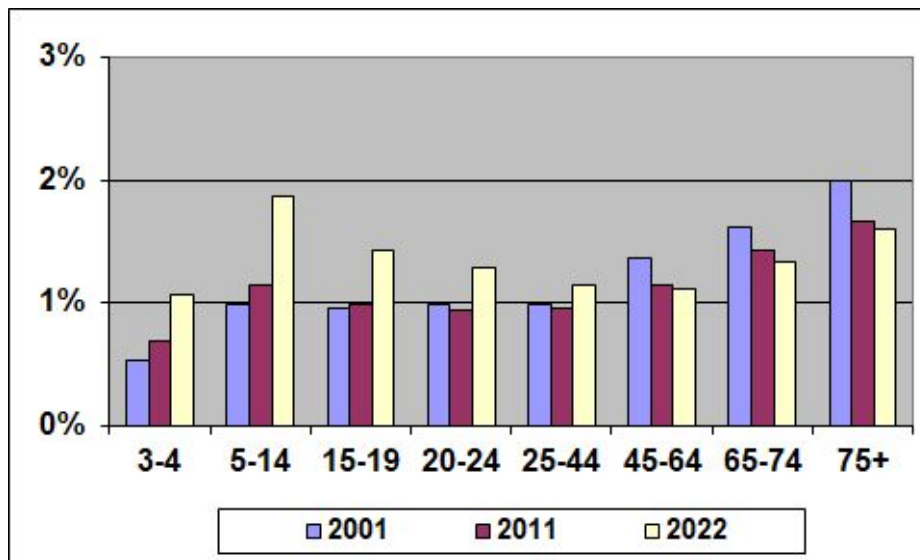


Brief information about 2022 census results

Census 2022: Scotland-wide increase since 2011 and some shoots of recovery in traditional Gàidhlig heartlands

First releases of data give a very diverse picture of the knowledge and use of *Gàidhlig* in the different regions of *Alba* (Scotland). Overall, the numbers have increased considerably: the 2022 census recorded **69.701** *Gàidhlig*-speakers (1.32%) compared to **57.602** in 2011. Even more pronounced was the increase of people with at least some skills in the language from 87.056 in 2011 to 130.161 in 2022!! Some reason for this positive development might be the startling improvement in pre-school and school age groups (see figure below) since 2001. Another positive factor may be the easily accessible (and available) resource of online language courses.



Alba (Scotland): Percentage of *Gàidhlig*-speakers according to age in 2001, 2011 and 2022

Eilean Siar (Western Isles):

The islands have lost around 4,600 speakers (15.7 %) since 2001 but there is recognizable improvement in pre-school and school age pupils in the islands (see below). Around 44% of residents still spoke *Gàidhlig* in 2022 and 57% had at least some knowledge of it.

Age group	<i>Speaking Gàidhlig</i>					
	Census 2022			Census 2011		
	Residents	Speakers	%	Residents	Speakers	%
3-4	438	150	34.2	599	177	29.5
5-9	1,300	655	50.4	1,413	580	41.0
10-14	1,340	615	45.9	1,529	683	44.7
15-17	825	329	39.9	1,051	449	42.7

Eilean Siar (Western Isles): Numbers and Percentages of *Gàidhlig*-speakers in 2022 and 2011

Almost all primary school catchments did show this trend, except the communities of Eoligarry on Barra and Park in Lewis, where no Gaelic medium teaching was provided.

Gaidhealtachd (Highland):

Compared with 2011 the situation improved significantly in this council area with no further decline of speaker numbers. Even considerable increases were recorded on the western seaboard, especially around all *Gàidhlig*-medium schools like Ullapool, Acharacle, Lochcarron, and Portree. The only area with considerable lack of enthusiasm remained the coastal stretch between Lochinver and Durness with no educational provision of *Gàidhlig*. The central and eastern parts of the council area, however, saw marked improvements almost everywhere.

Age group	<i>Speaking Gàidhlig</i>					
	Census 2022			Census 2011		
	Residents	Speakers	%	Residents	Speakers	%
3-4	4,118	254	6.2	5,179	219	5.0
5-9	11,830	971	8.2	12,408	751	6.6
10-14	13,059	1,224	9.4	13,431	969	8.4
15-17	7,458	546	7.3	8,674	650	8.9

Gaidhealtachd (Highland): Numbers and Percentages of *Gàidhlig*-speakers in 2022 and 2011

Earra-Ghaidheal & Bhòid (Argyll & Bute):

Census results were still not satisfactory for the area, having lost 292 speakers since 2011. Significant positive pictures, however, provided the communities around *Gàidhlig*-medium units - especially on the islands of Tiree and Mull. Some improvement can also be detected in school catchments, where *Gàidhlig* is taught as first “second” language from day 1 in primary school. Also, the positive trend in younger age groups is quite evident in the figures for this local authority, but not as pronounced as in Highland.

Glaschu (Glasgow):

A very encouraging development can be reported about the City of Glasgow, where a fourth *Gàidhlig* medium school is now (2024) in preparation. The number of young speakers has trebled in a period of eleven years!

Age group	<i>Speaking Gàidhlig</i>					
	Census 2022			Census 2011		
	Residents	Speakers	%	Residents	Speakers	%
3-4	11,630	202	1.7	12,361	104	1.0
5-9	30,151	963	3.2	27,059	318	1.4
10-14	30,487	898	2.9	29,317	254	1.1
15-17	17,251	339	2.0	18,910	106	0.8

Glaschu (Glasgow): Numbers and Percentages of *Gàidhlig*-speakers in 2022 and 2011

***Gàidhlig* (Scottish Gaelic) Local Studies:**

The 3rd Edition has now been published with extended information about 1911, 1981, 2011, and 2022 census results. The reports can be downloaded from the *Linguae Celticae* website: www.linguae-celticae.de/GLS.html.