

# **NRS' 2010-based population projections for Argyll and Bute**

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# Introduction

- 2010-based population projections for local authority areas published 29 February 2012
- Over projection period (2010-2035) in Argyll and Bute:
  - Total population will fall
  - Number of children will fall
  - Number of working age people will fall, despite increases in pension age
  - An increase in the number of people of pensionable age
  - Population aged 75+ to increase by 73.6%
- There will be more deaths than births
- Migration flows will not compensate

# Background (1)

- NRS produces population projections every two years
- Projections
  - make assumptions about
    - Future fertility rates
    - Future mortality rates
    - Migration (hardest to predict)
  - Are based on past trends
- Projections affect policies; policies affect projections
- Projections are NOT predictions

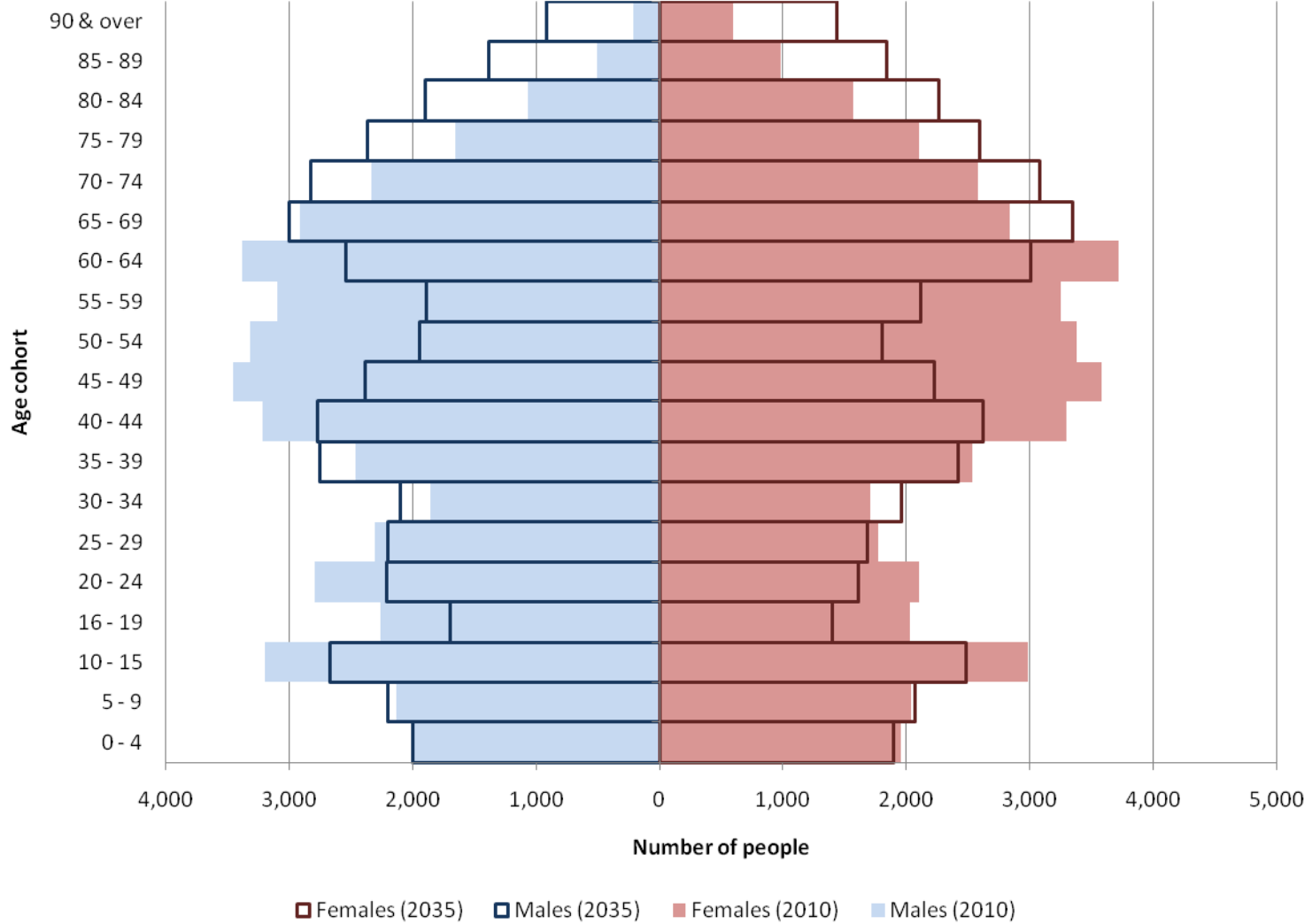
# Background (2)

- Over the period 2010 to 2035:
  - Population of Scotland to increase from 5.22million to 5.7million
  - 32 Scottish local authorities:
    - 22 expected to show population growth
    - 10 expected to experience population decline.
- Argyll and Bute's population is projected to decline.

