

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

NRS Statistics Publication Improvements

Background

1. This paper provides information on improvements that we are making to our statistics publications. The aim of making changes is these to modernise our publications and to make it easier for users to extract key points from our statistics publications. We do not intend to drop the broad content of what is currently included within our publications.

Front pages and Key Findings

2. We have produced a rebranded front page for our publications, although we are developing a different style for our flagship report “Scotland’s Population: Registrar General’s Annual Review”. The purpose of this is to provide a consistent brand for our publications. **Annex A** provides an example of a front page of a recent NRS statistics publication.
3. We are now producing a Key Findings section at the start of many of our statistics publications. These Key Findings are generally between one and three pages long and can be found before the Contents page within our publications.
4. The purpose of producing a Key Findings document is to front-load the main messages in our publication so that users can easily and quickly access and understand the key points from the statistics release. The Key Findings have also been designed so that they can be easily re-used within tweets and in other briefing documents.
5. We are also including the Key Findings for each publication as a standalone documents within the [Infographics and Visualisations](#) page of the NRS Statistics website. **Annex B** provides screenshots of the Key Findings from a recent NRS statistics publication.

Improvements to the style guide for the Registrar General’s Annual Review

6. We are making improvements to the style guide and content for our flagship annual statistical publication “Scotland’s Population: Registrar General’s Annual Review” (RGAR). The RGAR for 2017 will be published later in the summer.

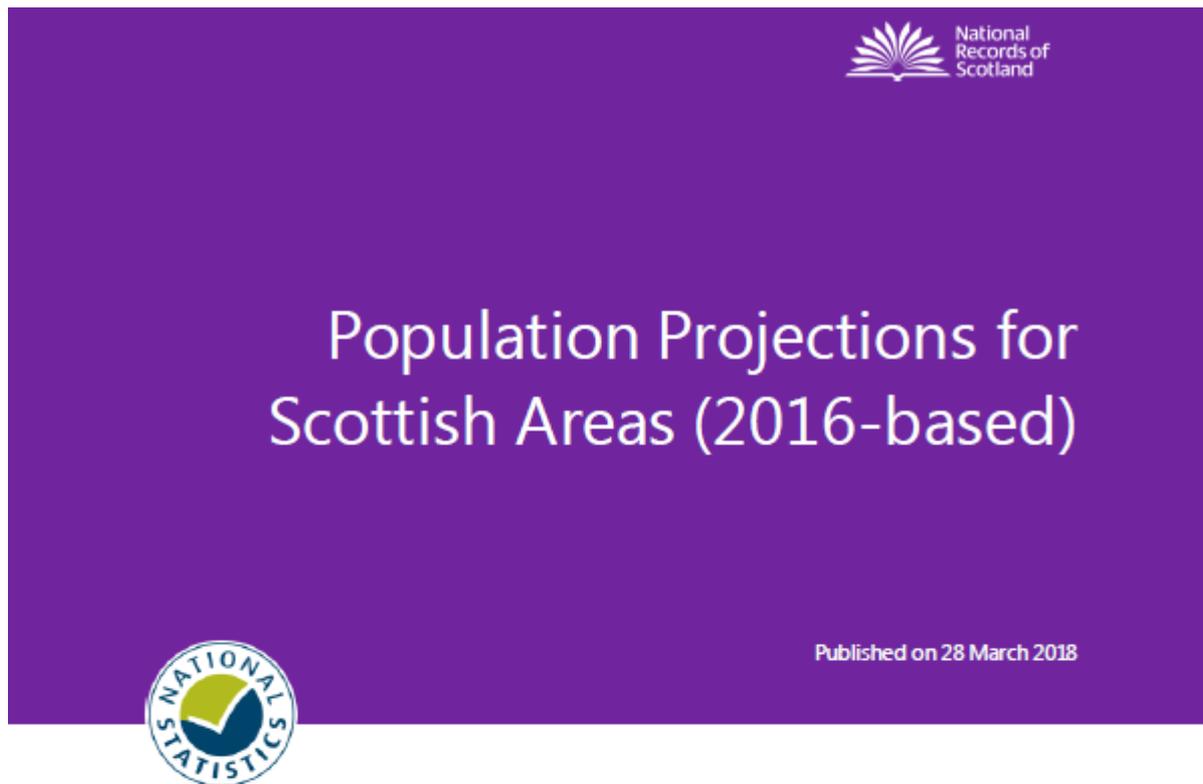
7. We have felt that the previous RGAR was somewhat text heavy. We are therefore making this year's RGAR more readable and interesting to the non-specialist. We are adding information boxes to break up the text within each chapter of the RGAR. These boxes are designed to help users to understand key concepts, figures and developments within demographic statistics.
8. We are also designing this year's RGAR to be similar in style to the [Scotland's Population : Infographic Report](#) which we publish alongside it each year, so that the two reports complement each other better. For instance, we will be having similar formats for chapter headings and the headline messages from the two reports will be comparable.
9. **Annex C** provides examples of the types of text box which we are including within this year's RGAR as well as a mockup of the front page and an example of a chapter introduction page within the new publication.

