

The Outer Hebrides



Communities Department Socio Economic Update No. 42

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Population Projections

National Records of Scotland published 2018 based population projections on 24 March 2020. The projections are produced every two years and are based largely on past trends and although they reflect past policy and economic impacts, they do not take account of future changes which may occur as a result of policy initiatives at a local or national level.

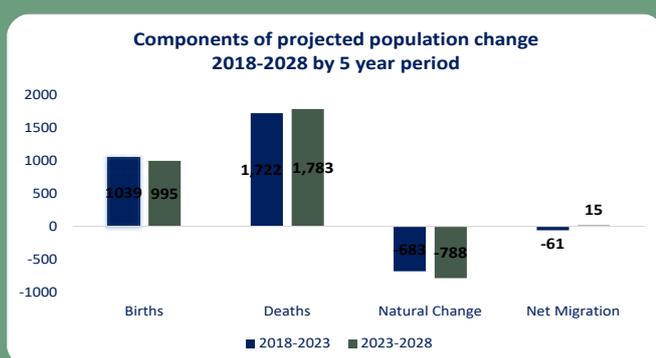
All councils, apart from the Outer Hebrides and Inverclyde, are projected to have more people moving to the area than leaving.

The projections concentrate on the results over the 10 year period 2018 to 2028, although projections have been produced for the next 25 years to 2043. The 2018 based projections predict a 6.1% decrease (-1,600 people) in the population of the Outer Hebrides over the 10 year period from 2018 to 2028. This is the largest decrease in Scotland, along with Inverclyde (-6.1%).

However, the population of the Outer Hebrides is projected to decrease by 16% over the 25 year period from 2018 to 2043 from a population of 26,830 in 2018 to a population of 22,709 in 2043, but caution must be taken when looking at projections this far ahead as they become increasingly uncertain.

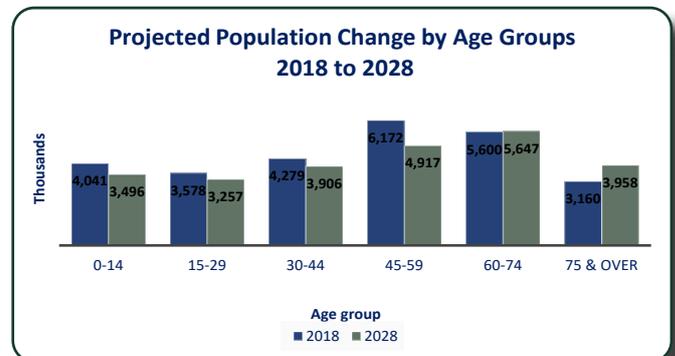
The decline in broad age groups from 2018 to 2028 is as follows: a 13% decline in the 0-15 yr age group; a 6% decline in the working age population (the largest percentage decline in Scotland) and a 1.2% decline in those of pensionable age. Only 6 council areas are expected to see a decrease in those of pensionable age.

The chart below shows the components of projected population change over the period 2018 to 2028, which shows that the decrease in population is mainly due to negative natural change (more deaths than births) and migration figures are either negative or too low to counteract this.



The Outer Hebrides is expected to have a negative natural change of -5.5% over the period 2018 to 2028 while net migration is also negative at 0.7%.

The projection for the population aged 75 and over in the Outer Hebrides is a 25.3% increase from 2018 to 2028 (Scottish average +25.4%).



Life expectancy is improving. Females in the Outer Hebrides and Orkney are projected to have the highest increase in life expectancy between 2016-18 and 2027-28. For males, the Outer Hebrides and Perth and Kinross are projected to have the highest increase in life expectancy between 2016-18 and 2027-28. Life expectancy for females in the Outer Hebrides is projected to rise from 84.8 to 87.6 while life expectancy for males is expected to rise from 78.8 to 82.1.

As previously stated populations are largely based on past trends and become increasingly uncertain the further ahead they go. They also tend to be more unreliable in smaller populations. The table below shows previous population projections and their 10 year projections. The actual population estimates show that the population estimate has been higher than the projections. Also, projections for the year 2019 have been lower in all but one year, highlighting the difficulty with projections.

| Population Projections | 10 Year Projection | Actual Estimate | 2019 Projection |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2002 based | 23,506 (2012) | 27,560 | - |
| 2004 based | 24,915 (2014) | 27,250 | 23,757 |
| 2006 based | 26,058 (2016) | 26,900 | 25,914 |
| 2008 based | 25,763 (2018) | 26,830 | 25,742 |
| 2010 based | 25,578 (2020) | - | 25,683 |
| 2012 based | 26,469 (2022) | - | 26,734 |
| 2014 based | 25,836 (2024) | - | 26,487 |
| 2016 based | 25,616 (2026) | - | 26,536 |
| 2019 Population Estimate | | 26,720 | |

Population Estimates

National Records of Scotland published 2019 population estimates on 30 April 2020. Population estimates are produced annually and are calculated using births and deaths using data from the civil registration system. Estimates of migration are made using GP registrations and surveys.

