

Briefing Note

2016 Mid-year population estimates – Aberdeen City

National Records of Scotland (NRS) published their 2016 Mid-year Population Estimates (MYEs) for Scotland on 27th April 2017. MYEs are published every year and give population estimates of an area by sex and age. This note gives a brief summary of the 2016 MYEs for Aberdeen City. A more detailed report will be issued in the coming weeks.

Aberdeen City: On 30th June 2016 the population of Aberdeen City was estimated to be **229,840**. This equates to 4.2% of Scotland’s total population.

The estimated population has decreased slightly (-0.2%) between mid 2015 (estimated population of 230,350) and mid 2016. In Scotland as a whole, the population increased by 0.6% from 5,373,000 to 5,404,700.

Table 1 shows the population estimates for Aberdeen City and Scotland for 2015 and 2016, giving the absolute and percentage change between these dates. It also gives a breakdown of population by gender. There are more females than males in the City (50.3% compared to 49.7%).

Table 1: Population change by gender, Aberdeen City and Scotland, mid 2015 to mid 2016

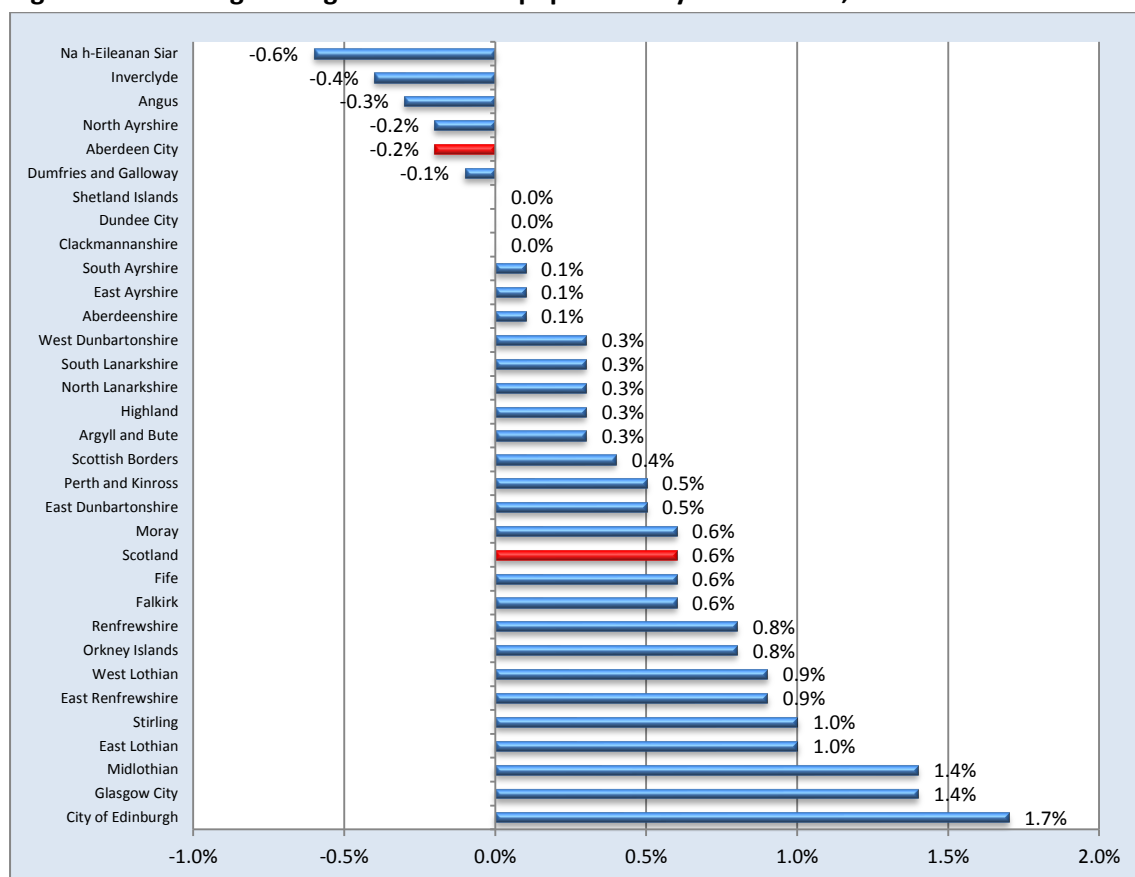
	2015	2016	Change	Percentage change
	n	n	n	%
Aberdeen City				
<i>Male</i>	114,414	114,121	-293	-0.26%
<i>Female</i>	115,936	115,719	-217	-0.19%
All persons	230,350	229,840	-510	-0.22%
Scotland				
<i>Male</i>	2,610,469	2,627,503	17,034	0.65%
<i>Female</i>	2,762,531	2,777,197	14,666	0.53%
All persons	5,373,000	5,404,700	31,700	0.59%

Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Scotland, available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016/list-of-tables>

n = number, % = percentage

Comparison with other local authorities: Aberdeen City is one of seven council areas which have experienced a decrease in estimated population in the past year. The largest percentage decrease at 0.6% was Na h-Eileanan Siar. The largest percentage increase in population was in the City of Edinburgh with an increase of 1.7%. Figure 1 shows the percentage change in population between mid 2015 and mid 2016 for all 32 council areas and for Scotland.

