

2 The Composition and Characteristics of Households in Scotland

Main Findings

There were slightly more women than men in Scotland in 2017.

Twenty eight per cent of the population were under 25 years old while 24 per cent were 60 years or over in 2017.

In 2017, nearly three out of ten adults in Scotland reported having a long-term health condition, a similar proportion as in 2012.

The population in Scotland in 2017 is largely white, with nearly eight in ten adults (78 per cent) reporting having White Scottish ethnicity.

Nearly a quarter of all adults in Scotland were permanently retired from work. A half of adults aged between 16 and 64 years were working full time in 2017.

Since 2009, when this question started in the SHS, religious belonging in Scotland has been declining and this trend continued into 2017; a half of adults reported that they didn't belong to any religion.

Over a third of people in Scotland live alone; 40 per cent of adults who live alone were of pensionable age in 2017.

In 2017, only five per cent of households in Scotland were two adult families with three or more children, or three or more adult families with one or more children.

Six out of ten households in Scotland were owner-occupied in 2017.

Scotland's population in 2017 is largely urban-based, with over eight out of ten households in Scotland located in urban areas (including small towns) (84 per cent).

Just over a half (54 per cent) of households in Scotland earn less than £25,000 a year. Just over one in five (22 per cent) households earn more than £40,000 a year.

2.1 Introduction and Context

This chapter describes the types of homes in Scotland and who lives in them.

Collecting information on age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation provides an important contribution to the overall equality evidence base. This is used by policy makers to target services and tackle discrimination and disadvantage. The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) collects information about all household members, including children.

The age and number of people in the household are combined to give a **'household type'**. The SHS uses eight household types defined as follows:

- A **single adult** household – contains one adult of working age and no children.
- A **single parent** household – contains one adult of any age and one or more children.
- A **single older** household - contains one adult of pensionable age and no children. Pensionable age is 65 for both women and men.
- A **small family** household – contains two adults of any age and one or two children.
- An **older smaller** household – contains one adult of working age and one of pensionable age and no children, or two adults of pensionable age and no children.
- A **large adult** household – contains three or more adults and no children.
- A **small adult** household – contains two adults of working age and no children.
- A **large family** household – contains two adults of any age and three or more children, or three or more adults of any age and one or more children.

2.2 All Household Members

The gender¹⁵ and age of all household members as well as whether a household member has a long-term illness or disability¹⁶ are presented in Table 2.1. This shows that there were more women than men in Scotland, **28 per cent of the population were under 25 years old while 24 per cent were 60 or over.**

The highest income householder gives the characteristics of all household members, including children and answers questions on characteristics of the household. Due to the method of collecting this data, the household member characteristics of gender and age will be accurately reported. However, whether a member of the household has a long standing illness or disability is thought to be under reported as the household reference person may not know of individuals' conditions.

Table 2.1: Characteristics of all household members

Column percentages, 2017 data

All household members

Age		Gender	
0-15	17	Male	49
16-24	11	Female	51
25-34	13	Total	100
35-44	12	<i>Base</i>	<i>23,080</i>
45-59	22	Long-term physical or mental health condition	
60-74	17	Yes	22
75+	8	No	78
Total	100	Total	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>23,080</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>23,000</i>

¹⁵In the SHS 2017, the question on gender was binary, i.e. only two response options were provided to respondents: male and female. In 2018 a non-binary question is being asked,

¹⁶The question on long-term physical or mental health condition asks: "Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?" Long-term conditions were defined as a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting, or expected to last, 12 months or more. The wording of this question changed in 2012 and is now aligned with the harmonised questions for all large Scottish Government surveys. A long-term condition was defined as limiting if the respondent reported that it limited their activities in any way.

2.3 Adults in Private Households

Table 2.2 to Table 2. present equality characteristics of adults, based on those selected to take part in the interview. These tables provide estimates for age, gender, marital status, ethnicity, current economic situation of all adults and adults aged 16-64, whether adults have a long term illness or disability, and sexual orientation and religion of adults in Scotland.

