

# Shetland in Statistics 2025



**SHETLAND**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

# Shetland in Statistics 2025

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## Welcome to the 45th edition of Shetland in Statistics

First published in 1972, as a guide to record facts and figures about Shetland, the publication has grown and changed over the years, reflecting changes in the islands.

Shetland in Statistics now provides a body of work with statistics on Shetland's economy, climate, population and much more over many decades.

Whilst every care is taken in the production of this publication, Shetland Islands Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions therein.

Anyone wishing to use these statistics for anything but general interest should refer to the original source data, quoted throughout this booklet.

We hope you find the publication useful. If you have any comments or amendments please contact Shetland Islands Council Economic Development Department.

## 1 People

### Population

After decades of decline the population of Shetland, which had fallen to nearly 17,000 in the mid 1960s, rose by 31% between 1971 and 1981 as a direct result of oil related activity. Since the 1980s, the population has been fairly stable around 22,000 - 23,000.

Annual Mid-Year Population Estimates									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Shetland	23,200	23,080	22,990	22,920	22,870	22,940	23,020	23,000	23,190

Source: National Records of Scotland: [Population, migration and households - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

Population of Shetland By Area (based on Census)								
Area	1931	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2022
Brae*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	756	660	856	871
Bressay	452	269	251	334	352	384	368	348
Burra	767	648	565	850 <sup>e</sup>	929	850	852	877
Cunningsburgh**	n/a	411	410	n/a	n/a	658	694	730
Delting	958	598	580	2,110	1,105	970	931	874
Dunrossness	1,089	857	848	1,591	1,502	1,471	1,484	1,445
Fair Isle	108	64	65	69 <sup>e</sup>	67	69	68	44
Fetlar	217	127	88	101	90	86 <sup>e</sup>	61	66
Foula	118	54	33	45 <sup>e</sup>	42	32	38	17
Gulberwick/Quarff	1,518	385	171	579 <sup>e</sup>	398	662	827	764
Lerwick	4,221	5,913	6,127	6,899	7,336	6,833	6,928	6,554
Muckle Roe	n/a	103	94	101	115	104	130	128
Nesting	822	434	380	506	512	570	624	692
Northmavine	1,343	816	696	898	878	841	741	754
Papa Stour	100	55	24	35 <sup>e</sup>	35 <sup>e</sup>	24	15	7
Sandsting	1,552	957	873	1,002	891	945	831	834
Sandwick	1,507	761	710	1,303 <sup>e</sup>	1,352	774	970	1,104
Scalloway***	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,160	802	1,129	1,479	1,199
Skerries	110	108	101	88 <sup>e</sup>	87	76	74	37
Tingwall	1,440	1,603	1,671	1,080	1,431	1,405	1,477	1,866
Trondra	91	20	17	88	117	133	135	152
Unst	1,341	1,151	1,127	1,140	1,055	720	632	639
Vaila	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Walls & Sandness	884	561	483	573	554	601	923	860
Whalsay	900	764	870	1,025	1,041	1,034	1,061	974
Yell	1,883	1,155	1,143	1,191	1,075	957	966	942
Total	21,421	17,814	17,327	22,768	22,522	21,988	23,167	22,781

<sup>e</sup> Estimated

\* From 1931 to 1981 the figures for Brae are included in the figures for Delting

\*\* In 1931, 1981 and 1991 the figures for Cunningsburgh are included in the figures for Sandwick

\*\*\* From 1931 to 1971 the figures for Scalloway are included in the figures for Tingwall

Populations enumerated on a different basis to 1981 and after 1991 and therefore are not strictly comparable.

1981 Census: Resident population **excluding** absent households; 1991 - 2022 Census: Resident population **including** absent households.

2022 Data: majority based on Postcode groupings, data at such a low level is affected by statistical disclosure control measures, meaning the total population figure does not match that reported for Shetland as a whole.

Shetland Population Breakdown By Age & Sex															
Age Group	1991			2001			2011			2022			2024		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0-4	830	797	1,627	669	659	1,328	741	648	1,389	534	513	1,048	517	467	984
5-9	815	743	1,558	813	721	1,534	712	614	1,326	698	655	1,353	630	619	1,249
10-14	903	837	1,740	820	822	1,642	711	739	1,450	761	703	1,460	774	699	1,473
15-19	831	790	1,621	700	605	1,305	792	659	1,451	689	593	1,290	724	667	1,391
20-24	838	757	1,595	645	546	1,191	671	624	1,295	528	499	1,027	545	409	954
25-29	883	785	1,668	695	656	1,351	653	600	1,253	634	583	1,221	583	588	1,171
30-34	857	792	1,649	792	778	1,570	707	696	1,403	692	673	1,365	746	722	1,468
35-39	917	795	1,712	883	843	1,726	782	751	1,533	661	671	1,329	750	722	1,472
40-44	933	787	1,720	802	772	1,574	836	834	1,670	673	701	1,379	687	745	1,432
45-49	767	713	1,480	862	767	1,629	952	889	1,841	758	765	1,517	709	731	1,440
50-54	614	556	1,170	888	737	1,625	833	796	1,629	828	881	1,702	784	833	1,617
55-59	500	491	991	715	660	1,375	824	769	1,593	886	848	1,734	862	843	1,705
60-64	439	454	893	537	516	1,053	842	715	1,557	790	777	1,563	821	826	1,647
65-69	415	474	889	420	448	868	601	629	1,230	679	701	1,378	706	724	1,430
70-74	295	439	734	335	406	741	450	463	913	664	660	1,318	607	637	1,244
75-79	261	396	657	260	407	667	304	383	687	511	533	1,044	569	551	1,120
80-84	165	314	479	139	277	416	204	287	491	307	386	698	358	411	769
85-89	72	182	254	78	188	266	102	194	296	227	336	563	185	245	430
90+	24	61	85	18	109	127	44	116	160	Above figure is 85+			64	130	194
Total	11,359	11,163	22,522	11,071	10,917	21,988	11,761	11,406	23,167	11,521	11,462	22,986	11,621	11,569	23,190

2022 data affected by statistical disclosure control measures, therefore totals do not sum and highest age group 85+

Sources: 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2022 figures from population census. 2024 figures from mid-year estimates

National Records of Scotland: [Population, migration and households - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

Census Data: [Scotland's Census](#).

### Births & Deaths

While there was a decline in the number of births in Shetland in 2024, in relation to the Scottish standardised birth rate, Shetland's rate is consistently higher.

Number of Births and Standardised Birth Rates per 1,000 Population					
Year	Shetland Number of Births by Sex			Standardised Birth Rate	
	Male	Female	Total	Shetland	Scotland
1991	172	152	324	16.3	13.2
2001	132	115	247	12.6	10.4
2011	131	111	242	11.7	11.1
2020	90	86	176	9.1	8.6
2021	106	94	200	10.3	8.8
2022	117	90	207	10.7	8.6
2023	96	81	177	9.0	8.3
2024	78	88	166	8.4	8.3

Source: National Records of Scotland: [Births Time Series Data, 2024 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

Of the 32 Scottish council areas, Shetland has one of the lowest standardised death rates. Life expectancy at birth is consistently higher for females than males, both of which are higher than the Scottish level.

Number of Deaths and Standardised Death Rates per 1,000 Population					
Year	Shetland Number of Deaths by Sex			Standardised Death Rate	
	Male	Female	Total	Shetland	Scotland
1991	124	110	234	10.7	12.0
2001	106	118	224	10.7	11.3
2011	103	128	231	10.2	10.1
2020	106	102	208	8.6	11.8
2021	148	109	257	10.6	11.7
2022	121	109	230	9.3	11.6
2023	140	112	252	10.1	11.5
2024	114	111	225	8.8	11.2

Life Expectancy at Birth (years)				
Year	Shetland		Scotland	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1991-93	72.1	78.4	71.47	77.12
2001-03	73.5	80.7	73.51	78.87
2011-13	77.8	82.6	76.78	80.89
2021-23	78.8	83.9	76.78	80.80
2022-24	79.5	83.9	77.12	81.06

Source: National Records of Scotland: [Deaths Time Series Data, 2024 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#); [Life Expectancy in Scotland, 2022-2024 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

## Migration

Migration by Type (count) and Net Migration Rates (per 1,000 People)*					
Year	Shetland Migration by Type			Net Migration Rate (per 1,000)	
	In	Out	Net	Shetland	Scotland
2003/04	820	740	70	3.64	3.68
2011/12	690	760	-70	-2.9	2.4
2019/20	640	640	0	0.00	2.98
2020/21	860	710	150	6.55	4.10
2021/22	810	710	100	4.36	10.18
2022/23	810	640	170	7.38	14.23
2023/24	790	640	150	6.49	10.24

\*Migration by type rounded to the nearest 10 at council level and nearest 100 at national level; Migration estimates include asylum seekers and refugees, but exclude movements of prisoners and armed forces personnel

Shetland Total Net Migration Breakdown by Age (count)							
Age Group	2003/04	2011/12	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
0-15	63	-26	35	47	30	32	35
16-64	-11	-60	-27	105	77	158	111
65+	20	21	-8	-2	-7	-18	0
Total	72	-65	0	150	100	172	146

Shetland Population by Country of Birth – based on Census									
		Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland	EU Member & accession	Other Countries	Total
2011	Count	18,691	3,057	151	72	158	538	500	23,167
	%	80.7	13.2	0.7	0.3	0.7	2.3	2.2	
2022	Count	18,470	3,101	149	65	57	589	555	22,986
	%	80.4	13.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	2.6	2.4	

Source: National Records of Scotland: [Local Area Migration, 2004 to 2024 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

