

EUROCHILDREN RESEARCH BRIEF SERIES, NO.7

EU NATIONALS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND A GROWING DEMOGRAPHIC

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Acknowledgements	4
Disclaimers	4
Introduction	5
<i>The data</i>	5
Counting EU nationals	5
EU nationals in Scotland: historical overview	6
Zooming in on local areas	9
Scottish-born children of EU nationals	14
<i>Parental socio-economic status</i>	17
Conclusions	18
Data Sources	19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the end of 2018, EU-born residents in Scotland, who overall accounted for 4.3% of the population, comprised between 0.8% and 11.4% of the resident population in local areas, with geographical distribution concentrated around Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, West Lothian, and Perth and Kinross.
- Over forty years of EU membership have transformed the makeup of the United Kingdom and Scotland. EU nationals made up under 1% of the Scottish population in 1981. At the time of the EU referendum they were estimated at just over 3.9%.
- The major change to the importance and distribution of EU nationals in Scotland came after the EU enlargement rounds in the 2000s. While census data 1981-1991 show a mostly stable population, between 2001 and 2011, the quota of EU nationals rose in all local areas, including areas which up to then had had a small population of foreign-born residents.
- The demographic significance of children of EU nationals born in Scotland has been growing over time. Not only have they gained in number, but the countries of origin of the parents have also changed, as have the rates of births to mixed parentage (EU and UK).
- In 2017, the share of births to at least one EU parent amounted to about 10.6% of all births in Scotland. In the 1980s and 1990s, children born to at least one EU parent amounted to about 2% of all births. Since the 2000s, the share of children born to two EU parents has also increased and from 2009 onwards, children born to both EU parents outnumber children in mixed parentage families (EU and UK).
- For children born to two EU parents in 2013-2017, the main countries of origin of parents are Poland, Romania, and Lithuania. Amongst all births to EU parents, Poland leads and Germany and Ireland are in second and third place respectively. These are also the main countries of origin in EU births with someone born in the UK.
- The socio-economic status of births to at least one EU parent has decreased over time. In the 1996-2004 period, 57.7% of these births were from parents in the highest socio-economic class, 18.6% in the intermediate class, and 23.8% in the lowest socio-economic class. In the 2007-2013 period, we see a decrease in the percentage of births from the highest socio-economic class (41.9%) and intermediate class (14.8%) and an increase in the percentage of births from the lowest socio-economic class (43.3%). In the most recent period, however, the percentage of births in the intermediate class had increased, whereas the ones from the lowest class had decreased.
- Changes in the socio-economic composition of births are mostly due to the lower socio-economic status of EU8 and EU2 parents. However, most recent data show that the socio-economic status for EU8 births has improved. For the EU2, where the lifting of work restrictions only occurred in 2014, the change is not as positive.

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All calculations presented here are the responsibility of the authors and comply with data disclosure guidelines.

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INTRODUCTION

In this brief, we extend our examination of the profile of EU nationals and their UK-born children with a focus on Scotland¹. Using data from various Census years, latest estimates of international migration, National Insurance Number registration data, and birth registration data, our aim is to provide an overview of the available evidence on the historical and current presence of EU nationals in Scotland at the sub-national level. This allows us to draw a picture of the situation, and an assessment of the potential areas of impact of the UK leaving the European Union.

The data²

The data that we use in this brief comes from various sources. When possible, we disaggregate the figures at the sub-national level, using the geographies provided by the various data sources, to provide a more detailed picture. One of the main source of data is the Census; this allows us to provide a historical overview by including figures from the 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011 Census years. In the case of Census data, we used available estimates at the national, as well as the sub-national level, distinguishing between districts in 1981 and 1991, and Council Areas in 2001 and 2011, following changes to the local government structure in Scotland in 1996. To look into more recent data about EU nationals in Scotland, we also use official estimates from the ONS, based on the Annual Population Survey from June 2016 and December 2018. Here we are able to differentiate between Council Areas, but statistical disclosure issues do not allow for data to be released for all areas. Because these are estimates from survey data, which include a very specific target population, these figures should be interpreted with caution, with some bound of error around their measurement. We also briefly look at the number of National Insurance Number (NiN) registrations for the years 2002-2017 in order to have an (imperfect) indication of the intake of EU nationals in Scotland over that time period. Finally, in the last part of the briefing, we look at birth registration data to examine the extent of births to EU nationals in Scotland between 1974 and

2017, their geographical locations (here using Council Areas consistent with 2011 Data Zones), and the socio-economic characteristics of EU parents (based on NS-SEC). We use information that allows us to identify and locate births to EU nationals: date of birth, country of birth of mother, country of birth of father, as well as geographical identifiers for parents residing in the UK. All figures presented in this brief exclude stillbirths. Certain figures are suppressed because of small counts and disclosure issues. This data gives us an upper estimate of the number of UK-born children of EU nationals, as the data source used here does not allow us to see whether people have moved since birth. Because it only include UK-born children, it also provides a lower estimate of the number of children from EU nationals born outside of the UK.

Counting EU nationals

Determining who 'counts' as an EU national is not without its challenges. In this brief, we identify EU nationals via individuals' country of birth. This is the most consistent way of identifying individuals from the EU in all data sources. We classify individuals based on membership at the time the data was collected, which implies that different countries of birth are included in different time periods. Note that, for consistency, we use the term EU throughout, even if the name has only been used since the Maastricht Treaty. This implies that sheer increases in numbers and shares are often due to the growing number of countries to be included in the 'EU national' category. Whenever possible, we differentiate between different timings of EU membership, so as to provide a more detailed breakdown.³ When possible, we use the following terminology:

- **EU14:** Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, Sweden
- **EU8:** Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia
- **EU2:** Bulgaria, Romania
- **EU Other:** Cyprus, Malta, Croatia

Also note that the category includes people born in the Republic of Ireland. Given the importance of Irish migration to Scotland, we discuss findings without Irish nationals whenever relevant.

¹ Lessard-Phillips, L, Sigona, N. (2018) Mapping EU citizens in the UK: A changing profile? From 1980s to the EU referendum, *Eurochildren Research Brief Series*, no.3
 Lessard-Phillips, L, Sigona, N (2019) UK-born children of EU nationals in the UK, *Eurochildren Research Brief Series*, no.5

² All references to data sources can be found at the end of this brief.

³ See Lessard-Phillips, L, Sigona, N. (2018) for details.

EU NATIONALS IN SCOTLAND: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

A first step in understanding the presence of EU nationals in Scotland starts by looking at their presence in the country over time. If we look at the figure provided by Census data (Figure 1), which shows the share of EU nationals in Scotland as a share of the resident and non-UK born population (lines), as well as the distribution of EU nationals by age group (columns), we can see that EU nationals have counted for a small, but increasing share of the residence population in Scotland in the 1981-2011 period. The share of EU nationals in the Scottish population have gone from just under 1% to just over 3% during that period, with the biggest increase occurring between 2001 and 2011. As a comparison, the share of EU

nationals in England was at around 2% in 1981, 1991, and 2001, increasing to 4.5% in 2011. Throughout this period, EU nationals accounted for just over a third of the non-UK born population in Scotland. This share also increased between 2001 and 2011.

The top countries of birth of EU nationals in 1981, 1991, and 2001 were Ireland, Germany, and Italy. In 2011, the top countries of birth were Poland, Ireland, and Germany. The age profile of EU nationals⁴ has also changed, with 2011 showing a much younger age profile, which is an attestation to the changing demographics of that population, and their related needs. Again, if we compare this to England, we see that EU nationals in Scotland in 2011 tended to be younger, with 10% more individuals in the 16-34 age range than in England.

