



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2006!

This is the second edition of the Socio Economic Update; a regular e-bulletin which has been designed to keep you up-to-date with recently released socio-economic reports of reference to policy and planning in the Western Isles. After consultation with readers of the last e-bulletin, future releases will now be pdf format so that it is printable to A4 and easy for remote users to download. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

2004 based Population Projections

On 20th December, the General Register Office for Scotland released its 2004 based population projections for Scotland and its administrative areas. These projections are for the period 2004-2024 and supersede the 2002 based releases (which previously predicted that the Western Isles was set to see the largest population decline of any Local Authority in Scotland at -17%).

Key findings from the report include:

- The population of Scotland will increase from 5.07 million in 2004 to 5.11 million by 2024 (an increase of 1%); this is contrary to the 2002 based projections which predicted a slow but steady decline (-2.4%). Scotland's population is now projected to fall below 5 million in 2036 rather than 2017;
- The Western Isles will see a 49.6% decline in the number of annual births from 246 in 2004/05 to 122 in 2023/24 - the largest percentage decline of any local authority area;
- The Western Isles projections indicate a -15% decline in population from 26,260 in 2004 to 22,413 by 2024 (a loss of 3,847 individuals) see table;
- Migration assumption for the Western Isles indicate an annual increase of 100 individuals between 2005-2006; 50 individuals between 2006-2007; and a loss -50 individuals between 2007/08 - 2023/24 due to net migration;
- The Western Isles is projected to see a decline of 31% in the 0-15 yr age group; a 21% decline in the working age group; and a 14% increase in residents of pensionable age;
- In 2024, 31.2% of Dumfries and Galloway's population is projected to be aged 65+; the highest of any local authority area, although the Western Isles is close behind at 31.0%;
- The Shetland Islands are expected to see a -11% decline; Orkney -2% and Highland +4% in overall population over the period 2004-2024.
- The 2004 based projections predict a less severe decline in the population of the Western Isles than was previously forecasted in the 2002 based projections; by approximately 10%. There is a discrepancy of 2,265 persons for the year 2018 between the 2002 based and the 2004 based projections.

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Local Authority	
Aberdeen City	-24
Dundee City	-15
Western Isles	-15
Inverclyde	-14
East Dunbartonshire	-11
Shetland Islands	-11
Renfrewshire	-9
West Dunbartonshire	-9
North Ayrshire	-5
Angus	-4
Glasgow City	-4
East Ayrshire	-3
South Ayrshire	-3
Dumfries and Galloway	-2
Midlothian	-2
Orkney Islands	-2
Clackmannanshire	-1
North Lanarkshire	0
East Renfrewshire	3
Argyll and Bute	4
Highland	4
Moray	4
South Lanarkshire	4
Stirling	5
Perth and Kinross	6
Falkirk	7
Aberdeenshire	8
Fife	9
City of Edinburgh	10
East Lothian	13
Scottish Borders	15
West Lothian	21

Northern Constabulary Public Performance Report (2004/2005)

In Nov 2005, the Northern Constabulary released its Public Performance Report for 2004/2005. Key findings from the report include:



- As of March 2005, the Western Isles saw the highest detection rate across the Force with 75.3% of all reported crimes in the 1-5 classes detected (3 out of 4 crimes solved);
- Overall for the period 2004-2005, the Western Isles had 2615 reported crimes and offences (up from 2201 for the period 2003-2004).
- The crimes for 2004/05 can be broken down into 39 non sexual crimes against persons; 37 crimes involving indecency; 320 crimes of dishonesty; 268 crimes of fire raising and vandalism; 203 other crimes; 902 miscellaneous offences; and 846 road traffic offences.

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2005 Household Projections

On 13th December 2005, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) released the Household Estimates for Scotland for 2005.

Household estimates are used for compiling and monitoring housing plans and are produced yearly. They are also used to plan service provision, and as the denominator for other statistics, such as the percentage of households receiving benefits. Household estimates are also used in the production of *Household Projections* for Scotland and its administrative areas, every two years.