## 2 Economy

### Employment & Economic Activity

Employee Jobs in Shetland, excluding self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces							
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Shetland %	Scotland %	GB %
Total Jobs	14,000	13,000	14,000	13,000	-	-	-
Full-time	9,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	61.5	67.1	69.2
Part-time*	5,000	5,000	6,000	5,000	38.5	32.9	30.8

\*Part-time posts are 30 or fewer hours per week

Source: ONS [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Shetland Employee Jobs by Industry*	2021	2022	2023	2024	Shetland %	Scotland %	GB %
B: Mining & quarrying	75	75	75	75	0.6	1.0	0.2
C: Manufacturing	1,250	900	800	1,000	7.7	7.1	7.3
D: Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	150	125	75	225	1.7	0.8	0.4
E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	100	100	100	100	0.8	0.8	0.7
F: Construction	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	9.6	5.9	5.0
G: Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles/cycles	1,750	1,500	1,500	1,500	11.5	12.7	13.7
H: Transportation and storage	900	900	900	900	6.9	4.2	5.0
I: Accommodation and food service activities	800	800	1,000	900	6.9	8.3	7.8
J: Information and communication	175	200	200	150	1.2	2.8	4.5
K: Financial and insurance activities	35	35	35	30	0.2	3.5	3.4
L: Real estate activities	75	75	100	100	0.8	1.6	1.9
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	450	500	450	450	3.5	7.2	9.3
N: Admin & support service activities	700	500	500	400	3.1	6.6	8.6
O: Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	1,000	900	900	900	6.9	6.7	4.9
P: Education	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	9.6	8.6	8.6
Q: Human Health and Social Work	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	15.4	16.7	14.2
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	300	450	400	400	3.1	3.1	2.5
S: Other service activities	450	500	500	400	3.1	1.9	1.9

\* Data excludes farm-based agriculture, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces

Source: ONS [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Unemployment* - ONS model-based estimates, January - December									
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
Shetland %	3.8	5.3	3.6	1.4	3.6	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.9
Eilean Siar %	18.0	20.1	14.5	4.9	7.6	3.0	2.3	2.1	2.7
Highland %	-	-	-	3.1	5.3	3.5	2.5	2.2	3.0
Orkney %	3.9	9.0	5.5	2.2	4.3	3.2	1.7	3.0	5.4
Scotland %	5.5	13.5	9.0	4.2	8.2	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.7
Great Britain %	-	-	-	2.5	8.0	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.5

\* % figures are a proportion of economically active, aged 16-64

Source: ONS [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Economic Activity, January - December						
	2004	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
Shetland (%) *						
Economically Active	86.3	82.0	73.7	84.3	85.9	84.4
In Employment	85.1	81.1	73.7	84.3	85.9	84.4
Employees	72.2	69.9	73.7	80.1	84.5	69.5
Self Employed	10.8	11.0	#	#	#	#
In Employment (%) *						
Eilean Siar	77.8	63.5	80.5	77.8	76.6	69.2
Highland	81.0	78.3	71.7	76.0	80.5	74.4
Orkney	83.4	79.3	72.9	88.3	86.3	80.6
Shetland	85.1	81.1	73.7	84.3	85.9	84.4
Scotland	72.6	70.5	73.2	74.7	74.5	74.7
Great Britain	72.6	69.9	74.9	75.8	75.5	75.5

# Sample size too small for reliable estimate

\* % figures are a proportion of economically active, aged 16-64

Source: ONS [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Business Births – By date of registration with Companies House							
	2011	2016	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Shetland	96	90	108	137	126	124	122

Source: [Advanced company search results - Find and update company information - GOV.UK](#)

Business Births* - Count of VAT and/or PAYE Enterprises					
	2016	2021	2022	2023	2024
Highland	910	820	810	910	865
Eilean Siar	80	50	70	80	75
Orkney	80	50	60	60	55
Shetland	85	75	75	75	65
Total Above	9,245	7,930	8,070	7,745	8,020
All Scottish Local Authorities	21,440	18,910	18,870	18,275	18,420
Business Birth Rate* - Birth of VAT and/or PAYE enterprises as a proportion of the active business population					
Shetland	9.0%	8.0%	7.8%	7.9%	6.8%
Scotland	12.3%	10.7%	10.8%	10.6%	10.7%
Business Death Rate* - Death of VAT and/or PAYE enterprises as a proportion of the active business population					
Shetland	6.9%	4.8%	6.8%	6.8%	5.7%
Scotland	10.2%	11.2%	11.4%	10.1%	9.4%

Business Registrations*: VAT and/or PAYE Registered Private Sector Businesses - Shetland						
	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. business registrations	1,365	1,625	1,655	1,665	1,650	1,660
Of which small businesses (0-49 employees)	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

\*These figures do not represent a complete picture of business activity as only businesses registered for VAT and/ or operate a PAYE scheme are included. The figures consequently exclude around half of all firms in Scotland, which contribute an estimated 2% of economic activity.

Source: [Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics Database - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<b>Share of Private Sector Jobs (%)</b>					
<b>Small business (0-49 employees)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Shetland	61.9	62.6	64.5	64.8	65.1
Scotland	35.2	36.5	36.8	36.2	36.1
Island & remote rural areas	62.4	60.5	60.8	61.2	61.5
Mainly rural areas	50.3	50.0	50.1	50.0	49.6
Urban and substantial rural areas	34.6	36.7	37.1	36.5	36.8
Larger cities	24.6	26.5	26.8	26.2	26.0
<b>Abroad-owned businesses</b>					
Shetland	10.2	13.6	11.4	10.7	10.3
Scotland	15.7	18.9	19.4	20.3	21.0
Island & remote rural areas	6.6	10.6	10.1	9.6	9.6
Mainly rural areas	11.3	13.3	13.4	14.5	15.4
Urban and substantial rural areas	17.9	20.8	21.3	22.2	22.7
Larger cities	17.1	21.3	22.2	22.8	23.7
<b>EU abroad-owned businesses</b>					
Shetland	6.3	7.8	4.1	5.0	4.3
Scotland	5.8	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.4
Island & remote rural areas	2.0	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.7
Mainly rural areas	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.9
Urban and substantial rural areas	7.1	7.1	7.6	7.3	7.6
Larger cities	6.4	8.2	8.4	8.6	9.1

c = disclosive figure

Source: [Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics Database - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

<b>Gross Value Added (balanced) per head of population at current basic prices (£)</b>								
	1998	2001	2011	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Shetland	16,740	18,625	29,776	35,384	32,707	33,391	34,101	37,174
Highlands & Islands	12,291	14,007	20,770	u	u	u	28,613	u
Scotland	13,785	15,454	21,823	27,319	25,869	27,722	30,634	33,419
United Kingdom	15,388	17,443	23,455	29,930	28,402	30,546	33,521	36,103
<b>Gross Domestic Product per head of population at current market prices (£)</b>								
	1998	2001	2011	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Shetland	18,275	20,465	32,523	38,901	35,643	36,582	37,815	40,844
Highlands & Islands	13,752	15,785	23,431	u	u	u	32,036	u
Scotland	15,406	17,370	24,713	30,932	28,996	31,330	34,560	37,192
United Kingdom	17,076	19,389	26,271	33,502	31,491	34,088	37,372	39,845

u = figure has been suppressed due to uncertainty

Sources: GVA: [Regional gross value added \(balanced\) per head and income components - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk); GDP: [Regional gross domestic product: all ITL regions - Office for National Statistics](https://ons.gov.uk); Shetland data: [Regional gross domestic product: local authorities - Office for National Statistics](https://ons.gov.uk)

Gross Weekly Pay - Fulltime Workers (£) (Median)							
	2002	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eilean Siar	383.00	436.10	670.70	562.30	748.20	743.10	780.30
Highland	339.70	458.00	605.70	666.50	711.10	737.20	775.10
Orkney	#	427.40	563.00	662.30	767.50	775.50	786.00
Shetland	367.30	545.20	670.80	671.60	916.40	782.10	863.60
Scotland	369.30	487.20	619.90	641.30	709.40	740.10	775.60
Great Britain	392.70	500.20	612.20	644.70	689.70	730.60	766.60

# Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Source: ONS [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Gross Weekly Pay - Fulltime and Parttime Workers (£) (Median)							
	2009	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eilean Siar	395	336	545	521	587	567	644
Highland	358	378	495	508	577	591	612
Orkney	358	334	438	475	507	558	585
Shetland	397	449	574	553	-	568	677
Scotland	386	393	505	529	592	614	643
Great Britain	397	400	505	534	575	614	643

- Data not available

Source: ONS [Gross median weekly pay - ONS](#)

## Fish Catching

Fish Landings in Shetland*										
	Whitefish		Shellfish		Herring		Mackerel		Other Pelagic	
	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000
1971	17,688	1,058	770	159	22,453	584	190	3.3	114	2.1
1981	52,175	4,386	695	328	871	57.2	826	49.6	0	0
1991	18,858	12,261	1,005	1,402	41,961	3,991	38,092	4,784	4,908	273
2001	12,481	12,777	1,234	1,634	12,087	2,977	23,895	10,312	10,373	500
Change in data collection method – from UK only vessels to landings by UK and Foreign vessels										
2011	13,480	24,676	1,965	4,647	9,440	4,608	44,136	56,113	2,146	1,120
2021	16,555	35,219	2,457	5,634	10,713	7,018	19,116	22,606	6	2
2023	19,620	44,987	2,391	6,573	9,523	6,460	32,552	41,088	7	4
2024	17,370	42,631	2,218	5,693	19,435	13,345	35,027	50,645	5	4

\*1971-2001 figures: total landings by UK vessels only; 2011 and on figures: total landings by UK and foreign vessels

