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Mid-2017 Population Estimates

Introduction

National Records of Scotland (NRS) publish population estimates on an annual basis. The 2017 mid-year estimates are based on the 2011 Census and are estimates of people where they usually live (resident population).

Population estimates are used for a variety of purposes including resource allocation and planning of services such as education and health. They are also used for calculating rates and performance measures, informing local and national policy, weighting surveys and modelling the economy.

Methodology

The population estimates are produced using the demographic cohort component method. The population is 'aged on' one year, the number of births in the year are added, the number of deaths subtracted and adjustments are made for estimated migration and other changes in special populations.

It is important to remember that while the number of births and deaths are considered to be almost complete, there is no comprehensive source of migration data for moves within Scotland, or to and from the rest of the UK and the rest of the world. Estimates of migration are made using the best proxy sources available including General Practitioner (GP) registrations and survey information.

Refugees were first included in the mid-year estimates in 2016 and were counted in the overseas migration figures, including the net migration estimates for overseas migration to Scotland. The method has been changed for 2017, with refugees now included separately from other overseas migrants.

Population Estimates for Scotland

The most recent population estimates show that the population of Scotland is 5,424,800, the highest ever and an increase of 20,100 people (0.4%) over the last year. The estimates show that Scotland had a positive net migration, with 23,900 more people arriving than leaving in the year to mid-2017. In contrast, Scotland had a negative natural change with 3,800 more deaths than births over the same period.

In Scotland, the largest increase over the last 20 years was in the 75 and over age group (+31%) whereas the population of children aged 0-15 has decreased the most (-9%). There were more females than males, especially amongst people aged 75 and over due to the longer life expectancy of females.

Population Estimates for 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. The greatest increase in population was in Midlothian which grew by 1.7% while the greatest population decreases were in Aberdeen City, Inverclyde and Shetland Islands which all decreased by 0.5% over the year to mid-2017. According to the 2017 mid-year population estimates the population of East Dunbartonshire is 108,130, an increase of (+0.55%) since mid-2016.

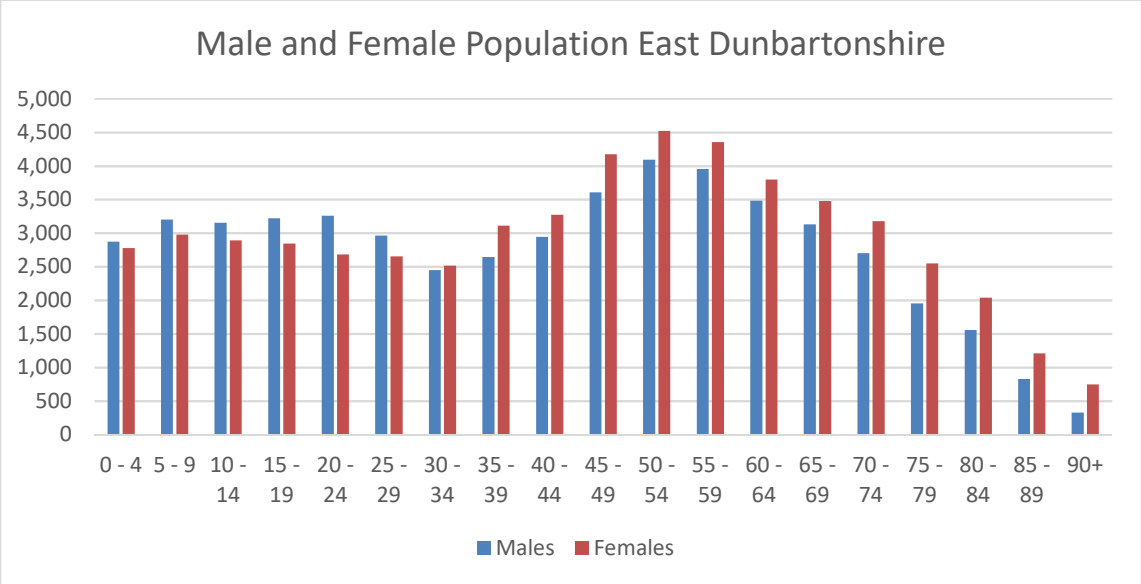
For most areas, the majority of change in population over the year to mid-2017 was due to migration. This includes migration from other areas within Scotland, the rest of the UK and overseas. The majority of council areas experienced positive net migration with more in-migrants than out-migrants. Exceptions were Aberdeen City, Shetland Islands, Aberdeenshire and West Dunbartonshire, all of which had more out-migrants than in-migrants.

The councils that experienced the biggest population increase due to net migration were Midlothian (+1.4%), City of Edinburgh and East Renfrewshire (both +1.0%). Aberdeen City used to be one of the councils with the highest positive net migration figure, but is now an area of out migration. East Dunbartonshire experienced an increase (+0.6%) in net migration between 2016 and 2017.

Age and Sex Structure

The age and sex structure is an important aspect of population. Changes in different age groups will have different social and economic impact. For example, increases in the elderly population are likely to place a greater demand on health and social services.

There were more women than men in Scotland in mid-2017. As in mid-2016, this was the case for all council areas other than the Shetland Islands. In East Dunbartonshire there were, 3,428 more women than men. The chart below shows a slightly higher population of females in the older age groups compared to males. This is possibly attributed to the slightly higher life expectancy for females compared to males in East Dunbartonshire.



Although the pattern of age distribution is complex, some general themes can be observed. The highest proportion of population aged 16-65 is found in Glasgow City (71%), City of Edinburgh (70%) and Aberdeen City (69%). These areas also have the lowest proportion of population aged 65 and over (14%, 15% and 15% respectively). More rural councils areas tend to have an older age profile. The table below provides the broad age structure of East Dunbartonshire and Scotland according to the 2017 mid-year population estimates. East Dunbartonshire has a slightly higher proportion of children aged 0-15, a lower percentage aged 16-64 and higher percentage aged 65+ and 75+ compared to Scotland as a whole.

Population by age group					
	Total Population	**0-15**	**16-64**	**65+**	**75+**
East Dunbartonshire	108,130	19,061	65,372	23,697	11,208
East Dunbartonshire (%)	-	17.6%	60.5%	21.9%	10.4%
Scotland (%)	-	16.9%	64.4%	18.7%	8.3%

Further Information

Further information, along with the full publication of the Mid-2017 Population Estimates for Scotland and Administrative Areas can be found by visiting the National Records of Scotland website (http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk).