



# SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

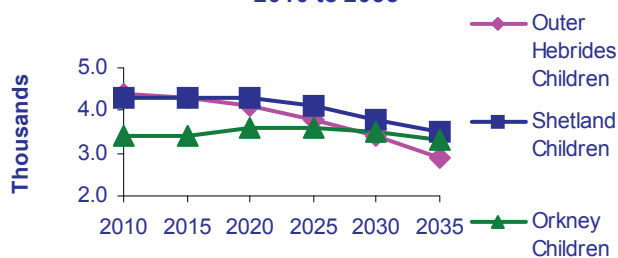
## Population and Migration

### 2010 Based Population Projections for Scottish Areas

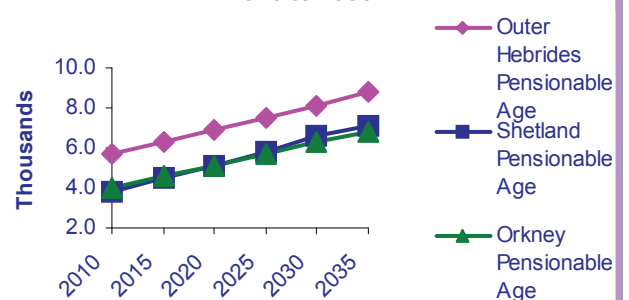
The 2010 based population projections were released by [National Records of Scotland](#) on 29 February 2012. The main points arising from the projections are:

- ◆ The 2010 based projections predict a more severe decline in the population of the Outer Hebrides than was previously forecasted in the 2006 (-5.5%) and 2008 (-4.1%) based projections;
- ◆ The population of the Outer Hebrides is projected to fall significantly by -11.3% over the period 2010-2035, the second largest percentage projected decline in Scotland (Inverclyde -17%). The decline in broad age groups is as follows:
  - a 33.6% decline in the 0-15 yr age group (the largest decline in Scotland), nationally projected to increase by 3.2%;
  - a 19.5% decline in the working age population (the second largest percentage decline), nationally projected to increase by 7.1%;
  - a 22.5% increase in those of pensionable age, nationally projected to increase by 26.2%;
- ◆ The Outer Hebrides is projected to see a decline of 50.8% in the number of annual births from 252 in 2010/11 to 124 in 2034/35;
- ◆ By 2035 the Outer Hebrides is projected to have the highest percentage of pensioners (35%). The Outer Hebrides has one of the highest at present at 25%;
- ◆ The anticipated population decline is due to more deaths than births (negative natural change) at -16.7% despite net in-migration at 5.3%.

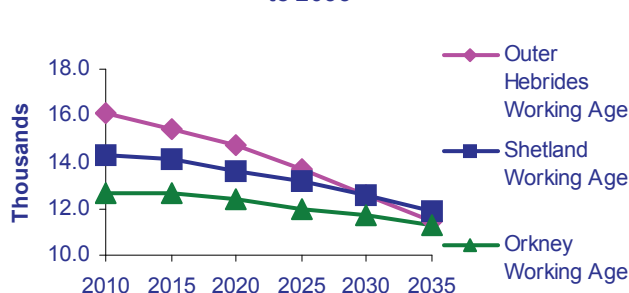
**Projected Children in Island Areas  
2010 to 2035**



**Projected Pensionable Age in Island Areas  
2010 to 2035**



**Projected Working Age in Island Areas 2010  
to 2035**

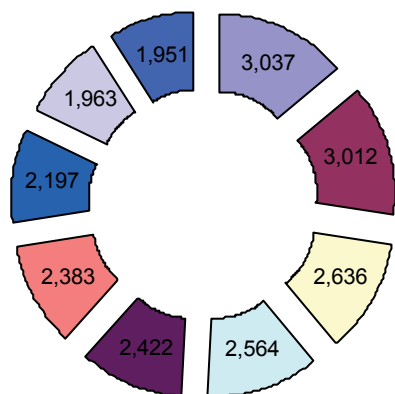


The graphs shown above and adjacent show the projected island broad age groups from 2010 to 2035. The Outer Hebrides is projected to have: the lowest number of children, the lowest number of working age and the highest number of pensionable age in all the island areas by 2035.

