

Shetland Islands Key statistics

November 2019



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Shetland Islands

- Total population was **22,990** in 2018, a decrease of 1.1% from 2011.
- Population density (**16 people per sq. km**) is higher than that for the Highlands and Islands (**12 people per sq. km**) but lower than the Scottish average (**70 people per sq. km**).
- An age profile younger than the Highlands and Islands and in line with Scotland.
- A higher Economic Activity rate (**84.7%**) than the Highlands and Islands (**80.9%**) and Scotland (**77.9%**).
- A self-employed rate (**8.2%**) lower than the Highlands and Islands (**11.0%**) but in line with Scotland (**8.7%**).
- A higher Employment rate (**84.7%**) than the Highlands and Islands (**78.6%**) and Scotland (**74.7%**).
- An unemployment rate lower than the Highlands and Islands and Scotland. In September 2019, the rate was **1.5%**, lower than the Highlands and Islands (**2.3%**) and Scotland (**3.2%**).
- School leaver positive destinations rates (i.e. not into unemployment) above the Scottish average.

TOTAL POPULATION	2011	2018	% CHANGE
Shetland Islands	23,240	22,990	-1.1%
Highlands and Islands	467,043	469,365	+0.5%
Scotland	5,299,900	5,438,100	+2.6%

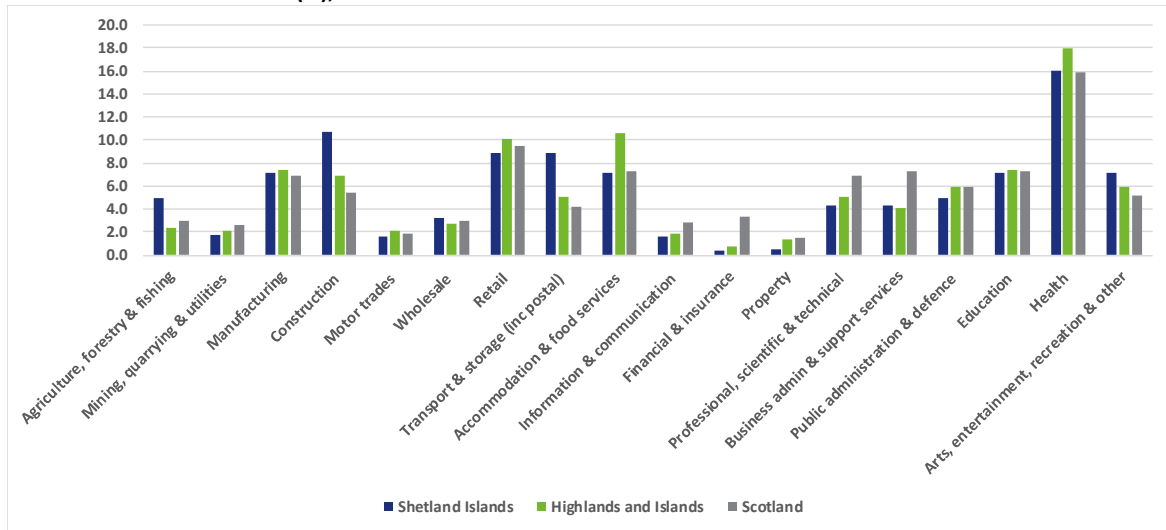
Source: NRS Mid-year estimates 2018

By age breakdown, the Shetland Islands has a population structure similar to that of Scotland, and younger than the Highlands and Islands. In 2018, **48.5%** of the Shetland Islands population was aged over 45 years, compared to **52.5%** of the Highlands and Islands and Scotland (**46.5%**). While **27.8%** of the area's population was aged 0-24 years, compared to **25.6%** of the Highlands and Islands and **27.6%** of Scotland's population.

Employment

In 2018, compared with the Highlands and Islands and Scotland, the Shetland Islands had a higher share of employment by industry in agriculture, forestry and fishing; construction; wholesale; transport and storage and arts, entertainment, recreation and other services.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (%), 2018



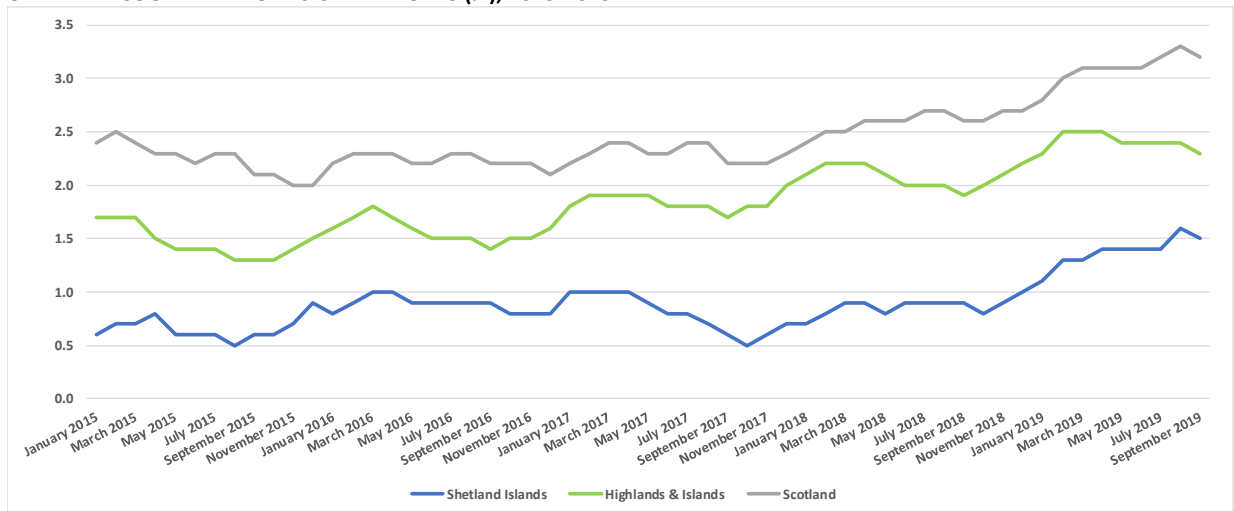
Source: BRES (Nomis)

Shetland had a higher share of employment by occupation in administrative and secretarial and elementary occupations compared to the Highlands and Islands and Scotland in 2018.

Unemployment

The Shetland unemployment rate has been below that of the Highlands and Islands and Scotland over the period 2015-2019. The latest figures for September 2019 show that the Shetland Islands had a rate of **1.5%**, compared to **2.3%** in the Highlands and Islands and **3.2%** in Scotland.

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



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)