuania	3,366	2007	9.6	2007	5.0	2007	5.9	2007	13.5	2007	6.8
Luxembourg	484	2005	11.8	2006	2.9	2007	1.8	2005	7.9	2007	4.1
Malta	410	2007	9.5	2007	3.1	2007	6.5	2007	7.6	2007	6.1
Netherlands	16,405	2007	11.1	2007	3.3	2007	4.1	2007	8.1	2007	4.5
Poland	38,116	2006	9.8	2006	4.8	2007	6.0	2006	9.7	2007	6.5
Portugal	10,618	2005	10.4	2007	3.7	2007	3.4	2004	9.7	2007	4.4
Romania	21,529	2007	10.0	2006	5.2	2007	12.0	2007	11.7	2007	8.8
Slovakia	5,401	2005	10.1	2007	3.8	2007	6.1	2005	9.9	2007	5.1
Slovenia	2,026	2007	9.8	2007	5.1	2007	2.8	2007	9.2	2007	3.2
Spain	45,283	2005	10.8	2005	3.1	2007	3.7	2005	8.9	2006	4.6
Sweden	9,183	2006	11.7	2007	3.0	2007	2.5	2006	10.0	2007	5.2
United Kingdom ¹	61,186	2007	12.7	2007	5.2	2007	4.8	2007	9.4	2006	4.5
Other Europe											
Croatia	4,436	2006	9.3	2006	4.4	2007	5.6	2006	11.3	2006	5.0
Macedonia	2,045	2005	11.0	2007	9.4	2007	10.3	2003	8.9	2007	7.6
Norway	4,737	2006	12.6	2006	4.0	2007	3.1	2006	8.8	2007	5.0
Switzerland	7,593	2006	9.8	2006	4.6	2007	3.9	2006	8.0	2007	5.3
Turkey	70,586	2005	18.9	2007	5.3	2007	21.7	1998	6.3	2006	8.9

Sources: Eurostat, WHO/Europe

¹ Excludes Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

² The definition of a stillbirth varies from country to country and over time. The position in the UK is described in the Notes and Definitions.

Appendix 2 – Notes and definitions

This Appendix gives general notes on some of the data and conventions used in this report as well as providing definitions for some of the terminology used.

General

– tabular conventions

Where a range of years is listed in a time series table (e.g. 1951-55), the data presented will be an average for this period.

Throughout the tables 'year' means 'calendar year' except where otherwise defined. By convention, many of the time series presented start at census years (e.g. 1991).

– date of occurrence and date of registration

The data presented on births and deaths in the Population chapter are for mid-year periods (1 July – 30 June) and relate to the date of the occurrence and not to the date of registration of the event. For example, a birth on 30 June 2008 which was registered on 4 July 2008 would be included in the mid-2008 figures.

All the remaining data presented on births and deaths, as well as that on stillbirths, marriages and civil partnerships, are for calendar years and relate to the date of registration of the event and not to the date of occurrence. For example, a birth on 31 December 2007 which was registered on 4 January 2008 would be included in the 2008 figures. Births and stillbirths are usually registered within the statutory period of 21 days. Similarly, marriages and civil partnerships are usually registered within 3 days and deaths within 8 days.

– place of usual residence and place of occurrence

Births, stillbirths, and deaths are generally allocated to the area of usual residence (of the mother, for births and stillbirths, or the deceased, for deaths) if it is in Scotland, otherwise they are allocated to the area of occurrence. However, a death may be allocated to the deceased's former area of residence, if that is in Scotland and the deceased had lived at his/her usual residence for less than 12 months.

Marriage and civil partnership figures relate to the area of occurrence.

– age

Ages relate to age last birthday.

Average ages (such as the average age at death, and the average age of mothers at childbirth) are calculated by adding 0.5 years to the age at the last birthday. For example, for the purpose of calculating an overall average age at death, it is assumed that the average age of 77-year-olds who died was 77 years and 6 months.

– age standardisation

A straight comparison of crude rates between areas may present a misleading picture because of differences in the sex and age structure of the respective populations. The technique of standardisation has been used in certain tables and charts to remedy this. In general, standardisation involves a comparison of the actual number of events occurring in an area with the aggregate number expected if the age/sex specific rates in the standard population were applied to the age/sex groups of the observed population. In this report, age standardisation has been carried out using the overall Scottish population of the time period under investigation as the standard.

– lists of groups of countries

EU-15: Before 1 May 2004 Member States of the European Union were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

EU-25: From 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2006 Member States were EU-15 (listed above) plus Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

EU-27: From 1 January 2007 Member States are EU-25 (listed above) plus Bulgaria and Romania.

Population

All population figures refer to estimates at 30 June of the year in question.

– population covered

The resident 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 HM Forces and non-UK armed forces stationed in Scotland are included. HM Forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded.

– population projections

Population projections for Scotland are prepared by the Government Actuary, at the request of and in consultation with the Registrar General. The latest national projection was the 2006-based projections published in October 2007.

Migration

Net migration figures incorporate estimates of net civilian migration which include movements to and from the Armed Forces but exclude other changes, such as changes in the numbers of Armed Forces stationed in Scotland.

– UK regions

The regions of the UK are taken as Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Government Office Regions of England. A map can be found at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/gor.asp>

Births

– general fertility rate (GFR)

The number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15-44).

– total fertility rate (TFR)

The average number of children that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question.

– age specific fertility rate (ASFR)

The number of births per individual for a specific age during a specified time.