Table 2.2 shows that there were more adult women than men in Scotland, **14 per cent of the adult population were under 25 years old while 30 per cent were 60 or over.**

Table 2.2: Characteristics of adults – age, gender, and long-term health condition

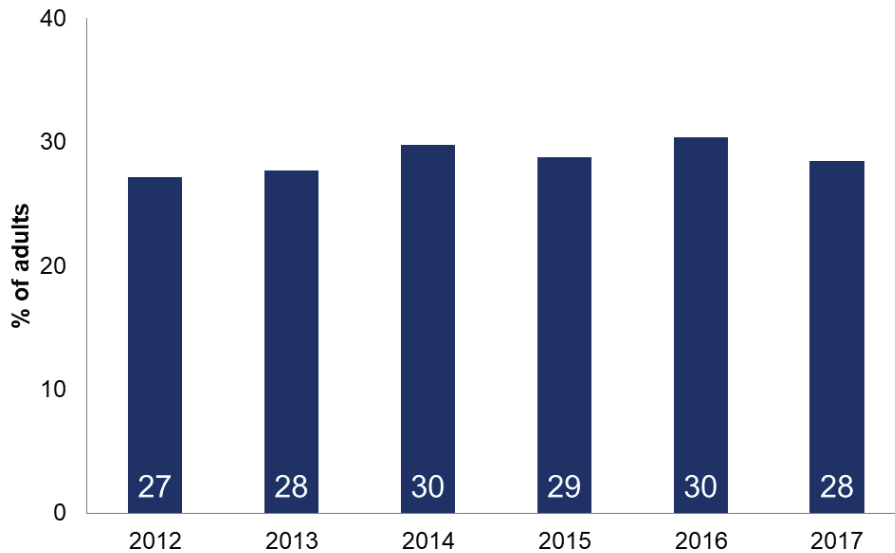
Column percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

Age		Gender	
16-24	14	Male	48
25-34	16	Female	52
35-44	15	Total	100
45-59	26	<i>Base</i>	<i>9,810</i>
60-74	20	Long-term physical or mental health condition	
75+	10	Yes	28
Total	100	No	72
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,810</i>	Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>9,760</i>

2.3.1 Long-term physical or mental health condition of adults

In 2017, over a quarter of adults (28 per cent) reported a long-term physical or mental health condition, a similar proportion as in 2012 (27 per cent), as shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Long-term physical or mental health condition of adults by year
2012 – 2017, Adults dataset (minimum base: 3,200)



2.3.2 Ethnicity

The population in Scotland is largely white, with nearly eight in ten adults identifying themselves as White Scottish. Table 2.3 shows a breakdown of the Scottish population by ethnicity.

Table 2.3: Characteristics of adults – ethnicity

Column percentages, Adults dataset

Ethnicity	2013	2017
White	96.4	95.6
Scottish	79.7	78.3
Other British	12.1	11.6
Irish	1.1	0.9
Gypsy / Traveller	-	-
Polish	1.2	2.0
Other white ethnic group	2.3	2.9
Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups	0.2	0.2
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	2.2	2.6
Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British	0.7	0.8
Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British	0.7	0.8
Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British	0.0	0.1
Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British	0.5	0.6
Other Asian ethnic group	0.3	0.3
African	0.4	0.5
African, African Scottish or African British	0.3	0.4
Other African ethnic group	0.1	0.1
Caribbean or Black	0.1	0.1
Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British	0.0	0.0
Black, Black Scottish or Black British	0.0	0.0
Other Caribbean or Black ethnic group	-	0.0
Other Ethnic Group	0.7	0.9
Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	0.0	0.2
Any other ethnic group	0.6	0.8
Don't know	-	-
Refused	0.0	0.1
Total	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,810</i>

2.3.3 Economic status

Examining the economic status of all adults as well as a subset of adults aged 16-64 shows, in Table 2.4, that **almost a quarter of all adults and five per cent of adults aged 16-64 are permanently retired from work**. Only four per cent of adults aged 16-64 are unemployed and seeking work.

