

ANNUAL POPULATION SURVEY IN SCOTLAND 2007: RESULTS FOR HIGHLAND

July 2008

Summary

- The Annual Population Survey is a useful source of information which allows simple comparison of the labour market and education & training in Highland with other Authorities.
- 26 indicators are reported for individual Authorities.
- We compare favourably on 11 indicators which cover most aspects of employment and economic activity.
- We compare unfavourably on 5 indicators which cover trends in economic activity rates and most aspects of training and lifelong learning.

Introduction

The Annual Population Survey (APS) presents analysis on the labour market and education & training in Scotland for 2006 and 2007. APS is a sample of the population in each of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland and suffers from sampling error (see below), but also has a number of benefits. The range and simplicity of the questions asked, and presentation of the results by local Authority, allows Highland's position in Scotland to be established easily. Some of the indicators update information from the 2001 census which is beginning to become out of date.

Survey Methodology

In the national Annual Labour Force Survey one person in each of 8,000 households in Scotland is interviewed 5 times at 13 week intervals. The Scottish Government boosts this to 23,000 households for the APS with the extra interviews conducted annually. The target sample size for most LAs, including Highland, is 875 economically active adults although all interviews north of the Caledonian Canal are conducted over the telephone rather than face to face which leads to lower response rates. The full report gives confidence levels for the results and in some cases implied changes between 2006 and 2007 may not be significant. For this reason, mainly 2007 figures are given below although comparisons between 2006 and 2007 are shown where significant.

shows positive indicators, shows negative indicators, shows indicators that are neither particularly good or bad and shows indicators that could be regarded as either good or bad from different points of view.

Employment rates 82% of working age people in Highland were in employment which is 2.1% up on the 2006 figure, and compares with a national rate of 76%: only three other Authorities had a higher employment rate. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 66.7%, and the highest in Shetland, 88.1%.

85.4% of working age men in Highland were employed and 78.2% of working age women, compared to a national rate of 79.1% for men and 72.7% for women. Employment rates were consistently above 79% during 2006 and 2007.

People with a disability 64.9% of working age people in Highland with a disability were in employment, compared with a national rate of 47.1%. Highland had the highest increase in this section, up 12.7% on 2006. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 31.3%, and the highest in Shetland, 68.8% (this was the only other Authority with a higher rate of working age people with a disability in employment).

Lone parents Highland had the highest rate of lone parents in employment, 88.9%, compared with a national rate of 56.3%: The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 38.8%. Highland had the third highest increase in this section, up 12.9%.

People aged 50 and over 78.8% of working age people over 50 in Highland were in employment, compared with a national rate of 71.4%: Four other Authorities had a higher employment rate. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 60.5%, and the highest in Shetland, 82.5%.

- ↔ **Work pattern** 75.8% of employed people in Highland worked full time compared with a national rate of 76.6%: 16 other Authorities had a higher percentage of full time workers. The lowest rate was in Orkney, 66.1%, and the highest in Glasgow, 79.7%.
- ↔ **Employment type** 12.9% of workers in Highland were self employed compared with a national rate of 10.4%: Eleven other Authorities had a higher proportion of self employed. The lowest rate was in Aberdeen City, 6.4%, and the highest in Orkney, 22.9%.
- ? **Second jobs** 6.3% of workers in Highland had second jobs compared with a national rate of 3.7%: Four other Authorities had a higher proportion of workers with second jobs (although the sample size for 6 Authorities was too small). The lowest rate was in North Ayrshire, 1.8%, and the highest in Orkney, 10.3%.
- ↔ **Unemployment (ILO definition)** 2.3% of people aged 16 or over in Highland were unemployed which is the second lowest in Scotland (although the sample size for three Authorities was too small). This is compared with a national rate of 4.7%. The lowest rate was in Aberdeenshire, 2% and the highest rate was in Inverclyde, 8.5%.
- ↔ There was no obvious trend in the unemployment rate during 2006 and 2007 (other than expected seasonal variation).
- ↔ **Economic inactivity** 15.9% of working age people in Highland were economically inactive, compared with a national rate of 20.1%: 4 other Authorities had a lower inactivity rate. The lowest rate was in Shetland, 10.4%, and the highest in Glasgow City, 28.3%.
- ↔ 11.6% of working age men were economically inactive, and 20.8% of women compared to national rates of 16.6% for men and 23.9% for women. The rate of working age men who were economically inactive has dropped by 3.4% on 2006.
- ↔ The rate of inactivity dropped slightly during 2006 and 2007.
- ↔ **Willingness to work** 26.6% of economically inactive people in Highland wanted to work (a drop of 5.7% on 2006), compared with a national rate of 27.6%: 7 other Authorities had a lower rate of people who wanted to work (although the sample size for three Authorities was too small). The lowest rate was in Dumfries and Galloway, 19.8%, and the highest in Angus, 34.8%.
- ↔ **Children living in workless households** 6.3% of children in Highland lived in workless households, compared with a national rate of 15.3%. Highland had the second lowest rate in Scotland (although the sample size for three Authorities was too small). The lowest was Aberdeenshire, 5.5%, and the highest was in Glasgow City, 33.6%.

Education and Skills

Lifelong learning indicators There are three indicators in Scotland connected with qualifications:

- ↔ The proportion of working age people in Highland whose highest qualification was below SCQF level 5 was 12%, compared with a national average of 16.1%. Level 5 is Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2; or equivalent.
- ↔ The proportion with a highest qualification below SCQF level 6 was 25.2%, compared with a national average of 29.8%. Level 6 is Higher at A-C; or equivalent.
- ↔ The proportion of employed people in Highland who were graduates was 17.9%, compared with a national average of 24.9%.
- ↔ **Adult learning** The proportion of people aged 16 to 69 in Highland who participated in adult learning was 72.9% compared with a national average of 68.4%: 13 other Authorities had a higher rate. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 57.9%, and the highest in Edinburgh, 79.6%. These figures are for 2006 as the 2007 data is not available.
- ↔ **Job related training** The proportion of working age people in employment in Highland who had received job related training in the previous three months was 27.4%, compared with a national rate of 27.8%: 16 other Authorities had a higher rate. The lowest rate was in East Lothian, 20.5%, and the highest in Moray, 34.8%. (Note that these figures are based on workplace, rather than Authority of residence).

Urban - Rural analysis

The report also presents analysis according to the Scottish Government's 6 fold urban - rural classification. Almost without fail, the indicators were most favourable for accessible rural and remote rural areas (where 53% of Highland's population live), grading to least favourable for large urban areas.

Deprivation

Indicators were significantly less favourable for the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland when compared with the rest of Scotland.

The Scottish Government's report on The Annual Population Survey In Scotland 2007 can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/25095306/0>