



# MIGRATION IN HIGHLAND 2002 - 2004

November 2005

## SUMMARY

From mid 2002 to mid 2004:

- Highland gained people in all age groups apart from the 15 to 19 group.
- Inward migration of other age groups from the rest of Scotland failed to compensate for the loss of young people and the net balance with the rest of Scotland was a slight loss.
- The net loss of young people as they attend university, seek employment or take a gap year demonstrates the urgent need for a university in the Highlands and Islands.
- Highland gained from the rest of the UK, made up mainly of families with children and the 45 to 64 age group.
- Highland attracts large numbers of families from Scotland and the rest of the UK.
- The largest net gain was in the 35 to 40 age group.
- Highland gained people aged over 65, with most coming from England and Wales.

## Introduction

This Briefing Note provides information on migration both to and from Highland during the period 2002 to 2004. The analysis is presented to complement and inform wider work being undertaken on migration patterns to the area. As there is no mandatory system of registering people and their address in the UK, there is no simple way of quantifying migration. The movement of people must be measured through the use of information compiled by Government departments and agencies for other operational reasons.

Because of the need to protect confidentiality, and the volume of work involved in processing the records, the amount of information available to The Council for analysis is limited and not always entirely consistent.

The briefing note sets out the main migration patterns which have emerged from an analysis of two sources of information:

1. **National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR)** which is used to determine people's moves within the UK; and
2. **National Insurance registrations (NIRS2)** which are used to track migration patterns from overseas.

Highland experienced high rates of net inward migration during this period, with estimated net gains in excess of 1,200 and 2,500 in 2002/03 and 2003/04 respectively (see Briefing Note 1, Mid Year population Estimates for Highland).

## 1. Migration between Highland and the Rest of the UK

Most people moving to, or within, the UK register with a doctor and their name, address and unique identifier code is held on a register, allowing the origin and destination of any moves to be identified. We have used NHSCR data from two sources:

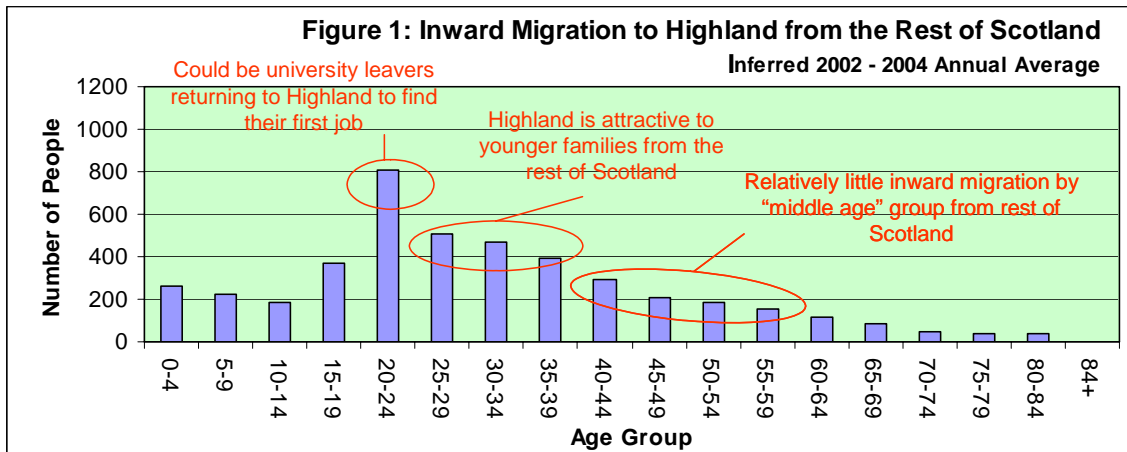
- NOMIS (web based national labour market statistics) quarterly summaries from mid 2002 to mid 2004 giving flows between countries and government regions together with age breakdowns. NOMIS does not give data on flows within Scotland, or between Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) data giving i) flows between Scottish Authorities from mid 2003 and mid 2004 (with no age breakdown); and ii) flows to and from individual authorities with an age breakdown for mid 2002 to mid 2004.

