



SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

Ag Obair Comhla Airson nan Eilean Siar – Working Together for the Western Isles No.14 (04/10)

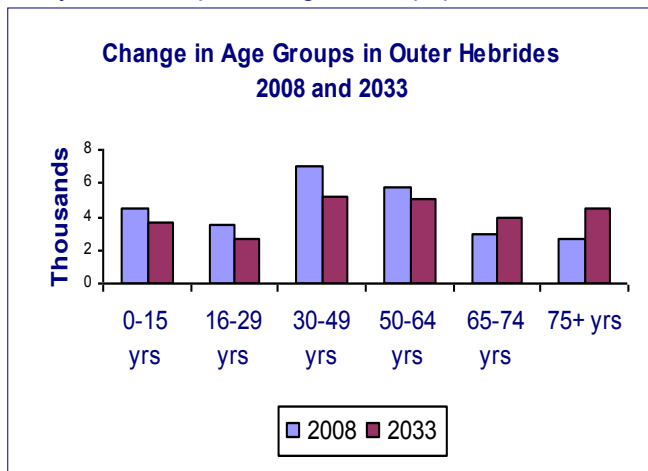
Population and Migration

2008 Based Population Projections for Scottish Areas

The 2008 based population projections for Scottish Areas were released by the [General Register Office for Scotland](#) in February 2010. The 2008 based projections predict a less severe decline in the population of the Outer Hebrides than was previously forecasted in the 2002 (-17%), 2004 (-15%) and 2006 (-5.5%) based projections. By 2031 the populations of most council areas in Scotland are projected to be higher under the 2008 based projections than under the 2006 based projections.

The main points arising from the projections are as follows:

- ◆ The population in the Outer Hebrides is projected to decline by -4.1% over the period 2008-2033 with: a 17.4% decline in the 0-15 yr age group; an 11.7% decline in the working age population and a 23.6% increase in those of pensionable age;
- ◆ The Outer Hebrides is projected to see a 23% decline in the number of annual births from 261 in 2008/09 to 201 in 2032/33; an improvement on previous 2006 based projections of -38%.
- ◆ The Outer Hebrides is projected to continue to experience positive net migration (more people moving here than leaving); thus the anticipated population decline is due to more deaths than births (negative natural change), the result of a skewed age profile, despite net in-migration.
- ◆ By 2033, the percentage of the population who are 65+ will have increased to 33.5%;



Highlands and Islands: Other area projections are as follows: Shetland 7.5% decrease; Orkney 12.1% increase; Highland 17.6% increase.

The key factor in population decline in the Outer Hebrides according to the projections is therefore natural change. Within this context, significant change in the age structure of the Outer Hebrides population is also projected (please see the adjacent graph for age distribution in 2008 and 2033).

- ◆ **0-15 yrs:** Nationally, the number of children 0-15 is projected to fall by 1.5% by 2033. The number is projected to decrease in 20 of the 32 local authorities. The largest percentage decline in this age group is in Shetland with a fall of 32.5%. In the Outer Hebrides it is projected to decline by -17.4%;
- ◆ **Working Age:** The working age population is projected to increase in 15 council areas from 2008-2033 but increase nationally only by 2.2% over the period. Inverclyde is projected to have the greatest decline in this age group at -26.3%, while the Outer Hebrides are eighth at -11.7%. The working age includes the change in women's state pension age from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2020 and the subsequent change to 66 for both men and women by 2026.
- ◆ **Pensionable Age:** The population of pensionable age (taking into account the change in state retirement age) is projected to increase by 2033 in all council areas and will increase nationally by 31.4%. In 2008 Dumfries and Galloway and Argyll and Bute (both 25%) Outer Hebrides and South Ayrshire (both 24%) had the highest proportions of people of pensionable age. Aberdeenshire will have the highest increase in 2033 at 64.9% followed by: West Lothian (59.5%); and Shetland (52.2%). The Outer Hebrides is projected to see a 23.6% increase in this age group from 2008 to 2033; this decline is below the national average (and 24 other local authorities areas) but this is mainly due to the fact that we already have a significantly higher proportion of our population in the older age groups.

