



Fife results from Scotland's Census 2022

Population and Household Overview

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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 1.8% since 2011, and its actual population has been overestimated by just under 3,000 people, making the new population figure 371,781.
- 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 169,573 and has increased at a faster rate than its population. This continues the trend for smaller numbers of people in each household.

How has Fife's population changed overall?

Fife's population is now estimated at 371,781 as of Census Day 20 March 2022, according to new data released (21 May 2024) by National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Females make up 51.6% of Fife's population, while males make up 48.4%, similar to the overall proportions for Scotland.

From the previous Census in 2011, Fife's population has grown by 6,583 (1.8%).

Fife's 1.8% 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 2021 (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 just under 3,000 people.

How has Fife's population structure changed?

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

In 2011, Fife had 64,397 children (aged 0-15) (17.6% of the population). By 2022 this figure had reduced by -2,552 children to 61,845 (16.6%).

Working age numbers (15-64 years) also reduced over the period, from 236,730 (64.8%) in 2011, to 229,909 (61.8%) in 2022, a reduction of -6,821 working age people.

Older age groups (65 and over) however, saw significant growth, increasing from 64,071 (17.5%) in 2011, to 80,010 (21.5%) in 2022, an increase of 15,939 older people.

There continues to be a generally higher proportion of males than females for those people aged 0-20, but by their early 20s females make up a higher proportion of the population, and for females aged over 85, they significantly outnumber males.

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.

The chart in Figure 1. shows the change over the last decade in the age distribution of Fife's population. The numbers of people aged between 0 to 49 (with the exception of those in the 5-9, 10-14, and 30-34 age groups) have all decreased in number. In contrast, the numbers of people aged 50 and over have all increased.

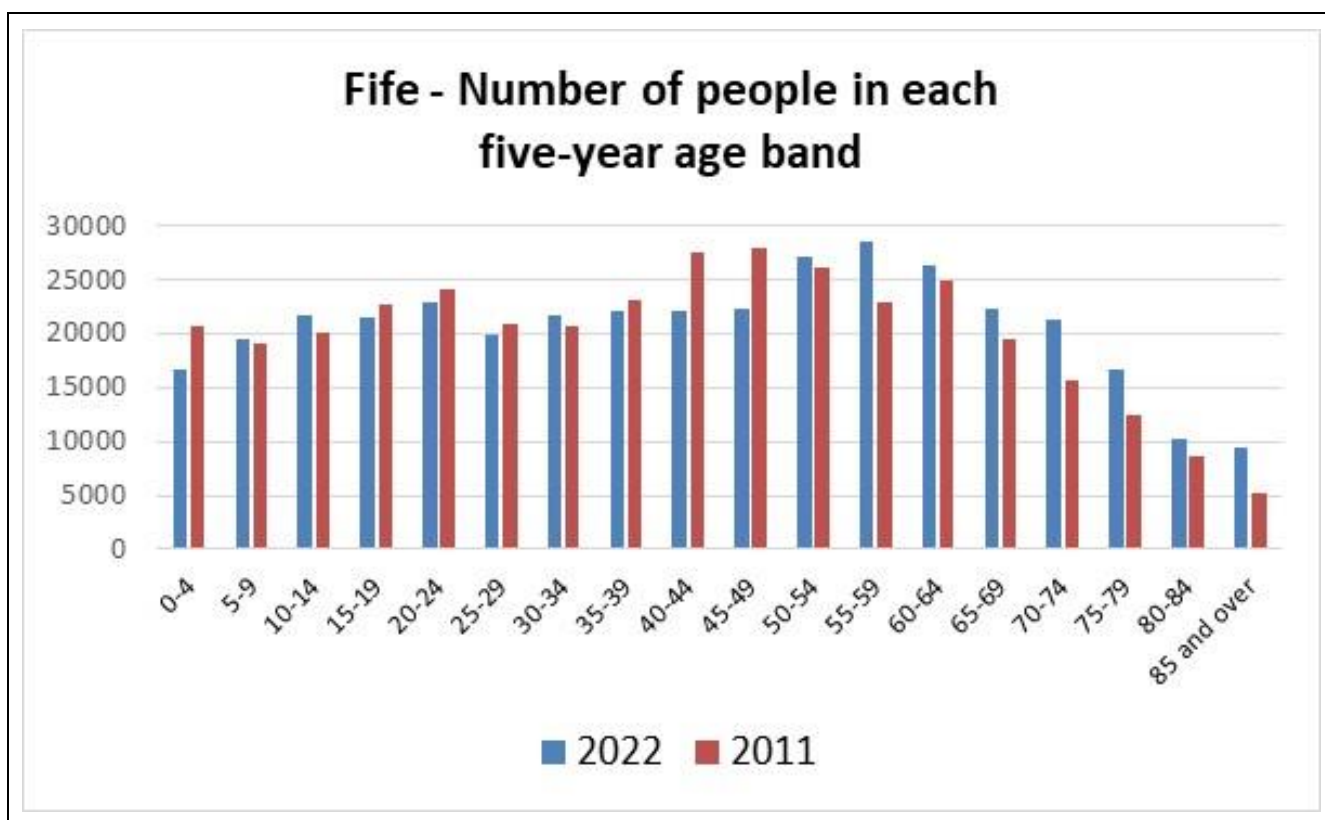


Figure 1. Fife's population by age band (Census 2022 and 2011)

How have Fife's households changed?

