

2005 MID YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES - HIGHLAND

Summary

- Highland has seen the largest percentage population increase of all Scottish local authorities over the past year.
- The number of births in Highland has risen for the 3rd year in a row but is still outnumbered by deaths.
- Highland's population growth is due to sustained higher levels of estimated net migration.

The population of Highland

Figures released on 27th April 2006 by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) estimate the population of Highland to have been 213,590 on 30th June 2005, an increase of 2,250 (1.1%) since last year and an increase of 4,670 (2.2)% since 2001.

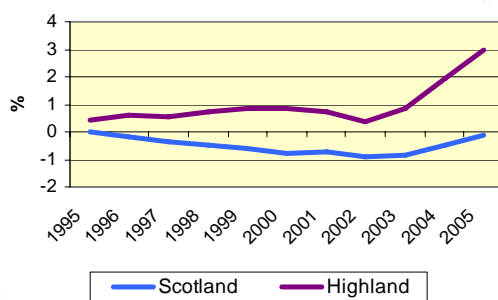
In mid-2005 it was estimated that 18.5% of the population were aged under 16; 63.9% were aged 16-64 and 17.5% were aged 65 and over. There were more females (51.1%) than males (48.9%) in Highland.

Population change 2004-05 and 1995-05

Highland saw the largest population increase since mid-2004 of all Scottish Councils along with Aberdeenshire and Falkirk (1.1%); Of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities 22 saw an increase in population since 2004 while 10 saw a decline. The largest percentage declines in population occurred in East Dunbartonshire (-0.6%) and Aberdeen City (-0.5%). The population of Scotland as a whole increased by 16,400 people (0.3%) since 2004 (see Figure 3).

Over the past decade since 1995 the population of Highland has increased by 2.6%. This is a larger long term increase

Fig 1: Cumulative % population change 1995-2005, Highland and Scotland (GROS)



than Scotland as a whole which saw a decline in population of -0.2% over the same period.

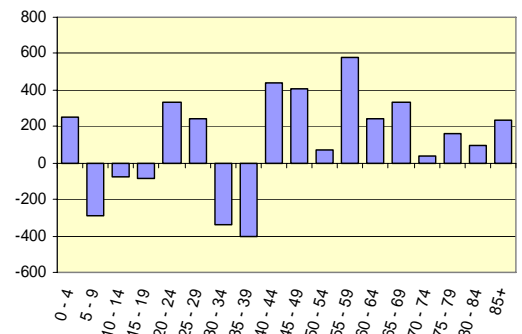
The cumulative population change in both Highland and Scotland since 1995 is shown in Figure 1.

Changing age structure of Highland's population

Since 2004 it is estimated that there are 90 fewer 0-15 year olds, 1,471 more 16-64 year olds and 869 more 65+ year olds in Highland.

Figure 2 shows the change in population between 2004 and 2005 by five year age group. The age groups showing a decline are the 5-19 year olds and those in their thirties. Population has risen in all age groups above 40 since 2004. The increase in the number of young adults aged 20-30 is particularly encouraging due to the important role this age group has to play in the future of the Highland economy.

Fig 2: Population change (number) by 5 year age band, Highland 2004-05 (GROS)



Factors contributing to population change

Three factors influence population change – births, deaths and migration. Over the past number of years Highland's population has been in a state of "natural decline" meaning that there are more deaths per year than births. This means that without migration the Highland population would be in a state of decline. The past year has been no exception, with 2,245 deaths and only 2,175 births (although the number of births has risen for the third year in a row).

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However, during 2004/05 2,323 more people are estimated to have come to Highland to live than have left (net-migration). This is a similar net migration figure to that seen during the previous year (2,573) and once again significantly surpasses the Community Plan target of 700 net migration per annum. It is also the third highest level of net migration anywhere in Scotland after Edinburgh City (4,160) and Aberdeenshire (2,590).

Further Information

The full GROS 2005 Population Estimates report and tables are available to download from: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/mid-2005-population-estimates/index.html>

Figure 3: Percentage population change 2004-2005, all Scottish Local Authorities

