Scotland's populations: understanding regional variations in population growth, ageing and migration

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‘Scotland’s’ demography

Compared with England, past and present:

Scotland has had:

- Slower population growth (mostly negative between 1970s and 2000)
- Higher mortality
- Recently, markedly lower fertility
- Higher net emigration up to 2000
- Since 2000, lower net immigration

- But this immigration:

  Is now **our** only source of population growth

‘Scotland’s’ demography

This has led, in Scotland, to:

- Fears of future population stagnation or decline:
  - with consequences for economic growth
- Concerns over our uneven population age structure:
  - with an ageing population
    and too few workers to support them

Therefore:

- Pressures for our own Scottish policies to keep up levels of immigration

BUT: Contra-arguments:

- ‘Scotland’ no different from some regions of England
- Big ‘Scottish’ problem is low fertility

‘Scotland’s’ demography

But: aggregate comparisons are very unhelpful:

- There have been, are, and will be:
  ‘many different demographic Scotlands’

Hence the title of my 2018 book:

‘Scotland’s Populations from the 1850s to Today’

- So, in our policy work, we need to take this into account
- Because:
  - this growth has been and will be very uneven
  - and this variation has had, and will have, significant social and economic consequences

Population changes, recent

	Population change % 2001-2018
Scotland	**7.4**
Edinburgh	15.5
Glasgow	8.2
Aberdeen	7.4
East Lothian	17.3
West Lothian	14.5
East Renfrewshire	6.4
Aberdeenshire	15.2
Inverclyde	-7.1
West Dunbartonshire	-4.5
Highland	12.7
Argyll and Bute	-5.5
Dumf and Gall	0.7
Western Isles	1.4

Population changes, recent and projected

	Population % change 2001-2018	Projected % projected 2018-2035
Scotland	**7.4**	**4.0**
Edinburgh	15.5	10.2
Glasgow	8.2	4.6
Aberdeen	7.4	3.7
East Lothian	17.3	13.2
West Lothian	14.5	9.2
East Renfrewshire	6.4	12.5
Aberdeenshire	15.2	9.5
Inverclyde	-7.1	-7.2
West Dunbartonshire	-4.5	-2.1
Highland	12.7	1.4
Argyll and Bute	-5.5	-6.7
Dumf and Gall	0.7	-3.3
Western Isles	1.4	-9.2

Population changes, recent and projected

	Population % change 2001-2018	Projected % change 2018-2035	Households % projected change 2016-2035
Scotland	**7.4**	**4.0**	**10.7**
Edinburgh	15.5	10.2	20.8
Glasgow	8.2	4.6	12.8
Aberdeen	7.4	3.7	11.0
East Lothian	17.3	13.2	21.1
West Lothian	14.5	9.2	16.8
East Renfrewshire	6.4	12.5	28.3
Aberdeenshire	15.2	9.5	14.0
Inverclyde	-7.1	-7.2	-2.5
West Dunbartonshire	-4.5	-2.1	3.5
Highland	12.7	1.4	7.1
Argyll and Bute	-5.5	-6.7	-0.6
Dumf and Gall	0.7	-3.3	2.0
Western Isles	1.4	-9.2	-3.5

Population changes, recent and projected

One highly policy-relevant component of these changes is:

Population ageing

People aged 65 and over, change 2001-18

	65 and over % change 2001-2018
Scotland	**27.1**
Edinburgh	12.8
Glasgow	-7.0
Aberdeen	9.5
East Lothian	35.4
West Lothian	62.8
East Renfrewshire	34.2
Aberdeenshire	53.2
Inverclyde	16.9
W Dunbartonshire.	11.4
Highland	49.5
Argyll and Bute	30.0
Dumf and Gall	33.2
Western Isles	29.5

People 65 and over, change 2001-18 and in 2018

	65 and over % change 2001-2018	65 and over % of population 2018
Scotland	**27.1**	**18.9**
Edinburgh	12.8	15.1
Glasgow	-7.0	13.5
Aberdeen	9.5	15.6
East Lothian	35.4	20.0
West Lothian	62.8	16.4
East Renfrewshire	34.2	19.9
Aberdeenshire	53.2	19.0
Inverclyde	16.9	21.0
W Dunbartonshire.	11.4	18.4
Highland	49.5	22.1
Argyll and Bute	30.0	25.5
Dumf and Gall	33.2	25.5
Western Isles	29.5	25.4