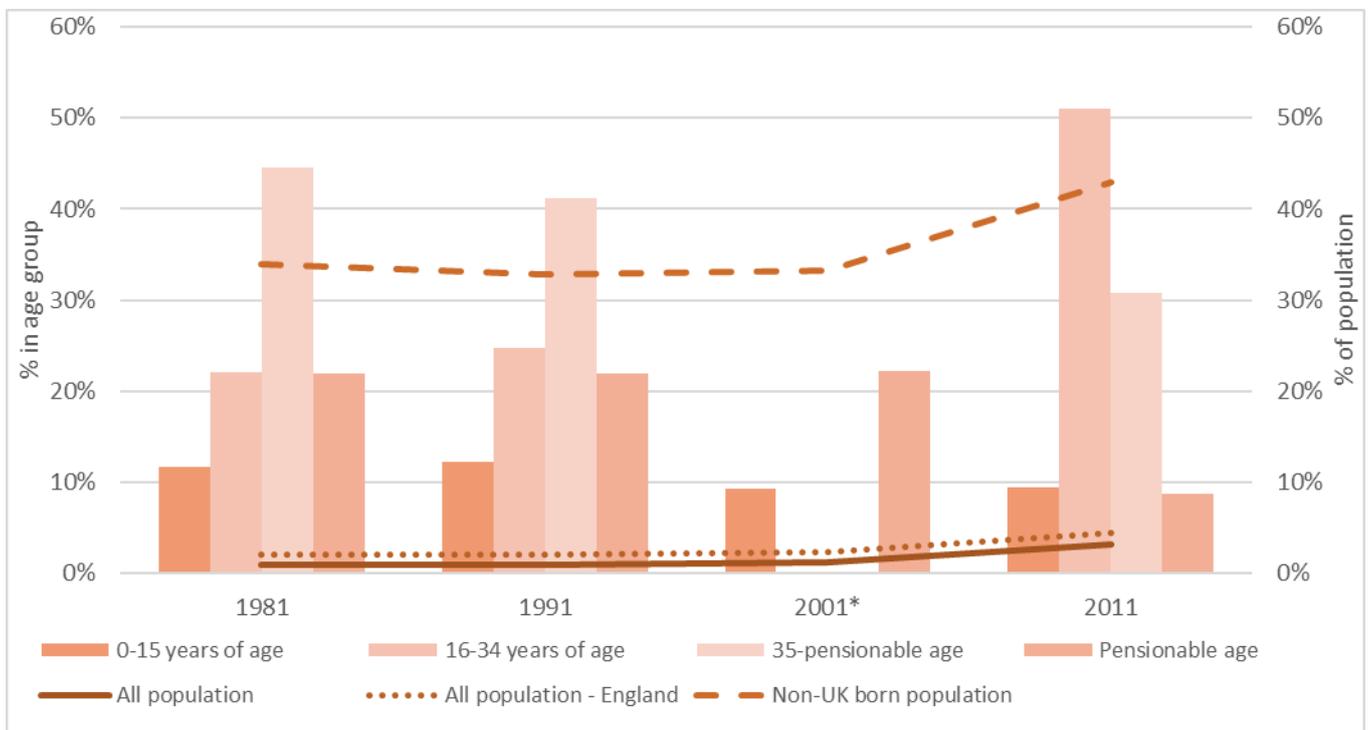


Figure 1 EU nationals in Scotland, 1981-2011 Census years, by age group and % of resident population.

Source: 1981 Census, 1991 Census, 2001 Census, 2011 Census - Office of Population Censuses and Surveys; Registrar General for Scotland (2000); Office of Population Censuses and Surveys; General Register Office for Scotland; Registrar General for Northern Ireland (1997); Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2005); Office for National Statistics; National Records of Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2016).

Note that estimates for 2001 are missing; see footnote for details.

⁴ Data for 2001 groups people aged 16 to pensionable age into one category, and is thus not shown here.

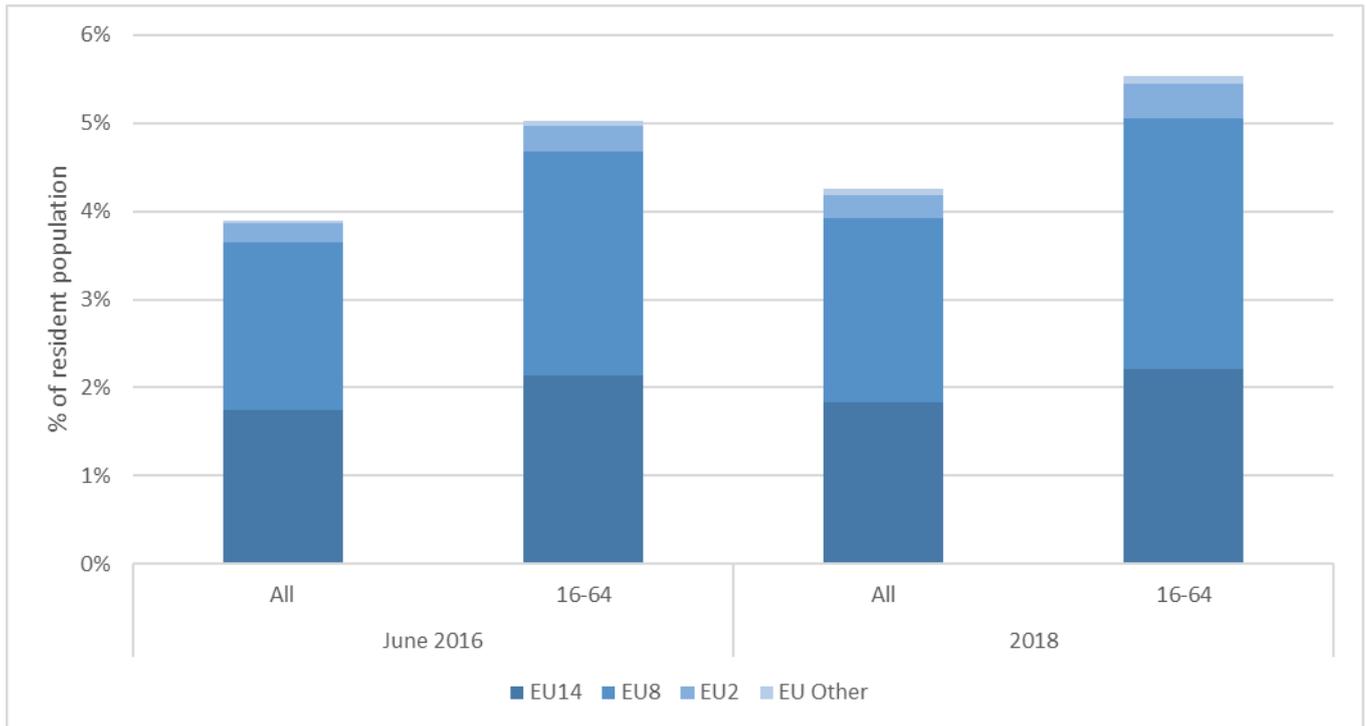


Figure 2 Latest estimates of EU nationals in the Scottish resident population

Source: ONS Migration Estimates from June 2016 and 2018 - ONS (2017, 2019)

More recent estimates of the EU population in Scotland, taken at the time of the EU Referendum and the end of 2018 (Figure 2),^{5,6} show that the estimated share of EU nationals has increased from 3.9% in June 2016 to 4.3% in 2018. As a comparison, in England, EU nationals were estimated to comprise 5.5% of the resident population in June 2016, and 5.8% in 2018. The top countries of birth in Scotland were Poland, Ireland, and Germany in June 2016, and Poland, Germany, and Ireland in 2018.

When we break this down by timing of EU membership, the share of nationals from EU8 countries (1.9% in June 2016, 2.1% in 2018), was estimated to be slightly larger than that of the EU14 (1.7% in June 2016, 1.8% in 2018). The picture is reversed compared to England, where there were slightly larger shares of EU14 nationals in the estimates. The share of nationals from EU2 and EU other countries are much smaller. In order to look into the age profiling of EU nationals, using data about residents aged 16 to 64 (the only available age breakdown possible), we see that the shares of EU

nationals is slightly larger, especially for EU8 and EU2 nationals.

We can combine the information with estimates of immigration taken from National Insurance Number registrations (Figure 3). Here we see that there have been periods of increases in the number of registrations from EU nationals. Some of these increases seem to correspond to the timing of free movement of workers for specific EU Member States. This is especially relevant in the 2005-2007 period, where numbers of registrations from EU8 nationals increased following membership in the EU and the 2012-2015 period, with increases in registrations from EU14 and EU2 nationals (the latter group's work restrictions were lifted in 2014). These most likely contributed to the increase in the number of EU nationals that we see in the other estimates. What it does not cover, however, is the increase in registrations from EU14 nationals, which seem to be driven by an increase in the number of registrations from nationals of Spain and Italy.

⁵ Note that because of measurement error, differences presented here may not be significant.

⁶ For a detailed analysis using the same data, see: NRS (2019) Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, 2018. Available from

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/population-by-country-of-birth-and-nationality/jan-dec-18>.

