



SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

This is the third edition of the Socio Economic Update; a regular e-bulletin which has been designed to keep you up-to-date with recently released socio-economic reports of reference to policy and planning in the Western Isles.

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics – January 2006 Update

The Scottish Executive released the sixth quarterly update of the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) in January 2006.

The main highlights of the January update include:

- A range of **Health Indicators** at the data zone level covering: hospital admissions; hospital operations; cancer registrations; and maternity statistics for the years 2002 through to 2004. Health indicators on immunisation and GP consultations are also included for 2004 at the intermediate zone level.
- Statistics on **Community Care** including basic information on care homes for 2005 and earlier years - included for the first time at data zone level.
- Also included are some **Labour Market** statistics at local authority level; on skills, training and qualifications.

Western Isles - Indicators	Number	Rate
Health:		
<i>Emergency Admissions both sexes (2004)</i>	3219	12,258 per 100,000
<i>Estimated number of GP Consultations (year ending 31st March)</i>	79,871	3.04 per person
Community Care		
<i>Home Care Clients (2005)</i>	744	29.3 per 1,000
<i>Occupancy Rate in Care Homes for Older People (2005)</i>	-	91.3%
Labour Market		
<i>Total Number of Pupils in Primary Schools (2004)</i>	2135	-
<i>Number of People with At least 3 Highers (2004)</i>	8,300	-

(Example of available indicators in the table above)

[Click for Link to SNS Website](#)

School Exclusions 2004/05

In January 2006, the Scottish Executive published an analysis of the latest school exclusions data for 2004/05. This collection was amended in 2003/04 to provide greater detail than in previous years. Information relates to local authority schools only. Exclusions include both temporary exclusions and pupils removed from the register.

Findings for the Western Isles include:

- For the period 2004/05, there were 52 exclusions (all temporary) in the Western Isles. This gives the islands an exclusion rate of 13 per 1,000 pupils. Only Orkney has a lower exclusion rate at 7 per 1,000 pupils and the Scottish average over this period was 58 per 1,000.
- Of the 52 exclusions experienced in the Western Isles over the period 2004/05; 8 of these were in primary schools (4 per 1,000 pupils - fourth lowest rate in Scotland) and 44 were in secondary schools (23 per 1,000 pupils - the second lowest rate in Scotland).
- The total number of exclusions in the Western Isles for 2004/05 more than doubled on the previous year and has increased dramatically since 1999/00:

12 in 1999/00 - 22 in 2001/02 - 52 in 2004/05

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Day Care Services 2005

In January 2006, the Scottish Executive published a Statistics Release to present national figures for Day Care services for adults in Scotland.

All figures relate to the 31st March 2005 and are provisional and, as such, are subject to change.

The information is derived from returns made to the Scottish Executive by individual Day Care services or via Scottish local authorities.

Findings for the Western Isles include:

- In 2005 in the Western Isles, there were 31 Day Care services: 22 of these were local authority and 9 voluntary.
- There were 109 Day Care places in 2005: 93 of these were in local authority establishments and 16 were in voluntary centres. This gives the Western Isles a rate of 5.1 places per 1,000 population aged 16+ (Scottish average was 4.2).
- In 2005, there were 105 Day Care users in the Western Isles; 97 in local authority centres and 8 in voluntary. This gives the Western Isles a rate of 4.9 users per 1,000 of the population aged 16+ (Scottish average was 5.3).

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Transport across Scotland in 2003 and 2004 - Scottish Household Survey Results

In January 2006, a bulletin on 'Transport across Scotland' was published by the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) about the transport facilities available to private households.

The topics covered included: availability for private use of cars; peoples possession of driving licences and their frequency of driving; how car drivers usually make particular types of journeys; peoples frequency of walking, cycling and the accessibility and frequency of bus services; how safe from crime people felt when travelling in the evening; usual method of travel to work; whether people work from home etc. The figures relate to 2003/2004.



Highlights include:

- In 2003/04 about two thirds of households (66%) had one or more cars available for private use. The percentage was highest in rural areas (83%) and lowest in large urban areas (57%). In the Western Isles: 29% of households had no cars; 52% had one car; 16% had two cars; and 4% had three plus cars.
- In the Western Isles; 46% of people aged 17 and over drove every day (the Scottish average was 42%).
- The Western Isles had the highest percentage of respondents of all any local authority area, who claimed that they always used a car for shopping for small amounts of food at 84% (the Scottish average was 51%).
- The Western Isles had the lowest percentage of adult respondents (17%) of any local authority area who said that they had made a trip of more than quarter of a mile by foot to go somewhere in the previous seven days (Scottish average was 54%).
- The Western Isles had the highest percentage of pupils in full time education at school that used the bus to get to school at 62% (the Scottish average was 23%); and the lowest percentage of pupils who walked, at 18% (Scottish average was 52%).
- For all of Scotland, about 9% of employed adults worked at or from home. The percentage was highest in 'remote rural' areas (21%) and in the Western Isles and Orkney (both 19%).

Figures for individual council areas should be used cautiously as sample variability and non response bias may affect the results of the survey.

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Road Accidents – Scotland 2004

The publication "Road Accidents Scotland 2004" was released in January 2006 by the Scottish Executive.

It starts with a Summary section, which shows the main trends in the numbers of road accidents and casualties in the past ten years. This is followed by a commentary which includes descriptions of the longer-term trends. This is followed by groups of tables on accidents, accident costs, vehicles involved, drivers and riders, driver's breath tested, drink-drive accidents and casualties, and casualties.

