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**Title:**

Trends in Scottish fertility, 1946-2001

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**Abstract:**

Like England and Wales and many other European countries Scotland's fertility has fluctuated considerably over the post-war period, increasing substantially to a peak in the mid-1960s followed by a rapid decline to below-replacement fertility which bottomed-out in the late 1970s. After a limited period of approximate stability in the 1980s, Scotland's fertility has exhibited a clear downward trend in the 1990s, a trend which has been increasingly divergent to that of the rest of the UK. This paper represents a preliminary attempt to describe Scottish fertility trends in the post-war period, looking particularly at the last twenty years. The description of period and cohort fertility patterns is primarily through graphical means. The prospects for Scottish fertility in the coming decades are discussed briefly using the official Government Actuary's 2000- based projections. The paper concludes with some suggestions for future research.