

Statistical Bulletin

Coverage: Scotland

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Theme: Population and Household estimates

2011 Census: First Results on Population and Household Estimates for Scotland - Release 1C (Part Two)

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Laid before the Scottish Parliament under Section 4(1) of the Census Act 1920

1. Introduction

This release provides 2011 Census estimates of the number of usual residents and the number of households with at least one usual resident, for postcodes, census output areas, data zones and inhabited islands in Scotland. The estimates relate to census day, 27 March 2011.

[Appendix 1](#) provides details of the reference statistical tables, which are available for download in csv format.

A range of census geography products has been developed to help users get the most out of the statistics from Scotland's 2011 Census and are available on the [geography section](#) of the NRS website. They include:

- 2011 Census output area boundaries (shape files)
- a postcode to census output area index
- a census output area to higher area index
- definitions and other supporting information

All the census estimates issued in this release have been quality assured extensively, using other national and local sources of information for comparison. The estimates have also been reviewed by a series of quality assurance panels which gives confidence that the 2011 Census provides a high quality estimate of Scotland's population. The census quality assurance process confirmed the accuracy of council area level census estimates. Some checks were carried out for the lower levels of geography but these were not as extensive as at council area level. In any census there will be some variation in the quality of statistics for small areas or for specific age/sex groups, and the council area and total population levels are the levels at which the quality of the estimates is highest.

Although every effort is made to ensure everyone is included in the census, inevitably some individuals and households are missed. This under-counting does not usually occur uniformly across all geographical areas or across other sub-groups (for example, by age and sex) of the population. To fill the gap, National Records of Scotland (NRS) implemented a coverage assessment and adjustment process to estimate the population that was missed. In addition, this process identified and adjusted for the people who were counted more than once or who were counted in the wrong place. Carrying out this work allowed a census estimate of the entire population to be obtained.

Additional information is given in the background notes.

Further evaluation reports will be published with later releases of census results.

Information on the UK-wide census results can be found on the [UK census website](#).

Information on the census in England & Wales can be found on the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) website](#).

Information on the census in Northern Ireland can be found on the [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(NISRA\) website](#).

2. Main points

Census output areas

- Census output areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geography for which data will be published on all census topics. There are 46,351 output areas for the 2011 Census, with an average population of 114 usual residents and an average of 51 households.

Data zones

- Data zones are a very important geography in Scotland for small area statistics. The average population in Scotland on 27 March 2011 in each data zone was 814 and the average number of households was 365.

Inhabited islands

- The number of people living on inhabited islands on 27 March 2011 was 103,702 which represents 2 per cent of the population of Scotland.
- Four of the 93 islands with usual residents at the time of the 2011 Census had a population of 10,000 or more – Lewis and Harris (21,031), Mainland of Shetland (18,765), Mainland of Orkney (17,162) and Skye (10,008). Together they accounted nearly two-thirds (65 per cent) of the total population of the islands.
- The population of inhabited islands rose by 4 per cent (3,963) between 2001 and 2011. Most of this increase was driven by increases in the populations of the four largest islands: Lewis and Harris (6 per cent increase), Mainland of Shetland (7 per cent increase), Mainland of Orkney (12 per cent increase) and Skye (8 per cent increase). The combined population of all islands outwith these four decreased by 3 per cent.
- 50 islands saw an increase in population between 2001 and 2011 (including 3 which had been zero in 2001), 43 islands saw a decrease over this period (including 7 which are believed to have been uninhabited in 2011) whilst 7 islands had no change in their recorded population.
- There were 47,103 households on Scotland's inhabited islands in 2011, an increase of 9 per cent (3,776) since 2001. The number of households in the four largest islands (who accounted for 63 per cent of all households on the islands) increased by 13 per cent compared with a combined increase of 2 per cent for all the other islands.

3. Background

The main bulletin for Release 1C (part one) was published on 23 July 2013. It provided:

- unrounded estimates of the usually resident population of Scotland and each council and health board area on census day, by single year of age and sex;

- unrounded estimates of the number of households in each council area on census day, by size of household;
- unrounded estimates of the usually resident population of Scotland and each council area on census day, by whether living in a household or communal establishment.

This further release of supplementary data on population and household estimates for postcodes, census output areas, data zones and inhabited islands represents the final stage of the first release of Scotland's 2011 Census statistics.

