

THURSO PROFILE

May 2014



INTRODUCTION

The Thurso profile uses 2011 Census data and other available data sources to present an up-to-date analysis of its population and labour market.

The analysis is structured under the thematic headings of:

- Population.
- Labour market.
- Education and qualifications.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Ethnicity and migration.

To help contextualise the 2011 findings, the area profile includes corresponding figures where available for:

- Caithness and Sutherland, the Highlands and Islands area and Scotland as a whole.
- The 2001 Census, to show how Thurso has changed over the last 10 years.

The profile has been constructed using best fit data zones – and a map illustrating the specific datazones used is provided at the end of the profile.

HEADLINE FINDINGS

The headline findings for Thurso are:

- Total population was 9,074 in 2011, an increase of 4.2 per cent from 2001.
 - By industry of employment, a higher share of employment in mining, quarrying and utilities, professional, scientific and technical, and public administration and defence than the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.
 - By occupation, a higher share of employment in associate professional and technical occupations than the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.
 - Unemployment rates in line with the Caithness and Sutherland and Scotland rates, but above the Highlands and Islands rate. The annualised Jobseekers Allowance claimant count rate in 2013 was 3.4 per cent in Thurso, 3.4 per cent in Caithness and Sutherland, 2.4 per cent in Highlands and Islands and 3.7 per cent across Scotland.
 - A smaller proportion of the adult population with no qualifications compared to Caithness and Sutherland but more than the Highlands and Islands and Scotland average. More qualified with Level 3 qualifications than Caithness and Sutherland, the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.
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POPULATION

In 2011, Thurso had a total population of 9,074. This was an increase of 4.2 per cent from 2001, which was above the population increase across Caithness and Sutherland (3.3 per cent) but below the increase across the Highlands and Islands (7.5 per cent) (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: TOTAL POPULATION

	2001	2011	% CHANGE
Thurso	8,706	9,074	+4.2
Caithness and Sutherland	38,462	39,732	+3.3
Highlands and Islands	433,524	466,112	+7.5
Scotland	5,062,011	5,295,403	+4.6

Source: Census 2001 and 2011



By age breakdown, Thurso has a marginally younger age profile than Caithness and Sutherland as a whole.

- In 2011, some 36.2 per cent of the Thurso population was aged 15-44 years old, compared with 32.3 per cent across Caithness and Sutherland. There was little difference in the 0-15 years old population.
- The population aged 45 years and above made up 48.4 per cent of the Thurso population and 52.5 per cent of the Caithness and Sutherland population.
- Between 2001 and 2011, there has been an ageing of the population across Scotland. For example the Thurso 65 years and over population increased from 16.9 per cent in 2001 to 20.0 per cent in 2011, while the population aged 45-64 years old increased from 25.2 per cent to 28.4 per cent.

FIGURE 2: AGE BREAKDOWN OF 2001 AND 2011 POPULATION

		0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Thurso	2001	17.8	12.1	28.0	25.2	16.9
	2011	15.4	11.5	24.7	28.4	20.0
Caithness and Sutherland	2001	17.7	10.4	26.0	27.5	18.5
	2011	15.3	10.6	21.7	31.1	21.4
Highlands and Islands	2001	18.3	10.3	27.4	26.7	17.2
	2011	16.3	10.8	23.7	29.7	19.4
Scotland	2001	17.9	12.5	29.2	24.5	15.9
	2011	16.1	13.1	26.5	27.5	16.8

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

By gender, some 48.6 per cent of Thurso's population was male in 2011, which was in line with the proportions across Caithness and Sutherland (49.4 per cent), Highlands and Islands (49.0 per cent) and Scotland (48.5 per cent).

FIGURE 3: GENDER BREAKDOWN OF 2001 AND 2011 POPULATION

		Male	Female
Thurso	2001	49.5	50.5
	2011	48.6	51.4
Caithness and Sutherland	2001	49.6	50.4
	2011	49.4	50.6
Highlands and Islands	2001	49.1	50.9
	2011	49.0	51.0
Scotland	2001	48.1	51.9
	2011	48.5	51.5

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

LABOUR MARKET

The labour market data available at the settlement level provides an analysis of the resident population. It has been structured under the sub-headings of:

- Economically active
- In employment
- Unemployment
- Economically inactive

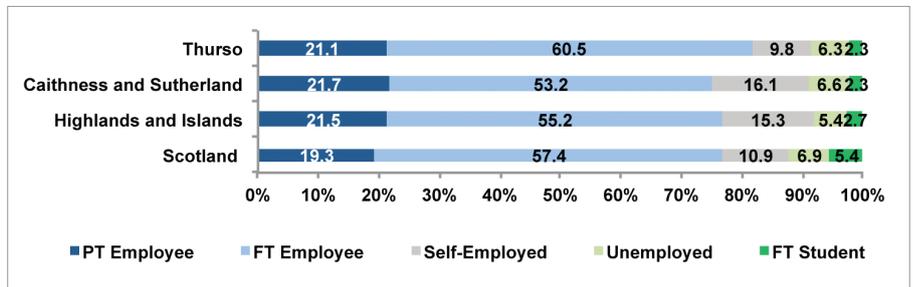
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE

In 2011, some 70.2 per cent of the Thurso population aged 16 to 74 years old were economically active. This was above the rates for Caithness and Sutherland (68.3 per cent) and Scotland (69.0 per cent), but below the Highlands and Islands rate (71.3 per cent).

Figure 4 provides a breakdown of the economically active population in terms of their employment status. Compared to Caithness and Sutherland, Thurso had proportionately:

- More in full-time employment.
- Fewer in self-employment.

FIGURE 4: BREAKDOWN OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE 16 TO 74 POPULATION (%), 2011



Source: Census 2011

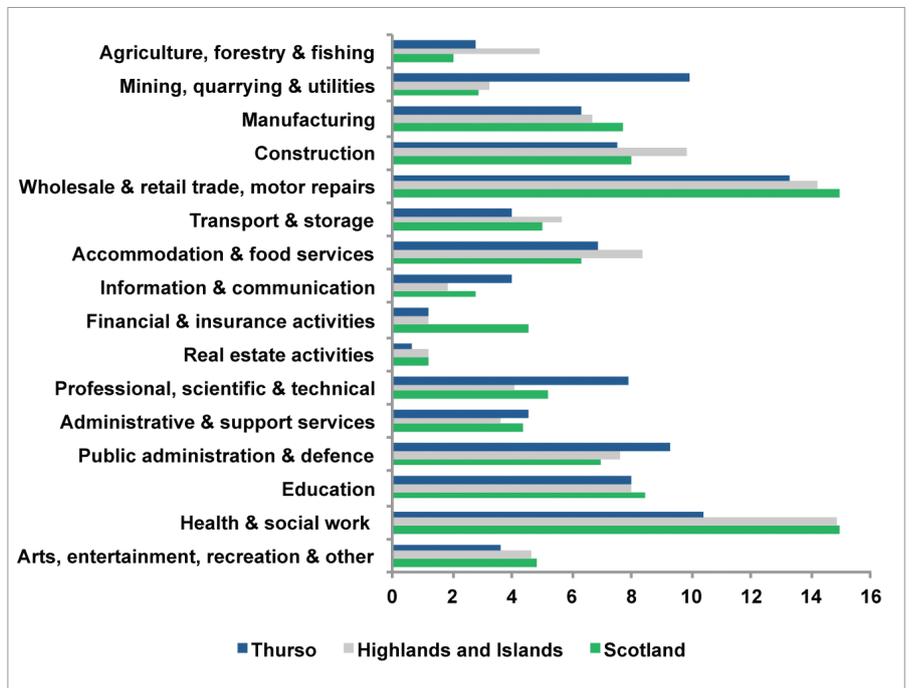
IN EMPLOYMENT

For those in employment, the Census provides information on the industry of employment, type of occupation and the number of hours worked per week.

By industry of employment in 2011, Figure 5 shows that compared to the Highlands and Islands and Scotland, Thurso had:

- A higher share of employment in mining, quarrying and utilities, professional, scientific and technical, and public administration and defence.
- A lower share of employment in manufacturing, wholesale and retail, transport and storage, health and social work, and arts, entertainment, recreation and other services.

FIGURE 5: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (%), 2011



Source: Census 2011

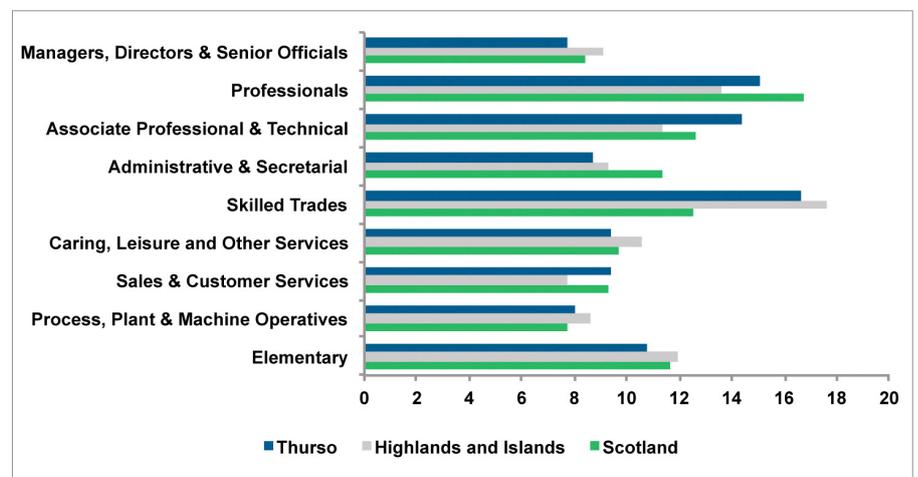
By occupation of employment, Figure 6 presents the share of 2011 employment by occupation and shows that, relative to the Highlands and Islands and Scotland, Thurso had:

- A higher share of employment in associate professional and technical occupations.
- A lower share of employment in administrative and secretarial and elementary occupations.

HOURS WORKED

By hours worked, the 2011 Census finds that working more than 49 hours per week was less common in Thurso (12.6 per cent) than Caithness and Sutherland (16.2 per cent) and the Highlands and Islands (16.1 per cent), but above the Scotland average (11.7 per cent).

FIGURE 6: EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION (%), 2011



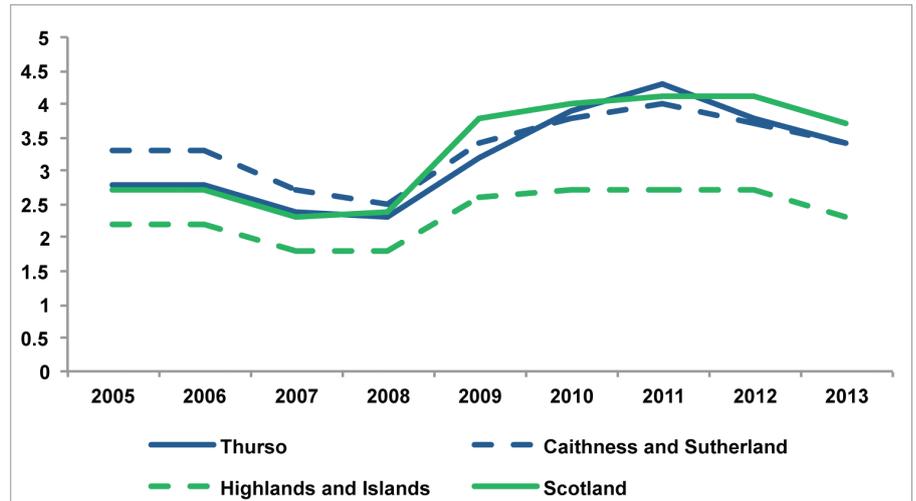
Source: Census 2011

UNEMPLOYMENT

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count data has been used to analyse unemployment levels. Figure 7 shows the annualised Claimant Count rate from 2005 to 2013.

- Thurso had a Claimant Count rate in line with the Scotland rate and below the Caithness and Sutherland rate. Since 2008, the three rates have largely come together, while the Highlands and Islands rate remained lower.
- In 2013, the Thurso Claimant Count rate was 3.4 per cent; Caithness and Sutherland 3.4 per cent; the Highlands and Islands 2.4 per cent; and Scotland 3.7 per cent.

FIGURE 7: CLAIMANT COUNT RATE OF 16-64 YEAR OLDS (%), 2005-2013



Source: NOMIS Claimant Count data
Note: Annualised data.

Figure 8 presents annualised Claimant Count data by gender, age and duration of claim for 2013. It shows:

- The male Claimant Count rate in Thurso (4.7 per cent) was over two times greater than the female rate (1.9 per cent), which is a similar differential as Caithness and Sutherland. The Highlands and Islands and Scotland male rates were two times the female rates.
- The 16-24 year old Claimant Count in Thurso (5.3 per cent) was in line with the Caithness and Sutherland and Scotland rates but above the Highlands and Islands rate.
- Amongst 25-64 year olds the Thurso Claimant Count rate (2.5 per cent) was also in line with the Caithness and Sutherland and Scotland rates but above the Highlands and Islands rate.

