

# MIGRATION TO HIGHLAND

## 2004 to 2010

September 2011

### SUMMARY

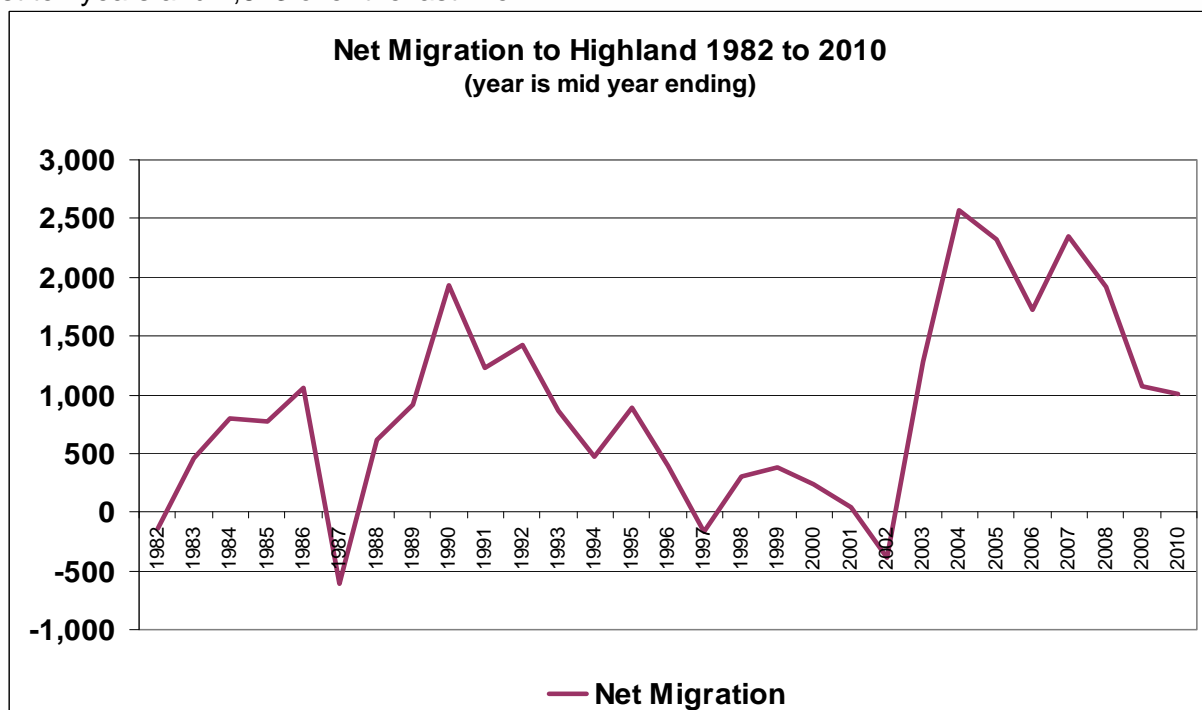
- Long term inward migration (over the last 28 years) to Highland has been 900 people per year on average, with a higher figure for the last five years of 1,600 per year.
- Net inward migration has fallen since the credit crunch but was over 1,000 in each of the last two years.
- Each year, we tend to gain as many people as we lose to the rest of Scotland and net migration is a small gain of around 100 per year.
- Highland's main net gain is from the rest of the UK with average net inward migration of nearly 1,600 people per year over the last seven years, down to 740 per year for the last two years.
- Over the last seven years our net gain from overseas has been 100 per year.
- Almost half of open market house sales in Badenoch & Strathspey, Skye & Lochalsh, Sutherland and West Ross are to buyers from outwith Highland.

### Introduction

The first decade of the millennium started with a period of rapid economic and population growth followed by the credit crunch, recession and relative stagnation. Despite the changing economic situation the population of Highland has continued to grow, albeit at a lower rate. The age profile of Highland means that in the long term the number of deaths each year will exceed the number of births – although there has been a small surplus of births each year since 2007 – and population growth has been the result of inward migration. This briefing note looks in detail at migration over the last seven years (mid year ending 2004 to mid year ending 2010). It uses figures published in August 2011 by National Records of Scotland (NRS, formerly the General Registers Office of Scotland) together with information from the Department of Work and pensions (DWP), and on house sales to look at the origin of our inward migrants and trends through time.

