

1911 Scottish Census:

Quick facts for family history research



What is the 1911 Scottish Census?

The 1911 census was taken on the night of Sunday 2 April 1911. It provides a picture of life in Scotland in the early 20th century, capturing information just before the upheaval of the First World War. Unlike earlier censuses, the 1911 return was written by the head of the household, offering a more personal glimpse into the lives of your ancestors.



What information does it include?

- Name and surname
- Relationship to head of household
- Marital status and number of years married
- Age (in completed years)
- Occupation
- Whether employer, worker, or working on own account
- Place of birth (parish and county or country if born abroad)
- Number of children born to the marriage (living and deceased)
- Language spoken (Gaelic or English)
- Whether blind, deaf, or otherwise disabled



Where to find it

The 1911 census is available exclusively as digital images on Scotland's People.

- Free to search the indexes
- Viewing an image costs 6 credits (about £1.50)
- Transcriptions are not available on other sites



Why it's useful for family history

You can view handwriting and personal details from your ancestor. It records length of marriage and number of children born and died - unique to this census.

Household structure helps confirm family groups.

Children's details can be matched to school or birth records.

It bridges the gap between 1901 and the losses of World War I.

Can help identify migrations within Scotland or emigration abroad.

