



Mid-2012 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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Main Points

Settlements and the localities within them are designed to represent the populated, built-up areas of Scotland. Over 90 per cent of people in Scotland live within a settlement. Settlements account for less than 3 per cent of Scotland's area.

The main points in this report are:

Settlements

A settlement is defined to be a group of high density postcodes whose combined population rounds to 500 people or more. They are separated by low density postcodes.

- There are currently 516 settlements in Scotland with a population of 500 or above.
- Twenty-two new settlements have been identified from the mid-2012 population estimates which take into account the 2011 Census results.
- Eight settlements have decreased in population to below the threshold of 500 people or have joined with larger settlements.
- Over 90 per cent of people in Scotland live within settlements. Settlements account for less than 3 per cent of Scotland's area.
- The largest settlement in Scotland is Greater Glasgow with a population of 976,970 accounting for 18 per cent of Scotland's population.
- The smallest settlement in Scotland is Moniaive, in Dumfries & Galloway Council area, with a population of 500 accounting for 0.01 per cent of Scotland's population.
- The Council area with the largest number of settlements within its boundaries is Aberdeenshire (60 settlements). However the combined population of these settlements accounts for only 3 per cent of Scotland's population.

Localities

Localities correspond to the more recognisable towns and cities of Scotland which can be found within settlements. They also have a minimum rounded population of 500 people or more.

- The number of localities in Scotland now stands at 643.
- Twenty-three new localities have been identified.
- Five localities have decreased in population to below the threshold of 500 people and have been combined with larger localities.
- The largest locality in Scotland is Glasgow with an estimated population of 591,620. In contrast the smallest locality in Scotland is Moniaive with an estimated population of 500.
- The settlement with the largest number of localities is the settlement of Greater Glasgow which contains 26 localities ranging in size from 520 people to 591,620 people.

1. Introduction

Population statistics for administrative and other areas in Scotland are published annually by the National Records of Scotland (NRS). However, following the re-organisation of local government in May 1975, smaller local authorities, known as large and small burghs, ceased to exist. At the time there was an on-going need expressed by census users to know the population of such areas. As a result, the National Records of Scotland (NRS), now produce two datasets biennially which are designed to show the boundaries and estimated populations of urban areas in Scotland: these datasets are settlements and localities.

While settlements can go a long way in defining the towns and cities in Scotland, some are very extensive and group together some very large populations. Therefore, since 2001, the larger settlements have been divided into localities using as a basis the areas so defined in the 1991 Census report 'Key Statistics for Localities in Scotland' (ISBN 0-11-495736-3)¹ and the 2001 Census report 'Key Statistics for Settlements and Localities Scotland' (ISBN 1-874451-68-0).

The estimated settlement and locality populations referred to in this document have been published on the NRS website. The settlement and locality boundaries are also available to download in the form of shapefiles, which display spatial information on geographical areas and features. These files can be viewed using Geographical Information System (GIS) software².

1.1 Data Sources

The mid-2012 settlements and localities estimates are based on the mid-2012 small area population estimates published in December 2013 which were themselves based on results from the 2011 Census. The previous mid-2010 settlements and localities estimates were created using the mid-2010 small area population estimates which were based on results from the 2001 Census.

The 2011 Census estimated the population of Scotland to be 5,295,400 which was 49,400 higher than the 5,246,000 given by the rolled-forward estimates based on the 2001 Census. This difference has meant that changes amongst settlement and locality boundaries and population estimates between 2010 and 2012 will be affected by using the revised population estimates. This, in some instances, may have created a larger difference in settlement and locality populations and boundaries between years than would have previously been the case.

Data on communal establishment populations are derived from a variety of sources, including the 2011 Census. New estimates of some communal populations from the 2011 Census and more recent estimates of other communal populations may have affected the distribution of people across Scotland and this in turn may have affected the population estimates of settlements and localities.

There are currently no plans to revise previous releases of this publication.

Footnote

- 1) Note that the 1991 Census publication on localities is out of print. It should be available in main reference libraries.
- 2) [ArcGIS software](#) is available from the ESRI website or alternatively [QGIS software](#) can be obtained from the QGIS website.

1.2 Accuracy

The figures reported here and in the tables by sex and five year age groups have been derived from data zone populations and are provided at unit level. However, it is not implied that the population estimates are accurate to this level of detail. The population figures are estimates that have gone through a number of stages of processing, each of which may impact on the quality of the estimates. Also, there are limitations with the administrative data sources used to produce the figures which may increase the uncertainty in the estimates. For example, the allocation of armed forces at data zone level in Scotland relies largely on the distribution from the 2011 Census. In addition, data zone population estimates are constrained to the age/sex distribution at Council area level.

It is important to note that comparisons over time are not appropriate for this publication as population changes may be attributable to factors other than the normal population changes experienced by an area. For example, the inclusion of a postcode in a settlement which had previously not been included would increase a settlements population by several households, despite the fact that these households may have been there for several years and had not previously been counted with the settlement because the postcode did not meet the density criterion.

1.3 Relevance and Uses

Settlement and locality population estimates assist and inform other areas of Scottish Government policy and legislation: The Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification is updated every two years and is based on the identification of key population thresholds; the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 offers communities with a population less than 10,000 the opportunity to register an interest in land along with the right to buy should it be for sale. More information on this can be found in [section 2.2](#) of the publication.

1.4 Quality and Method

All Councils were asked to help quality assure the population estimates and boundaries for settlements and localities. Comments from those who responded have been taken into account where possible in the final estimates of populations and boundaries.

The methodology used to calculate population estimates for settlements and localities is constantly evolving. In consultation with users on the [Population and Migration Statistics Committee](#) (information available on the NRS website) this year we have introduced experimental breakdowns of settlement and locality populations. This has allowed us to include analysis on the age and sex structures of settlements and localities for the first time.

More information on the methodology used to create the estimates as well as details of the new population breakdowns can be found in the methodology paper on the NRS website: [Mid-Year Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland: Methodology Guide](#).

We welcome feedback on this publication and the changes introduced to the estimates. For contact details, please refer to [section 6](#) of this publication.

1.5 UK Statistics Authority Assessment

Along with other population and demographic statistics, population estimates for settlements and localities were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) in May 2011. The UKSA has designated this publication as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information can be found in the [UK Statistics Authority-Assessments](#) section on the NRS website.

2. Settlement Populations

2.1 The Changing Landscape of Scotland

As of mid-2012 there were 516 settlements in Scotland. This is an increase on the 502 settlements which were identified in mid-2010.

Eight new settlements have been included because their population now exceeds 500 people, these are:

Settlement	Council area
Auchenblae	Aberdeenshire
Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich)	Eilean Siar
Crook of Devon	Perth & Kinross
Morningside	North Lanarkshire
Murthly	Perth & Kinross
Queenzieburn	North Lanarkshire
Spean Bridge	Highland
Thorntonhall	South Lanarkshire

Three settlements have been excluded because their population now falls below 500 people, these are:

Settlement	Council area
Duffus	Moray
Maidens	South Ayrshire
Port William	Dumfries & Galloway

Five settlements have been joined to larger settlements because they no longer have a low density postcode separating them, these are:

Settlement	Joined to	Council area
Braidwood	Carluke	South Lanarkshire
Crossgates	Dunfermline	Fife
Hurlford & Crookedholm	Kilmarnock	East Ayrshire
Maxwellheugh	Kelso	Scottish Borders
Monkton	Ayr	South Ayrshire

Fourteen settlements have been created from larger settlements because they are now separated by low density postcodes, these are:

Settlement	Separated from	Council area
Auchinloch	Kirkintilloch	North Lanarkshire
Calderbank	Greater Glasgow	North Lanarkshire
Coatbridge & Airdrie	Greater Glasgow	North Lanarkshire
Carmunnock	Greater Glasgow	Glasgow City
Culloden	Inverness	Highland
East Calder	Livingston	West Lothian
Hillhead	Coylton	South Ayrshire
Howwood	Greater Glasgow	Renfrewshire
Milton of Leys	Inverness	Highland
Motherwell & Bellshill	Greater Glasgow	North Lanarkshire
Newmilns	Galston	East Ayrshire
Plains	Greater Glasgow	North Lanarkshire
Tullibody	Alloa	Clackmannanshire
Vale of Leven	Dumbarton	West Dunbartonshire

2.2 Urban/Rural Thresholds

Settlement and locality population estimates assist and inform other areas of Scottish Government policy and legislation:

- the Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification is updated every two years and is based on the identification of key population thresholds of 3,000, 10,000 and 125,000;
- the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 offers discretionary relief from non-domestic rates for certain properties in rural settlements with a population below 3,000; and
- the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 offers communities with a population less than 10,000 the opportunity to register an interest in land along with the right to buy should it be for sale.

Of the 516 settlements in Scotland the population of eight have changed enough since 2010 to pass a population threshold.