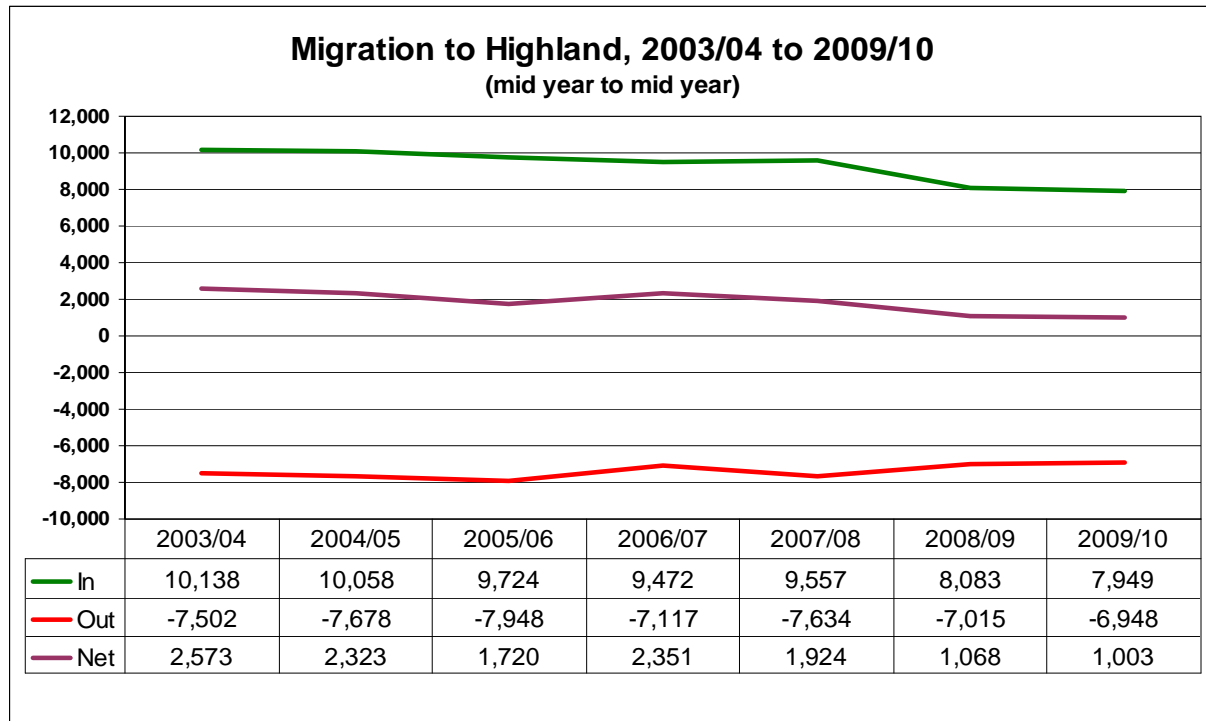
### Long Term Migration to Highland

The chart below shows that since 1982, net migration to Highland has varied with a net gain to Highland in all years bar four. The long term average is 887 per year; 1,389 per year over the last ten years and 1,613 over the last five.



