

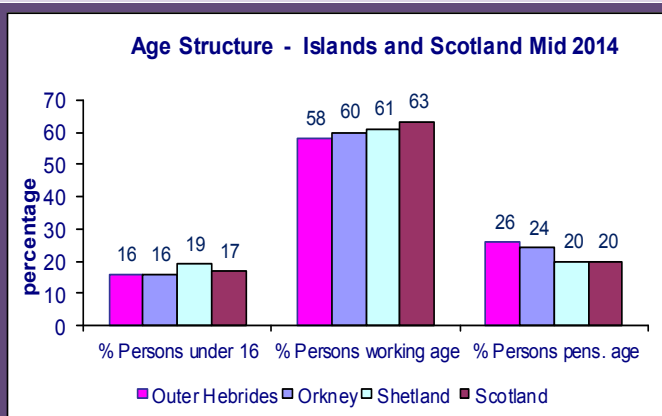


Population and Migration

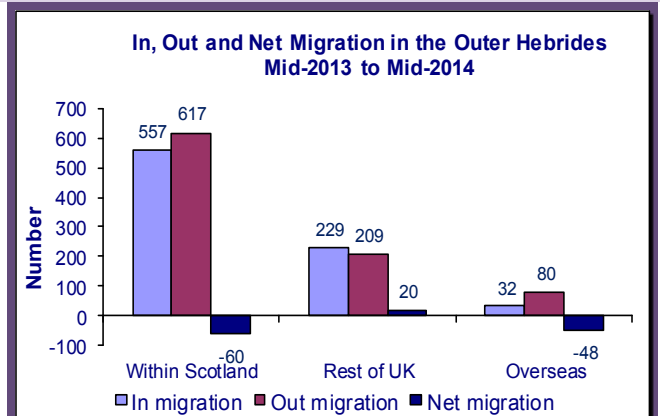
Mid 2014 Population Estimates

On 26 June 2014 [National Records of Scotland](#) (NRS) released the mid 2013 population estimates for Scotland and its administrative areas. Some key findings:

- The current population estimate for the Outer Hebrides is 27,250 as at 30 June 2014; this represents a decrease in the overall population of 150 persons (-0.5%) from mid 2013 to mid 2014.
- The estimated net civilian migration was -88 and natural change was -51 due to 308 deaths and 257 births. This is only the second year since 2001/02 that the Outer Hebrides has experienced an estimated negative net migration.
- The Outer Hebrides is estimated to have had the second highest population decline in Scotland, after Inverclyde (-0.6%) and was one of 9 Local Authorities in Scotland which experienced a decline.
- The population is estimated to have decreased primarily because of negative net migration, along with negative natural change (more deaths than births).
- There was a population increase of 600 persons (2.3%) from 2004 to 2014, in comparison to a 5.2% increase nationally. Orkney had an 8.9% increase and Shetland a 5.2% increase over the same period.
- The Outer Hebrides, along with Argyll and Bute and Dumfries and Galloway, had the highest percentage of those aged 65 and over at 24% (Scottish average 18%).
- The sex ratio (male population divided by the female population) for the Outer Hebrides is 0.97 which means that for every 100 females there are 97 males. There are more females than males in all council areas except the Shetland Islands.
- The Outer Hebrides has the lowest density at 9 persons per square kilometre, closely followed by Highland at 9.1, in comparison to Glasgow City Council which has 3,415 persons per square kilometre.
- The median age (age at which half the population is older and half is younger) in the Outer Hebrides was 47 in comparison to 41 in Scotland.



The population of the Outer Hebrides continues to have a skewed age and sex profile. A higher percentage of the population are of 'pensionable age', which is currently 65 for men and approximately 62 for women, and a lower percentage are of 'working age'. 30% of females in the Outer Hebrides are of pensionable age in comparison to 23% in Scotland, whereas 22% of men in the Outer Hebrides are of pensionable age in comparison to 16% in Scotland.