Next steps

10. We are considering other ways in which we can improve the presentation of our publications to make them as user-friendly as possible. We welcome any feedback from PAMS users.

National Records of Scotland
May 2018

Annex A – Screenshot. Example of Front Page of Publication



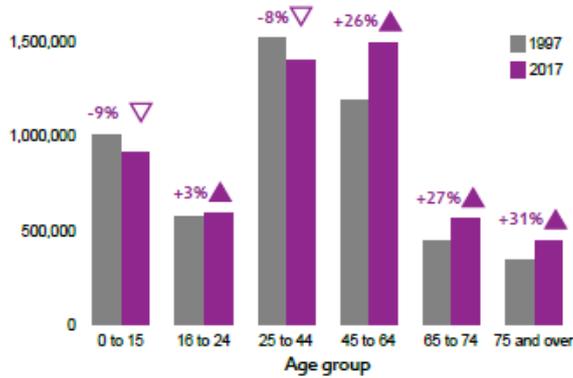
This statistical report presents the results for the 2016-based Population Projections for Scottish Areas, including council areas, NHS boards, national parks and strategic development planning authorities.

These projections are consistent with the National Population Projections (published on 26 October 2017).

Annex B. Screenshot. Example of Key Findings, Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland 2017



Number of people

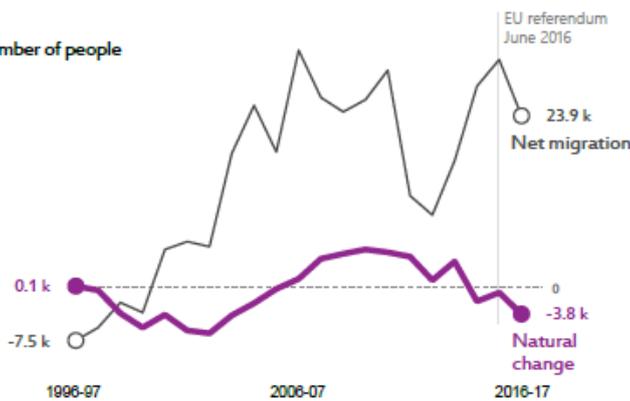


Scotland's population is ageing

The increase in the population of older age groups has been much higher than younger age groups over the last 20 years.

The largest increase has been in the 75 and over age group (+31%) whereas the population of children aged 0 to 15 has decreased the most (-9%).