Included in Whitefish Total*										
	Cod		Haddock		Monkfish		Sandeels		Whiting	
	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000
1971	498	35.3	13,834	856	40.6	2.3	0	0	3,646	190
1981	915	309	5,089	1,396	134	78.2	40,733	1,174	4,839	1,308
1991	2,220	2,740	2,132	2,447	1,544	3,545	8,248	393	2,365	1,437
2001	2,313	3,106	3,340	2,768	1,696	3,753	1,264	55	1,362	1,001
Change in data collection method – from UK only vessels to landings by UK and Foreign vessels										
2011	2,631	5,743	2,728	3,425	1,846	6,210	0	0	1,794	2,149
2021	1,922	6,625	2,795	4,751	2,390	6,845	0	0	2,816	4,117
2023	3,386	11,266	5,749	8,125	2,323	7,965	0	0	2,271	2,925
2024	3,474	11,535	5,328	8,432	1,850	6,701	0	0	1,671	2,187

\*1971-2001 figures: total landings by UK vessels only; 2011 and on figures: total landings by UK and foreign vessels

Source: [Sea fisheries statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Weight and Value of Catch by Species for 2024 (UK and Foreign Vessels)					
Species	Weight (Tonnes)	Value (£ '000)	Species	Weight (Tonnes)	Value (£ '000)
Cod	3,474	11,535	Herring	19,435	13,345
Gurnard	34	19	Mackerel	35,027	50,645
Haddock	5,328	8,423	Other Pelagic	5	4
Hake	318	1,162			
Lemon Sole	192	1,398	Edible Crab	263	605
Ling	1,040	1,783	Velvet Crab	148	540
Megrim	752	3,862	Scallops	1,234	2,857
Monkfish	1,850	6,701	Squid	217	897
Plaice	369	898	Whelks	293	297
Pollack	98	321	Other Shellfish	63	495
Saithe	1,612	1,659			
Skates & Rays	206	239	Total Demersal	17,370	42,631
Whiting	1,671	2,187	Total Pelagic	54,468	63,994
Other demersal	425	2,444	Total Shellfish	2,218	5,693
			<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74,056</b>	<b>112,317</b>

Source: [Supporting documents - Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2024 - gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

All Fish Landed in Shetland by Month 2024						
Month	Demersal		Pelagic		Shellfish	
	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£
Jan	1,424	3,034,474	12,950	17,143,245	113	361,788
Feb	1,391	2,863,227	1,664	2,144,385	191	474,031
Mar	1,562	3,564,901	1	3,430	219	515,361
Apr	1,043	2,884,290	0	95	191	468,490
May	1,631	4,088,235	3	11,867	282	670,509
June	1,529	4,086,719	34	98,404	184	429,189
Jul	1,301	3,638,605	168	286,188	133	302,164
Aug	1,474	4,296,550	13,188	9,442,098	171	396,520
Sept	1,595	3,805,854	6,659	4,701,370	187	484,757
Oct	1,452	3,571,592	11,932	18,800,703	140	416,394
Nov	1,355	3,405,963	6,027	9,641,369	240	643,729
Dec	1,208	3,189,237			162	520,561
Month not known	405	200,999	1,842	1,720,702	4	9,447
Total	17,370	42,630,645	54,468	63,993,855	2,218	5,692,939

Source: Marine Analytical Unit, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government

Average Quay Price per Tonne (£) - Shetland							
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024
Cod	337.31	1,236.31	1,570.87	2,181.88	3,447.59	3,327.53	3,320.61
Haddock	274.25	1,143.52	961.40	1,247.73	1,699.92	1,413.35	1,580.82
Whiting	270.31	583.52	830.47	1,207.85	1,462.03	1,287.99	1,308.79
Monkfish	584.69	2,487.35	2,833.34	3,379.73	2,864.11	3,428.76	3,622.48

Source: Marine Analytical Unit, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government

Total Wetfish Landed in Shetland*								
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024
Tonnes	40,445	53,872	103,819	58,836	69,202	48,847	64,092	74,056
Value (£)	1,647,400	4,492,453	21,308,400	26,566,000	86,517,000	70,479,635	99,113,394	112,317,439

\*1971-2001 figures: total landings by UK vessels only; 2011 and on figures: total landings by UK and foreign vessels

Source: [Sea fisheries statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Landings by Shetland Vessels Outwith Shetland								
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024
Tonnes	3,322	28,805	38,953	61,210	51,171	93,120	101,498	106,807
Value (£)	382,056	2,741,617	8,077,129	23,075,860	48,525,688	87,099,339	98,404,968	106,916,340

Source: Marine Analytical Unit, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government

Total Fish Landings by Scottish Port*										
	1991		2001		2011		2021		2024	
	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000	Tonnes	£ '000
Shetland	104,824	22,710	60,070	28,201	71,167	91,165	48,847	70,480	74,056	112,317
Peterhead	119,256	81,130	76,501	57,994	128,295	154,549	152,300	174,398	215,536	248,402
Scrabster	-	-	-	-	15,761	32,281	17,509	36,274	13,456	34,642
Fraserburgh	25,051	20,697	40,395	31,529	25,907	50,122	14,155	30,200	15,506	33,904
Lochinver	6,133	8,211	8,609	12,044	19,533	33,921	9,085	12,863	7,049	16,029
Ullapool	62,089	9,818	9,025	10,279	6,738	15,959	11,242	22,770	7,363	21,112
Ayr	17,022	12,558	7,990	6,881	13,554	13,000	4,897	11,577	6,951	11,387
Kinlochbervie	10,483	11,944	8,655	10,372	6,534	12,487	5,671	9,681	8,136	17,071
Campbeltown	5,478	7,887	5,505	8,768	6,044	15,139	4,089	12,647	3,475	14,742
Stornoway	5,984	9,569	4,368	9,518	3,108	9,445	2,880	12,446	3,472	16,018
Orkney	1,086	1,942	3,063	4,166	3,945	7,580	2,634	8,664	2,226	9,447
Eyemouth	5,385	7,603	2,737	3,893	2,213	6,944	1,850	7,085	1,536	6,933
Oban	4,685	7,391	5,161	8,846	3,160	7,836	2,337	10,150	2,234	10,394
Anstruther	2,346	3,178	1,137	1,884	1,401	4,589	1,444	5,389	1,413	6,665
Mallaig	9,792	14,005	8,251	10,937	4,421	10,127	1,391	4,804	1,807	7,206
Portree	-	-	2,841	7,756	1,968	7,887	1,109	8,152	1,183	8,708
Buckie	2,658	3,601	2,563	3,695	1,014	3,273	1,144	3,338	1,025	3,766
Aberdeen	32,996	26,427	22,532	16,049	1,269	3,990	1,023	4,564	714	3,943
<b>Total</b>	<b>415,268</b>	<b>248,671</b>	<b>269,403</b>	<b>232,812</b>	<b>316,032</b>	<b>480,294</b>	<b>283,607</b>	<b>445,482</b>	<b>367,138</b>	<b>582,686</b>

\*1971-2001 figures: total landings by UK vessels only; 2011-2023 figures: total landings by UK and foreign vessels  
Source: [Sea fisheries statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Distribution of Licensed Vessels by Shetland District									
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	
Creek 1 – South Mainland	13	11	3	17	18	14	15	15	
Creek 2 – Lerwick/Bressay	13	17	7	40	41	92	101	106	
Creek 3 – Whalsay	49	33	21	42	30	42	43	42	
Creek 4 – Out Skerries			4	9	6	5	4	4	
Creek 5 – Yell/Fetlar/Unst	29	14	5	23	14	12	13	12	
Creek 6 – Northmavine	14	7	4	9	5	5	4	5	
Creek 7 – Central Mainland	-	-	5	14	11	22	24	26	
Creek 8 - West Mainland	30	28	10	26	22	25	24	24	
Creek 9 – Scalloway/Burra/Trondra	68	45	32	55	28	30	28	28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>262</b>	

Source: Marine Analytical Unit, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government

Shetland Licensed Vessel Size - as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December				
	80ft and over	40-79.9ft	Under 40ft	Total
1971	0	64	152	216
1981	8	52	95	155
	Over 24m	Over 10m-24m	10m and Under	Total
1991	10	49	30	89
2001	27	31	177	235
2011	17	26	132	175
2021	23	22	202	247
2023	23	20	213	256
2024	23	21	218	262

Source: [Sea fisheries statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultations-petitions-and-statements/sea-fisheries-statistics-2024/)

Employment in the Shetland Fishing Industry – Total number of posts, regularly and irregularly employed								
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024
Catching	636	542	486	598	433	469	431	415

Source: [Sea fisheries statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultations-petitions-and-statements/sea-fisheries-statistics-2024/)

### Marine Protection

The Marine Directorate is responsible for marine and fisheries compliance in Scottish waters. It operates 3 Marine Protection Vessels, 2 inshore boats and 18 coastal offices, which carry out vessel inspections. These inspections can take place whilst vessels are in port, in coastal waters, territorial waters (inside 12nm) or ex territorial waters (12-200nm).

Boardings of Vessels in Scottish Waters 2024 - By vessel nationality and location of boarding					
	In Port	Coastal	Territorial waters	Ex territorial waters	Total
Belgium	-	4	-	-	4
Denmark	-	1	11	10	22
Faroe	-	5	7	2	14
France	24	52	10	9	95
Germany	2	2	4	3	11
United Kingdom	378	1,661	554	113	2,706
Ireland	-	4	10	8	22
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	0
Netherlands	-	5	5	15	25
Norway	1	68	59	36	164
Spain	22	33	3	3	61
Sweden	-	-	5	5	10
Unlicensed/recreational	-	-	-	-	0
Total	427	1,835	668	204	3,134

Source: [Marine and fisheries compliance: boardings of vessels in Scottish waters - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultations-petitions-and-statements/marine-and-fisheries-compliance-boardings-of-vessels-in-scottish-waters-2024/)

## Shellfish Aquaculture

The annual Scottish Shellfish Farm Production Survey collates regional data on the production of Mussels, Pacific oyster, Native Oyster, Queens and Scallops. Of these species, Shetland produced Mussels and a very small amount of Pacific Oyster (around 20,000 shells) in 2024. With data showing that historically Shetland does not produce any significant volume of other species, only data on mussel production is presented for the tonnage and value produced per year.