Settlements which have increased to more than 3,000 people are:

Settlement	Council area	2010 Population	2012 Population
Aviemore	Highland	2,730	3,150
High Valleyfield	Fife	2,930	3,280
Inverkip	Inverclyde	2,900	3,060
Oldmeldrum	Aberdeenshire	2,990	3,230

Settlements which have increased to more than 10,000 people are:

Settlement	Council area	2010 Population	2012 Population
Ellon	Aberdeenshire	9,910	10,100
Fort William	Highland	9,820	10,450

Settlements which have decreased to fewer than 10,000 people are:

Settlement	Council area	2010 Population	2012 Population
Dalgety Bay	Fife	10,100	9,810

Settlements which have decreased to fewer than 3,000 people are:

Settlement	Council area	2010 Population	2012 Population
Leuchars	Fife	3,570	2,860

Of the 22 new settlements identified in 2012, four of the new settlements have a population between 10,000 people and 125,000 people, these are:

Settlement	2012 Population
Coatbridge & Airdrie	90,330
Culloden	13,040
Motherwell & Bellshill	124,530
Vale of Leven	24,640

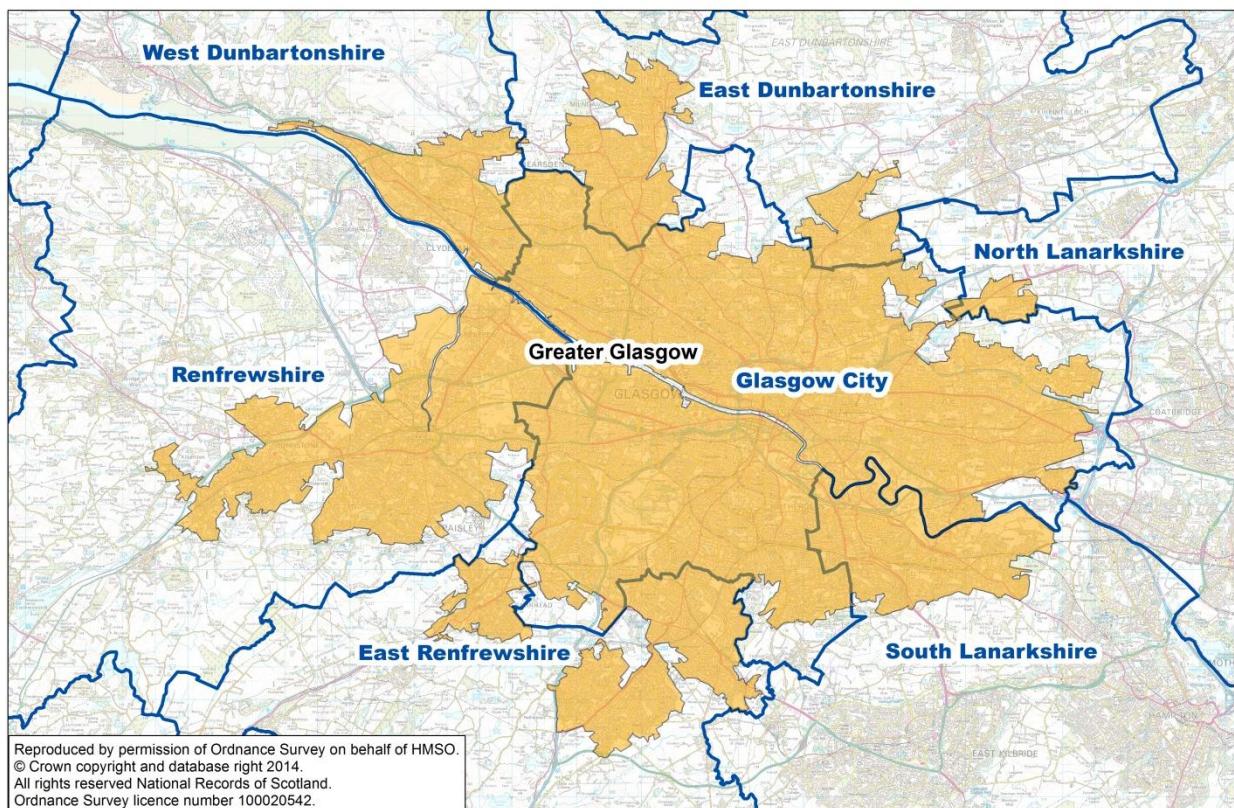
There are two new settlements whose population is between 3,000 people and 10,000 people, these are:

Settlement	2012 Population
East Calder	4,710
Tullibody	9,530

2.3 The Range of Settlements in Scotland

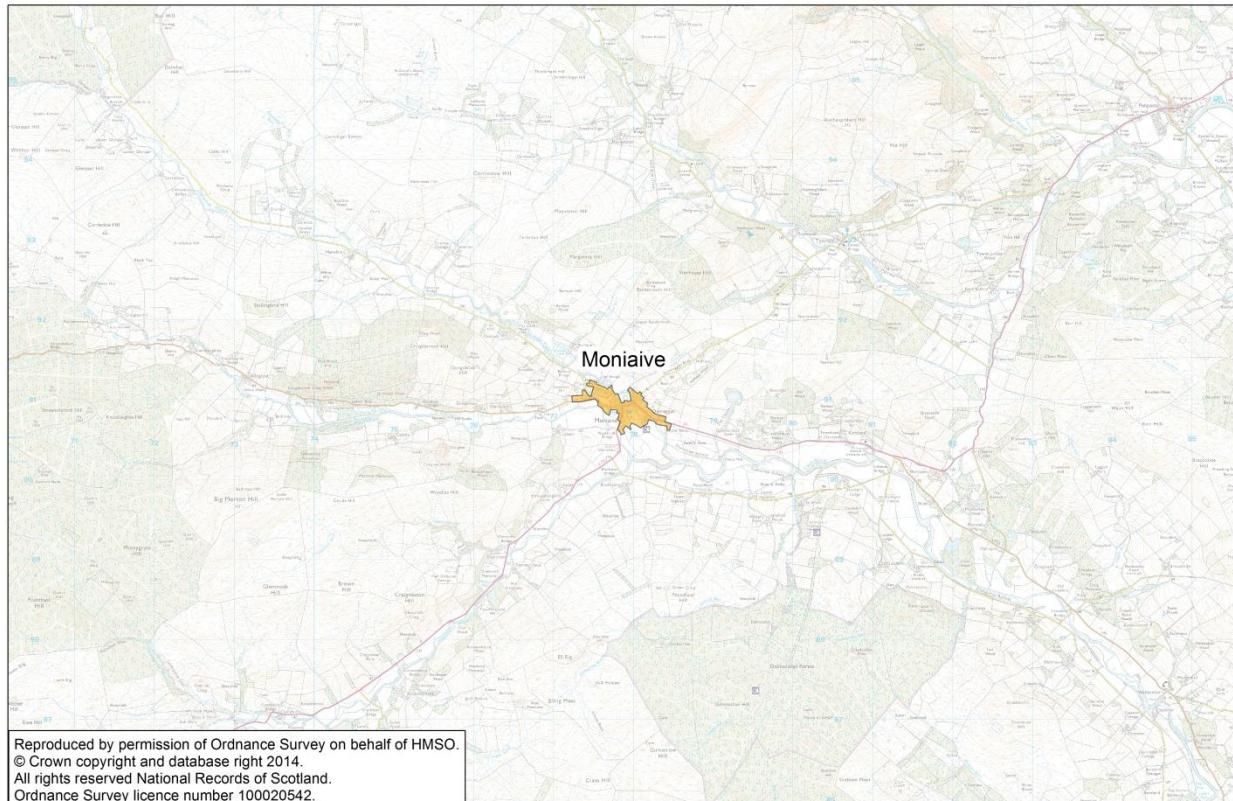
The largest settlement in Scotland is Greater Glasgow, as shown in [Figure 1](#), with 976,970 people (around 469,407 men and 507,563 women). This accounts for 18 per cent of people in Scotland, with men in Greater Glasgow accounting for 18 per cent of men in Scotland and women in Greater Glasgow accounting for 19 per cent of women in Scotland. Greater Glasgow also accounts for over one fifth of the people living in settlements in Scotland.

Figure 1: The Settlement of Greater Glasgow, 2012



In contrast, the smallest settlement in Scotland, shown in [Figure 2](#), is Moniaive, in Dumfries & Galloway, with 500 people (around 242 men and 258 women). This accounts for less than 0.01 per cent of the people in Scotland.