# Argyll and Bute

- Population change in Argyll and Bute (2010 to 2035)
  - 89,200 in 2010
  - 82,754 in 2035
  - Deaths will exceed births
  - Migration flows in longer term assumed to be zero
  - Age profile of population will change:
    - Total population will decrease by 7.2%
    - Number of 0 to 15 year olds will decrease by 8.7%
    - Number of working-age people will decrease by 14.4%.
    - Number of people of pensionable age will increase by 9.8%.
    - An increase of 73.6% in the population aged 75 and over.
    - These figures take account of changes in pensionable age.

## NRS 2010-based population projections: 2010 base year and projections for 2035 compared (Argyll and Bute)



# Argyll and Bute's population (thousands)

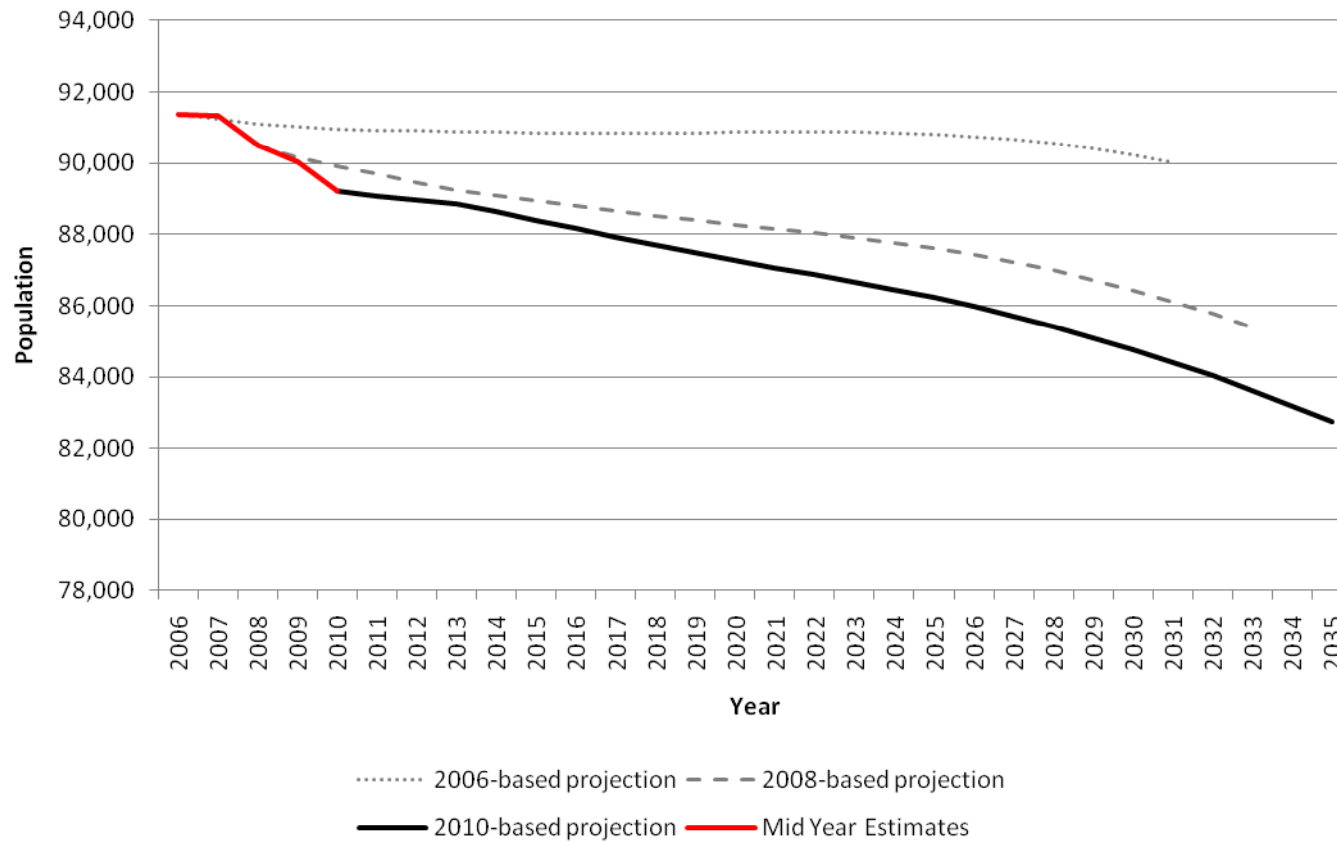
<b>Age group</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2035</b>
All ages	89.2	88.4	87.3	82.8
0-15	14.3	13.1	13.0	13.1
16-29	13.3	14.5	13.5	10.8
30-49	22.1	19.3	17.7	19.0
50-64	20.2	19.8	19.8	12.7
65-74	10.7	11.9	12.0	12.0
75+	8.7	9.8	11.1	15.1

