



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – Development Department

SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

Ag Obair Comhla Airson nan Eilean Siar – Working Together for the Western Isles No.12 (08/09)

Population and Migration

The Registrar General's Annual Review of Scotland's Population

“[Scotland's Population 2008](#): The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends” was published on 7 August 2009. Although Scotland's population continues to rise the population of the Outer Hebrides has done down by 5% in the ten years from 1998 to 2008, one of three council areas with the highest reduction in population. Other key findings are:

- Overall population estimated to be 26,200, a decrease of 100 persons since 2007 (-0.4%)
- For the first time in a number of years there was negative net migration (-1)
- There were 256 births and 346 deaths
- There were 109 marriages and no civil partnerships

Migration

[Local area migration reports](#) are now available from the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). Migration is the most difficult component of population change to estimate. These reports have been produced to facilitate analysis of migration trends at local authority level.

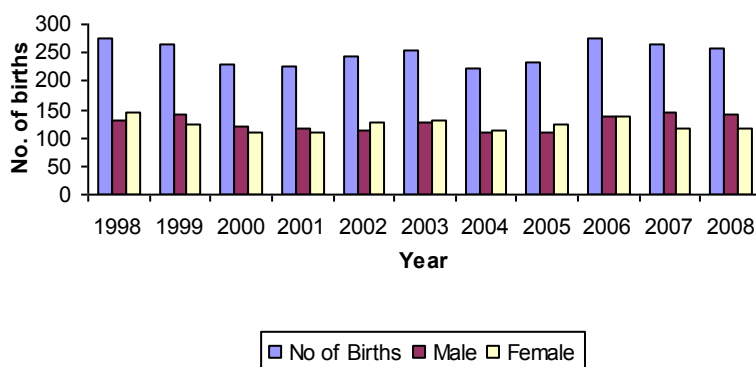
Household Estimates

The current [Household Estimates 2008](#) (released on 14 May 2009) identify an increase of 110 households (0.9%) since 2007; this is in line with the national trend (0.8%). The areas with the greatest increases over the last five years have been Highland (8.5 per cent) and Aberdeenshire (8.3 per cent). The area with the smallest change was Inverclyde.

Of all 32 Scottish Local Authorities areas, the Outer Hebrides is estimated to have; the highest % of detached dwellings at 64% (nat.avg.21%); the lowest % of occupied dwellings at 87% (nat avg 96%); the highest % of vacant dwellings at 7.1% (nat avg 2.8%); the second highest % of holiday homes at 6.2% of all dwellings (Argyll & Bute have the highest at 8.3%, nat avg 1.4%); the lowest % of dwellings with occupied exemptions at 0.6% (nat avg 2.5%); the highest % of houses in Council Tax Band A-C at 81% (nat avg 62%); the second lowest % of houses in Council Tax band D-E at 18% (Inverclyde lowest at 16%, nat avg. 26%); the lowest % of houses in Council Tax band F-H at 1% (nat avg. 12%).

Births Trend

Births in Outer Hebrides from 1998 to 2008



[GROS Vital Events](#) show that over the years 1998 to 2008 births in the Outer Hebrides have varied from a total of 223 in 2004 to a total of 274 in the years 1998 and 2006.

Over that time period 46 more males than females have been born.

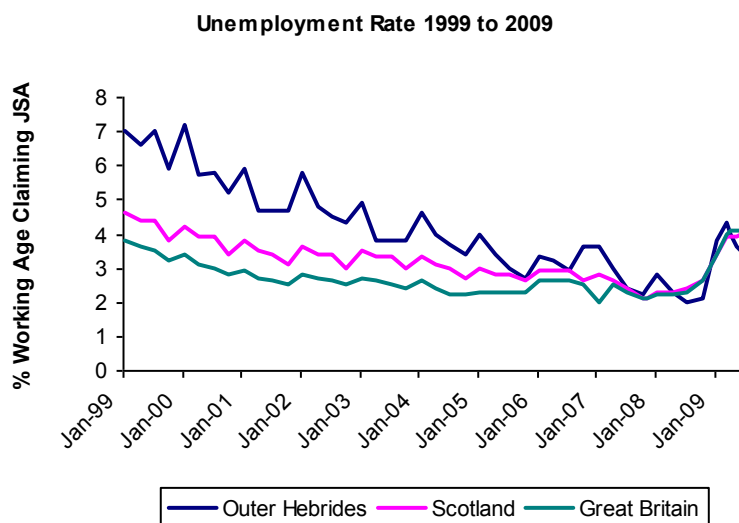
GROS figures for the first quarter of 2009 show that the Outer Hebrides is following the trend for Scotland as a whole. Births and deaths are lower than for the first quarter of 2008.