FIGURE 8: BREAKDOWN OF JOBSEEKERS ALLOWANCE CLAIMANTS, 2013

	Thurso		Caithness and Sutherland		Highlands and Islands		Scotland	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Male	126	4.7	520	4.3	4,580	3.2	87,410	5.1
Female	45	1.9	230	1.8	2,170	1.5	41,250	2.3
16-24	49	5.3	190	5.1	1,570	3.5	34,350	5.4
25-64	121	2.5	560	2.7	5,160	2.1	93,980	3.3
Up to 6 months	84	-	380	-	3,980	-	69,570	-
6-12 mth	29	-	120	-	1,040	-	22,000	-
1-2 years	27	-	110	-	890	-	18,700	-
2 years +	32	-	140	-	820	-	18,060	-
Total	172	3.4	750	3.4	6,750	2.4	128,670	3.7

Source: NOMIS Claimant Count data
Note: Annualised data

ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE

In 2011, some 29.8 per cent of Thurso 16 to 74 year olds were economically inactive, compared with 31.7 per cent across Caithness and Sutherland, 28.7 per cent across the Highlands and Islands and 31.0 per cent across Scotland.

Figure 9 provides a breakdown of the economically inactive population aged 16-74. Compared to Caithness and Sutherland, Thurso had proportionately:

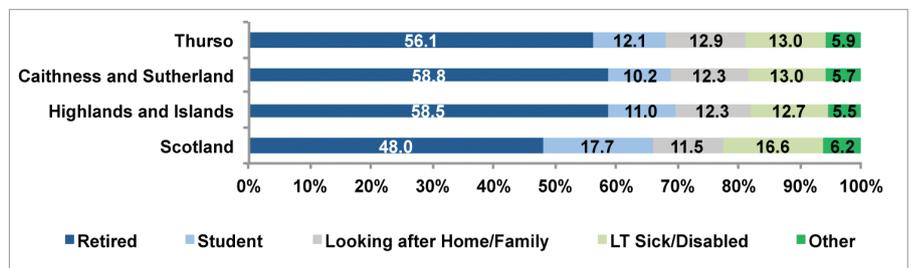
- More who were students.
- Fewer who were retired.

OUT OF WORK BENEFITS

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) out of work benefits claimant data provides more recent information on working age out-of-work benefits claimants, of which many are economically inactive. In May 2013:

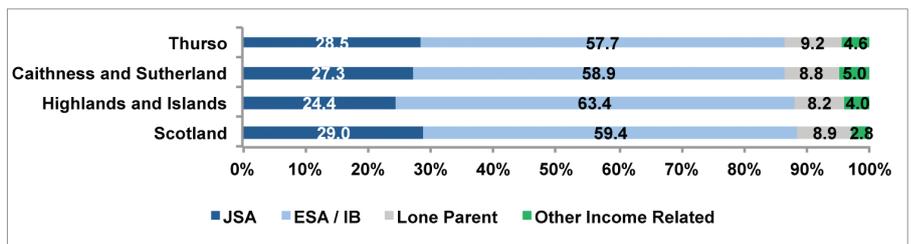
- There were 650 people aged 16 to 64 years old in Thurso claiming out-of-work benefits.
- This equates to 13.0 per cent of the working age population, which is above the rates for Caithness and Sutherland (11.0 per cent) and the Highlands and Islands (9.2 per cent), and in line with the Scotland rate (12.9 per cent).
- Figure 10 shows the breakdown of out-of-work benefit claimants by statistical group.

FIGURE 9: BREAKDOWN OF ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE 16 TO 74 POPULATION (%), 2011



Source: Census 2011

FIGURE 10: OUT-OF-WORK BENEFITS CLAIMANTS BY STATISTICAL GROUP (%), MAY 2013



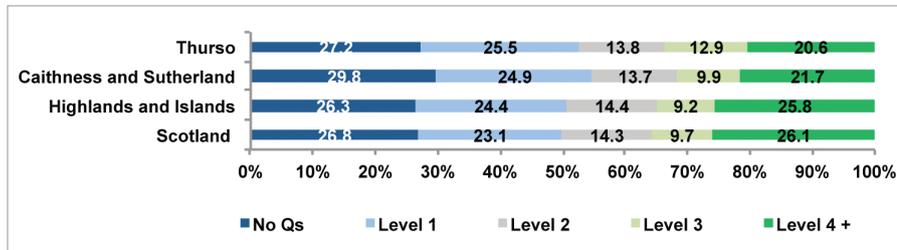
Source: NOMIS DWP WPLS data

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

The 2011 Census provides information on the highest qualification level held by people aged 16 and above. Figure 11 shows that Thurso had proportionately:

- Fewer of its adult population (27.2 per cent) with no qualifications than Caithness and Sutherland (29.8 per cent) but more than the Highlands and Islands (26.3 per cent) and Scotland (26.8 per cent).
- More qualified at Level 3 (12.9 per cent) than Caithness and Sutherland (9.9 per cent), the Highlands and Islands (9.2 per cent) and Scotland (9.7 per cent).

