

2016-Based Population Projections

Stirling Council Area

Stirling
By
Numbers

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BRIEFING NOTE:

Population Projections for Scottish Council areas (2016-based) Produced by the National Records of Scotland

Introduction

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) recently published the results of its latest round of biennial population projections for sub-national areas in Scotland. These are calculated using population estimates from a base year, in this case 2016. The figures are then rolled forward on the basis of past trends in fertility, mortality and net migration for individual council and health board areas to the year 2041. **NRS assumes that past trends will continue, therefore they should not be seen as precise forecasts of the future population.** In many areas, including Stirling, migration is the most important component of population change. It is also important to note that projections become more uncertain the further ahead they go, especially for smaller council areas like Stirling.

The primary purpose of the national population projections is to provide an estimate of the future population of Scotland as a common framework for use in national planning in a number of different fields such as education and health. Projections are also used for teacher workforce models, and looking at the implications of an ageing population.

Note that population projections are based on past trends and make no allowance for the impact of national or local government policies, therefore proposed housing developments or other policies are not considered when calculating population projections.

Stirling Council Area

Over the period from 2016 to 2041 Stirling's population is projected to increase by 10%, i.e. from 93,750 to 102,787. Stirling's increase represents the 8th highest increase in population amongst the 32 council areas and is significantly higher than the national average of 5%. Population growth is most likely to be in the City of Stirling and surrounding areas.

Forth Valley Health Board Area

The population of the Forth Valley area is projected to increase by 7%, i.e. from 304,480 to 324,697 over the period from 2016 to 2041. Stirling (10%) and Falkirk (8%) areas show significant projected increases in contrast to the population of Clackmannanshire which is projected to fall by 3%.

Scotland and the UK

Scotland's total population is expected to increase by 5%, i.e. from 5.40 to 5.69 million over the period from 2016 to 2041. The populations of the other countries in the UK are also projected to increase. The UK as a whole is projected to increase in population by 11%, with England's population projected to increase by 12%, Northern Ireland's population by 8% and Wales's population by 5%.

Components of Population Change for the Stirling Council area

The main reason for the increase in the projected population is the assumed net migration rate. Stirling's projected net population migration from 2016 to 2041 is 12,084 whilst natural change, which is the net of births and deaths, is projected to decrease with 2,541 more deaths than births from 2016 to 2041.

Children, Working Age and Pensionable Age¹

Projected figures for the number of children, those of working age and pensionable age vary significantly across Scotland's local authorities. Figures for Stirling show a projected increase in all categories and significantly higher than the national average, particularly with children and those of working age (see Table 1).

The population of pensionable age is projected to increase in all Council areas, with Stirling increasing by 29%. Table 1 also shows that people aged 75 and over are projected to be the fastest growing age group in Stirling and Scotland. The number of people in Stirling aged 75 and over is projected to increase by 28% over the next ten years and by 82% over the next 25 years.

¹The figures for working age and pensionable age and over take into account the changes in the state pension age as set out in the 2014 Pensions Act. Between 2016 and 2018, the state pension age will rise from 63 to 65 for women. Then between 2019 and 2020, it will rise from 65 years to 66 years for both men and women. A further rise in state pension age to 67 will take place between 2026 and 2028. At the time of publication, the state pension age is due to rise to 68 years between 2044 and 2046.

**Table 1: Projected percentage change in population (2016-based)
by broad age group 2016-2041**

Area	All ages	Children (0-15)	Working Ages	Pensionable Ages	Ages 75 and over
Scotland	5.3	-1.5	1.1	25.1	78.6
Stirling Council area	9.6	4.4	5.0	29.3	81.5

Growth Areas

A total of 21 of the 32 Council areas in Scotland are expected to see increases in population over the projection period 2016 to 2041 as shown in Table 2 below (ranked in descending order of growth).

Table 2 – Councils showing projected population change

Rank	Council area	Population Increase (%) 2016-2041
1	Midlothian	30.6
2	East Lothian	18.4
3	East Renfrewshire	17.3
4	City of Edinburgh	15.0
5	Aberdeenshire	12.8
6	West Lothian	12.8
7	East Dunbartonshire	9.9
8	STIRLING	9.6
9	Moray	8.1
10	Falkirk	8.1
11	Perth and Kinross	8.0
12	Glasgow City	7.1
13	Aberdeen City	5.8
	SCOTLAND	5.3
14	South Lanarkshire	3.6
15	Renfrewshire	3.2
16	Fife	2.6
17	Scottish Borders	2.4
18	Angus	2.2
19	Dundee City	1.4
20	Highland	1.4
21	North Lanarkshire	0.1
22	Orkney Islands	-2.2
23	Shetland Islands	-2.2
24	East Ayrshire	-3.1
25	Clackmannanshire	-3.2
26	West Dunbartonshire	-3.6
27	South Ayrshire	-4.9
28	Dumfries and Galloway	-5.2
29	North Ayrshire	-7.0
30	Argyll and Bute	-9.9
31	Inverclyde	-10.9
32	Na h-Eileanan Siar	-14.0

For a more detailed breakdown of the 2016-based projections visit:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland/2016-based>

Sources: National Records of Scotland

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