Labour Market

The latest release from [NOMIS](#) (Office for National Statistics) gives the following unemployment rates for July 2009:

Outer Hebrides	3.4%
Scotland	4.1%
Great Britain	4.1%

Since March 2009 the unemployment rate has decreased slowly each month. The Outer Hebrides now has a lower unemployment rate than Scotland and Great Britain.



Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2008

[Local Area Labour Markets in Scotland](#): Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2008 were published on 29 July 2009. The publication provides an annual summary of the data covering key indicators such as employment rates, unemployment rates, rates of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and qualification breakdowns.

Education and Training

Teachers in Scotland 2008	Link
Follow-up survey of school leavers 07/08	Link
School pupils receive exam results	Link
Funding for Gaelic education	Link
School Meals in Scotland 2009	Link

Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry

Renewed Strategic Framework for Aquaculture	Link
New web portal - Eat More Fish	Link
Marine Stewardship Council	Link
Agriculture Statistics in 2008	Link
Agriculture Statistics Plan 2009/10	Link
SEARS Natural Scotland	Link

Built Environment

The Scottish House Condition Survey 2004-07 shows that the Outer Hebrides has the highest level of fuel poverty at 49%; the Scottish average is 22%.

Scottish House Condition Survey	Link
LA Housing Bulletin August 2009	Link
Home Insulation Scheme	Link
Housing Statistics for Scotland 2009	Link
Results from 2007/08 Scottish Household Survey	Link
A Guide to the Planning System	Link

Natural Environment

Key Scottish Environment Statistics 2009	Link
Marine Bill Conservation of Seals	Link
Consultation on Scotland's Zero Waste Plan	Link
Climate Change Delivery Plan	Link
Scottish Soil Framework	Link
Climate Change Scotland Bill	Link
Reducing Waste Through Promoting Product Ecodesign	Link
Drinking Water Quality in Scotland 2008	Link
Invasive Species	Link

Health Care & Welfare

The latest statistics reveal that island NHS boards (Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland) had the lowest abortion rates in Scotland in 2008 at 5.7. Western Isles NHS Board also had the lowest teenage pregnancy rate in 2007 for under 18 and the second lowest teenage pregnancy rate for under 20 (Shetland had the lowest).

A study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has highlighted a worrying trend in the United Kingdom that although young men are binge-drinking less, women are binge-drinking more. According to a new report by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy only 10% of people in Scotland know how much exercise they need to take each day.

Diet and Cancer Report	Link	Damages Act on its way	Link
Funds to tackle alcohol misuse	Link	Latest ISD Statistics	Link
Drinking in the UK	Link	Teenage Pregnancies	Link
Junk Food Babies	Link	How much exercise do you need?	Link
Breastfeeding Statistics	Link	The Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and	
Abortion Statistics 2008	Link	Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) - Local	
Smoking Cessation Service Statistics 2008	Link	Reports 2006	Link

Transport Travel & Tourism

Success of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)

The [Road Equivalent Tariff](#) pilot operating on ferry routes to the Outer Hebrides has attracted 23 per cent more cars and 14 per cent more passengers compared with the same period in 2007-08.

Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020	Link
Key 2008 Road Casualty Statistics	Link
Scottish Visitor Attraction Survey 2008	Link
Freight Statistics Project	Link

Economy

State of the Economy August 2009	Link	Government Expenditure & Revenue Scotland 2007/08	Link
Energy Sector - Key Sector Report	Link	Provisional Outturn 2008-09 and Budget	
Update on the Economic Recovery Programme	Link	Estimates 2009-10 Statistics	Link
Social Economy 2008	Link	GDP for Scotland 1st Quarter 2009	Link
Marine Energy Road Map	Link	An Oil Fund for Scotland	Link
Council Tax Collection Statistics 2008/09	Link	Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2007	Link
Creative Scotland Innovation Fund	Link	Strategy for Financial Services in Scotland	
Food and Drink in Scotland Key Facts 2009	Link	2009 Annual Report	Link

Textile Industry Jobs in 2007 (1997 Figures in Brackets)

Banff & Buchan 200 (300)*
Kilmarnock & Loudon 400 (1,600)
Roxburgh & Berwickshire 1,400 (2,900)
Tweeddale, Ettrick & Lauderdale 600 (1,700)

Outer Hebrides 100 (300)

Scotland 7,500 (19,100)

* Figures refer to 2006 not 2007

Source: news.bbc.co.uk

The number of people employed in the textile industry in Scotland has more than halved in the space of a decade.

Crime and Justice

Reconviction Rates in Scotland 2005/06 and 2006/07
Fire Statistics Scotland 2007
Police Officer Quarterly Strength Statistics March 2009

[Link](#)
[Link](#)
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Contact

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