Over the last year, three quarters of Scotland's council areas (24 out of 32 areas) increased in population while the remaining 8 areas have decreased. Areas that have decreased are mainly island and rural and some areas in the west of Scotland.

The current population estimate for the Outer Hebrides is 26,720 as at 30 June 2019; this represents a decrease in the overall population of 110 persons (-0.4%) from mid 2018 to mid 2019.

The population is estimated to have decreased over the year due to negative natural change (more deaths than births).

The estimated net migration for mid 2018 to mid 2019 was 50 and natural change was -152 due to 341 deaths and 189 births.



Over the decade from 2009 to 2019 there was a population decrease of 700 persons (-2.6%), in comparison to a 4.4% increase nationally. Orkney had a 6.4% increase and Shetland had a 0.5% increase over the same period.

Over one in four people (26%) living in the Outer Hebrides, Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway and South Ayrshire are aged 65 and over, in comparison to the Scottish average of 19%.

The Outer Hebrides is estimated to have experienced positive net migration from the Rest of the UK (100) but negative migration Within Scotland (-50) and Overseas (-10).

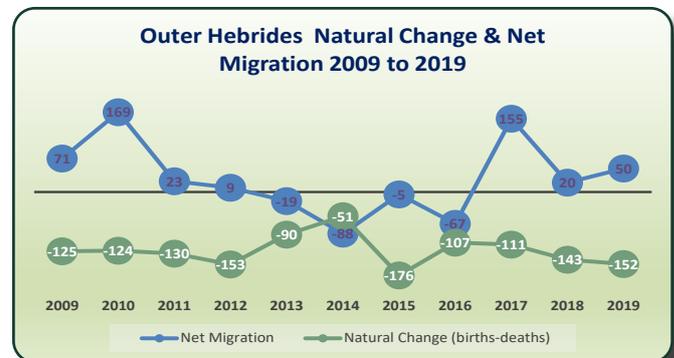
The population continues to age with 16% of the population aged under 16 (17% nationally) and 59% of the population of working age (64% nationally) while 25% are pensionable age (19% nationally).

The median age (the age at which half the population is older and half the population is younger) in the Outer Hebrides was 49.5 in comparison to 42 in Scotland.

As highlighted in the chart below, the estimated net migration for mid 2018 to mid 2019 was 50 and natural change was -152 due to 341 deaths and 189 births.

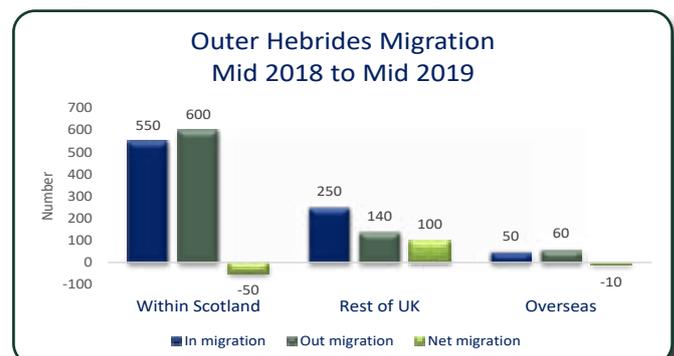
Net migration was estimated to be highest in 2010 when it was 169 and was high again in 2010 resulting in the first increase in population since the 2011 Census. However, since then it has decreased and negative natural change continues.

In contrast, Orkney has had negative natural change of 57 and positive net migration of 150. Shetland bucks the trend in the rest of Scotland experiencing positive natural change of 35 (more births than deaths) but negative net migration of 90.



As illustrated in the chart below, from 2018 to 2019 the trend with net migration continues in the Outer Hebrides with net migration remaining negative Within Scotland and Overseas and positive within the Rest of the UK.

