

## Mid-2021 Population Estimates

### Summary Statistics

Mid-2021 Population Estimates	Total Population	0-15yrs	16-64yrs	65+yrs	75+yrs
East Dunbartonshire	108,900	19,528	64,307	25,065	11,931
East Dunbartonshire (%)	-	17.9%	59.1%	23.0%	3.2%
Scotland (%)	-	16.6%	63.8%	19.6%	2.4%

### Introduction

National Records of Scotland (NRS) publish population estimates on an annual basis. The 2021 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 National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and other administrative data.

Since the mid-2016 population estimates, refugees resettled under Home Office Resettlement Schemes have been included. For the mid-2017 estimates, refugees are now accounted for in a similar way to asylum seekers. Refugees are distributed much more widely across Scotland than asylum seekers.

The methodology used in the mid-year estimates is ever evolving as more administrative data sources become available to National Records of Scotland.

## Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The mid-2021 population estimates take into account changes in the population from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. This means the entire year covered in these statistics was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has impacted on the number of deaths across Scotland and affected movement within the UK and internationally

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many of the data sources that feed into the population estimates. Overseas migration was previously estimated using the International Passenger Survey (IPS) as the main data source for measuring Long Term International Migration at Scotland level. However, in March 2020 the IPS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest figures were produced using a new method that relies less on IPS data and statistical modelling, and makes greater use of administrative data.

## Population Estimates for Scotland

The mid-2021 population estimates show that Scotland's population is 5,479,900. The population increased by 13,900 people (0.25%) over the last year.

Population is driven by two main components, natural change and net migration. Natural change is the number of births minus the number of deaths. Net migration is the number of people moving into an area minus the number of people leaving an area. International migrations and migration from elsewhere in the UK continued to add to Scotland's population. In contrast, deaths outnumbered births by the largest amount on record.

Scotland's population is ageing with an increasing number of people in older age groups compared with previous decades. There is also a higher ratio of females to males in older ages, reflecting the longer life expectancy of females.

The main reasons for Scotland's ageing population are:

- People born in post-war baby boom getting older
- The number of births dropping since the 1960s
- Higher life expectancy

While Scotland's population has been increasing since 2000, growth is not consistent across all ages. In the last two decades, the number of people aged:

- 0 to 15 years (children) has decreased by 58,900 (-6%)
- 16 to 64 years has increased by 207,900 people (+6%)
- 65 years and over has increased by 266,700 (+33%)

## Population Estimates for Council Areas

Population change varies across Scotland. Over the last year, the population increased in 24 council areas and decreased in the other 8 areas. The pattern of population change is different to previous years. The population of the largest cities has generally been increasing in recent years. However, in the year to mid-2021, the population of these cities fell.

In contrast, the population of many rural council areas, and areas around Edinburgh, grew over the last year. In some areas, such as Aberdeenshire and Argyll and Bute, this reversed the trend of several years of falling populations. In other rural areas such as Highland and Perth and Kinross, which had seen steady growth or small decreases in recent years, the rate of growth increased.

In the year to mid-2021, net migration was positive in 27 of Scotland's 32 council areas. In contrast, natural change (births minus deaths) was negative in all council areas except Midlothian and City of Edinburgh.

Of the 8 areas which experienced population decline over the latest year:

- 7 areas had more deaths than births
- 5 areas experienced negative net migration (more people leaving than arriving)

Of the 24 areas which experienced population growth:

- Net migration was the main driver of growth in all areas
- All areas had more deaths than births except Midlothian

East Dunbartonshire's population in mid-2021 was 108,900, an increase of 150 people (+0.1%) between mid-2020 and mid-2021. There were more deaths (1,212) than births (876) in East Dunbartonshire and an estimated net migration of +490 people.

## Age and Sex Structure for Council Areas

Although the age distribution across Scotland is complex, some general themes can be observed. In mid-2021, the four largest cities in Scotland had the highest proportion of population aged 16 to 64 years, as well as some of the lowest proportions of people aged 65 and over. Whilst cities tend to have a lower proportion of children, areas neighbouring the cities had some of the highest proportions of children aged 0 to 15 years.

Rural and island areas tend to have an older age profile. They have some of the highest proportions of people aged 65 and over, and some of the lowest proportions of the other age groups. East Dunbartonshire's age structure in mid-2021 is shown in the table below:

Mid-2021 Population Estimates	0-15 Years	16-64 years	65 years and over	75 years and over
East Dunbartonshire	17.9%	59.1%	23.0%	3.2%

All 32 Scottish council areas have seen an increase in their population aged 65 and over in the last decade, including those areas where the total population fell. The greatest increases in the population aged 65 and over were in West Lothian (31%), Aberdeenshire (30%) and Orkney Islands (30%).

East Dunbartonshire had an increase of +5% in those aged 0-15 years, a -2% decrease in the 16-64 age group and a +22% increase in those aged 65 years and over.

## Further Information

Further information, along with the full publication of the Mid-2021 Population Estimates for Scotland and Administrative Areas can be found by visiting the National Records of Scotland website (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk>).