Key Results for the Western Isles include:

- In 2004, there were 70 road accident casualties (all severities) recorded in the Western Isles. 24 of these were recorded as 'fatal and serious' and 6 were recorded as 'fatal'.
- When averaged over the four year period 2000-04; road accident casualties in the Western Isles were 78 for all severities. This represents a significant decline since the 1994-98 average of 94 per year. However, there was an increase in the number of accidents which were recorded as 'fatal' and 'serious and fatal' over the two periods.
- In 2004, the number of pedestrian road accident casualties in the Western Isles was 5 (all severities). Using the four year averages we can see that this number has declined from 13 in the period 1994-98 to 7 in the period 2000-04.

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Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2006

The statistical bulletin "Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2005" was published in January 2006. It presents summary information on the extent of urban vacant and derelict land in Scotland in 2005. The report includes information on:

1. The amount of urban vacant and derelict land, by local authority, in each year from 1996 to 2005.
2. The amount of newly identified urban vacant and derelict land, by local authority, between the 2004 and 2005 surveys.
3. The amount of urban vacant land reused and derelict land reclaimed, by local authority, between the 2004 and 2005 surveys.
4. The new uses for vacant land reused and derelict land reclaimed, between the 2004 and 2005 surveys.

Some key findings for the Western Isles include:

- In 2005, there were 11 sites of derelict and urban vacant land in the Western Isles (4 were for derelict and 7 were for urban vacant land).
- In the Western Isles in 2005, less than 0.10% of the islands were classed as derelict / vacant land.
- The total derelict and urban land in the Western Isles has fallen from 16 (ha) to 11 (ha) from 1996 to 2005.

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NHS Workforce Statistics

In January 2006, NHS Scotland released its Workforce Statistics Report. This report includes information trends in the NHS workforce at Scottish, Regional and Health Board level and analysis by gender and age groups. Latest staff-in-post and consultant vacancy figures are as at 30th September 2005.

A summary of the Medical and Dental Staff in hospital and community health services (HCHS) for the Western Isles is provided below:

Medical & Dental Staff Western Isles (Headcount)

Consultant	8
Director of Public Health	1
Senior House Officer	10
House Officer	2
Clinical Assistant (Medical)	5
Hospital Practitioner	2
Senior Dental Officer	1
Dental Officer	7

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House Price Update, 2005

On the BBC's Housing and Mortgage News website, the Western Isles is said to have the lowest current average house price of any local authority in Scotland; and the second lowest in the UK (Burnley is lowest with an average house prices of £69,103).

Using stats compiled by the Registers of Scotland's 'Executive Agency', average house prices in the Highlands and Islands area are as follows:

Local Authority	Avg. Price	Annual Increase
<i>Western Isles</i>	£76,472	19.7%
<i>Shetland</i>	£77,162	1.5%
<i>Orkney</i>	£94,776	19.8%
<i>Highland</i>	£122,908	8.7%

NB: Figures do not include properties sold for less than £20,000.

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Finalised 2006 Census Test Form

After extensive consultation, the General Register Office for Scotland has finalised the Household Form for the Census test in April.

Among the new and modified questions there is: a question for the first time on 'crofting tenure'; a revision to the language question (Gaelic is included); and a question on repairs required to the residence.

GROS will still be taking feedback on the form up until the Scottish Parliament approves the revisions; which is likely to be nearer 2011.

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Student Flows and Graduate Migration

In December 2005, the Scottish Executive published a report on 'Student Flows and Graduate Migration'.

This article looks at: the number of Scottish students leaving Scotland to study; the number moving in the opposite direction; and the destination of graduates.

Figures show that relatively few students leave Scotland to study compared with other UK regions. There is a net inflow of under/post grad students into Scotland and a large majority stay once graduated.

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Scottish Parliament – Key Economic Stats

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre has published its 'Key Economic Stats for Scotland' on the internet.

This briefing provides the latest figures on: GDP; Business Starts; Exports; House Prices; Population; Unemployment; Employment; Benefits Claimants; and Economic Forecasts.

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Scottish Sector Profiles, 2005

Scottish Enterprise published their Sector Profiles for 2005.

These profiles summarise key labour market information for 23 sectors in Scotland - covered by Sector Skills Councils (SSC) and enable skills issues in each sector to be compared with the rest of the economy.

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Scottish Fish Farms Production Survey 2004

The annual production survey of fish farms in Scotland for 2004 was carried out by Fisheries Research Services (FRS), an agency of the Scottish Executive and is now available online.

This survey collates annual production data from registered Scottish Fish Farm sites and allows readers to follow industry trends within the trout, salmon and other farmed species sector.

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Interesting Facts: Top Ten Forenames, 2005

In December 2005, the General Register Office for Scotland released its publication "Most Popular Names in 2005".

'Lewis' was the top boys name in Scotland, coming highest in 15 council areas; followed by 'Jack' which was top in 7 council areas. 'Sophie' was the top girls name for Scotland overall; coming highest in 14 council areas; followed by Emma which was top in 8 areas.

The top names recorded in the Western Isles were as follows:

Western Isles – Top Forenames 2005

Boys		Girls	
1.	Andrew	1.	Emma
2.	Alexander	2.	Caitlin
2.	Angus	2.	Ellen
2.	Caliean	2.	Grace
2.	Calum	2.	Rebecca
2.	Daniel		
2.	Donald		
2.	Matthew		
2.	Murray		

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