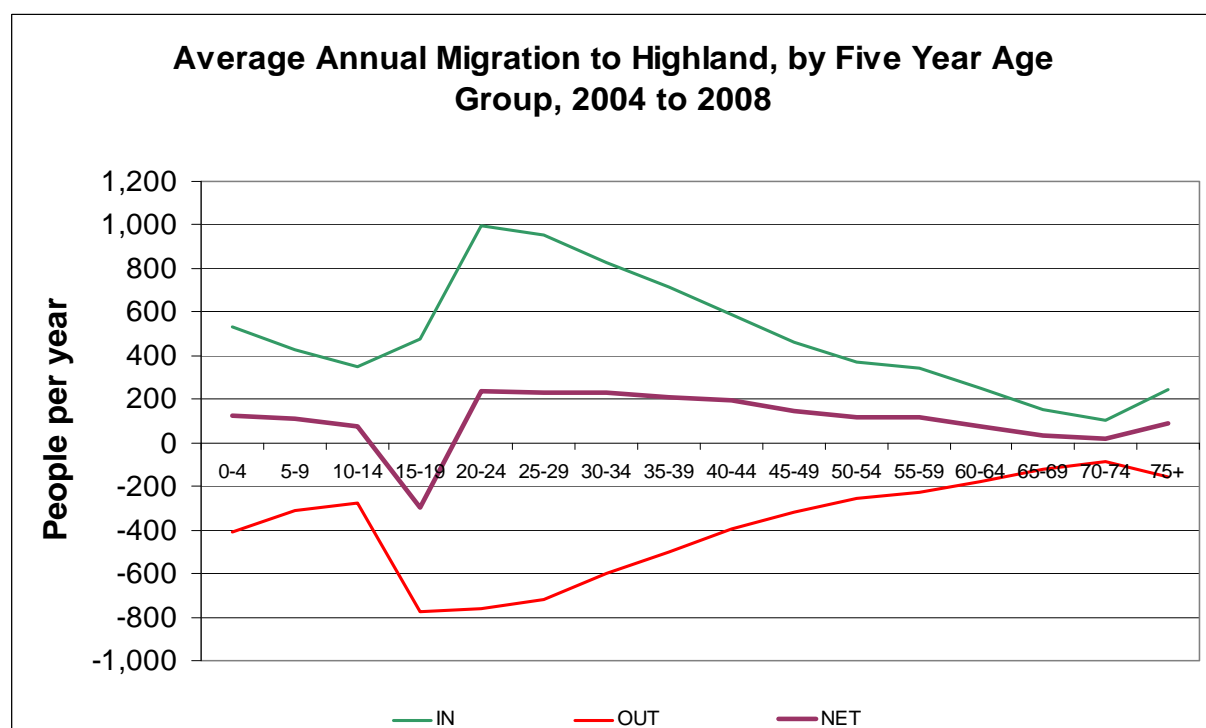
## Total Migration from all Origins

Until the onset of the credit crunch in 2008 the total number of people moving into and out of Highland each year was broadly consistent –around 10,000 and 8,000 respectively - giving net inward migration of just over 2,000 per year. Since then, the number of people moving in each direction has fallen, with a larger reduction in the number of inward migrants, resulting in net migration falling to around 1,000 per year.