Examining the economic status over time, in Figure 2.2, shows that **the proportion of those who were employed full time or self-employed has increased since 1999**, while the proportion of those who worked part time has been stable. This also shows that the proportion of those who were permanently retired from work has increased since 1999, while the proportion of those looking after the home or family has decreased.

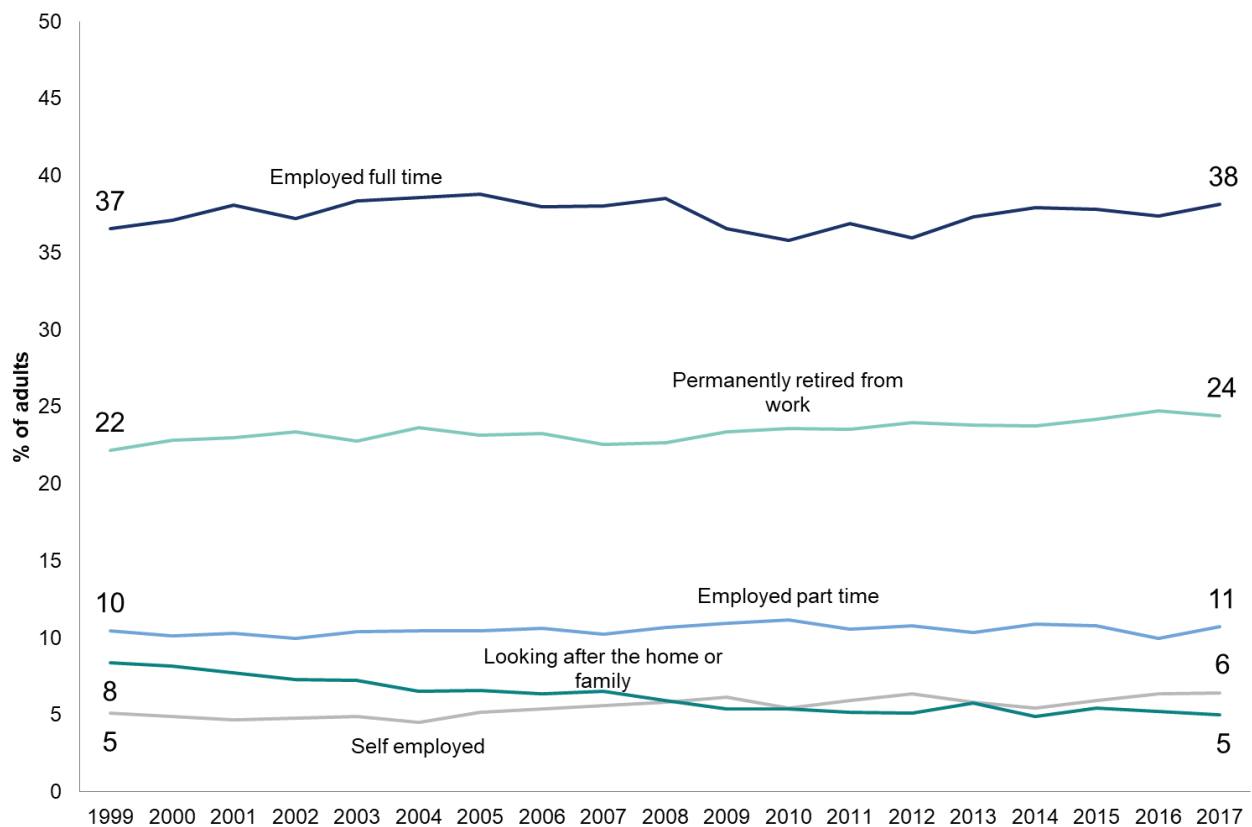
Table 2.4: Characteristics of adults – economic status

Column percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

Economic status	All adults	Working-age adults
Self employed	6	8
Employed full time	38	49
Employed part time	11	13
Looking after the home or family	5	6
Permanently retired from work	24	5
Unemployed and seeking work	3	4
At school	2	2
In further / higher education	5	7
Govt work or training scheme	0	0
Permanently sick or disabled	4	5
Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury	0	1
Other	0	0
Total	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,810</i>	<i>6,610</i>

Figure 2.2: Economic status of adults by year – selected groups

1999 – 2017, Adults dataset (minimum base: 9,410)



2.3.4 Sexual orientation

Around two per cent of all adults self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual, as shown in Table 2.5. However, it should be noted that estimates on self-identified sexual orientation from the SHS are likely to under-represent the lesbian, gay and bisexual population. Potential reasons for this are discussed in Annex 2 Glossary.

