Household Projections 2016-based

Background

National Records of Scotland’s (NRS) 2016 based Household Projections for Scotland presents projections of the number of households in Scotland and council areas from 2016 to 2041, based on the 2016 based population projections for Scotland.

Household projections are mainly used for informing council decisions about future housing need and service provision (such as waste collection and community care). The projections feed into development plans, including assessments of housing need and demand for the future.

It should be noted that projections have limitations. A projection is a calculation showing what happens if particular assumptions are made. The household projections are trend based and are not, therefore, policy-based forecasts of what the Government expects to happen. Specifically, the assumptions do not take account of the June 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union. They are based on population projections and trends in household information. The assumptions used for the population projections, such as future migration, fertility and mortality, will therefore affect the household projections. No forecast is made of possible changes that may alter these trends, such as economic and social change, as well as imbalances between housing supply and demand.

Household Projections Scotland

The number of households in Scotland is projected to increase from 2.45 million in 2016 to 2.76 million in 2041, an increase of 13%. The projected average annual increase in the number of households is 12,700. The rate of the increase is lower in the later years of the projection period.

The household projections are affected by the projected trends in the Scottish population. The population is projected to increase by 5% between 2016 and 2041, with average annual increases that are greater at the beginning of the projection period than at the end. This rise in population explains some of the increase in household numbers over the projection period.

However, the household projections increase by a larger percentage than the population projections, as shown in the chart below. The larger change in the household projections is a result of more people living alone or in smaller households. Scotland’s population is ageing, with the number of people aged 65 or over increasing much faster than the number of children and younger adults. This has an impact on household structure as children tend to live in larger households and older people in smaller ones.
Household Projections Council Areas

The number of households in almost every Council area is projected to increase between 2016 and 2041. By 2041, East Dunbartonshire is projected to have 52,203 households, an increase of 15% over the projection period. The largest projected percentage increases between 2016 and 2041 are in Midlothian (36%), East Lothian (26%) and City of Edinburgh (26%). In contrast, just four Council areas are projected to have a fall in household numbers. These Council areas are Na h-Eileanan Siar (6%), Inverclyde (5%), Argyll and Bute (2%) and North Ayrshire (less than 1% decrease).
In every Council area there is a projected increase in the number of people living alone between 2016 and 2041, ranging from a 10% increase in Argyll and Bute to a 51% increase in East Renfrewshire. East Dunbartonshire is projected to have an increase of 38% in one adult households between 2016 and 2041.

It is projected by 2041 that 36% of households in East Dunbartonshire will be one adult households. The largest percentage of one adult households will be found in Glasgow City (50%) and the lowest is found in Aberdeenshire (31%). In general, the figures are highest in the cities and the west of the country.

Further Information

Further information, along with the Household Projections 2016-based document can be found on the National Records of Scotland website here.