People 65 and over, change 2001-18, in 2018, and projected 2035

	65 and over % change 2001-2018	65 and over % of population 2018	65 and over proj % of pop 2035
Scotland	**27.1**	**18.9**	**24.6**
Edinburgh	12.8	15.1	19.1
Glasgow	-7.0	13.5	17.8
Aberdeen	9.5	15.6	18.4
East Lothian	35.4	20.0	26.4
West Lothian	62.8	16.4	22.6
East Renfrewshire	34.2	19.9	24.0
Aberdeenshire	53.2	19.0	23.5
Inverclyde	16.9	21.0	29.2
W Dunbartonshire.	11.4	18.4	25.6
Highland	49.5	22.1	29.6
Argyll and Bute	30.0	25.5	33.9
Dumf and Gall	33.2	25.5	33.3
Western Isles	29.5	25.4	32.7

Population change, past and projected future

Since 2001, all of Scotland's net population growth has been the result of net immigration

But where, in Scotland, have the immigrants gone?

Migration: to/from overseas 2001-18

(per cent of all overseas)

Highest inflows:	Gross in %	Net in %	Highest net outflows
Edinburgh	25.1	33.0	South Lanarkshire
Glasgow	24.6	28.7	Dumfries and Galloway
Aberdeen	11.4	15.7	North Ayrshire
Dundee	4.0	4.5	East Ayrshire
Perth and Kinross	3.5	4.1	Argyll and Bute
Fife	5.3	4.0	South Ayrshire
Aberdeenshire	3.0	2.2	East Dunbartonshire
Highland	2.7	1.3	
Stirling	2.3	2.0	

Net in from overseas (thousands): 207

Net migration: to/from RUK 2001-18

(per cent of all net RUK)

Highest inflows:	Net in	Net outflows (all <1 per cent)
Edinburgh	18.7	East Renfrewshire
Highland	14.5	East Dunbartonshire
Dumfries and Galloway	9.3	Aberdeen
Fife	6.3	Renfrewshire
Scottish Borders	6.0	West Dunbartonshire
Argyll and Bute	4.9	Dundee
Moray	4.7	Inverclyde
Glasgow	3.9	
Aberdeenshire	5.0	

Net in from RUK (thousands):	137
Net in from overseas (thousands):	207

Net migration: all sources 2001-2018

(per cent of all net inflow)

	% of all net inflows
Edinburgh	21.7
Glasgow	8.8
Aberdeenshire	7.4
Fife	7.0
Perth and Kinross	6.9
Highland	6.1
South Lanarkshire	4.7
Aberdeen	3.9
Falkirk	3.9
East Lothian	3.8
Scottish Borders	3.4
West Lothian	3.2
Stirling	3.1

	% of all net inflows
Western Isles	0.3
Argyll and Bute	0.8
Dumfries and Galloway	2.0

Net outflows include:

- West Dunbartonshire
- Inverclyde

Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

It all depends on the ages of the migrants and where they go

Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

We certainly have areas with seriously ageing populations

Population age structure, 2018

(per cent)