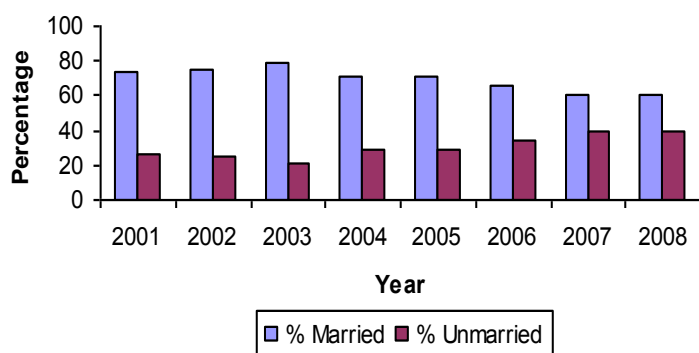
[General Register Office for Scotland \(GROS\)](#) have released statistics on the most popular names in 2009. In the Outer Hebrides the most popular boy's names were Daniel, Cailean and Ryan. The most popular girl's names were Chloe, then Emily, Erin, Eva and Katie all joint second.

Jack and Sophie head the lists for most popular babies names in Scotland.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

The General Register Office for Scotland [Vital Events](#) releases quarterly and annual figures for births, marriages and deaths.

Live Births in the Outer Hebrides by Marital Status of Parents



The adjacent table shows the percentage of live births in the Outer Hebrides by the marital status of the parents. The percentage of births to unmarried parents has, on the whole, increased year on year from 26.1% in 2001 to 39.7% in 2008. In Scotland the percentage of births to unmarried parents has been rising steadily and 2008 has been the first year that births to unmarried parents has risen to over 50%. This is from 43.3% in 2001, an increase of 6.8%, less than the rise seen in the Outer Hebrides over the same period which was 13.6%.

Births, Marriages and Deaths Preliminary Annual Figures 2009

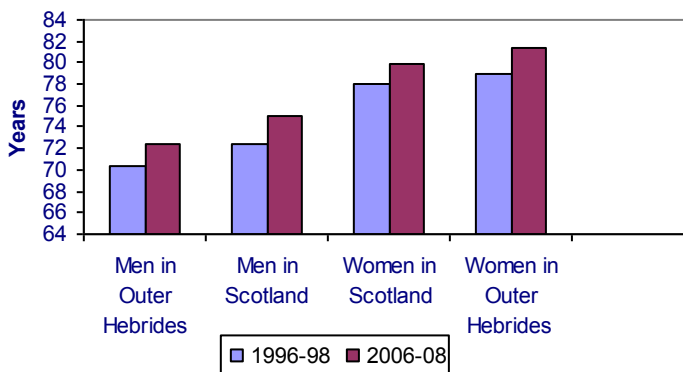
Preliminary figures released by [GROS](#) show that the Outer Hebrides had the lowest birth rate 8.7 (rate per 1,000 population) of all the Local Authorities in Scotland, the Scottish average being 11.4. The Outer Hebrides had the highest death rate (13.4) in comparison to the Scottish average of 10.4.

Life Expectancy in Special Areas in Scotland 2006-08

GROS released a report on life expectancy in Scotland on 25 March 2010.

The above report on life expectancy shows that it varies a great deal across the whole of Scotland. Men in the poorest parts of Scotland have a life expectancy that is more than 13 years shorter than males in the most affluent communities, while for women it is nine years shorter. Life expectancy has increased in the Outer Hebrides over the last ten years (by 2 years for men and 2.5 years for women), but life expectancy for men in the Outer Hebrides (73.5) remains below the Scottish average, ranked at 28 out of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities. Life expectancy for women (81.4) is above the Scottish average, ranked at 7.