– cohort

A well-defined group of people who have had a common experience or exposure who are observed through time. For example, the birth cohort of 1976 refers to people born in that year.

– marital status of parents

Married parents: refers to parents who are married to each other. Unmarried parents: refers to parents who are unmarried, or married but not to each other.

Deaths

– cause-of-death coding

From 1 January 2000, deaths in Scotland have been coded in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (Tenth Revision) (ICD10). Classification of underlying cause of death is based on information collected on the medical certificate of cause of death together with any additional information provided subsequently by the certifying doctor. Changes notified to the General Register Office for Scotland by Procurators Fiscal are also taken into account. Additional information about suicides is supplied by the Crown Office.

The GROS website provides more detailed information about death certificates, coding the causes of death, and how statistics of deaths from certain causes are produced.

– expectation of life

The average number of additional years a person could expect to live if current mortality trends were to continue for the rest of that person's life. Most commonly cited as life expectancy at birth.

– stillbirth

Section 56(1) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 defined a stillbirth as a child which had issued forth from its mother after the 28th week of pregnancy and which did not breathe or show any other sign of life. The Still-Birth (Definition) Act 1992, which came into effect on 1 October 1992, amended Section 56(1) of the 1965 Act (and other relevant UK legislation), replacing the reference to the 28th week with a reference to the 24th week.

– perinatal deaths

Refers to stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life.

– infant deaths

Refers to all deaths in the first year of life.

Marriages

Civil marriages were introduced by the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1939, which came into operation on 1 July 1940. Each year a small number of 'irregular' marriages (generally fewer than 10) are established by Decree of the Declarator of the Court of Session.

Civil partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act 2004, which applies throughout the UK, came into force on 5 December 2005. The Act enables same-sex couples aged 16 and over to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. In Scotland, the first civil partnership was registered on 20 December 2005.

Divorces

The data presented on divorces relate to the date on which the decrees were granted. This is a change from the basis used for the figures which appeared in previous editions, when a small proportion of divorces (broadly speaking, those for which GROS received the data more than two months after the end of the year in which the decrees were granted) were counted against the year in which GROS processed the data. The method of producing the figures has now been corrected, and the series has been revised back to 1985, so that it now gives the numbers of divorces which were granted in each year from 1985.

In legal terms the Divorce (Scotland) Act 1976 introduced a single ground for divorce – irretrievable breakdown of marriage – with the detailed reasons as 'proofs'. However, the information presented in this report on reasons for divorce retains the terminology 'grounds for divorce'.

The grounds for divorce were amended by the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 which came into effect on 4 May 2006. The Act reduced the separation periods for divorce with consent to one year (previously two years) and without consent to two years (previously five years). It also removed 'desertion' as a ground.

Dissolutions of civil partnerships

Dissolutions of civil partnerships are counted on the basis of the date on which the decree was granted. The first dissolution of a civil partnership in Scotland was granted in April 2007.

Adoptions

The Registrar General for Scotland registers adoptions under the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act 1930.

Households and housing

Like population projections, household projections are produced every two years, and are mainly used for informing decisions about future housing need and service provision. The latest household projections, covering the period 2006 to 2031, incorporate the results of the 2006-based population projections. They also incorporate information from the last two Censuses, to project trends in household formation by type of household and the age of the head of household. The head of household is defined in the Census as the first person on the Census form who is aged 16 or over and is usually resident at the address in question.

The projections provide an indication of what would happen if past trends continue. They do not take account of policy initiatives, or other factors that may affect future populations. Projections for small groups are likely to be less reliable than those for larger groups.

Household estimates and projections publications are available from <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/household-estimates-projections/index.html>

Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

This is a National Statistics publication. It has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics (<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>). These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Enquiries

Enquiries about this publication should be addressed to:

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General Register Office for Scotland

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is the department of the devolved Scottish Administration responsible for the registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland. We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce population and household statistics. We make available important information for family history. The GROS website is <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>.

Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

Further detailed statistics produced by GROS are available from the Statistics Section on the GROS website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/index.html>). Statistics from the 2001 Census are on Scotland's Census Results On-Line website (<http://www.scrol.gov.uk>) and on the Census section of the GROS website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/index.html>).

Information about future publications is provided on the GROS website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/futurepb.html>) If you would like to receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/scotstat>.

Comments and complaints

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to Kirsty MacLachlan, Head of Demography Division, General Register Office for Scotland, Room 1/2/7, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh EH12 7TF. Telephone: (0131) 314 4242,
E-mail: kirsty.maclachlan@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

We also welcome any comments or suggestion that would help us to improve our standards of service.

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, 1.N04, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG.</p> <p>Telephone: (0131) 244 0442</p> <p>E-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: http://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, for England and Wales, registers life events and holds the Census of Population.</p>	<p>Customer Contact Centre, Room 1.015, Office for National Statistics, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.</p> <p>Telephone: 0845 601 3034</p> <p>Minicom: 01633 812399</p> <p>E-mail: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.ons.gov.uk</p>
<p>The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The Agency also has responsibility, in Northern Ireland, for the registration of births, marriages, adoptions and deaths and the Census of Population.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, McAuley House, 2-14 Castle Street, Belfast, BT1 1SA.</p> <p>Telephone: 028 9034 8100</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>



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First published 2009

Price £7.00

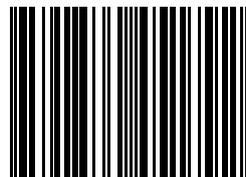
ISSN 0080-786 9

ISBN 978 -1-874451-79-2

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£7

ISBN 978-1-874451-79-2



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