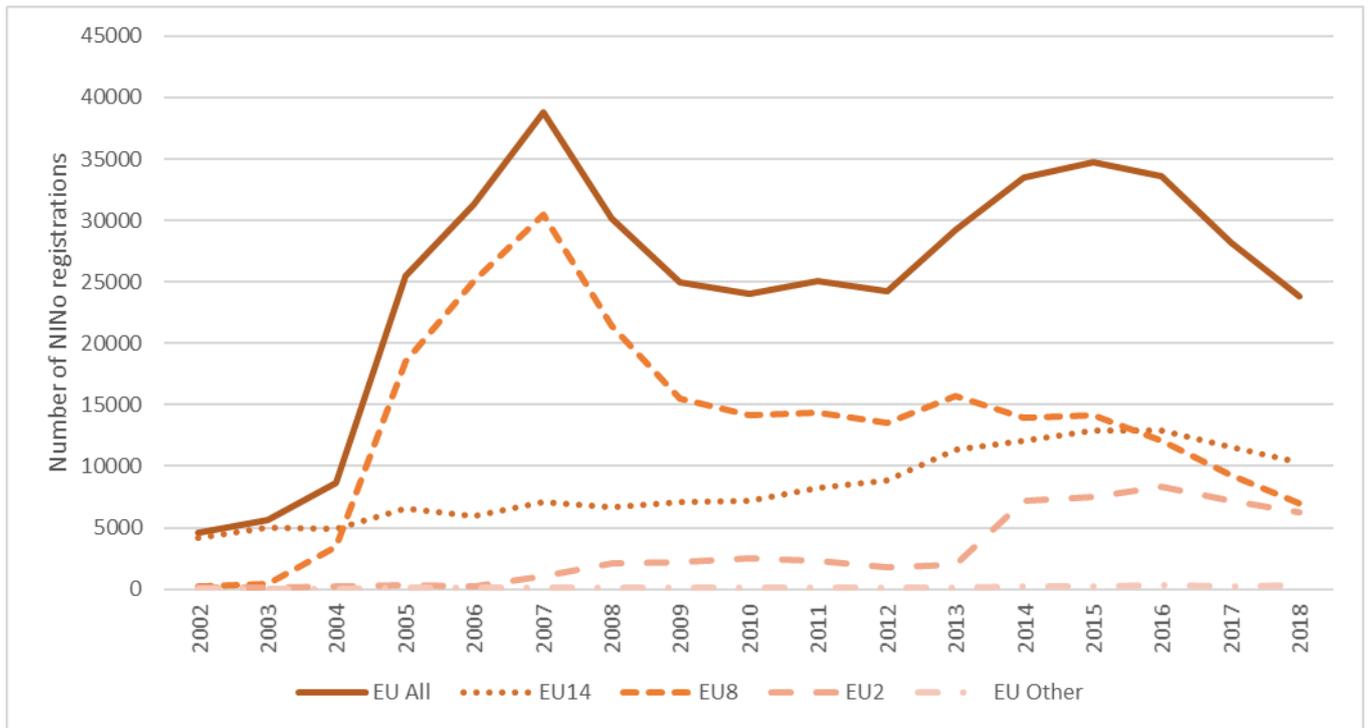


Figure 3 National Insurance Number registrations in Scotland, 2002 2018.

Source: NINo registration data - DWP (2019)

ZOOMING IN ON LOCAL AREAS

As interesting as the national picture is, we also want to investigate the presence of EU nationals in Scotland at the sub-national level. We do this in Figures 4 and 5, where we break the figures presented above down by local area. We first look at the historical geographical distribution of EU nationals from 1981-1991 (Figure 4 – using districts as the geography) and 2001-2011 (Figure 5 – using council area as geography),⁷ both as a share of the total population, and of the non-UK born population. Focussing on the 1981-1991 period, we see that the share of EU nationals in the various districts ranged from 0.3-2.1% in 1981, and 0.4-1.8% in 1991. The district of Clydebank had the largest share of EU

nationals in its population during that period, mostly driven by the number of Irish nationals within that district. Glasgow City, Edinburgh City, Perth and Kinross, and North East Fife were the districts with larger shares of EU nationals. In the case of Glasgow City and Perth and Kinross, this was due to larger shares of Irish nationals. With regard to the share of EU nationals as part of the non-UK born, it is not always the case that these go hand in hand with the share of EU nationals within the resident population (e.g., some areas have larger shares of non-UK nationals from non-EU countries) In some districts, a large share of EU nationals were part of the non-UK born in the area (e.g. Clydebank); in others (e.g. Argyll and Bute) they represented a small percentage of the non-UK born.

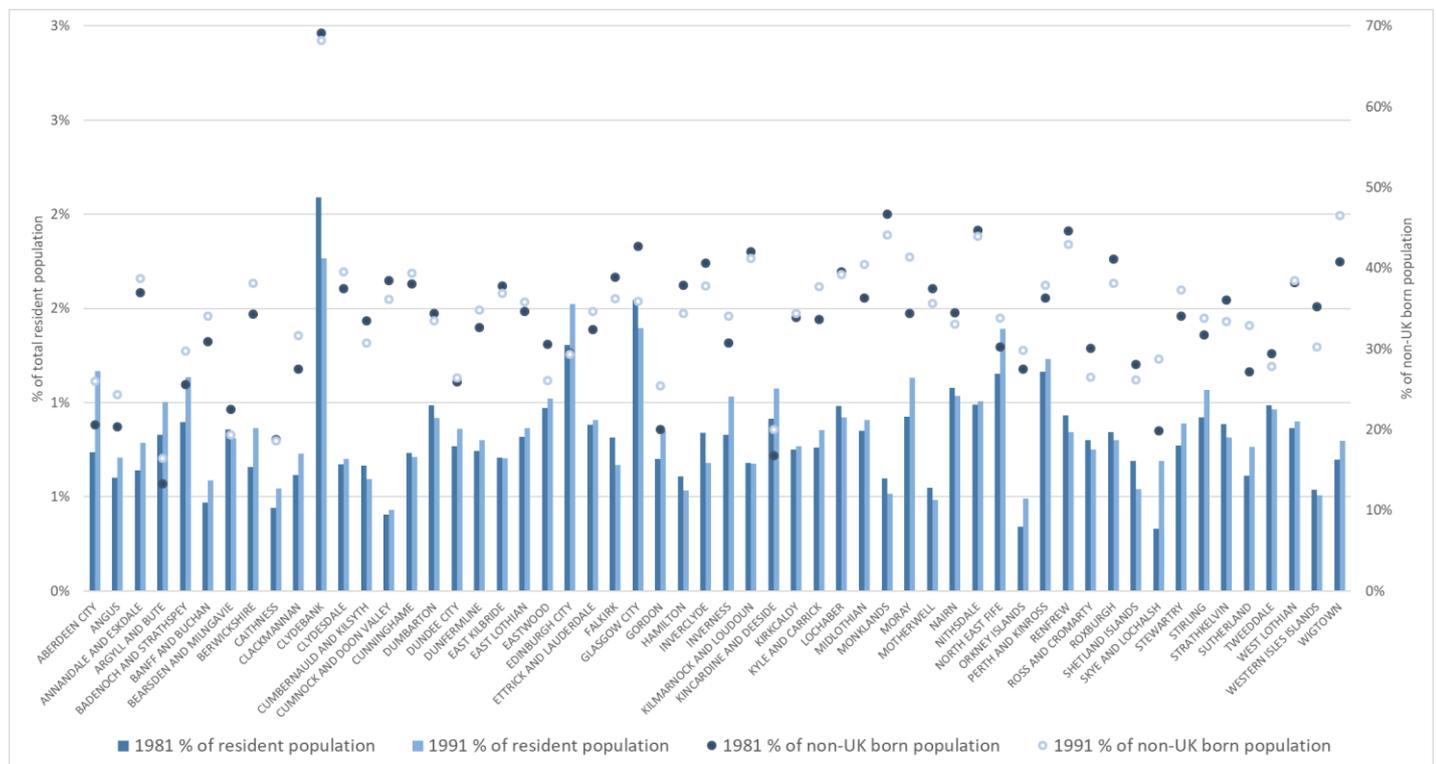


Figure 4: EU nationals in the 1981 and 1991 Census years by district.

Source: 1981 Census, 1991 Census - Office of Population Censuses and Surveys; Registrar General for Scotland (2000); Office of Population Censuses and Surveys; General Register Office for Scotland; Registrar General for Northern Ireland (1997).

Turning to similar figures for the 2001-2011 period (Figure 5), we see a larger change in the share of EU nationals in the resident population in many areas, as well as a change in the areas with larger shares of EU nationals. These increases are linked to the inclusion of newer EU Member States during that period. In 2001, the share across areas ranged from 0.6 to 2.7%,

whereas it ranged from 0.9-7% in 2011. Areas with larger shares of EU nationals in 2001 included City of Edinburgh, Aberdeen City, Glasgow City, Sterling, and Moray. In 2011, it was Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Perth & Kinross, Dundee City and Glasgow City. With regard to the share of the non-UK born, we also see a larger increase during that period in the majority of Scottish

⁷ In this section, we separate these two periods because of the creation of Council Areas in 1996.

areas. Among areas that experienced the largest changes within their residents populations are Aberdeen City and City of Edinburgh; the lowest where Inverclyde and North Ayrshire. With regard to largest increases with regard to EU nationals as a share of the non-UK born population, the areas with

the largest increases were the Shetland Islands, Aberdeenshire, West Lothian, Highland, and Angus. Two areas experienced a decrease in EU nationals as a share of the non-UK born: West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde.