The population and household estimates provided with this data release represent the only information that is published from the census for postcodes which are the smallest geographic areas used. More detailed information on the characteristics of the population and households will be published at census output area level in later releases. These postcode figures may be used in combination with other published statistics for census output areas should users wish to perform their own analysis at postcode level.

4. Census Output Areas

Census output areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geography for which data will be published on all census topics. Population estimates at OA level are important to users as they give information on the stability of a population over time and provide insight into local patterns of change, for example in helping local authorities plan the delivery of services.

The OAs created for the 2011 Census were designed to provide as much continuity as possible with those created for the 2001 Census in order to provide geographies that allow reporting of statistics across time on a consistent geographical base. Changes to the OAs created for the 2001 Census were therefore kept to a minimum. However, in order to maintain consistency in the average population and household size per OA, some 2001 OAs which had increased in size were split into two or more 2011 OAs. Where a 2001 OA had fallen below the minimum threshold for confidentiality it was merged with a neighbouring OA. Overall, there was a net increase of 3,747 OAs between 2001 and 2011. Further details on the methodology used to create OAs for the 2011 Census can be found on the [geography section](#) of the NRS website, which will be updated with further analyses when available.

Table 1: Census output areas, 2001 and 2011, Scotland

	2001	2011
Number of Output Areas	42,604	46,351
Average population per Output Area	119	114
Average number of households per Output Area	51	51

Footnotes

1. 2011 Census Output Areas are designed to have a minimum of 20 households with usual residents and 50 usual residents in households.

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The average population of output areas (OAs) in Scotland on 27 March 2011 was 114, with two-thirds (66 per cent) having a population of between 80 and 149.

Table 2: 2011 Census output areas by number of usual residents, Scotland

Number of usual residents ¹	Number of OAs	% of OAs
50 to 59	1,869	4.0
60 to 69	2,995	6.5
70 to 79	3,582	7.7
80 to 89	4,554	9.8
90 to 99	5,061	10.9
100 to 109	5,332	11.5
110 to 119	4,841	10.4
120 to 129	4,355	9.4
130 to 139	3,475	7.5
140 to 149	2,817	6.1
150 to 159	2,178	4.7
160 to 169	1,751	3.8
170 and over	3,541	7.6
Total	46,351	100.0

Footnotes

1. 2011 Census output areas are designed to have a minimum of 20 households with usual residents and 50 usual residents in households.

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The average number of households within OAs in Scotland on 27 March 2011 was 51, with 94 per cent having between 30 and 79 households.

Table 3: 2011 Census output areas by number of occupied households, Scotland

Number of occupied households ¹	Number of OAs	% of OAs
20 to 29	2,253	4.9
30 to 39	6,409	13.8
40 to 49	13,866	29.9
50 to 59	11,420	24.6
60 to 69	7,540	16.3
70 to 79	4,167	9.0
80 and over	696	1.5
Total	46,351	100.0

Footnotes

1. 2011 Census output areas are designed to have a minimum of 20 households with usual residents and 50 usual residents in households.

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5. Data Zones

Data zones are another important geography in Scotland for small area statistics, for example in the information presented through the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website.

The average population on 27 March 2011 in data zones was 814.

Table 4: Data zones¹ by number of usual residents, Scotland

Number of usual residents ²	Number of DZs	% of DZs
Less than 500	213	3.3
500 to 599	730	11.2
600 to 699	1,164	17.9
700 to 799	1,441	22.2
800 to 899	1,220	18.8
900 to 999	842	12.9
1,000 and over	895	13.8
Total	6,505	100.0

Footnotes

1. Data zones best-fitted from 2011 Census output areas.
2. 2011 Census population estimate.

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The average number of households in Scotland on 27 March 2011 in each data zone was 365.

Table 5: Data zones¹ by number of occupied households, Scotland

Number of occupied households ²	Number of DZs	% of DZs
Less than 200	119	1.8
200 to 299	1,782	27.4
300 to 399	2,678	41.2
400 to 499	1,307	20.1
500 to 599	399	6.1
600 and over	220	3.4
Total	6,505	100.0

Footnotes

1. Data zones best-fitted from 2011 Census output areas.
2. 2011 Census household estimate.

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For the purposes of reporting 2011 Census results, statistics for data zones (as with all other higher geographies) will be calculated on the basis of “best-fit” aggregations of OAs. However, in order to compare changes between the 2001 and 2011 Census population and household estimates, an analysis has been carried out on the basis of a lookup from postcodes to data zones and the figures used for 2011 may therefore differ for some data zones from the results presented in this bulletin. The results of this analysis have been published in a report on the [NRS website](#).