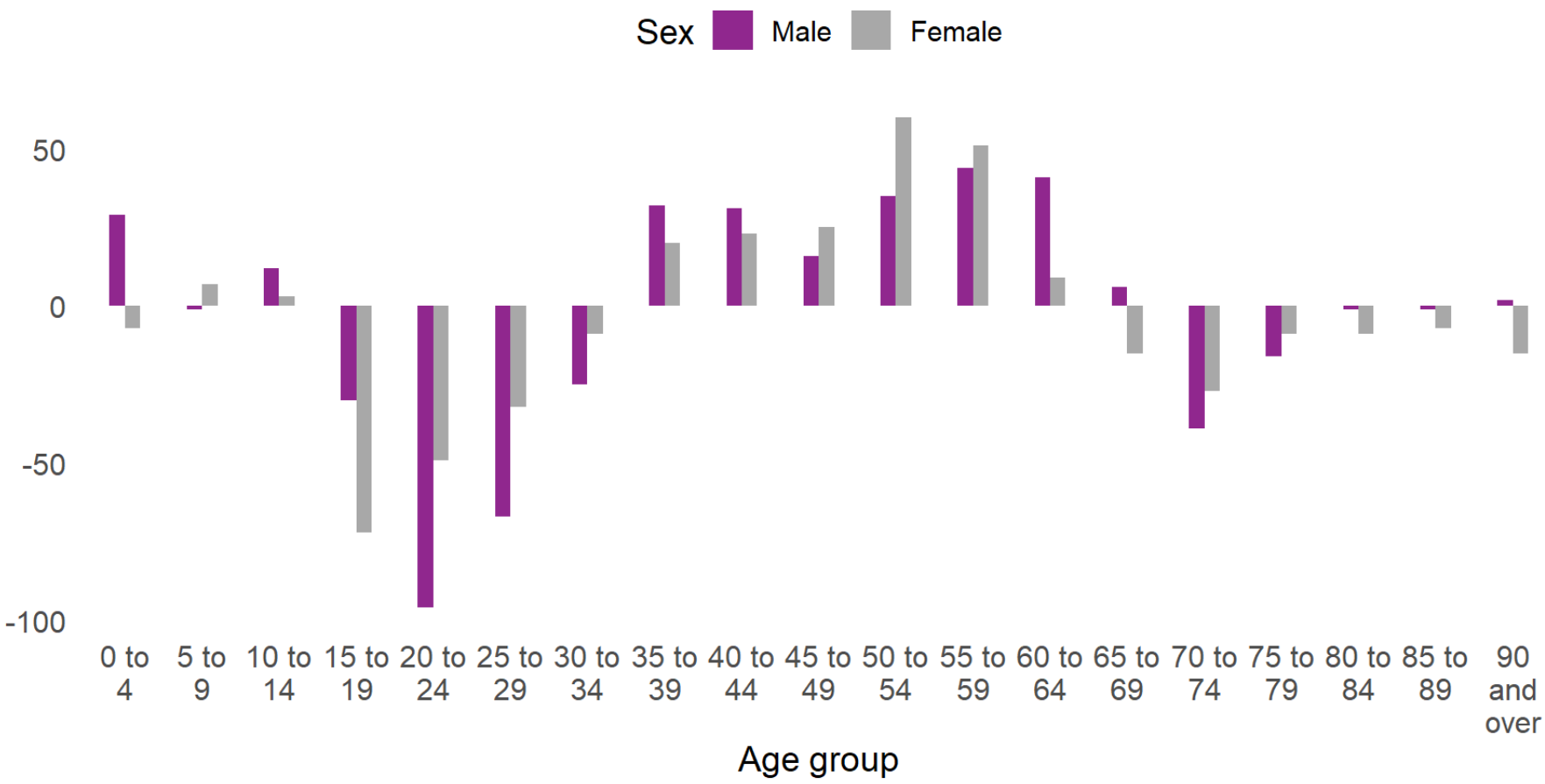
	0-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Scotland	18.9	8.7	25.9	27.6	18.9
England	21.4	8.6	26.3	25.6	18.2
Argyll and Bute	17.1	7.7	19.5	30.2	25.5
Dumf and Gall	17.7	7.0	19.7	30.1	25.5
Western Isles	18.0	6.1	20.2	30.2	25.4
Inverclyde	18.2	8.0	22.7	30.2	21.0
North Ayrshire	19.0	8.1	21.2	29.5	22.0

Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

We certainly have areas with seriously ageing populations

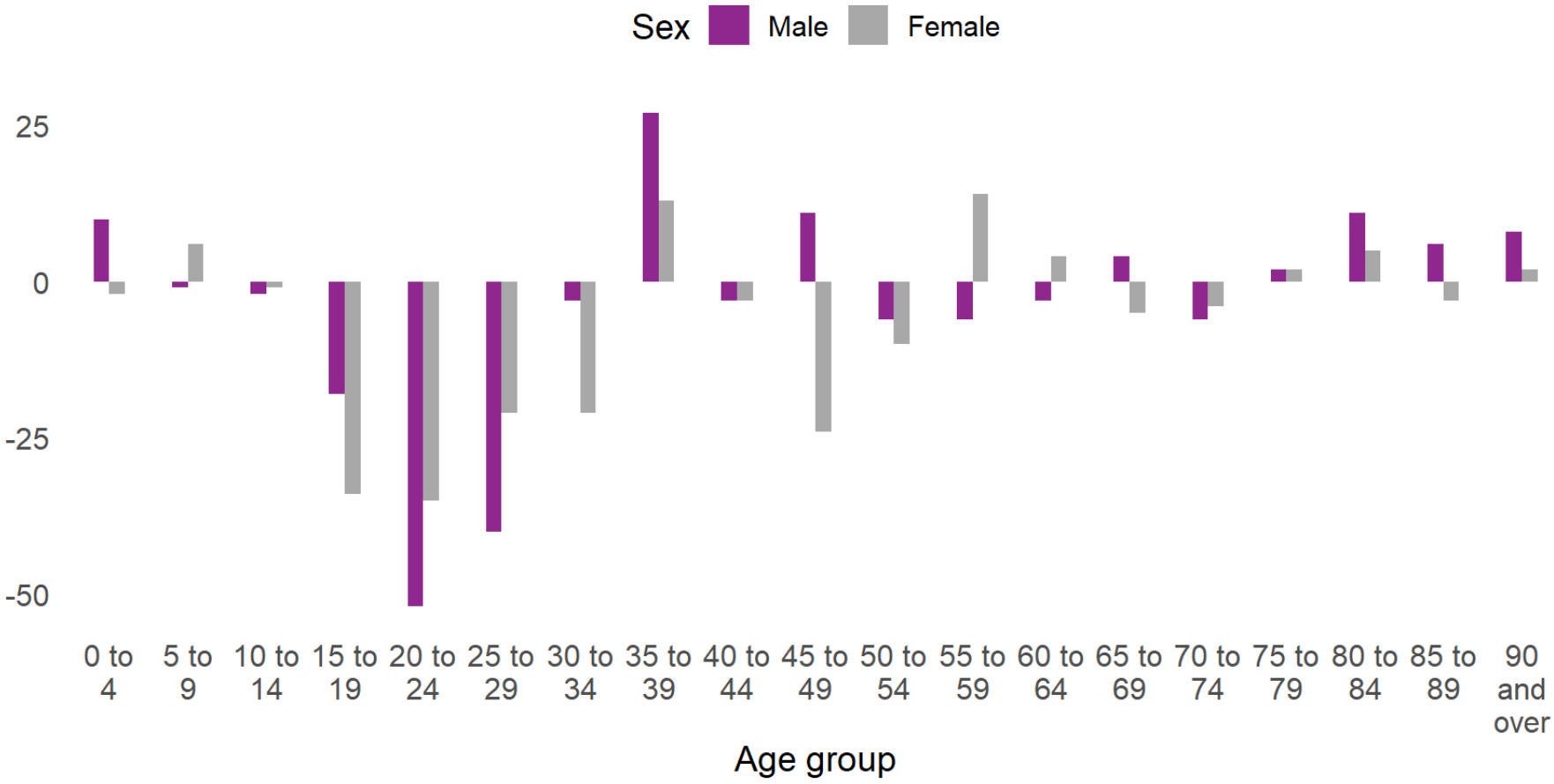
But: Our current migration ages do not help with these:

Argyll and Bute
Net migration by age group by sex, 2017-18



Inverclyde

Net migration by age group by sex, 2017-18



Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

We certainly have areas with seriously ageing populations

But: Our current migration ages and geography do not help with these:

There are some nearly comparable areas of England –

But the rural ones have rather different underlying economies

26.2	19.4

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Argyll and Bute	17.1	7.7	19.5	30.2	25.5
Dumf and Gall	17.7	7.0	19.7	30.1	25.5
Western Isles	18.0	6.1	20.2	30.2	25.4
North Norfolk	15.7	5.7	17.3	28.4	32.8
Chichester	18.3	7.8	19.2	27.9	28.9
West Devon	18.0	5.5	18.6	30.5	27.4

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But: Our current migration ages and geography do not help with these:

There are some nearly comparable areas of England –

But the rural ones have rather different underlying economies

And the urban ones not quite so skewed

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Inverclyde	18.2	8.0	22.7	30.2	21.0
North Ayrshire	19.0	8.1	21.2	29.5	22.0
South Tyneside	19.9	7.6	24.2	28.9	20.0
Darlington	21.1	7.1	24.2	27.3	20.3
Barrow	19.7	7.7	22.7	28.4	21.5

Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

We certainly have low percentages of children, especially in our cities

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Aberdeen	16.9	10.4	33.0	24.1	15.6
London	22.7	8.4	34.4	22.7	11.9
Manchester	22.3	15.7	34.3	18.4	9.3
Bristol	20.3	14.0	32.9	19.9	12.9
Leeds	21.3	13.0	27.5	22.7	15.5
Sheffield	20.2	13.8	27.0	22.9	16.1