Key Findings for the Western Isles include:

- **Households:** There were 11,486 households in the Western Isles in June 2005, an increase of 104 (0.9%) over the past year. The number of households in the Western Isles has increased by 202 (1.8%) since 2001.
- **Vacant Dwellings:** There were 1,866 vacant dwellings in the Western Isles in June 2005; this represents 13.6% of all recorded dwellings (the highest percentage of any local authority in Scotland). These figures show a 6% decrease in the number of vacant dwellings since 2004 (-119 dwellings). Long term trends show that this represents a 0.1% increase since 2001.
- **Size of Households:** Since 1991, the population of the Western Isles has fallen by 3,340 persons (-11.3%) while the number of households has increased by 1.8% over the period. Following the national average, the number of households in the Western Isles is increasing while the population is declining because the average household size is getting smaller, with fewer large households and more people living alone.
- **Household Size:** The 2002 based Household Projections forecasted that the mean average household size in the Western Isles would fall from 2.28 persons in 2002 to 1.94 persons in 2016. Single person households are projected to increase from representing 34% of all households in 2002 to 40% in 2016; and households with two adults plus children are projected to fall from representing 22% of all households in 2002 to 13% in 2016.
- **Total Number of Dwellings:** There were 13,676 dwellings in the Western Isles in June 2005. This represents the total number of dwellings on the Council Tax valuation list which excludes free standing locks ups but includes vacant dwellings and second homes. This figure has increased by 1.6% since 2001 (214 dwellings).

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Alcohol Related Health and Mortality Statistics

Information Services (ISD Scotland-NHS) published their 'Alcohol Related Health and Mortality Statistics' on 19th December 2005.

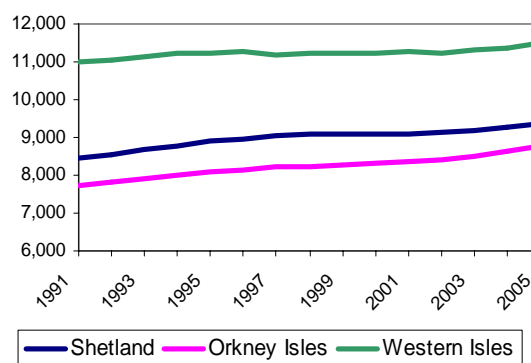
Key findings from the survey include:

- The council area with the highest alcohol-related discharge rates in 2004/05 was the Western Isles (1,554 per 100,000), followed by Glasgow City (1,430 per 100,000) and Inverclyde (1,254 per 100,000). The Scottish average was 748 per 100,000 population.
- Of the 1,554 alcohol related discharges in the Western Isles, 2,332 were for males and 780 for females.
- In 2004/05, 7,754 discharges in Scotland (19%) involved an emergency admission and, of these, 4,259 (55%) were admitted on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Such admissions were more common among the under 18 year olds, with 667 discharges (60%) being classified as emergencies and 514 (77%) occurring on a weekend.

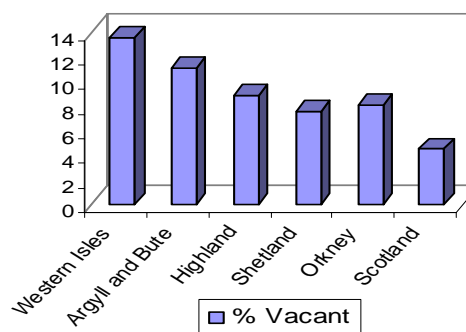
Other statistics released in December on the ISD website include: Prescribing statistics; Teenage Pregnancies; Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland 2005; Child Health Statistics; Unintentional Injuries; Immunisation; and NHS Scotland Complaints Statistics.

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Graph 1: Household Estimates 2005



Graph 2: Vacant Dwellings 2005



Scottish School Leavers Survey Report

The latest Scottish School Leavers Survey (SSLS) was published on Wednesday, December 7th 2005. It aims to describe the experiences and transitions of young people after compulsory education.

The SSLS is a longitude research study which tracks cohorts of young people from S4 to the age of 23-24. It refers to young people who were mostly aged 19 in 2005 (the second sweep of cohort 4, consisting of young people who were in S4 in June 2002).

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Homeless Persons by Local Authority 2004/5

The Scottish Executive published its Bulletin "Operation of the Homeless Persons legislation in Scotland: national and local analyses 2004-05 on 1st November 2005.

The report states that the Western Isles saw a 2% increase in the number of applications under the Homeless Persons Legislation between 2003-04 and 2004-05, the majority of applicants being single males.