6. Inhabited islands

The 2011 Census estimates show that there were 93 inhabited islands in Scotland with usual residents, including those joined to the mainland or to other islands by a bridge, causeway or ford. (See Table A4 in [Appendix 2](#).) These islands had a total estimated population of just over 103,700 - ranging from just over 21,000 people living on Lewis and Harris to 1 person living on each of Danna, Eilean da Mheinn, Inchfad, Inner Holm and Soay – which represents 2 per cent of the total population of Scotland

- Four of the 93 islands with usual residents at the time of the 2011 Census had a population of 10,000 or more – Lewis and Harris (21,031), Mainland of Shetland

(18,765), Mainland of Orkney (17,162) and Skye (10,008). Together they accounted nearly two-thirds (65 per cent) of the total population of the islands.

- The population of inhabited islands rose by 4 per cent (3,963) between 2001 and 2011. Most of this increase was driven by increases in the populations of the four largest islands: Lewis and Harris (6 per cent increase), Mainland of Shetland (7 per cent increase), Mainland of Orkney (12 per cent increase) and Skye (8 per cent increase). The combined population of all islands outwith these four decreased by 3 per cent.
- 50 islands saw an increase in population between 2001 and 2011 (including 3 which had been zero in 2001), 43 islands saw a decrease over this period (including 7 which are believed to have been uninhabited in 2011) whilst 7 islands had no change in their recorded population.
- There were 47,103 households on Scotland's inhabited islands in 2011, an increase of 9 per cent (3,776) since 2001. The number of households in the four largest islands (who accounted for 63 per cent of all households on the islands) increased by 13 per cent compared with a combined increase of 2 per cent for all the other islands.

A total of 110 islands are classified as “inhabited islands” for NRS statistical geography purposes; 17 of these islands had no usual residents at the time of the 2011 Census.

As more detail is made available from Scotland's 2011 Census, NRS will consider producing a paper similar to [Scotland's Census 2001: Statistics for Inhabited Islands](#) published following the last census. As statistics for individual islands could reveal details about individual people, the island results will be grouped into a number of 'island groups' each comprising one or more census output areas. Further information will be provided as more detail is made available.

7. Background notes

1. National Records of Scotland¹ (NRS) is responsible for carrying out the 2011 Census in Scotland. Simultaneous but separate censuses took place in England & Wales and Northern Ireland. These were run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) respectively.
2. The census provides estimates of the characteristics of all people and households in Scotland on census day, 27 March 2011.
3. In Scotland, the aim of the 2011 Census was to achieve a full census return for all people who were usually resident in Scotland for six months or more. A full census return was therefore required for people from outside the UK who had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a total of six months or more. Anyone with a permanent UK address who was outside the UK on census day was also to be included in the census questionnaire for their UK address, if they intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. This is defined as the **population base for enumeration**. The **main outputs population base** for the 2011 Census statistics is defined to be usual residents of the UK, that is anyone who, on census day, was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. (NRS made no specific adjustment for the presence of 6-12 months migrants among the persons counted in the census – [link for further details.](#))
4. The coverage of the population in an area is those who are usually resident there. A person's place of usual residence is in most cases the address at which they stay the majority of the time. For many people this will be their permanent or family home. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address. Members of the armed forces were largely recorded at their permanent or family address rather than their base address; determining where they are considered usually resident is not straightforward.
5. As in 2001, adjustments for census under-enumeration were built into the census process and as such the 2011 Census statistics represent the full population. Similar adjustments were not made in the censuses prior to 2001. Figures for censuses up to and including 1971 are based on persons present on census day; figures for the 1981 and 1991 census are based on usual residents.
6. The percentages presented in this bulletin have been rounded independently and so may not sum to totals or sub-totals. Similarly, percentages have generally been rounded in the commentary to the nearest whole number for ease of reading.
7. Census population estimates by age relate to a person's age in years on their last birthday up to and including census day, 27 March 2011.

¹ National Records of Scotland (NRS) was created by the amalgamation in April 2011 of the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS).

