



Fife results from Scotland's Census 2022

Armed Forces Veterans

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Version: 1

Date: 20/06/2024

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 provides census information on Armed Forces Veterans for the first time. As this is a new question set introduced for the 2022 Scottish Census, no previous data is available for comparison purposes. It includes the age profile of veterans, households with veterans, and regular or reserved Armed Forces service. Census data will help local service providers to understand more about the needs of UK Armed Forces veterans, and their families.

Households with UK Armed Forces Veterans

There are currently 16,131 Fife households that contain at least one UK Armed Forces veteran. This accounts for nearly 10% of all Fife households and is higher than the Scottish average of 6.7%.

Profile of Armed Forces Veterans

Scotland's Census 2022 found that 17,217 people had previously served in the UK Armed Forces in Fife. This is 5.6% of people aged 16 and over and is higher than the Scottish average of 3.9%. Similar to Scotland, half of all Fife veterans (49.5%) were aged 65 and over. And just under one third (31.2%) were aged 50 to 64 (see Figure 1).

Looking at the percentage of the population that were veterans in each age group (Figure 2) shows that the number increases from younger to older age groups. This shows how the percentage of the population serving in the Armed Forces has varied over the last 90 or so years. The high percentage of veterans in the oldest age groups (80 and over) is due to the National Service policy being in place between 1939 to 1960 and War Service (to 1948). Twenty-one percent of people aged 80 and over had previously served in the UK Armed Forces in Fife, with those aged between 55 to 69 averaging around 11%.

Male Armed Forces Veterans make up a much higher proportion of the total population (9.4%) compared with females (1.3%), and 87% of those veterans are male. The majority of veterans in Fife (76%) served in the regular UK Armed Forces, a further 18% served in the reserve Armed Forces, and 6% served in both.

Council areas with the highest percentage of veterans in their population are mostly areas where there is a military base nearby. Fife (5.6%) is one of six areas in Scotland with a higher proportion of veterans, including Moray (9%), Angus (6.1%), Argyle and Bute (5.9%), Perth and Kinross (5.4%), and Highland (5.3%). City areas with higher levels of younger people tend to have lower levels of veterans, with some of the lowest in Glasgow (2.0%) and Edinburgh (2.6%).

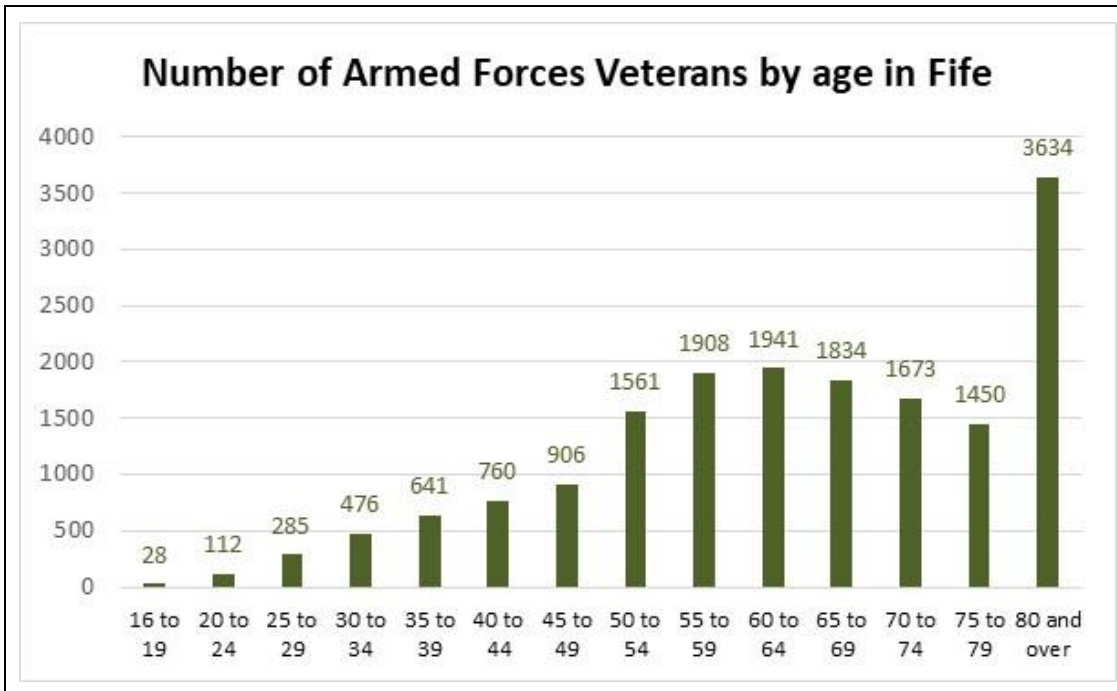


Figure 1. Number of armed forces veterans in Fife by age group (Census 2022)

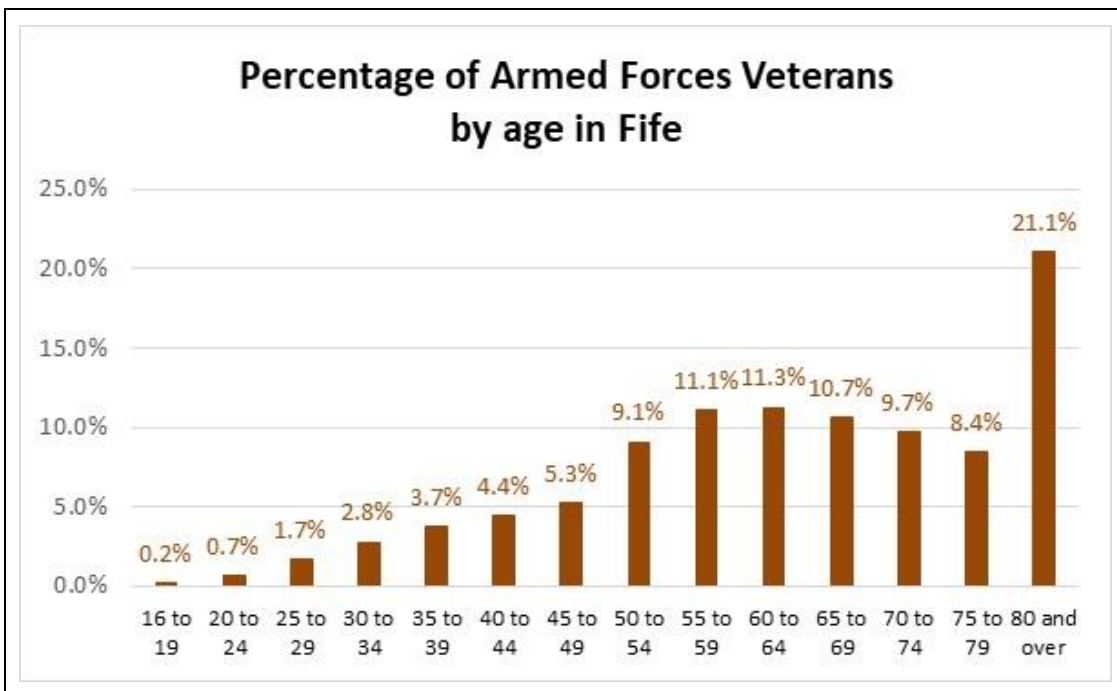


Figure 2. Percentage of armed forces veterans in Fife by age group (Census 2022)

Census Results

Fife briefings on Scotland’s Census 2022 will be available from [Census | KnowFife](#)

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