Mussel Production by Scottish Marine Region								
	2015		2021		2023		2024	
Marine Region	Tonnage	Value (£)*	Tonnage	Value (£)*	Tonnage	Value (£)*	Tonnage	Value (£)
Argyll & Clyde	491	777,744	497	514,395	433	512,672	483	506,184
Outer Hebrides	718	1,137,312	389	402,615	383	453,472	323	338,504
West Highlands, Moray Firth & North Coast	496	785,664	854	883,890	801	948,384	650	681,200
Shetland	5,565	8,814,960	6,850	7,089,750	8,694	10,293,696	10,234	10,725,232
Scotland	7,270	11,515,680	8,590	8,890,650	10,311	12,208,224	11,690	12,251,120

\*Average prices (real) have been adjusted for inflation based on 2024 price estimates

Figures for Argyll & Clyde and the West Highlands, Moray Firth & the North Coast have been merged for commercial confidentiality

Source: [Scottish shellfish farm production surveys - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-shellfish-farm-production-surveys-2024/pages/2-introduction-and-overview.aspx)

Mussel Production (Tonnes) & Shetland Production as a Percentage of Total Scottish Production										
	2001		2011		2021		2023		2024	
	Table	On-growing	Table	On-growing	Table	On-growing	Table	On-growing	Table	On-growing
Shetland	822	0	4,567	178	6,850	2,302	8,694	2,085	10,234	2,274
Scotland	2,988	4	6,996	282	8,590	3,253	10,311	2,526	11,690	2,503
Percent	27.5%	0%	65.3%	63.1%	79.7%	70.8%	84.3%	82.5%	90.9%	87.5%

Active and Producing Shellfish Farm Sites 2024 (all species)						
Region	Highland	Orkney	Shetland	Strathclyde	Western Isles	All Scotland
Active	52	2	146	46	37	283
Producing	26	2	106	26	18	178

Shetland - No of Shellfish Businesses / Employment (all species)						
	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024
No, of Businesses	37	29	24	23	20	21
Full-time Staff	21	61	55	59	58	60
Part-time Staff	37	46	26	22	21	20
Casual Staff	27	15	20	13	12	15
Total Staff	85	122	101	94	91	95

Source: [Scottish shellfish farm production surveys - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-shellfish-farm-production-surveys-2024/pages/2-introduction-and-overview.aspx)

## Finfish Aquaculture

Manpower and Production by Region											
Region	Year	Staff		Annual Prod. (Tonnes)	Prod. (T/man)	Grilse		Pre-salmon		Salmon	
		F/T	P/T			Tonnes	Mean Wt. (kg)	Tonnes	Mean Wt. (kg)	Tonnes	Mean Wt. (kg)
Shetland	1991	202	102	10,614	35	826	2.9	4,322	3.1	5,466	3.9
	2001	227	52	39,745	142	4,905	3.7	16,441	4.3	18,269	4.4
	2011	189	22	35,493	168	4,611	4.7	16,071	5.1	14,693	4.5
	2021	276	10	43,770	148	15,644	5.7	14,074	5.6	14,052	6.4
	2023	294	18	33,414	107	9,991	4.8	9,974	5	13,359	5.8
	2024	262	5	42,533	159	16,587	5.9	7,996	5.3	17,950	6.0
Scotland	1991	1,014	272	40,593	32	7,449	2.1	13,577	2.6	19,567	3.2
	2001	1,066	191	138,520	110	42,066	3.8	54,473	4.7	40,754	4.5
	2011	923	90	158,018	156	35,146	4.6	55,959	5.0	66,606	4.8
	2021	1,441	54	205,393	137	93,346	5.0	51,349	4.6	60,664	5.7
	2023	1,418	62	150,949	102	64,854	4.7	31,073	4.6	54,932	5.9
	2024	1,330	32	192,000	141	66,995	5.3	46,144	5.2	78,687	5.9

Survival and Production in Smolt Year Classes										
Region	Yr. Smolts put to Sea	Smolt Input (000's)	Harvest in Year 0		Harvest in Year 1		Harvest in Year 2		Total Harvest	
			No. (000's)	%	No. (000's)	%	No. (000's)	%	No. (000's)	%
Shetland	1991	4,013	0	0	2,012	50.1	1,135	28.3	3,147	78.4
	2001	17,398	123	0.7	6,465	37.2	7,973	45.8	14,561	83.7
	2011	11,206	49	0.4	4,911	43.8	2,709	24.2	7,669	68.4
	2021	10,090	0	0	4,850	48.1	2,303	22.8	7,153	70.9
	2022	10,571	0	0	4,042	40.1	2,990	28.3	7,032	66.5
	2023	8,938	30	0.3	4,311	48.2				
	2024	6,660	0	0						
Scotland	1991	20,227	0	0	8,864	43.8	4,675	23.1	13,539	66.9
	2001	48,643	557	1.1	23,528	48.4	15,619	32.1	39,704	81.6
	2011	42,733	109	0.3	21,502	50.3	11,283	26.4	32,894	77.0
	2021	51,131	16	0.03	25,777	50.4	9,382	18.3	35,175	68.7
	2022	55,261	79	0.1	20,734	37.5	13,356	24.2	34,169	61.8
	2023	48,845	30	0.06	21,511	44.0				
	2024	45,757	52	0.1						

Salmon Production by Scottish Marine Region								
Marine Region	2015		2021		2023		2024	
	Tonnage	Value* £ '000	Tonnage	Value* £ '000	Tonnage	Value* £ '000	Tonnage	Value* £ '000
Argyll & Clyde	35,911	173,414	36,085	207,092	28,997	232,005	35,151	242,190
Orkney	11,074	53,476	24,407	140,072	17,265	138,137	22,395	154,302
Outer Hebrides	27,210	131,397	31,069	178,305	24,036	192,312	40,126	276,468
North Coast & West Highlands	54,741	264,344	70,062	402,086	47,237	377,943	51,795	356,868
Shetland	42,786	206,614	43,770	251,196	33,414	267,345	42,533	293,052
Scotland	171,722	829,246	205,393	1,178,750	150,949	1,207,743	192,000	1,322,880

\*Average prices (real) have been adjusted for inflation based on 2024 price estimates

Source: [Scottish fish farm production surveys - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

## Fish & Shellfish Processing

Food Standards Agency Approved Fish and Shellfish Establishments, Shetland (December 2025)	
Activities approved	No. of approved establishments
Fisheries products processing plant – Auction Hall	2
Fisheries products processing plant (caught fish or aquaculture)	10
Live bivalve molluscs purification centre	1
Live bivalve molluscs dispatch centre	7

Source: [Approved Establishments Register](#) | [Food Standards Scotland](#)

## Agriculture

Main and Minor Holdings - Shetland							
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2025
<b>Land Use (ha):</b>							
Tillage	1,410	1,062	740	437	257	344	284
Grassland & Crops	8,407	8,400	14,304	22,016	26,789	28,854	30,448
Rough/Common grazing	129,019	133,160	130,943	124,021	121,934	117,506	110,355
Total area rented	38,130	36,046	36,781	43,060	42,479	40,930	44,448
Total area owned	28,161	30,368	33,840	35,622	38,432	41,027	42,397
No of holdings	2,439	2,240	2,311	2,076	2,035	1,750	1,706
No of common grazings	93	93	100	141	160	155	163
<b>Area Under Crops (ha):</b>							
Grass (Ex. Rough grazing)	6,998	7,338	13,563	21,580	26,531	28,510	30,164
Barley & oats	857	511	214	50	108	68	64
Turnips & swedes	134	103	106	40	11	11	8
Kale & cabbage	73	34	30	15	6	3	2
Potatoes	256	232	144	53	17	12	9
Vegetables for human consumption	x	x	20	17	5	7	6
Stockfeeding Crops	x	x	94	89	65	115	91
All other crops	17	25	11	41	20	16	43
<b>Livestock</b>							
Beef cows & heifers	2,492	1,896	2,129	2,172	2,440	2,298	2,044
Dairy cows & heifers	791	593	655	617	602	389	313
Total cattle	6,945	5,103	5,701	5,756	5,245	4,792	4,123
Breeding ewes & gimmers	x	x	210,630	215,480	150,847	147,650	148,197
Total sheep	264,779	297,558	387,468	393,686	280,364	289,566	296,073
Pigs	9	83	28	112	135	116	129
Poultry	12,950	8,672	4,428	4,972	5,426	4,868	3,500
Goats & kids	x	x	82	47	58	69	81
Horses & ponies	x	x	564	829	1,328	1,023	1,135
<b>Employment</b>							
F/T & P/T employees	222	205	244	336	240	344	261
F/T & P/T occupiers	439	763	864	781	531	563	552
Others (including occupiers less than half time and casual/seasonal labour)	584	412	1,364	1,473	1,355	1,196	1,030
Total workforce	1,245	1,380	2,472	2,590	2,126	2,103	1,843

x - data not available

Source: Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division (SGRPID)

Scottish Government & EU Assistance (£) - Shetland							
	1986	1991	2001	2011	2021	2024	2025
Less Favoured Area	Old schemes, not comparable to current		1,920,000	2,560,000	2,571,513	2,576,682	2,671,856
Basic Payment			Apart from LFA above, old schemes, not comparable to current		6,754,814	6,856,292	6,579,699
Beef Support					229,410	218,592	240,807
Sheep Upland Support					187,107	184,377	175,219
Crofting Agricultural					451,160	334,969	345,838
Agri-environment climate					250,493	388,608	2,485,477
Sustainable Farming					Old schemes not comparable	91,374	248,163
Future Farming Investment						n/a	471,699
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,220,000</b>	<b>4,900,000</b>			<b>6,970,000</b>	<b>9,130,000</b>	<b>10,642,347</b>