The total population is expected to decline by -11.3% in comparison to Shetland which is projected to have a 0.6% increase and Orkney a 6.8% increase.

[National Records of Scotland](#) (NRS) recently released electoral statistics for 2011. The number of people registered to vote has risen both in Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. There has been a 1.2% increase in the total electorate from 21,910 in 2007 to 22,165 in 2011. As illustrated in the chart below Steòrnabhagh a Tuath has the highest electorate at 3,037 and Sgìre an Rubha has the lowest at 1,951. An Taobh Siar agus Nis ward had the highest decrease in electorate (1.5%) from 2007 to 2011 and Loch a Tuath had the highest increase (5.5%). An Taobh Siar agus Nis and Sgìr' Uige agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch were the only wards which had a decrease in electorate.

### Total Electorate 2011 by Electoral Ward

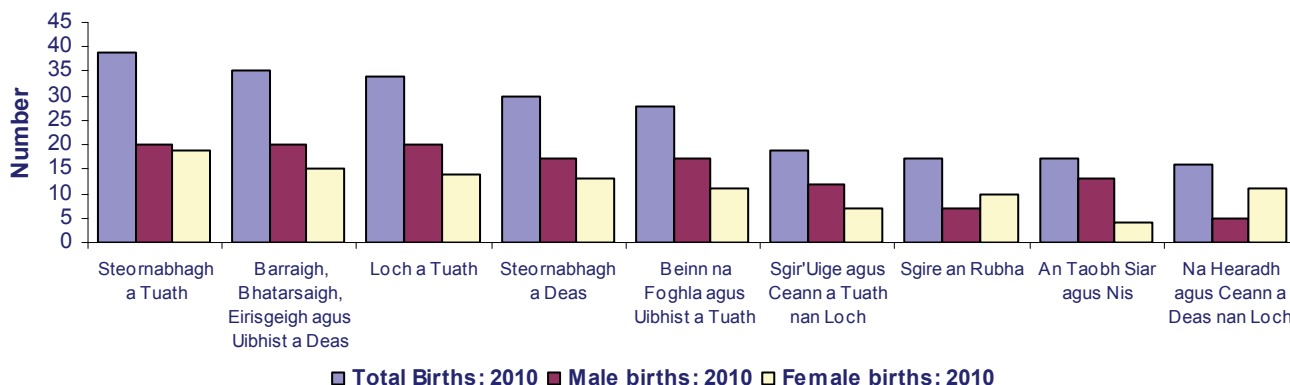


- Steòrnabhagh a Tuath
- Steòrnabhagh a Deas
- An Taobh Siar agus Nis
- Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas
- Sgìr'Uige agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch
- Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath
- Loch a Tuath
- Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch
- Sgìre an Rubha

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

The graph below shows the number of births by multi member ward area for 2010. The total number of births for the year was 235, of which 131 were male and 104 female births. The highest number of births was in Steornabhagh a Tuath (39). The lowest number of births was in Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch (16) closely followed by An Taobh Siar Agus Nis (17) and Sgìre an Rubha (17). The greatest difference between male and female births was in An Taobh Siar Agus Nis ward where there were 13 male births and 4 female births (the lowest number of female births in any multi member ward). The highest number of female births was in Steornabhagh a Tuath (19). The lowest number of male births was in Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch (5) and the following wards had the highest number of male births (20): Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas, Loch a Tuath and Steornabhagh a Tuath. Further statistics available from [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics](#) website.