The majority of in-migrants (65%) and out-migrants (75%) were from within Scotland. 29% of in-migrants were from the rest of the UK while 23% of out-migrants went to the rest of the UK. Positive net migration is essential in order to counteract the negative natural change that the Outer Hebrides continues to experience and the small net migration to mid-2019 of 50, in comparison to 155 to mid-2017, has failed to counteract the negative natural change which continues year on year.



Household Estimates

National Records of Scotland published Household Estimates Scotland 2019 on 18 June 2020. These estimates are published yearly and are used mainly for informing Council decisions about housing need and the provision of services.

Since 2001, the number of households in Scotland has increased by 14%, but the population has increased by 8% in comparison. Households have increased in every local authority area except Inverclyde.

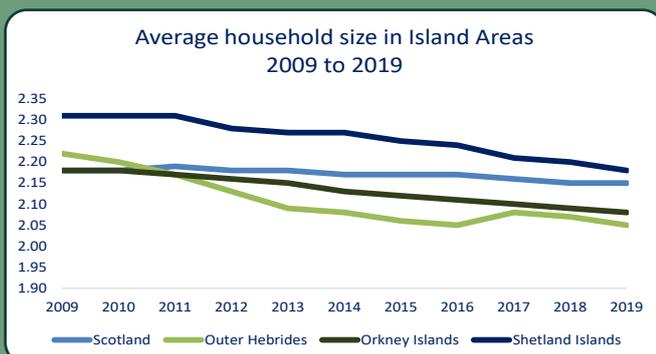
The average number of people per household has fallen. This is due to people increasingly living alone, partly due to the ageing population. 1 person households continue to be the most common household type with 35% in Scotland.

In the Outer Hebrides there has been an increase of 61 households (0.5%) from 2018 to 2019, while the Scottish average was a 1.1% increase.

Over the ten year period 2009 to 2019 there was a 6.1% increase in households in Scotland. There was a 5.3% increase in the Outer Hebrides, a total of 640 households.

The number of dwellings has increased by 0.2% (Scot.avg. 0.8%), 28 dwellings from 2018 to 2019. Over the period 2009 to 2019 there has been a 4.5% increase (Scot.avg. 5.8%), 633 dwellings.

The average household size in the Outer Hebrides has decreased from 2.22 in 2009 to 2.05 in 2019, the largest decrease (-7.4%) in Scotland. This is in comparison to Scotland which has decreased by 1.6%, Orkney which has decreased by 4.4% and Shetland which has decreased by 5.8%, as illustrated in the chart below. In Glasgow and Edinburgh, the average household size has increased since 2008.



Outer Hebrides had the second highest percentage of second homes at 5.6%, 800 second homes (Scot.avg. 0.9%). Argyll & Bute highest at 6.5%.



Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of vacant dwellings at 7.6%, 1,100 dwellings (Scot.avg. 3.2%). The three island areas had the highest: Shetland 6.6%, Orkney 6.2%.



Outer Hebrides had the second highest percentage of long term empty dwellings at 3.8%, 600 dwellings (Scot.avg. 1.6%). Shetland had the highest at 4.6%.

There has been an 8% decrease in the number of second homes in the Outer Hebrides from 2009 to 2019 (a 30% decrease nationally). There has been a 15% increase in the number of vacant homes over the decade (a 20% increase nationally).

Long term empty properties have increased in almost every local authority. In the Outer Hebrides long term empty properties have increased by 85% over the decade, while nationally there was a 58% increase. Orkney also had an 85% increase while Shetland had a 38% increase. Fluctuations in vacant and second homes are due to Council Tax changes from 2013 onwards.

The Outer Hebrides had the lowest percentage of properties in the highest Council Tax band (F-H) at 2%, while East Renfrewshire had the highest at 34%. The Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage in the lowest Council Tax Band (A-C) at 78% while East Renfrewshire had the lowest at 27%.

The Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of unoccupied exemptions at 3.9% (nat.avg. 1.7%).

The Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of detached dwellings at 64%, while Glasgow City had the lowest at 4%.

Small Area Household Estimates

Small area household estimates contain information on the number of dwellings in each data zone area, and are provided annually.

The data shows that the percentage of vacant dwellings in data zone areas varies greatly from 15% in Loch Roag to 3% in Melbost to the Braighe. Loch Roag also has the highest percentage of long term empty.

The highest percentage of second homes is found in North Barra at 15% while Goathill and North Manor Park have 0%.

The highest number of dwellings are in the South Harris data zone at 588 and South Benbecula has the lowest number of dwellings at 241.

