



SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

This is the sixth 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. The socio-economic information is listed under topic headings.

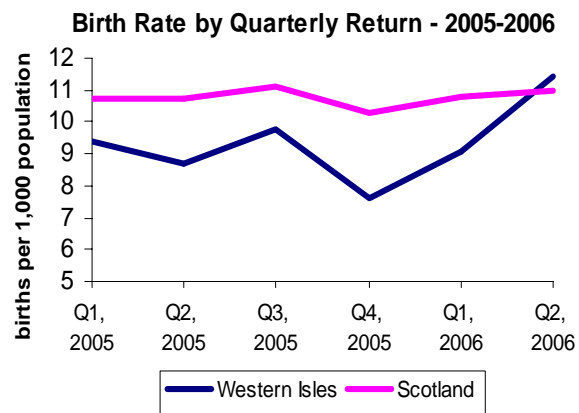
Population and Migration

Vital Events 2nd Quarter 2006

The Registrar General's provisional figures for 'Vital Events' registered during the period 1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006 (quarter 2) have been released.

Key findings for the Western Isles include:

- There were 75 live births resulting in a birth rate of 11.4 per 1,000 of the population over the period. This is the first time in the last two years that the birth rate has risen above the national average (see adjacent graph);
- The death rate remained consistently above the national average at 12.6 per 1,000 population over the period. [Link](#)



2005 Small Area Population Estimates

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) has been involved in work to produce small area population estimates (SAPE's) for a number of years, and in October 2005 GROS published the mid-year SAPE's at data zone level for 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The 2005 estimates were released in October 2006.

The 2005 mid-year estimate for the Western Isles, as a whole, was 26,370; an increase of 110 persons since 2004. When broken down by SAPE's 21 out of 36 data zones were estimated to have increased (see adjacent table).

Caution: These figures are estimates and potentially unreliable due to the uncertainty of factoring in migration; this is particularly relevant for smaller population. [Link](#)

Greatest Increases	Datazone	Area*
+7.62%	S01002353	Knock & Bayble
+6.34%	S01002344	S.Benbecula
+6.29%	S01002366	Laxdale/Nmarket
+5.94%	S01002358	Carloway
+4.12%	S01002374	Port of Ness

Greatest Decreases	Datazone	Area*
-3.7%	S01002349	North Harris
-3.3%	S01002347	West, N.Uist
-3.1%	S01002356	Newton, Sty
-2.9%	S01002339	SW Barra & Vat.
-2.6%	S01002350	Lochs, Lewis

* area descriptions are approx as datazones do not match wards

Occasional Paper: Household Changes Scotland in a European Setting

In October 2006, the GROS published an occasional paper undertaken by a MSC thesis student which summarises part of an investigation into the 2001 Census question 'The Relationship Matrix'.

This paper contains an analysis of household trends in Scotland, examining the changing relationship between members within households, and setting them in a European context. [Link](#)

Life Expectancy 2003-2005

Key findings for the Western Isles include:

- The **male life expectancy** in the Western Isles based on 2003/05 figures is **72.1 yrs**, an increase of 1% on 1993/95 figure of 71.3 yrs (national average was 74.2, a 3.3% increase on 1993/95).
- The **female life expectancy** in the Western Isles based on 2003/05 figures is **79.5 yrs**, an increase of 1.7% on 1993/95 figure of 78.2 yrs (national average was 79.2, a 2.3% increase on 1993/95). [Link](#)

Labour Market

Unemployment Update

The latest release from NOMIS (National Stats) gives the following unemployment rates for October 2006:

Western Isles: 3.6% Scotland: 2.6% UK: 2.5%

This represents an increase on previous months in 2006 and on a year previous; in October 2005, the unemployment rate was 2.7% in the Western Isles.

Over the last 10 years, we can see that the unemployment rate in the islands has fallen from a high of 9.3% in July 1996 to a low of 2.7% in Oct 2005.

[Link](#)

Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2005 [Link](#)

Released in Sept 06, key results include:

- There were 487 fishermen registered in the Stornoway district in 2005; of these, 238 were regularly employed, 213 were irregularly employed and 36 were 'crofter' fishermen.
- The number of voyages that ended in the Stornoway district decreased by 702 from 2004 to 2005.
- Landings in the Stornoway district in 2005 were: 169 tonnes demersal, and; 8,627 tonnes shellfish.

Final Results Scottish Agricultural Census 06 [Link](#)

Scottish Agricultural Facts & Figures [Link](#)

Health and Care

Recent Reports:

Western Isles Local Alcohol Profile 2006 [Link](#)

Older Peoples Services, 2006 [Link](#)

Health in Scotland Report [Link](#)

Dental Statistics 2006 [Link](#)

Infectious Diseases Statistics [Link](#)

NHS Complaints by NHS Board [Link](#)

Waiting Times (<Sept 06) Annual & Quarterly [Link](#)

Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics [Link](#)

Acute Activity (in/out patients & day cases) [Link](#)

NHS Workforce Statistics [Link](#)

Education and Training

Recent Reports

Higher Education Grads & Grads Destination 05 [Link](#)

SQA Examination Results 2006 [Link](#)

Scottish Executive Education Statistics [Link](#)