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SCOTTISH ECONOMIC STATISTICS

In November 2005, the Scottish Executive published its annual release "Scottish Economic Statistics" which gives robust economic stats for the economic monitoring of Scotland and its administrative areas.

This compendium presents a range of official economic statistics and articles on the Executive's plans for the implementation of the Atkinson Review recommendations in Scotland, Scottish information from the new Annual Survey of Hour and Earnings, issues relating to the estimation of trade statistics for Scotland, and analysis of data on company ownership.

The Scottish Executive has prepared an interactive website which provides a regional summary of key results (see the adjacent table for the Western Isles stats) from a clickable map. [Click for Link to Webpage](#)

Summary results for the Western Isles are listed from 2000-2005. They appear to be broadly in line with GDP estimates from the 2003 Western Isles Regional Accounts, measuring GDP in 2002 to be £261m and £9,961 per head.

The Western Isles Regional Accounts were published in August this year and provides detailed up-to-date information on the nature of the economy of the Western Isles in 2003. The report measured the GRDP of the Western Isles in 2003 £263.02m; or £10,078 per capita (a 2.5% growth in real terms since the 1997).

[Click for Link to the Regional Accounts](#)

<i>Western Isles</i>	
Total Population (2004)	26,260
Working Age Population (2004)	15,338
GDP (2002) (£ million)	261
GDP per head (2002) (£)	9,961
Manufacturing GVA (2003) (£million)	20
Number of VAT registered companies (2003)	945
Number of large companies (250+ employees in Scotland) (2004)	45
Employment rate (% of adults of working age) (2004)	79.2
Median gross weekly earnings of full time workers on adult rates (2004)	£368.00
Claimant unemployment rate (%) (2004)	3.3
People of working age claiming key Social Security benefits (%) (Feb 2005)	14.6

Source: Scottish Executives 'Scottish Economic Statistics' Nov 2005

Scottish Households Survey News

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) produces nationally representative household survey results annually and results for all 32 Local Authorities every 2 years.

On the 15th December SHS published a large number of the 2003/2004 interactive tables on their website. These tables are deemed to be of particular interest to local authorities. There is now more information on financial inclusion, anti social behaviour and neighbourhood perceptions.

The Scottish Household Survey was commissioned by the Scottish Executive Development Department in 1998 to provide a vital and definitive source of information on a wide range of cross-cutting issues affecting Scotland today.

The survey currently collects data from around 15,000 households per year, providing both nationally and locally representative data on issues such as housing, transport, economic activity, resources, and on the communities in which people live.

The second four-year sweep of the Scottish Household Survey will be coming to an end in December 2006, and the Scottish Executive intends to re-commission the survey for a third four-year sweep running from 2007 to 2010.

[Click here for SHS Website](#)

EUROSTAT - New Publications and Database

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Communities, established in 1953. Eurostat's core service is the provision of accurate, reliable and up-to-date statistical data at the European and Regional level.

In 2005 Eurostat introduced its policy of free dissemination to provide users will full access to its high quality statistical information online.

They have also launched a few additional improvements to the databases in order to improve user friendliness, the documentation and response times. The special topic 'Sustainable Development Indicators' has been introduced to meet the need to provide information on this political issue.

Eurostat offers a comprehensive range of printed and electronic publications that collectively cover all areas of European Statistics, and at every level of detail.

[Click for Website](#)

Rural Scotland - Key Facts

On the 12th September 2005, the Scottish Executive released its publication "Rural Scotland – Key Facts". It provides information on: people and communities; services and lifestyle; economy and enterprise.

Rural Scotland differs from the rest of Scotland but there are also differences within rural Scotland, for example between accessible and remote areas. The purpose of this report was to summarise the key facts related to rural Scotland in order to provide a picture of the lives of its people.

Rural Scotland is defined as settlements with a population of less than 3,000. By analysing drive times to larger settlements we can divide rural Scotland into:



Accessible rural: those with a less than 30 minute drive time to the nearest settlement with a population of 10,000 or more

Remote rural: those with a greater than 30 minute drive time to the nearest settlement with a population of 10,000 or more. These definitions form part of the Scottish Executive's urban rural classification. 69.6% of the Western Isles fall under the 'remote rural' classification and 30.3% falls under 'remote small town'.