Eight out of our 36 data zones (22%) have 10% or more of homes which are second homes, while ten data zones (28%) have 10% or more which are vacant.

| Data Zone Name | Total Dwellings | Occupied | Vacant | Long term empty | Second homes |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| Vatersay to Castlebay | 369 | 82% | 8% | 3% | 10% |
| North Barra | 416 | 75% | 10% | 5% | 15% |
| Eriskay to South Boisdale | 319 | 78% | 10% | 3% | 12% |
| Loch Boisdale | 335 | 81% | 13% | 8% | 5% |
| Loch Eynort to lochdar | 413 | 81% | 13% | 5% | 6% |
| South Benbecula | 241 | 89% | 7% | 3% | 5% |
| North Benbecula | 411 | 91% | 6% | 4% | 4% |
| West North Uist to Baleshare | 448 | 80% | 7% | 2% | 13% |
| Grimsay, East North Uist to Berneray | 543 | 83% | 10% | 6% | 7% |
| South Harris | 588 | 75% | 11% | 5% | 14% |
| North Harris and Scalpay | 586 | 82% | 9% | 6% | 9% |
| Pairc and Kinloch | 545 | 80% | 10% | 4% | 10% |
| North Lochs | 470 | 88% | 9% | 4% | 4% |
| Uig and Bernera | 494 | 79% | 9% | 5% | 12% |
| Loch Roag | 279 | 80% | 15% | 8% | 6% |
| Carlway to Shawbost | 338 | 82% | 8% | 3% | 10% |
| Bragar to Brue | 374 | 88% | 7% | 3% | 5% |
| Barvas to Borve | 383 | 88% | 9% | 3% | 3% |
| Galson to Swainbost | 351 | 85% | 10% | 5% | 5% |
| Habost to Port of Ness | 431 | 83% | 10% | 3% | 7% |
| Gress to Tolsta | 332 | 88% | 7% | 2% | 5% |
| Coll to Back | 414 | 92% | 5% | 3% | 3% |
| Tong to Upper Coll | 481 | 94% | 4% | 2% | 2% |
| Newmarket | 434 | 95% | 4% | 1% | 1% |
| Marybank to Newvalley | 466 | 94% | 5% | 3% | 2% |
| North Manor Park | 343 | 96% | 4% | 0% | 0% |
| North Bayhead (Stornoway) | 402 | 94% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| Central Stornoway | 577 | 91% | 7% | 5% | 1% |
| Newton to Plasterfield | 401 | 94% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| Springfield | 303 | 93% | 5% | 3% | 2% |
| Goathill | 416 | 95% | 4% | 2% | 0% |
| Coulegrain to Stenish | 306 | 95% | 4% | 3% | 1% |
| Melbost to Braighe | 488 | 95% | 3% | 2% | 2% |
| Garrabost | 364 | 90% | 6% | 3% | 4% |
| Knock to Bayble | 372 | 89% | 8% | 4% | 3% |
| Sheshader to Tiumpnan Head | 307 | 88% | 7% | 3% | 6% |

(Highest and lowest percentages highlighted, figures may not add up due to rounding)

The percentage of vacant and second homes in 2019 by island area are shown below:

| Island Area | Total Dwellings | % Vacant | % 2nd Homes |
|------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Barra & Vatersay | 785 | 9 | 12 |
| South Uist | 1,067 | 12 | 8 |
| Benbecula | 652 | 6 | 4 |
| North Uist | 991 | 9 | 10 |
| Harris | 1,174 | 10 | 11 |
| Lewis | 10,071 | 7 | 4 |
| Stornoway HMA* | 6,074 | 5 | 2 |
| Rural Lewis HMA* | 3,997 | 9 | 7 |

* Housing Market Area

The table above shows that South Uist continues to have the highest percentage of vacant dwellings, while Benbecula has the lowest at 6%, a decrease of 1% since last year. The percentage in Harris has also decreased by 1%, as has the percentage of 2nd homes in Harris.

Barra and Vatersay continue to have the highest percentage of 2nd homes, though this has decreased by 1% over the year. The percentage has increased by 1% in both Benbecula and North Uist.

Property Market Report 2019-20

Registers of Scotland produced a *report* in June 2020. Some key findings:

- The average property price in Scotland increased by 1.9%, from £179,121 to £182,357.
- The volume of residential sales in Scotland increased by 0.1%.
- The lowest average price in rural areas was in the Outer Hebrides at £121,440 (slightly lower than previous year) and in urban areas in East Ayrshire at £106,780.
- The Outer Hebrides and Argyll and Bute saw the highest proportion of cash sales of all local authority areas, where around 50 per cent of all residential sales were cash sales.
- Along with 9 other local authority areas, 2007-08 was the peak year for new build sales in the Outer Hebrides.

Scottish House Condition Survey 2016-18

The *SHCS* local authority tables were published in February 2020. Some key findings from this were:

 Households in Orkney (95%), Outer Hebrides (94%) and Shetland (93%) most likely to live in houses, whereas households in Glasgow more likely to live in flats (72%)

 Almost all households in Scotland have a full central heating system, however, this is lower in islands areas: Shetland (76%), Orkney (82%) and Outer Hebrides (89%)

 Again, island areas had the highest proportion of the least energy efficient properties: Orkney (16%), Shetland (17%) and Outer Hebrides (21%), Scottish average (4%)

 Outer Hebrides had the highest levels of fuel poverty* at 36%, East Renfrewshire lowest at 16% (Scot.avg. 25%)

Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of owner occupied households in fuel poverty at 27%, along with Highland (Scot. avg. 16%)

Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of social housing in fuel poverty at 68%, (Scot.avg. 40%)

Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of older households in fuel poverty at 45% (Scot.avg. 27%)

 Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of households in extreme fuel poverty at 23% (Scot.avg. 12%)

Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of owner occupied households in extreme fuel poverty at 20%, (Scot.avg. 9%)

Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of social housing in extreme fuel poverty at 32%, along with Orkney (Scot.avg. 15%)

Outer Hebrides had the highest percentage of older households in extreme fuel poverty at 30% (Scot.avg. 14%)

* Fuel poverty (FP) rates have decreased significantly. A new Act passed in July 2019 contains a new definition of fuel poverty which affects how FP is to be defined and measured.

Scottish House Condition Survey 2016-18



Outer Hebrides had the 2nd highest percentage of houses failing Scottish Housing Quality Standard at 56%, Shetland highest at 71% (Scot.avg. 42%)

Outer Hebrides had the 2nd highest percentage of owner occupied households failing SHQS at 60%, Shetland highest at 69% (Scot.avg. 42%)

Outer Hebrides had the 2nd highest percentage of social housing failing SHQS at 41%, Shetland highest at 74%, (Scot. avg. 37%)

Outer Hebrides had the 2nd highest percentage of older households failing SHQS at 63%, Shetland highest at 72% (Scot.avg. 43%)



The fuel poverty gap (annual amount required to move the household out of fuel poverty) is £1,370 in the Outer Hebrides, 3rd highest in Scotland. Orkney is highest at £1,640 while North Ayrshire is lowest at £410 (Scot.avg. £660)



The Outer Hebrides has the 3rd lowest mean household income at £24,500 (Scot.avg. £28,100)



Labour Market

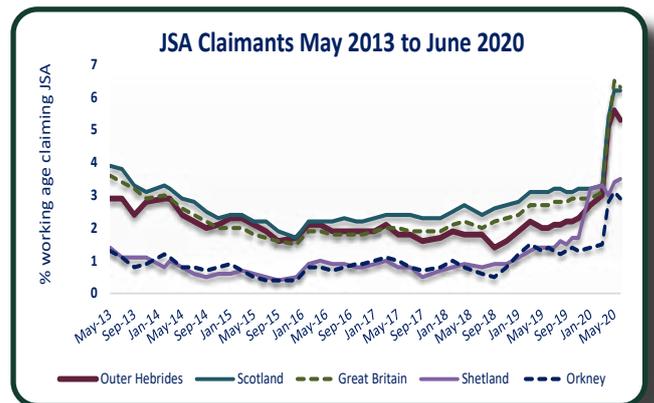
The latest **NOMIS** (Office for National Statistics Service) update gives updates on employment rates from the period April 2019 to March 2020. The employment rate in the Outer Hebrides was 81.6%, greater than the national average of 74.5%, while Great Britain was 76%. Unemployment in the Outer Hebrides was at 2.1%, lower than the national and UK average of 3.3% and 3.9% respectively. However, this was before the impact of Coronavirus.

The Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) rate (shown in the chart below) has increased significantly since April. North Ayrshire had the highest JSA rate in June at 8.7%, while Orkney had the lowest at 2.9%. The Outer Hebrides had the 10th lowest out of the 32 local authority areas.

