

SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF CHANGE IN HIGHLAND, 2006 TO 2012

Introduction

There have been three releases of the Index (SIMD) at a detailed local level for datazones, which gives us an opportunity to monitor change through time. They span a period of economic growth followed by the credit crunch and subsequent economic downturn. This note takes a simplistic look at change reflected in the 2006 and 2012 Indices by looking at the average change of rank in Scotland of datazones grouped by geographic areas within Highland. It looks at all datazones irrespective of their level of deprivation as this begins to give an insight into how all sectors of society and communities have been affected.

The rank of a datazone gives a measure of deprivation relative to other datazones, and is not an absolute measure of deprivation: this same caveat also applies to the level of change indicated by a change in rank. However, the measurement of change relative to the rest of Scotland is a useful indicator. The changes in average rank given below tend to be small relative to the number of datazones in Scotland – 6,505 – so in general the changes we are seeing are subtle rather than dramatic.

An increase in the average rank between 2006 and 2012 shows a general tendency for lower levels of deprivation whereas a fall in rank means higher general levels. There have also been some methodological changes in the way the Index is calculated that may have affected relative scores.

Change by Former Council Area

The table below shows that, on average, the rank in Scotland of Highland datazones has increased slightly by 74 per zone: this indicates a modest fall in levels of deprivation relative to the rest of Scotland, but with significant variations between areas. Lochaber has seen a substantial rise of 412 in average rank with rises of 189 and 226 in Skye & Lochalsh and Sutherland respectively. Inverness Area has been virtually static, while Caithness has seen an average fall of 176.

| Former Area | Average Change in Rank in Scotland 2006 to 2012 (-ve indicates more deprived) |
|-----------------------|---|
| Badenoch & Strathspey | 90 |
| Caithness | -176 |
| Inverness | 4 |
| Lochaber | 412 |
| Nairn | 110 |
| Ross & Cromarty | 77 |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 189 |
| Sutherland | 226 |
| Highland | 74 |

Change by Urban / Rural Classification

The Scottish Government's urban / rural classification shows small increases in overall levels of deprivation in Inverness City and our small towns with average ranks falling by 27 and 50 respectively, but with remote rural areas proving more robust with a rise of 214.

| Scottish Government Urban / Rural Classification | Average Change in Rank in Scotland 2006 to 2012 (-ve indicates more deprived) |
|--|--|
| 2 - Other Urban Areas - Settlements of 10,000 to 125,000 people. (Inverness City) | -27 |
| 4 - Remote Small Towns - Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more. | -50 |
| 5 - Accessible Rural - Settlements of less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more. | 44 |
| 6 - Remote Rural - Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more. | 214 |
| Highland | 74 |

Change by Ward

The smaller geographic units tend to show a wider degree of variation. The most notable increase in average rank has been in Lochaber where Caol & Mallaig and Fort William & Ardnamurchan have risen by 616 and 272 respectively. Other rural wards have generally been stable or shown a small increase in rank. The greatest fall in rank has been in Thurso which has fallen by 558 with other falls of 161 in Wick and 119 in Dingwall & Seaforth.

| Ward | Average Change in Rank in Scotland 2006 to 2012 (-ve indicates more deprived) |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Aird and Loch Ness | 111 |
| Badenoch and Strathspey | 90 |
| Black Isle | 157 |
| Caol and Mallaig | 616 |
| Cromarty Firth | 29 |
| Culloden and Ardersier | 67 |
| Dingwall and Seaforth | -119 |
| East Sutherland and Edderton | 258 |
| Eilean a Cheo | 157 |
| Ft William and Ardnamurchan | 272 |
| Inverness Central | 6 |
| Inverness Millburn | -15 |
| Inverness Ness-Side | -5 |
| Inverness South | -91 |
| Inverness West | -69 |
| Landward Caithness | 93 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Nairn | 100 |
| North, West and Central Sutherland | 183 |
| Tain and Easter Ross | 7 |
| Thurso | -558 |
| Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh | 368 |
| Wick | -161 |
| Highland | 74 |

Datazones Showing the Greatest Change Between 2006 and 2012

The table below gives the datazones that experienced the ten most significant increases and decreases in rank between 2006 and 2012. Experience elsewhere, particularly in the more densely populated areas such as Glasgow, is that large swings in deprivation ranks are often the result of regeneration initiatives involving large scale demolition and relocation. Our population in Highland tends to be stable although some of the increases in rank – datazones such as Wick Broadhaven, Nairn Fishertown West and Bunchrew – are in areas that have seen some new housing. Only two new houses have been built in the datazone with the highest increase – Caol West – where the fall in relative deprivation is probably due to an improvement in the local economy plus natural population turn over.

Of those datazones where the rank has fallen, Inverness Inshes, Inverness South and Westhill East are the areas with the highest house building rates in Highland and the change in rank probably reflects the changing demographic profile. The most significant falls are in four zones in Thurso; Dingwall and Invergordon. In the cases where we have seen a significant fall in rank it has tended to be in less deprived datazones, and has not caused a datazone to fall into the 15% most deprived.

| Datazone | Data Zone Name | Rank in Scotland 2006 | Rank in Scotland 2009 | Rank in Scotland 2012 | Average Change in Rank 2006 to 2012 (-ve indicates more deprived) |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| S01003734 | Caol West | 2051 | 2656 | 3158 | 1107 |
| S01003742 | Spean Bridge | 3409 | 3535 | 4511 | 1102 |
| S01003737 | Corpach West | 1696 | 2509 | 2789 | 1093 |
| S01003753 | Loch Ness South | 3240 | 4283 | 4331 | 1091 |
| S01003987 | Wick Broadhaven | 3228 | 3908 | 4241 | 1013 |
| S01003738 | Corpach East and Banavie | 4500 | 5352 | 5511 | 1011 |
| S01003898 | Nairn Fishertown West | 4992 | 5432 | 5971 | 979 |
| S01003735 | Camaghael and Lochyside | 3207 | 3737 | 4158 | 951 |
| S01003724 | Glen Nevis | 1199 | 1914 | 2148 | 949 |
| S01003803 | Bunchrew | 3950 | 4631 | 4824 | 874 |
| | | | | | |
| S01003792 | Inverness Inshes | 5259 | 4765 | 4454 | -805 |
| S01003892 | Nairn Boath Park | 3910 | 3786 | 3093 | -817 |
| S01004007 | Thurso North West | 2452 | 1746 | 1564 | -888 |
| S01003904 | Dingwall South East | 3775 | 2888 | 2851 | -924 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| S01003778 | Inverness South | 5013 | 4827 | 4077 | -936 |
| S01004000 | Thurso Springpark | 3028 | 2077 | 2066 | -962 |
| S01004005 | Thurso Central West | 5434 | 4174 | 4449 | -985 |
| S01003819 | Westhill East | 5428 | 4513 | 4399 | -1029 |
| S01003998 | Thurso Mountvernon | 4638 | 3402 | 3411 | -1227 |
| S01003919 | Invergordon Central | 3308 | 2104 | 1832 | -1476 |