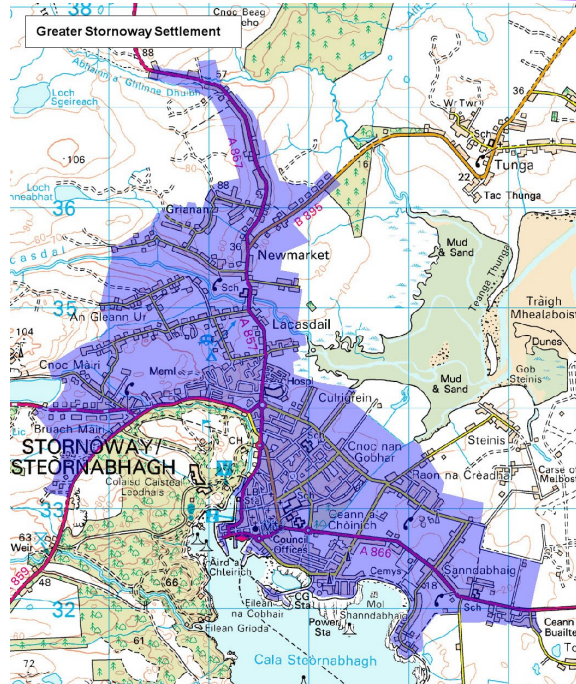
Life expectancy 1996-98 and 2006-08



Mid 2008 Population Estimates for Settlements

The [General Register Office for Scotland](#) released mid 2008 population figures for settlements on 30 March 2010. Figures are released biennially. The GROS estimates that there are currently 5,530 people, approximately 21.1% of the Outer Hebrides estimated population, living in the Stornoway settlement. The adjacent map shows the Stornoway settlement area.

Year	Population
2008	5,530
2006	5,740
2004	5,640

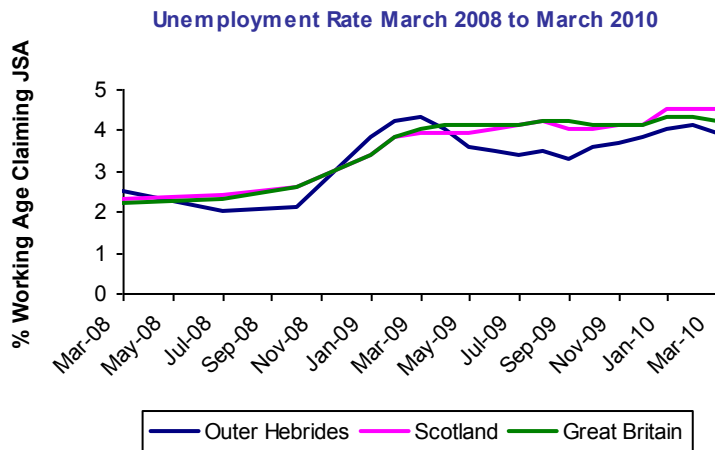


Labour Market

The latest release from [NOMIS](#) (Office for National Statistics) gives the following unemployment rates for March 2010:

Outer Hebrides	3.9%
Scotland	4.5%
Great Britain	4.2%

The Outer Hebrides continues to have a lower unemployment rate than Scotland and Great Britain, since May 2009. The unemployment rate had been rising consistently since September 2009, but has dropped to 3.9% in March from 4.1% in February.



Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2009

[ASHE 2009](#) gives UK data on earnings for employees.

Built Environment

[Scottish Government](#) figures show that there were 21 house transactions in the Outer Hebrides in January 2010, 62% higher than a year ago and 28% below the average for the same month over the last 3 years.

The average house price in the Outer Hebrides is 9% higher than a year ago at around £93,286. This compares to a Scottish average house price of £149,456 for the month of January 2010.

- Scottish Household Survey 2007/08 [Link](#)
- Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2009 [Link](#)
- Housing Statistics for Scotland 2009 [Link](#)

Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry

The Agricultural Census shows that the majority of occupiers in the Outer Hebrides (78.8%) work less than half-time, 9.8% of those are 60 and over and 29.7% of those are 40 and under. Only 3.0% of agricultural occupiers work full time.