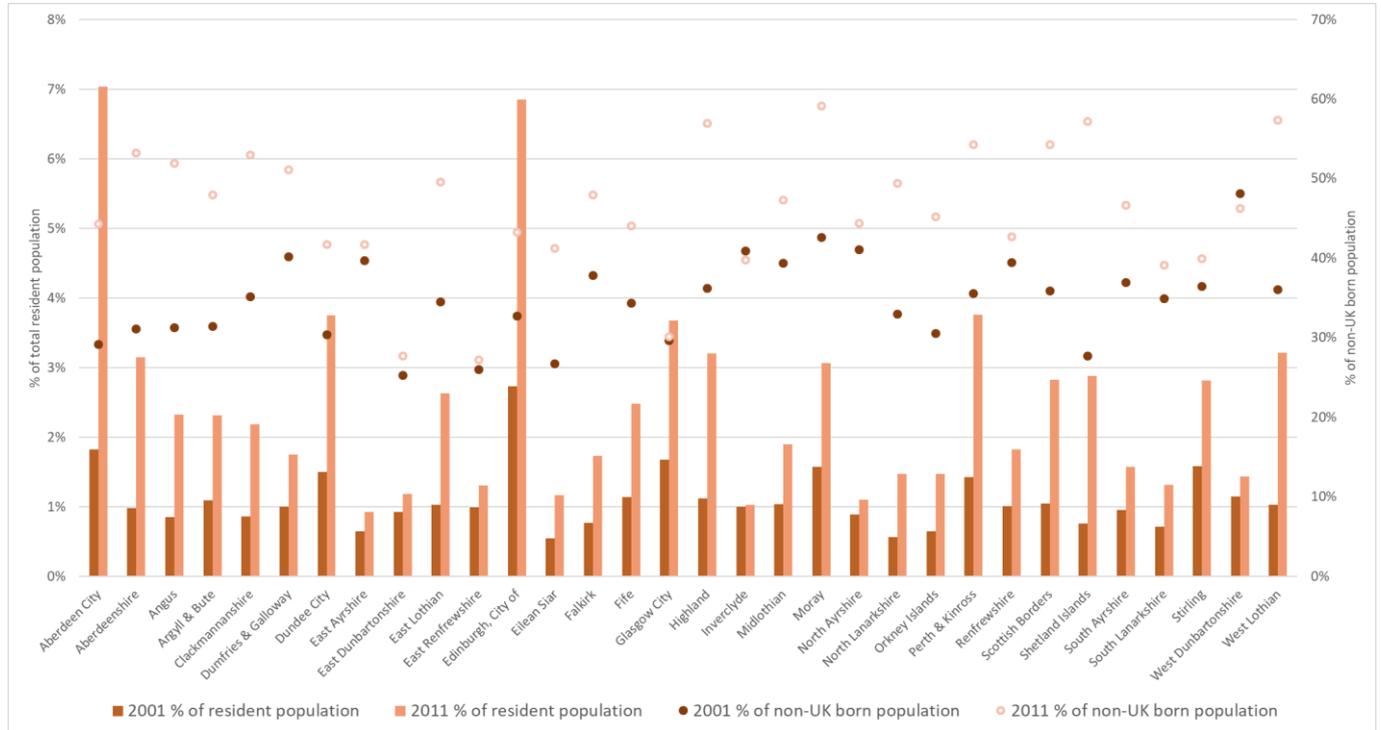


Figure 5: EU nationals in the 2001 and 2011 Census years by Council Area.

Source: 2001 Census, 2011 Census - Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2005); Office for National Statistics; National Records of Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2016).

In order to look into this a bit further, we break down the geographical distribution of EU nationals by Member States in the 2011 Census (Figure 6). We differentiate based on the timing of EU membership. 'Older' Member States, represented in blue, are countries that were part of the EU at the time of the 2001 Census (EU 14 countries). 'Newer' Member States, in red, are those that had joined at the time of the 2011 Census (EU8, EU2, and EU other excluding Croatia). On the maps, lighter shades indicate low shares of EU nationals in the resident population of a Council Area, whereas darker shades indicates higher shares. There we see that areas with higher shares of EU nationals as part of their resident population, differ if we differentiate between 'older' and 'newer' Member States.

The presence of nationals from older Member States in Council Areas, ranging from 0.6 to 3.7% of the resident population is similar to that of 2001, with

higher shares of EU14 nationals in City of Edinburgh (3.7%); Aberdeen City (2.8%); Glasgow City (1.9%); Dundee City (1.8%); and Moray (1.8%). The areas with lowest shares were North Lanarkshire (0.5%); East Ayrshire (0.7%); Eilean Siar (0.7%); Falkirk (0.8%); and South Lanarkshire (0.8%). For nationals from newer Member States, however, their share within the resident population ranged from 0.2 to 4.3%. Their concentration tends to be higher in Aberdeen City (4.3%); City of Edinburgh (3.1%); Perth & Kinross (2.3%); West Lothian (2.2%); and Aberdeenshire (2%) and lowest in Inverclyde (0.2%); East Dunbartonshire (0.2%); North Ayrshire (0.3%); East Ayrshire (0.3%); and East Renfrewshire (0.3%). Thus, some areas had high shares of 'older' and 'newer' Member States, but the this was not always the case. The same applies to areas with lower shares of EU nationals.

We now turn to Figure 7, where we show the estimated share of EU nationals and their

geographical distribution at the time of the EU Referendum (June 2016, Figure 7,) and for the most recent estimates (December 2018, Figure 8). As these are estimates, we are showing the maps as an indication of the concentration of EU nationals. The colour scheme is similar to that of Figure 6 but, including areas with missing information because of disclosure control (areas without a colour). In June 2016, the share of EU nationals as part of the resident population in Council Areas ranged from 0.8% (North Ayrshire) to 13.9% (Aberdeen City). In 2018, these numbers were 0.8% (North Ayrshire) and 11.4% (City of Edinburgh). In these two sets of estimates, we can

see that a slight change in the areas with larger shares of EU nationals in their resident population. The areas with larger shares in June 2016 (Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh, Dundee City, Glasgow City, and West Lothian). In 2018, higher shares were found in City of Edinburgh, Aberdeen City, Glasgow City, West Lothian, and Perth and Kinross. These areas have remained consistent. The percentages generated for these maps, which need to be interpreted with caution, also see that some areas appear to have seen a decline in the share of EU nationals (which may not be significant because of the margins of error around the estimates).

