

Developments in demographic statistics in Scotland

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Outline

- Scotland's Census 2022
- Other demographic statistics
- Scotland's Census 2031
- Consultation on topics for 2031 census
- Admin data
- How to get involved / find out more / keep in touch

Scotland's Census 2022 – Outputs aims

- Maximise the value from the census
 - Ensuring that outputs meets users' needs
 - Publishing down to levels of geographies other statistics cannot
 - Make as much data available to users as possible
- Make data available to users through a Flexible Table Builder
- Ensure that what we publish is safe and does not lead to the identification of individuals and households through census outputs

Identity

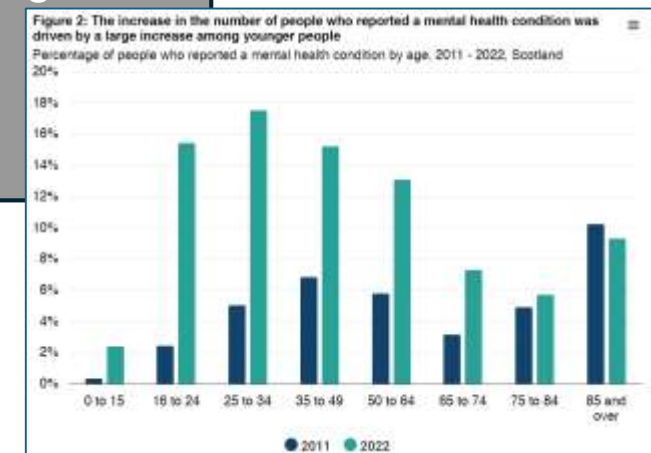
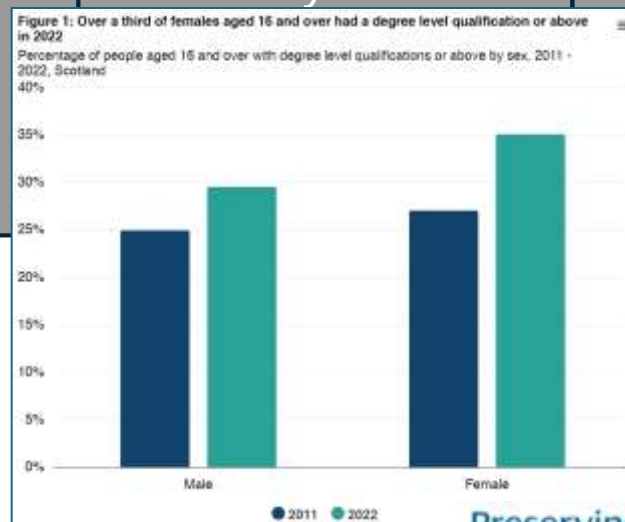
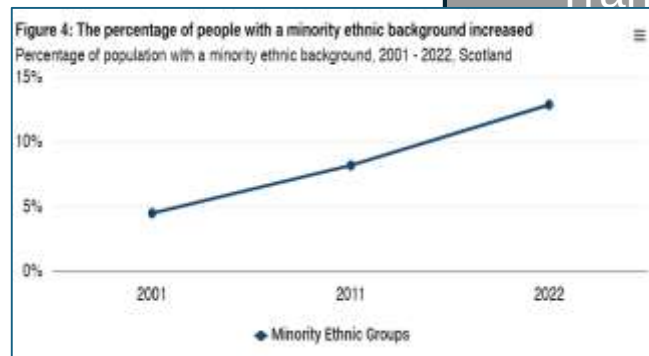
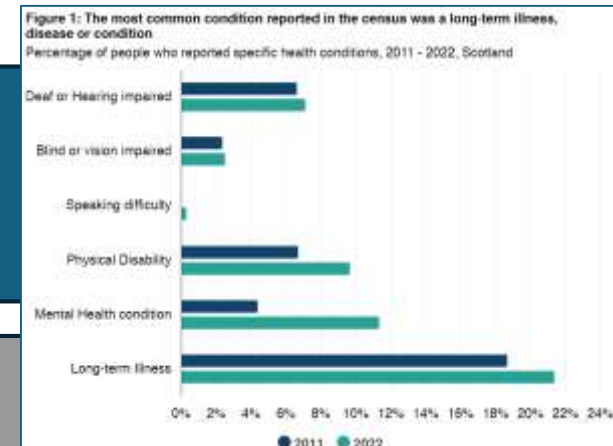
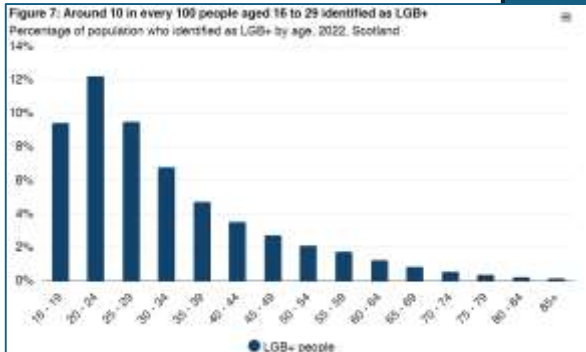
Background

