



Fife results from Scotland's Census 2022

Demography and migration

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Scotland's Census is the official count of every person and household in the country. There has been a census in Scotland every 10 years since 1801, except 1941. The 2021 census in Scotland was moved to 2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The answers people give to census questions help build up a picture of the population. Government and other service providers rely on census data to make important decisions. Scotland's census collection phase took place between 28 February and 1 June 2022.

This briefing is the fifth in a series of topic summaries and provides census data on household demographics and migration. These statistics show how Scotland's people, and how they live, are changing.

Census Results

Fife briefings on Scotland's Census 2022 are being made available as data is released. Briefings produced to date are available at [Census | KnowFife](#)

To access Census results, please go to [Scotland's Census \(scotlandscensus.gov.uk\)](https://scotlandscensus.gov.uk)

Households

On Census Day there were 169,573 Fife households with at least one usual resident. This is an increase of 8,621 (5.4%) from the 2011 census and follows a similar pattern as that for Scotland (5.8%). The percentage increase in the number of households (5.4%) was higher than the increase in the population (1.8%).

The increase in the number of households was mostly due to an 8,307 (16.2%) increase in single person households from 2011. This is higher than the Scottish average of 13%. There were 59,546 single person households in Fife in 2022, accounting for 35.1% of all households, and, slightly lower than the Scottish figure of 37.1%. This shows an increase in single person households of 3.3% from 2011.

Although single person households are now the most common household size across Scotland, Fife falls just short of this by 1,171 households compared to two person households (60,717).

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of Fife households by percentage of occupants.

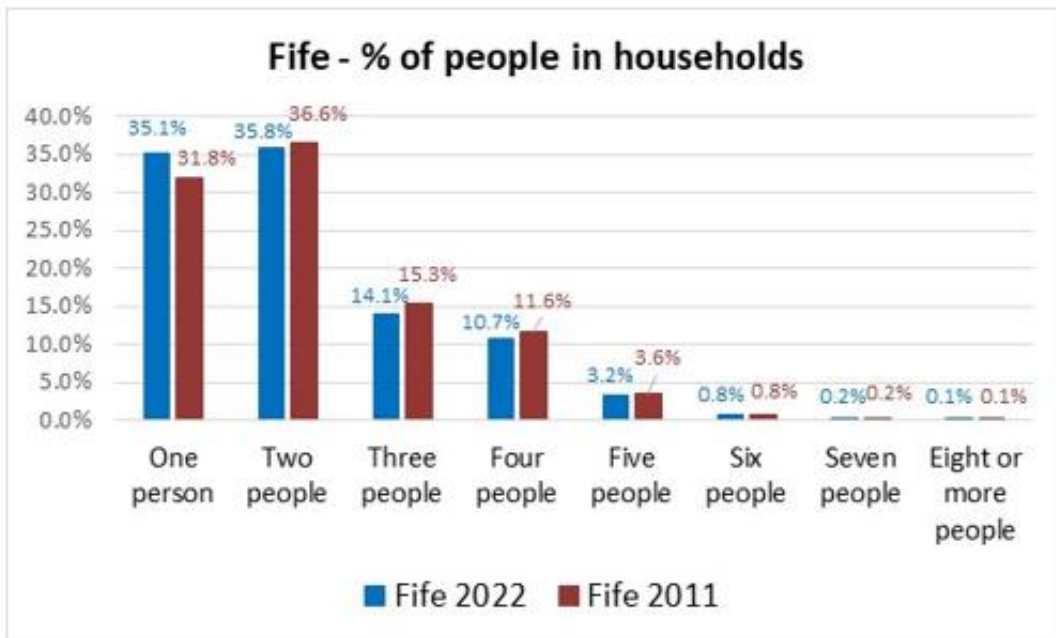


Figure 1. Percentage number of people in Fife households (Census 2022)

Older people living alone

For people aged 55 and over, just under two-thirds (63.7%) live alone in Fife in 2022. Older people are more likely to live alone than younger people, with only 3.4% of those aged 16-24 living alone.