FIGURE 11: HIGHEST QUALIFICATION HELD BY PEOPLE AGED 16 AND ABOVE, 2011



Source: Census 2011
 Note: Level 1 = Standard Grade, SVQ Level 1 or 2, or equivalent.
 Level 2 = Higher Grade, Advanced Higher Grade, SVQ Level 3 or equivalent.
 Level 3 = HNC, HND, SVQ Level 4 or equivalent.
 Level 4 = Degree, Postgraduate qualifications, SVQ Level 5 or equivalent.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health and wellbeing are key contributors to an individual's economic activity. The main health statistics from the 2011 Census are outlined below.

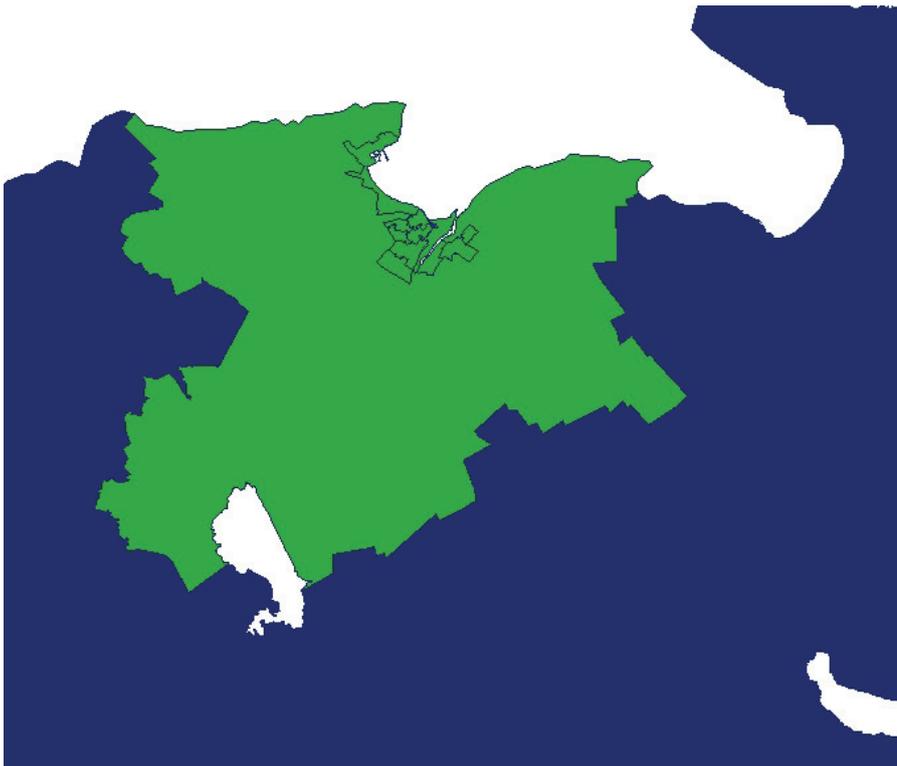
- On perception of general health, some 82.7 per cent of the Thurso population stated that their health was 'very good' or 'good'. This was in line with the rates for Caithness and Sutherland (82.0 per cent), the Highlands and Islands (83.8 per cent) and Scotland (82.2 per cent).
- Some 19.2 per cent of the Thurso population reported a limiting long-term illness or health problem that affected their day-to-day activities. This was below the rate for Caithness and Sutherland (20.6 per cent) but in line with the Highlands and Islands (18.9 per cent) and Scotland (19.6 per cent).
- Some 9.4 per cent of the Thurso population provided unpaid care on a weekly basis. This was in line with the rates for Caithness and Sutherland (9.7 per cent), the Highlands and Islands (9.1 per cent) and Scotland (9.3 per cent).

ETHNICITY AND MIGRATION

The Thurso profile concludes with the ethnicity and migration statistics from the 2011 Census. They show that:

- Some 99.1 per cent of the Thurso population were 'white'. This was in line with the proportions for Caithness and Sutherland (99.3 per cent) and the Highlands and Islands (98.8 per cent) but above the Scotland proportion of 96.0 per cent.
 - Of the 'white' population in Thurso, some 87.9 per cent were 'white Scottish', which was above the Caithness and Sutherland (81.9 per cent) and Highlands and Islands proportions (81.0 per cent). These wider geographic areas had 18.2 per cent and 15.4 per cent respectively defining themselves as 'white British'.
- Some 2.7 per cent of the Thurso population were born outside of the UK. This was below the proportions across Caithness and Sutherland (3.2 per cent), the Highlands and Islands (5.2 per cent) and Scotland (7.0 per cent).

MAP OF THURSO DATAZONES USED



FURTHER INFORMATION

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