

factsheet 4



population

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Background

Glasgow is by far the largest of Scotland’s cities, with a population of 585,090 in 2003. It is located at the centre of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Conurbation, with a population of about 1,750,000. The diversity apparent in the composition of the City’s population, with its communities of Pakistani, Indian, Chinese, African and Caribbean origin, makes a notable contribution to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the City. People from minority ethnic groups account for about 5.5% of the City’s population. The City Council is committed through its adoption of the 1998 “Glasgow Equality Policy”, to ensuring that all citizens of whichever ethnic origin have equal access to the full range of services provided in the City.

In common with many other UK cities, Glasgow is faced with the challenge of reversing population decline. Although the migration position has improved considerably in recent years, there is still a sizeable population loss, partly through natural change, i.e. an excess of deaths over births, and partly through net out-migration.

Population Trends

During the decade to 2001, Glasgow’s population is estimated to have declined from 629,220 to 586,710*, a drop of 42,510. The average annual rate of population decline at around 4,250 in 1991/2001 is projected to fall to around 1,100 per year for the period 2001/2011.

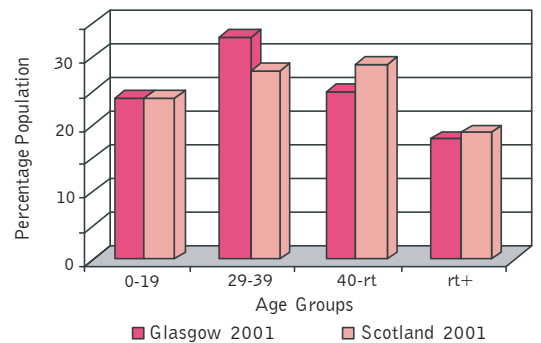
**The 2001 Census results show, for Glasgow, a population estimate of only 577,869, which is considerably below pre-Census estimates. Glasgow City Council has challenged the estimate and this is currently the subject of a technical dialogue between the City Council and the General Register Office for Scotland.*

Local authority areas adjoining Glasgow show varied demographic trends with one area gaining population (East Renfrewshire), three areas losing population (Renfrewshire, East and West Dunbartonshire), and others showing fluctuations in the estimated population change (North and South Lanarkshire).

Between 1991 and 2001, the proportion of Glasgow’s population aged 30-39 increased, whilst the proportion of those aged 20-29 decreased. In Glasgow the number of 20-29 year olds as a percentage of population is 29% above the Scottish average. This has had a positive effect on the demand for housing, as this is the age group from which many new households are usually formed. Although the actual number in this age group has fallen by 22% in the period 1991 to 2001, a small increase of 3% is projected over the period to 2011.

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 13% during the last decade and the proportion of pensioners in Glasgow’s population is now lower than the average for Scotland.

Population Age Structure



Births and Deaths

In Glasgow, as well as nationally, the last ten years can be characterised as a period of 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 most industrialised countries, lies at the root of the imbalance of the age structure of the City. The children of the late 1950s and the 1960s are now in their thirties and forties and the younger age bands are much smaller in number. Since the year 2000, however, the number of births has been more or less stable, with 2003 showing a small increase relative to the previous year.



Glasgow Baby

Glasgow's mortality rates during the last decade were considerably higher than the Scottish average, reflecting in part, a worse state of health in the City. In 2002, mortality from lung cancer was 53% above the Scottish average. In addition, heart disease was responsible for 20% of deaths. Between 2000 and 2002, the overall mortality was about 22% above the Scottish rate which, in turn, was higher than the rate for England and Wales.

Efforts are being made to improve the City's health record (see Factsheet 13), but this is a long-term process and mortality figures will be slow to change.

Since the late 1980s, there has been a noticeable fall in the number of elderly persons. The reasons for this are Glasgow's sizeable net migration loss of the elderly, as well as mortality rates considerably above the Scottish average. The number of people of retirement age, as a percentage of Glasgow's population, is projected to continue to fall from 18% in 2001 to 16% in 2011.

Between 1991 and 2001 births averaged 7,654 per annum, whereas there was an average of 8,581 deaths per annum. Births and deaths, which together account for natural change in the population, have led to an average reduction in the population of the City of 927 per year. The rate of population loss through natural change has increased over the period, mainly due to a continuing fall in the number of births (down from 9,049 in 1991/92 to 6,628 in 2000/2001).

During the last decade, migration has had a much more significant bearing on population levels than natural change. However, with the fall in the annual net migration loss and the increase in the annual loss due to natural change, the latter has become more important.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MIGRATION AVERAGE PER ANNUM 1991-2001	
Births	7,654
Deaths	8,581
Natural Change	-927
Migration	-3,324
Total Change	-4,251

It is expected that the size of the natural change population loss will reduce again in the future, as the number of elderly in Glasgow's population is projected to decrease.

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 been gradually reduced in line with the City Council's policy objective to halt the loss of population and encourage more people to live in the City. Whilst Glasgow lost 0.5% of its citizens per year

between 1991 and 2001, Liverpool lost 0.7%, Manchester 0.6%, Leeds 0.1%, Sheffield 0.2% and Birmingham 0.6%. There was an annual population gain due to net in-migration in Edinburgh (0.3%).