### Births by Multi Member Ward 2010



[Preliminary annual figures](#) for 2011 show that the Outer Hebrides had the third lowest birth rate (rate per 1,000 population) in Scotland at 9.0, Scottish average 11.2. This is the same rate as in 2010. The Outer Hebrides had the highest death rate at 13.9, Scottish average 10.3. This is higher than in 2010 when the rate was 13.7. There were 112 marriages, higher than last year, when there were 102 marriages.

Out of 19 census return regions the Outer Hebrides had the sixth lowest estimated return rate at 95%. Orkney and Shetland region and Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire region had 100% estimated return rates. Overall the Scottish census had a 95-96% estimated return rate. The Outer Hebrides had the lowest online return rate as at end of April 2011 at approximately 12%.

The first release of Census results in Scotland is now due out late 2012.

**Did you know?**

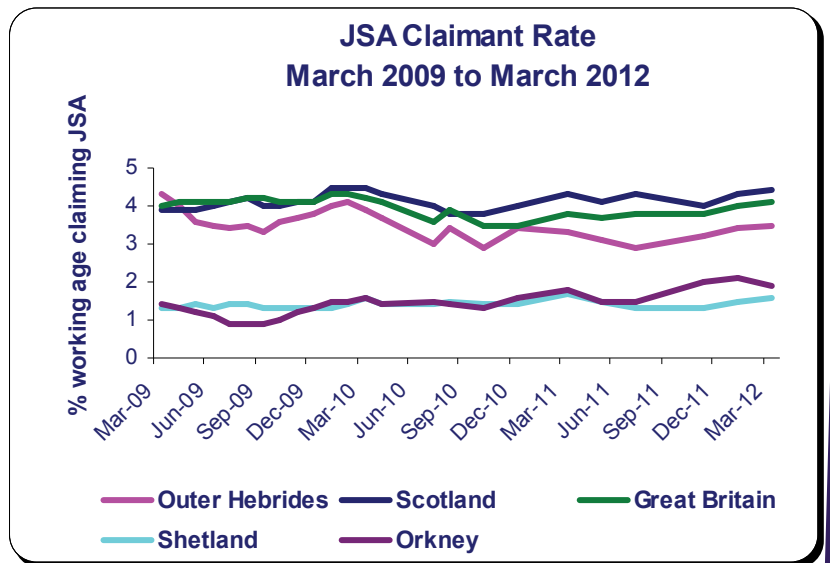
The Outer Hebrides had the highest average response rate of all Local Authorities to the Scottish Household Survey 1999/00 to 2005/06 and to the Scottish House Condition Survey 2004-2008.

**Labour Market**

The latest release from [NOMIS](#) (Office for National Statistics) gives the following claimant rates for March 2012:

<b>Outer Hebrides</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b>Shetland Islands</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Orkney Islands</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

The Outer Hebrides rate has risen steadily from 2.8% in June 2011 to 3.6 in February 2012. However, it remains lower than that of Scotland and Great Britain but higher than that of Shetland and Orkney. The rate is 0.2% more than it was in March 2011.



**Labour Supply**

Over the five year period from Oct 2006-Sep 2007 to Oct 2010-Sep 2011 the percentage of economically active people in the Outer Hebrides has fallen by 10.4% from 79.4% to 69%.

The Scotland rate has fallen by 1.0% over the same period and the Great Britain rate has fallen by 0.5%.

In comparison for the period October 2010-September 2011 other island areas have a much higher rate for those economically active with Shetland Islands at 82.9% and Orkney Islands at 82.4% while the Outer Hebrides have a rate of 69%.

Inactivity rates are at 31% for the Outer Hebrides while it is 17.1% in Shetland Islands and 17.6% in Orkney Islands.

Earnings by residence for 2011 vary from a gross weekly pay of £545.70 in the Shetland Islands to £428.90 in Orkney Islands. Gross weekly pay in the Outer Hebrides was £446.10.

Source: Office for National Statistics

**Built Environment & Housing**

[Registers of Scotland \(ROS\)](#) is responsible for compiling and maintaining registers relating to property and other legal documents. Recent information on the 52 week period from 20/03/11 to 17/03/12 shows that there was a slight increase from £96,325 to £96,595 (0.3%) on average house prices on the previous 52 week period. The volume of sales rose from 245 to 269 (9.8% increase).