Figure 1: Percentage change in estimated population by council area, mid 2015 to mid 2016



Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Scotland, available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016/list-of-tables>

Components of change: Population change is calculated from two main components; (1) natural change (births minus deaths) and (2) net migration (the sum of migration to/from Scotland and internal migration). It also includes other changes (e.g. changes in prisoner and armed forces population) although these tend to make up a smaller proportion of changes. In Aberdeen City, while there was a positive natural change between mid 2015 and mid 2016, there was negative net migration over the period. In contrast, in Scotland there was negative natural change (although this was very small) and positive net migration. Table 2 shows the components of population change for Aberdeen City and Scotland.

Table 2: Components of population change, Aberdeen City and Scotland, mid 2015 to mid 2016

	Population 2015	Natural change	Net migration	Other changes	Population 2016	Total change	Percentage change
	n	n	n	n	n	n	%
Aberdeen City	230,350	440	-969	19	229,840	-510	-0.2%
Scotland	5,373,000	-821	31,693	828	5,404,700	31,700	0.6%

n = number, % = percent

Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Scotland, available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016/list-of-tables>

The negative net-migration in Aberdeen City for 2015-2016 indicates that more people moved out of the city than moved into it. This contrasts with figures for 2014-15 where net-migration was positive. To explore this further, Table 3 gives a breakdown of the migration figures for Aberdeen City for 2015-2016 and also for 2014-2015. It shows the figures for in-migration and out-migration as well as net-migration. Comparing data for the two periods, it can be seen that in-migration to the City was lower in 2015-2016 than in 2014-2015 (12,305 compared to 14,060) while out-migration was slightly higher (13,274 compared to 12,975). Looking at the net-migration figures, overseas net-migration was still positive between 2015 and 2016 (although lower than the previous year). However, in contrast with 2014-2015, net-migration between Aberdeen City and the rest of the UK was negative (-779 compared to 117). Additionally, the level of negative net-migration between Aberdeen City and other areas of Scotland was higher in 2015-2016 than in 2014-2015 (-2,664 compared to -2,221).

Table 3: Components of migration, Aberdeen City, mid 2014-2015 and mid 2015-2016

		Aberdeen City 2015-2016	Aberdeen City 2014-2015
In-migration	<i>Within Scotland</i>	6,177	6,807
	<i>Rest of UK</i>	1,971	2,663
	<i>Overseas</i>	4,157	4,590
	Total	12,305	14,060
Out-migration	<i>Within Scotland</i>	8,841	9,028
	<i>Rest of UK</i>	2,750	2,546
	<i>Overseas</i>	1,683	1,401
	Total	13,274	12,975
Net-migration	<i>Within Scotland</i>	-2,664	-2,221
	<i>Rest of UK</i>	-779	117
	<i>Overseas</i>	2,474	3,189
	Total	-969	1,085

Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Scotland, available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016/list-of-tables>

Estimated population by age group: Table 4 shows population estimates by age group, showing the number of persons in each age group and the age groups as a percentage of the total population. Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City has a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (65+ years) and a higher proportion of its population in the young adult age groups (15-24 years and, particularly, 25-34 years).

Table 4: Estimated population by age group, Aberdeen City and Scotland, 2016

Area	All Ages	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Aberdeen City	229,840 (100.0%)	229,840 (14.1%)	32,393 (14.3%)	32,785 (19.6%)	44,975 (13.2%)	30,233 (12.7%)	29,138 (11.1%)	25,484 (8.2%)	18,738 (5.0%)	11,478 (2.0%)
Scotland	5,404,700 (100.0%)	5,404,700 (15.9%)	860,478 (12.3%)	662,627 (13.4%)	726,037 (12.3%)	665,391 (14.8%)	798,942 (12.8%)	692,373 (10.3%)	556,543 (6.0%)	323,264 (2.2%)

Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Scotland, available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016/list-of-tables>

Table 5 shows the age and sex structure of the population for Aberdeen City and Scotland. It presents the proportion of the population by gender for three age categories – under 16 years, working age and pensionable age. It also shows the median age of the population. The median age in Aberdeen City is lower than that for Scotland (36 years compared to 41 years). This is consistent with the higher proportion of people of working age and lower proportion of people of pensionable age in Aberdeen City compared to Scotland.

Table 5: Age and sex structure of population, Aberdeen City and Scotland, 2016

	Median age	Percentage under 16	Percentage working age ¹	Percentage pension-able age ²
Aberdeen				
<i>Males</i>	35 years	15%	71%	13%
<i>Females</i>	37 years	15%	66%	20%
All persons	36 years	15%	69%	16%
Scotland				
<i>Males</i>	40 years	18%	65%	17%
<i>Females</i>	43 years	16%	61%	23%
All persons	41 years	17%	63%	20%

Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Scotland, available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2016/list-of-tables>

- 1) Working age at 30 June 2016 is defined as men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to approximately 63 years and 86 days.
- 2) Pensionable age at 30 June 2016 was 65 for men and approximately 63 years and 87 days for women.

Summary

On 30th June 2016 the estimated population of Aberdeen City was 229,840 – slightly more than half of the population was female. The estimated population in 2016 was 0.2% lower than the previous year’s population. The main reason for this decrease is negative net-migration to the City between mid 2015 and mid 2016. Comparison of the age structure in Aberdeen and Scotland shows that, broadly speaking, the population of Aberdeen City is younger than that for Scotland as a whole.

A more detailed briefing paper will be available from Research and Information Team in the coming weeks. However, if you would like further information in the meantime please contact:

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Further information on 2016 mid-year population estimates can be found on: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/>