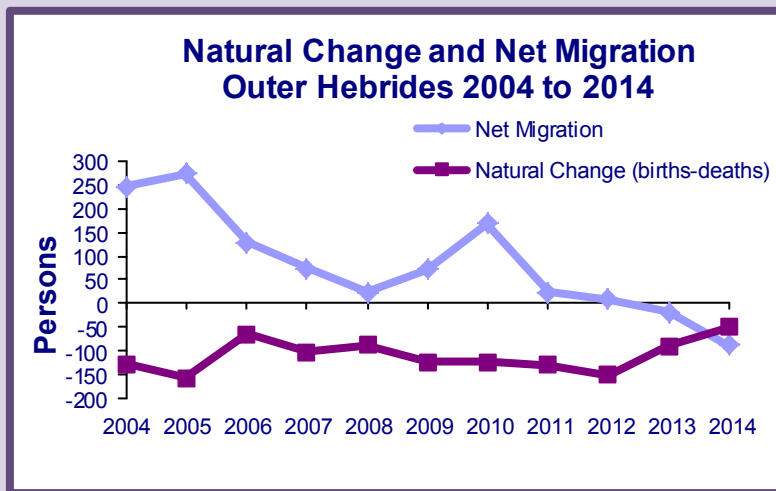


As illustrated in the graph above there was negative net migration within Scotland and overseas but positive net migration within the rest of the UK. The majority of in-migrants (68%) and out-migrants (68%) were from within Scotland. 28% of in-migrants were from the rest of the UK while 23% of out-migrants went to the rest of the UK. Positive net migration is essential in order to counteract the negative natural change that the Outer Hebrides continues to experience.

Population and Migration

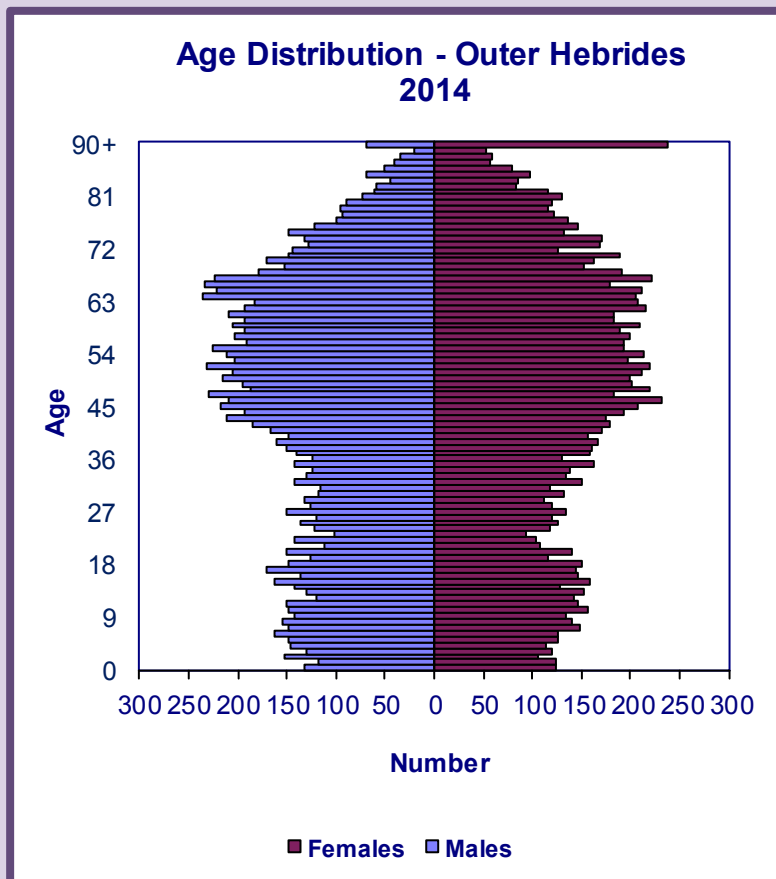
Mid 2014 Population Estimates Natural Change and Net Migration

Natural change is the difference between the number of births and deaths in a year. In the Outer Hebrides there continues to be more deaths than births resulting in a negative natural change every year. However, the gap between births and deaths has closed over the last few years, as illustrated in the graph below. Net migration is the difference between the number of people leaving the islands and the number of people coming to the islands. The biggest net loss of people in the Outer Hebrides is in the 17 to 20 age group. As the Outer Hebrides consistently has negative natural change it is important that there is positive net migration to counteract this. Unfortunately, over the last two years net migration is estimated to have been negative.



The adjacent graph shows that over the period 2004 to 2014 the Outer Hebrides has had negative natural change. Natural change was at its lowest point in 2005 at -158 and at its highest in 2004 at -51. Net migration has been positive until 2013. Net migration reached its highest point in 2005 at 274 and was lowest in 2014 at -88.

Scotland's population is now at its highest ever and most of the increase was because more people migrated into Scotland than left.



The adjacent graph shows the estimated population in mid-2014 by age and sex.

The age and sex composition is one of the most important aspects of the population. Changes in different age groups will have different social and economic impacts, e.g. greater demand on health and social services.

The graph shows the difference between men and women, particularly those aged over 75. There was estimated to be 368 more women than men in the Outer Hebrides, the higher number of females reflecting the longer life expectancy for women, particularly those aged 90+. In those aged 90+ there was estimated to be 237 women in comparison to 70 men.