Daily Lives

Ethnic Group
National Identity
Religion
Sexual Orientation
Trans Status

Qualifications
Veteran Status
Country of Birth

Health/Disability
Work
Family Arrangements
Housing



News / Scotland

Around 176,000 veterans living in Scotland, finds 'milestone' data collection

In Scotland, half of all veterans (50.4%) were aged 65 and over and just under one third (30.6%) were aged 50 to 64.



census.



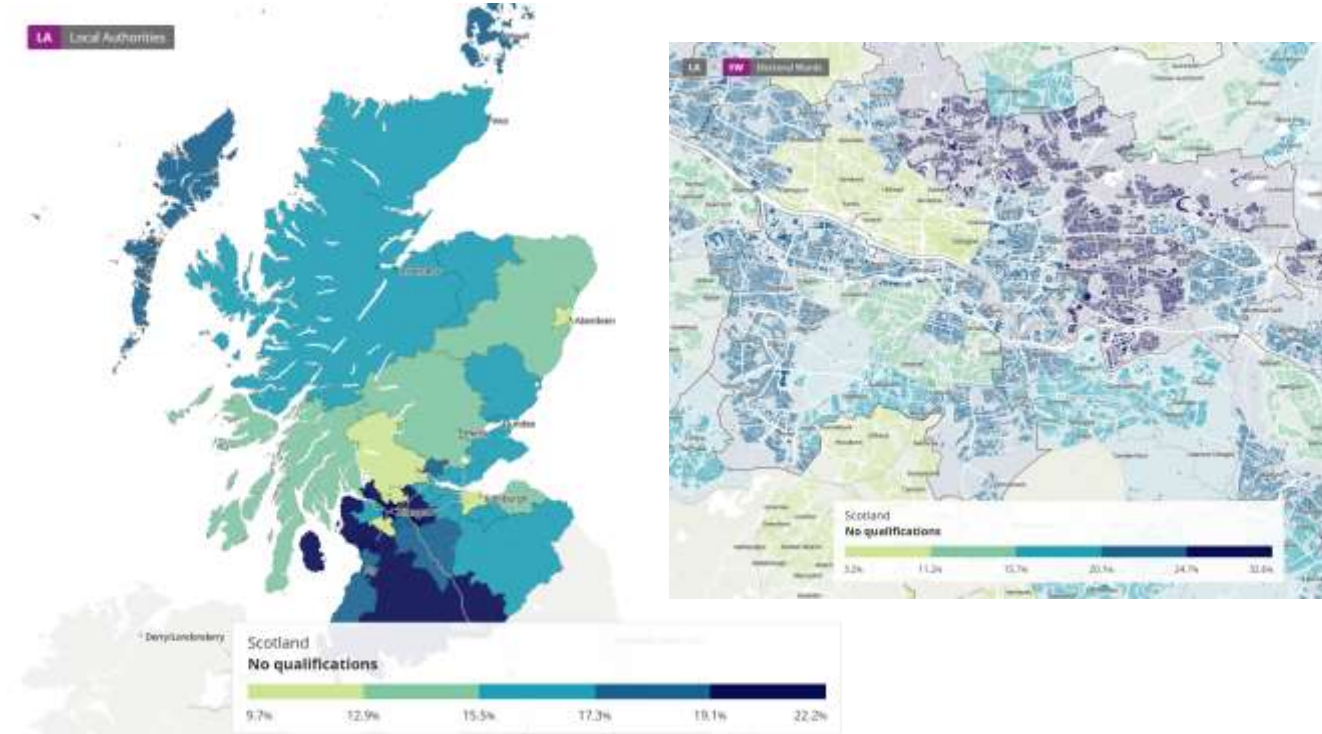
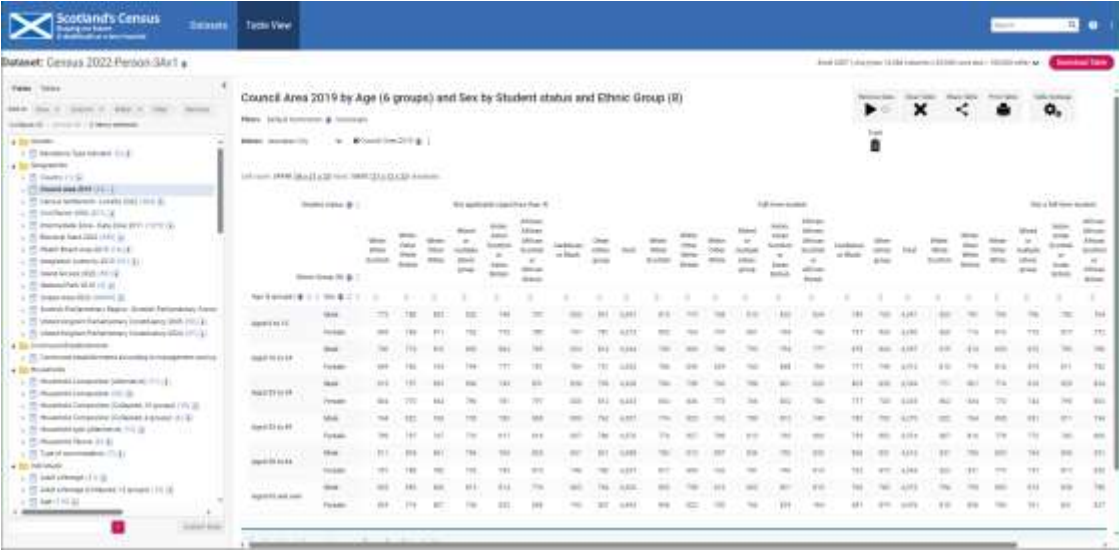
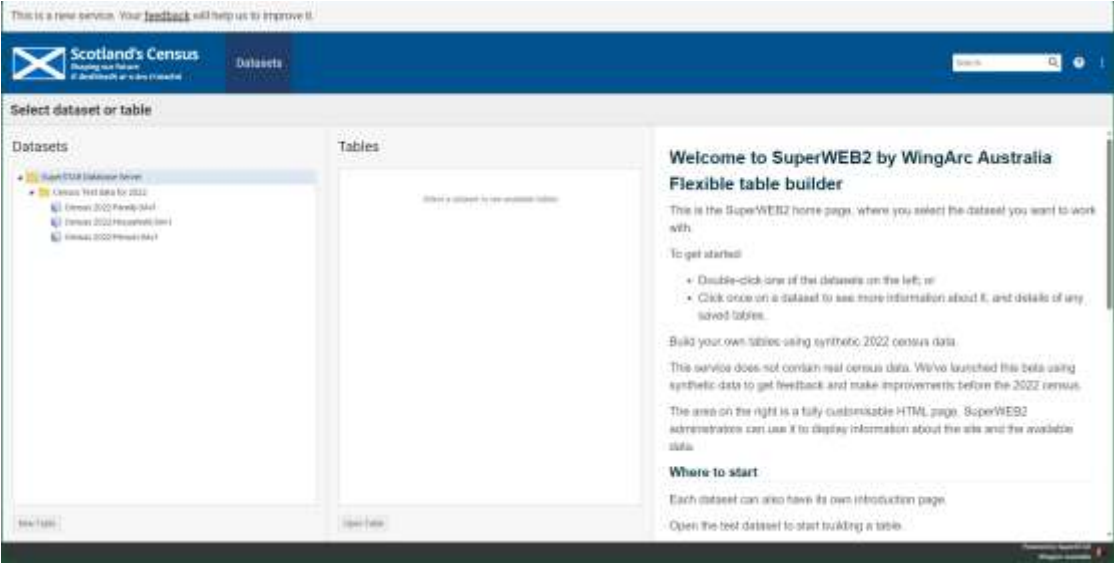
Scotland