Females aged 16-64 are less likely to live alone compared with males, and particularly in the 35-44 age group. However, from 65 onwards, females are much more likely to live alone than males. This is mainly due to females having a higher life expectancy than males.

On average those aged over 55 were as likely to live alone in 2022 as they were in 2011, with the increase in the number of older people living alone being driven by the increase in the overall number of older people since 2011.

Figure 2 shows the percentages of people that live alone by age group.

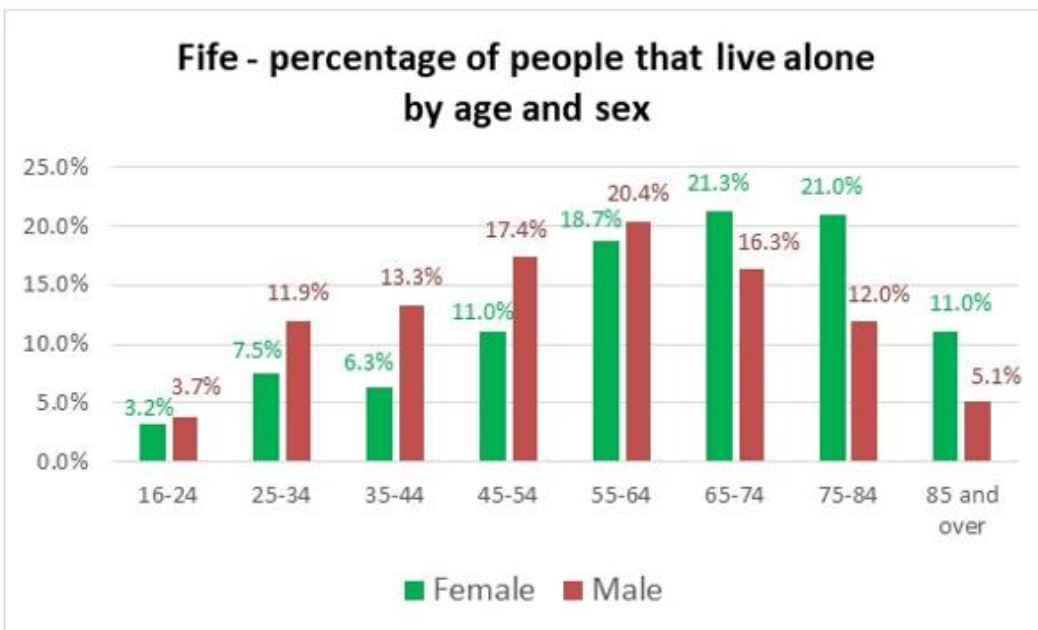


Figure 2. Percentage of people that live alone in Fife by age and sex (Census 2022)

Households with dependent children

Census data on household composition shows households that include families with dependent children. Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and aged under 16, or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education. Children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household are not included.

In 2022 there were 40,620 households with dependent children in Fife, just under one in four households (24%), and is a similar pattern to Scotland as a whole. This is a decrease of 2,769 or 3% since 2011. This reflects the decrease in the number of children in Fife over this period. The number of 0–15-year-olds decreased by 1% from 64,397 in 2011 to 61,845 in 2022. Most of the decline in numbers of families with dependent children have been in those with married or civil partnerships and lone parent families, while cohabiting couples' families have seen a slight increase since 2011.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of families with dependent children by the type of household.