- Fish Farms Annual Production Survey 2008 [Link](#)
- Scottish Fisheries and Europe [Link](#)
- EU Norway Fisheries Talks [Link](#)
- June Agricultural Census by Geographic Area [Link](#)
- Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2009 [Link](#)
- Climate Change Forests and Forestry [Link](#)

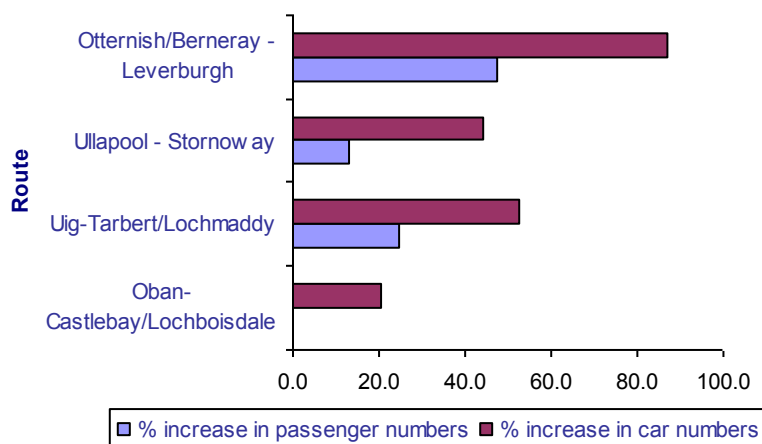
Transport Travel & Tourism

The latest Transport Statistics released show that the number of passengers at Stornoway airport has increased by over 40% from 1998 to 2008. The adjacent graph shows the percentage increases in passenger and car numbers on the various island ferry routes. The biggest percentage increase in passengers (47.3%) and car numbers (87%) has been on the Otternish/Berneray to Leverburgh route.* The smallest percentage increase in passengers (0.2%) and cars (20.4%) was on the Oban - Castlebay route.

Scottish Transport Statistics No. 28 [Link](#)
 Summer of 2009 Tourism Boom [Link](#)
 Hebridean Celtic Festival 2010 [Link](#)

* Berneray to Leverburgh replaced the Otternish to Leverburgh service in 2002.

Percentage Increase in Passenger and Car Numbers on Ferry Routes 1998 to 2008



Economy

European Funding for Jobs [Link](#)
 Scottish National Accounts Project (SNAP) [Link](#)
 Economic Recovery Plan [Link](#)
 Food and Drink Success [Link](#)
 GDP 4th Quarter 2009 [Link](#)
 Local Government Financial Statistics 2008/09 [Link](#)
 Financial and Business Services Key Sectors [Link](#)
 Employment in Public Sector 3rd Quarter [Link](#)

Crime Law and Justice

Scottish Prison Population Projections [Link](#)
 Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts 08/09 [Link](#)
 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2009 [Link](#)
 Drugs Misuse Statistics Scotland 2009 [Link](#)
 Scottish Policing Performance Annual Report 2008/09 [Link](#)
 Police Officer Quarterly Strength Statistics [Link](#)

Health Care & Welfare

Latest ISD Statistics Link	Agency Publishes Proposals for Labelling Link
Primary 1 BMI Statistics Link	Links with Asthma and Pregnancy Diet Link
NHS Smoking Cessation Statistics Link	Young Scots want Alcohol Ad Ban Link
Cancer Incidence 2007 Link	Raising minimum price of alcohol "benefits all" Link
Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer 2009 Link	Hour of daily exercise needed "to stay slim" Link
Medicines Used in Mental Health Link	High GI increases women's heart risk Link
Guidance on Alcohol and Children Link	Household Routines and Childhood Obesity Link
The Societal Cost of Alcohol Misuse 2007 Link	Grandparents "boost obesity rate" Link
Number of Obesity Deaths Link	Tackling the Obesity Epidemic Link
Dimensions of Diversity Report Link	Respite Care Scotland 2009 Link
Self Directed Support 2009 Link	Financial Challenge of an Ageing Population Link
National Hand Hygiene NHS Campaign Link	Scotland to Become an "active nation" Link
The Cost of Dementia Link	Excess Weight and Alcohol Act Together Link

Education and Training

Teachers in Scotland 2009	Link	Curriculum for Excellence Parent Toolkit	Link
Destination of Leavers 07/08	Link	Placing Requests in Scotland 2008/09	Link
Behaviour in Scottish Schools 2009	Link	Expenditure on School Education 2008/09	Link
School Exclusions 2008/09	Link	10 point plan for new curriculum	Link
Education Maintenance Allowances 2008/09	Link	Guide to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010	Link

Contact

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

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This e-bulletin is also available (along with past issues) on the Comhairle's internet/intranet in the 'Fact File' see below.