In addition, the highest rate in the Outer Hebrides was for those aged 18-24 at 9.4%, higher than the Scottish average of 9.0%. The rate for those aged 25-49 was 5.0% and 4.9% for those aged 50+. Between January and May there was a 107.1% increase in the claimant count.

In addition to JSA rates, 2,600 people in the Outer Hebrides were furloughed as at 31 May.

The Outer Hebrides had the 2nd highest rate of business support fund grants awarded, while Argyll & Bute had the highest and Aberdeen the lowest.



The latest update from **NOMIS** gives the following JSA claimant rates for June 2020 :

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Outer Hebrides | 5.3% |
| Scotland | 6.2% |
| Great Britain | 6.3% |
| Shetland Island | 3.5% |
| Orkney Islands | 2.9% |

Scotland's Labour Market

The latest *report* was published in May 2020. All data is for January to December 2019 and therefore does not take into account the impact from the Coronavirus. The report highlights the key statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2019.

The highest employment rates were:

- Orkney (87.1%)
- Perth & Kinross (83.4%)
- Outer Hebrides (82.3%)

Local authorities with largest employment increase over the last ten years:

- Outer Hebrides (up 11 percentage points)
- Perth & Kinross (up 8 percentage points)
- East Ayrshire (up 7.1 percentage points)

In 2019 men had higher employment rates in all local authority areas except in the Outer Hebrides and West Dunbartonshire where women had higher employment rates than men (gaps of 6.3 and 1.2 percentage points respectively).

Local authority areas with highest youth employment were:

- Orkney (82%)
- Outer Hebrides (75.9%)
- Aberdeen City (73%)

However, as highlighted previously JSA rates for those aged 18-24 in May 2020 are now at 8.2%, almost the same as the Scottish average (8.3%).

Highest underemployment rates were in:

- Outer Hebrides (11.3%)
- Angus (9.6%)
- Dundee City (9.5%)

Expert Advisory Group on Migration & Population

The *Expert Advisory Group* (EAG) looked at the impacts on Scotland of UK immigration policy after leaving the EU, particularly the issue of skilled migrants from outside the EU needing to have a job offer with a minimum salary threshold of £25,600, which has been lowered from £30,000.

Even at this lower level, the salary requirement would discriminate against female migrants who would only be able to access around 37% of available jobs, the group has found.

“While the lower salary threshold might lead to a moderate expansion of immigration through Tier 2, remoter and rural regions will still be more adversely affected after Brexit, because of the lower number of jobs available meeting the threshold. For example, while around 58% of jobs in East Renfrewshire would meet the new threshold, this figure is only 31% in Na h'Eileanan Siar.”

Subregional Productivity in the UK

The *article* was published in February 2020 and provides estimates for subregional labour productivity. The data in this release are classified as Experimental Statistics.

Labour productivity is defined as the quantity of goods and services produced per unit of labour input, for example, per hour worked or per filled job.

Productivity matters because increasing productivity is critical to increasing economic growth in the long-run. Furthermore, changes in labour productivity are also related to changes in real wages. Increasing productivity is, therefore, an important aim for both national and local economies.

Productivity is measured by GVA per hour worked or GVA per job filled rather than GVA per head, meaning that the measure does not include people not in the workforce (including children, pensioners and others not economically active) in the calculation

- Labour productivity increased in 15 out of 18 UK city regions between 2010 and 2018; the highest productivity growth occurred in West Midlands City Region, in Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region and in Stirling and Clackmannanshire city region.

Subregional Productivity in the UK

London had the highest labour productivity in 2018. It was followed by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region, with a productivity level 10% above the UK average, and Aberdeen City Region, with a productivity level 7% above the UK average.

Experimental local authority data have been included in this article for the first time. GVA per job filled and per hour worked are shown in the tables below for local authority areas.

The table below shows the results for GVA per filled job for the island areas, along with highest and lowest area in the 32 local authority areas in Scotland

| GVA per filled job | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Shetland (9th) | £54,741 |
| Orkney (17th) | £49,279 |
| Outer Hebrides (26th) | £45,166 |
| Highest - Edinburgh | £69,856 |
| Lowest - East Ayrshire | £36,515 |

The table below shows the results for GVA per hour worked for the island areas, along with highest and lowest area in the 32 local authority areas in Scotland

| GVA per hour worked | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Orkney (5th) | £37.5 |
| Shetland (6th) | £37.0 |
| Outer Hebrides (24th) | £29.5 |
| Highest - Edinburgh | £43.9 |
| Lowest - East Ayrshire | £24.1 |

Labour productivity increased in 105 out of 168 NUTS3 regions in Great Britain between 2010 and 2018 and declined in 63. The highest productivity growth was in areas of West London (Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham; Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames).