Number of people

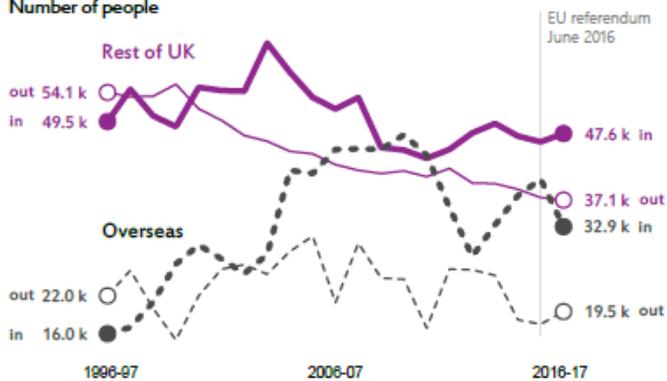


Since 2000 Scotland's population increase has mostly been due to positive net migration

In the year to 30 June 2017:

- 23,900 more people came to Scotland than left (net migration)
- There were 3,800 more deaths than births (natural change)

Number of people



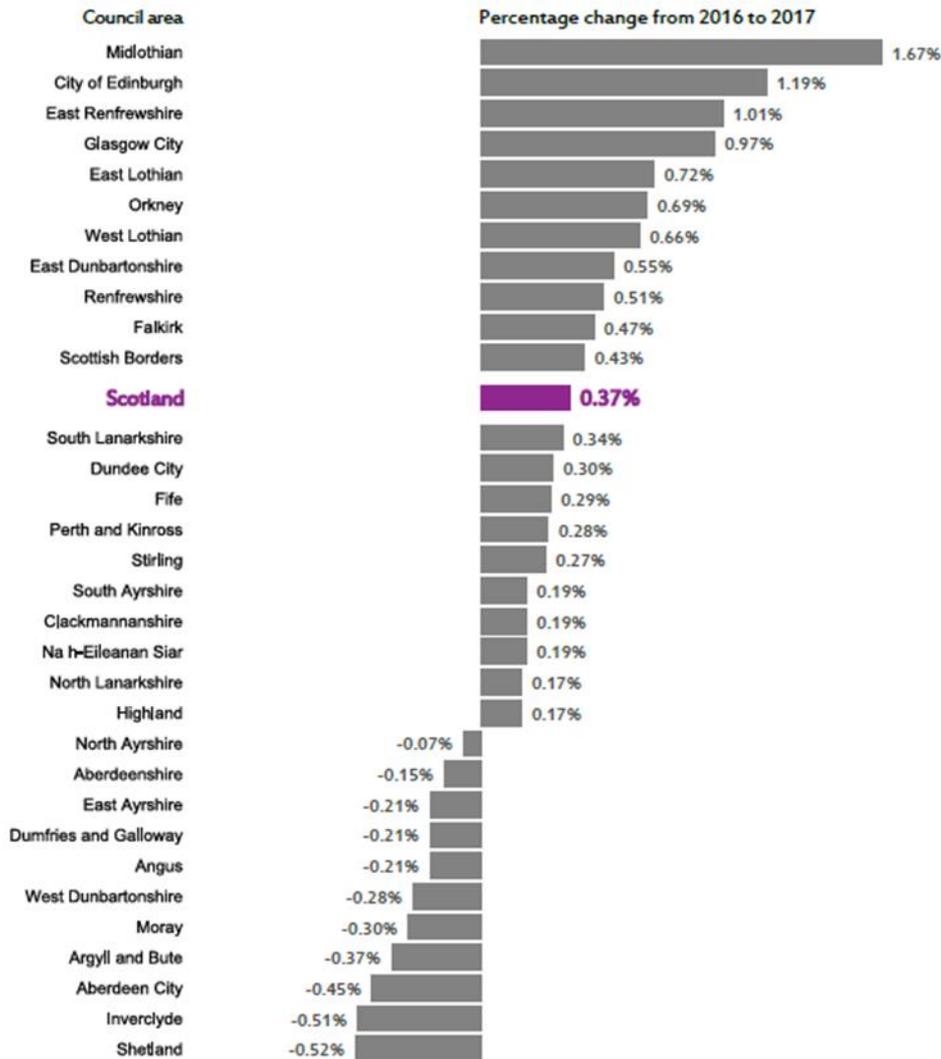
Over the last year, the number of people moving to Scotland from the rest of UK has increased whereas the number coming from overseas has decreased

In the year to 30 June 2017:

- 47,600 more people came to Scotland from the rest of the UK (up from 46,300 the previous year)
- 32,900 arrived from overseas (down from 40,400 the previous year)

The level of population change varies across Scotland's council areas

Over the last year, two thirds of Scotland's council areas (21 councils) increased in population while one third (11 councils) experienced a population decrease.