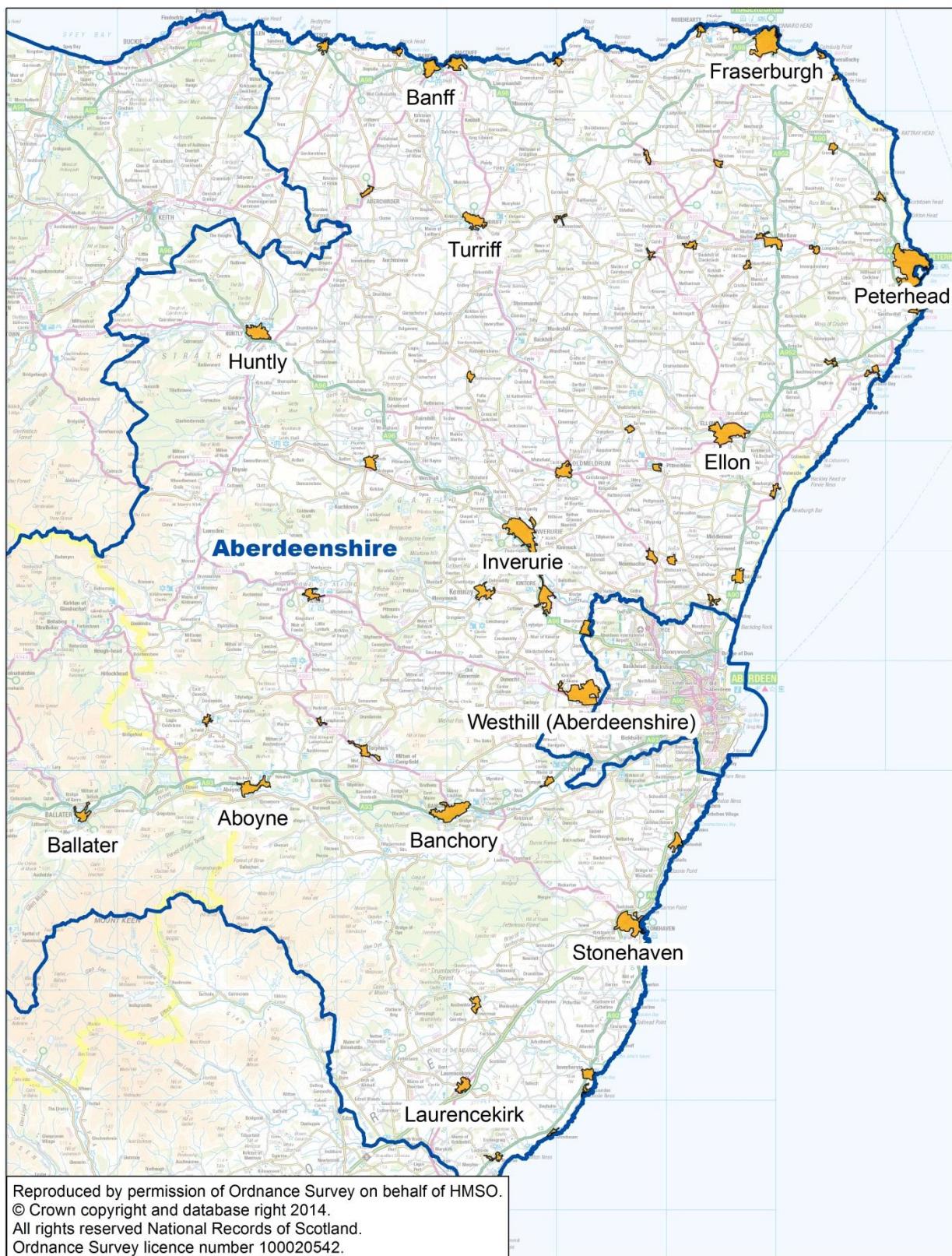
Figure 2: The Settlement of Moniaive, 2012



The settlement which crosses the most Council areas is Greater Glasgow. Currently the settlement is part of seven Council areas, namely: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire.

Aberdeenshire is the Council area with the largest number of settlements with a population over 500. There are 60 settlements in Aberdeenshire, as shown in [Figure 3](#). However, only around 183,910 people live in these settlements, this accounts for 4 per cent of the total number of people living in settlements, 3 per cent of the total population of Scotland, and 72 per cent of people living in Aberdeenshire.

Figure 3: Aberdeenshire Council area with Settlements Highlighted, 2012



In 2010 the ten largest settlements (in order from largest to smallest population size)³ were:

Greater Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Falkirk, East Kilbride, Hamilton, Greenock, Dunfermline, and Livingston.

There is no difference to the order of the four largest settlements in 2012 however the creation and position of Motherwell & Bellshill as the fifth largest settlement has made Falkirk the sixth largest settlement. Similarly the creation and size of Coatbridge & Airdrie as the seventh largest settlement in Scotland and the increase in size of Hamilton to eighth largest settlement has lowered East Kilbride to ninth. Dunfermline has increased so that it has now overtaken Greenock in size despite falling in rank to become the tenth largest settlement in Scotland.

The ten smallest settlements in Scotland in 2010 (in order from smallest to largest population size)³ were:

Kinnesswood, Port William, Buchlyvie, Crosshill, Thankerton, Cumiestown, Moniaive, Garmouth, Coaltown of Wemyss, and Ayton.

In 2012 Port William has decreased in population so that it is no longer classed as a settlement, and five of the remaining nine are still amongst the ten smallest settlements in Scotland (Kinnesswood, Buchlyvie, Crosshill, Thankerton, and Moniaive).

The ten largest settlements are summarised in Table 1 while the ten smallest settlements are summarised in [Table 2](#).

Table 1: Ten largest settlements in Scotland by sex, 2012⁴

Settlement	People	Males	Females
Greater Glasgow	976,970	469,407	507,563
Edinburgh	488,610	237,644	250,966
Aberdeen	209,460	103,765	105,695
Dundee	157,690	75,792	81,898
Motherwell & Bellshill	124,530	60,130	64,400
Falkirk	100,480	49,091	51,389
Coatbridge & Airdrie	90,330	43,261	47,069
Hamilton	82,310	39,581	42,729
East Kilbride	74,740	35,941	38,799
Dunfermline	71,820	35,302	36,518

Footnote

3) Order based on unrounded estimates.

4) The information in this table can be found in the larger tables 1a, 1b, and 1c for all settlements available on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website.

Table 2: Ten smallest settlements in Scotland by sex, 2012⁵

Settlement	People	Males	Females
Moniaive	500	242	258
Crosshill	500	241	259
Kinnesswood	500	249	251
Murthly	510	262	248
Thankerton	510	249	261
Tighnabruaich	520	261	259
Queenzieburn	520	244	276
Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich)	530	269	261
Buchlyvie	530	251	279
Auchenblae	540	267	273

2.4 The Age Structure of Settlements across Scotland

Across Scotland 17 per cent of people are under the age of 16. The settlement with the largest proportion of under 16 year olds is Forgandenny, in Perth & Kinross, where 39 per cent of the people living there are under 16, this can mostly be attributed to Strathallan School which is a residential school within the boundaries of the settlement.

In contrast to this is St Andrews, in Fife, where only 8 per cent of the people are under 16. This is likely attributable to the presence of a large number of students associated with St Andrews University. Of the 16 to 64 year olds living in St Andrews 48 per cent of them are between the ages of 20 and 29.

Discounting Forgandenny, Kinloss, and St Andrews because of the presence of Strathallan School, Kinloss Barracks, and St Andrews University respectively; the settlement with the largest proportion of under 16 year olds is Dullatur with 29 per cent while the settlement with the smallest proportion of under 16 year olds is Tighnabruaich with 11 per cent.

Across Scotland 65 per cent of people are between the ages of 16 and 64. The settlement with the lowest percentage of people between the ages of 16 and 64 is Elie & Earlsferry, in Fife, where 44 per cent of the people are within this age group; the settlement with the largest number of people between these ages is St Andrews with 76 per cent.

Discounting St Andrews, and Garelochhead because of the presence of St Andrews University, and HM Naval Base Clyde respectively; the settlement with the largest proportion of 16 to 64 year olds is Aberdeen with 71 per cent.

Across Scotland 17 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. Only 5 per cent of people in Kinloss, in Moray, are aged 65 and over, this is the lowest amongst settlements and can be attributed to a large armed forces presence in the settlement. Elie & Earlsferry has the highest percentage of people aged 65 and over with 44 per cent.