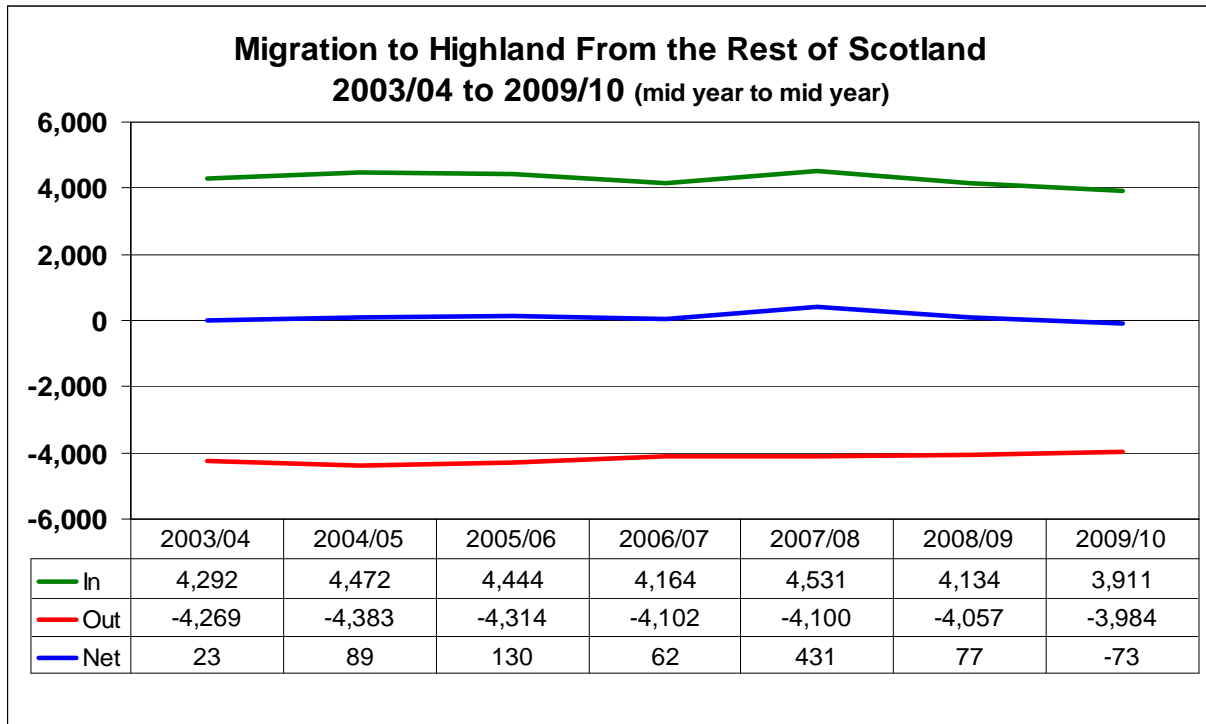
## The Age Profile of Migrants

NRS supply detailed migration profiles by five year age band for use in population projections and these are available for the period 2004 to 2008, the high migration period leading up to the credit crunch. The profile for Highland overall is given in the chart below (similar profiles are also available for each of our eight former areas). It shows the expected loss of young people in the 15 to 19 age band as they leave to higher and further education and continued high levels of outward migration during the 20s, with declining rates through the older age bands. High rates of inward migration begin in the early 20s. The rate declines with age and to some extent this belies the belief that inward migrants are dominated by retired people, although the plateau in the 50 to 59 age groups suggests that early retirees and “downsizers” are moving into Highland, and we gained in the 60 plus age groups. Detailed age bands are not currently available for the two years following the credit crunch, but more general figures from NRS show that inward migration by people aged 65 plus fell to an average of 12 per year in the subsequent two years, compared with an average of 160 in the preceding five years. The origins of inward migrants are discussed in the sections that follow.



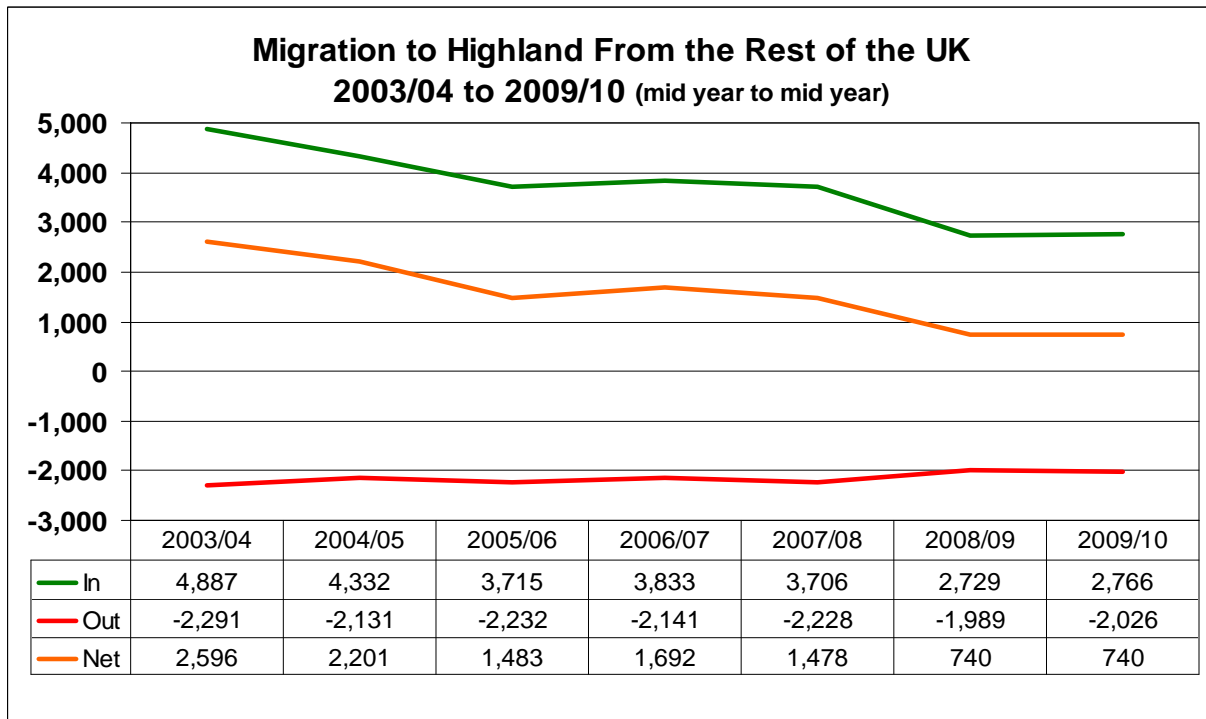
### Migration to Highland from the Rest of Scotland