The graph illustrates why the Outer Hebrides currently has the highest percentage in Scotland of those aged 65 and over.

Population and Migration

2011 Census

Further information has been released on [Scotland's Census 2011](#). The last release was published on 29 January 2015. The table below shows Economic Activity by sex and by age for datazone areas. The areas with the highest percentage are highlighted in blue, while the areas with the lowest percentage are highlighted in green. For further information on Economic Activity in island areas visit the [Outer Hebrides factfile](#).

Name	All people aged 16 and over	% Economically Active								% Economically Inactive							
		Total		Employee (1)		Self-employed (1)		Unemployed (1)		Total		Retired		Student		Other (2)	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Vatersay to Castlebay	497	72	62	66	85	24	10	10	3	28	38	69	72	13	5	18	23
North Barra	511	65	54	65	88	26	5	8	3	35	46	76	74	6	10	18	16
Eriskay to South Boisdale	436	64	50	69	84	22	11	9	3	36	50	72	82	8	6	21	13
Loch Boisdale	499	68	56	69	85	21	8	10	4	32	44	64	64	6	4	29	33
Loch Eynort to Iochdar	601	70	65	69	90	25	8	6	1	30	35	60	59	17	16	23	24
South Benbecula	421	76	64	78	87	17	6	5	4	24	36	72	76	2	11	26	13
North Benbecula	635	80	73	76	90	16	3	8	5	20	27	73	61	11	4	16	35
West North Uist to Baleshare	634	64	60	63	87	32	10	5	2	36	40	79	80	7	7	14	13
Grimsay, East North Uist to Berneray	788	68	55	67	85	27	9	6	3	32	45	78	75	8	7	14	19
South Harris	810	62	50	54	77	38	18	8	3	38	50	77	75	5	9	19	17
North Harris and Scalpay	844	60	50	67	86	26	8	6	3	40	50	76	81	4	3	20	16
Paicr and Kinloch	761	70	58	63	82	25	12	12	3	30	42	80	73	5	5	15	22
North Lochs	770	66	55	66	89	21	7	12	2	34	45	72	70	5	10	23	20
Uig and Bernera	670	62	47	61	80	31	16	8	2	38	53	78	75	7	8	15	17
Loch Roag	430	65	54	66	83	26	10	8	4	35	46	78	81	8	7	14	12
Carloway to Shawbost	529	65	54	64	83	28	6	8	6	35	46	63	73	5	9	31	18
Bragar to Brue	611	69	57	70	85	22	9	8	3	31	43	70	71	13	9	18	19
Barvas to Borve	656	67	51	77	88	18	7	5	3	33	49	78	71	7	7	16	22
Galson to Swainbost	559	58	51	73	86	20	9	7	3	42	49	79	78	6	4	16	19
Habost to Port of Ness	657	63	49	73	87	21	9	7	2	37	51	73	72	8	9	19	19
Gress to Tolsta	558	63	53	79	92	17	5	4	1	37	47	81	74	6	6	13	20
Coll to Back	760	69	61	75	88	18	7	7	3	31	39	74	73	5	6	21	21
Tong to Upper Coll	814	72	65	76	89	15	7	9	2	28	35	62	61	14	8	24	31
Newmarket	705	76	66	77	87	15	8	8	3	24	34	65	65	13	15	22	20
Marybank to Newvalley	868	71	63	76	92	16	5	8	2	29	37	61	62	14	12	25	27
North Manor Park	535	75	65	71	87	13	6	16	4	25	35	56	55	14	12	30	33
North Bayhead (Stornoway)	560	67	58	75	87	14	9	11	2	33	42	72	76	14	5	13	19
Central Stornoway	765	72	51	72	90	18	9	10	1	28	49	69	77	9	8	22	15
Newton to Plasterfield	724	71	58	78	88	13	4	9	4	29	42	68	72	14	5	18	22
Springfield	547	76	57	77	89	12	6	11	3	24	43	62	74	8	8	30	18
Goathill	749	63	44	80	91	14	6	6	1	37	56	82	85	4	3	15	12
Coulegrain to Stenish	556	70	53	75	90	18	7	7	1	30	47	78	69	6	5	15	26
Melbost to Braighe	710	73	57	78	86	17	10	4	2	27	43	66	67	16	11	17	22
Garrabost	648	72	61	78	93	14	6	7	1	28	39	68	72	9	6	23	23
Knock to Bayble	686	69	59	82	90	11	7	6	2	31	41	71	73	13	8	15	19
Sheshader to Tiumpnan Head	502	66	57	76	93	19	5	5	1	34	43	79	81	5	6	16	12