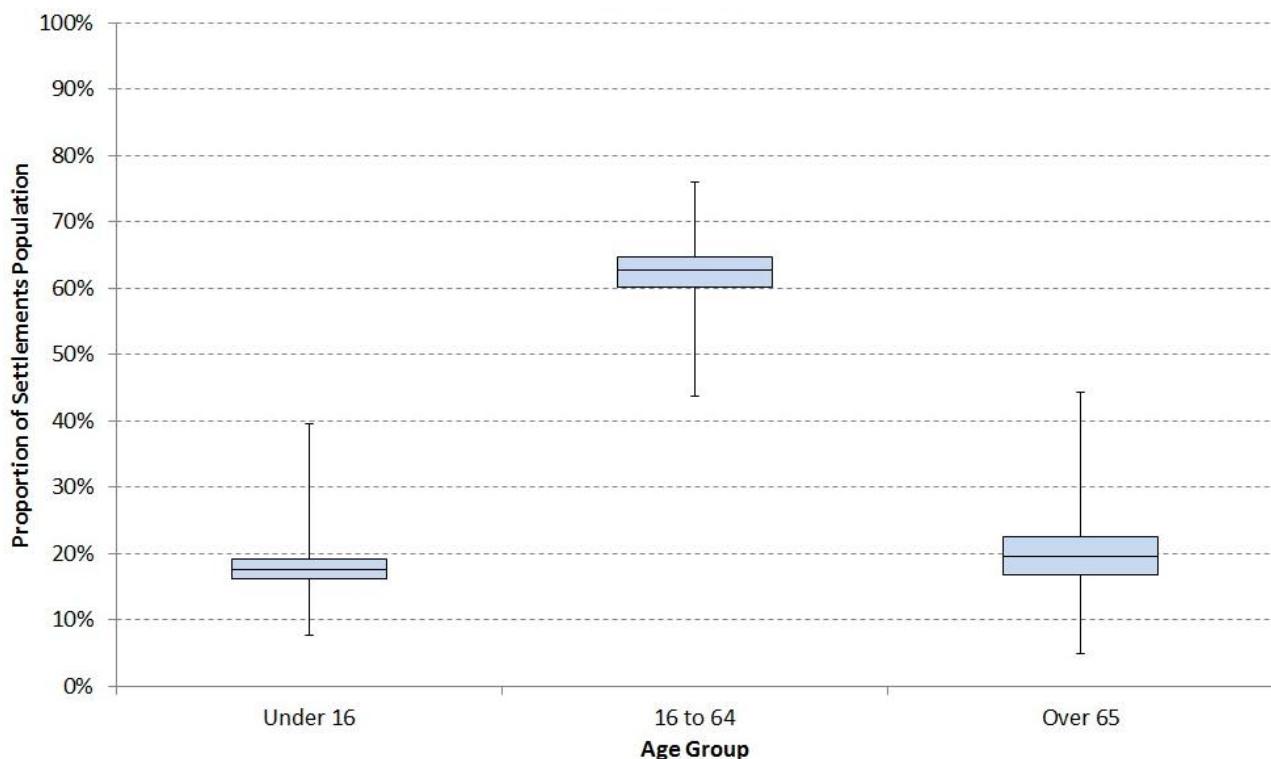
Footnote

- 5) The information in this table can be found in the larger tables 1a, 1b, and 1c for all settlements available on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website.

Discounting Kinloss because of the presence of Kinloss Barracks; the settlement with the smallest proportion of people aged 65 and over is Dullatur, in North Lanarkshire, with 6 per cent.

Figure 4 displays the data in boxplots and shows that while the range of proportions for these age groups across settlements is rather large in some cases, for around half of settlements there is little difference; with around half of under 16 year olds accounting for between 16 and 19 per cent of the population of a settlement, around half of 16 to 64 year olds accounting for between 60 to 65 per cent of the population of a settlement, and around half of those aged 65 and over accounting for between 17 and 23 per cent of the population of a settlement. More information on how to interpret boxplots can be found in [section 5.1](#).

Figure 4: Proportion of people aged under 16, 16 to 64, and 65 and over across all settlements, 2012



Another way to look at the age structure of a population is to look at dependency ratios.

In this publication two dependency ratios are calculated:

- the number of people under 16 years of age per 100 people aged 16 to 64 is defined to be the ‘under 16’ dependency ratio; and
- the number of people aged 65 and over per 100 people aged 16 to 64 is defined to be the ‘65 and over’ dependency ratio.

Information on how to interpret dependency ratio can be found in [section 5.2](#) of this publication.

For the settlements mentioned above the ‘under 16’ and ‘aged 65 and over’ dependency ratios are displayed in the [Table 3](#) below.

Table 3: Selected settlements and their corresponding dependency ratio, 2012⁶

Settlement	'Under 16' dependency ratio	'65 and over' dependency ratio
Dullatur	44	9
Elie & Earlsferry	27	101
Forgandenny	75	14
Garelochhead	19	16
Kinloss	47	8
St Andrews	10	22
Tighnabruaich	20	70

2.5 The Ratio of Males to Females across Settlements

The sex ratio is the male population divided by the female population (e.g. a sex ratio of 0.95 means that for every 100 females there are 95 males).

The settlement with the lowest ratio of males to females is Whitecraig, in East Lothian, where there are around 79 males for every 100 females. This is equivalent to saying that 44 per cent of the people in Whitecraig are male.

In contrast, there is a sex ratio of around 174 males for every 100 females in Garelochhead. This is the highest amongst settlements in Scotland and is equivalent to saying that 64 per cent of the people in Garelochhead are male. This unusually high ratio of males to females can likely be attributed to the presence of HM Naval Base Clyde.

Discounting Garelochhead, Longforgan, and Lossiemouth because of the presence of HM Naval Base Clyde, HM Prison Castle Huntly, and RAF Lossiemouth respectively; the settlement with the largest number of males per 100 females is St Fergus, in Aberdeenshire, with 110 males for every 100 females. This is equivalent to saying that 52 per cent of the people in St Fergus are male.

[Figure 5](#) illustrates the proportion of males to females in the settlements with the lowest and highest ratio of males to females, excluding settlements which include armed forced bases and prisons. Information on how to interpret this figure can be found in [section 5.3](#).

Footnote

- 6) The information in this table can be found in the larger Table D1 for all settlements available on the NRS website.

Figure 5: Number of males and females per 100 people, Whitecraig and St Fergus, 2012

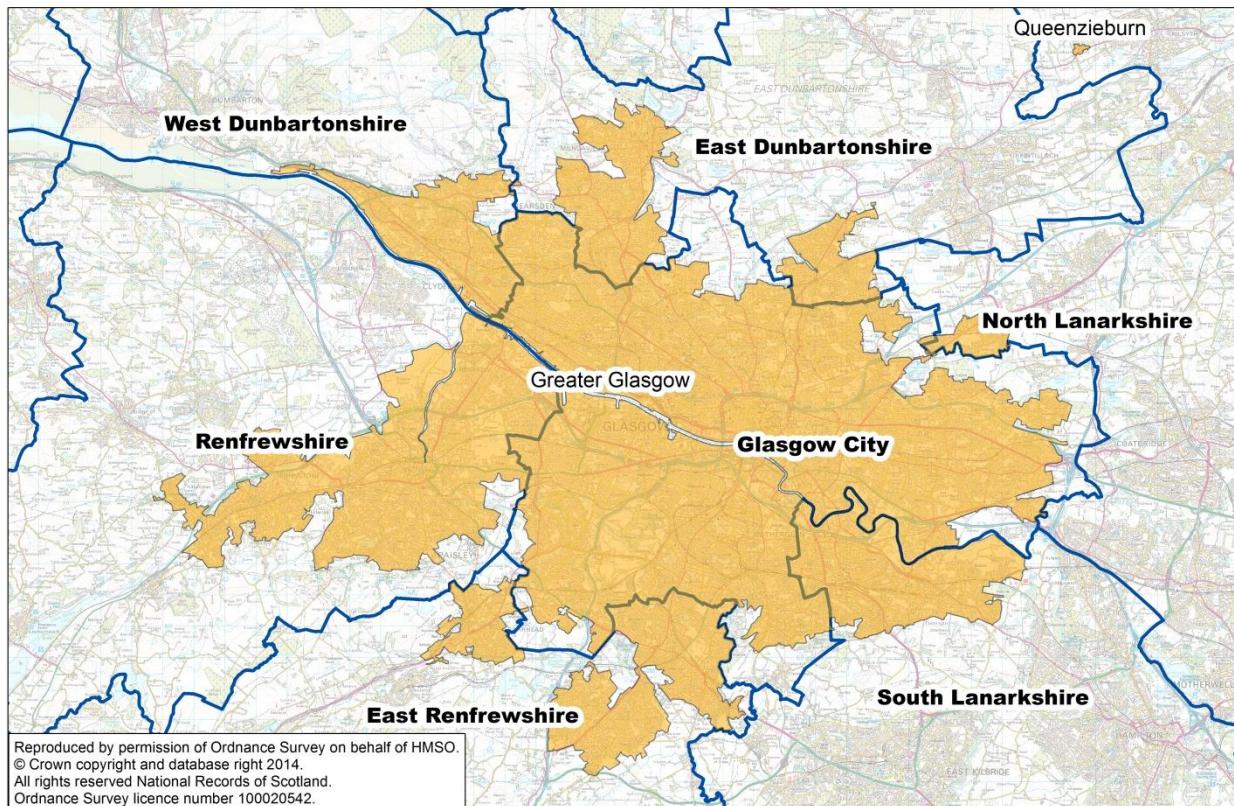


2.6 The Area and Density of Settlements in Scotland

The settlement with the largest area is Greater Glasgow which is 267 square kilometres while the settlement with the smallest area is Queenzieburn, in North Lanarkshire, which is 0.11 square kilometre.