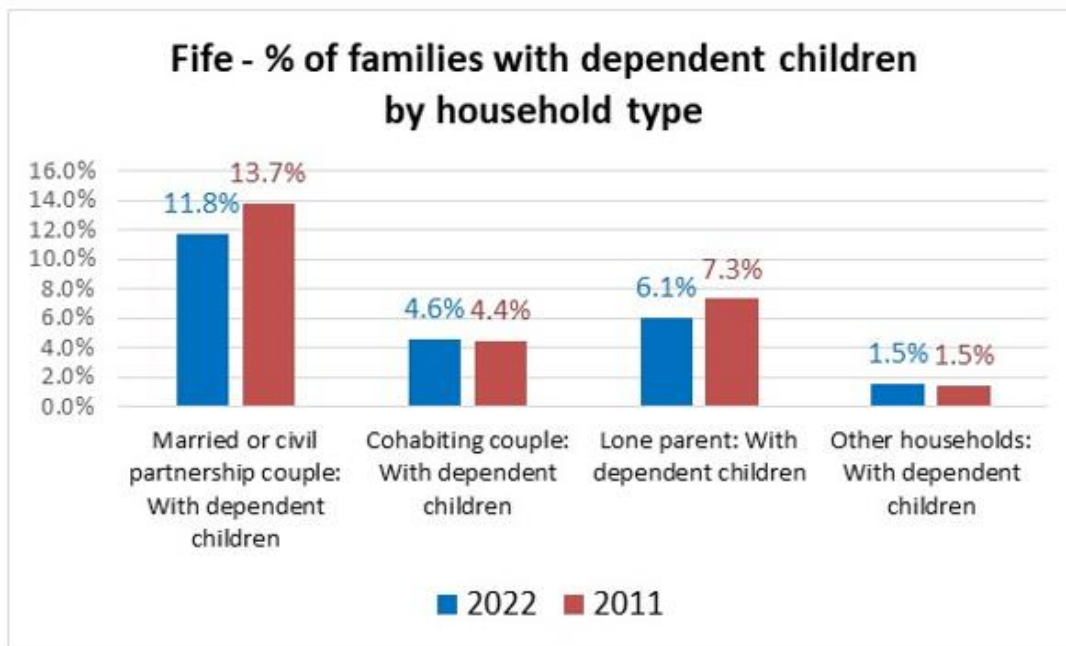


Figure 3. Percentage of Fife families with dependent children by household type (Census 2022 and 2011)

Households with only non-dependent children

Census data on household composition also shows the number of households that have one family with non-dependent children. Non-dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and aged 19 or over, or aged 16 to 18 and not in full-time education. Children who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household are non-dependent. Non-dependent children are sometimes called adult children.

In 2022 there were 16,923 households containing one family with only non-dependent children in Fife accounting for 10% of households. This is an increase of 965 or 0.1% since 2011. Non-dependent children living in families with cohabiting couples and lone parents have seen the largest increases since 2011, while those in families with a married/civil partnership have decreased.

Figure 4 shows the percentage of families with non-dependent children by the type of household.

