

ANNUAL POPULATION SURVEY IN SCOTLAND 2005: RESULTS FOR HIGHLAND

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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.**
- **21 indicators are reported for individual Authorities.**
- **We compare favourably on 10 indicators which cover most aspects of employment and economic activity.**
- **We compare unfavourably on 5 indicators which cover work pattern, trends in economic activity rates, and some aspects of training and lifelong learning.**

Introduction

The Annual Population Survey (APS) presents analysis on the labour market and education & training in Scotland for 2004 and 2005. APS is a sample of the population in each Local Authority 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 Some of the indicators update information from the 2001 census which is beginning to become out of date.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 Executive 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 2004 and 2005 may not be significant. For this reason, mainly 2005 figures are given below.

- ☺ **Employment rates** 80.8% of working age people in Highland were in employment, compared with a national rate of 74.9%: only two other Authorities had a higher employment rate. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 65.9%, and the highest in Shetland, 85.3%.
- ☺ 80.9% of working age men in Highland were employed, and 80.8% of working age women.
- ☺ Employment rates were consistently above 80% during 2004 and 2005.
- ☺ **People with a disability** 54.6% of working age people in Highland with a disability were in employment, compared with a national rate of 45.7%: only five other authorities had a higher employment rate. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, 33.4%, and the highest in the Western Isles, 58.8%.
- ☺ **Lone parents** 70.4% of lone parents in Highland were in employment, compared with a national rate of 55.7%: only two other Authorities had a higher employment rate. The lowest rate was in Clackmannanshire, 39.6%, and the highest in Aberdeenshire, 73.7%.
- ☺ **People aged 50 and over** 73.6% of working age people over 50 in Highland were in employment, compared with a national rate of 69.1%: 12 other Authorities had a higher employment rate. The lowest rate was in East Ayrshire, 57.7%, and the highest in Shetland, 85.8%.
- ☹ **Work pattern** 74.4% of employed people in Highland worked full time (and 35.6% worked part time) compared with a national rate of 76.1%: 22 other Authorities had a higher percentage of full time workers. The lowest rate was in the Western Isles, 68.4%, and the highest in South Lanarkshire, 78.9%.

- ☺ **Employment type** 13.5% of workers in Highland were self employed compared with a national rate of 9.9%: seven other Authorities had a higher proportion of self employed. The lowest rate was in West Lothian, 6.7%, and the highest in Orkney, 19.5%.
- ☺ **Unemployment (ILO definition)** 3.3% of people aged 16 or over in Highland were unemployed, compared with a national rate of 5.3%: only three other Authorities had a lower rate. The lowest rate was in Perth & Kinross, 3.0%, and the highest in Glasgow City, 8.4%.
- ☹ There was no obvious trend in the unemployment rate during 2004 and 2005 (other than expected seasonal variation).
- ☺ **Economic inactivity** 16.3% of working age people in Highland were economically inactive, compared with a national rate of 20.8%: 5 other Authorities had a lower activity rate. The lowest rate was in Shetland, 11.8%, and the highest in Glasgow City, 27.9%.
- ☺ 15.4% of working age men were economically inactive, and 17.2% of women: the rate for women in particular is well below the national average.
- ☹ The rate of inactivity rose slightly during 2004 and 2005.
- ☹ **Willingness to work** 30.3% of economically inactive people in Highland wanted to work, compared with a national rate of 29.8%: 15 Authorities had a higher rate of people who wanted to work. The lowest rate was in North Lanarkshire, 17.4%, and the highest in the Western Isles, 38.0%.
- ☺ **Children living in workless households** 6.2% of children in Highland lived in workless households, compared with a national rate of 16.1%. Highland had the lowest rate in Scotland (although the sample size for three Authorities was too small) and the highest was in Glasgow City, 33.1%.

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 16.4%, compared with a national average of 18.8%. 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 39.0%, compared with a national average of 30.7%. Level 6 is Higher at A-C; or equivalent.
- ☹ The proportion of employed people in Highland who were graduates was 16.7%, compared with a national average of 21.6%.
- ☹ **Adult learning** The proportion of people aged 16 to 69 in Highland who participated in adult learning was 70.5% compared with a national average of 67.4%: 15 other Authorities had a higher rate. The lowest rate was in North Lanarkshire, 54.5%, and the highest in Shetland, 80.7%.
- ☹ **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 28.0%, compared with a national rate of 30.1%: 20 other Authorities had a higher rate. The lowest rate was in Midlothian, 22.4%, and the highest in Edinburgh, 36.5%. (Note that these figures are based on workplace, rather than Authority of residence).

Urban - Rural analysis

The report also presents analysis according to the Executive's 6 fold urban - rural classification. Almost without fail, the indicators were most favourable for remote small towns and remote rural areas (where 52% 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 when compared with the rest of Scotland.

The Executive's report on The Annual Population Survey In Scotland 2005 can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/06/28140032/0>