Gross Disposable Household Income

The latest bulletin on *GDHI* was released on 4 June 2020.

Gross disposable household income is the amount of money that all of the individuals in the household sector have available for spending or saving after they have paid direct and indirect taxes and received any direct benefits. It is seen to reflect the “material welfare” of the household sector.

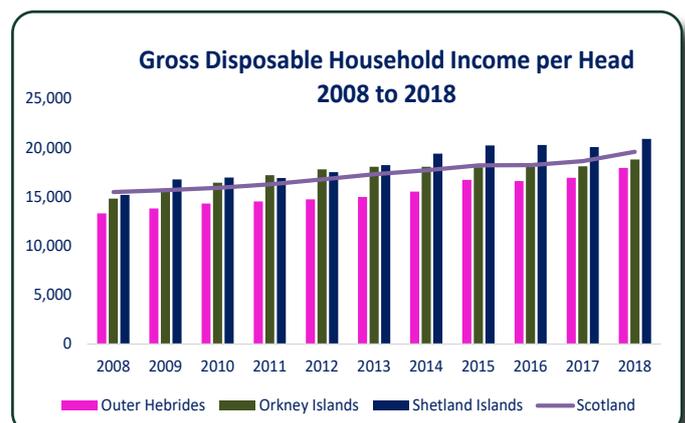
Total GDHI estimates in millions of pounds (£ million) are divided by the resident population of a region to give GDHI per head in pounds (£). This takes account of the entire resident population including both the working population and the economically inactive.

There are 179 NUTS3 areas in the United Kingdom. In 2018, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham was the local area (NUTS3) with the highest GDHI per head (£63,286), nearly three times the UK average; Nottingham had the lowest GDHI per head at £13,138.

Edinburgh city had the highest GDHI in Scotland at £23,374 while Glasgow City had the lowest at £17,145.

The Outer Hebrides had the lowest GDHI per head in the Highlands and Islands area and the 4th lowest out of the 23 NUTS3 areas in Scotland. GDHI in the Outer Hebrides was £17,931 in 2018, in comparison to the Scottish average of £19,572, as illustrated in the chart below.

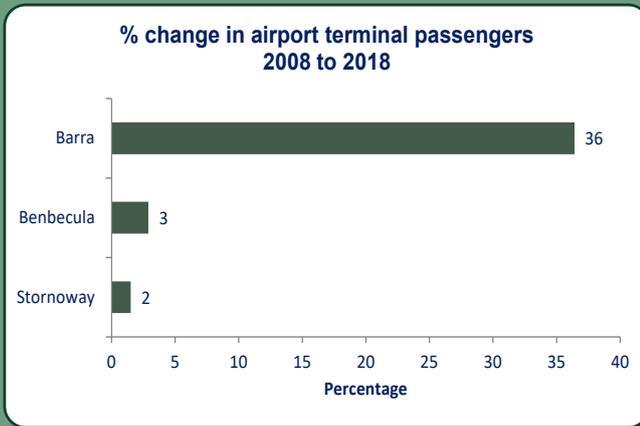
Over the period 2008 to 2018 there was a 34.8% increase in the Outer Hebrides (Scot.avg. 26.5%). There was a 26.8% increase in Orkney and a 37.4% increase in Shetland over the same period.



Transport Statistics No.38

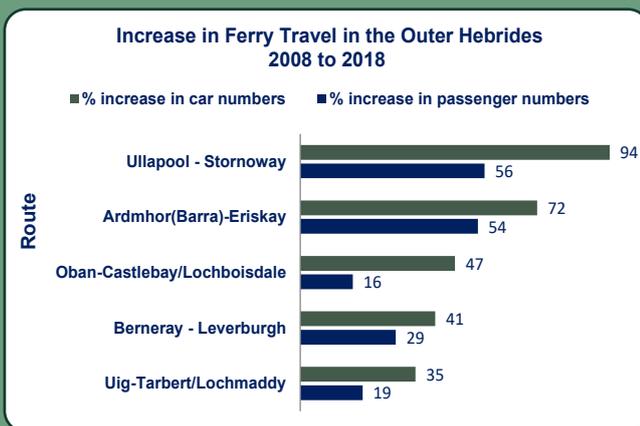
The latest *Transport Statistics* were published in March 2020. They are published yearly and provide key findings and trends over the last ten years.