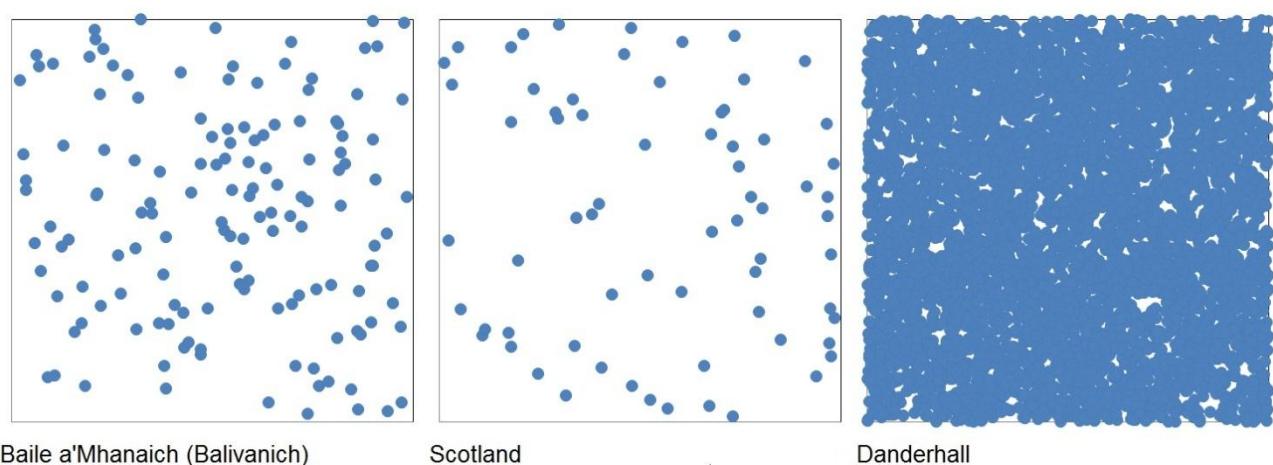
This means that Queenzieburn would fit within Greater Glasgow over 2,325 times. However, the population of Greater Glasgow (976,970) is only slightly more than 1,878 times the population of Queenzieburn (520) meaning that Queenzieburn is more densely populated than Greater Glasgow. [Figure 6](#) shows both of these settlements in relation to each other.

Figure 6: The Settlements of Greater Glasgow and Queenzieburn, 2012



Across Scotland the population density is 68 people per square kilometre. The settlement of Danderhall, in East Lothian, has the highest population density amongst settlements with 4,967 people per square kilometre, the settlement with the lowest population density was Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich), in Eilean Siar, with 141 people per square kilometre, as illustrated by the population density pictures in Figure 7. Information on how to interpret this figure can be found in section 5.4.

Figure 7: Number of people per square kilometre, Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich), Scotland, and Danderhall, 2012



2.7 Settlements and non-settlements in Scotland

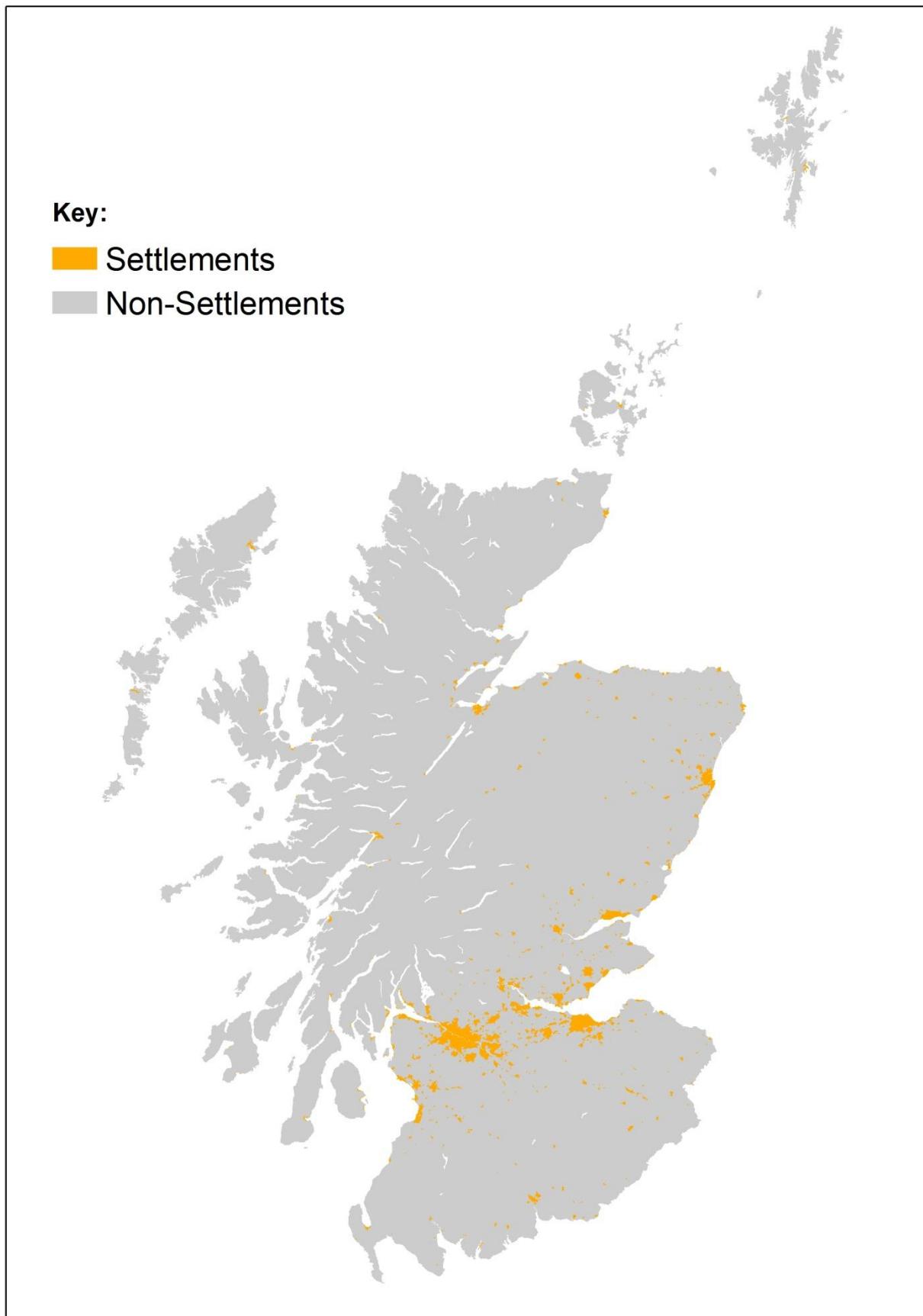
Of the 5,313,600 people living in Scotland there are 4,818,900 people living within a settlement of 500 people or more. This accounts for over 90 per cent of the people living in Scotland. These people live in an area of 1,729 square kilometres which is a mere 2.2 per cent of the total area of Scotland (77,933 square kilometres), as illustrated in [Figure 8](#).

The people living in settlements have a population density of 2,786 people per square kilometre. In contrast the remaining people, the people not resident in settlements (494,700 people), live in an area of 76,204 square kilometres giving a population density of 6 people per square kilometre.

In Scotland there are 2,577,140 men, and 2,736,460 women. This gives a sex ratio of 94 men per 100 women. For people living in settlements this remains nearly the same with 94 men per 100 women, however, for the people not living in settlements this increases to just over 100 men per 100 women. This means that slightly more men than woman live in areas not identified as settlements while more women than men live in areas identified as settlements (2,329,524 men and 2,489,376 women live in areas that are identified as settlements while 247,616 men and 247,084 women live in areas not identified as settlements).

Across Scotland there are 914,671 people under the age of 16 (17 per cent), 3,473,178 people 16 to 64 years old (65 per cent), and 925,751 people aged 65 and over (17 per cent). These proportions are very similar to those living in settlements (17 per cent, 66 per cent, and 17 per cent respectively). In areas not identified as settlements this is also the case for under 16 year olds (17 per cent), however, there is a 2 per cent decrease in the proportion of 16 to 64 year olds concurrent with an approximate 2 per cent increase in the proportion of those aged 65 and over (63 per cent, and 20 per cent respectively).

Figure 8: Map of Scotland split by settlements and non-settlements, 2012



3. Locality Populations

3.1 The Changing Landscape of Scotland

As of mid-2012 there were 643 localities within Scotland. This is an increase of 13 compared with the 630 localities which were identified in mid-2010.

Eleven new localities have been included because of the creation of new settlements as mentioned in [Section 2.1](#). These localities are:

Locality	Council area
Auchenblae	Aberdeenshire
Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich)	Eilean Siar
Crook of Devon	Perth & Kinross
Hillhead	South Ayrshire
Milton of Leys	Highland
Morningside	North Lanarkshire
Murthly	Perth & Kinross
Newmilns	East Ayrshire
Queenzieburn	North Lanarkshire
Spean Bridge	Highland
Thorntonhall	South Lanarkshire

Twelve localities have been created from the sub-division of existing localities. These are:

Locality	Settlement	Council area
Balloch & Haldane	Vale of Leven	West Dunbartonshire
Bowling	Greater Glasgow	West Dunbartonshire
Buckhaven	Methil, Leven & Buckhaven	Fife
Conon Bridge	Conon Bridge & Maryburgh	Highland
Kennoway	Methil, Leven & Buckhaven	Fife
Leven	Methil, Leven & Buckhaven	Fife
Maryburgh	Conon Bridge & Maryburgh	Highland
Methil	Methil, Leven & Buckhaven	Fife
Newmarket, Laxdal & Bruach Mairi (Newmarket, Laxdale & Marybank)	Steornabhagh (Stornoway)	Eilean Siar
Sanndabhaig (Sandwick)	Steornabhagh (Stornoway)	Eilean Siar
Tweedbank	Galashiels	Scottish Borders
Windygates	Methil, Leven & Buckhaven	Fife

Three localities have been excluded because their population now falls below 500 people, these are:

Locality	Council area
Duffus	Moray
Maidens	South Ayrshire
Port William	Dumfries & Galloway

Four localities have been merged into two larger localities because one of the paired localities has fallen below 500 people, these are:

Old Locality	New Locality	Settlement	Council area
Auchterarder	Auchterarder	Auchterarder	Perth & Kinross
Gleneagles	Auchterarder	Auchterarder	Perth & Kinross
Newmills	Torryburn & Newmills	High Valleyfield	Fife
Torryburn	Torryburn & Newmills	High Valleyfield	Fife

3.2 The Range of Localities in Scotland

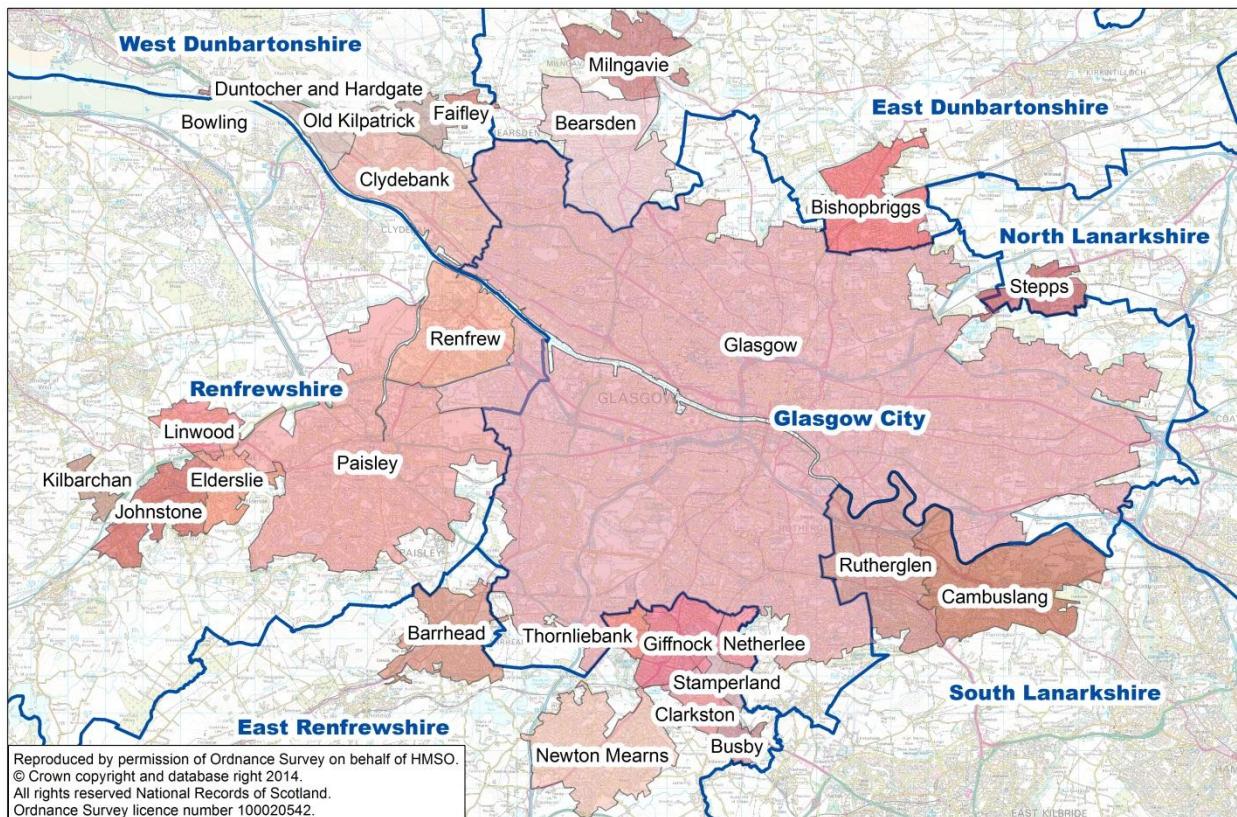
Of the 643 localities in Scotland, 466 are also settlements. The remaining 177 localities are contained within 50 settlements.

The settlement of Greater Glasgow, as shown in [Figure 9](#), contains the most localities (26 localities are within Greater Glasgow), this is followed by the settlement of Falkirk (15 localities are within Falkirk), and the settlements of Bonnybridge, and Motherwell & Bellshill (both settlements contain 9 localities each).

The largest locality in Scotland is Glasgow with 591,620 people (285,266 men and 306,354 women). This accounts for 11 per cent of the people in Scotland and 61 per cent of the people in the settlement of Greater Glasgow.

Males in the Glasgow locality account for 61 per cent of the males in Greater Glasgow, while females in the Glasgow locality account for 60 per cent of the females in Greater Glasgow.

Figure 9: The Settlement of Greater Glasgow with Localities Highlighted, 2012



In 2010, the ten largest localities (in order from largest to smallest population size)⁷ were:

Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Paisley, East Kilbride, Livingston, Hamilton, Cumbernauld, and Kirkcaldy & Dysart.

This order is unchanged in 2012 with the exception that Dunfermline has replaced Kirkcaldy as the tenth largest locality in Scotland.

The ten smallest localities in 2010 were (in order smallest to largest)⁷:

Kinnesswood, Port William, Buchlyvie, Newmills, Crosshill, Thankerton, Cumiestown, Moniaive, Torryburn, and Garmouth.

Unsurprisingly, in 2012 five of these localities are still amongst the ten smallest localities in Scotland (Kinnesswood, Buchlyvie, Crosshill, Thankerton, and Moniaive) while three of the remaining five localities no longer exist because they have fallen below the 500 population threshold (Port William, Newmills, and Torryburn).

The ten largest localities are summarised in [Table 4](#) while the ten smallest localities are summarised in [Table 5](#).

Footnote

7) Order based on unrounded estimates.

Table 4: Ten largest localities in Scotland by sex, 2012⁸

Locality	People	Males	Females
Glasgow	591,620	285,266	306,354
Edinburgh	464,990	226,619	238,371
Aberdeen	196,670	97,511	99,159
Dundee	147,710	71,054	76,656
Paisley	76,220	36,509	39,711
East Kilbride	74,740	35,941	38,799
Livingston	56,570	27,664	28,906
Hamilton	53,200	25,753	27,447
Cumbernauld	51,610	25,067	26,543
Dunfermline	50,380	24,653	25,727

Table 5: Ten smallest localities in Scotland by sex, 2012⁸

Locality	People	Males	Females
Moniaive	500	242	258
Crosshill	500	241	259
Kinnesswood	500	249	251
Murthly	510	262	248
Thankerton	510	249	261
Tighnabruaich	520	261	259
Bowling	520	262	258
Queenzieburn	520	244	276
Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich)	530	269	261
Buchlyvie	530	251	279

3.3 The Age Structure of Localities across Scotland

As with settlements, the locality with the largest proportion of under 16 year olds is the locality of Forgandenny (39 per cent) which is the same as the settlement. As mentioned in section 2.3, the large number of under 16 year olds can most likely be attributed to the presence of Strathallan School which lies within the boundaries of the settlement.

In contrast, Glenochil Village, in Clackmannanshire, is the settlement with the lowest proportion of under 16 year olds (5 per cent). The locality also has the lowest number of those aged 65 and over (4 per cent), and the highest number of 16 to 64 year olds (92 per cent). This situation arises from the presence of HM Prison Glenochil, where inmates constitute nearly 80 per cent of the people in the locality.

The locality with the lowest proportion of 16 to 64 year olds (44 per cent), and also the largest proportion of those aged 65 and over (44 per cent), is the locality of Elie & Earlsferry.

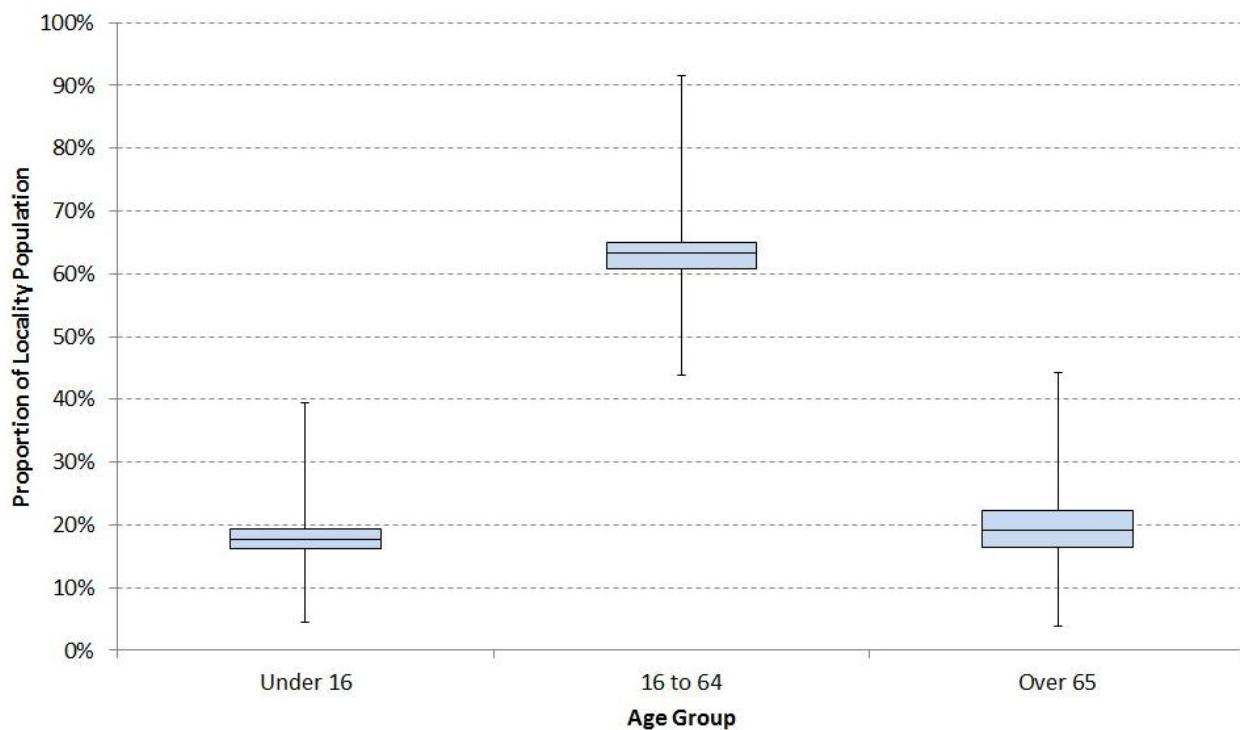
Footnote

- 8) The information in this table can be found in the larger tables 2a, 2b, and 2c for all localities available on the NRS website.