In the 28 day period from 19/02/12 to 17/03/12 the average price rose from £95,978 to £104,240 (8.6% increase). The volume of sales decreased from 23 to 15 (34.8% decrease).

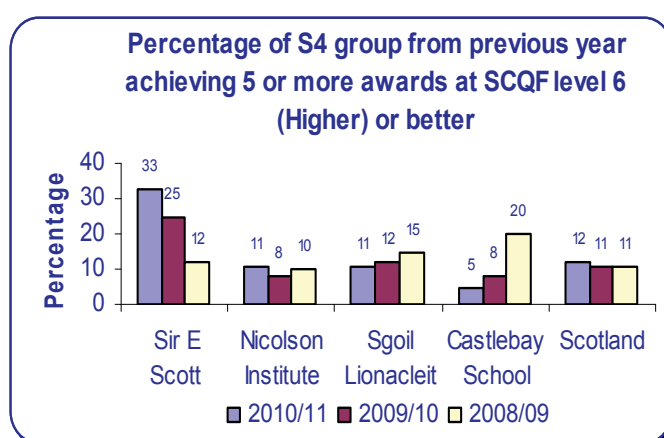
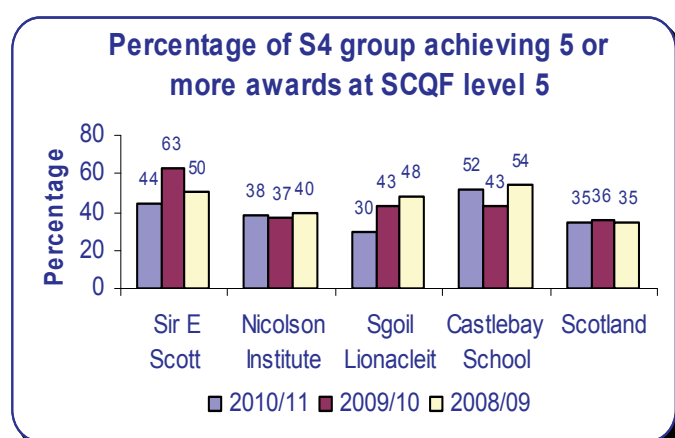
## Built Environment & Housing

[The Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland](#) was published in February 2012. The latest quarterly update shows the following for the Outer Hebrides:

- ◆ Homeless applications received increased from 38 in Apr-Jun 2011 to 45 in July-Sept 2011. A total of 203 applications were received in 2010/11
- ◆ 80% were assessed as having a priority need between Apr-June 2011 and in July & Sept 2011 it was 74%
- ◆ There were 35 cases assessed as homeless in Apr-Jun 11 and 31 in Jul-Sept 11. A total of 158 cases were assessed as homeless in 2010/11

## Education and Training

[Scottish Schools Online](#) is a searchable directory of all schools in Scotland. The graphs below show some of the results achieved by the 6 year secondary schools in the Outer Hebrides over a three year period in comparison with the Scottish average. Please note that 2010/11 figures are pre-appeal and therefore not directly comparable with previous years.



As shown in the graph above almost all four schools achieved results in every year which were more than the Scottish average at level 5 over the three year period.

As shown above over the period the Nicolson Institute, Sgoil Lionacleit and Castlebay have sometimes achieved results slightly below the Scottish average at level 6 qualifications. However, in 2009/10 and 2010/11 Sir E Scott school achieved results above the average.

## Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation's (SSPO) [Scottish Salmon Farming - Industry Research Report 2011](#) was published in April 2012. Some main findings for Scotland from the report:

- ◆ Third successive annual increase in production
- ◆ Salmon production increasing to its highest level in 6 years
- ◆ Value of the total output increasing by 30%
- ◆ 272 new jobs created in the last year
- ◆ 83% increase in value to the Highlands and Islands communities over the last 5 years
- ◆ £205 million capital investment between 2006 and 2011

Some findings for the Outer Hebrides:

- ◆ Direct employment by SSPO members has risen from 163 in 2008 to 164
- ◆ 38 new jobs created in the last year
- ◆ £22.2 million invested in the Outer Hebrides in the last 2 years
- ◆ Gross pay has risen from £3.4 million in 2007 to £6.1 million
- ◆ 15% of capital investments for the whole of Scotland made in the Outer Hebrides between 2006 and 2011

## Health Care & Welfare

Drug Misuse Information Scotland recently produced local reports from [The Schools Alcohol Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey \(SALSUS\) 2010 Report](#). Some of the findings from the survey in the Outer Hebrides are as follows:

- ◆ Proportion of 13 year olds who smoke regularly (2%) is similar to national average (3%) and proportion of 15 year olds who smoke regularly (9%) is lower than the national average (13%)
- ◆ The most common source 13 year old pupils reported purchasing alcohol from were relatives (13%) while the most common source for 15 year old pupils was friends (25%)
- ◆ Proportion of 13 year old pupils who have ever had an alcoholic drink is lower (34%) than nationally (44%) and 71% of 15 year olds compared with 77% nationally
- ◆ Proportion of 13 year olds who have ever used drugs (5%) is the same as the national average and the proportion of 15 year olds (15%) is lower than the national average (21%)

[Alzheimer's Society](#) have released a map showing dementia prevalence and diagnosis rates. Health boards were ranked from worsened to most improved (1 most improved to 176 most worsened). Western Isles Health Board were ranked 9th.

[End Child Poverty](#) have produced a map of child poverty in the UK. Information is also available at Local Authority level. The figures presented in the report use tax credit data. Children are classified as being in poverty if they live in families in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of in-work tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of median income. Glasgow City has the highest levels in Scotland at 35% and the Outer Hebrides is 11%. Shetland is one of 20 Local Authorities with the lowest levels in the UK (7%).

Health and Wellbeing Profiles

[Link](#)

ISD Scotland Statistics

[Link](#)

2 million Ritalin doses prescribed in Scotland last year

[Link](#)

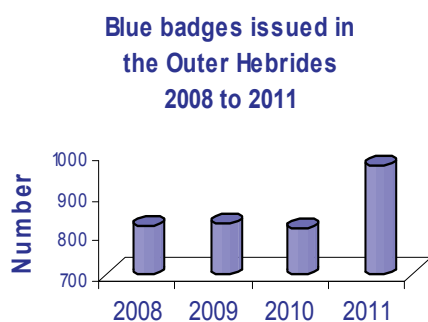
Oral cancer cases past 6,000 per year

[Link](#)

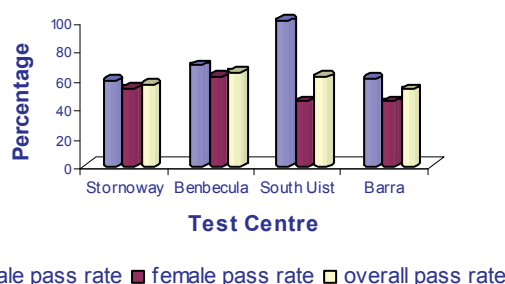
## Transport Travel & Tourism

[Scottish Transport Statistics No. 30](#) were published in December 2011 by Transport Scotland. Some findings for the Outer Hebrides:

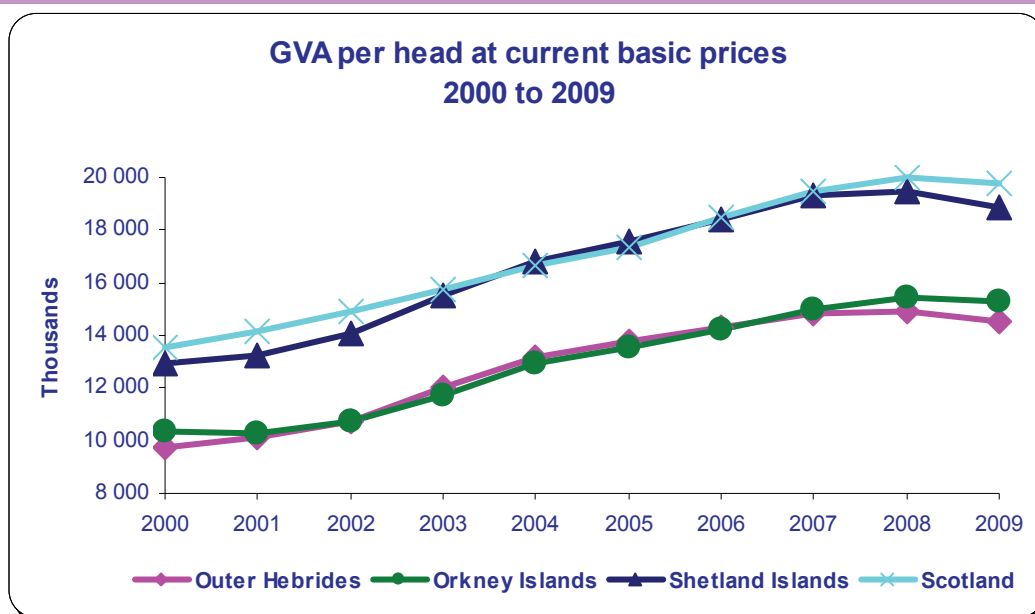
- ◆ 18% (149) increase in the number of blue badges issued from 2008 to 2011 (as illustrated in the graph below)
- ◆ 13% (16) decrease in the number of taxi and private cars licensed from 2010 to 2011
- ◆ Increase in overall practical driving pass rates in Stornoway, Benbecula and South Uist. Highest male pass rate (100%) in South Uist and highest female pass rate (61.5%) in Benbecula (as illustrated in the graph below)
- ◆ 2nd highest Council area percentage of roads in amber or red condition (50.6%), Argyll & Bute (56.8%)
- ◆ Total number of private vehicles has decreased slightly from 17,000 in 2009 to 16,800 in 2010
- ◆ Decrease in passengers at Benbecula and Stornoway airport from 2009 to 2010 while Barra passenger numbers remain the same
- ◆ Increase in passengers on Oban-Castlebay-Loch and Ull-Sty routes, increase in cars on Ull-Sty route and increase in commercial vehicles and buses on Oban-Castlebay-Loch, Uig-Tarbert-Loch and Ull-Sty routes from 2009 to 2010



**Practical Driving Test Pass Rate 2010/11**



## Economy



ONS published [Regional GVA](#) in December 2011. As illustrated in the graph above the Shetland Islands have consistently had the highest GVA (gross value added) per head over the ten year period in island areas. In 2004 and 2005 they had a higher GVA than the Scottish average. The Outer Hebrides and Orkney have had the lowest GVA for 5 years each. However, the Outer Hebrides has had the highest increase in GVA over the ten year period rising by 49.2% from £9,759 in 2000 to £14,559 in 2009. Shetland Islands have had the lowest increase (45.4%) over the period rising from £12,974 in 2000 to £18,870 in 2009.

Shetland's GVA is the highest in the Highlands and Islands area while Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute have had the lowest GVA in 9 out of the ten year period.

### Businesses

Figures released by the Local Data Company show that Stornoway had the highest percentage of independents of any British town at 86%. New figures show that independents grew by 1.85% in 2011 while 1.1% of big company shops were lost in Scotland.

Source: Daily Mail

## Contact

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

**Kathleen Shirkie**  
Research Officer – Development Department  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - Sandwick Road, Stornoway - Isle of Lewis, HS1 2BW

[kshirkie@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:kshirkie@cne-siar.gov.uk)

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