Migration Estimates

Background

National Records of Scotland publish migration data on an annual basis. Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. Internal migration is when people migrate within the same country or region and international migration is when people migrate from one country to another.

Migration is the most difficult component of population change to estimate as, unlike births and deaths, there is no comprehensive system for the registration of moves to or from the rest of the world, nor for moves within the UK. Official estimates of migration are therefore based on survey data and the best proxy data available.

National Records of Scotland use three key sources of migration data to produce migration estimates:

- The National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) is used to calculate moves between NHS Board areas within the UK. It is also used to distribute estimates of international migration to NHS Board areas in Scotland.
- Community Health Index (CHI) is used to estimate migration at Council area and below.
- International Passenger Survey (IPS) provides information on moves into and out of Scotland with an origin or destination of outside UK.

Total migration includes all migration to or from an area. For Scotland this would include moves to and from the rest of the UK and moves to and from overseas whilst for a Council or NHS Board areas it would also include moves to and from other such areas in Scotland.

Scotland Migration

Before the 1990s, Scotland was predominantly a country of net out-migration. The largest net out-migration was seen in the year to mid-1966, when 43,200 more people left than came to live in Scotland. During the 2000s, net migration became consistently positive, with more people coming to Scotland than leaving every year. Net migration also increased during this decade, partly due to increased immigration from the EU, and peaked in the year to mid-2007 when 33,000 more people came to Scotland than left.

Over the last year to mid-2017, there were 23,900 more in-migrants than out migrants, meaning that migration contributed towards an increase in Scotland’s population. Although net migration remains positive, the level of net migration has reduced recently. Previously in the year to mid-2016, 31,700 more people come to Scotland than left.
East Dunbartonshire Migration

The chart below shows the migration for East Dunbartonshire from 2002/03 to 2016/17. There has been a negative net migration for East Dunbartonshire from 1995/96 to 2010/11. The first positive total net migration since 1994/95 was seen in 2011/12. During 2016/17, there was an estimated total net migration into East Dunbartonshire of 4,052 people and a total net out migration of 3,364 people resulting in a positive net migration of 688 people.

Further Information

Further information can be found by visiting the National Records of Scotland website (www.nrscotland.gov.uk).