Pre-School and Child Care Statistics 2006 [Link](#)

Teacher Vacancies & Probationer Allocations 06 [Link](#)

Lifelong Learning Statistics: Maintenance 05/06 [Link](#)

Economy

Key Economic Links:

2005 Scottish Economic Statistics [Link](#)

Western Isles Tourism Fact Sheet [Link](#)

Scottish Quarterly GDP 2005, Q4 [Link](#)

Scottish Quarterly GDP 2006, Q1 [Link](#)

Scottish Manufactured Exports 2006 Q2 [Link](#)

2003 Western Isles Regional Accounts [Link](#)

Scottish Local Govt Finance Statistics [Link](#)

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Annual Report [Link](#)

Rural Scotland Price Survey [Link](#)

Social and Welfare

SNS Updated Tables

The latest quarterly update of the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) Internet site and database was carried out in October.

The main highlights include the newly released 2006 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation small area crime and offence data, the latest 2005 mid-year population estimates, updated and improved drive times to key services, 2005-2006 rural / urban classification, house price data for 2005 at a variety of geographies, revised data on businesses in manufacturing, construction and services industries at local authority level for 2003/2004.

[Link](#)

Child Protection Statistics 2005/06 [Link](#)

Social Work Scotland – Local Authority Level [Link](#)

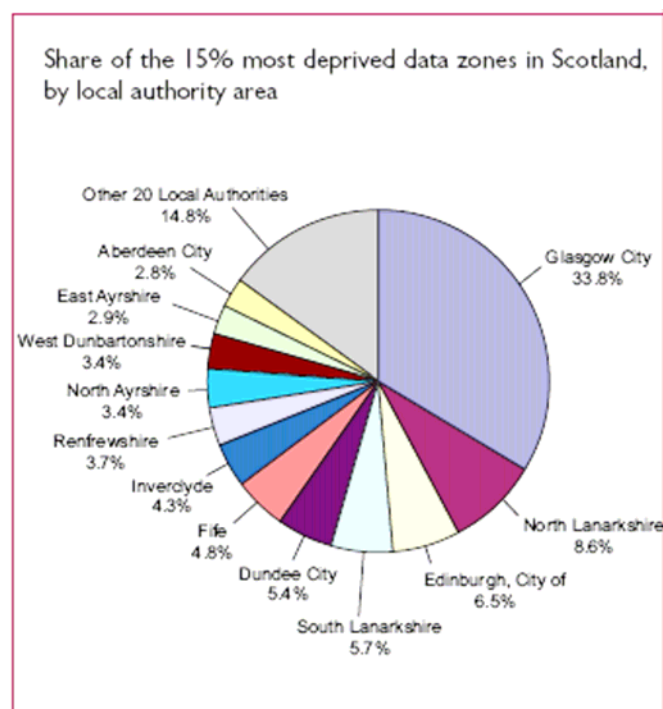
Looked After Children 2005-2006 [Link](#)

Special Report: SIMD 2006

In October 2006, the Scottish Executive launched the latest version of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD); an update on the 2004 release. The SIMD identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way by measuring a combination of 37 different indicators across seven domains (topics). These indicators are measured over a small area geography known as 'data zones'. There are 6,505 data zones in Scotland and the data zone ranked 1 by the SIMD 2006 is the most deprived and 6,505, the least deprived.

The SIMD is the most widely used tool for identifying disadvantaged areas in Scotland and the only available statistic on relative disadvantage at small area level. The SIMD is one of the principal tools used by the Scottish Executive to target policies and funding at deprived areas. The 2006 release includes the new addition of the 'travel times by public service' indicator (to the Geographic Access to Service Domain) and the new 'Crime' domain.

There are 36 'data zones' in the Western Isles; none of which fall within the 15% most deprived in Scotland (see adjacent chart). The data zone with the lowest rank in the Western Isles scores 1,594 (Uig & Bernera). [Link](#)



Natural Environment

SEA Toolkit

The Scottish Executive have launched an 'SEA toolkit', which provides guidance and templates for those who are undertaking (or planning to undertake) a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The SEA Directive came into force in July 2004. The directive aims to 'provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.' [Link](#)

Key Scottish Environmental Statistics [Link](#)

Crime and Justice

Recent Reports:

Recorded Crime in Scotland 2005/06 [Link](#)

SNS updated tables on 'Crime' [Link](#)

Liquor Licensing in Scotland, 2000-2004 [Link](#)

Transport, Travel and Tourism

Recent Reports:

Household Transport in 2005, SHS Results [Link](#)

GROS Occasional: 'Travel to Work or Study' [Link](#)

Key Transport Statistics – Scotland [Link](#)

Built Environment

Housing Trends in Scotland, Q2 – 2006

Key findings for the Western Isles include: [Link](#)

- 13,759 dwellings on the council tax register;
- 1,300 estimated recipients of housing benefit;
- In Q2, 2006: 80 private sector housing starts and 30 completions (26 private / 4 housing association);
- In Q2, 2006: 30 vacancies arising in local authority stock and 28 permanent lettings made.

Urban and Rural Classification 2005/06 [Link](#)

'Homeless' Applications 2005 [Link](#)

Contact

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