(1) Including full-time students (2) Includes "looking after home or family" and "long term sick or disabled"

Population and Migration

2011 Census

The last release from the [Scotlands Census 2011](#) included a table detailing Gaelic language skills by age for datazone areas. The percentage of those with Gaelic skills is highlighted in the table below. The areas with the highest percentage are highlighted in blue, while the areas with the lowest percentage are highlighted in green. In general, while working from South to North, Gaelic skills are greater in the Southern parts of the Outer Hebrides with lower percentages in Stornoway and the surrounding areas. Some areas show a much higher percentage of speakers in the 65 and over age group.

Datazone Name	All People Aged 3 & over Total	All People Aged 3 & over		Aged 3-15		Aged 16-64		Aged 65 & over	
		% understands, speaks, reads or writes Gaelic	% No Skills in Gaelic	% understands, reads or writes Gaelic	% No Skills in Gaelic	% understands, speaks, reads or writes Gaelic	% No Skills in Gaelic	% understands, speaks, reads or writes Gaelic	% No Skills in Gaelic
Vatersay to Castlebay	598	69	31	65	35	66	34	79	21
North Barra	624	74	26	63	37	74	26	82	18
Eriskay to South Boisdale	516	80	20	85	15	77	23	84	16
Loch Boisdale	599	71	29	72	28	71	29	72	28
Loch Eynort to lochdar	724	74	26	67	33	74	26	79	21
South Benbecula	500	68	32	56	44	67	33	86	14
North Benbecula	783	59	41	53	47	59	41	66	34
West North Uist to Baleshare	711	72	28	69	31	70	30	77	23
Grimsay, East North Uist to Berneray	868	65	35	56	44	62	37	73	27
South Harris	914	62	38	50	50	59	41	74	26
North Harris and Scalpay	955	72	28	73	27	68	32	78	22
Paicr and Kinloch	889	63	37	59	41	59	41	76	24
North Lochs	873	61	39	37	63	57	43	80	20
Uig and Bernera	760	61	39	53	47	56	44	75	25
Loch Roag	484	67	33	70	30	61	39	80	20
Carloway to Shawbost	615	67	33	64	36	60	40	88	12
Bragar to Brue	720	69	31	54	46	66	34	90	10
Barvas to Borve	737	73	27	68	32	70	30	87	13
Galson to Swainbost	646	73	27	72	28	70	30	81	19
Habost to Port of Ness	778	71	29	67	33	68	32	81	19
Gress to Tolsta	694	65	35	48	52	61	39	86	14
Coll to Back	907	66	34	56	44	65	35	78	22
Tong to Upper Coll	1029	54	46	38	62	56	44	72	28
Newmarket	866	56	44	31	69	58	42	80	20
Marybank to Newvalley	1054	50	50	32	68	49	51	76	24
North Manor Park	640	47	53	35	65	45	55	68	32
North Bayhead (Stornoway)	639	52	48	32	68	48	52	73	27
Central Stornoway	850	52	48	46	54	46	54	69	31
Newton to Plasterfield	822	49	51	30	70	44	56	74	26
Springfield	610	47	53	27	73	41	59	74	26
Goathill	847	53	47	31	69	47	53	69	31
Coulegrain to Stenish	642	53	47	27	73	50	50	75	25
Melbost to Braighe	850	48	52	21	79	49	51	67	33
Garrabost	777	54	46	31	69	54	46	78	22
Knock to Bayble	811	58	42	42	58	56	44	78	22
Sheshader to Tiumpan Head	597	51	49	31	69	46	54	78	22

Population and Migration

2011 Census

Information from the 2011 Census showed that there were 64 people in the Outer Hebrides aged 75 and over in employment.