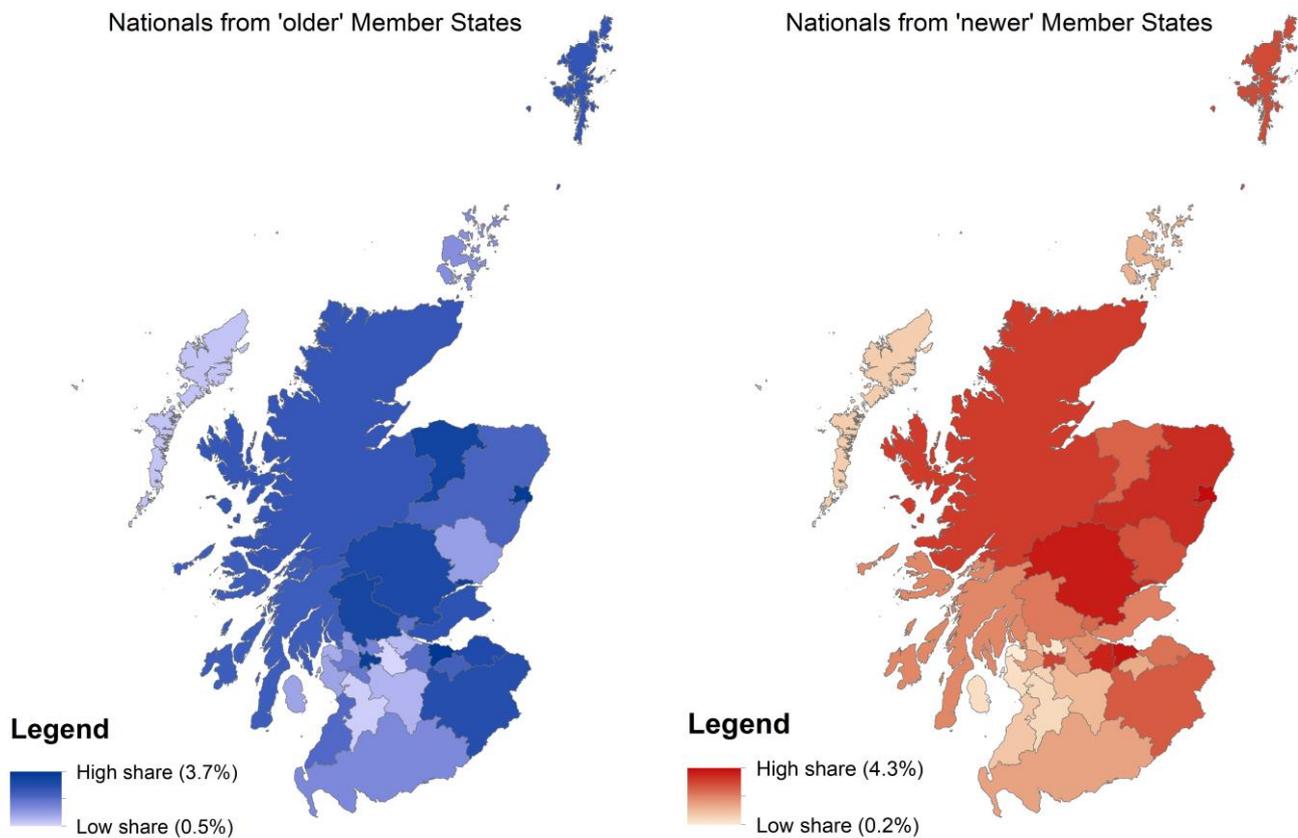


Figure 6 Share of nationals 'older' (EU14) and 'newer' (all others) Member States at the time of the 2011 Census. Source: 2011 Census - Office for National Statistics; National Records of Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2016).

Darker shades of indicate areas with higher percentages, whereas lighter shades show areas with lower percentages.

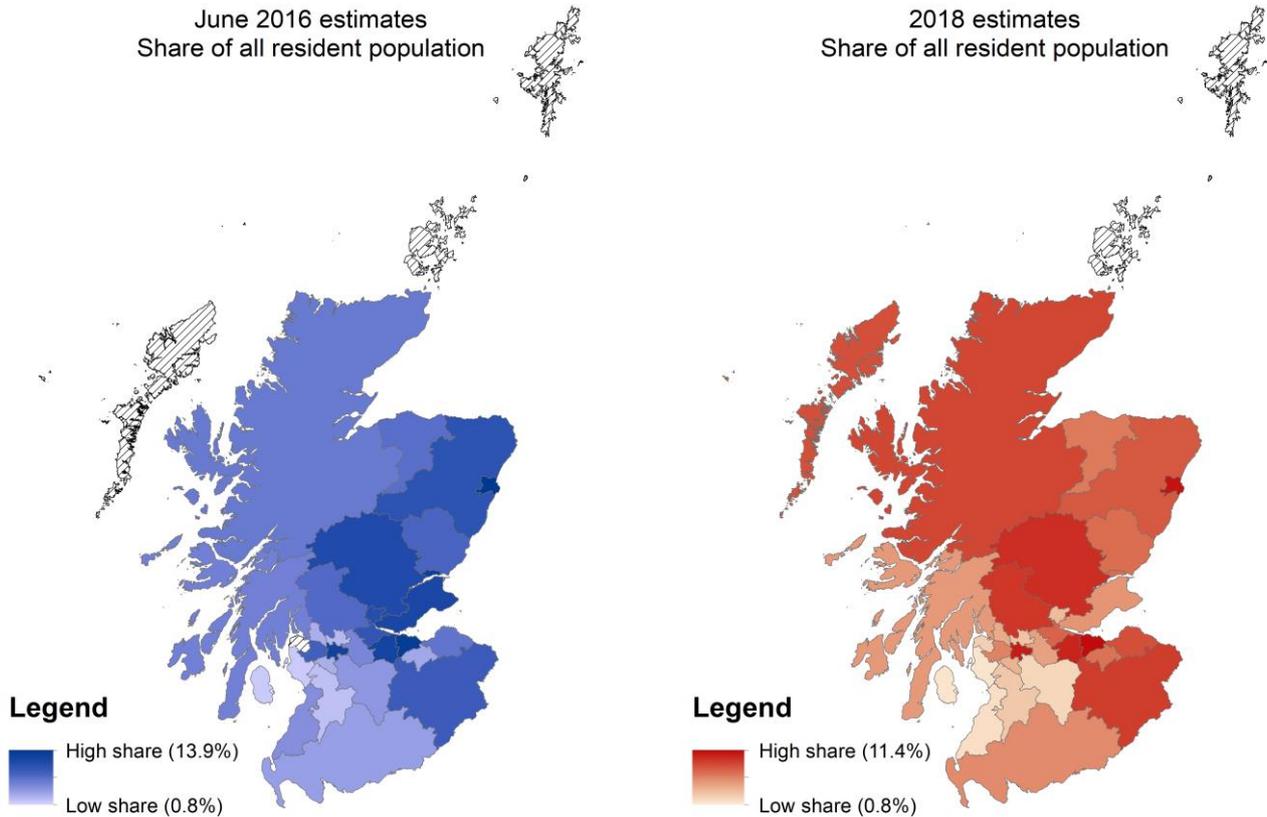


Figure 7 Estimates of EU nationals in Scottish Council Areas as a percentage of the resident population, June 2016 (left) and 2018 (right).

Source: June 2016 and 2018 Migration Estimates - NRS (2017, 2019)

Darker shades of indicate areas with higher percentages, whereas lighter shades show areas with lower percentages.

Note that some estimates are not provided because of low counts.

In the 2018 estimates, we are also able to differentiate between nationals from EU14 and EU8 countries (Figure 8) for the Council Areas, with a slightly higher number of areas without information. Here we see some areas with higher shares of both EU8 and EU14 nationals, but also some differentiation in Northern and Eastern areas. The estimated share of EU14 nationals in 2018 ranged from 0.6% to 6.5%. The areas with the highest estimated shares of EU14 nationals included City of Edinburgh (6.5%), Aberdeen City (2.7%), Glasgow City (2.5%), Argyll and Bute (2.4%), and Stirling (2.2%). For nationals from EU8 countries, the areas with the highest shares were Aberdeen City (8%), City of Edinburgh (4.3%), Perth and Kinross (3.4%), West

Lothian (2.8%), Angus (2.6%), Highland and Falkirk (2.6%).

The picture presented above shows us the way in which the composition and location of EU nationals in Scotland has changed over time. Some of these changes are, of course, linked to who we include in the category, but once we examine estimates from later years, we see that the distribution has changed, but it also contingent on countries of origin. Thus, population composition differs between areas, and given the indication of the age profiles of the different population groupings, may well lead to differing population needs, especially if we look into individuals of child-bearing age, which we now turn to.