Source: Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division (SGRPID)

Livestock Imports & Exports - Shetland								
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2024	2025
Imports	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	75	143	66	38
Cattle	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	92	31	50	37
Horses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	114	72	130
Pigs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	648	666	549	627
Sheep								
Exports								
Cattle	1,974	2,066	2,117	1,031	1,983	1,338	1498	1428
Horses	417	407	239	232	200	133	109	97
Pigs	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	44
Sheep	43,464	60,542	99,404	114,251	92,569	55,109	100,103	101,527

Source: Lerwick Port Authority

	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2024	2025
Animal Produce								
Registered slaughterhouses/abattoirs	9	8	4	3	1	1	1	1
Sheep slaughtered	8,417	9,592	8,712	3,520	n/a	3,497	3,015	2,926
Cattle slaughtered	485	278	339	76	n/a	367	258	218
Pigs slaughtered	0	0	33	167	n/a	211	60	121
Wool production (est. kg)	218,000	245,000	337,000	323,220	300,487	322,437	298,265	286,049
Milk - No. of Dairy units	23	23	16	7	n/a	2	2	2
Milk production (litres)	1,428,975	2,069,550	2,584,564	2,410,045	n/a	1,410,540	1,171,589	1,081,558

Sources: Shetland Livestock Marketing Group (SLMG); Wool production: Shetland Wool Brokers & Jamiesons of Shetland; Milk: Shetland Farm Dairies

Animal Sales - No. of Animals Sold Through SLMG Auction Ring							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cattle Throughput	525	545	757	737	654	690	832
Sheep Throughput	44,973	52,549	67,858	74,816	76,579	80,373	84,156
Ponies Throughput	70	41	64	78	58	57	47

Source: Shetland Livestock Marketing Group (SLMG)

Food Standards Agency Approved Meat and Animal Produce Establishments, Shetland (December 2025)	
Activities approved	No. of approved establishments
Egg packing centres	2
Dairy products processing plant	1
Slaughterhouse, cutting, meat preparation and processing plant	1

Source: [Approved Establishments Register](#) | [Food Standards Scotland](#)

## Visitors/Tourism

Shetland visitor surveys were carried out in 2017, 2019 and 2024. These surveys captured independent visitors, travelling through Holmsgarth Ferry Terminal or Sumburgh Airport, and did not include cruise ship passengers. While the 2017 and 2019 interviews were undertaken over 12 months (Jan – Dec) the 2024 interviews took place over the peak months of April to October only. The data below is mainly from the 2024 report, which adjusted some 2017 and 2019 data to show Apr - Oct visits only for comparison.

Note, figures detail number of ‘visits’ rather than number of ‘visitors’ as some visitors may make more than one trip over the course of the year.

Visits* - Number of Visits, Full Year and Peak Months						
Purpose of Visit	Total Full Year Visits (Jan - Dec)			Apr - Oct Visit Breakdown		
	2017	2019	2024 <sup>#</sup>	2017	2019	2024
Leisure	38,096	40,865	45,025	58%	53%	56%
VFR**	8,791	16,827	18,743	10%	18%	18%
Business	26,374	22,436	25,199	30%	27%	24%
All visits	73,262	80,128	88,967	57,738	50,134	70,576

<sup>#</sup>2024 total visits (Jan-Dec) based on total departing passenger numbers provided by travel operators with visit type based on the 2024 calibration survey for peak months and 2019 data for off-peak months

On Island Total Visit Spend* (excludes Travel to and from Scottish Mainland and package holiday costs)							
Purpose of Visit	2017 and 2019 Visit Spend				2024 Visit Spend		
	2017 Full Year		2019 Full year		2024 April - Oct		2024 Off peak <sup>#</sup>
	£(M)	%	£(M)	%	£(M)	%	£(M)
Leisure	13.08	56	21.27	60	28.18	69	-
VFR**	1.68	7	5.50	15	5.83	14	-
Business	8.45	37	9.02	25	6.59	16	-
Peak/off peak total	-	-	-	-	40.59	-	9.71
Full year total	£23,212,893		£35,788,072		£50,309,650		

<sup>#</sup>2024 off peak spend was estimated by applying the 2024 peak average spend per person to the ratio of off peak average spend per person in 2019.

Visits* - Average Number of Nights Stay and Average On Island Spend <sup>#</sup>						
Purpose of Visit	Stay - Av. No. Nights			Av. Spend/trip - £		
	2017	2019	2024	2017	2019	2024
Leisure	6.6	5.6	5.9	343.32	520.52	706.62
VFR**	6.8	6.9	7.8	191.48	326.66	434.54
Business	9.3	5.1	8.2	320.40	402.04	381.22
All visits	7.3	5.8	6.9	316.99	448.28	590.00

<sup>#</sup> 2024 data is based on April - Oct only and 2017/2019 data is full year.

Number of Times Visited Shetland* (%) (Apr - Oct visits)						
	All Visits			2024 – Visit type breakdown		
	2017	2019	2024	Leisure	VFR**	Business
First Time	48	54	55	73	24	32
Repeat	52	46	45	27	76	68

Origin of Visits to Shetland* (%) (Apr - Oct visits)						
Place of Residence	All visits			2024 – Visit type breakdown		
	2017	2019	2024	Leisure	VFR**	Business
Scotland	41	39	42	21	63	73
Rest of UK	33	32	28	34	22	19
Europe	15	16	15	22	4	7
North America	5	7	9	14	3	1
Other Overseas	5	7	7	9	8	1

Likelihood to Recommend/Overall Satisfaction/Return Visit* (Mean Score out of 10)			
	2017	2019	2024
Would recommend Shetland as a holiday or short break destination	9.1	9.2	9.4
Overall satisfaction with your visit to Shetland	Not asked	9.1	9.2
Would return to Shetland for a leisure visit in the next 5 years	7.9	7.8	8.0

The inspiration for 2024 leisure visits were broadly the same as 2017 and 2019, as were the top leisure visit attractions and activities.

2024 Leisure Visits - Motivation / Inspiration* (Apr - Oct visits)			
Key reasons to visit	%	Inspiration for visiting	%
The scenery and landscape	67	TV, Literature and Film	51
Shetland is a place I always wanted to visit	65	Digital	51
The wildlife (e.g. wild birds, otters and orcas)	59	Recommendations	44
The history, culture and heritage	47	Printed Information	17

2024 Leisure Visits - Top Five Attractions Visited and Leisure Activities Undertaken* (Apr - Oct visits)			
Attraction Visited	%	Activity Undertaken	%
Sumburgh Head	67	Walking	93
Shetland Museum and Archives	62	Scenery	83
St Ninian's Isle and Beach	58	Nature	79
Iconic location from Shetland TV series	52	Shopping	71
Jarlshof	51	Sports	17

\*Excludes cruise ship passengers \*\*VFR = Visiting Friends and Relatives

Sources: [Shetland Visitor Survey – Shetland Islands Council](#)

## Cruise Visitors

Cruise Ship Visits to Lerwick Harbour										
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2018	2019	2021	2023	2024	2025
Cruise Ship Arrivals	x	21	42	50	91	99	18	129	139	127
Cruise Ship Passengers	3,564	5,240	11,601	30,747	90,336	76,233	8,642	123,903	138,533	129,954

x - data not available; \*2021 figures impacted by Covid pandemic

Cruise Ship Passenger Nationality - Lerwick Harbour visits							
	2018	2019	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025
American	30,198	21,763	4	20,618	40,529	45,742	47,203
Australian	3,256	2,619	1	640	3,945	3,581	3,703
British	22,623	18,495	8,582	14,222	15,510	20,762	20,649
Canadian	4,241	2,607	2	1,446	5,845	6,335	6,043
Dutch	1,605	1,476	0	541	4,433	6,788	5,990
French	1,143	848	1	577	2,302	2,264	3,126
German	14,773	16,922	6	15,851	37,537	37,463	26,642
Italian	1,266	1,132	5	969	3,009	3,182	3,484
Spanish	1,059	1,329	0	441	1,602	1,485	2,098
Other	10,172	9,042	41	3,145	9,191	10,931	11,016
Total	90,336	76,233	8,642	58,450	123,903	138,533	129,954

\*2021 figures impacted by Covid pandemic

Source: Lerwick Port Authority

Cruise Ship Visits to Shetland Islands Council Ports							
	Fair Isle	Scalloway	Foula	Papa Stour	Baltasound	Fetlar	Total
2022	2	1	0	2	1	2	8
2023	24	0	6	4	12	3	49
2024	17	1	8	6	8	6	46
2025	23	2	6	5	4	3	43

Source: SIC Marine and Air Operations

Economic Impact of Tourism Visitors - Indexed to 2025 prices (£'000)							
Visitor Type	2014	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025
Staying visitor	56,270	23,860	37,170	57,680	63,250	89,160	105,900
Day visitor	1,855	138	500	2,578	5,250	6,344	5,805
All Visitor Types (£'000)	58,125	23,998	37,670	60,258	68,500	95,504	111,705

Source: Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd STEAM Report; \* 2020 & 2021 figures impacted by Covid pandemic

Paid Accommodation Supply													
	1981	1991	2001	2011		2021		2023		2024		2025	
Accom. Type	Beds	Beds	Beds	No.	Beds	No.	Beds	No.	Beds	No.	Beds	No.	Beds
Hotels	573	595	544	37	776	48	853	35	756	27	750	27	750
Guest houses/B&B	306	429	369	50	382	18	205	14	139	14	180	14	180
Self-Catering	271	538	322	168	1,034	205	1,306	197	1,211	284	1,625	463	2,495
Touring/camping	81	217	390	8	501	13	547	13	591	17	669	21	653
Total	1,231	1,779	1,625	263	2,693	284	2,911	259	2,697	342	3,224	525	4,078