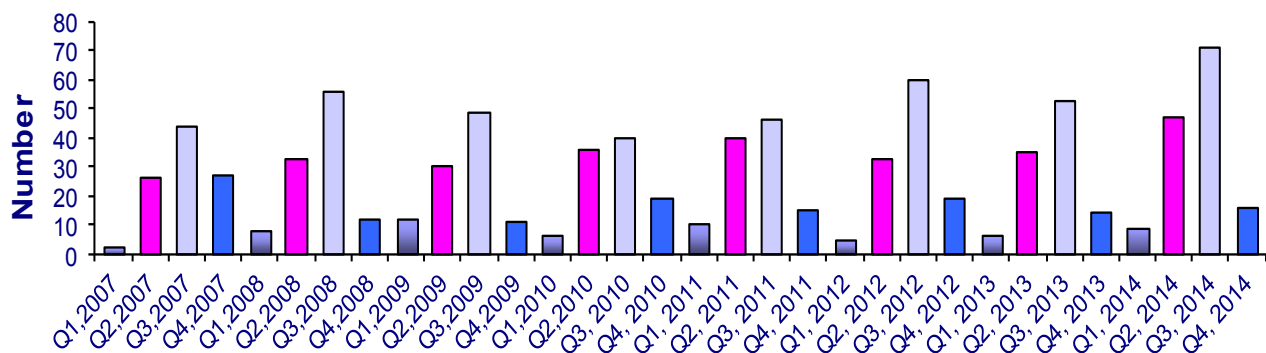
Of those employed 46 were men and 18 were women. Of those who were employed 41 were in full-time employment while 23 were in part-time employment.

The numbers employed aged 75 and over were higher in Shetland and Orkney. In Shetland 75 were employed (48 men and 27 women) while in Orkney 96 were employed (61 men and 12 women).

2014 Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events - Preliminary Annual Figures

On 11 March 2015 [National Records of Scotland](#) released the Preliminary Annual Figures for 2014. This release presents provisional figures for vital events which were registered in Scotland in 2014. The tables and charts provide statistics on births, adoptions, marriages, civil partnerships, stillbirths and deaths.

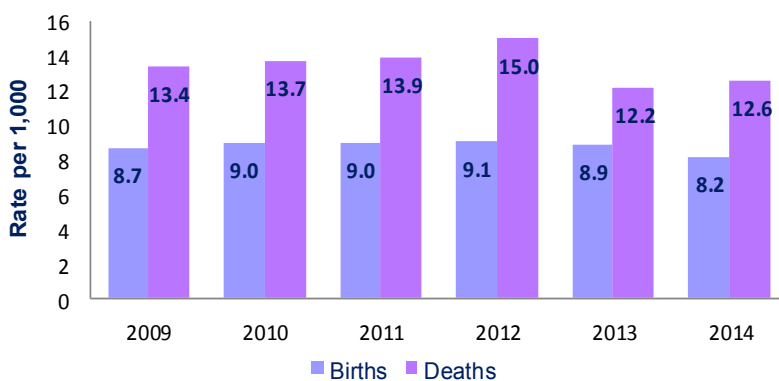
Marriages in the Outer Hebrides by Quarterly Return 2007 to 2014



The chart above shows the number of marriages in the Outer Hebrides by quarter period from 2007 to 2014. The highest total number of marriages in a year was recorded in 2014 with a total of 143 marriages. The lowest number was recorded in 2007 with a total of 100. This represents a 43% increase in marriages from 2007 to 2014. Every year follows a similar pattern throughout the seasons.

In the year 2014 there were no same sex marriages recorded and no civil partnerships recorded in the Outer Hebrides.

Birth and Death Rates in the Outer Hebrides 2009 to 2014



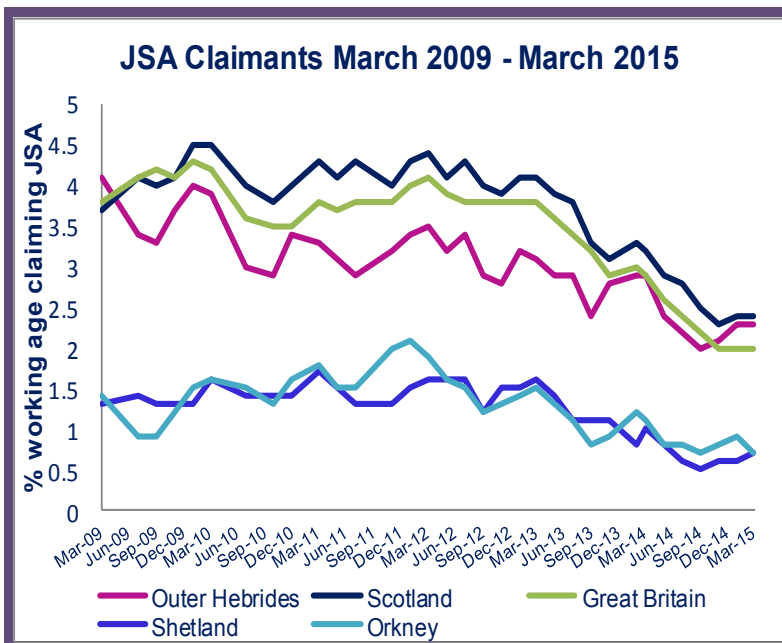
The 2014 Preliminary Annual Figures for Vital Events showed that the Outer Hebrides had the lowest birth rate in Scotland at 8.2 (Scot.avg.10.6) and the highest death rate at 12.6 (Scot.avg.10.2) Of the 226 births recorded in 2014, 115 were male and 111 were female. The 2014 birth rate was the lowest rate over the period in the Outer Hebrides, whereas the death rate is the second lowest over that period.