There is more information on Scotland's council areas in the interactive data visualisation accompanying the mid-2017 population estimates which is available from the NRS website (<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/stats-at-a-glance/infographics-and-visualisations#data>)

Annex C. Examples of information boxes which will be included within Registrar General Annual Review (RGAR) 2017

1. Key statistic

Projected population increase between 2014 and 2039:

England 17%
Northern Ireland 10%

Scotland 7%

Wales 6%

2. Key statement

Across the whole of Scotland, the largest contributor to positive population change is

in-migration.

3. Article of interest (1)

Fire Starter Festival 2018

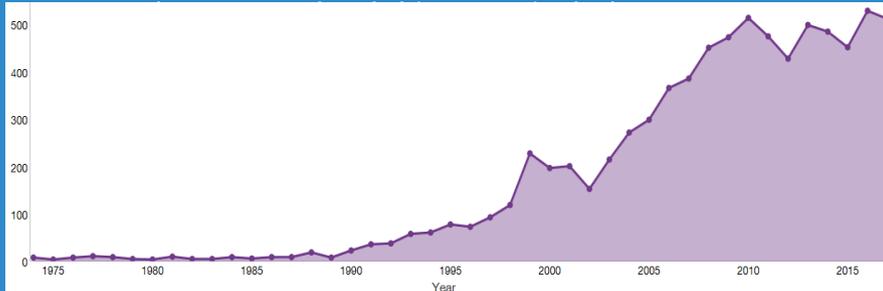
National Records of Scotland's Kirsty MacLachlan and Esther Roughsedge delivered a presentation about how Scotland's population is changing at this event which celebrates creativity and innovation in Public Service.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/seminars/firestarter/firestarter-scot-pop-change.pptx>



Article of interest (2)

National Records of Scotland (NRS) releases an annual **Babies' First Names** publication. On the NRS website, an interactive visualisation allows you to enter a name and observe how it's popularity has changed over the years.



4. Data/Methodology notes

From January 2017, NRS has introduced **new software for coding the cause of death**. The impact on the figures is relatively minor but has led to an increase in deaths coded to dementia and Alzheimer's and a decrease in deaths coded to respiratory diseases. Deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's were rising before the new software was introduced, but the impact of the software change further increases deaths from these causes. More information can be found in the paper "**The Impact of the Implementation of IRIS Software for ICD-10 Cause of Death Coding on Mortality Statistics in Scotland**".

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/vital-events/impact-of-implementation-iris-for-icd.pdf>

5. Links to relevant policy work

In April 2017, National Records of Scotland (NRS) published **Demographic and Census profiles of European Economic Area (EEA) born residents in Scotland**. These provide information and key statistics on EEA born residents across Scotland's council areas. For further information, see

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/stats-at-a-glance/profile-of-european-economic-area-eea-born-residents-in-scotland>

6. Technical information – to help readers understand common misunderstandings

Fertility rates

Crude birth rate - number of live births per 1,000 total population

General Fertility Rate (GFR) - number of live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44

Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFRs) - number of live births per 1,000 women, by age of mother, in five-year age groups

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) - average number of children that a group of females would expect to have if they experienced the observed ASFRs in each of their childbearing years

7. External - Have there been any external developments that tie in with the discussion?

Healthy Life Expectancy

A further extension of life expectancy estimates is Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) which is published by the **Information Services Division (ISD)** of the **NHS**. Healthy Life Expectancy adds a quality of life dimension to estimates of life expectancy and can be defined as the number of years people can expect to live in good health. More information on HLE in Scotland is available on the website of the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO).

8. New analysis to highlight briefly - Has any new analysis been performed that may be of interest to the reader?



Scotland's Population

The Registrar General's Annual
Review of Demographic Trends

2017

163rd Edition

Preserving the past | Recording the present | Informing the future





Births

"The number of births in Scotland continued to fall in 2016"