

Outer Hebrides Key statistics

November 2019



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Outer Hebrides

- Total population was **26,830** in 2018, a decrease of 3.1% from 2011.
- Population density (**9 people per sq. km**) is lower than that for the Highlands and Islands (**12 people per sq. km**) and considerably lower than the Scottish average (**70 people per sq. km**).
- An older age profile than both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.
- An Economic Activity rate (**80.3%**) in line with the Highlands and Islands (**80.9%**) and higher than Scotland (**77.9%**).
- A self-employment rate (**10.6%**) in line with that of the Highlands and Islands (**11.0%**) and higher than Scotland (**8.7%**).
- An employment rate (**78.2%**) in line with the Highlands and Islands (**78.6%**) and higher than Scotland (**74.7%**).
- An unemployment rate lower than the Highlands and Islands and Scotland. In September 2019, the rate was **2.2%**, compared to the Highlands and Islands with **2.3%** and Scotland with **3.2%**.
- School leaver positive destinations rates (i.e. not into unemployment) above the Scottish average.
- Productivity in the Nuts 3 area of Na h-Eileanan Siar **87.6%** of UK level.

TOTAL POPULATION	2011	2018	% CHANGE
Outer Hebrides	27,690	26,830	-3.1%
Highlands and Islands	467,043	469,365	+0.5%
Scotland	5,299,900	5,438,100	+2.6%

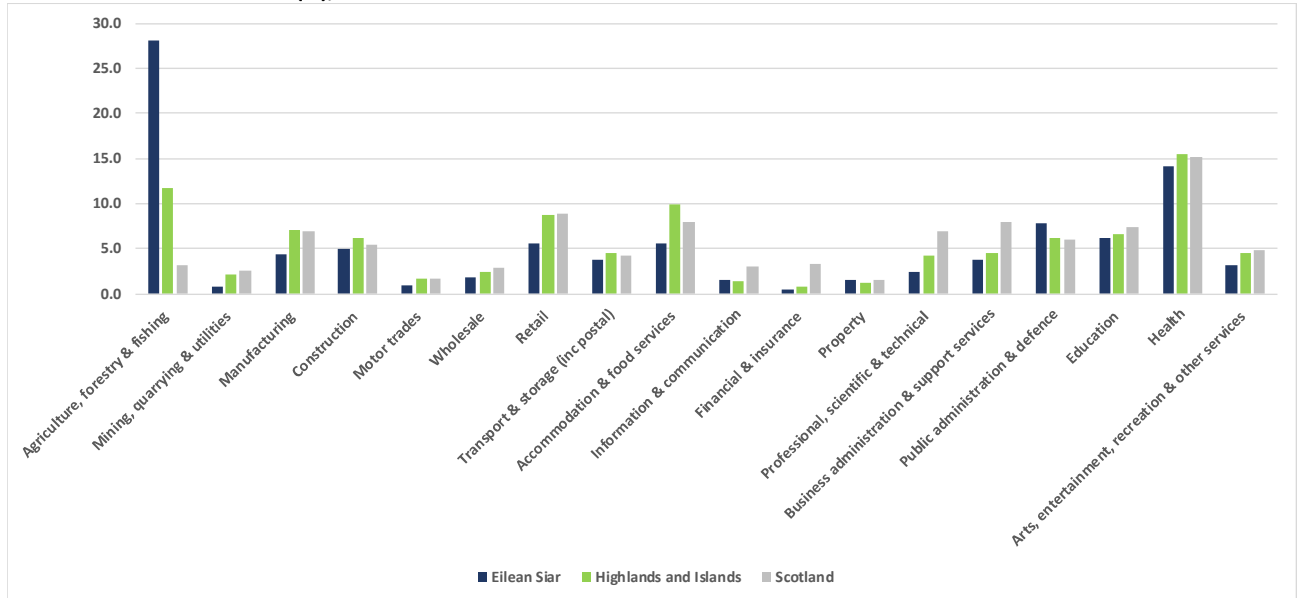
Source: NRS Mid-year estimates 2018

By age breakdown, the Outer Hebrides had an older age profile than both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland. In 2018, some **55.6%** of the Outer Hebrides population was aged over 45 years, compared to **52.5%** in the Highlands and Islands) and **46.5%** in Scotland, while **23.2%** of the population was aged 0-24 years, compared to **25.6%** of the Highlands and Islands and **27.6%** of Scotland's population.

Employment

Compared with the Highlands and Islands and Scotland, the Outer Hebrides had a higher share of employment by industry in agriculture, forestry and fishing and public administration and defence. Employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is particularly important to the Outer Hebrides, with **28.1%** of the areas workforce employed in the sector, more than double that of the Highlands and Islands (**11.7%**) and more than eight times the figure for Scotland (**3.2%**).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (%), 2018

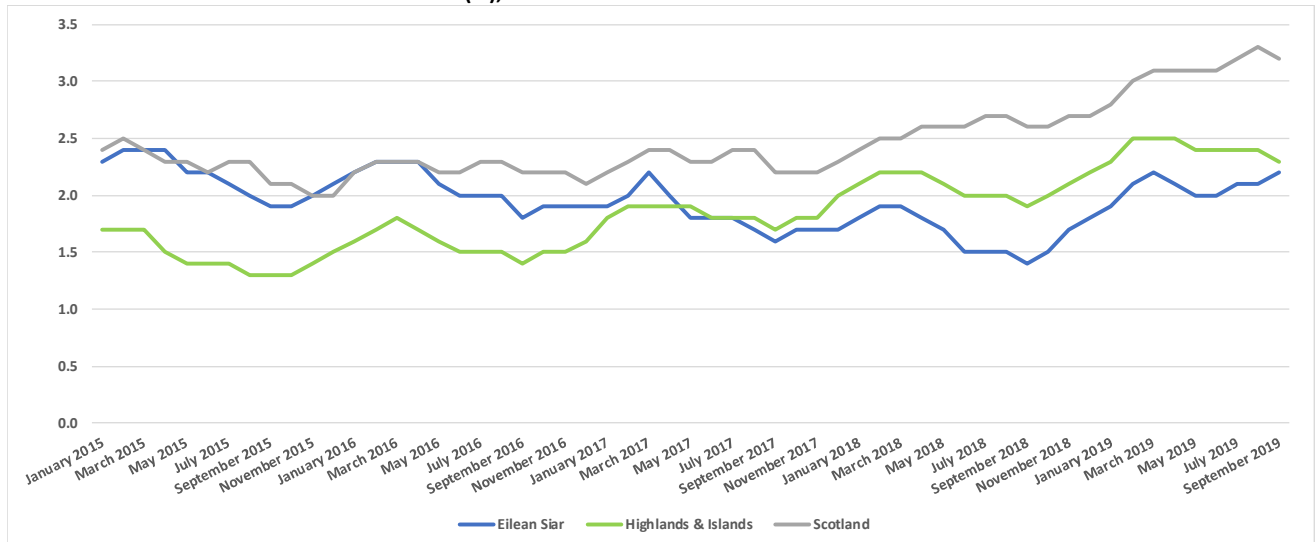


Source: BRES (Nomis)

Unemployment

The Outer Hebrides unemployment rate has been below that of the Highlands and Islands and Scotland since July 2017. The latest figures for September 2019 show that the Outer Hebrides had a rate of **2.2%**, compared to the Highlands and Islands at **2.3%** and Scotland at **3.2%**.

CLAIMANT COUNT RATE OF 16-64 YEAR OLDS (%), 2015-2019



Source: Claimant Count (Nomis)