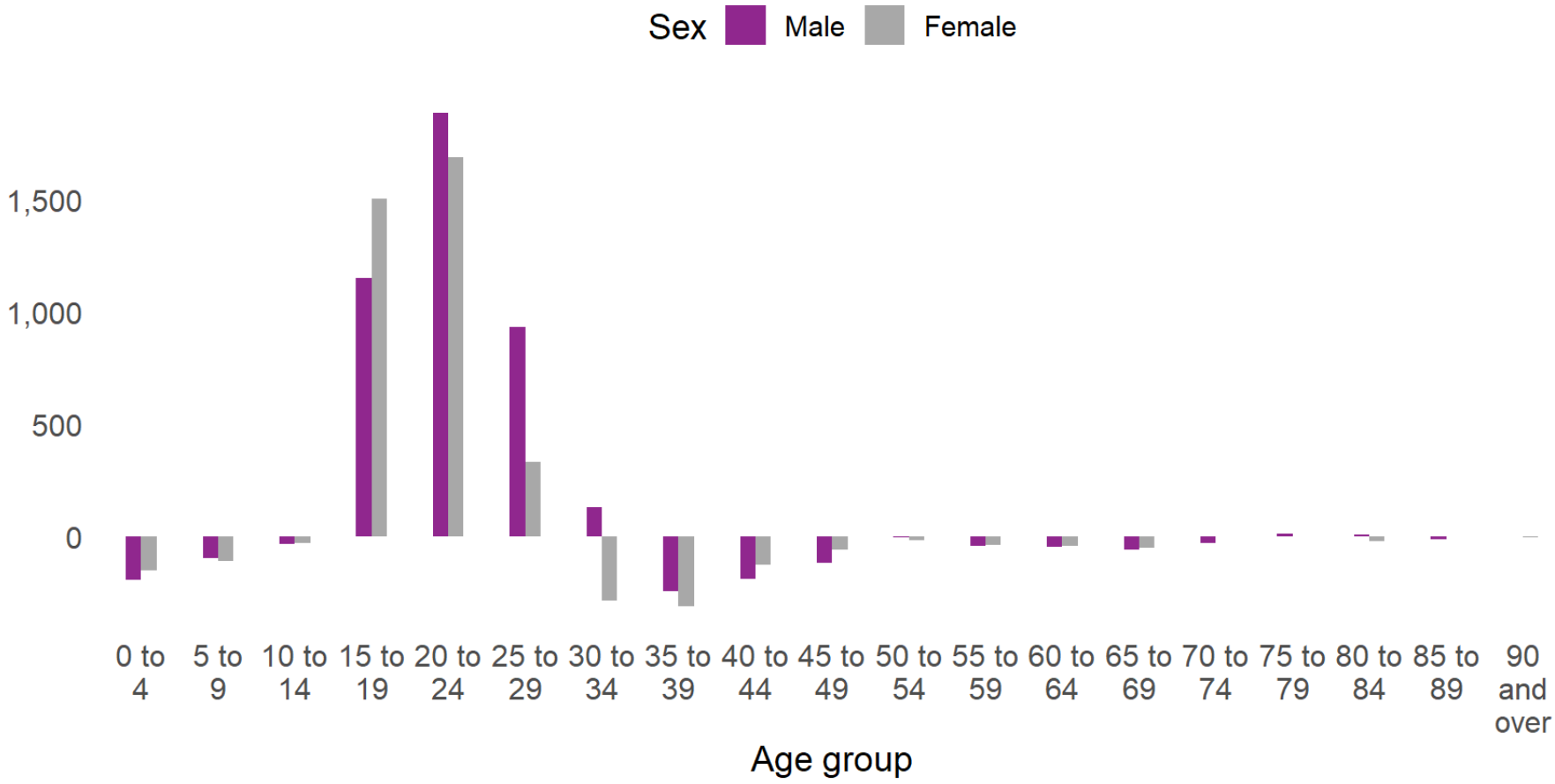
Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

We certainly have low percentages of children, but especially in our cities

But: Our current migrant ages will not help much with this (in the short run at least).