No. = No. of Establishments; Beds = No. of bed spaces; Touring/Camping includes hostels, caravan and campsites

Sources: 1981-2001: VisitShetland; 2011-2025: Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd STEAM Report

Annual Visitor Numbers for Shetland Visitor Attractions							
Visitor Attraction	2001	2011	2019	2021	2023	2024	2025
Bressay Heritage Centre	[x]	1,200	651	532	1,104	1,373	1,771
Fair Isle**	[x]	[x]	1,233	936	563	1,226	3,874
Fetlar Interpretive Centre	[x]	1,022	1,732	1,227	--	1,313	1,287
Hermaness NNR	1,600	6,000	8,160	6,432	11,970	13,237	14,263
Hoswick Visitor Centre	6,500	11,404	20,096	11,263	20,078	18,800	24,490
Island of Noss	757	1,655	2,239	851	1,597	1,739	1,971
Jarlshof*	10,790	13,761	22,439	0	27,176	28,535	28,679
Old Haa	2,000	3,631	5,456	2,238	4,695	6,133	6,983
Quendale Water Mill	1,744	3,681	3,512	1,476	2,981	3,371	2,866
Scalloway Museum	[x]	9,182	23,826	2,093	15,399	14,910	13,861
Shetland Crofthouse Museum	3,969	4,305	3,905	0	3,718	5,385	4,710
Shetland Museum and Archives	34,367	87,403	65,832	10,887	4,804	4,157	43,780
Shetland Textile Museum	[x]	[x]	3,727	1,574	6,585	9,769	3,796
Tangwick Haa Museum	2,823	4,792	11,626	0	3,596	3,070	10,694
Unst Boat Haven	3,553	4,161	4,143	2,424	4,394	4,643	2,863
Unst Heritage Centre	2,980	3,262	4,921	2,322	2023	2024	4,403

Note: 2020 - 2022 figures were impacted by Covid restrictions and the cost of living crisis

[x] No data; \* Jarlshof was a seasonal site until 2022, after which it opened year round

\*\* After being destroyed by a fire in 2019, and completely rebuilt, the Fair Isle Bird Observatory reopened in 2025

Source: Visitor Attractions

## Oil & Gas

### Sullom Voe Terminal

The Sullom Voe Terminal is situated at Calback Ness on a site of approximately 400 hectares (1,000 acres) on the shores of Sullom Voe, 46km (29 miles) north of Lerwick. Historically operated by BP Exploration Operating Company on behalf of companies participating in the regional pipeline groups, the terminal's operation was passed to mature asset specialist EnQuest in late 2017.

The terminal has a throughput design capacity of 1.2 million barrels of crude oil per day and reached a peak in 1984 with a total receipt of 439,434,656 barrels (58,328,785 tonnes). From 1982 - 2010, gas also came through the terminal from the Brent and Ninian pipelines. The total Propane throughput reached a peak in 1984, at 886,426 tonnes, and Butane in 1985 at 630,262 tonnes.

Although throughput has declined in recent years, the terminal remains strategically important for the UK energy sector, with the capacity to handle output from oilfields to the west and East of Shetland and reconfigure parts of the terminal to develop renewable energy and decarbonisation opportunities.

### UK Port Traffic

While the tonnage of port traffic has decreased since the peak of the oil industry, Sullom Voe Terminal still handles millions of tonnes of cargo every year. In 2024, it ranked 19<sup>th</sup> on a list of UK ports for total tonnage, 11<sup>th</sup> for Oil and Gas traffic and 8<sup>th</sup> for Crude Oil shipments. In a Scottish ports context, Sullom Voe was 4<sup>th</sup> for total tonnage and 3<sup>rd</sup> for oil and gas traffic.

UK Total Port Traffic 2024 (Foreign & Domestic)			UK Bulk Fuel & Crude Oil Ports 2024		
Port	'000 Tonnes	%UK Traffic	Port	'000 Tonnes	%UK Traffic
London	51,869	12.1	Milford Haven	32,113	19.7
Grimsby & Immingham	43,718	10.2	Southampton	19,887	12.2
Southampton	33,259	7.7	Grimsby & Immingham	15,597	9.6
Milford Haven	32,875	7.7	Tees & Hartlepool	15,181	9.3
Liverpool	31,284	7.3	Forth	13,795	8.5
Tees & Hartlepool	24,242	5.6	London	13,467	8.3
Felixstowe	23,101	5.4	Liverpool	11,176	6.9
Dover	19,402	4.5	Rivers Hull & Humber	9,568	5.9
Belfast	18,121	4.2	Clyde	5,710	3.5
Forth	17,184	4.0	Manchester	4,865	3.0
Rivers Hull and Humber	10,480	2.4	<b>Sullom Voe</b>	<b>4,501</b>	2.8
Hull	9,124	2.1	UK Total	163,100	
Bristol	8,608	2.0	UK Crude Oil Tonnage Only 2024		
Medway	8,537	2.0	Southampton	12,404	17.6
Clyde	7,176	1.7	Tees & Hartlepool	10,486	14.9
Glensanda	6,155	1.4	Rivers Hull & Humber	9,568	13.6
Manchester	6,045	1.4	Liverpool	9,084	12.9
Heysham	5,511	1.3	Milford Haven	7,948	11.3
<b>Sullom Voe (SV)</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>1.0</b>	Forth	7,240	10.3
All UK Ports	429,726		Clyde	4,579	6.5
All Scottish Ports	52,470		<b>Sullom Voe</b>	<b>4,501</b>	6.4
<b>% Scottish Traffic</b>	<b>8.6%</b>		UK Total (Crude Oil only)	70,293	

Source: [Port and domestic waterborne freight statistics: data tables \(PORT\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/port-and-domestic-waterborne-freight-statistics-data-tables-port)

Sullom Voe Terminal - Oil Throughput (Tonnes)								
	1978	1981	1986	1991	2001	2013	2022	2024
Brent Pipeline	856,991	23,116,490	38,692,099	20,263,701	13,368,931	4,085,132	1,211,549	74,080
Ninian Pipeline	92,186	15,545,240	16,875,047	15,576,512	5,994,252	1,258,300	962,812	1,377,411
Schiehallion	-	-	-	-	5,441,468	162,741	0	0
Clair	-	-	-	-	-	551,364	3,506,589	2,963,113
SGP (Laggan)	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,291	31,646
Total	949,177	38,661,730	55,567,146	35,840,213	24,804,651	6,057,537	5,740,241	4,446,251

Sullom Voe Terminal - Average Barrels Per Day								
	1978	1981	1986	1991	2001	2013	2022	2024
Brent Pipeline	177,526	478,094	800,134	419,864	277,732	84,327	25,011	1,277
Ninian Pipeline	23,439	317,083	346,513	322,592	124,520	25,979	19,927	23,748
Schiehallion	-	-	-	-	110,966	3,110	0	0
Clair	-	-	-	-	-	10,427	66,193	51,087
SGP (Laggan)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,227	546
Total	200,965	795,177	1,146,647	742,456	513,218	123,843	112,358	76,658

Sullom Voe Terminal - Total Barrels ('000s)								
	1978	1981	1986	1996	2001	2013	2022	2024
Brent Pipeline	6,391.0	174,504.3	292,048.8	176,442.3	101,372.2	30,779.2	9,129.1	466
Ninian Pipeline	679.7	155,735.5	110,640.2	108,654.8	45,450.0	9,482.4	7,273.2	8,668
Schiehallion	-	-	-	-	40,502.6	1,135.3	0	0
Clair	-	-	-	-	-	3,806.0	24,160.3	18,647
SGP (Laggan)	-	-	-	-	-	-	447.7	199
Total	7,070.7	330,239.8	402,689.0	285,097.1	187,324.8	45,202.9	41,010.3	27,980

Sullom Voe Terminal - Tankers Using Port									
	1979	1981	1986	1991	2001	2006	2013	2022	2024
Oil	270	432	654	423	295	199	87	68	51
Gas	0	0	112	45	12	11	0	0	0

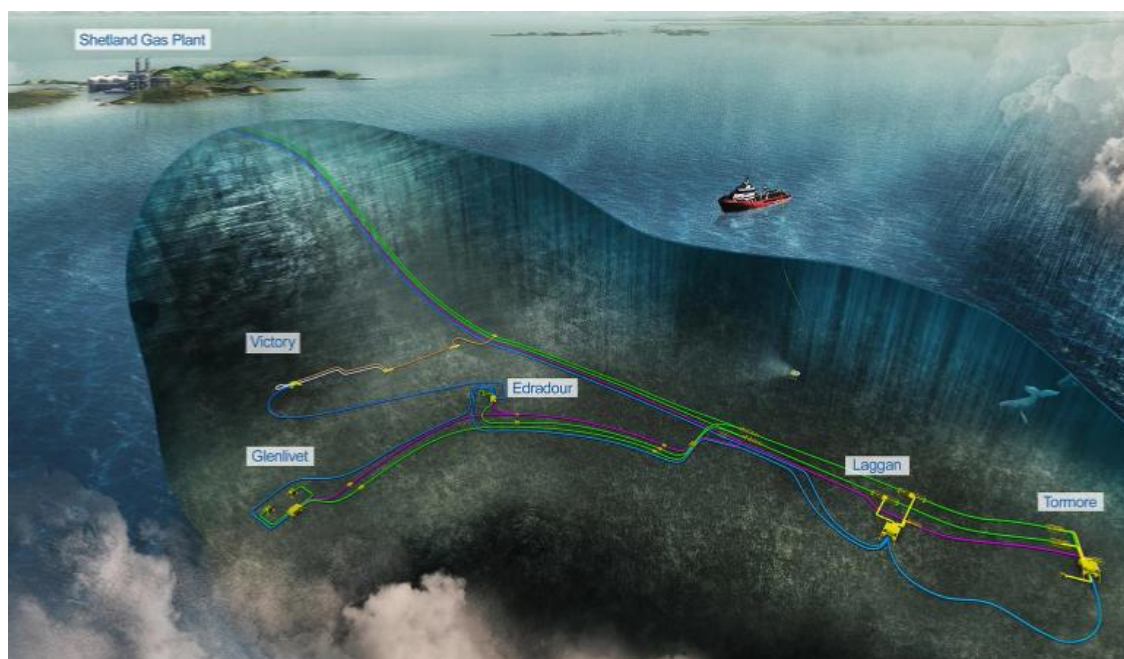
Source: Enquest – Sullom Voe Terminal

## Shetland Gas Plant, operated by TotalEnergies

TotalEnergies' West of Shetland gas development encompasses the Laggan, Tormore, Edradour, Glenlivet, and now Victory offshore fields and the onshore Shetland Gas Plant. Designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, the development of the subsea facilities involved the drilling of subsea wells in deep waters west of Shetland and the installation of the longest subsea pipeline network ever seen on the UK continental shelf.

