

# population

## Background

Glasgow is by far the largest of Scotland's cities, with a population of 580,690 in 2006. The City is located at the centre of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Conurbation, which has a population of around 1,750,000.

People in Glasgow



During the past 70 years, Glasgow has experienced a considerable decline in its population. In recent years, the Council has taken action to reverse this decline. Recent statistics/data show that this has been successful. The 2006 GROS population estimate shows an increase in the City's population of 1,900 compared to the previous year. The estimates for 2005 and 2006 show the first significant increase in the City's population since the 1920s (with the exception of 2000/01, the first year of the asylum seeker programme). In the next decade, however, it is projected that the City will see an increase in the number of working age population and pre-school age children, whilst the numbers of school age children and people of pensionable age are expected to fall.

The make-up of the City's population is diverse with substantial Pakistani, Indian, Chinese, African and Caribbean communities and an increasing number of people from Eastern Europe. These groups make a notable contribution to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the City. People from minority ethnic groups account for over 5.5% of the City's population and the Council is committed to ensuring that all citizens have equal access to the full range of services provided in Glasgow.

Diverse Population



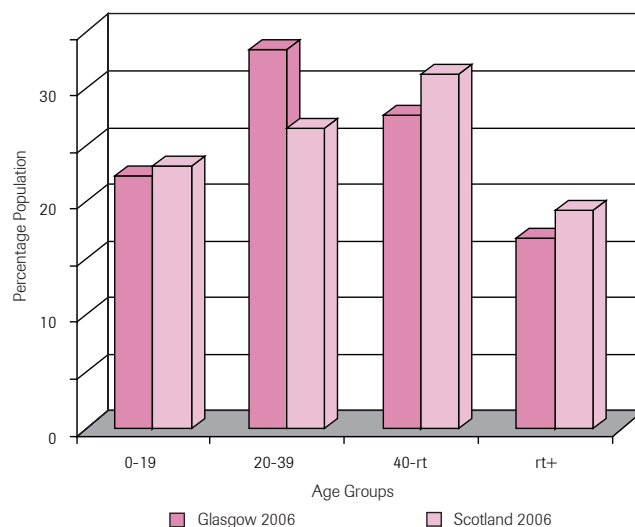
## Population Trends

Between 2001 and 2006, the City's population level has risen by almost 400 per year. Whilst loss through natural change has averaged about 800 per year, migration has more than compensated for this by a net inflow of 1,200 per year. This improvement primarily relates to long-distance migration and reflects the shift from a net outflow of working-age population in the late 1990s to a net inflow since 2000. The City's asylum seeker contract has been an important factor in this regard, as has, more recently, in-migration from EU Accession Countries. In terms of more 'localised' migration, the City shows a net loss to other parts of the Conurbation.

Local authority areas adjoining Glasgow show varied demographic trends. East Renfrewshire saw an increase in population in the 1990s, but shows a stable position since 2001. Renfrewshire, East and West Dunbartonshire are all losing population. North and South Lanarkshire experienced population losses in the late 1990s, but have been gaining population since 2001.

The proportion of Glasgow's population aged 20-29 rose from 17% to 18% between 1996 and 2006. In Glasgow the number of 20-29 year olds as a percentage of population is 42% above the Scottish average. This has a positive effect on the demand for housing, as this is the age group from which many new households are usually formed. The actual number in this age group has risen by 4% in the period 1996 to 2006 and this number is projected to be virtually stable over the period to 2014.

Population Age Structure



In comparison with Scotland, Glasgow's population has a higher proportion of young adults (age 20-39) and relatively fewer of middle age/pre-retirement age (age 40-ret). The number of pensionable age has been falling by about 14% during the last decade and the proportion of pensioners in Glasgow's population (at 16.7%) is now 13% lower than the average for Scotland (at 19.2%). This difference is projected to increase in the next decade.



## Births and Deaths

In Glasgow, as well as nationally, the last ten years has been characterised by low birth rates, compared with the "baby boom" years of the 1950s and 1960s. This dramatic change in birth rates, which has also taken place in other industrialised countries, is reflected in the City's age structure. The children of the late 1950s and the 1960s are now in their thirties and forties and the younger age groups are smaller in number. Since 2000, the number of births in the City has been relatively stable. There were small increases to the birth rate in 2003/04.



During the last decade, Glasgow's mortality rates were considerably higher than the Scottish average. In 2005, mortality from lung cancer was 55% above the Scottish average. In addition, heart disease was responsible for 20% of deaths. Between 1999 and 2004, the overall mortality was about 29% above the Scottish rate which, in turn, was higher than the rate for England and Wales. Substantial efforts are being made to improve the City's health record (see Factsheet 13), but this will be a long-term process.