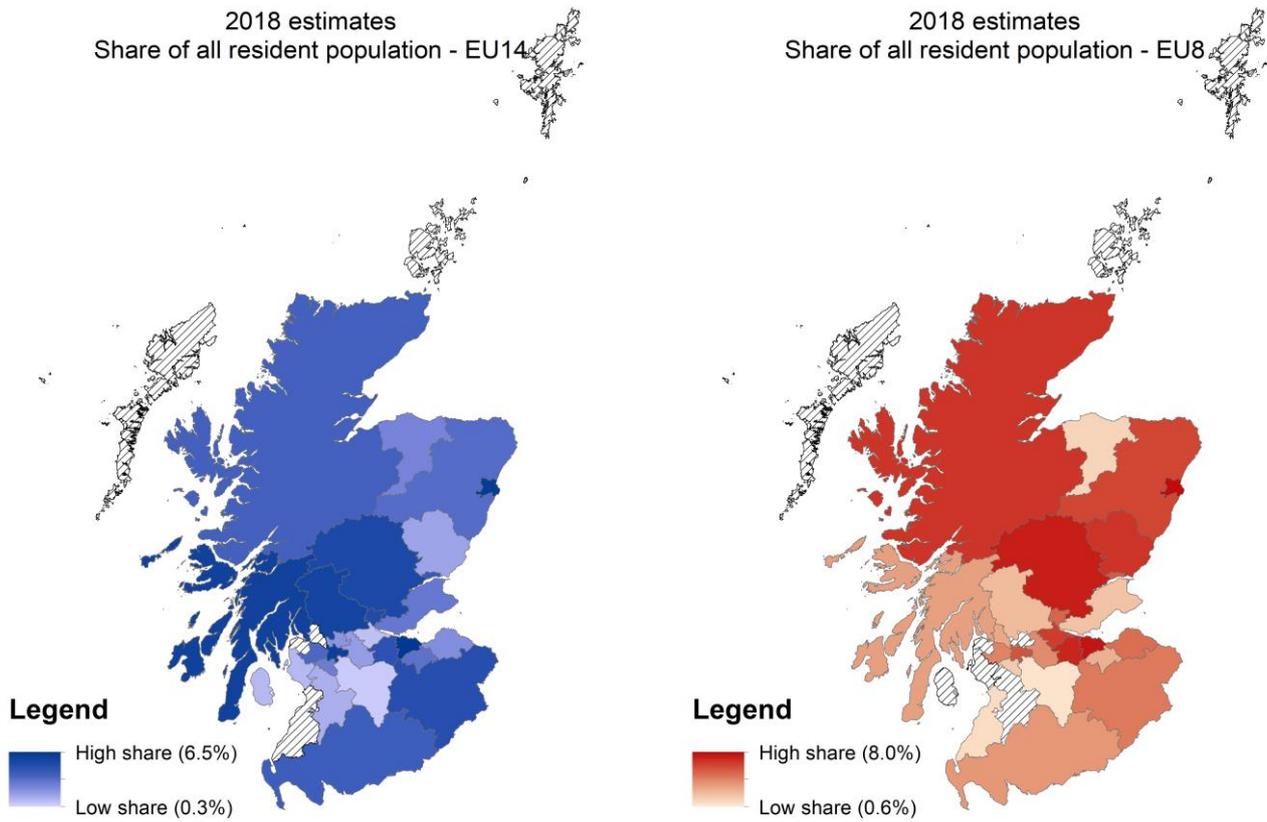


Figure 8 Estimated shares of EU8 (left) and EU14 (right) nationals in Scottish Council Areas, 2018

Source: 2018 Migration estimates; NRS (2019).

Darker shades of indicate areas with higher percentages, whereas lighter shades show areas with lower percentages. Note that some estimates are not provided because of low counts.

SCOTTISH-BORN CHILDREN OF EU NATIONALS

We now move on from examining the presence of EU nationals in Scotland to investigating their children whose births were registered in Scotland. We do so by exploring Scottish birth registration data between 1974 and 2017. As mentioned at the beginning of the brief, these years cover different EU membership periods, which affects who is being counted as an EU national. The periods are:

- January 1974-December 1980 (1974-1980: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Ireland);
- January 1981-December 1985 (1981-1985: add Greece);
- January 1986-December 1994 (1986-1994: add Portugal and Spain);
- January 1995-April 2004 (1995-2004: add + Austria, Finland, and Sweden – threshold for EU14);
- May 2004-December 2006 (2004-2006: add Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia – all countries except for Cyprus and Malta are counted as EU8, the other two as EU Other);
- January 2007-June 2013 (2007-2013: Romania and Bulgaria – EU2); and
- July 2013-December 2017 (2013-2017: add Croatia – EU Other).

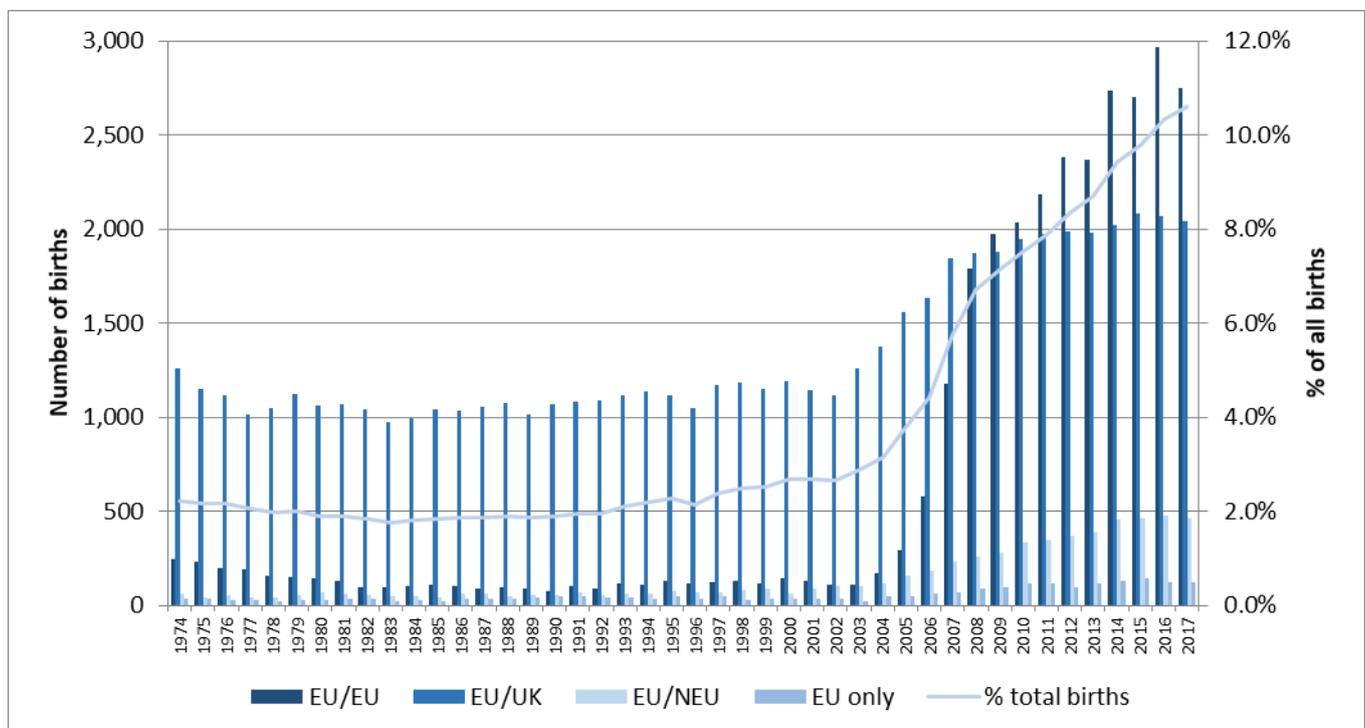


Figure 9 EU births in Scotland, 1974-2017.

Source: Birth registration data - NRS (2018).

We first look at the national picture for that time period. Figure 9 shows us two different types of information. On the left-hand side (columns), we graph the number of births by each type of EU parentage, defined by the country of birth of parents on the birth registration: two EU nationals (EU/EU), one EU and one UK national (EU/UK), one EU and one Non-EU-non-UK national (EU/NEU), and one EU parent (EU only). On the right-hand side of the figure (line), we show the share of live births where at least one parent is an EU national out of all live births for each year.

From 1974 to the mid to late 1990s, the share of births to EU nationals had been hovering at around 2% of all births. Some of the increases tended to correspond with the inclusion of more Member States. Since the early 2000s, the share has been increasing in a steadily manner, especially in years with the accession of new Member States. In 2017, 10.6% of live births (5,377 births) had at least one EU-born parent, with 51% of such births having 2EU parents, 38% with an EU & UK parent, 9% with an EU and non-EU-non-UK parent, and 2% to lone parents. If we compare this to the figures for England and

Wales⁸, which only go until 2016, the share of births from EU nationals went from around 4% in the early 1980s to close to 12% in 2016.

One of the marked changes in the last decade that we can see in Figure 9 is the increase in the number births to two EU nationals. Up until 2009, the majority of children with at least one EU parent were born in mixed parentage couples with a UK-born parent.

From 2009 onwards, children born to both EU parents outnumber this category. The increase of this category had started in the early 2000s with the EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. This, in addition to the increase of births to EU/NEU parents and lone EU parent, have contributed to the rise in the share of births to EU nationals in Scotland.

Table 1 Main countries of births of EU parents across EU membership periods

Period	Main EU countries (births with at least 1 EU parent)		Main EU countries (births with 2 EU parents)
	Mother	Father	Mother
1974-1980	Ireland Germany Italy France The Netherlands	Ireland Italy Germany France The Netherlands	Ireland Italy France The Netherlands Germany
1981-1985	Ireland Germany France The Netherlands Italy	Ireland Germany Italy The Netherlands France	Ireland Italy The Netherlands France Germany
1986-1994	Germany Ireland The Netherlands France Italy	Ireland Germany Italy The Netherlands France	Ireland Netherlands Germany Italy France
1995-2004	Germany Ireland France The Netherlands Spain	Germany Ireland France Italy The Netherlands	Ireland Germany The Netherlands France Italy
2004-2006	Germany Ireland Poland France Spain	Germany Ireland Poland France The Netherlands	Poland Germany Ireland France Lithuania
2007-2013	Poland Germany Ireland Latvia Lithuania	Poland Germany Ireland France Latvia	Poland Latvia Lithuania Romania Slovakia
2013-2017	Poland Germany Ireland Romania Lithuania	Poland Ireland Germany Romania Lithuania	Poland Romania Lithuania Latvia Spain

Source: Birth registration data – NRS (2018).