The gas from the wells is processed at the Shetland Gas Plant (SGP), an onshore facility located next to the Sullom Voe Oil Terminal. This facility first produced gas from West of Shetland in February 2016. In 2024, SGP embarked on its first step as a third-party host when Shell took its Final Investment Decision to develop the Victory gas field. In September 2025, gas from Victory began flowing in, via the subsea GLA infrastructure, marking the first time a third-party field has tied back to the SGP. Gas from Victory processed at SGP is sent through the SIRGE pipeline network to St Fergus, where it enters the UK's domestic supply.

Victory is expected to reach peak production of around 150 million cubic feet of gas per day (approximately 25kBOEpd) at full capacity.



SAFETY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Lost-time injury*	0	0	0	0	0
Total Recordable Incident Rate**	0	0	0	0	0
First Aid Cases	0	1	0	1	2

\*Accident that has caused physical injury that prevents the person from returning to work the following day.

\*\*Number of recordable injuries per million Man hours worked

OPERATIONS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Delivered Production (kBOEpd)+	37.1	29	18.8	16.2	19.9
Site Manhours	366,364	390,113	378,917	394,545	379,042
Average number of persons on site per day	95	90	98	86	88
Local Personnel	49%	51%	50%	51%	45%

+ Gas production expressed as *thousands of barrels of oil equivalent per day*

Source: Total Energies E&P UK

### Third Sector

There is a strong tradition of volunteering in the isles, and almost all community and social activity in the rural areas relies on volunteers. 699 third sector organisations are registered with Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS), Shetland’s third sector interface, of which 276\* are charities registered with OSCR. However, VAS are also aware of voluntary and community organisations not registered with them, which means that the total number of third sector organisations in Shetland will be more than those registered.

\*Source: [OSCR | Register Search](#) for Shetland based charities as at May 2026

The third sector is important to Shetland, socially and economically. The Shetland Partnership reflects this, including third sector, community, local and national government organisations. This partnership is responsible for the design and delivery of The Shetland Partnership Plan. [Shetland Partnership – Shetland Partnership](#).

The scale, and vast range, of the third sector and volunteering in Shetland makes it impossible to present a full picture of all organisations/the sector. The data in this section presents just a flavour of the scale of this sector.

### Volunteering Rates

The Scottish Household Survey records formal volunteering rates (unpaid help to organisations or groups) annually and informal volunteering rates (unpaid help, not via an organisation or group, to other people or places, excluding relatives) every two years. Due to methodological changes during Covid, there is no informal volunteering dataset for 2020.

Volunteering Rates (volunteers aged 16 or over) - volunteered in last 12 months								
Formal volunteering						Any volunteering – formal, informal or both		
	2012	2021	2022	2023	2024	2018	2022	2024
Eilean Siar	57%	40%	22%	30%	39%	46%	31%	61%
Highland	44%	31%	29%	20%	24%	58%	53%	49%
Orkney	46%	42%	22%	26%	34%	60%	63%	57%
Shetland	44%	48%	44%	36%	36%	71%	75%	56%
Scotland	29%	27%	22%	18%	25%	48%	46%	48%

Source: Scottish Household Survey, [Scottish Household Survey: publications - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

### Saltire Awards

Saltire awards are national awards designed to recognise and reward those aged 12-25 years volunteering in their community. Awards are presented annually to individuals who complete 10 to over 500 hours volunteering. Both the volunteer and the organisation they are volunteering with need to be registered with Saltire to gain awards, therefore the numbers below do not represent all young volunteers in Shetland, just those registered with Saltire.

Saltire Awards (Awarded to young volunteers registered with Saltire)				
	Volunteers Registered	No. achieving Saltire Award	Total voluntary hours completed by all Awardees	No. of Groups, schools and organisations helped
2018	954	136	17,765	56
2019	1098	127	20,730	50
2020	999	141	14,940	50
2021	963	128	2,910	24
2022	859	67	10,500	25
2023	835	118	11,000	43
2024	814	164	17,000	45
2025	928	185	22,500	70

Source: Voluntary Action Shetland - [Saltire Awards | Voluntary Action Shetland](#)

## Grant Funding Secured

Third sector organisations in Shetland attract grant funding from many local, national and international sources, with hundreds of funding organisations. The table below outlines some of the larger local and national funding organisations, along with a few other funding organisations for which data is easily accessible online.

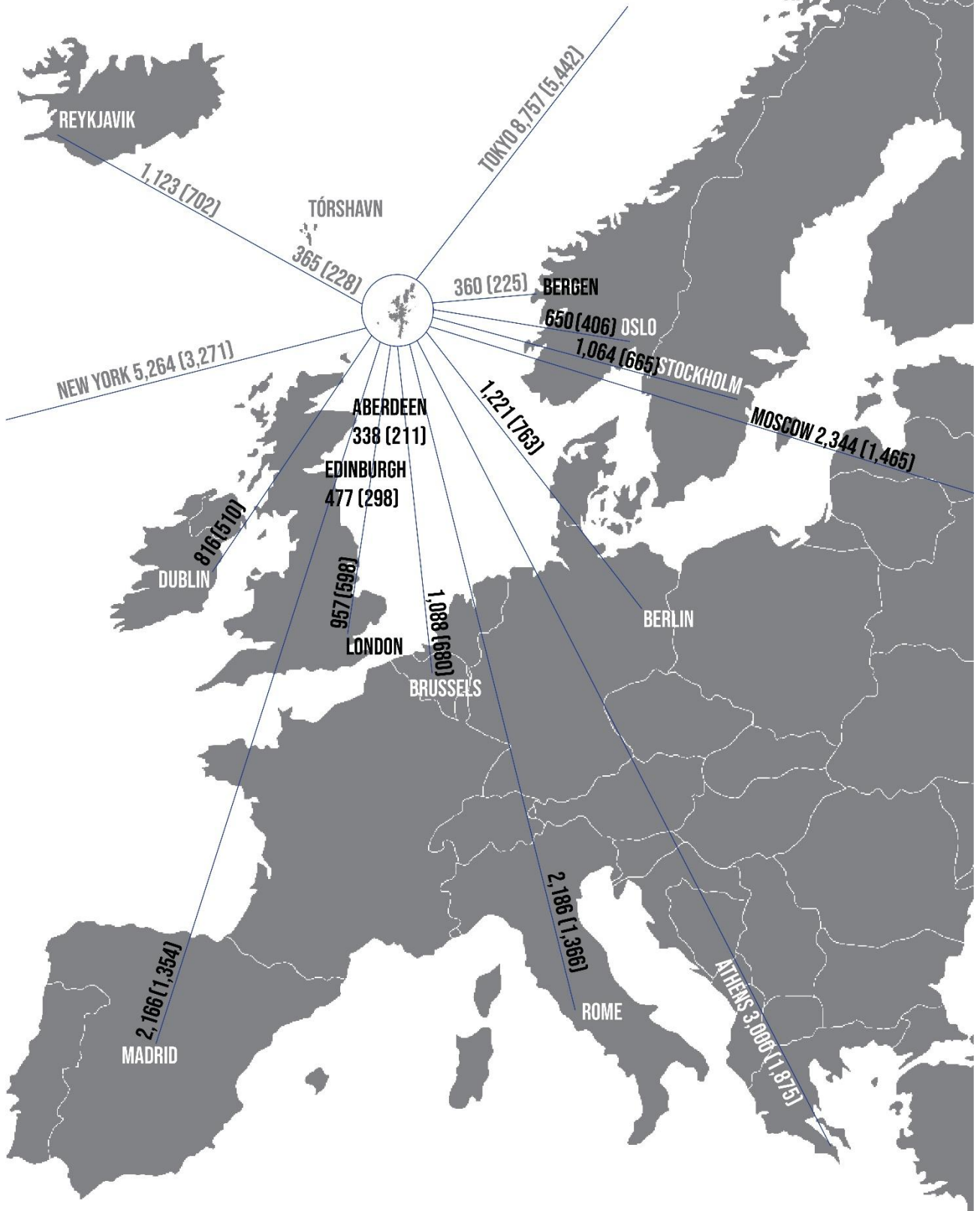
Grant Awards to Third Sector Organisations in Shetland	
Funding Body	2024/25 (£)
Shetland Charitable Trust	7,439,442
Shetland Community Benefit Fund	527,291
Shetland Islands Council - Coastal Communities Fund	1,159,601
Shetland Islands Council - Community Grant Schemes	589,432
Shetland Islands Council – Economic Development Grant Schemes	149,575
Scottish Gov. - Community Led Local Development	271,142
Scottish Gov. - Islands Programme	621,552
Scottish Gov. - Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults: <a href="#">Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults - Year 4 - Monitoring and reporting summary - gov.scot</a>	71,994
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	709,883
Architectural Heritage Fund*	4,000
Co-operative Group*	16,428
Creative Scotland: <a href="#">Awards Listings   Creative Scotland</a>	43,566
Historic Environment Scotland	23,719
National Lottery - Community Fund*	234,243
NatureScot - Peatland Action (Shetland)	105,995
R S Macdonald Charitable Trust*	57,000
Shared Care Scotland: <a href="#">Funded projects   Shared Care Scotland</a>	48,557
The Robertson Trust: <a href="#">Funding   The Robertson Trust</a>	85,000
The Goldsmiths Foundation*	15,000
Three Guineas Trust*	15,000
VisitScotland	1,000
<b>Total**</b>	<b>12,189,420</b>

Sources: Online (links provided), \* [360Giving GrantNav - Search](#), SIC, and individual funding orgs

\*\* Accounting for a fraction of the total organisations supporting local third sector groups, this total only gives an indication of the scale of annual grant income generated by this sector. The actual annual total will be higher.