NHSCR is a reliable source of data but is only available for recent years, and can suffer from a lag before people register with a doctor. Young people often register only when they are ill and many young males, in particular, do not register at all.

The following figures and commentary set out migration patterns between Highland and the rest of Scotland, Highland and England and Wales, and provides more detailed information on the patterns of movement between Highland and other Scottish local authorities.

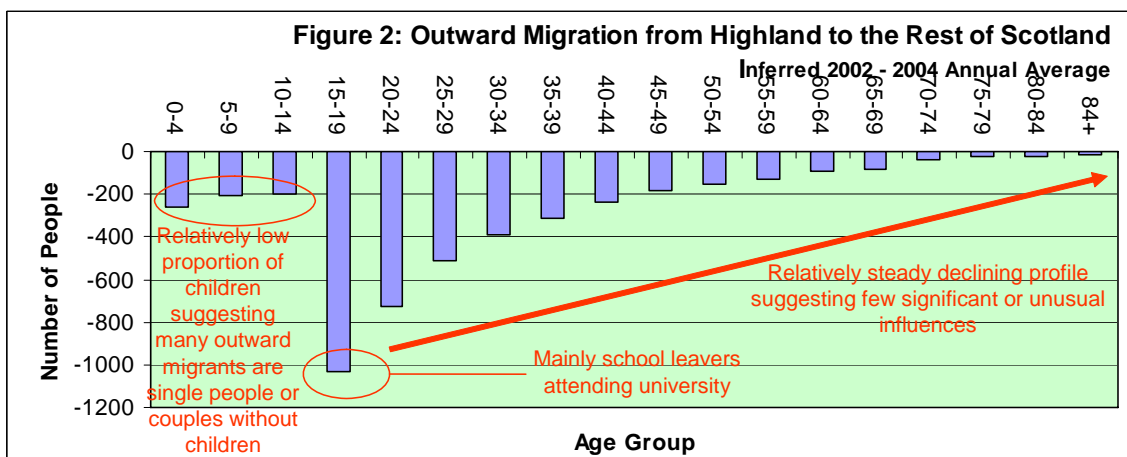
### Inward Migration to Highland from the rest of Scotland (Figure 1)

- On average, 4,393 people moved each year from the rest of Scotland to Highland.
- 2,827 (%) of these were aged under 35.
- 1,566 (%) of these were aged 35 and over.
- The biggest gain was in the 20 to 24 age group (812 per year)



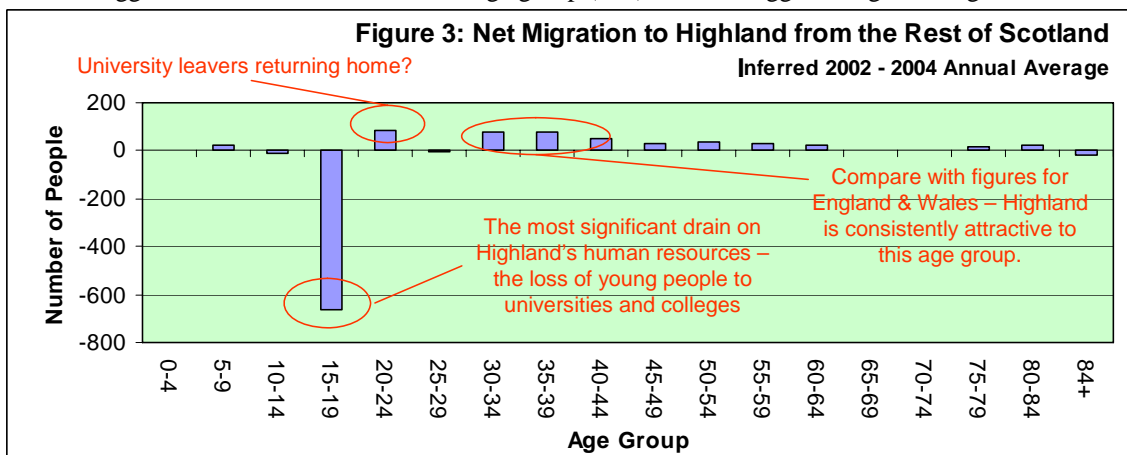
### Outward Migration from Highland to the rest of Scotland (Figure 2)

- 4,613 people moved each year from Highland to the rest of Scotland.
- 3,328 (%) of these were aged under 35 and 1,285 (%) were aged 35 and over
- The biggest loss was in the 15 to 19 age group - 1,034 per year, with a significant additional loss in the volatile 20 to 24 age group of 730 per year.