Migration from the rest of Scotland (outside of Highland) is broadly neutral with an average gain of 100 people per year over the last seven years, and around 4,000 people moving in each direction each year.



### Migration to Highland from the Rest of the UK

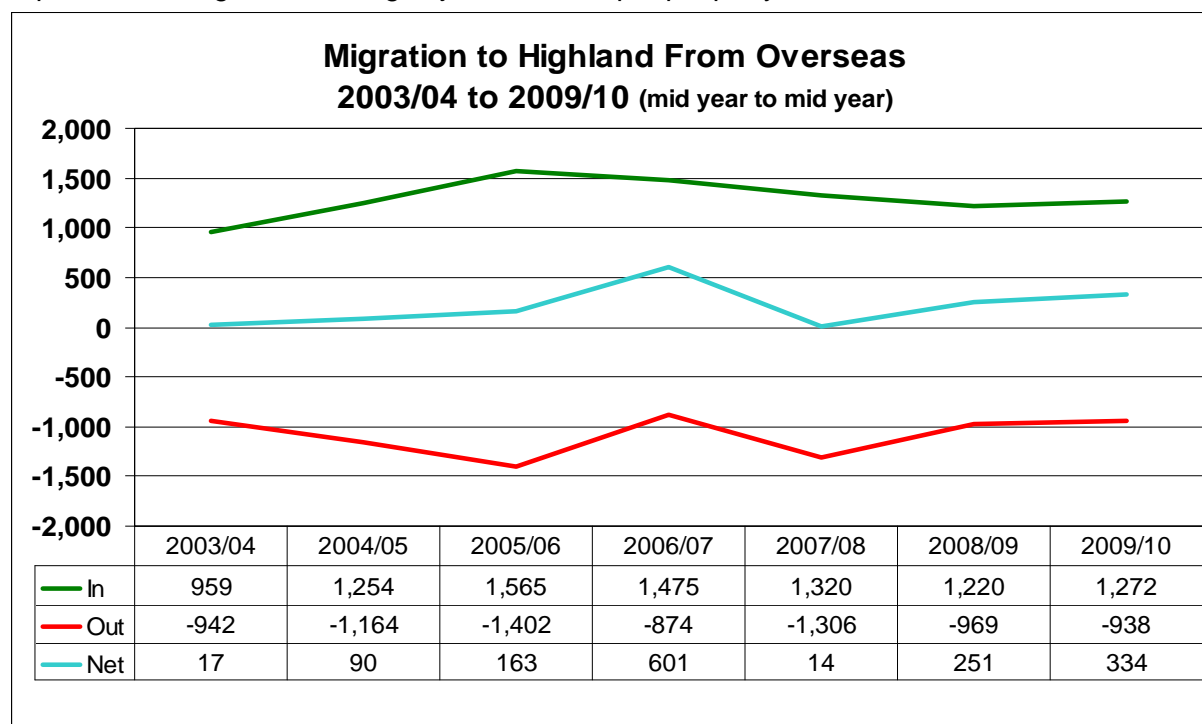
The rest of the UK (ie England, Wales and N Ireland) is by far the most significant contributor to net inward migration to Highland. Over the last seven years average outward migration from Highland has been fairly consistent at around 2,000 people per year but inward migration has varied considerably, falling from 4,887 in 2003/04 to 2,729 in 2008/09 and 2,766 in 2009/10. The result is a drop in net inward migration from the rest of the UK from 2,596 in 2003/04 to 740 in each of 2008/09 and 2009/10.



