

Highlands and Islands Key statistics

November 2019



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Highlands and Islands

- Total population was **469,365** in 2018, an increase of 0.5% from 2011.
- Population density is significantly lower than the Scottish average - **12 people per sq. km**, compared to **132 people per sq. km** in the rest of Scotland.
- An older age profile than Scotland.
- A higher Economic Activity rate than Scotland (**80.9%** compared to **77.9%**).
- A greater percentage who are self-employed compared to Scotland (**11.0%** compared to **8.7%**).
- A higher Employment rate than Scotland (**78.6%** compared to **74.7%**).
- A higher share of employment by industry in agriculture, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; construction; transport and storage; accommodation and food services; public administration and defence and health.
- Unemployment rate lower than Scotland and the UK. In September 2019, the Highlands and Islands rate was **2.3%**, lower than Scotland (**3.2%**) and the UK (**2.8%**).
- School leaver positive destinations rates (i.e. not into unemployment) above the Scottish average.
- Productivity in the Nuts 2 area of Highlands and Islands **96.6%** of UK level.

TOTAL POPULATION	2011	2018	% CHANGE
Highlands and Islands	467,043	469,365	+0.5%
Scotland	5,299,900	5,438,100	+2.6%

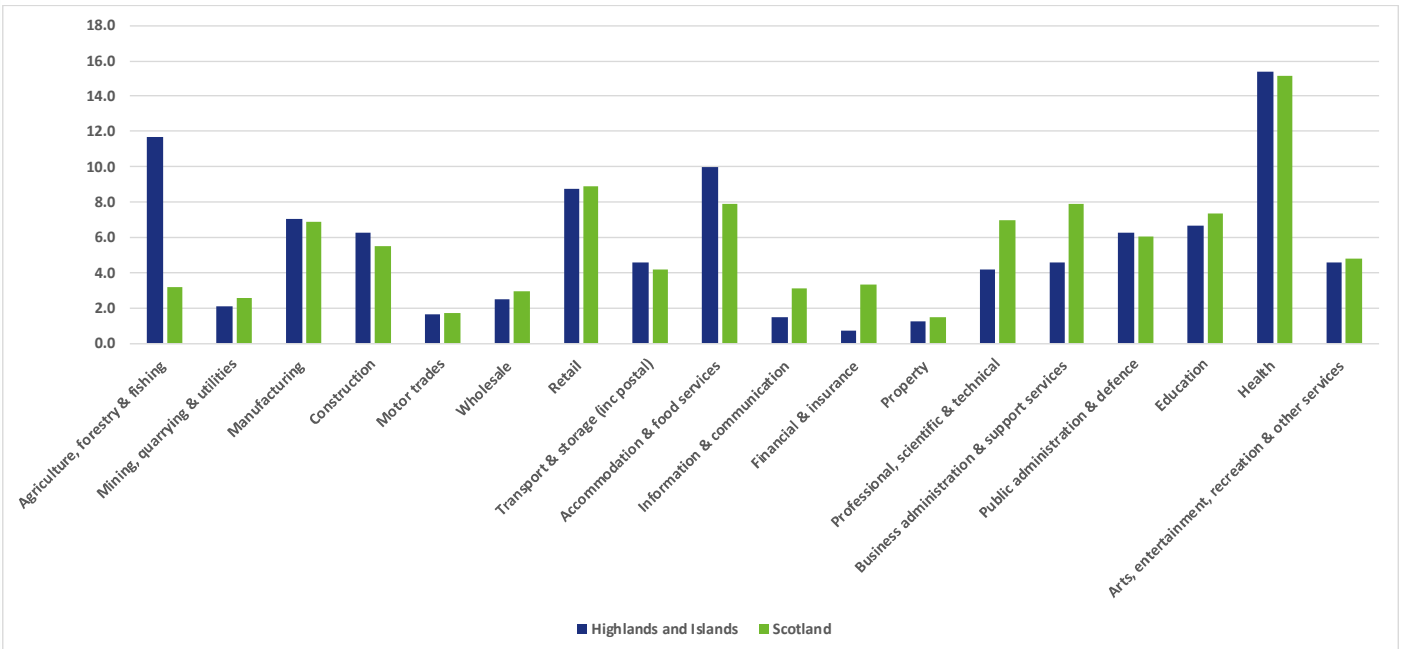
Source: NRS Mid-year estimates 2018, Census 2011

By age breakdown, the Highlands and Islands had an older age profile than Scotland. In 2018, **22.8%** of the Highlands and Islands population was aged over 65 years, compared to **18.9%** in Scotland. While **25.6%** of the Highlands and Islands population was aged 0-24 years, compared to **27.6%** of Scotland's population.

Employment

Compared with Scotland, the Highlands and Islands had a higher share of employment by industry in agriculture, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; construction; transport and storage; accommodation and food services; public administration and defence and health.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (%), 2018



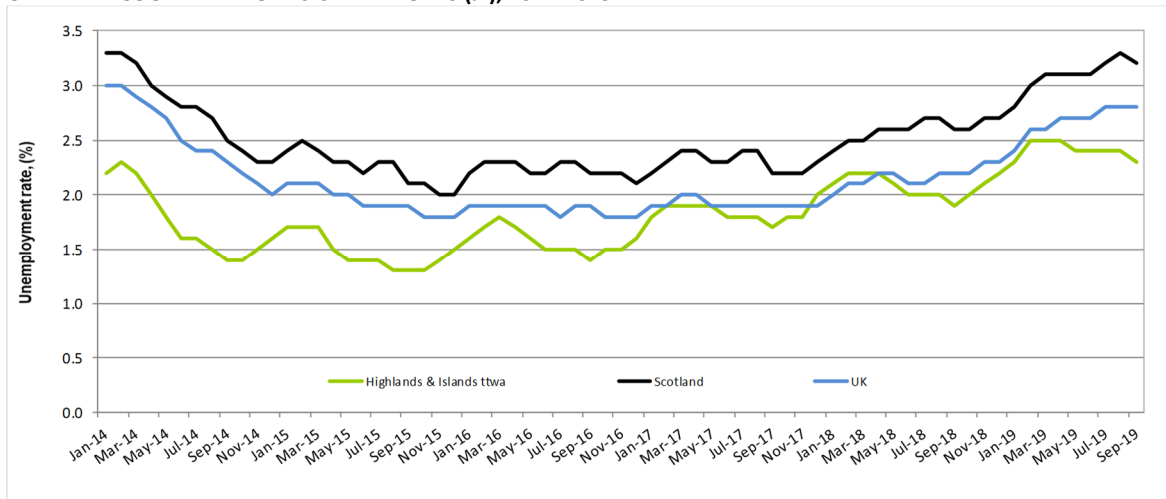
Source: BRES (Nomis)

The Highlands and Islands also had a higher share of employment by occupation in skilled trades; administrative and secretarial; elementary; caring, leisure and other service and process, plant and machine operative occupations compared to Scotland.

Unemployment

The Highlands and Islands unemployment rate has been below that of Scotland over the period 2014-2019 and was below that of the UK for most of the period. The latest figures for September 2019 show that the Highlands and Islands had a rate of **2.3%**, compared to **3.2%** in Scotland and **2.8%** in the UK.

CLAIMANT COUNT RATE OF 16-64 YEAR OLDS (%), 2014-2019



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)