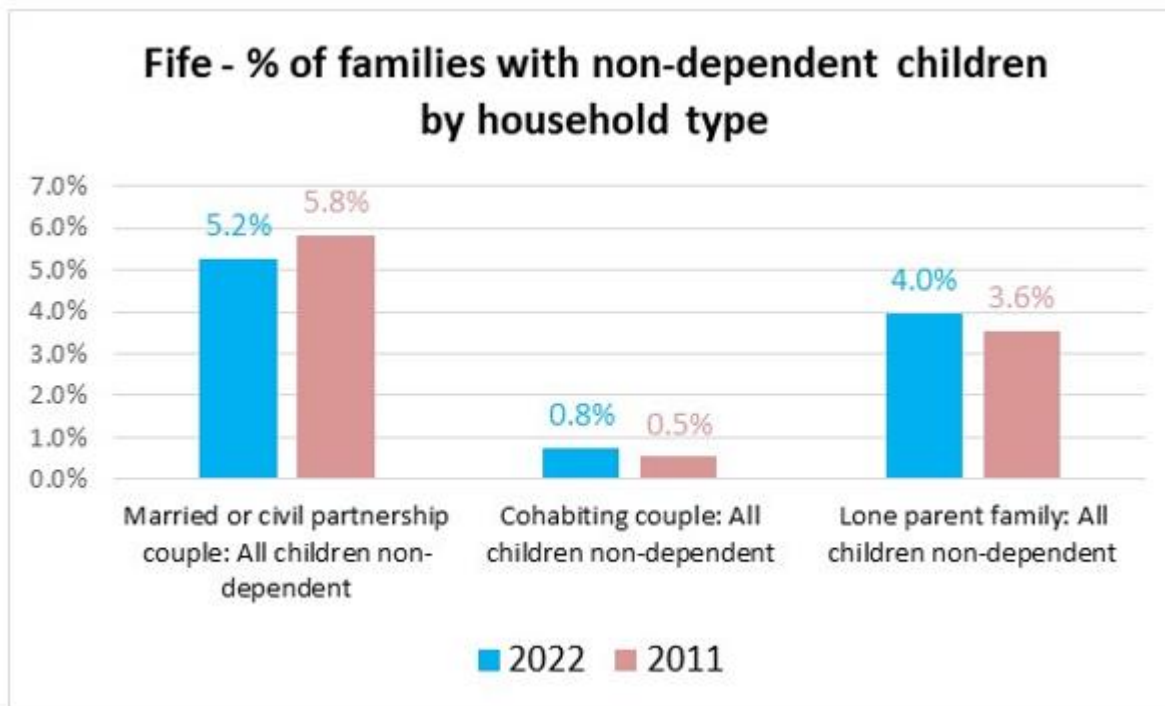


Figure 4. Percentage of Fife families with non-dependent children by household type (Census 2022 and 2011)

Households containing lone parent families

Census data shows that in 2022 there were 17,045 households containing lone parent families in Fife. This is around 1 in 10 households and is similar to the Scottish average.

Since 2011, the number of households containing lone parent families in Fife decreased by 450 (2.4%) which is lower than the Scottish average of 6.8% since 2011.

Marriage, civil partnerships and cohabiting couples

The census shows a gradual shift from marriage or civil partnerships towards cohabiting. There were 68,398 households containing couples in Fife in 2022. This is a decrease of 2,723 (-3.8%) from 2011, and contrasts with Scotland which saw an increase of 4.5%.

The number of cohabiting couples went up by 15.8% from 2011, while married or civil partnership couple households decreased by 9.6%. This reflects a gradual fall in the number of marriages in Scotland over the last 50 years.

Figure 5 shows the number of households with couples.

Marital status

There was an increase in those that said that they had 'never married' increasing to 35.1% in 2022, from 31.6% in 2011. There was a decrease for those who were married from 48.2% in 2011 to 45.7% in 2022. Those people who were separated reduced slightly by 0.9% from 2011, while the proportion of those divorced or widowed, remained fairly stable over the decade.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of people by marital status.

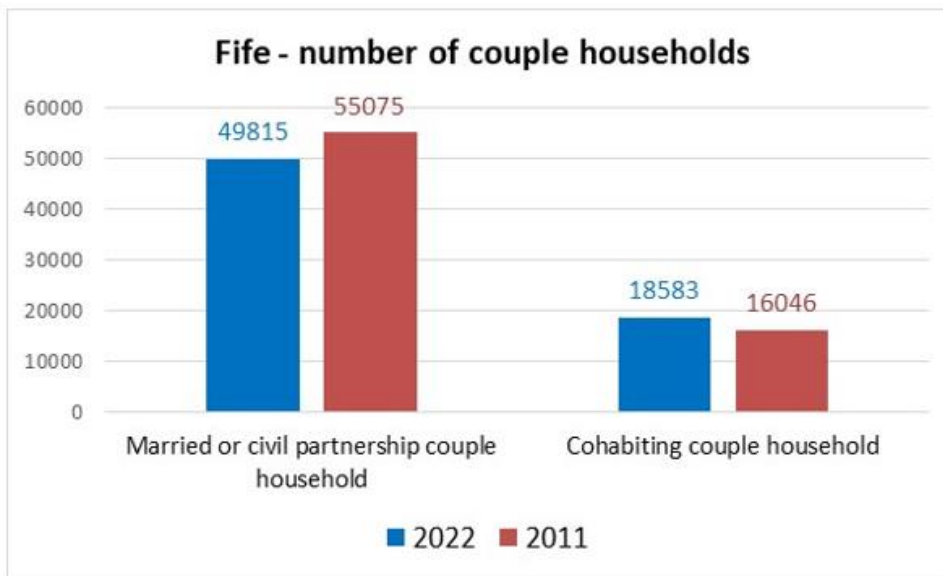


Figure 5. Number of couple households in Fife (Census 2022, 2011)

