

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Mid-2023 Population Estimates Scotland
Description	Population estimates for Scotland and its administrative areas by age and sex on 30 June 2023
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population Estimates
Format	Excel workbooks and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF)
Data source(s)	<p>Population estimates are based on the 2022 Census and were updated by taking account of births, deaths and migration up to 30 June 2023.</p> <p>Numbers of births and deaths are obtained from the civil registration system.</p> <p>The latest international migration estimates use different data sources and methods for each nationality grouping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-EU nationals: Estimates are based on the Home Office Borders and Immigration data, which combine visa and travel information, to link an individual's travel movements into and out of the country. • EU nationals: Estimates are largely based on administrative data using the Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID). Some adjustments are made using the International Passenger Survey (IPS). • British nationals: The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is the main source of information. This is combined with 2022 Census data on the age and sex distribution of British passport holders to obtain council area level disaggregation. <p>Migration within the UK is based on the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and the Community Health Index (CHI).</p> <p>Armed forces data comes from the 2022 Census and from the Ministry of Defence.</p> <p>Data on prisoners based in Scotland is obtained from Justice Analytical Services in the Scottish Government.</p>

Date that data is acquired	<p>On-going through the year:</p> <p>Prisoners – February 2024; Births and deaths – August 2024; Armed Forces – March 2024; The last of the migration data was finalised in September 2024.</p>
Publication Release date	8 October 2024
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	<p>The estimates refer to the population as at 30 June each year. The mid-year population estimates are usually published 10 months after this date. The mid-2023 statistics were delayed so they could incorporate rebased mid-year estimates for 2011 up to 2021 following Scotland’s Census 2022.</p>
Continuity of data	<p>Scotland level mid-year population estimates are available back to 1855. Council and NHS Board area mid-year population estimates are available for the period from 1981, based on the Council area boundaries introduced in 1995.</p> <p>During this period NHS Board area boundaries have changed twice.</p> <p>The dissolution of NHS Argyll & Clyde occurred in April 2006, reducing the number of NHS Board areas from 15 to 14. Argyll & Bute (council area) was allocated to NHS Highland and the rest of NHS Argyll & Clyde was used to create NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde by combining it with NHS Greater Glasgow.</p> <p>Boundary changes, effective from 1 April 2014, mean that the boundaries for all 14 NHS Board areas are now aligned with Council area boundaries.</p> <p>Other small changes to Council and NHS Board area boundaries have taken place over this time.</p> <p>Methods to produce international migration estimates changed for mid-2020, mid-2021 and mid-2022, but have remained broadly consistent for the methods used in 2023.</p> <p>Scotland’s Census was carried out in March 2022. The census results are available on the Scotland’s Census website, along with analysis of the changes over time. During the years between each census, NRS produces annual population estimates. They are based on the previous census, and adjusted each year to account for births, deaths and migration. Over time, these estimates gradually drift from the actual</p>

	<p>population counts until the next census is conducted. This 'drift' is anticipated, and it is standard procedure to revise the annual population estimates once census data becomes available.</p> <p>In July 2023, NRS published rebased annual population estimates for 2011 to 2021. The starting point for rebasing was the 2022 mid-year population estimates, rolled forward from the 2011 Census (taking account of births, deaths and migration over the following 11 years). These were compared to the 2022 mid-year population estimates, rolled forward from the 2022 Census. The rebased annual population estimates were produced by correcting for the differences between the mid-2022 population estimates based on the 2022 Census and those rolled forward from 2011.</p> <p>After publication of the rebased estimates (2011-21), the estimates of international migration for the year 2021-22 were amended. This reduces the mid-2022 population estimate for Scotland by 700 people, or 0.01% of its previous estimated value, to 5,447,000. This change is distributed across council areas.</p> <p>The next step will be to revisit the rebasing exercise, taking account of the change in the estimate of international migration, to produce revised annual population estimates for 2011 to 2021.</p>
Revisions statement	<p>Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections - a copy of which is available on the Scottish Government website.</p>
Concepts and definitions	<p>The notes and definitions for this publication can be found at the end of the Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland, Mid-2023 document on the NRS website.</p>
Accuracy	<p>Population estimates are based on the 2022 Census and were updated by taking account of births, deaths and migration up to 30 June 2023.</p> <p>A quality assurance report for Scotland's Census 2022 has been published in the Scotland's Census website.</p> <p>Births and deaths are estimated using data from the civil registration system, which is considered to be virtually complete. Migration is more difficult to estimate because there is no comprehensive registration system in the UK, so the figures are estimated using the sources of data described above.</p>

Completeness:	The estimated population of an area includes all those usually resident there, whatever their nationality. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address. Members of UK and non-UK armed forces stationed in Scotland are included; UK forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded. Short-term international migrants are excluded.
Comparability	Population estimates for Scotland are comparable with population estimates from the rest of the UK and most countries around the world.
Accessibility	It is the policy of NRS to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website.
Coherence and clarity	The methodology is that used by many countries across the world with small changes to account for different data inputs.
Value type and unit of measure	Counts of people by sex and single year of age.
Official Statistics designation	Accredited Official Statistics.
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as Accredited Official Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.
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