Glasgow City

Net migration by age group by sex, 2017-18



Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

Our cities DO have high shares of young adult populations

(only London, Manchester and, almost, Bristol match us)

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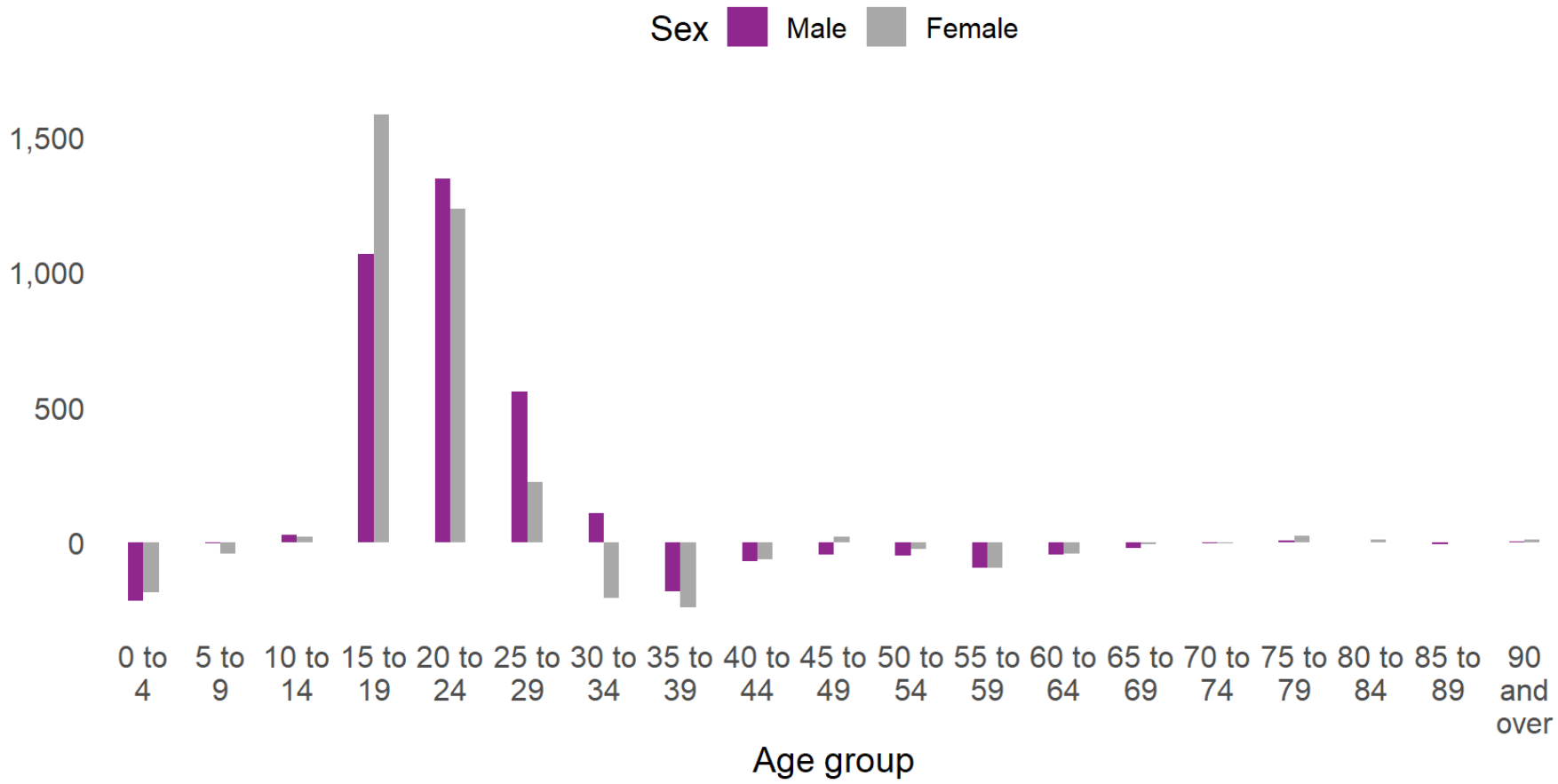
Our cities DO have high shares of young adult populations

(only London, Manchester and, almost, Bristol match us)

Their migrants ARE of appropriate ages

City of Edinburgh
Net migration by age group by sex, 2017-18



Do our migrants help with our population age structures?

Our cities DO have high shares of young adult populations
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Their migrants ARE of appropriate ages

But: continuing to have this group is:

Dependent on keeping their migrant inflows
(including from RUK)

And retaining those who have come

And:

Is this just more population growth in the ‘wrong places’?