Labour Market

The latest release from [NOMIS](#) (Office for National Statistics) gives the following Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimant rates for March 2015:

Outer Hebrides	2.3%
Scotland	2.4%
Great Britain	2.0%
Shetland Island	0.7%
Orkney Islands	0.7%

The Outer Hebrides rate remains lower than that of Scotland, but is slightly higher than that of Great Britain. The rate in Shetland and Orkney remains much lower. During the period shown in the adjacent chart JSA rate in the Outer Hebrides was highest in March 2009 at 4.1% and lowest in September 2014 at 2.0%.



The latest update of the labour market profile from [NOMIS](#) (Office for National Statistics) shows that gross weekly pay for full time workers in the Outer Hebrides was lower than that of the Scottish average, Great Britain and the Orkney and Shetland Islands. Pay in the Outer Hebrides was the third lowest in Scotland in 2014 ahead of Dumfries and Galloway (£453.80) and Moray (£434.30). East Renfrewshire had the highest pay at £652.50.

As shown in the sample of weekly pays in the adjacent table pay in the Orkney Islands was 15.5% higher than pay in the Outer Hebrides. Weekly pay in Scotland is 12.2% higher and weekly pay in Great Britain is 12.8% higher. The weekly pay in the Shetland Islands is 12.5% higher than the weekly pay in the Outer Hebrides.

Weekly pay in the Outer Hebrides is lower than in 2013 which was £508.80. Weekly pay in the Outer Hebrides has risen by 27.7% over the decade from 2004 to 2014, in contrast to a 32.7% increase in Scotland as a whole.

Earnings by residence 2014 Gross weekly pay - All full time workers

Outer Hebrides	£461.80
Scotland	£518.20
Shetland	£519.40
Great Britain	£520.80
Orkney	£533.40

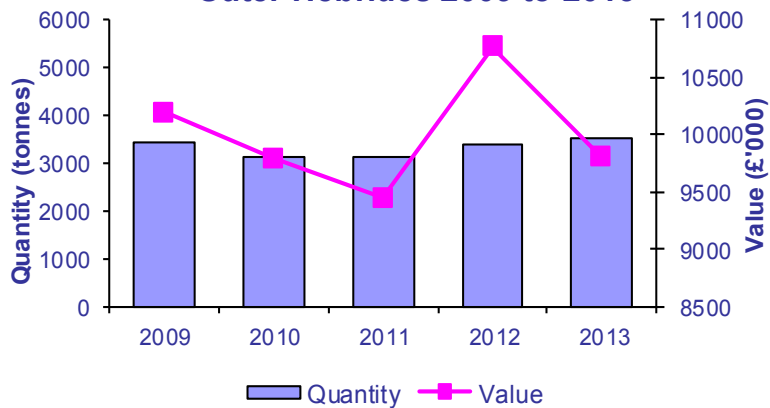
Economy

In March 2015 the Scottish Government published summary results from the [Annual Population Survey](#) for the year to 31 December 2014. The key findings for the Outer Hebrides are:

- Employment rate increased by 5.1% from 2013 to 2014 to 77.4% and is at almost the same rate as in 2004. There is no change in employment rate since 2008. The rate was above the Scottish average of 72.6%.
- The inactivity rate has decreased by 3.6% over the year and is now 18% and remains almost the same as in 2004. This was below the Scottish average of 22.5%.
- The youth employment rate (16-24) increased over the last year by 7.4% to 53.2% and has decreased by 9.8% since 2008. The rate was the same as the Scottish average.
- The female employment rate was 72.8%, an increase of 3.7% over the last year and a decrease of 1.3% since 2008. This was above the Scottish average 68.9%.
- The male employment rate was 81.7%, an increase of 6.5% over the last year and an increase of 1.2% since 2008. This was above the Scottish average of 76.4%.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Quantity and Value of all landings in the Outer Hebrides 2009 to 2013

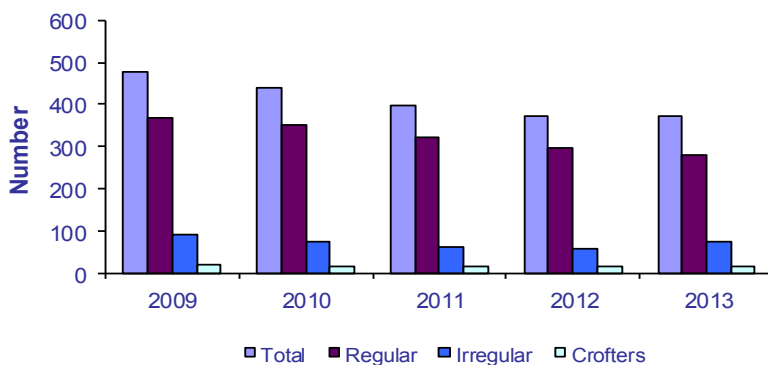


[Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2013](#) were released in September 2014.

