



# SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

## Population

### Outer Hebrides Population Summary

Overall population	% children	% working age	% pensionable age	average age
26,300	18	65	18	41

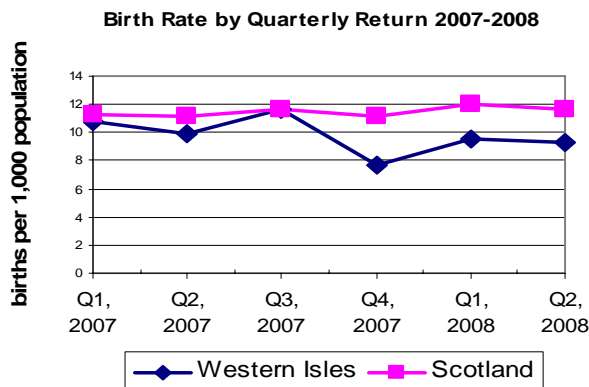
Table 1: Outer Hebrides Population Summary. Source: 2007 Population Estimate [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)  
Pensionable age is 65 for men and 60 for women.

### Small Area Population Estimates

Mid 2007 population [Estimates](#) at small area level (data zones) have been released. The results in the adjacent table show the percentage population change from 2001 to 2007.

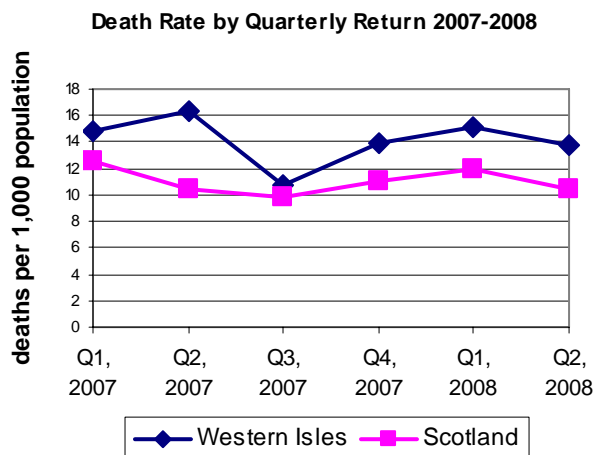
### Birth Rate

The General Register Office for Scotland [Vital Events](#) releases figures for births and deaths. As seen in the table below the trend for the Western Isles continues to follow the Scottish trend but is below national average.



### Death Rate

The Western Isles continues to have a high death rate, consistently above the Scottish average.



Data Zone	Equivalent Name	% Change
S01002339	Vatersay to Castlebay	-11.0
S01002340	North Barra	10.9
S01002341	Eriskay to South Boisdale	-4.3
S01002342	Loch Boisdale	4.7
S01002343	Loch Eynort to lochdar	-11.0
S01002344	South Benbecula	-15.0
S01002345	North Benbecula to Grimsay	7.7
S01002346	East North Uist to Berneray	-8.6
S01002347	West North Uist to Baleshare	-4.7
S01002348	South Harris	0.5
S01002349	North Harris and Scalpay	-6.3
S01002350	Pairc and Kinloch	-7.0
S01002351	Uig and Bernera	-6.0
S01002352	North Lochs	-5.2
S01002353	Knock to Bayble	2.3
S01002354	Melbost to Braighe	1.7
S01002355	Newton to Plasterfield	-5.3
S01002356	Central Stornoway	14.1
S01002357	Springfield	13.1
S01002358	Loch Roag	2.4
S01002359	Goathill	-3.8
S01002360	North Bayhead (Stornoway)	-11.9
S01002361	Coulegrain to Stenish	-4.2
S01002362	Garrabost	-11.5
S01002363	Marybank to Newvalley	13.0
S01002364	North Manor Park	-0.4
S01002365	Sheshader to Tiumpán Head	10.5
S01002366	Newmarket	15.1
S01002367	Tong to Upper Coll	4.5
S01002368	Coll to Back	3.6
S01002369	Carloway to Shawbost	-4.9
S01002370	Bragar to Bru	-0.7
S01002371	Gress to Tolsta	9.1
S01002372	Barvas to Borve	-2.5
S01002373	Galson to Swainbost	-8.2
S01002374	Habost to Port of Ness	4.7

## Population Projections

The [General Register Office for Scotland](#) (2006 based) gives a projected decline of -5.5% over the period 2006-2031 with: a 25.5% decline in the 0-15 yr age group; an 11.5% decline in the working age population and a 24.3% increase in those of pensionable age. In the Western Isles the projected population decline is due to more deaths than births despite positive net in-migration over the period. A 38% decline in the number of annual births is projected from 250 in 2006/07 to 154 in 2030/31. The 2006 based projections predict a less severe decline in the population of the Western Isles than was previously forecasted in the 2002 (-17%) & 2004 (-15%) based projections.

Year	Overall population	% children	% working age	% 65 and over
2031	24,892	14	53.3	32.7

## Household Estimates

The current [Household Estimates \(2007\)](#) assumptions for the Western Isles identify an increase of 109 households (0.9%) since 2006; this is inline with the national trend (1%).

Of all Scottish Local Authorities, the Western Isles is estimated to have; the highest % of detached dwellings at 64% (nat avg. 20%); 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 and Bute highest at 8.2%; nat avg. 1.4%); and the lowest % of dwellings with occupied exemptions at 0.6% (nat avg. 2.5%).

## Household Projections

The [Household Projections 2006](#) identify a projected 14% increase in the number of households in the Western Isles from 11,600 in 2006 to 13,230 in 2031. This represents a significant increase on previous Household Projections (2004 based), which forecasted a 1% increase between 2004 and 2024.