Table 2.5: Characteristics of adults – sexual orientation

Column percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

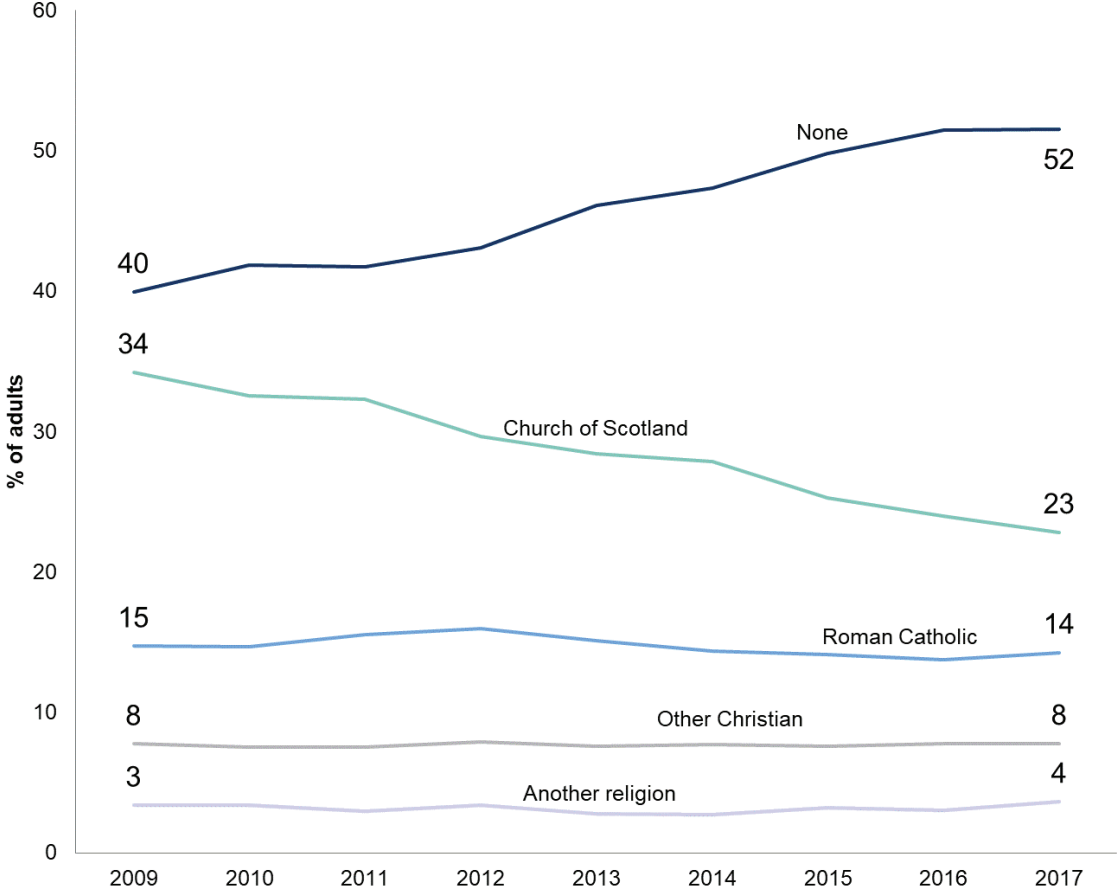
Sexual orientation	Male	Female	All
Heterosexual/Straight	97.8	98.0	97.9
Gay/Lesbian	1.3	1.0	1.2
Bisexual	0.3	0.5	0.4
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1
Refused	0.6	0.4	0.5
Total	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>4,540</i>	<i>5,270</i>	<i>9,810</i>

2.3.5 Religion

Since 2009, when the harmonised question on religious belonging was introduced to the SHS, there has been **an increase in the proportion of adults reporting not belonging to a religion**, from 40 per cent in 2009 to just over a half of adults (52 per cent) in 2017 (Figure 2.3). There has also been a corresponding decrease in the proportion reporting belonging to 'Church of Scotland', from 34 per cent to 23 per cent.