The chart below shows the increase in passenger numbers at island airports over the period 2008 to 2018.



| | 2008 | 2018 |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Barra | 11,000 | 15,000 |
| Benbecula | 34,000 | 35,000 |
| Stornoway | 131,000 | 133,000 |

The chart below shows the increase in passengers and cars on island ferry routes.



As illustrated above the Ullapool - Stornoway route has had a large increase in passenger numbers over the decade at 56%, but there has been an even greater increase in car numbers at 94%. The ferry carried 284,500 passengers and 94,700 cars in 2018.

The Barra route has also had a large increase in the number of passengers and cars carried over the period with 61,100 passengers and 23,900 cars carried in 2018.

Other findings for the Outer Hebrides

Petrol and diesel consumption of road vehicles (thousands of tonnes)

| | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 2008 | 14.2 | 2017 | 13.4 |
|------|------|------|------|

Traffic on all roads (million vehicle kilometres)

| | | | |
|------|-----|------|-----|
| 2008 | 205 | 2018 | 226 |
|------|-----|------|-----|

Overall driving test pass rate in Stornoway - 55.3%

Males 62.4%

Females 50.7%

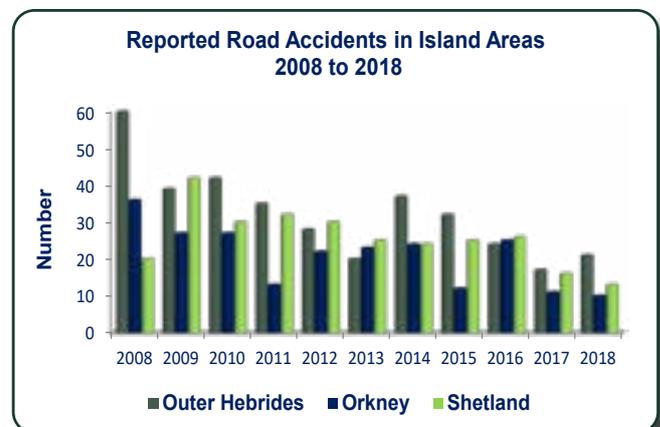
The highest pass rate was at the test centre in Gairloch at 86.5%, while the lowest pass rate was at Inverness, Longman Drive at 36.3%.

The Scottish average pass rate was 48.5%.

Road conditions in the Outer Hebrides

Red condition 7% (Scot.avg. 7%)

Amber condition 36% (Scot.avg. 29%)



As illustrated in the chart above the number of road accidents in the Outer Hebrides has decreased greatly since 2008 when there were 60 accidents to 2018 when there were 21 (65% decrease). However, the number increased slightly over the last year from 17 to 21.

Over the period Orkney has had the lowest number of accidents in the island areas over the years and recorded 10 in 2018, while Shetland had 13 road accidents. The Outer Hebrides generally has the highest number in most years.

National Records of Scotland

National Records of Scotland (NRS) collects, preserves and produces information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations.

The NRS podcast has talks on various aspects of Scottish life.

One of the talks in 2018 was by Dr Alison Rosie who gives a talk on St Kilda. She begins her talk with reference to the album *The Lost Songs of St Kilda* and you can find a sample of recordings of old St Kildan music on You Tube.

She also talks about her recent discovery of the earliest known census of the island's population from the year 1764, which she found unexpectedly in a private collection.

Personal Well-being in the UK: April 2018 to March 2019

This latest *release* provides estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK, country, regional, county and local authority level.

For local authorities the highest life satisfaction (8.45/10) in 2018/19 was Fylde, followed by Orkney, Fareham and the Outer Hebrides. The lowest satisfaction scores were Corby (7.2) followed by Hertsmere, Lambeth and Kensington and Chelsea.

Across the UK, areas with persistently higher average well-being ratings, between the years ending March 2012 and March 2019, included the Orkney Islands, The Outer Hebrides, and Shetland Islands, and Fermanagh and Omagh in Northern Ireland.

Over the same period, areas with persistently lower average well-being ratings included the London boroughs of Lambeth, Hackney, Islington and Camden.

| | Average ratings out of 10 March 2012 to March 2019 | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|----------|
| | Orkney | Outer Hebrides | Shetland |
| Life Satisfaction | 8.4 | 8.3 | 7.9 |
| Worthwhile | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.1 |
| Happiness | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.0 |
| Anxiety | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.5 |

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding this bulletin please contact:

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FACTFILE