Informing the future

Topic	No of items	Reach
Census religion, ethnic group, language and national identity	141	1bn
Census sexual orientation and trans status or history	53	584m
Census prog (+ first outputs)	100	506m
Census housing	50	425m
Census health, disability and unpaid care	175	369m

Scotland's Census data has secured hundreds of items of media coverage. These are the top reports ordered by the number of opportunities to see them. Not all items of coverage are equal so this tells us which were most high profile.

Flexible Table Builder and census maps



Census-based statistics UK: 2021

- The Office for National Statistics recently published **UK 2021 census estimates for a range of topics**.
- This has been a collaboration between the ONS, NRS and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).
- The publication includes topic-based tables and a quality and methodology guide.
 - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/censusbasedstatisticsuk2021>
- The totals for Scotland do not replace NRS's 2022 results as the accredited census statistics for Scotland.

Scotland's Census 2022

**Extensive tables and
reports available to all**

**Cross sectional extracts of
census microdata**

**Linked census microdata
1991-2022**

**Bespoke linked census data
to meet your research
needs**

Demographic Statistics at NRS

- Population and Migration Statistics
 - Estimates and projections
- Household Statistics
 - Estimates and projections
- Vital Events
 - Births, deaths, cause of death, life expectancy, baby names
- NHS Central Register
- Data linkage / Indexing
- Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS)

Census feeds into other demographic statistics

- Rebased population estimates for the last decade
- New boundaries for data zones
- Now working on rebased population estimates for data zones
- New national population projections
 - Population and household projections for councils coming soon
- Moving to ICD-11 codes for classifying cause of death
 - International Classification of Diseases, 11th revision
- Updated information for data linkage and the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS)



Scotland's Census 2031



Scotland's Census 2031

- NRS has recommended a mandatory questionnaire-based census planned for 2031.
- The recommendation, made to Scottish Ministers, is for the census to be held at the same time as censuses in the rest of the UK.
- As with previous censuses, NRS will work closely with ONS and NISRA on the design and build of the census.
- Scottish Ministers have accepted in principle NRS's recommendation, with further detailed plans to follow.
- The NRS recommendation paper on conducting a census in 2031 is available on the Scotland's Census website:
www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

Scotland's Census 2031 – Topic consultation

- As part of the plans, we have launched a consultation on topics to include in the census.
- The consultation seeks your views on:
 - how you currently use 2022 census data, its benefits and if they meet your needs
 - your future requirements for statistics about Scotland's housing, its people and their characteristics
- www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

2022 Topics

- . Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion
- . UK armed forces veterans
- . Sexual orientation and trans status or history
- . Demography and migration
- . Housing
- . Education, labour market and travel to work
- . Health, disability and unpaid care

Consultation questions – 2022 Census

- What topic outputs did you use from 2022?
- What did you use the topic information for?
- Give detailed examples of how you used the outputs.
- What benefits did the topic output create for you?
- At what geographical level did you use the output?
- What benefit do multivariate outputs give you?