During the 1980s, because of a considerable fall in employment in Glasgow, people tended to leave the City either 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 shown an improvement (a rise of 15% between 1996 and 2002). The indications are that Glasgow is set for a medium-term cycle of employment growth. This is a very important factor in the reduction of Glasgow's net migration loss.

However, the share of Glasgow residents in employment in the City has declined considerably. Over the period 1981 to 1991, the ratio of Glasgow residents in employment to the total of those employed in the City reduced from 77% to 66%, with a stabilisation at 66% over the 1991 to 2001 period. This relatively low ratio is due, in part, to Glasgow residents in employment moving away from the City to live in the suburbs. More than 50% of all "main earners" in households which move from Glasgow to purchase a house elsewhere in the conurbation, still continue to work in Glasgow. Although the City is attractive for young adults living on their own, family households and two adult households have shown a tendency to move to the suburbs.

In a determined effort to redress this situation, steps have been taken to increase the range of housing choice in the City. This includes the:-

- development of four new neighbourhoods aimed at attracting/retaining family households in the middle market sector; and
- release of 9 greenfield release sites (with a capacity of almost 2000 houses) aimed at attracting/retaining family households in the upper to upper-middle market sector.

The purpose of these policy initiatives is to retain and to attract back to the City families that consider, or have chosen in the past, to live in surrounding local authority areas.

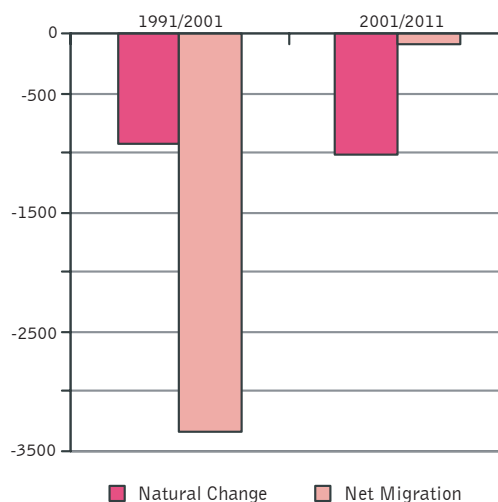


Greenfield Release Housing Construction - Drumchapel

Future Trends

In the most recent projection (2001-base), the City's population is expected to continue to decline, but this is almost entirely due to natural change, i.e. an excess of deaths over births. (The migration assumption in this projection is based on pre-2001 Census estimates and will be reviewed in the near future). An already improving migration position is further enhanced by a projected net inflow of refugees. Many asylum seekers choose to remain within the City, once they have been given permission to stay within the UK. The projected population figure for 2011 is 11,000 people less than in 2001. Despite this population decline, the number of households is expected to continue to increase, at a rate of 1,620 per year. This compares with a rate of about 400 per year for the period 1991 to 2001. The number of households is projected to rise from 275,200 in 2001 to 291,400 in 2011.

Average Annual Population Change



People

Year	Population	Area(ha)(4)	Main areas of change (5)
1300	1,500(4)	-	-
1600	7,000(4)	-	-
1791	66,000(4)	716	Anderson to James Street/West Nile Street to Camlachie
1831	202,426(1)	883	-
1846	not available	2,344	Burghs of Anderston and Calton/Barony of Gorbals
1872	494,824(3)	2,442	Keppochhill, Glasgow University
1891	658,073(1)	4,800	Burghs of Govanhill, Crosshill, Maryhill, Pollokshields East, Pollokshields, Hillhead
1901	761,712(1)	5,135	-
1912	not available	7,763	Burghs of Govan, Partick, Pollokshaws
1926	1,090,380(3)	11,942	Carntyne, Cardonald, Robroyston, Knightswood
1938	1,127,825(3)	16,077	Easterhouse, Darnley, Drumchapel, Summerston
1946	1,050,000(3)	16,077	-
1951	1,089,555(1)	16,077	-
1961	1,055,017(1)	16,077	-
1971	897,485(1)	16,077	-
1975	885,129(2)	20,235	Burgh of Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Mount Vernon, Baillieston
1981	774,068(2)	20,235	-
1985	735,080(2)	20,235	-
1989	698,890(2)	20,289	Minor Boundary Changes
1990	690,420(2)	20,267	Minor Boundary Changes
1991	688,600(2)	20,267	-
1995	674,820(2)	20,267	-
1996	602,840(2)	17,730	Rutherglen and Cambuslang transferred to South Lanarkshire - April 1996
1997	595,460(2)	17,730	-
1998	592,650(2)	17,730	-
1999	589,350(2)	17,730	-
2000	584,220(2)	17,730	-
2001	586,710(2)	17,730	-
2002	585,350(2)	17,639	-
2003	585,090(2)	17,639	-

Sources : (1) Census; (2) Registrar General's Mid Year Estimates (Estimates since 1996 have been adjusted by GCC to correct for estimated Census undercount); (3) Year Book Stirling Library; (4) Various sources and are approximate; (5) All areas quoted added to the City except those for boundary change.