8. All key terms used in this publication, such as usual residents, are explained in the [2011 Census glossary](#).

Mid-year population estimates

9. The mid-year estimates are an annual series of population estimates. They are on a consistent basis and, accordingly, population change over time should be measured through the mid-year estimates. Up to 1971, the census statistics are the mid-year estimates for the relevant census years. In recent years, it has become acknowledged that the census may not include every person and hence subsequent mid-year estimates, while based on the census, have incorporated adjustments to the census. Thus, in particular, the mid-year estimates for 1991 differ from the census statistics to allow for estimated census under-enumeration. In 1991, this amounted to an estimated 85,000 people.

10. NRS publishes annual mid-year population estimates for the population at 30 June each year. The statistics from the First Release of the 2011 Census results have been used in the [rebased 2011 mid-year population estimates and the 2012 mid-year population estimates](#) which were published on 8 August 2013. Following this, the mid-year population estimates for 2002-2010 will also be re-based using the 2011 Census; the re-based mid-year population estimates will be published in October/November 2013. A report explaining the difference between the 2011 Census population estimates and the rolled-forward population estimates based on the 2001 Census will be published along with these releases.

11. It is recommended that population change over time is generally addressed through the mid-year estimates. However, the adjustments made to the 2001 and 2011 censuses for under-enumeration, mean that population change over the decade can also be examined through comparison of the 2001 and 2011 censuses.

Designation as National Statistics

12. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics. This means they are produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are produced free from any political interference.

Protecting personal census information

13. Personal census information is kept confidential by NRS, and is protected by law. Census records are not released for 100 years.

14. The census results are provided in aggregate format; no attributes of individuals can be identified from the information published.

15. Information on the measures taken to protect the confidentiality of personal census information is published on the [NRS website](#).

8. Further results

This bulletin represents the end of the third and final phase of the first release of Scotland's 2011 Census statistics; the initial sets of figures were published on 17 December 2012 in [Release 1A](#), on 21 March 2013 in [Release 1B](#) and on 23 July 2013 in [Release 1C \(part one\)](#). More information from Scotland's Census will be released in stages from September 2013 onwards. The [2011 Outputs Prospectus](#) describes this in more detail, including when results for lower levels of geography will be available.

Statistics for the whole of the UK from the 2011 Census will be compiled and published on the relevant area in the [UK census website](#).

Please contact our Customer Services if you need any further information.

Email: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our outputs or our standards of service, please contact:

Amy Wilson
Senior Statistician
National Records of Scotland
Room 2/3/5
Ladywell House
Ladywell Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7TF.

Phone: 0131 314 4207

Email: amy.wilson@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Appendix 1: Tables

List of Tables

The files below have been made available in Comma Separated Value (CSV) format. When opening the files your browser, depending on how it's been configured, will prompt to either open the file or save it to disk.

Maximum file size is 2,111 Kb. Table A1 contains 145,690 records and so will not open completely in 2003 or earlier versions of Excel.

Table A1: Census day estimates of usually resident population and households by postcode, 2011

Download this as [csv](#)

Table A2: Census day usually resident population and households by census output area, 2011

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Table A3: Census day usually resident population and households by data zone, 2011

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Appendix 2: Population and households on Scotland's inhabited islands

Table A4: Change in census day estimates of population and households on Scotland's inhabited islands, 2001 to 2011

Council area and island	Usual residents		Households with usual residents	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Scotland	5,062,011	5,295,403	2,192,246	2,372,777
All inhabited islands	99,739	103,702	43,327	47,103
Argyll & Bute	15,889	15,105	7,484	7,358
Bute	7,228	6,498	3,570	3,387
Coll	164	195	80	87
Colonsay	108	124	52	70
Danna	5	1	2	1
Davaar	2	-	1	-
Easdale	58	59	28	29
Elean da Mheinn	-	1	-	1
Erraid	8	6	5	4
Gigha	110	163	51	74
Gometra	5	2	2	1
Inchtavannach	3	3	1	1
Innis Chonain	1	5	1	2
Iona	125	177	57	69
Islay	3,457	3,228	1,541	1,479
Jura	188	196	89	93
Kerrera	42	34	18	19
Lismore	146	192	72	93
Luing	212	195	99	98
Lunga (Luing)	7	-	3	-
Mull	2,667	2,800	1,208	1,271
Oronsay	5	8	3	4
Sanda	1	-	1	-
Seil	560	551	254	252
Shuna (Luing)	1	3	1	1
Tiree	770	653	339	316
Ulva	16	11	6	6
Eilean Siar	26,502	27,684	11,275	12,576
Baleshare / Baile Sear	49	58	18	21
Barra / Barraigh	1,078	1,174	462	549
Benbecula / Beinn Na Faoghla	1,219	1,303	491	577
Berneray (North Uist)	136	138	68	82
Eriskay / Eirisgeigh	133	143	66	73
Flodda	11	7	4	3
Great Bernera / Bearnaraigh	233	252	110	116
Grimsay / Griomasaigh (North)	201	169	83	80
Grimsay / Griomasaigh (South)	19	20	7	7
Isle of Lewis / Eilean Leodhais & Harris / Na Hea	19,918	21,031	8,506	9,503
North Uist / Uibhist A Tuath	1,271	1,254	561	608
Scalpay / Sgalpaigh (Harris)	322	291	140	138
South Uist / Uibhist A Deas	1,818	1,754	723	781
Vatersay / Bhatarsaigh	94	90	36	38

