



Scotland's Census 2022 – First Results

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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.

Key Headlines

- Fife's population has increased by around 1% since 2011, and its actual population has been overestimated by around 4,300 people, making the new population figure **370,400**.
- Fife's age structure continues to change, with **fewer children and working age people** than in 2011, and significant **increases in its older population**.
- The number of Fife households has reached **169,600** and has increased at a faster rate than its population. This continues the trend for smaller numbers of people in each household.

Results for Fife

Fife's population is now estimated at **370,400** as of Census Day 2022, according to new data released (14 September 2023) by National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Females make up **51.5%** of Fife's population, while **males** make up **48.5%**, similar to the overall proportions for Scotland.

From the previous Census in 2011, **Fife's population has grown by around 5,000 (1%)**, although increases or decreases of +/-1% should be viewed as minimal change.

Fife's 1% **increase** in population is **lower than the Scottish rate** of 2.7%, and compares with the highest increase of 16% for Midlothian, and the highest decrease of -5% for Na h-Eileanan Siar (Western Isles).

Comparing Fife's official Mid-Year Population Estimates for 2022 (which involves calculating births, deaths and migration within Fife, rolled forward each year from the Census in 2011) shows Fife's population to be over-estimated by around **4,300** people.

The Census also shows some significant changes in Fife's population structure that have taken place over the last 11 years.

In 2011, Fife had 60,100 children (aged 0-14) (16.5% of the population). By 2022 this figure had **reduced by 2,500 children** to 57,600 (15.6%).

Working age numbers (15-64 years) also reduced over the period, from 240,000 (66%) in 2011, to 232,800 (63%) in 2022, **a reduction of 8,200 working age people**.

Older age groups (65 and over) however, saw significant growth, increasing from 64,000 (17.5%) in 2011, to 80,000 (21.6%) in 2022, **an increase of 16,000 older people**.

In the decades leading up to 2011, the proportion of children in the population was higher than for older people. Since 2011 older people have overtaken the number of children, and in 2022, this gap continues to increase at a faster rate.

Census figures also show that **Fife now has 169,600 households**, an increase of **8,700** (5.4%) from 2011, and is consistent with the Scottish average increase of 6%. This compares with the highest increase of 17.2% for Midlothian, and the highest decrease of -0.1% for Inverclyde.

It is worth highlighting that from 2011, although there has been an increase of 8,700 households (5.4% increase), this contrasts with a lower increase in population of 5,000 (1% increase), which further reinforces the trend towards reducing household size in Fife and Scotland.

When is further data expected to be available from Scotland's Census 2022?

Outputs from Scotland's Census 2022 will be published in phases. This reflects the additional work required to produce more detailed census statistics. For further information about expected release dates please refer to [Census | KnowFife](#) and [Scotland's Census first results | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#).