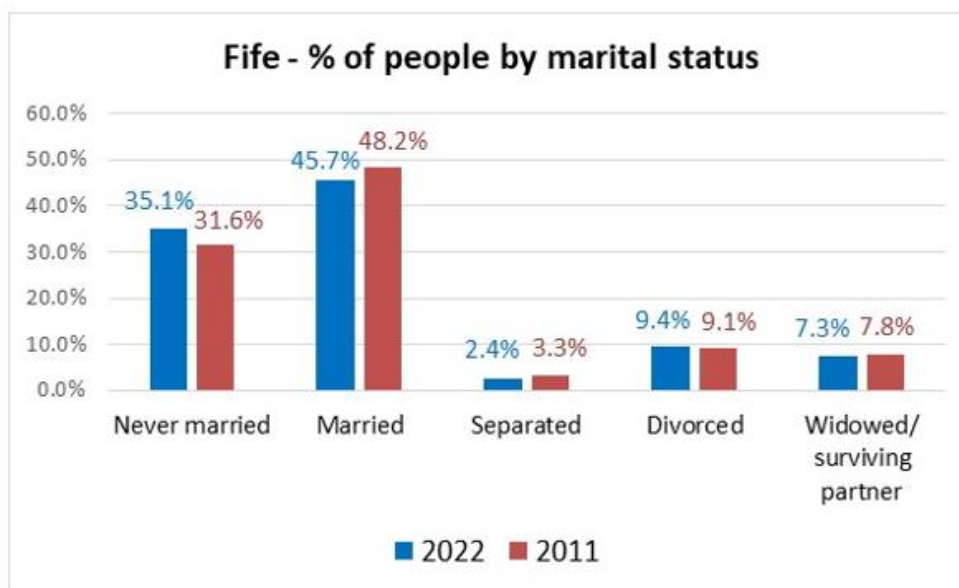


Figure 6. Percentage of people in Fife by marital status (Census 2022, 2011)

Migration

Fife’s population has grown by 6,583 (1.8%) since 2011. This was mainly due to an increase in people born outside of Scotland. Between 2011 and 2022 the number of people living in Fife who were born in Scotland decreased by -3,721. This decrease was partially offset by increases in the number of people that were born in the rest of the UK (up 1,345) and born overseas (up 8,926) from 2011.

Looking at country of birth by age shows that because of migration we have more people in younger age groups than we otherwise would have had. This is offsetting the higher numbers in older age groups producing a slightly flatter age pattern.

Census numbers only include people living in Scotland at the time of the census. For this reason, the census does not show the full flow of people moving to and from Scotland between censuses. National Records of Scotland publishes a number of regular datasets on migration flows, showing the number of people moving in and out of Scotland and local authority area each year. [Migration | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)

The Census does however provide details of the characteristics of people that have migrated to Scotland. It asked people who were born overseas which country they were born in and when they moved to the UK. This information shows how long people have been in the UK and their age of arrival.

Length of time living in the UK

The census shows that almost half of people born overseas had been living in the UK for 10 or more years (49.8%). Compared to 2011 more people in Scotland have been living in the UK long term after moving from overseas.

In Fife, there are now 15,688 people that were born outside the UK that have lived here for more than 10 years. This number of people has increased by 6,603 (72.7%) from 2011. The census data unfortunately does not contain average length of stay, so people moving to and from Scotland between 2011 and 2022 is not counted in the censuses.

Figure 7 shows the number of people born overseas by length of residence in the UK

