

Census 2022 - Race, ethnicity, and migration



Introduction

Over the course of this year detailed results have been being released from the 2022 census. These show a Scotland which is not only increasing in population but more diverse than ever. This briefing takes a look at some of the figures relating to race, ethnicity, and migration and what they tell us about the Scotland in which we are living.

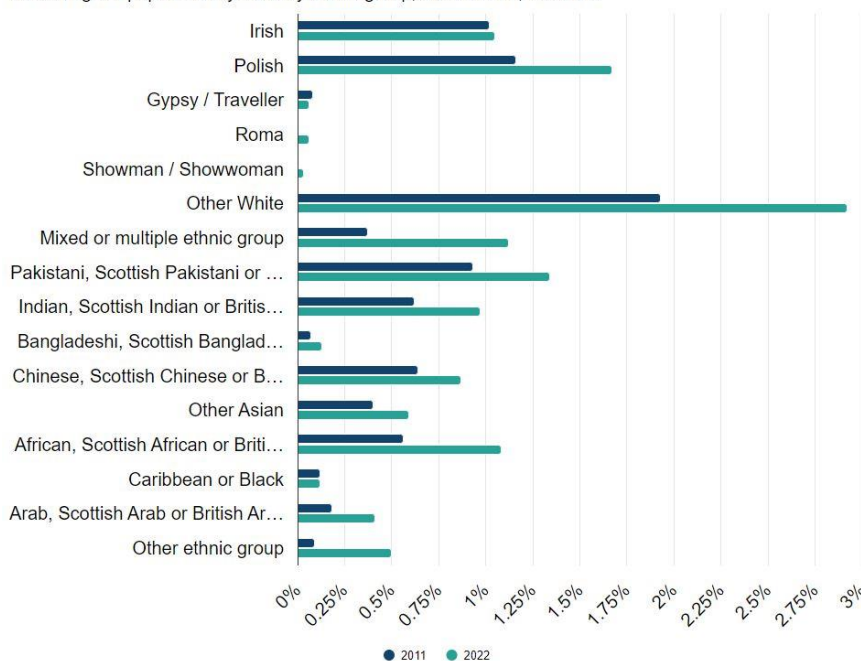
Overall Picture

On Census Day, 20 March 2022, the population of Scotland was estimated to be 5,436,600. This is the largest population ever recorded by Scotland's Census. The population has grown by 141,200 (2.7%) since the previous census in 2011. This is a slower rate of growth than between 2001 and 2011, when the population grew by 233,400 (4.6%). It is also a slower rate of growth than either England, Wales or Northern Ireland. The rise is driven by an increase in the number of people born outside Scotland.

Race and Ethnicity

Our country is more ethnically diverse than it was. In 2022 12.9% of people in Scotland had a minority ethnic background. This is an increase from 8.2% in 2011.

Percentage of population by minority ethnic group, 2011 - 2022, Scotland



Minority ethnic group' is used in the census to refer to those who defined their ethnic group or background as something other than "Scottish" or "Other British" within the White category. (Together these groups made up 87.1% of

KEY POINTS:

- The 2022 census shows Scotland has its highest ever population.
- Without migration Scotland's population would have decreased, and we would have fewer people in younger age groups.
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- Almost half of people born overseas had been living in the UK for 10 or more years (49.8%).



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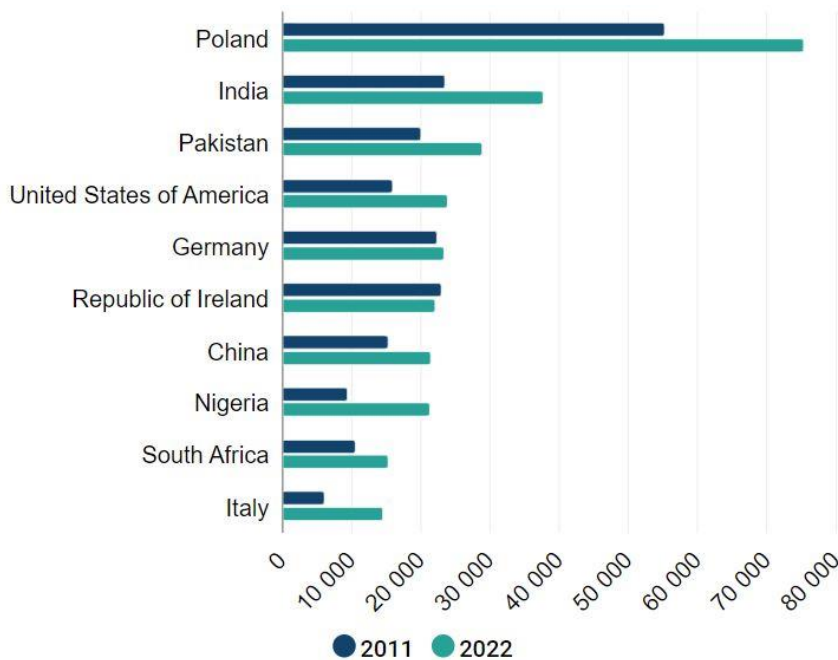
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Race and ethnicity (cont)

...made up 87.1% of the population.) This includes some ethnic groups that were in the White category on the census form such as Irish, Polish, Gypsy/Traveller, Roma and Showman/Showwoman.

Migration

In 2022 over half a million people living in Scotland were born in the rest of the UK (563,500). A further half a million were born outside of the UK (554,900). The number of people born outside of the UK increased by 185,600 since 2011. The graph below shows the ten most common countries of birth of people born outside of the UK.



The most common country of birth of people born outside the UK was Poland (75,400 people). The next most common country of birth was India (37,700) and then Pakistan (28,900). The countries in the top ten that saw the biggest increase in people since 2011 were Poland (up 20,100), India (up 14,200) and Nigeria (up 11,800). The number of people in Scotland born in Italy more than doubled from 6,000 in 2011 to 14,500 in 2022.

Around 1 in 3 people born overseas and living in Scotland in 2022 arrived in the UK aged between 20 and 29. This is likely due to people moving to Scotland to study or work.

Almost half of people born overseas had been living in the UK for 10 or more years (49.8%). Compared to 2011 more people in Scotland have been living in the UK long term after moving from overseas.

There are now 276,300 people in the '10+ years' group. This has doubled since 2011. However, census data does not allow us to look at average length of stay in general. People moving to and from Scotland between 2011 and 2022 will not be counted in the censuses.

Action for branches

Scotland – and Scotland's workforces - are more diverse than ever before. Branches should ensure that employer policies reflect this. eg UNISON Scotland's recent annual Violence at Work report showed many employers reporting of violent incidents do not take race into account.

Additional reading

- [Scotland's Census](#)
- [Making sense of the census](#)
- [Violence at Work report](#)



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