Changes in household type between 2006 and 2031 are projected to occur as follows: a 53% decrease in family households containing 'two or more adults plus one or more children' (along with Shetland this represents the largest decrease in Scotland); a 43% increase in 'one adult' households; a 20% increase in 'two or more adult' households; and a 26% increase in 'one adult plus one or more children' households.

## Labour Market

### Unemployment Rate

The latest release from [NOMIS](#) (Office for National Statistics) gives the following unemployment rates for October 2008:

<b>Outer Hebrides</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

As the adjacent graph indicates, the unemployment rate fell to 2.0% in July, August and September, the lowest rate since records began.

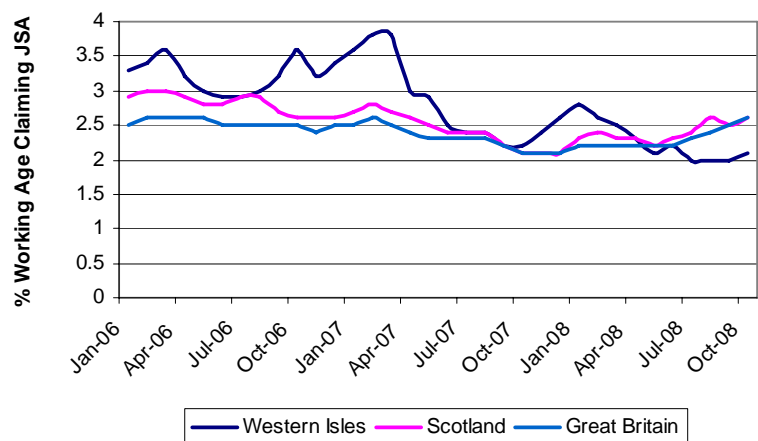
### Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

New 2008 results from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) were added to Nomis on 21 November 2008.

[NOMIS Labour Market Statistics](#)

[Link](#)

Unemployment Rate 2006-2008



## Education and Training

Pre-school and Childcare Statistics [Link](#)  
Evaluation of the Free School Meals Trial [Link](#)  
The Scottish Survey of Achievement [Link](#)  
School Estates Statistics 2008 [Link](#)

## Economy

Access to Bank Finance for Scottish SMEs [Link](#)  
HIE Measures to Help Businesses [Link](#)  
Halifax Rural Housing Review [Link](#)  
Scottish Index of GDP Q2, 2008 [Link](#)

## Health, Care and Welfare

### Life Expectancy

Figures released by the General Register for Scotland show that the [Life expectancy](#) for males is below the national average at 72.9 years (2005-2007), a ranking of 28 out of all 32 Scottish Local Authority areas, while for females it is higher at 80.2% (2005-2007), a ranking of 18. Scottish men and women have among the lowest expectation of life at birth in the EU. The countries with lower life expectancy than Scotland were most of the Eastern European states which joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and 1 January 2007.

Are you entitled to help with health costs? [Link](#)  
Health in Scotland 2007 – Annual Report by the Chief Medical Officer [Link](#)  
Increased Winter Mortality in Scotland, 2007/2008 [Link](#)  
Alcohol Related Deaths [Link](#)  
Child Protection Statistics [Link](#)  
Scottish Health Statistics [Link](#)

## Transport, Travel and Tourism

The [Road Equivalent Tariff](#) pilot scheme has been introduced. The scheme will operate from October 2008 until the spring of 2011. The scheme cuts the cost of ferry journeys to and from the Western Isles. The routes chosen for the trials are Stornoway to Ullapool; the triangular route between Uig on Skye, Tarbert on Harris and Lochmaddy in North Uist; and the routes linking Oban, South Uist, Coll, Barra and Tiree.

Review of the Air Discount Scheme [Link](#)      Key Scottish Transport Statistics [Link](#)

## Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

Results of the 2008 June Agricultural and Horticultural Census [Link](#)  
Agricultural Statistics Plan 2008-09 [Link](#)  
A Sustainable Future for Fishing [Link](#)  
Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics [Link](#)  
Forestry Commission Scotland Annual Review [Link](#)

## Built Environment

The Scottish House Condition Survey for 2003-06 showed that the Western Isles has the highest level of fuel poverty of all the Local Authorities at 44%, the Scottish average being 19%.

Energy Assistance Package [Link](#)  
Fuel Poverty by Local Authority 2003-2006 [Link](#)  
Scottish Household Survey [Link](#)

## Natural Environment

### Native Woodland Restoration Survey Report

The [Western Isles Native Woodland Restoration Survey Report](#) was published in 2008. The survey and report production was undertaken during 2007. The survey provides baseline information for future actions and to identify key areas for protection and expansion. A list of 50 sites has been prioritised for more detailed survey. Fourteen key sites within these core areas are described in detail in the report along with recommendations for regeneration and enhancement.



## Focus:

### Census Rehearsal 2009

The [Census Rehearsal](#) will bring around 20 temporary jobs to Lewis and Harris as the area takes part in the census rehearsal in March 2009. The rehearsal, on 29 March 2009, aims to test the arrangements for Scotland's next census set for 27 March 2011. It will offer householders the option to complete questionnaires online for the first time, and the online questionnaire can be completed in Gaelic or in English.

### Census 2011

Scotland's largest population count, the [2011 Census](#), is set to be held in three years time on Sunday 27 March 2011 – the earliest date since 1801. This allows the Census to take place before the Easter holidays and before Scottish Parliament election campaigning. The census is planned to take place on the same day throughout the UK.

## 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 intranet in the 'Fact File'.*