Since the late 1980s, there has been a fall in the number of elderly people resident in the City. The number of people of retirement age, as a percentage of Glasgow's population, is projected to continue to fall from 16.7% in 2006 to 16.3% in 2016.

Between 1996 and 2006 births averaged 6,858 per annum, whereas there was an average of 7,783 deaths per annum. Births and deaths, which together account for

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natural change in the population, have led to an average reduction in the population of the City of 925 per annum. Since 1998, the rate of population loss through natural change has decreased due mainly to a continuing fall in the number of deaths (down from 8,580 in 1998/99 to 6,963 in 2005/2006). This is a result of the lower number of elderly in Glasgow's population. It is predicted that the natural change population loss will continue to reduce over the next few years and that, towards the end of the projection period (2016), natural change will result in a population gain due to an excess of births over deaths.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MIGRATION AVERAGE PER ANNUM 1996-2006	
births	6,858
deaths	7,783
natural change	-925
migration	-890
Total	-1,815

## Migration

During the 1960s and early 1970s, a large number of people moved away from Glasgow. This provided an opportunity to reduce housing densities and improve conditions in some parts of the City. High levels of out-migration continued until 1978. Since then, the migration loss has gradually reduced in line with the Council's policy objective to halt the loss of population and to encourage more people to live in the City. Between 2001 and 2005, Glasgow has had an annual population gain of 0.2% due to net in-migration. This compares with annual gains in other large UK cities of 0.7% for Manchester, 0.5% for Edinburgh, 0.3% for Liverpool, 0.3% for Sheffield and 0.1% for Leeds. There was an annual population loss due to net out-migration in Birmingham (-0.1%).



During the 1980s, people tended to leave the City mainly for employment or housing reasons. Over the period 1981 to 1991, total employment fell by 11% in the City and manufacturing employment by 44%. More recently, Glasgow's employment performance has improved (a rise of 22% between 1996 and 2005). The indications are that Glasgow will continue to experience employment growth, albeit at a reduced rate. The improved employment situation is a key factor in the turnaround of Glasgow's migration position.

The recent improvement in Glasgow's migration position reflects a considerable net inflow from long-distance migration. This has more than compensated for the net outflow of around 4,000 people to the rest of the West of Scotland conurbation. The number of Glasgow residents in employment in the City has stabilised at around 53% over the period 1991 to 2001. The majority of those choosing to move from the City to live elsewhere in the conurbation still continue to work in Glasgow. Although the City has attracted more small households, especially young adults living on their own, the number of family and pensioner households moving to the suburbs has increased.

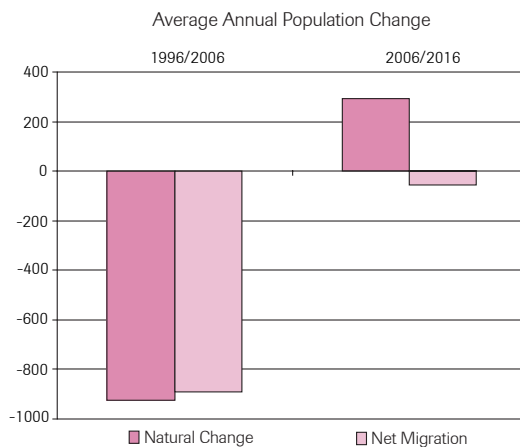
In a determined effort to redress this situation, action has been taken to increase housing choice in the City. This includes the development of four new neighbourhoods in different housing market areas (Drumchapel, Garthamlock, Oatlands and Ruchill/Keppoch) and the release of nine greenfield release sites (with a capacity of almost 2,000 houses). The purpose of these policy initiatives is to retain and to attract back families to the City that consider, or have chosen in the past, to live in surrounding local authority areas.

Drumchapel Housing



## Future Trends

The City's population is expected to rise slightly over the next 10 years. The improving migration position is likely to be further enhanced by the renewal of the asylum seeker contract to 2011, although the termination of the contract is likely to have a temporary downward effect on migration in or after that year. The number of households is expected to continue to increase, but at a higher rate: 2,500 per year for 2006 to 2016, compared with 1,050 per year for 2001 to 2006. The number of households is projected to rise from 281,000 in 2006 to 306,000 in 2016.



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Year	Population	Area (ha)
1951	1,089,555 (1)	16,077
1961	1,055,017 (1)	16,077
1981	774,068 (2)	20,235
1991	688,600 (2)	20,267
2001	578,710 (2)	17,730
2006	580,690 (2)	17,639

Sources : (1) Census and (2) Registrar General Mid Year Estimates

For more information telephone: 0141 287 8647

Or visit: [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)