Note: calculations also include mothers born in other countries. Figures for births with 2EU parents use mother's country of birth.

⁸ Lessard-Phillips and Sigona (2019)

We delve a bit further into the parental country (Table 1), showing the main EU countries of birth of mothers and fathers for all births with at least one EU-born parent, as well as main EU countries of birth for births with 2EU parents. Given the large share of such births with 2 parents from the same country of birth, we only present the data for mothers.

Upon examining the table, we see a change in the main EU countries of birth of mothers and fathers in births with at least 1 EU parent that mirrors previously discussed. Up until 2004, the main parental countries of birth tended to be Ireland and Germany, with the share of Irish parents declining over time. After then, we see an increase in the share of births from Polish mothers and fathers, as well as an increase in births to Latvian, Lithuanian, and

Romanian parents. Births to parents from Ireland and Germany, however, are still amongst the largest.

Given the increase in births to 2EU parents, we also investigate their parental countries of birth. Given the large share of such births with parents from the same country of birth, especially for births from EU8 and EU2/EU Other parents, we focus on the mother's country of birth. The figures for this are slightly different than for births with at least 1 EU parent across all periods, but especially the latter ones. This indicates that the presence of mixed parentage, especially with a UK-born partner, are less prevalent amongst individuals from specific countries. In fact, in the latter period, the main EU countries of births of mothers were Poland, Germany, and Ireland. For fathers, these were Germany and Ireland. This is something to explore further.

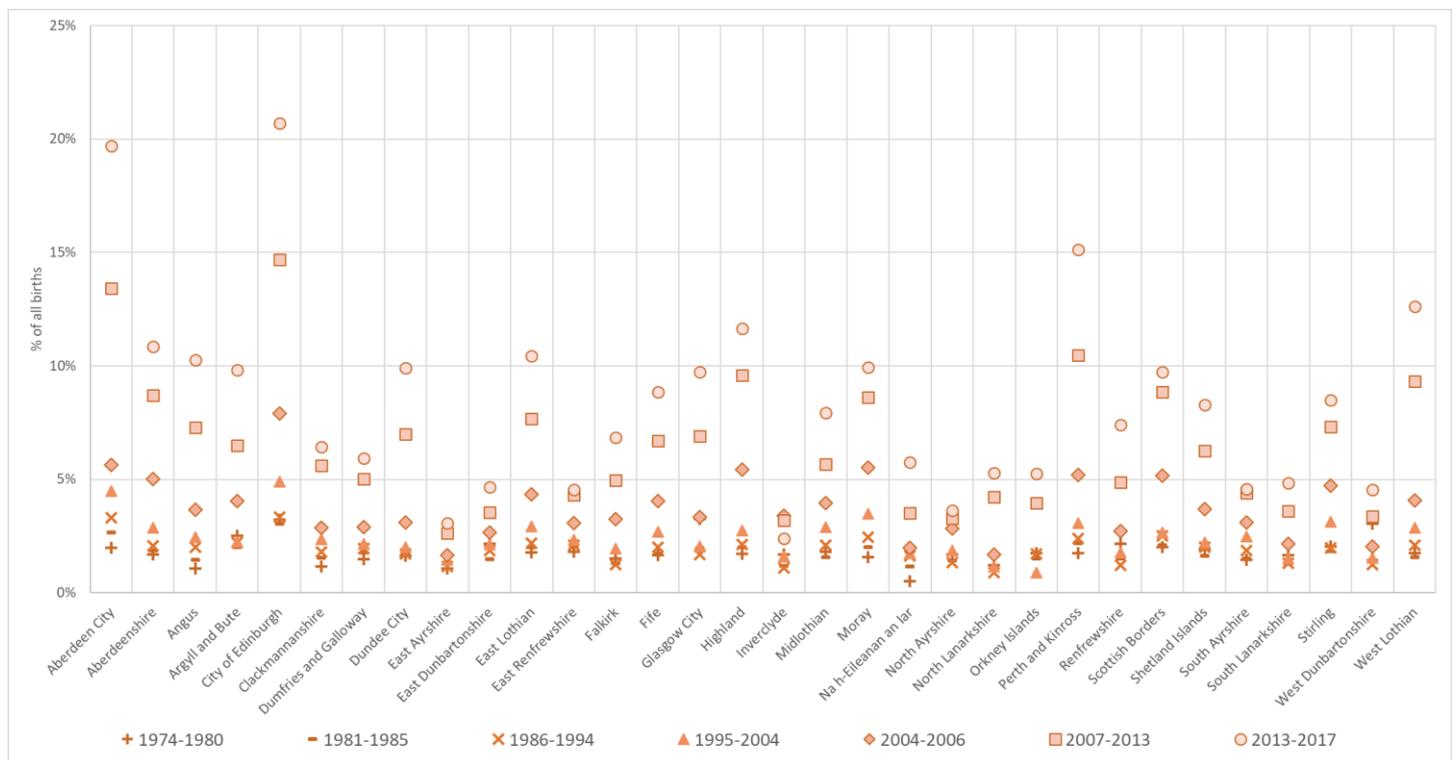


Figure 10 Share of all births in Council Areas by EU membership period.

Source: Birth registration data – NRS (2018).

Note: percentages based on cell counts <10 are suppressed.

As above, we are also examining the geographical distribution of the births across Council Areas in Figure 10.⁹ We do so by showing the share of births to EU nationals across these areas for the seven different EU membership periods. Each period uses a different symbol for ease of examination, as indicated in the legend.

One of the first that we can see is that the trends shown in Figure 9 seem to hold, where the share of children born to EU nationals increase in the latter periods of EU membership. It also fits the historical patterns that we have outlined in the first part of this brief. Areas such as Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh,

⁹ In this data, all areas have been coded into geographies consistent with 2011 zones by the data provider; this may lead to some loss of data.

Perth and Kinross, and West Lothian have experienced some large increases in the share of births to EU nationals. Glasgow City, on the other hand, does not seem to follow the same pattern. There are also areas where the share of births to EU nationals has remained consistently low, with the latest shares below half of the national figures for 2017: East, North, and South Ayrshire; East and West Dunbartonshire; East Renfrewshire; Inverclyde (showing a drop in the 2013-2017 period); and South Lanarkshire.

Parental socio-economic status

An advantage of using the Scottish birth registration data is the fact that we can also look at the socio-economic status of the parents. We do so in Figures 11 and 12, comparing the socio-economic classification of births within different birth categories. In Figure 11, we differentiate between births with UK-born parents only, at least one EU-born parent, and at least one non-UK non-EU born parent (excluding births with EU parent, part of the latter category). In Figure 12, we further disaggregate according to the presence of EU14, EU8, EU2, and EU

Other parents.¹⁰ We look at the highest socio-economic status amongst the parents for births registered on or after 1996, which explains the use of slightly different time periods in the figure.¹¹ We differentiate between occupations in the higher managerial, administrative, and professional class (the highest socio-economic status); the intermediate class, and the routine and manual class (the lowest socio-economic status). The figures show the socio-economic status distribution (i.e. the percentage of births within each occupational category for a specific group) over the different periods.

We first examine Figure 11, which shows us that, across the different periods, the socio-economic status of births to at least 1EU parent has decreased. In the 1996-2004 period, 57.7% of births were from parents in the highest socio-economic class, 18.6% in the intermediate class, and 23.8% in the lowest socio-economic class. These were similar to the distribution for the non-UK non-EU births, but exhibiting a higher socio-economic profile than births to UK parents only. In the 2004-2006 period, the socio-economic profile of births to 1EU parent was relatively similar.