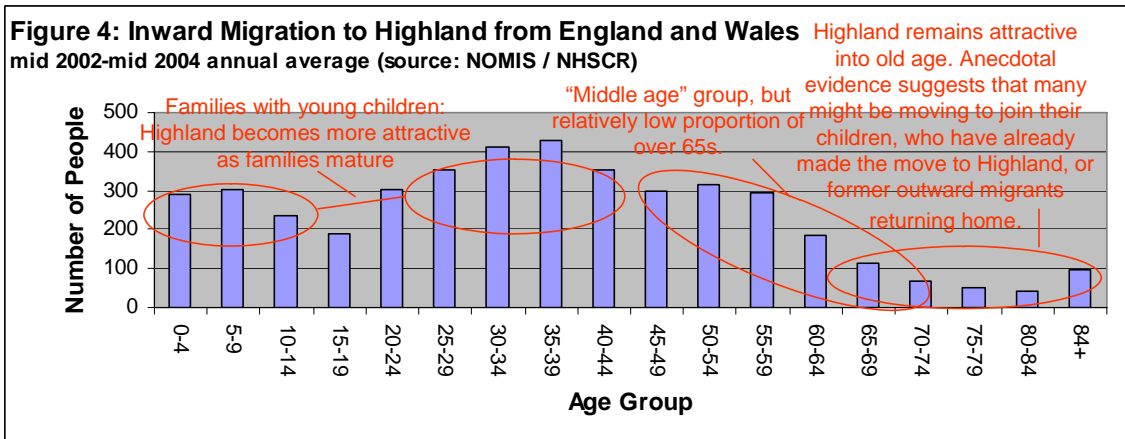
### Overall Migration (Figure 3)

- Overall, Highland lost 220 people each year to the rest of Scotland.
- There was a net loss of 501 in the under 35 age group and a net gain of 281 in the 35 and over age group.
- The biggest net loss was in the 15 to 19 age group (667) with the biggest net gain being the 35 to 39 age group.



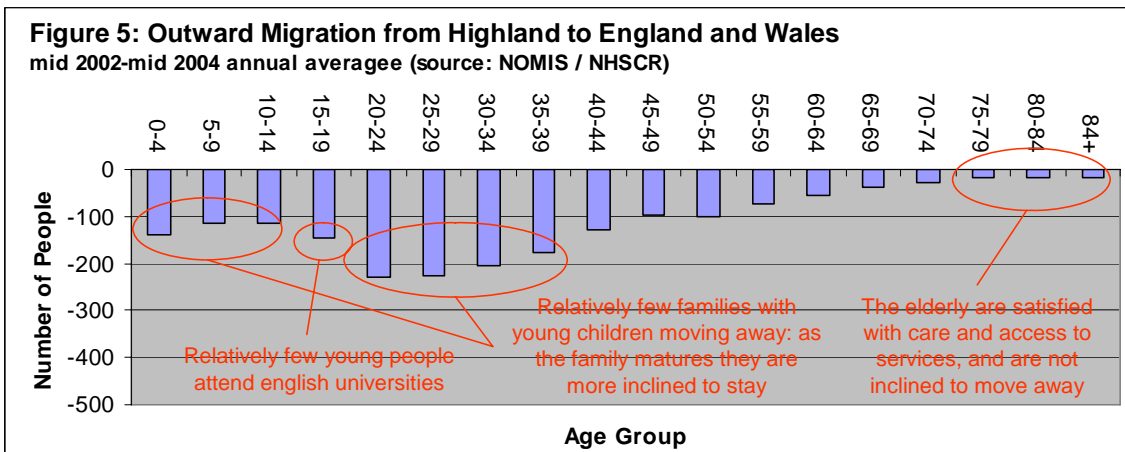
### Inward Migration to Highland from England and Wales (Figure 4)

- On average, 4,328 people moved each year from England and Wales to Highland.
- 2,080 of these were aged under 35 and 2,248 were aged 35 and over.
- The biggest gain was in the 35 to 39 age group - 430 per year.