# Comparisons with previous projections

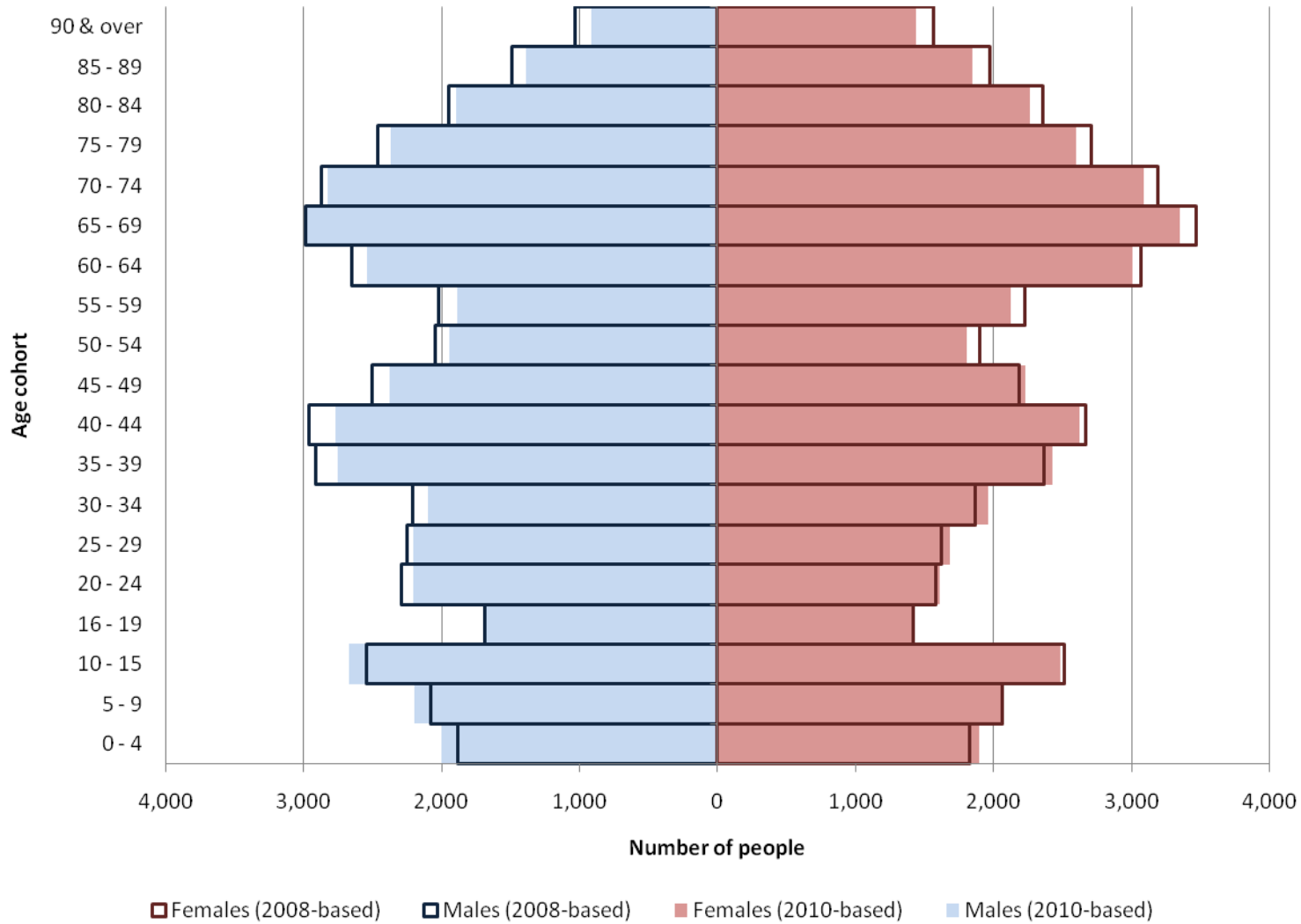
- Previous projections also suggested a decrease in Argyll and Bute's population
  - 2008-based projections: 5.7% population decline over 25 years
  - 2010-based projections: 7.2% decline
- Reasons why 2010-based projections show a more rapid decline:
  - Net migration flows have been lowered