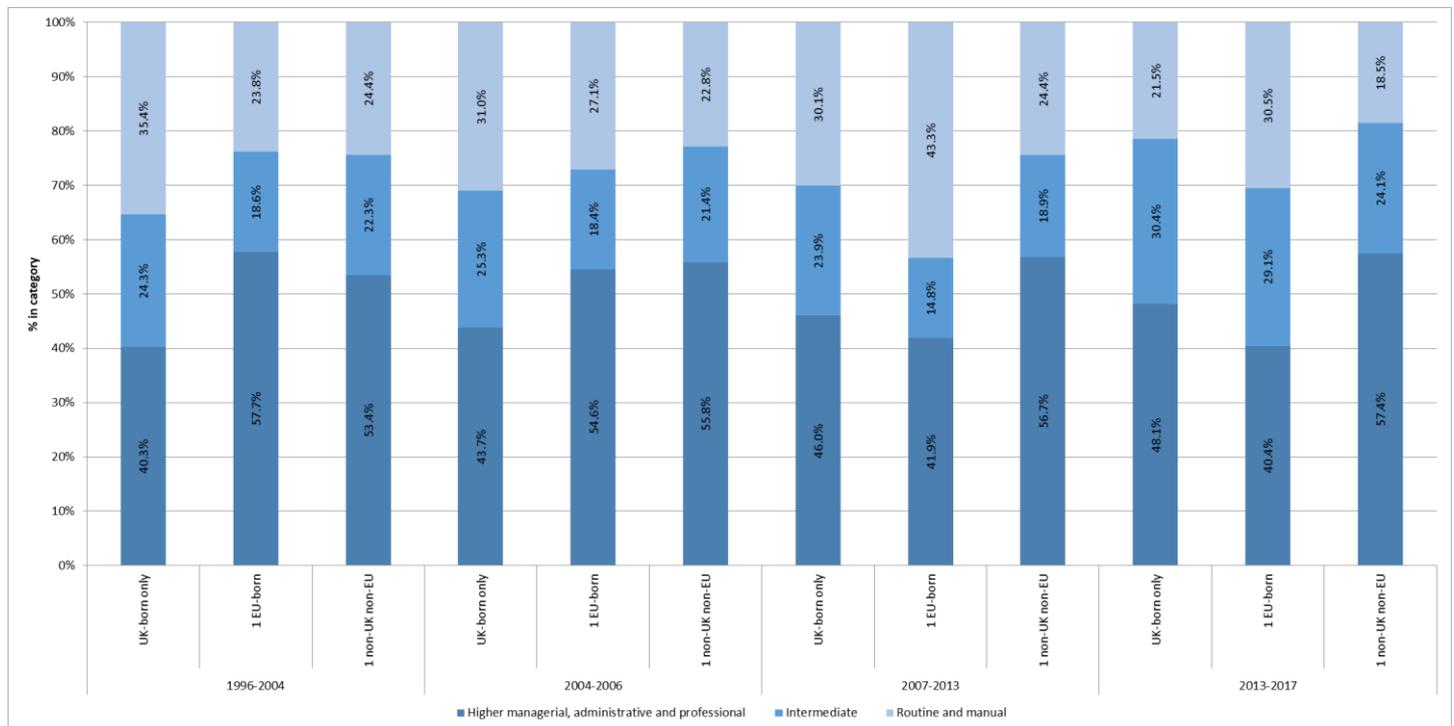


Figure 11 Socio-economic classification of births for different birth parentage by EU membership period (1996 onwards).

Source: Birth registration data – NRS (2018).

Note that the data is only available from 1996, hence the truncated time period.

¹⁰ Note that mixed parentage is categorised according to parental country of birth in the following order: EU14, EU8, EU2, EU Other.

¹¹ This is when they started taking the occupations of both parents into account.

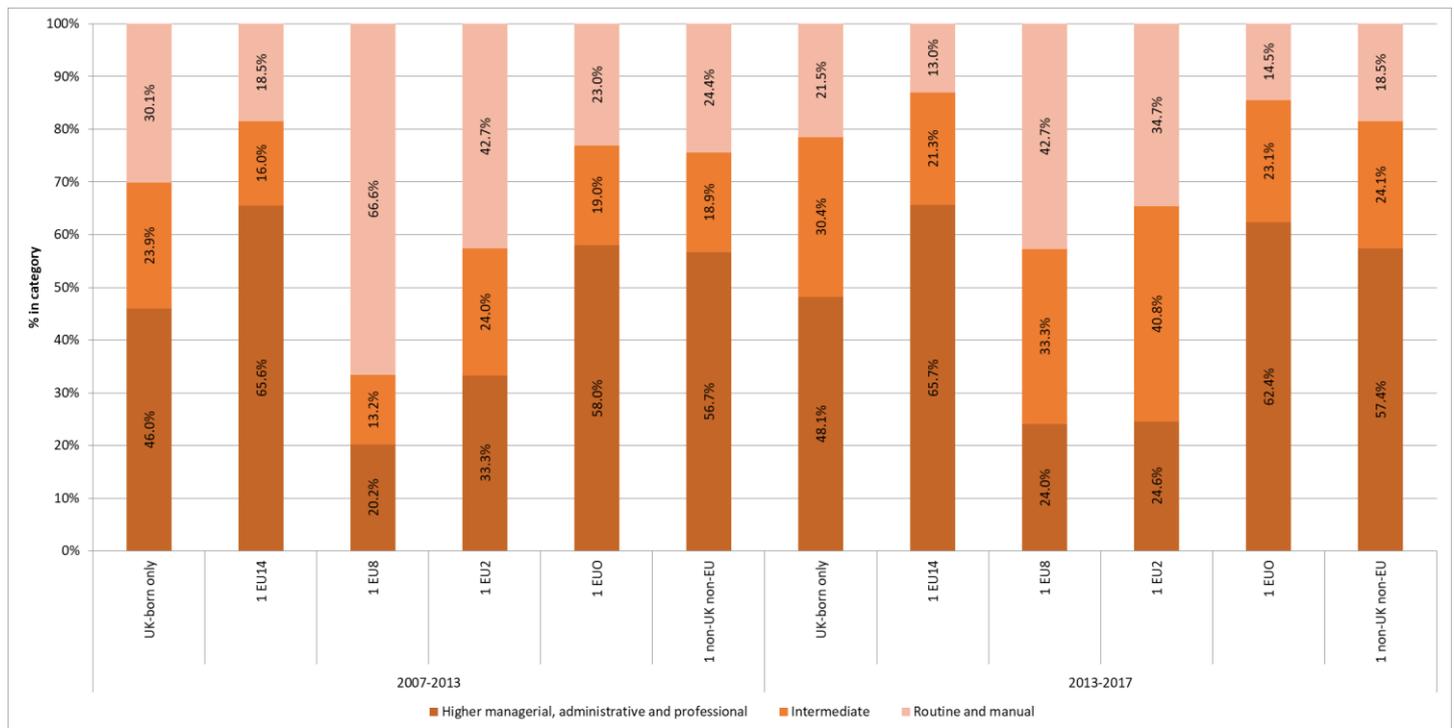


Figure 12 Socio-economic classification of births for different birth parentage by EU membership period (1996 onwards) by detailed EU classification.

Source: Birth registration data – NRS (2018).

Note that the data is only available from 1996, hence the truncated time period.

In the 2007-2013 period, we see a decrease in the percentage of births from the highest socio-economic class (41.9%) and intermediate class (14.8%) and an increase in the percentage of births from the lowest socio-economic class (43.3%). In the most recent period, however, the percentage of births in the intermediate class increase, whereas the ones from the lowest class decrease.

Upon examination of Figure 12, we can see that most of these changes in the socio-economic composition of births is due to the lower socio-economic status within births with EU8 and EU2 parents. Given that this classification is linked to current occupation and the fact that nationals from these countries tend to work in lower status jobs,¹² this is hardly a surprising finding. What is interesting, however, is that the socio-economic status improves in the latter period for EU8 births. For the EU2, where the lifting of work restrictions only occurred in 2014, the change is not as positive.

Our examination of the birth data not only provides us with additional insights as to the presence of EU nationals and their children, which can be useful for

thinking about their location and the needs that may be associated. It also provides further evidence confirming trends highlighted in the historical data, including the fact that this population is of growing importance in Scotland.

CONCLUSIONS

The data examined in this brief provides us with a historical picture of the increasing presence and importance of EU nationals, and their UK-born children, in Scotland. Trends in the geographical location of residents and birth registrations give us an indication as to the areas that have higher (and lower) shares of EU nationals and children of EU heritage within their populations, as well as areas that have experienced changes across the various time periods. Of notable interest are the importance of nationals from 'newer' Member States in the Scottish population; the increase in the share of births to 2EU nationals; the homogeneity in parentage amongst births with EU8 and EU2 parents, as well as variation in socio-economic status. These point to the varying needs that EU nationals, and Scottish areas, may well have in the midst of exit from the European Union.

¹² Scottish Government (2016), The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland, October 2016. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/10/5974>.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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