Figure 2.3: Religious belonging of adults by year

2009 - 2017 data, Adults dataset (minimum base: 9,410)



2.3.6 Marital status

The proportion of adults who have never been married or in a civil partnership has increased from 34 per cent in 2013 to 36 per cent in 2017.

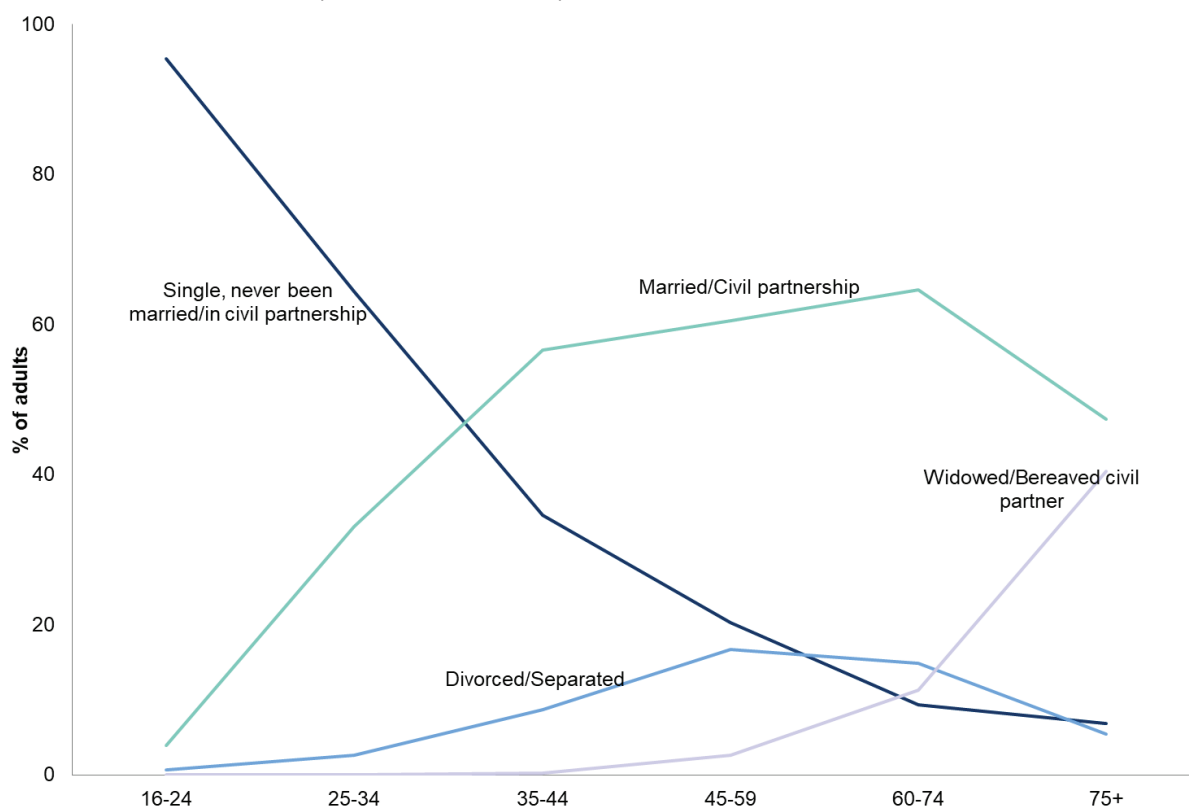
Table 2.6: Characteristics of adults – marital status