## NRS Mid Year Estimates and 2006-, 2008- and 2010- based population projections for Argyll and Bute compared



## NRS 2008- and 2010-based population projections for 2033 compared (Argyll and Bute)



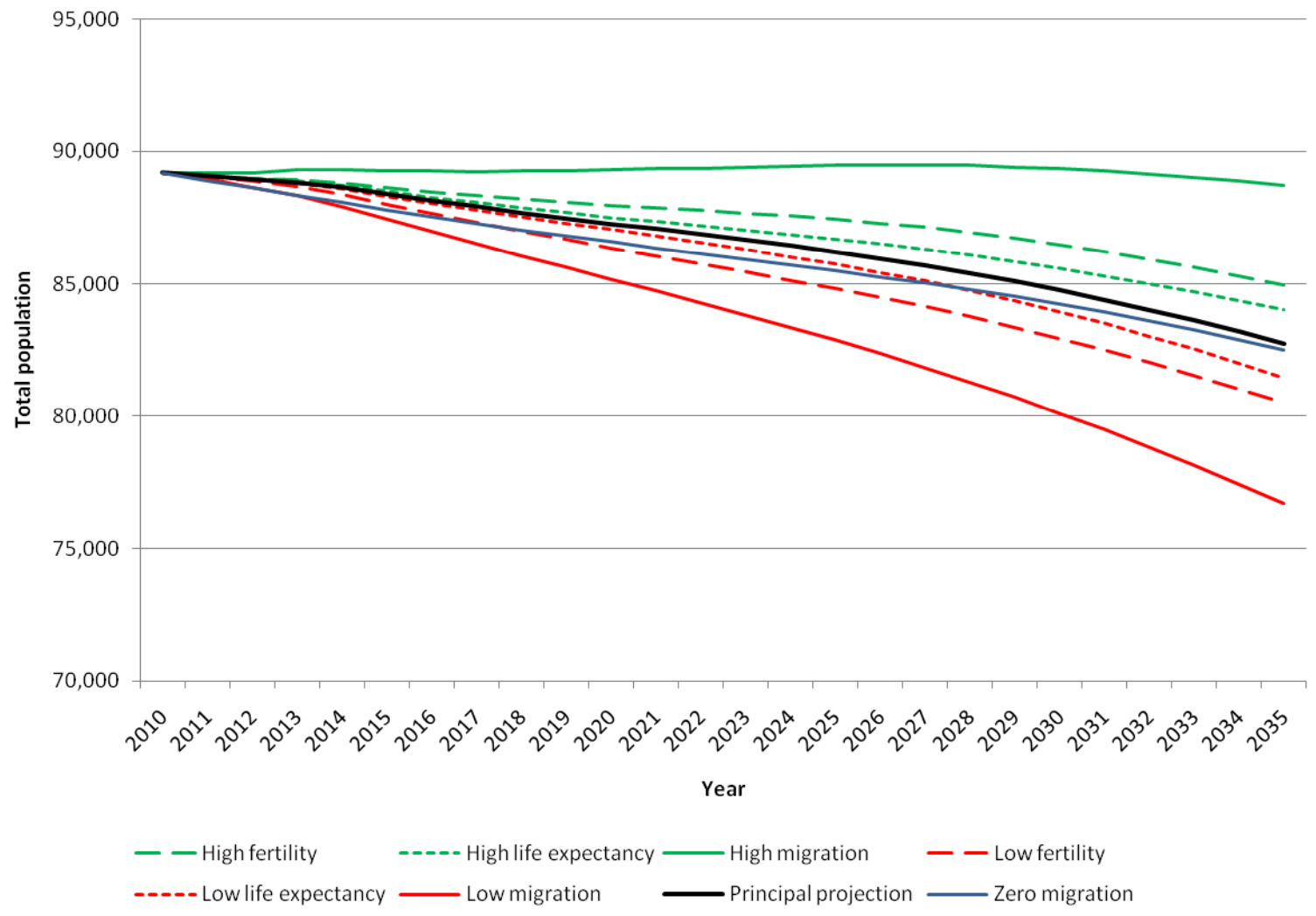
# How accurate are projections?

- Overall accuracy depends on:
  - Accuracy of base year population
  - Accuracy of assumptions built into the model
  - Whether past trends will continue into future
- Can only tell how accurate projections are by looking at them retrospectively
- Calibration with Census 2011 will be helpful

# Variant projections

- NRS has published:
  - Principal projection
  - Seven variant projections
- Variant projections suggest alternative, plausible scenarios for what might happen
- Note the impact of changing migration assumptions

## NRS 2010-based Population Projections for Argyll and Bute: principal projection and variants



# Conclusion

- Projections are not predictions
- With one exception, all variants and principal projection suggest population decline
- Projections are used to inform budget allocations
- How will these projections be used to inform policies?
- What are the impacts of these projections for service planning?