Council area and island	Usual residents		Households with usual residents	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Fife	2	-	1	-
Inchcolm	2	-	1	-
Highland	9,603	10,349	4,105	4,609
Canna	6	12	3	6
Dry (or Eilean Tioram)	-	6	-	2
Eigg	67	83	31	38
Eilean Ban	2	-	1	-
Eilean Donnan	1	-	1	-
Ewe	12	7	4	3
Muck	30	27	15	11
Raasay	192	161	92	77
Rhum	22	22	11	9
Rona / Ronaigh (Skye)	2	3	1	1
Sanday (Canna)	6	9	3	3
Scalpay (Skye)	10	4	4	2
Shona (or Eilean Shona)	9	2	3	1
Skye	9,232	10,008	3,932	4,453
Soay	7	1	3	1
Tanera More/Tannara Mor	5	4	1	2
North Ayrshire	6,492	6,036	3,002	2,881
Arran	5,045	4,629	2,247	2,126
Great Cumbrae	1,434	1,376	755	755
Holy Island	13	31	-	-
Orkney Islands	19,245	21,349	8,342	9,725
Auskerry	5	4	1	1
Burray	357	409	146	195
Eday	121	160	65	85
Egilsay	37	26	11	10
Flotta	81	80	39	48
Gairsay	3	3	1	1
Graemsay	21	28	11	14
Holm of Gimbister	-	3	-	1
Hoy	392	419	197	227
Inner Holm ¹	1	1	1	1
Mainland of Orkney ¹	15,314	17,162	6,602	7,718
North Ronaldsay	70	72	36	34
Papa Stronsay	10	-	1	-
Papa Westray	65	90	30	40
Rousay	212	216	97	109
Sanday (Orkney)	478	494	206	234
Shapinsay	300	307	127	146
South Ronaldsay	854	909	363	411
Stronsay	343	349	146	156
Westray	563	588	255	280
Wyre	18	29	7	14

Council area and island	Usual residents		Households with usual residents	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Perth & Kinross	3	3	1	1
Moncrieffe (or Friarton)	3	3	1	1
Shetland Islands	21,988	23,167	9,111	9,950
Bressay	384	368	161	174
Bruray	26	24	11	12
East Burra	66	76	28	34
Fair Isle	69	68	26	26
Fetlar	86	61	42	31
Foula	31	38	17	20
Housay	50	50	21	19
Mainland of Shetland	17,550	18,765	7,305	8,080
Muckle Roe	104	130	39	44
Papa Stour	23	15	8	9
Trondra	133	135	46	54
Unst	720	632	321	310
Vaila	2	2	1	1
West Burra	753	776	292	329
Whalsay	1,034	1,061	376	388
Yell	957	966	417	419
Stirling	2	1	1	1
Inchfad	2	1	1	1
West Dunbartonshire	13	8	5	2
Inchmurrin	13	8	5	2

Footnotes

1) In the [GROS occasional paper No 10](#) , "Scotland's Census 2001: Statistics for Inhabited Islands", the one usual resident and one household on the island of Inner Holm were included within the figures for mainland of Orkney.

2) In addition to the islands listed in this table, the following islands are included in the NRS statistical geography for inhabited islands but had no usual residents at the time of either the 2001 or 2011 censuses:

- Caisteal Chiosmuil
- Eilean an Stalcaire / Castle Stalker
- Eilean Horrisdale
- Eilean Loain
- Eilean na Cille
- Ensay
- Inch Kenneth
- Inchlonaig
- Inchruin
- Lamb Holm

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