

Orkney Islands Key statistics

November 2019



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Orkney Islands

- Total population was **22,190** in 2018, an increase of 3.6% from 2011.
- Population density (**22 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 older age profile than both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.
- The highest Economic Activity rate of all HIE's area offices (**90.4%**), considerably higher than the Highlands and Islands average (**80.9%**) and Scotland (**77.9%**).
- A self-employed percentage (**10.2%**) lower than the Highlands and Islands (**11.0%**) but higher than Scotland (**8.7%**).
- The highest employment rate of all area offices (**88.6%**), and higher than that for the Highlands and Islands overall (**78.6%**) and Scotland (**74.7%**).
- Unemployment rate lower than the Highlands and Islands and Scotland. In September 2019, the Orkney Islands rate was **1.3%**, 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, and the second highest of Scotland's Local Authorities.
- Productivity in the Nuts 3 area of Orkney Islands **81.6%** of UK level.

TOTAL POPULATION	2011	2018	% CHANGE
Orkney	21,420	22,190	+3.6%
Highlands and Islands	467,043	469,365	+0.5%
Scotland	5,299,900	5,438,100	+2.6%

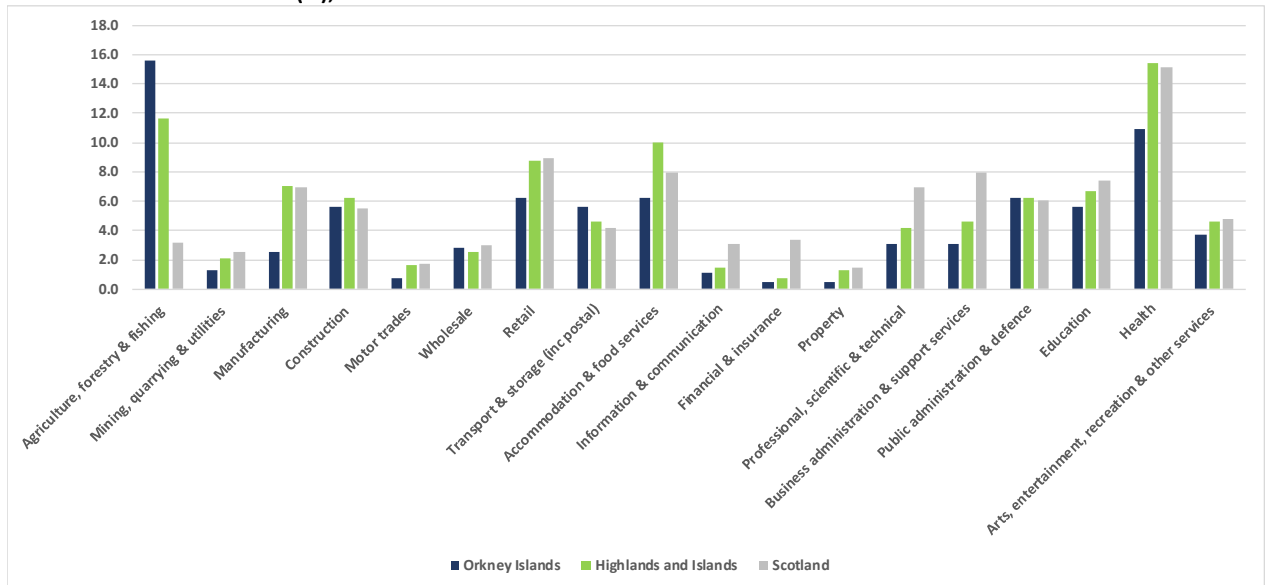
Source: NRS Mid-year estimates 2018

By age breakdown, Orkney has an older age profile than both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland. In 2018, **53.6%** of the Orkney population was aged over 45 years, compared to **52.5%** in the Highlands and Islands and **46.5%** in Scotland, while **24.4%** of the Orkney 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, Orkney had a higher share of employment by industry in agriculture, forestry and fishing and transport and storage in 2018.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (%), 2018



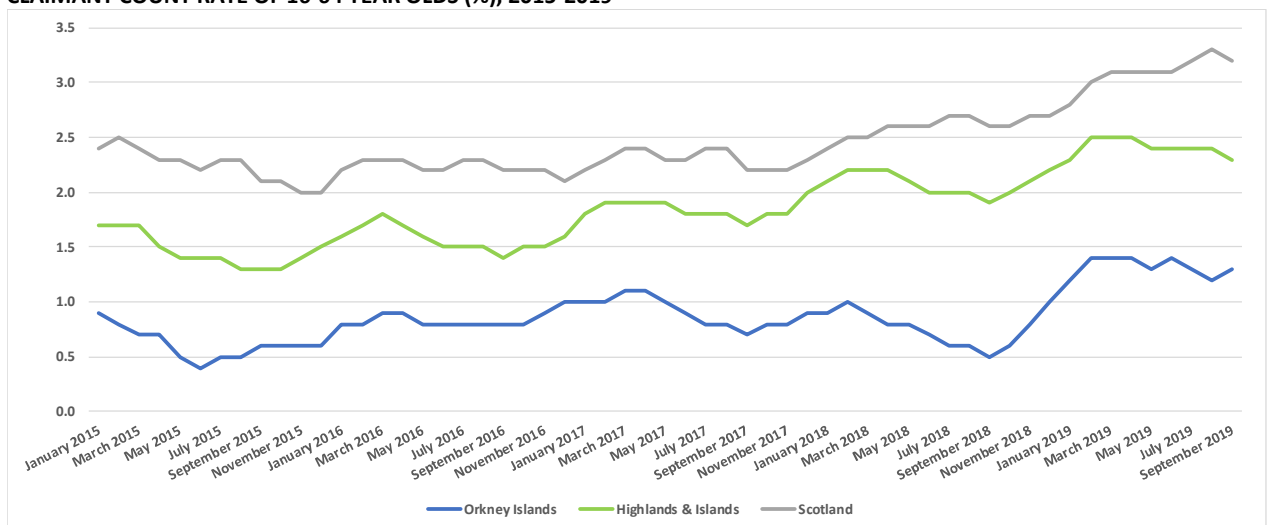
Source: BRES (Nomis)

Orkney had a higher share of employment by occupation in managers, directors and senior officials; skilled trades and elementary occupations compared to the Highlands and Islands and Scotland in 2018.

Unemployment

The Orkney Islands 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 Orkney Islands had a rate of **1.3%**, lower than the rates in the Highlands and Islands (**2.3%**) and Scotland (**3.2%**).

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



Source: Claimant Count (Nomis)