Census figures show that in 2022, Fife has 169,573 households, an increase of 8,621 (5.4%) from 2011. This is consistent with the Scottish average increase of 6%, and 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 8,621 (5.4%) households, this contrasts with a lower increase in population of 6,583 (1.8%), which further reinforces the trend towards reducing household size in Fife and Scotland.

One of the biggest changes to household size is the increase in single person households. In 2011 single person households made up 31.8% of all households. By 2022, this had increased to 35.1%. While two-person households (60,717) are still the most common type of household in Fife, there are now almost as many single person households (59,546). Single households and two, six, and seven person households have increased in number, while three, four, and five person households have decreased since 2011.

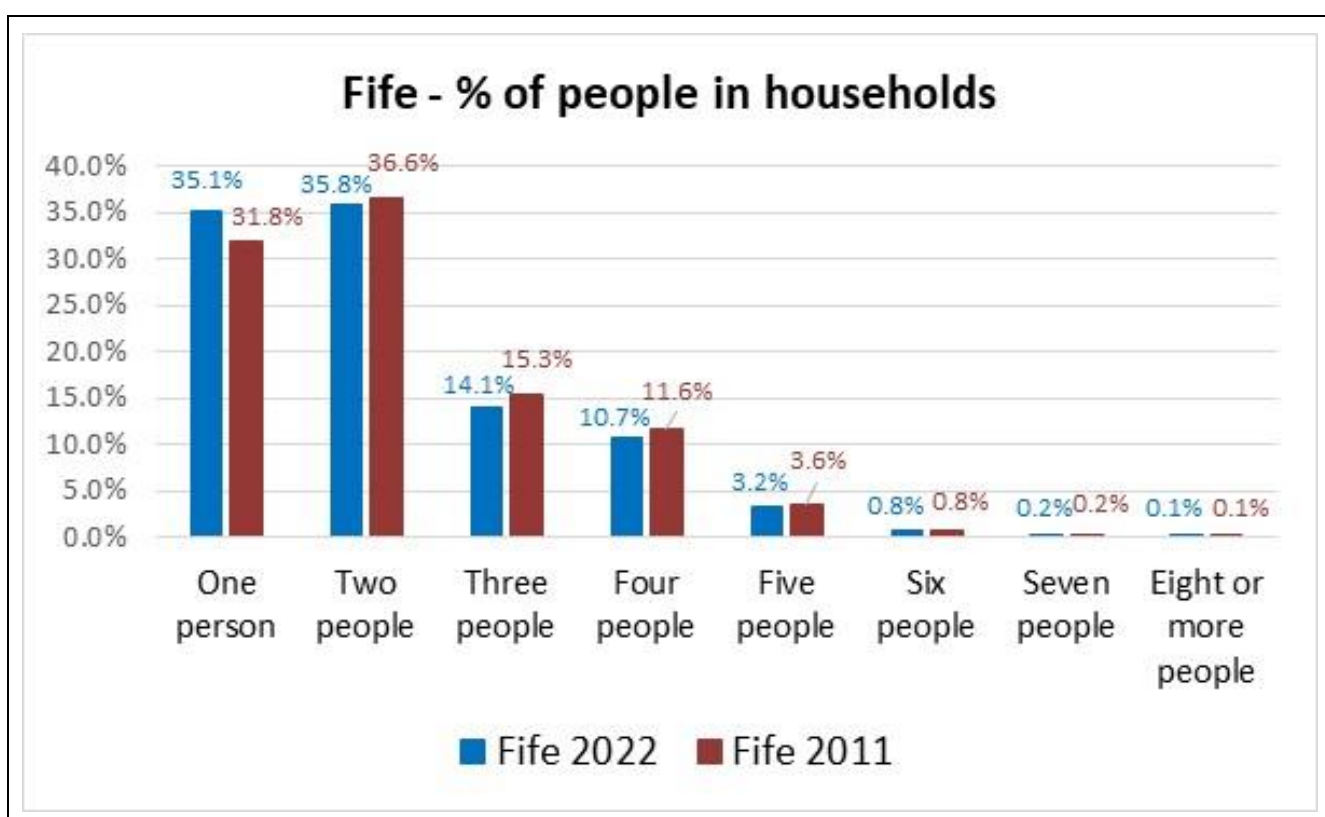


Figure 2. Percentage of people living in Fife's households (Census 2022 and 2011)

Census Results

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

This will allow you to access census results for 2022, 2011 and 2001.

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