## Migration to Highland from Overseas

When interpreting the figures that follow it is important to bear in mind that the resident population is considered, under international guidelines, to be made up of people who are resident for 12 months or more. Many migrant workers do not expect to stay for more than 12 months, declare this at their point of entry to the UK, and are excluded from population estimates. Similarly, the figures that follow exclude many migrant workers (more information on migrant workers is given below). Long-term records prior to 2003/04 suggest that in general Highland used to lose more people to international migration than it gained, albeit that the figures may not be consistent with those given below.

Inward migration from overseas was 959 in 2003/04 and rose to a peak of 1,565 in 2005/06 before falling to 1,272 in 2009/10. These peak years will undoubtedly be linked in part to migrant workers from the eight EU accession states (*A8 migrants*), but other information below suggests that the peak year for A8 migrants was 2007, and workers from other parts of the world will therefore have been a significant factor in 2005/06. Over the seven year period, net migration averaged just over 200 people per year.



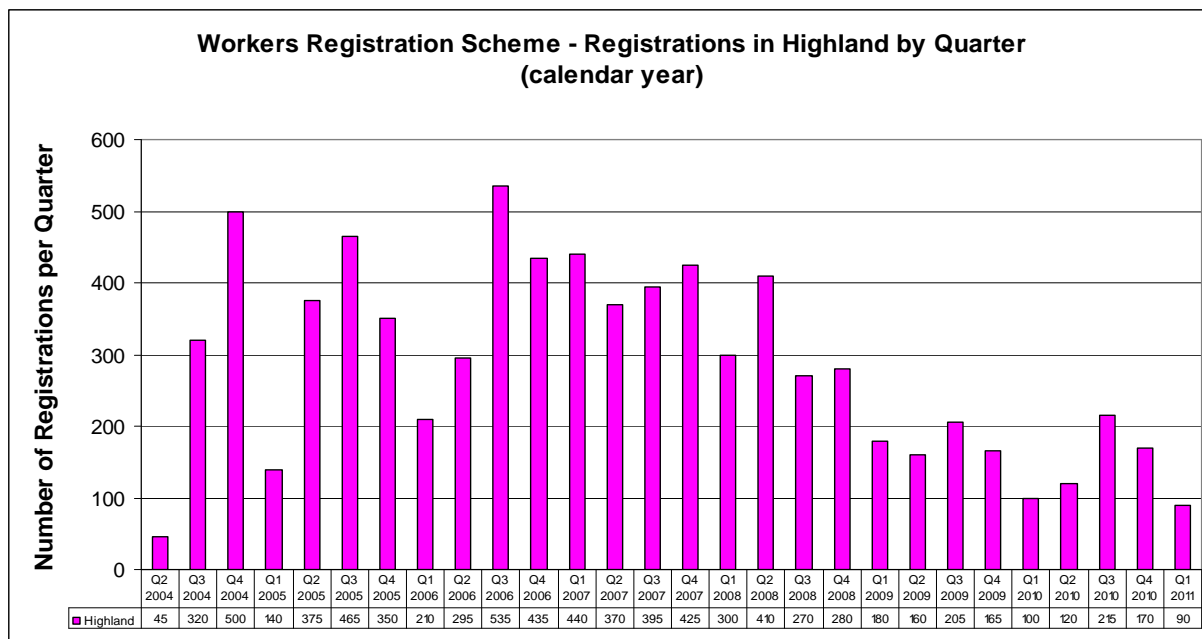
## Migrant Workers

**National Insurance Number (NINO) Allocations.** There is no universal, mandatory, system of personal registration in the UK and the best record of migrant workers is given by NINO allocations to people giving Highland as their UK address. NINOS are allocated to all people who want to work or claim benefits, but not to any dependants who are not working. These records suffer from the significant weakness that no record is kept of when people leave the UK so a simple aggregation of the figures below would give a large over estimate of the numbers remaining in Highland.

