



NHS Lothian

**2022 Scottish Census Data:
Education, labour market
and travel to work**

Public Health and Health Policy

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On 11th of September 2024, Scotland's Census released [Scotland's Census 2022 - Education, labour market and travel to work | Scotland's Census](#). This report presented data from the 2022 census, mainly at a national level, and compared it to data from the 2011 census. NHS Lothian's Public Health Intelligence Team (PHIT) have used [census data released at a smaller geography level](#) to compare the findings for Scotland with Lothian and its four local authorities.

PHIT have created a series of graphs illustrating the census data summarised below for Lothian and its local authority areas. These are available upon request by contacting the team at loth.phintelligence@nhs.scot

Degree level qualifications or above

For the purposes of this analysis, a higher degree is defined as: a degree, postgraduate qualification, masters, PhD, SVQ level 5 or equivalent, professional qualifications, or other degree level higher education qualifications.

The report found that 32.5% of adults (aged 16+) in Scotland held a higher degree, an increase of 29.2% since 2011. In Lothian, 41.7% of adults were found to hold a higher degree, an increase of 8.0% since 2011. Of the four local authorities, the city of Edinburgh was found to have the most residents with a higher degree, amounting to 50.0% of all adults. Women saw larger increases than males over the decade, in Scotland, Lothian, and the four local authorities. The most marked of these increases was in the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian, where the percentage of women who hold a higher degree has risen by 10.0% since 2011. A larger percentage of women hold a higher degree across most age groups in Scotland, Lothian, and the four local authorities. This difference is most apparent amongst younger age groups, where, in Lothian, over 60% of women aged 25 to 39 hold a higher degree, compared to no more than 52.2% of men.

Occupation

In both Scotland and Lothian, women are underrepresented in management, directorial, and other senior roles. Specifically, in Lothian, women make up 52.2% of all professional roles, but only 46.2% of senior ones, despite the fact more women hold a higher degree across all age groups. This finding is consistent across all four local authorities.

Industry

In both Scotland and Lothian, the largest employment sector is health and social care, followed by retail. In Lothian, 13.5% of workers are in the health and social care sector, 10.9% in retail, and 9.1% in administration and education. In the city of Edinburgh, East Lothian, and Midlothian, the largest employment sector is also health and social care. However, the largest sector in West Lothian is retail, representing 12.9% of workers.

Retail also shrank more than any industry in Lothian, by 3.4%, since 2011. Comparatively, the sector that saw the most growth in Lothian was administration, increasing in workforce by 2.0%. This trend is also consistent both nationally and amongst all four local authorities.

In Scotland and Lothian, the industry with the most workers aged 65+ is agriculture, forestry, and fishing and the industry with the most workers aged 16-24 was accommodation and food services. In Lothian, 10.8% of the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector is workers aged 65+, and 36.0% of the accommodation and food services sector is those 16-24. This trend is the same across all four local authorities.

Travel to work

In both Scotland and Lothian, the number of people working from home has more than tripled since 2011. However, nationally, the most popular method of travelling to work remains driving a car or van. Comparatively, In Lothian, more people work from home than travel at all, amounting to 36.6% of the total workforce. The percentage of people working from home is highest in the City of Edinburgh, representing 39.0% of the workforce. For those living in East Lothian, Midlothian, and West Lothian, most workers still travel using a car or van, although there has been a decrease in this method of travel since 2011 nationally, in Lothian, and in all four local authorities.

When examining distance travelled to work in Lothian, the portion of the workforce working from home has increased in the last decade across all Scottish index of multiple deprivation quintiles (SIMD). In 2011, 11.0% of those in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) reported working from home, and 9.8% of people in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived). By 2022, however, 42.1% of those in SIMD 5 now work mainly from home, while 29.7% of those from SIMD quintile 1 work mainly from home. This is an increase from 2011 of 31.3% for those in SIMD 1 and 19.9% for those in SIMD 5. This means that the difference between the proportion of people in SIMD 1 and 5 working from home has increased from 1.2% in 2011 to 12.4% in 2022.