Consultation questions – 2031 Census

- Comparability across the UK
- Continuity with the previous census
- Additional topics to included in the next census
- Geographical level

Sign up to interactive webinars

We are holding webinars throughout July on the consultation. You can sign up for these on the Scotland's Census website:

www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

Each session will have the same content. The dates are

- 15 July: 14:00-15:00
- 17 July: 11:30-12:30
- 29 July: 10:00-11:00
- 31 July: 13:00-14:00

Further engagement is planned in August and September.

How to respond

Full consultation paper is on the Scotland's Census website.
www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

Respond via Scottish Government consultation hub by 11pm
on 30 September 2025.

Other developments using Admin Data

- The admin data project in NRS has been formally running since 2016
- Can linked administrative datasets be used to produce demographic statistics?
- Supported Scotland's Census 2022
- Publication of research into administrative data-based estimates on www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk



Newsletters

Our regular newsletter will keep you up-to-date with our plans for **Scotland's Census 2031**.

- Email scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk to sign up and receive the newsletter.
- Can sign up for **Scotstat** newsletters for updates on other Scottish Government / NRS statistics, including demographic statistics www.gov.scot/publications/scotstat-register-guidance

NRS Customer Advisory Panel

NRS is establishing a new customer advisory panel.

We're inviting our customers to get involved in planning and decision making at National Records of Scotland.

If you're interested in providing feedback to inform improvements across a wide range of services including demographic statistics and Scotland's Census, we'd love to hear from you.

Find out more and apply:

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/customer-advisory-panel-application/

Links / more info

- Census website
www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk
- Census topic consultation is open until end of September
- Other demographic statistics
www.nrscotland.gov.uk
- NRS Customer Advisory Panel
www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/customer-advisory-panel-application/
- ScotStat emails for alerts about our demographic statistics
www.gov.scot/publications/scotstat-register-guidance

NISRA Update: Census

NISRA recently published its recommendation for the future of census and population statistics in Northern Ireland

The [NI recommendation paper](#) discusses how both surveys and administrative data face challenges.

- **Surveys:** expensive and time-consuming – increasingly impacted by declining response rates.
- **Administrative data:** issues with coverage, consistency and definitions – may be hard to access in the face of legal and technical barriers.

Reflecting on this, NISRA concluded that:

- A **census in 2031** is required to capture the full range of information needed, particularly the need for information on specific population sub-groups for equality monitoring.
- **Administrative data** can play a key supporting role in census operations, quality assurance of data and production of estimates – as evidenced by NISRA's experience to date of integrating administrative data into recent censuses.

This recommendation does not constitute a decision to take a 2031 census in Northern Ireland - it is now for the Northern Ireland Executive to consider.

NISRA Update: Population Statistics

- NISRA mainly uses the **cohort component method** to produce population estimates at the national level
 - Using birth/death registrations, and GP registration data to estimate migration
- For lower-level geography estimation, NISRA combines this with the **Ratio Change** method
 - This incorporates a range of administrative data sources to estimate levels of population change
 - Sources include: GP registration data, electoral roll, benefit claimants, schools' information Management System, and Higher Education enrolments
 - Combining the two methods ensures that the resulting estimates are calibrated to high-coverage admin sources
- That approach has been successful in the past – with, for example, the 2021 estimate of the population (rolled forward from the 2011 census) being within 0.26% of the census estimate at the national level
- Despite this level of accuracy, new datasets and new methods are being explored to refine the estimation process even further
- NISRA is actively working with ONS and NRS to develop methodologies and ensure coherence with population statistics across the UK