

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland
Description	Estimates of the number of households and dwellings including figures on occupied and vacant dwellings, second homes and trends in household types – available for local authorities and data zones.
Theme	Household Estimates and Projections
Topic	Household Estimates
Format	Web pages, Excel workbooks, CSV files and PDF files
Data source(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax billing systems – at local authority level, from the Scottish Government’s Ctaxbase data collection • Council Tax billing systems – from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) data zone level collection on occupied and vacant dwellings • Assessors’ Portal
Date that data is acquired	Council Tax billing systems – early September Assessors’ Portal – early January
Release date	Annually in May or June
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from Council Tax billing systems – first Monday of September • Data from Assessors’ Portal – early January.
Continuity of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority level data on number of households and dwellings going back to 2001, data for each year back to 1991 are available on request. Change in methodology before 2001 Census. • Detailed local authority level data on the characteristics of households and dwellings available from 2007 onwards. • Data also available on characteristics of households and dwellings by the Scottish Government’s urban-rural classification and by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation decile from 2007 onwards. • Data published for Strategic Development Planning (SDP) areas and National Parks from 2008 onwards. • Data zone level information is available on the characteristics of households and dwellings on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) website. Data can be aggregated to other geographies on the SNS website. Total number of dwellings and Council Tax band date back to 2003. Type of dwellings and number of rooms date back to 2006. Characteristics of households, including whether properties are occupied or vacant date back to 2007.
Revisions statement	<p>Revisions and corrections to previously published estimates 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> <p>Any substantial revisions, the reason for them and their effects are highlighted on the first paragraph of both web and PDF versions of the publication. It is sometimes necessary to make small revisions or corrections to previous years’ data for a particular local authority area. In such cases, revisions will be noted in the footnotes beneath the relevant table(s).</p>

<p>Concepts and definitions</p>	<p>The Sources, methods and definitions section of the most recent publication (available on the NRS website) will contain all relevant information.</p> <p>The Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Data Guide (available from the SNS website) has metadata on each indicator.</p>
<p>Relevance and key uses of the statistics</p>	<p>The statistics are mainly used for informing local authority decisions about housing need and service provision. They are used as the denominator for other statistics (e.g. the percentage of households receiving benefits) as well as the production of NRS forward household projections. Some local authorities use the statistics as the baseline for producing their own projections of the future number of households.</p> <p>The statistics are also employed in land use allocation and planning and in land use and transport models. Small area statistics on dwellings and households are used by Scottish Water to assess demand for water and sewerage services. They have also been used in risk analysis by Fire and Rescue services; to provide information on housing in rural areas (including second homes and empty dwellings) and to inform projections of the future size of school rolls. They are often used to produce profiles of small areas to increase local knowledge.</p> <p>National Records of Scotland (NRS) use household estimates in the production every two years of projections of the future number of households, which are available in 'Household Projections for Scotland' publication on the NRS website.</p> <p>Household estimates and projections (for Scotland and the UK) are used directly and indirectly in the production of certain statistics contained within the Scottish Government's annual Government Expenditure and Revenues Scotland (GERS) publication and the quarterly Scottish National Accounts Project (SNAP) PDF release, both of which can be found on the SG website.</p>
<p>Accuracy</p>	<p>NRS household estimates use data taken from Council Tax billing systems. The Council Tax figures give information on the number of 'occupied dwellings'. An occupied dwelling is roughly equivalent to a household. However, there will be differences between the number of occupied dwellings and the number of households recorded in the Census. One reason for the differences is that some occupied dwellings may be shared by more than one household; each household would be counted by the Census but only the dwelling itself would be counted in Council Tax data. Another reason is that certain communal establishments (e.g. student halls of residence, barracks or prisons) will be included in the count of occupied dwellings from Council Tax systems but would not be classified as households in the Census.</p> <p>To account for these differences, occupied dwellings figures are anchored to the 2011 Census: the difference between the 2011 Census household count and the number of occupied dwellings in 2011 is subtracted from each year's figure. As we move further away from the 2011 Census, this adjustment may not account for all of the discrepancies between the number of households and the number of occupied dwellings.</p> <p>In 2012, Figures for 2001 to 2011 were revised following the 2011 Census to improve their accuracy. These figures were</p>