Discounting Forgandenny, Garelochhead, Glenochil Village, Kinloss, and St Andrews because of the presence of Strathallan School, HM Naval Base Clyde, HM Prison Glenochil, Kinloss Barracks, and St Andrews University respectively then the locality with the largest proportion of under 16 year olds, and the lowest proportion of those aged 65 and over is Dullatur with 29 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. While the locality with the smallest proportion of under 16 year olds is Tighnabruaich, in Argyll & Bute, with 11 per cent; and the locality with the largest proportion of 16 to 64 year olds is Cove Bay, in Aberdeen City, with 72 per cent.

Figure 10 displays the data in boxplots and shows that while the range of proportions for these age groups across localities is rather large in some cases, for around half of localities there is little difference; with around half of under 16 year olds accounting for between 16 and 19 per cent of the population of a locality, around half of 16 to 64 year olds accounting for between 61 to 65 per cent of the population of a locality, and around half of those aged 65 and over accounting for between 16 and 22 per cent of the population of a locality. More information on how to interpret boxplots can be found in [section 5.1](#).

Figure 10: Proportion of people aged under 16, 16 to 64, and 65 and over years across all localities, 2012



Another way to look at the age structure of a population is to look at dependency ratios.

In this publication two dependency ratios are calculated:

- the number of people under 16 years of age per 100 people aged 16 to 64 is defined to be the 'under 16' dependency ratio; and
- the number of people aged 65 and over per 100 people aged 16 to 64 is defined to be the '65 and over' dependency ratio.

The 'under 16' and 'aged 65 and over' dependency ratio for the localities mentioned above are displayed in [Table 6](#). Information on how to interpret dependency ratio can be found in [section 5.2](#) of this publication.

Table 6: Selected localities and their corresponding dependency ratio, 2012⁹

Locality	'Under 16' dependency ratio	'65 and over' dependency ratio
Cove Bay	24	16
Dullatur	44	9
Elie & Earlsferry	27	101
Forgandenny	75	14
Garelochhead	19	16
Glenochil Village	5	4
Kinloss	47	8
St Andrews	10	22
Tighnabruaich	20	70

3.4 The Ratio of Males to Females across Localities

As mentioned in the previous section, Glenochil Village is affected by the presence of HM Prison Glenochil. This affects the age structure of the locality, but it also affects the sex structure of the locality, making Glenochil Village the locality with the largest number of males per 100 females (745 males for every 100 females).

Discounting Glenochil Village, Garelochhead, and Longforgan because of the presence of HM Prison Glenochil, HM Naval Base Clyde, and HM Prison Castle Huntly respectively; the locality with the largest number of males per 100 females is Gowkthrapple, in North Lanarkshire, with 131 males for every 100 females). This is equivalent to saying that 57 per cent of the people in Gowkthrapple are male.

Similar to settlements, Whitecraig is the locality with the lowest ratio of males to females (there are around 79 males for every 100 females which is equivalent to saying that 44 per cent of the people in Whitecraig are male).

[Figure 11](#) illustrates the proportion of males to females in the localities with the lowest and highest ratio of males to females, excluding localities which include armed forced bases and prisons. Information on how to interpret this figure can be found in [section 5.3](#).

Footnote

9) The information in this table can be found in the larger Table D2 for all localities on the NRS website.

Figure 11: Number of males and females per 100 people, Whitecraig and Gowkthrapple, 2012



Whitecraig (lowest sex ratio)*

Gowkthrapple (highest sex ratio)*

* Excludes Glenochil Village, Garelochhead, and Longforgan because of armed forces bases and HM Prisons.

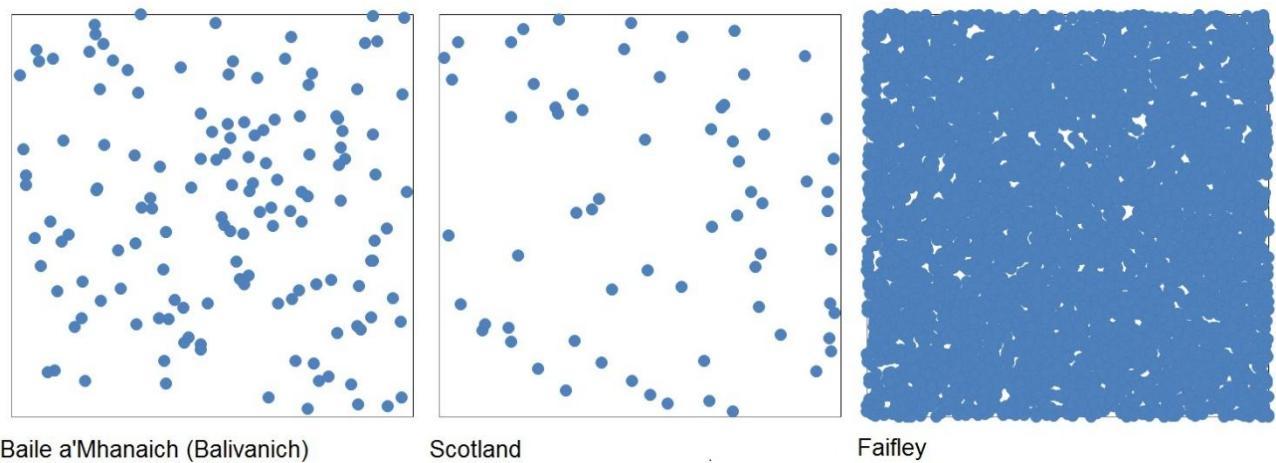
3.5 The Area and Density of Localities in Scotland

Queenzieburn is the locality with the smallest area (0.11 square kilometres), while the locality of Glasgow is the largest with an area of 145 square kilometres.

This makes the locality of Glasgow around half the size of the settlement of Greater Glasgow but it contains 61 per cent of the people in the settlement.

The locality of Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich), as with the settlement, has the lowest population density with 141 people per square kilometre, however the locality with the greatest population density is Faifley, in East and West Dunbartonshire, which contains 5,674 people per square kilometre. The density of these localities is illustrated in [Figure 12](#) with information on how to interpret this figure found in [section 5.4](#).

Figure 12: Number of people per square kilometre, Baile a'Mhanaich (Balivanich), Scotland, and Faifley, 2012



4. Background

In 1981, the method used to define localities in Scotland was, in effect, based on built-up areas. More specifically a locality was defined as:

A continuous built-up area that had a population of around 500 or more at the time of the 1971 Census.

By the time of the Census in 1991, NRS had digitised the boundaries of postcodes, which made calculation of population densities possible within postcodes.

A postcode was defined to be urban if:

- it was assigned to a locality in 1981; or
- if it had five or more people per hectare.

Otherwise it was classed as rural.

Localities were then created by aggregating contiguous urban areas together with local authorities asked to suggest any changes needed to refine the above.

For the 2001 census, NRS had developed a new process to identify settlements in Scotland and the definition of a settlement was defined as:

A collection of contiguous high density postcodes bounded by low density postcodes (or water) whose population was 500 or more.

A high density postcode had previously been referred to as an urban postcode but with a slightly different definition.

A postcode was defined as high density if at least one of the following applied:

- it had more than 2.1 residential addresses per hectare; or
- it had more than 0.1 non-residential addresses per hectare.

The second condition was included so that non-residential parts of build-up areas such as industrial estates could be identified.

Since the 2001 Census, settlements have been created using the above methodology. Localities have been determined by first creating settlements and then assigning a locality value to each of the postcodes in the settlement based on whether they fall within a previous locality.

From 2003 onwards a third condition was added to identify high density postcodes, expanding the definition to:

A postcode is high density if at least one of the following applied:

- it had more than 2.1 residential addresses per hectare;
- it had more than 0.1 non-residential addresses per hectare; or
- the estimate of the population per hectare exceeds five people.