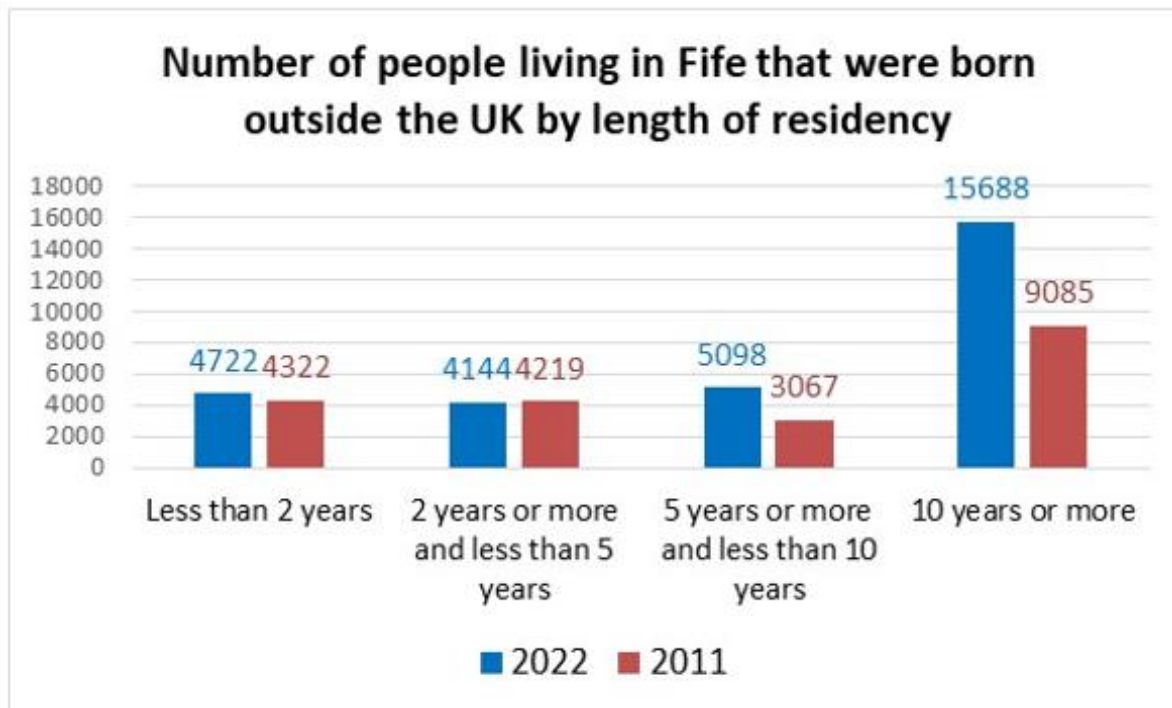


Figure 7. Number of people in Fife that were born outside the UK by length of residency (Census 2022, 2011)

Age of arrival in the UK

People's age on arrival in the UK varied for people living in Fife, who were born overseas. Just under one-third (30.5%) of people born overseas arrived in the UK aged between 20 and 29. This is likely due to people moving to Scotland to study or work. A further quarter of people were aged between 0-9, and another 1 in 5 people were aged 10-19. Females outnumber males in almost all age categories, with the exception of those aged 5-9.

Figure 8 shows the number of people in Fife born overseas, by age of arrival in the UK.