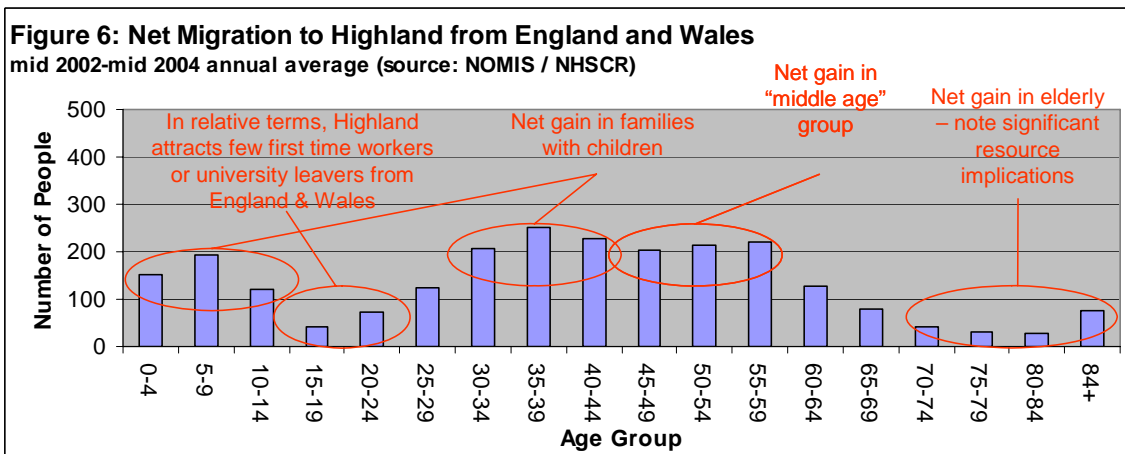
### Outward Migration from Highland to England and Wales (Figure 5)

- 1,923 people moved each year to England and Wales from Highland.
- 1,174 of these were aged under 35 and 749 were aged 35 and over
- The biggest loss was in the 20 to 24 age group - 229 per year



### Overall Migration between Highland and England and Wales (Figure 6)

- Overall, Highland gained 2,406 people each year from England and Wales.
- 907 of these were aged under 35 and 1,499 were aged 35 and over
- The biggest net gain was in the 35 to 39 age group - 253 per year



## Migration between Highland and other Scottish local authority areas from mid 2003 to mid 2004 (Table 1)

- Over the 12 month period inward migration (4,292) and outward migration (4,269) were roughly in balance.
- There were high levels of movement between Highland and neighbouring local authority areas with net gains from Eilean Siar (65), Orkney (41) and Shetland (45) but net losses to Perth & Kinross (15), Aberdeenshire (26) and Moray (84).
- In general, there was a net outflow to urban authorities (perhaps young people attending university but not returning when their course is complete).

Table 1: Migration Flows (Numbers of People) Between Highland and Other Scottish Local Authorities between mid 2003 and mid 2004 based on NHSCR							
To/From	Outflow	Inflow	Net Gain (+ve) or Loss (-ve) to Highland	To/From	Outflow	Inflow	Net Gain (+ve) or Loss (-ve) to Highland
Stirling	57	122	65	South Ayrshire	30	37	7
Eilean Siar	161	222	61	West Lothian	98	105	7
Renfrewshire	41	82	41	Midlothian	26	30	4
Orkney Islands	63	104	41	Angus	67	70	3
South Lanarkshire	90	127	37	Dumfries & Galloway	68	71	3
North Lanarkshire	84	116	32	Falkirk	66	61	-5
East Lothian	37	68	31	East Ayrshire	60	49	-11
Shetland Islands	22	45	23	Dundee City	96	83	-13
Inverclyde	26	46	20	Perth & Kinross	217	202	-15
Fife	189	209	20	Aberdeenshire	279	253	-26
East Renfrewshire	26	44	18	Aberdeen City	456	391	-65
Argyll & Bute	167	185	18	Edinburgh, City of	563	497	-66
North Ayrshire	56	69	13	Moray	399	315	-84
Clackmannanshire	33	45	12	Glasgow City	645	471	-174
East Dunbartonshire	25	35	10	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>4,269</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>23</b>
West Dunbartonshire	39	47	8	<b>Outside Scotland</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>5,846</b>	<b>2,613</b>
Scottish Borders	83	91	8	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,502</b>	<b>10,138</b>	<b>2,636</b>