The adjacent graph shows both the quantity and value of landings in the Outer Hebrides from 2009 to 2013. The quantity of landings has decreased by 2% over the period but has remained relatively stable over the years.

The value of landings in the Outer Hebrides had a sharp increase in 2012 but then decreased and had a decrease of 4% over the period. The value also decreased nationally.

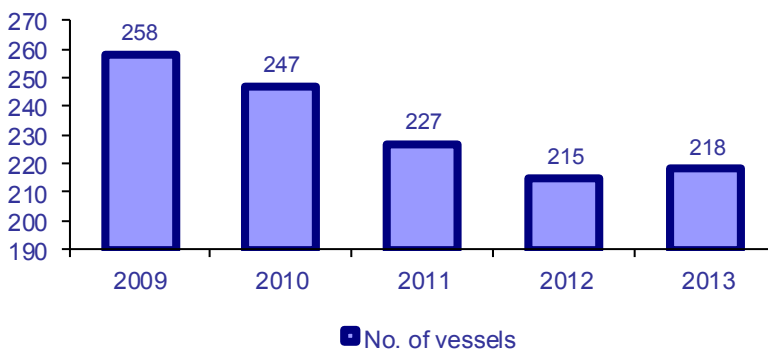
Number of fishermen employed in the Outer Hebrides 2009 to 2013



The number of fishermen in Scotland increased by 5% from 2012 to 2013. In the Outer Hebrides the number of fishermen remained the same as in 2012. However, there was a 22% decrease over the period from 477 in 2009 to 371 in 2013.

Those in regular employment has decreased by 24%, while those in irregular employment has decreased by 19%. The number of crofters employed is almost the same at 17 over the period, reduced from 18.

Number of vessels in the Outer Hebrides 2009 to 2013



The adjacent graph shows the number of vessels in the Stornoway district from 2009 to 2013.

Stornoway and Fraserburgh are the top two districts in 2013 (total of 18 districts) with 218 and 196 vessels respectively.

However, the Scottish fleet now has the smallest number of vessels ever recorded (2,020) and decreased by 1% over the previous year.

In the Outer Hebrides the number of vessels has decreased by 16% over the period 2009 to 2013, but increased by 1.4% from 2012 to 2013.

Built Environment & Housing

The Scottish Government has published results from the [Scottish Household Survey](#) by Local Authority area for 2013. Some key findings for the Outer Hebrides are:

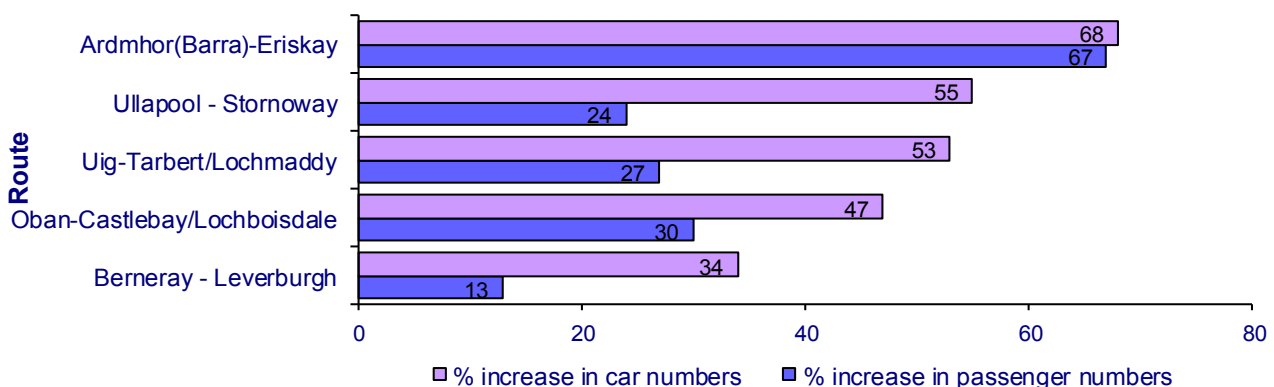
- Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live very/fairly good 98% (Scot.avg.94%).
- Biggest problem reported in their neighbourhood was animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling 24% (Scot.avg.31%).
- Perceptions of safety when walking alone in neighbourhood and in home at night - men 100% (Scot.avg.91%) and women 98% (Scot.avg.76%).
- Households with internet access 72% (Scot.avg.78%).
- Percentage smoking reduced to 21.6% from 22.3% (Scot.avg. increased to 23.1% from 22.9%).