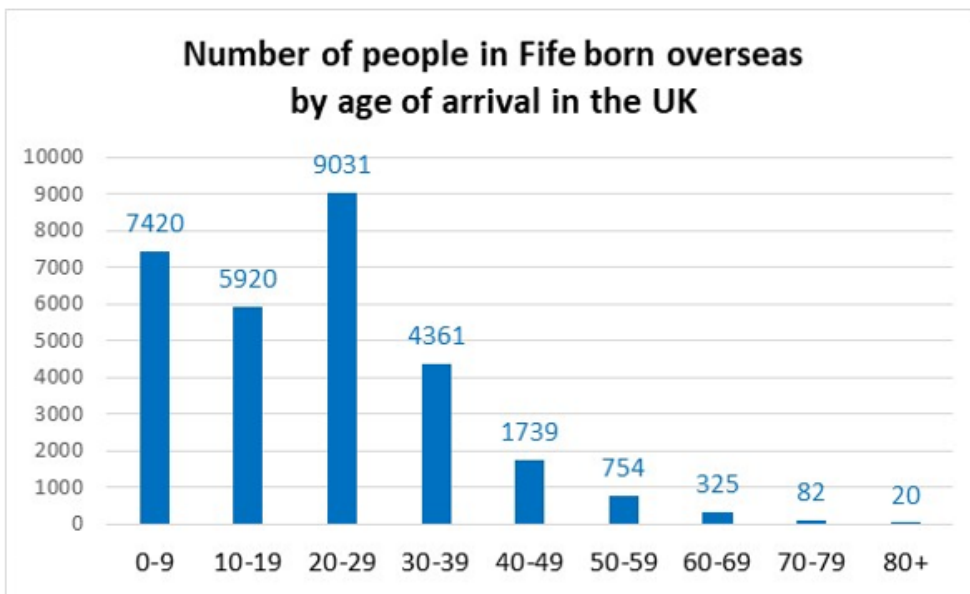


Figure 8. Number of people in Fife born overseas by age of arrival in UK (Census 2022)

Country of birth

In 2022, 40,644 people living in Fife were born in the rest of the UK. A further 29,652 were born outside of the UK. The number of people born outside of the UK increased by 8,959 from 2011. The most common country of birth of people born outside the UK was Poland (4,404 people), followed by United States of America (2,765) and Germany (2,257).

Figure 9 shows the top 20 most common countries of birth of people born outside of the UK.

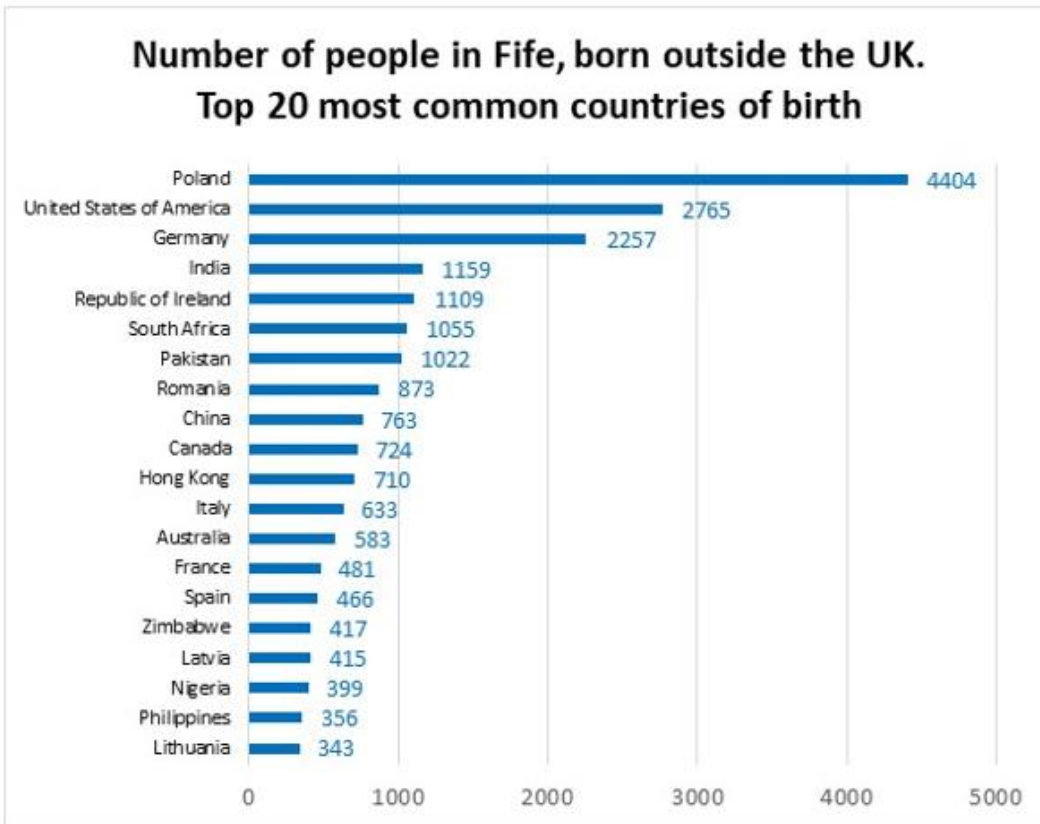


Figure 9. Number of people in Fife born overseas, top 20 most common countries of birth (Census 2022)