

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Mid-2020 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland
Description	Population estimates for settlements and localities in Scotland
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population Estimates for Special Areas
Format	Excel workbooks, Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files, and shapefiles.
Data source(s)	<p>Overall population estimates are based on data from the Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) publication. Therefore, all data sources feeding into the SAPEs also feed into settlements and localities.</p> <p>Royal Mail delivery point information is used for allocating populations to postcodes.</p> <p>To improve the accuracy of the estimates, the most up-to-date communal establishment data are also used. This includes the following data sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult care - Registered establishments (Care Inspectorate) and Care Home Census (Information Services Division, NHS Scotland) • Children's care - Registered establishments (Care Inspectorate) and Looked After Children Statistics (Scottish Government) • Defence - Armed forces data collection (NRS) and 2011 Census • Hospitals - SMR01, SMR04 and Continuing Care Census (Information Services Division, NHS Scotland) • Hostels - 2011 Census • Hotels and boarding houses - Scotland's Census 2011 • Prisons - Prison Statistics (Scottish Government) • Residential Schools - Education Analytical Services (Scottish Government) • Student Halls of Residence (Further education) – Scotland's Census 2011 • Student Halls of Residence (Higher education) - Communal establishment address list (NRS) and Higher Education Statistics Agency. • Other establishments – Scotland's Census 2011
Date that data is acquired	Based on SAPE population estimates for mid-2020 produced in August 2021. Royal Mail delivery point information is collected and made available every summer. Royal Mail data was acquired in 2021 for summer 2020.
Publication Release date	31 March 2022

Frequency	Prior to the latest publication of mid-2020 estimates in 2022, the last set were published in 2018 (for mid-2016 figures). The decision on when to publish next has not yet been made.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	The estimates refer to the population as at 30 June 2020. The mid-year population estimates for settlements and localities have been published 21 months after this date.
Continuity of data	Mid-year Population Estimates for settlements and localities in Scotland are available for 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2016, and 2020. The decision on when to publish next has not yet been made.
Revisions statement	Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections.
Concepts and definitions	Further information on the National Records of Scotland's (NRS) Mid-year population estimates for settlements and localities can be found on the NRS website.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	These statistics are used by both local authorities and central government for various purposes. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the 'Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification' publication; • Helping to identify rural settlements in which properties may be eligible for non-domestic rate relief under the terms of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997; and • Helping to identify communities which may be entitled to purchase land under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
Accuracy	The publication relies on data from the SAPE publication which in turn is based on the Mid-Year Population Estimates . The main issue with accuracy is the quality of the postcode estimates that are produced for the publication. Data zone populations are aggregated down to postcode populations based on the number of residential dwellings obtained from the Royal Mail. Dwellings' populations can vary and some are vacant or used as second homes. This method assumes all dwellings have a proportionate share of a data zone's population. In most cases, data zones are contained completely inside settlements and localities so the postcode breakdown is irrelevant. The accuracy is instead reliant on the quality of the SAPE publication (as detailed above).
Completeness	The estimated population of an area includes all those usually resident there, whatever their nationality. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address. Members of UK and non-UK armed forces stationed in Scotland are included; UK forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded. Short-term international migrants are excluded.

Comparability	It is recommended that users exercise caution when comparing the settlement or locality population estimates with previous years. Whilst an increase in population may be due to new build, it may also be due to the inclusion of existing housing which had previously been separated from the settlement by a low density postcode (and vice versa for a population decrease).
Accessibility	It is the policy of NRS to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website.
Coherence and clarity	The statistics are provided in Excel, CSV, PDF and shapefile formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.
Value type and unit of measure	Count of all persons, males and females estimated to be in a settlement or locality by age group.
Official Statistics designation	These statistics were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and are designated as National Statistics subject to meeting the requirements set out in the assessment report.
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	These statistics were assessed in May 2011 using the UK Statistics Authority Assessment of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics .
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