## 2. Migration from Overseas

Overseas nationals who wish to take up employment in the UK must register for a National Insurance number. The Council commissioned the Department of Work and Pensions to produce bespoke reports for 2001 to 2005, at Highland area level, from the National Insurance Recording System "NIRS2". To protect confidentiality, counts are rounded to the nearest 5 and those of less than 5 are shown as zero. The Department of Work and Pensions report that in general about 8% of registering overseas nationals go on to claim benefits within six months, implying that they may not take up work. The introduction of new procedures in 2001 led to a backlog which took two years to clear and biased the figures towards 2002/03. The majority of registrations are known to be short term economic migrants but there is no information on the length of stay, type of employment, of whether the person registering is part of a family unit. The general patterns are however interesting and will help inform wider policy making:

- The number of overseas inward migrants rose from 255 in 2001/02 to 1,630 in 2004/05 (table 2), a much greater rate of increase than for the rest of Scotland or the UK overall. The distribution between our areas was fairly consistent through time with Inverness accounting for some 40% of the total.
- The number of unemployed people in Highland fell steadily during this period at the rate of around 300 per year. It would seem obvious that there is a clear link and that this inward migration is meeting shortages in the local labour force.
- There were equal numbers of men and women overall, but more women than men for the first three years followed by a substantial reverse in 2004/05.
- Most registrations were in the 18-24 (45%) and 25-34 (37%) age groups.

**NUMBERS OF OVERSEAS NATIONALS REGISTERING FOR NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBERS  
2001 - 2005 BY HIGHLAND AREA**

Based on given UK home address

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Total
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>	25	90	60	235	410
<b>Caithness</b>	15	25	35	40	115
<b>Inverness</b>	90	255	295	675	1315
<b>Lochaber</b>	55	105	125	230	515
<b>Nairn</b>	0	15	30	35	80
<b>Ross &amp; Cromarty</b>	30	85	145	280	540
<b>Skye &amp; Lochalsh</b>	20	25	40	95	180
<b>Sutherland</b>	20	25	20	40	105
<b>Highland Total</b>	255	625	750	1630	3260
<b>UK</b>	176,810	334,005	354,190	422,710	1,287,715
<b>Scotland</b>	6,810	14,885	16,155	23,285	61,135

- There was a significant change in origin during the period (Table 3) with overseas migrants from the EU, Australasia & Oceania and the Americas being replaced by migrants from the Accession states (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia). There were 335 inward migrants from the Accession States in 2003/04 (45% of the annual total) and 955 in 2004/05 (58%) with Poland the main origin.
- The changes in origin over a four year period show just how volatile the short term labour market can be. We can only speculate whether inward migration from the Accession states will continue at current levels, but a significant amount of work is being undertaken by the Council and its Wellbeing Alliance partners to better understand the motivations of these migrants and put in place a more effective support network for them.

Origin by Percent of Registrations in each Year								
	Africa	Asia and Middle East	Accession states	Australasia and Oceania	European Union (Excluding Accession States)	Other European	The Americas	All Regions (100%)
<b>01/02</b>	10	8	0	24	41	2	14	255
<b>02/03</b>	8	13	3	18	39	6	11	635
<b>03/04</b>	1	37	45	12	5	0	1	750
<b>04/05</b>	4	8	58	6	14	5	5	1635