	<p>based previously on the 2001 Census. An adjustment was added to each year, which was obtained from an amount calculated from the differences in 2001 and in 2011. Each year is adjusted by a slightly different amount from this calculation, which is obtained from straight-line interpolation between the differences found in 2001 and in 2011. More information on these revisions is available from the publication, and in the report 2011 Census Reconciliation Report – Households: (Comparison of the 2011 Census household results and the Household Estimates and Projections for Scotland), released on the NRS website at the same time as the 2012 publication.</p> <p>Data on occupied and vacant dwellings are obtained from Council Tax billing systems. Different types of properties are entitled to different Council Tax discounts and exemptions. There are inconsistencies between the ways in which some local authorities record these discounts and exemptions. There can also be differences between results from the local authority data collection from Council Tax billing systems and the data zone level data collection.</p> <p>Data on Council Tax band, type of dwelling and number of rooms are obtained from the Assessors' Portal. There may be some differences between different Assessors' areas in the way in which information on the number of rooms in a dwelling is recorded. For example, differences could arise in the treatment of open plan areas, dining rooms, kitchens and kitchenettes.</p> <p>It is possible that not all information held on Council Tax billing systems and the Assessors' Portal is up-to-date. For example: local authorities may not be notified immediately of a change in the circumstances of a household which affects eligibility for a Council Tax discount or exemption. Furthermore it may take time for changes as a result of new building or demolition to be recorded.</p> <p>More information can be found in the 'Sources, Methods and Definitions' section of the publication itself.</p>
Completeness:	<p>The published statistics provide complete information for most indicators at Scotland, local authority and data zone level.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire are unable to separately identify some vacant dwellings and second homes therefore these dwellings are grouped together as one category. In the 2001 Census, less than 0.2 per cent of dwellings in these areas were classed as second homes, so the total figures have been included under 'vacant dwellings'.</p>
Comparability	<p>Data are compared with results from the Scottish Household Survey, to give an indication of household type.</p> <p>The neighbourhood level (i.e. data zone level) collection of Council Tax information is a relatively new data collection. It has seen improvement in data quality and coverage since it began in 2007. This should be noted when making comparisons over time.</p> <p>Changes over time in categories of Council Tax discounts and exemptions can occur because a local authority has carried out a review and identified cases where a dwelling has been incorrectly categorised.</p>

	<p>There may be variations in the ways that some local authorities classify vacant properties and second homes between different years. This can have a small effect on the percentages of dwellings which are vacant or second homes each year in a local authority.</p> <p>When using neighbourhood (i.e. data zone) level information on dwellings and households, changes over time can occur not only as a result of new building activity and demolition but also because of changes related to the postcodes of dwellings. Postcode changes can occur due to improvements made to administrative systems or NRS data cleaning, re-locating postcodes which were previously allocated to an incorrect neighbourhood. Differences can also occur due to postcodes being allocated to a different neighbourhood because the distribution of their population has changed. These differences are likely to be minimal and have only a small effect on change over time except when looking at small numbers of data zones.</p>
Accessibility	<p>It is the policy of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website.</p>
Coherence and clarity	<p>The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.</p> <p>There are also maps, boxplots and charts which summarise the data zone level information in the publication. Information for each data zone in Scotland can be downloaded from the SNS website.</p>
Value type and unit of measure	<p>Estimates of households and dwellings are published at local authority and data zone level, and for urban-rural areas and different levels of deprivation. Figures are presented as total numbers of dwellings at local authority level, and are generally presented as percentages of the total number of dwellings at lower geographies.</p>
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics.
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	<p>The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the UK Statistics Authority website).</p>
Help email	<p>customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>There is also a contact form on the NRS website.</p>
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