[To Review the Findings Click Here](#)

Scottish Agricultural Census

Each summer the agricultural census is conducted by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department.

The 2005 edition was published on 22nd June 2005.

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SNS Small Area Population Estimates 2004

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics is the Scottish Executive's on-going programme to improve the availability, consistency and accessibility of small area statistics in Scotland.

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics introduced a common stable and consistent small area geography (called data zones) for making available small area statistics. These datazones are not consistent with current ward boundaries.

The site is updated quarterly in January, April, July and October. Highlights of the October 2005 publication include:

- The October update includes new data zone level mid year population estimates.
- Population estimates will be available by sex and 5 year age groups for each of the 6505 data zones.
- Estimates are available for 2001 through 2004, and build on the 2001 Census estimates.
- The population estimates are consistent with the Registrar General's mid-year population estimates at local authority level.
- Data zone level population estimates for 2005 are planned to be available for October 2006.

Please see adjacent graph for mid-year population estimates at datazone level in the Western Isles 2001-04.

These results will be investigated further and published in the next issue of Socio Economic Update.

It must be noted that datazone boundaries are not consistent with ward boundaries and the ward names have been given only as an indication of general geography of the datazones.

For more information on these results and datazone geographies:

[Click for Link to SNS Website](#)

Births, Deaths, Marriages in the 3rd Quarter 2005

On the 22nd December 2005, the General Register Office for Scotland released its provisional figures for Vital Events registered during the period 1 July 2005 to 30 September 2005.

Results for the Western Isles show:

- there were 65 live births (30 male, 35 female) in the Western Isles; which gives the islands a birth rate of 9.8 per 1,000 of the population; (this was 8.7 in the last quarter) this is the 7th lowest out of 32 local authority areas in Scotland; the national average was 11.1 per 1,000;
- correspondingly, there were 89 deaths over this period in the Western Isles (52 males and 37 females); which gives the islands a death rate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the population; the highest of any local authority in Scotland; the national average was 10.0 per 1,000;
- there were 50 marriages registered during the 2nd quarter of 2005. The 2001 census tells us that the Western Isles has a higher percentage of single and widowed residents than the Scottish average but a lower percentage of residents who are divorced, remarried or separated.

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Datazone	Part of Ward	2001	2002	2003	2004
S01002339	Barra and Vatersay	635	618	619	620
S01002340	Barra and Vatersay	540	547	562	538
S01002341	Daliburgh and Eriskay	561	542	544	529
S01002342	Loch Eynort	619	633	654	667
S01002343	Loch Eynort	764	690	701	693
S01002344	Eochar	533	489	451	426
S01002345	North Benbecula	715	739	761	769
S01002346	Lochmaddy	923	899	898	900
S01002347	Paible	739	737	708	698
S01002348	Harris West	960	989	977	1028
S01002349	Harris East	1020	1036	1002	1009
S01002350	Lochs	960	927	933	897
S01002351	Uig	648	617	571	595
S01002352	North Lochs	846	833	794	804
S01002353	Knock and Bayble	743	691	683	682
S01002354	Braighe	783	805	795	794
S01002355	Newton	883	860	854	850
S01002356	Newton	764	817	809	854
S01002357	Goathill	709	758	760	818
S01002358	Carloway	622	616	596	606
S01002359	Manor Park	939	951	956	929
S01002360	Bayhead	716	683	684	661
S01002361	Plasterfield	598	568	560	582
S01002362	Knock and Bayble	713	645	643	665
S01002363	Castle	925	916	907	943
S01002364	Castle	747	807	803	755
S01002365	Tiumpnan	543	528	554	569
S01002366	Laxdale	555	510	544	588
S01002367	Blackwater	872	874	901	892
S01002368	Coll	865	892	892	902
S01002369	Carloway	526	503	496	484
S01002370	Barvas and Arnol	721	713	720	719
S01002371	Gress	639	662	664	689
S01002372	Barvas and Arnol	795	789	784	793
S01002373	Dell	624	605	592	608
S01002374	Port of Ness	705	711	728	704

Contact

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding this bulletin or would like to unsubscribe, please contact:

Isla Macdonald
Research Officer
Sustainable Communities
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Sandwick Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2BW

isla.macdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk

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