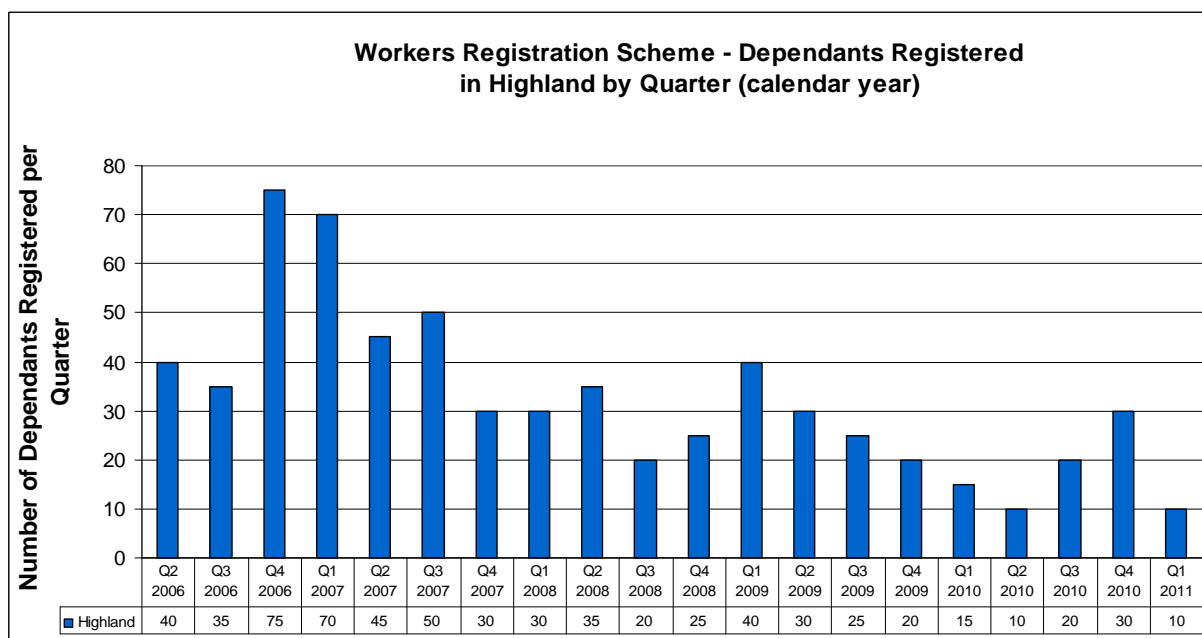
National Insurance Number Allocations to People From Overseas by World Region of Origin (calendar years)									
Year	Total	European Union	EU Accession States	Other European	Africa	Asia and Middle East	The Americas	Australasia and Oceania	Total excl. Accession States
2004	1,220	250	600	50	50	100	70	100	620
2005	2,690	240	1,900	50	100	160	110	120	780
2006	2,360	190	1,780	30	70	140	70	80	580
2007	2,970	210	2,310	50	50	130	110	110	660
2008	2,130	200	1,580	20	60	110	80	90	560
2009	1,560	200	1,050	20	50	120	70	70	530
2010	1,310	200	910	10	20	60	40	60	390

Source: DWP tab tool

**Workers Registration Scheme.** From May 2004 until April 2011, workers from the eight new Accession states to the EU were required to register their place of work for the first 12 months of their stay in the UK. They were also asked for information on the number of dependants, likely length of stay, age, country of origin and occupation. Again, no record is kept of when people leave and this has led to press speculation that the number of workers in Highland could be as high as 10,000. The charts below show that the numbers of A8 migrants registering in Highland has more than halved since the peak in 2006 and 2007 and we believe that we have a stable pool – in numeric terms – of workers in Highland with those leaving being replaced in equal numbers by new workers. A more realistic estimate of the number living here is probably in the region of 3,500 although this is still speculative: firm figures will be available when results of the 2011 census are available (the summer of 2012 at the earliest).

