

Household and Dwelling Estimates 2021

Summary Statistics

	East Dunbartonshire	Scotland
Number of households	46,849	2,528,823
Number of dwellings	47,549	2,674,993
Average Household Size (number of people per household)	2.31	2.12
Percentage of dwellings in Council Tax Band A-C	28%	59%
Percentage of dwellings in Council Tax Band D-E	40%	27%
Percentage of dwellings in Council Tax Band F-H	32%	14%

Background

National Records of Scotland (NRS) publish Estimates of Household and Dwellings on an annual basis.

The estimates are used for a range of purposes by Councils, the Scottish Government other organisations and researchers. Statistics about dwellings and households are used mainly for informing council decisions about housing need and the provision of services (including housing, planning, waste collection and community care). They feed into the Development Plans produced by councils and other Planning Authorities, which include assessment of housing need and demand both at present and for the future.

A 'dwelling' refers to accommodation itself, for example, a house or a flat. A 'household' refers to the people living together in that dwelling. The number of dwellings will not necessarily equal the number of households in an area, because some dwellings are vacant or second homes, and some dwellings contain more than one household. Communal establishments, such as care homes and student halls of residence, are not included in the definition of a household. Household estimates come from Council Tax records.

Household and dwelling estimates are drawn from administrative data sources relating to Council Tax. There are limitations in using administrative sources to produce statistics. Small differences can arise in the definitions used for various categories of households/dwellings in the administrative systems. It is also possible that not all information held on the systems is up to date. For example, councils may not be notified immediately of a change in the circumstances of a household which affects eligibility for Council Tax discount for exemption. Furthermore, it may take time for changes as a result of new building or demolition to be recorded.

Household and Dwelling Estimates for Scotland

In 2020, there were 2.53 million households in Scotland, an increase of around 152,400 households (6%) over the last 10 years. The growth in households is due to an increase in population and a trend towards smaller households. The number of households has risen faster than the population. This is because of changes in the way people are living. The average number of people per household has fallen.

People are increasingly living alone or in smaller households. Around a third of households are just one person living alone. This is partly because Scotland's population is ageing, as older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller households.

Households in Scotland are smaller than in other UK countries. According to the Labour Force Survey, in 2021 Scotland had the highest proportion (36%) of single person households. It also had the lowest proportion (30%) with three or more people. One reason contributing to this might be the lower fertility rate in Scotland. The proportions of people aged 65 or over in 2020 (latest year for which data are currently available) in Scotland and the UK as a whole are similar, at just under a fifth. So this would not appear to be a factor contributing to the higher proportion of one person households in Scotland.

Household and Dwelling Estimates for Council Areas

Over the last 20 years, the number of households has increased in every council area. Generally speaking, the east and north of the country have seen larger increases compared with the west and the south.

Household numbers and population are generally correlated. Council areas with the greatest percentage increases in households tend also to be those with the biggest percentage population increases.

City of Edinburgh and Glasgow City stand out from this general pattern. Both had above average percentage increases in their population over the last twenty years. However, the percentage change in their number of households was similar to or below the national average.

The councils with the greatest percentage increases in household numbers between 2001 and 2021 were:

- Orkney Islands (29%, 2,400 households)
- East Lothian (27%, 10,200 households)
- Aberdeenshire (25%, 23,000 households)
- West Lothian (24%, 15,900 households)
- Midlothian (24%, 7,900 households)

City of Edinburgh had the largest increase in absolute number of households (36,700), an increase of 18%. Between 2001 and 2021, East Dunbartonshire had a 10.9% (4,598) increase in households and a 0.6% (286) increase between 2020 and 2021. The 2021 estimates show that East Dunbartonshire has 46,849 households.

In East Dunbartonshire, there were 47,549 dwellings in 2021, an increase of 298 dwellings (0.6%) since 2020. Between 2001 and 2021, the number of dwellings increased in East Dunbartonshire by 4,639 dwellings (10.8%).

Average Household Size

In 2021, the average household size varied from 1.96 people per household in Argyll and Bute to 2.38 people per household in East Renfrewshire. Average household size has decreased in most council areas since 2001. The biggest relative decrease occurred in Na h-Eileanan Siar, from 2.32 to 2.02 people per household. City of Edinburgh and Glasgow City have

bucked the general downward trend in average household size. Both experienced increases in most years since 2008. In East Dunbartonshire the average household size in 2021 was 2.31 people per household, a -3.8% decrease over the last ten years.

Vacant Dwellings and Second Homes

Remote rural areas had the highest proportion of both second homes (6.4% in these areas) and vacant dwellings (5.4%). Other urban areas (settlements of 10,000 to 125,000 people) had the lowest proportion of second homes.

The council areas with the highest proportion of dwellings that were vacant in 2021 were:

- Na h-Eileanan Siar (7.7%, 1,100 dwellings)
- Aberdeen City (6.7%, 8,200 dwellings)
- Shetland Islands (6.7%, 800 dwellings)
- Orkney Islands (5.6%, 600 dwellings)

The Council areas with the highest proportion of dwellings that are second homes in 2021 were:

- Argyll and Bute (6.1%, 3,000 second homes)
- Na h-Eileanan Siar (5.7%, 800 second homes)
- Orkney Islands (3.7%, 400 second homes)
- Highland (3.1%, 3,800 second homes)

In East Dunbartonshire, 0.1% of dwellings were second homes (65 dwellings) in 2021, lower than Scotland as a whole (0.9%). There were 654 vacant dwellings in East Dunbartonshire (1.4%), also lower than the Scottish average of 3.3%.

Characteristics of Dwellings

In East Dunbartonshire, 40% of dwellings were in Council Tax bands D-E, 32% were in bands F-H and 28% were in bands A-C. A higher proportion of dwellings across Scotland were in bands A-C (59%) and a lower proportion in bands D-E (27%) and F-H (13%) when compared to East Dunbartonshire.

Further Information

Further information, along with the Estimates of Households and Dwellings 2021 document can be found on the National Records of Scotland website [Household Estimates](#)