

Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross Key statistics

November 2019



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross

- Total population was **39,339** in 2018, an increase of 0.5% from 2011.
- Has the lowest population density of any area office within the Highlands and Islands region (**4 people per sq. km**), significantly lower than the Highlands and Islands (**12 people per sq. km**) and Scottish averages (**70 people per sq. km**).
- An older age profile than both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.
- An Economic Activity rate (**83.2 %**) higher than both the Highlands and Islands (**80.9%**) and Scotland (**77.9%**).
- A percentage of self-employed (**14.8%**) higher than the Highlands and Islands (**11.0%**) and Scotland (**8.7%**).
- An Employment rate (**83.2%**) higher than that of 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 unemployment rate was **1.6%**, compared to a figure of **2.3%** in the Highlands and Islands and **3.2%** in Scotland.
- Productivity in the Nuts 3 area of Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Arran and Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute was **99.1%** of UK level.

TOTAL POPULATION	2011	2018	% CHANGE
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	39,146	39,339	+0.5
Highlands and Islands	467,043	469,365	+0.5
Scotland	5,299,900	5,438,100	+2.6

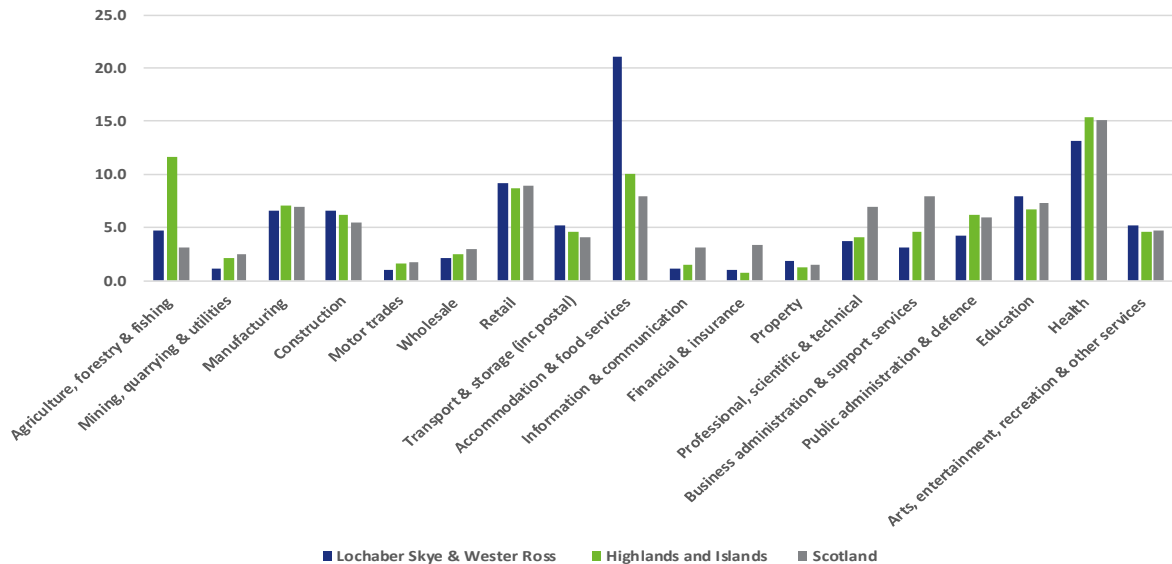
Source: NRS Mid-year estimates 2018

By age breakdown, Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had an older age profile than both the Highlands and Islands and Scotland. In 2018, **55.6%** of the area's population was aged over 45 years, compared to **52.5%** of the Highlands and Islands and **46.5%** of Scotland's. Almost a quarter (**24.2%**) 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

Compared with the Highlands and Islands and Scotland, Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had a higher share of employment in construction; retail; transport and storage; accommodation and food services; education and arts, entertainment, recreation and other services in 2018. Employment in the Accommodation and food services sector in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross (**21.1%**) was more than double that of the Highlands and Islands (**10.0%**) and Scotland (**7.9%**), highlighting the importance of the tourism sector in the area.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (%), 2018



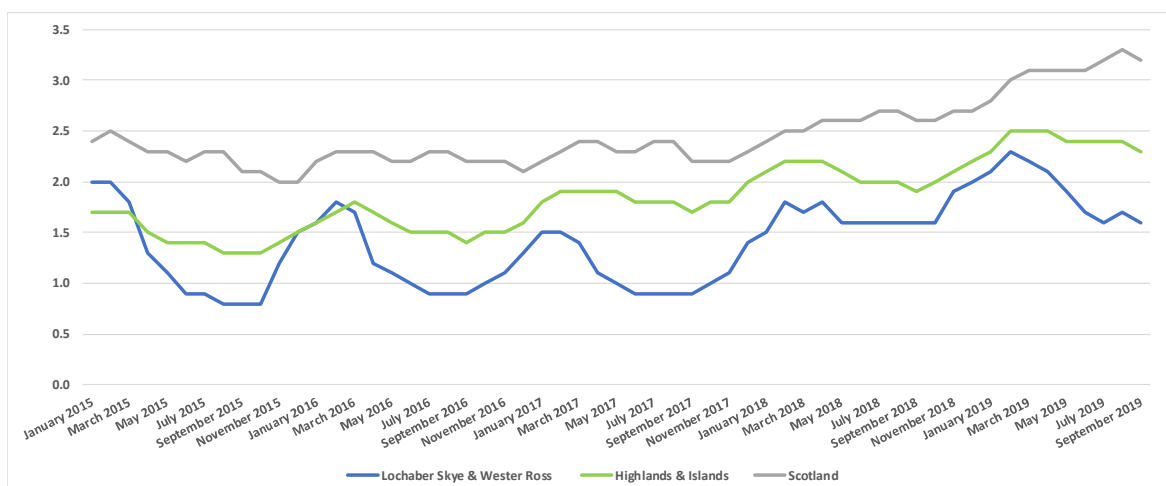
Source: BRES (Nomis)

Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had a higher share of employment by occupation in Professional; administrative and secretarial and Skilled trade occupations compared to the Highlands and Islands and Scotland.

Unemployment

The Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross unemployment rate has been below that of Scotland for the entire period, and below that of the Highlands and Islands since February 2016. The latest figures for September 2019 show that Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had a rate of **1.6%**, 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)