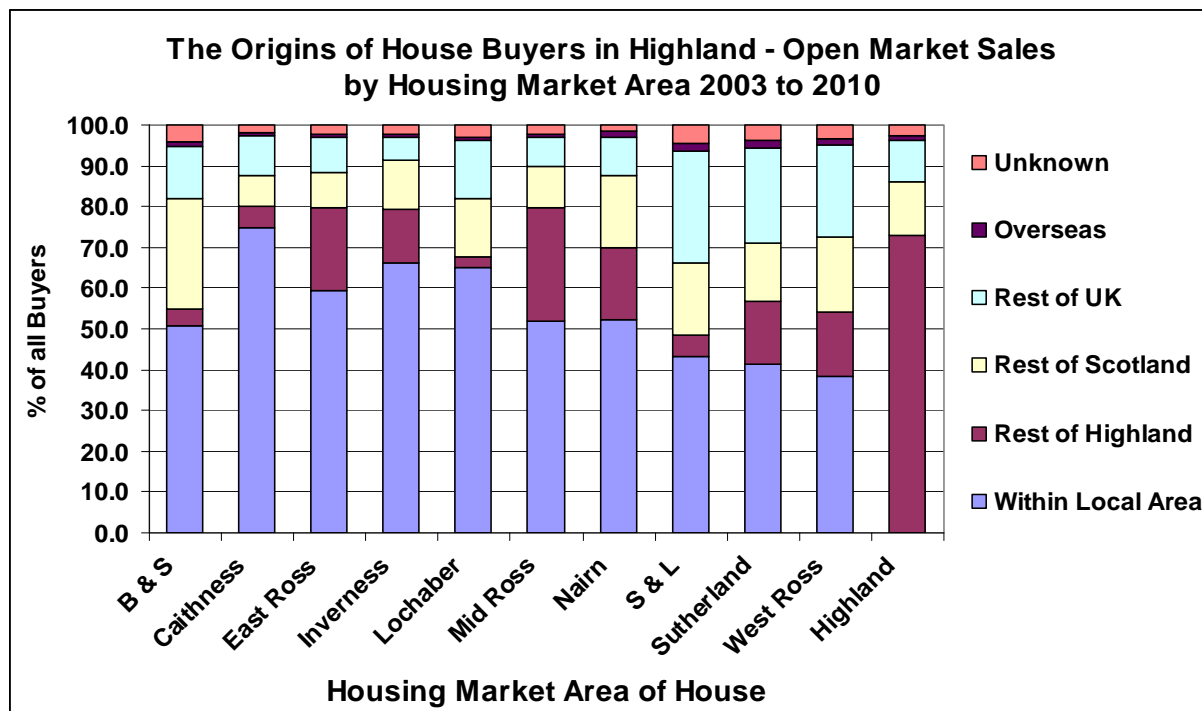


The number of dependants registered has varied from quarter to quarter but the average is that dependants are 10% of the number of WRS registrations. The number of dependants is generally regarded as an underestimate as many families join a migrant worker once they have become established, rather than at the time of first entry to the UK. During the last five years the number of pupils in Highland schools with English as an additional language has more than doubled from 254 to 570. The number of births per year to mothers with a European country of birth has also risen from 48 in 2004 to 187 in 2010.



### Migration Intelligence from House Sales Data (Source: Registers of Scotland / SG / LVIU)

The age profile of migrants is available for our eight former areas but this does not help us understand the origins of the migrants. However, we do have information on the origin of house buyers for each of our ten housing market areas and this provides a useful insight, although only two thirds of our houses are owned privately and the private rented sector, which makes up 8% of our housing stock, contains the most mobile sector of society. The chart below shows that there is considerable variation in the proportion of houses sold to buyers already living locally from 75% in Caithness to around 40% in Skye & Lochalsh, Sutherland and West Ross: these three areas also have the highest percentage of buyers from the rest of the UK (outside Scotland). Badenoch & Strathspey is particularly popular with buyers from the rest of Scotland (outside Highland). Looking at Highland overall, 86% of houses are sold to buyers from Scotland (ie Highland plus the rest of Scotland) which compares with 88% of houses in all of Scotland sold to buyers already living in Scotland.



NRS has discontinued detailed migration reports but the data for 2010 used above is available by clicking on *Spreadsheet - Local Area migration 2010* at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/migration/mig-stats/local-area-reports.html>

The 2009 report is available by clicking on *Highland and Argyll & Bute Migration Report* on the same page.