Transport, Travel and Tourism

The [Scottish Transport Statistics No. 33](#) was published in February 2015. Some key findings for the Outer Hebrides are as follows:

- 4% of A roads in red condition (repairs likely to be required), 6% of all roads are in red condition and 28% are in amber condition (further investigation needed to establish if treatment required).
- 13% increase in air transport passenger numbers at Barra and Stornoway from 2003 to 2013.
- 36% increase in total aircraft movements at Stornoway airport from 2003 to 2013.
- 140% in commercial vehicles and buses on Ardmhor (Barra) to Eriskay route from 0.5 thousands in 2003 to 1.2 thousand in 2013.
- 12% increase in blue badges issued, rising from 825 in 2009 to 922 in 2014.
- Overall driving test pass rates — Barra 77.8%, Benbecula 52.8% and Stornoway 49.1%.
- 11% increase in traffic on Outer Hebrides roads from 186 million vehicle kilometres in 2003 to 206 in 2013.
- 6% increase in petrol and diesel consumption of road vehicles from 11.9 thousand tonnes in 2003 to 12.6 thousand tonnes in 2013.

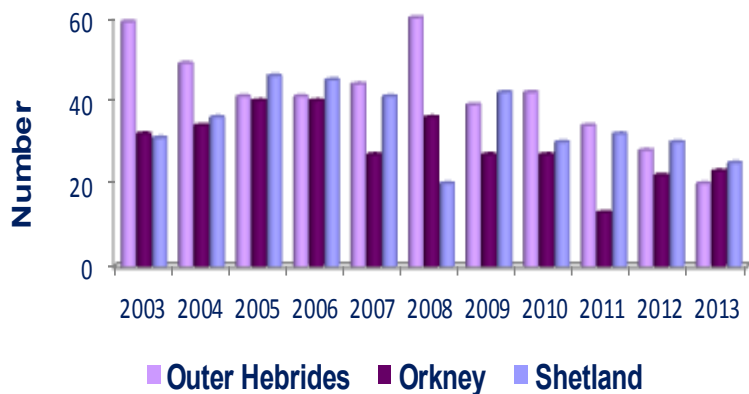
**Percentage Increase in Ferry Travel in the Outer Hebrides
2003 to 2013**



The chart above shows the percentage increase in both car and passenger numbers on the ferry routes within the Outer Hebrides. As illustrated the Ardmhor (Barra) - Eriskay route has had the largest percentage increases over the period 2003-2013. However, all other ferry routes have also had substantial increases illustrating a continuing trend of increased car and passenger numbers. Passenger numbers on the Ardmhor (Barra) to Eriskay route increased from 27.2 thousand in 2003 to 45.5 thousand in 2013, while car numbers increased from 9.9 thousand to 16.6 thousand on that same route.

Transport, Travel and Tourism

**Reported Road Accidents in Island Areas
2003 to 2013**



The adjacent graph shows the long term trend in road accidents in Island Areas. Overall, in Scotland the trend is generally downwards.

The number of road accidents reported in Scotland between 2003 and 2013 varied greatly between Police Force Divisions, ranging from a 3% decrease in Aberdeen City to a 66% decrease in the Outer Hebrides. In the Outer Hebrides the number of accidents fell from 59 in 2003 to 20 in 2013.

In contrast the Orkney islands had a 28% decrease over this period while the Shetland islands had a 19% decrease.

Health Care & Welfare

Alcohol sales linked with alcohol deaths

[Link](#)

Report on Obesity in Scotland

[Link](#)

Inactivity "kills more than obesity"

[Link](#)

Higher Dementia in Northern countries

[Link](#)

Defeating Cancer

[Link](#)

Too much sleep "may double risk of stroke"

[Link](#)

Smoking and Life Expectancy

[Link](#)

WHO recommend cutting sugar intake

[Link](#)

Alzheimers Breakthrough

[Link](#)

Scotland's youngsters least active

[Link](#)

ISD Scotland

[Link](#)

Obesity projections by WHO

[Link](#)

Contact

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[Factfile](#)