There are currently over 145,000 postcodes in Scotland. Data on unit postcodes includes a boundary enclosing all of the addresses assigned to the postcode.

These postcode areas then act as ‘building bricks’ in the creation of approximations to built-up areas in Scotland. These built-up areas (created from contiguous postcode areas that meet the conditions above) then become settlements and localities when their population rounds to 500 people or more.

Postcodes with the same locality value are then aggregated together to form localities. Most settlement and locality boundaries are co-incidental, however, large settlements can be subdivided into two or more localities.

5. Definitions

This section contains the definitions of some of the analysis techniques used throughout the publication.

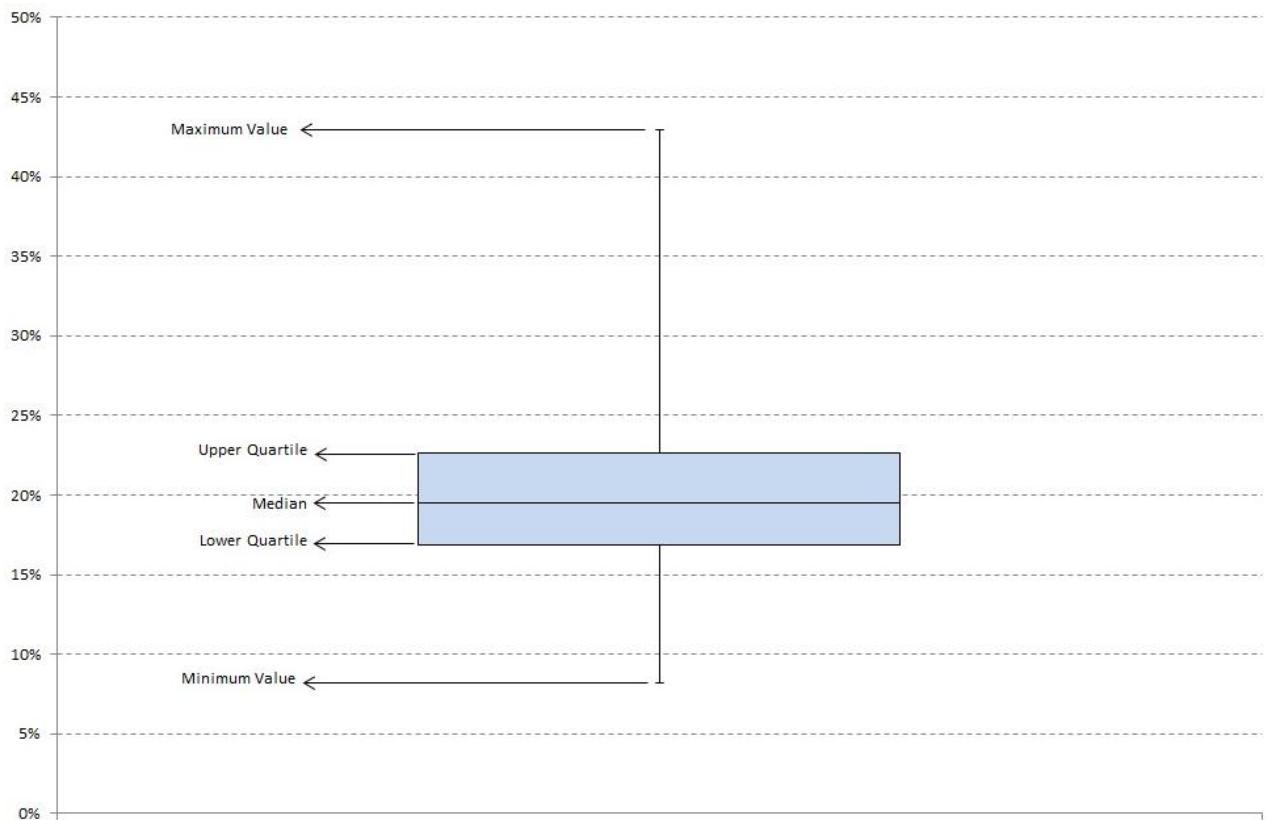
5.1 Boxplots

A box plot is sometimes used to visually represent data. It usually shows where the quartiles of the data lie as well as selected percentiles. In this publication all box plots show the minimum value, lower quartile, median, upper quartile and maximum value for a selection of data.

The median is the midpoint of a group of values which have been arranged in ascending or descending order. Fifty per cent of the values will be less than or equal to the median, the remainder will be greater than the median. The split may not be exactly 50/50 depending on how many values in the group have the median value.

Quartiles are similar to the median, except that quartiles split the values into four equal groups instead of two. For example, the first quartile has the first 25 per cent of the values. The first quartile is often called the lower quartile; the second quartile is the same as the median; and the third quartile is often called the upper quartile.

A sample box-plot is shown below:



5.2 Dependency ratio

Dependency ratios can be defined in different ways.

In this publication two are calculated:

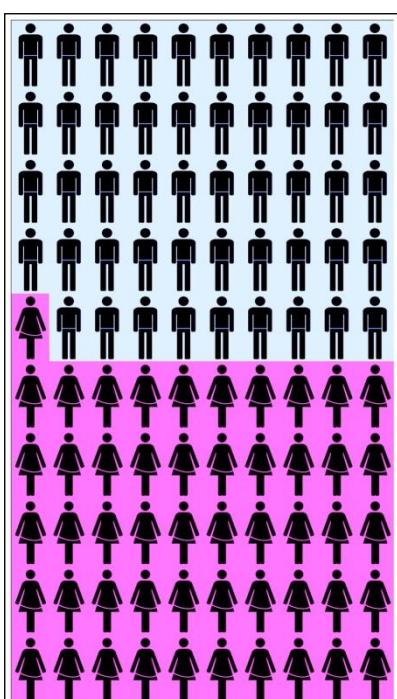
- the number of people under 16 years of age per 100 people aged 16 to 64 is defined to be the 'Under 16' dependency ratio; and
- the number of people aged 65 and over per 100 people aged 16 to 64 is defined to be the '65 and over' dependency ratio.

These ratios should be interpreted with care. For example, a simple interpretation is the number of over 65 year olds or under 16 year olds who are 'dependent' on people aged 16 to 64, the assumption being that most people over 65 or under 16 are not economically active. The reality of course is much more complex, since (to give just a few examples) many people between 16 to 64 are unemployed or economically inactive, the age at which people retire varies greatly and many retired people are financially independent. However, these 'dependency' ratios provide a useful way of examining the relative age structure of the population.

The dependency ratio in this publication may differ in how they are calculated from other NRS publications as other NRS publications may use state pension age in calculations.

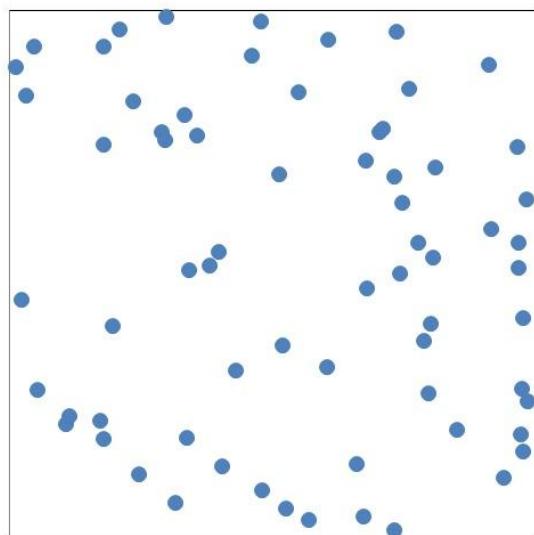
5.3 Sex Ratio Figures

A sex ratio figure is a simple way to visualise the proportions of each sex for a given settlement by looking at the settlements as groups of 100 people. For example, in 2012 48.50 per cent of the people in Scotland were male. If we were to gather together 100 random people resident in Scotland in 2012 then on average there would be 49 males and 51 females. This is represented in the figure below. There are 100 people in the figure, 49 of them are male, and 51 of them are female.



5.4 Density Graphs

A density graph is a simple way to visualise the population density of a given area. The graph shows a square representing 1 square kilometre. Each point on the graph represents a person ‘standing’ in the square kilometre. The more ‘people’ in the graph, the denser the area is. For example, the population density of Scotland is 68 people per square kilometre. This is represented in the figure below by 68 dots within the square.



Scotland

6. Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

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

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

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

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

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- Preserving the past – We look after Scotland's national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.
- Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.
- Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the [Statistics](#) section of our website. Statistics from the 2001 Census are on [Scotland's Census Results On-Line \(SCROL\)](#) website and the 2011 Census results are held on the [Scotland's Census](#) website.

We also provide information about [future publications](#) on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government [ScotStat website](#).

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

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7. 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 3WR, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG</p> <p>Phone: 0131 244 0442</p> <p>Email: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics</p>
<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also carries out the Census of Population for England and Wales</p>	<p>Customer Contact Centre Office for National Statistics Room 1.101 Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG</p> <p>Phone: 0845 601 3034 Minicom: 01633 815044</p> <p>Email: 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 is also responsible for registering births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland, and the Census of Population.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast BT1 1SA</p> <p>Phone: 028 9034 8100</p> <p>Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>

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