Column percentages, Adults dataset

Marital status	2013	2017
Never married and never registered a same-sex civil partnership	34	36
Married	48	47
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	0	0
Separated, but still legally married	2	2
Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership	1	0
Divorced	7	7
Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	0	0
Widowed	8	7
Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	0	0
Refused	0	0
Total	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Figure 2.4: Current marital status of adults by age

2017 data, Adults dataset (minimum base: 650)



Exploring the marital status of different age groups reveals that single adults tend to be in the younger age groups. The proportion of those who are married or in civil partnership increases with age, similarly to the proportion of those who are divorced or separated (Table 2.7).

Table 2.7: Marital status and age of population

Row percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

Marital status	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-74	75+	Total	Base
Single, never been married/in civil partnership	36	29	14	14	5	2	100	3,130
Married/Civil partnership	1	11	18	33	28	10	100	4,070
Divorced/Separated	1	4	13	45	31	5	100	1,340
Widowed/Bereaved civil partner	-	-	0	10	33	57	100	1,280
All	14	16	15	26	20	10	100	9,810

2.4 Household Characteristics

The Scottish Household Survey provides estimates of geographical characteristics (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and urban/rural classification), property type, household type, tenure and net household income¹⁷ for households in Scotland.

Household type is derived from the details collected from the household respondent about all household members, using a combination of age and number of people in the household. Full definitions of each household type are included in Annex 2: Glossary. Combining the data in this way provides an indicator of the life stage and family circumstance of households. The Table 2.8 shows that:

2.4.1 Household type

- Over a third of people in Scotland live alone (35 per cent)
- Only five per cent of households in Scotland are two adult families with three or more children, or three or more adult families with one or more children
- Less than one in four of households in Scotland contain children

2.4.2 House type and tenure

- Around two thirds of households in Scotland live in a house or a bungalow with the remaining third living in a flat.
- Owner-occupier is the most common type of tenure with over six out of ten households living in a home they own outright or are buying, followed by a fifth in the social rented sector. Fifteen per cent of households are renting from a private landlord. More information on this is contained in Chapter 3 on housing.

2.4.3 Area type

- Over eight out of ten households in Scotland are located in urban areas (including small towns) (84 per cent), with only 16 per cent in rural areas.

¹⁷ Please note that the Scottish Household Survey is not the preferred source of income data. Income data in the SHS is mainly collected to be used to explain other results. The official source of income statistics for Scotland is the Family Resource Survey (FRS), available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/IncomePoverty>.

Modeled local level household income estimates provide the best source of income data at a sub-Scotland level, available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/supply-demand/chma/statistics>

2.4.4 Income

- Over a half of households in Scotland earn less than £25,000 a year (54 per cent)
- Just over one in five households earn more than £40,000 a year (22 per cent).

Table 2.8: The characteristics of households in Scotland

Column percentages, 2017, Households dataset

Household Type		Property Type	
Single adult	20	A house or bungalow	65.6
Small adult	19	A flat, maisonette or apartment (including four-in-a-block or conversion)	33.9
Single parent	5	A room or rooms	0.1
Small family	13	A caravan, mobile home or a houseboat	0.2
Large family	5	Other	0.3
Large adult	10	Total	100
Older smaller	13	<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>
Single older	14		
Total	100		
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>		

Tenure		SIMD quintiles	
Owner occupied	62	1 - Most Deprived	21
Social rented	22	2	20
Private rented	15	3	20
Other	1	4	19
Total	100	5 - Least Deprived	20
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>	Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>

Urban/Rural classification		Total household income	
Large urban areas	35	£0 - £6,000	3
Other urban areas	36	£6,001 - £10,000	8
Accessible small towns	9	£10,001 - £15,000	15
Remote small towns	4	£15,001 - £20,000	15
Accessible rural	10	£20,001 - £25,000	12
Remote rural	6	£25,001 - £30,000	10
Total	100	£30,001 - £40,000	15
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>	£40,001+	22
		Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>10,300</i>