# APPROXIMATE DISTANCES FROM SHETLAND

In kilometres (statute miles)



## Shetland: Physical Characteristics

Distance by road in kilometres (miles) from Lerwick:

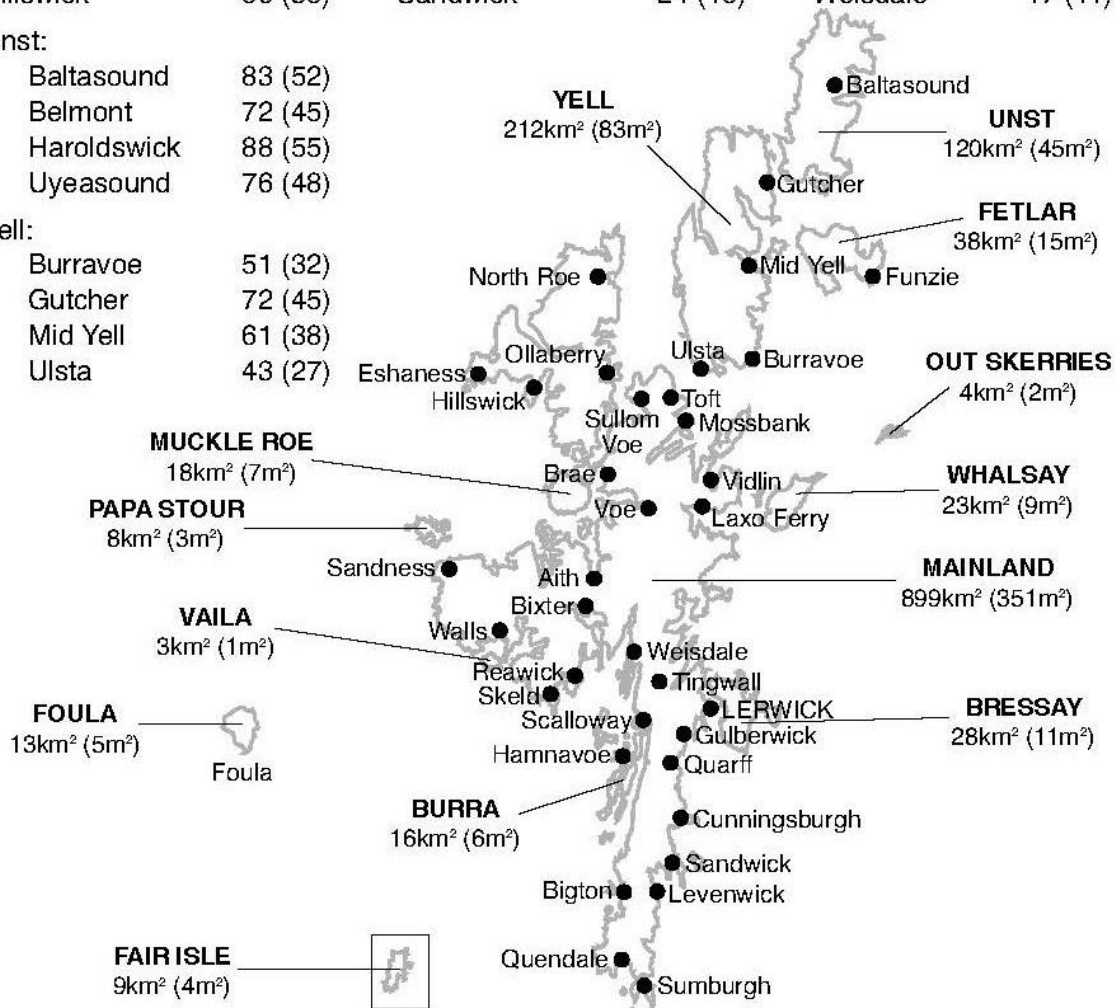
Aith	34 (21)	Laxo Ferry	35 (22)	Scalloway	13 (8)
Bigton	30 (19)	Levenwick	28 (18)	Skeld	40 (25)
Bixter	27 (17)	Mossbank	43 (27)	Sullom Voe	46 (29)
Brae	35 (22)	North Roe	61 (38)	Sumburgh	40 (25)
Cunningsburgh	18 (11)	Ollaberry	53 (33)	Tingwall	10 (6)
Eshaness	62 (39)	Quarff	11 (7)	Toft Ferry	43 (27)
Girlsta	16 (10)	Quendale	38 (24)	Vidlin	38 (24)
Gulberwick	6 (4)	Reawick	38 (24)	Voe	29 (18)
Hamnavoe, Burra	16 (10)	Sandness	46 (29)	Walls	40 (25)
Hillswick	56 (35)	Sandwick	24 (15)	Weisdale	17 (11)

Unst:

Baltasound	83 (52)
Belmont	72 (45)
Haroldswick	88 (55)
Uyeasound	76 (48)

Yell:

Burravoe	51 (32)
Gutcher	72 (45)
Mid Yell	61 (38)
Ulsta	43 (27)



Total Area of Shetland: 1,468 square kilometres (567 square miles)\*

Total Length of coastline: approx 2,702 kilometres (1,697 miles)\*\*

\* Ordnance Survey, 1988

\*\* Dr Lorraine Gray, 2007

Number of islands: 100+

Number of inhabited islands: 15

#### 4 Weather/Climate

Observations are recorded in Shetland by staff employed by the Meteorological Office in Lerwick. There are also Auxiliary Synoptic Stations in Fair Isle and Foula. Observations from the Lerwick Observatory began in 1921, although the first full year of recordings were 1922. The following data was recorded at the Lerwick Observatory (60°08'N, 01°11'W; Wind vane 93m above sea level).

Temperature (°C)										
Measure	Monthly Average (°C)				Mean (°C)		Extreme Daily Values (°C)			
Year(s)	2024		2025		1931-2025		1922-2025			
Month	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Year	Min	Year(s)
Jan	5.5	1.8	5.9	2.2	5.5	1.5	12.8	1947	-8.9	1952 & 59
Feb	6.4	2.1	7.3	3.4	5.4	1.3	11.7	1945	-7.4	2010
Mar	7.2	3.5	8.1	4.1	6.4	2.0	13.3	1961	-8.3	1947
Apr	8.4	3.8	10.1	5.9	8.1	3.1	16.1	1942	-5.7	1968
May	13.3	8.6	12	6.7	10.4	5.3	20.7	1992	-2.9	2023
Jun	12.5	8.3	13.9	9.1	12.7	7.7	23.3	1958	-0.6	1951
Jul	14.3	10	17.2	12.2	14.2	9.7	23.4	1991	3.5	1965
Aug	15	10.5	15.5	11.1	14.4	9.9	22.1	1997	2.3	1928
Sept	12.9	8.4	14.8	10.1	12.8	8.6	19.4	1953	-0.6	1954
Oct	11.1	7	11.4	7.8	10.3	6.4	17.2	1955	-3.3	1948
Nov	8.4	4.7	8.3	4.7	7.8	3.8	14.0	2022	-5.7	1962
Dec	7.8	3.7	8.4	5.2	6.3	2.3	12.8	2013	-8.2	1961
Year	10.2	6.0	11.1	6.9	9.5	5.1	23.4	1991	-8.9	1952 & 59

Wind Speed (Knots)											
	Mean			Max hourly mean speed				Highest Gust			
	2024	2025	1922-2025	2024	2025	1922-2025		2024	2025	1922-2025	
						Knots	Year			Knots	Year
Jan	19.4	16.1	17.5	45	41	66	2000	69	62	95	1961
Feb	17.4	16.6	16.5	43	37	56	1957	61	53	83	1957
Mar	16.2	17.6	16.2	39	46	51	1996	62	62	75	1967
Apr	16.2	11.7	13.7	36	29	55	1957	51	41	78	1957
May	9.3	13.8	12.3	26	32	46	2009	38	46	65	1982
Jun	15.0	15.3	12	35	35	50	2000	49	48	75	2000
Jul	11.3	10.3	11.2	33	22	39	1964	47	32	61	1964
Aug	14.9	12.7	11.2	32	36	45	2005	49	51	68	2005
Sept	11.4	14.3	13.5	32	30	59	1968	45	48	87	1963
Oct	16.3	17.7	15.4	38	44	58	1965	55	61	90	1980
Nov	15.8	14.1	15.9	40	45	51	1973	63	64	78	1998
Dec	17.7	16.0	16.7	44	46	58	2011	68	66	87	1966

Source: The Met Office, Lerwick

Sunshine (Total hours/month)				Sunshine (Total hours/month) - Extremes 1922 - 2025			
Month	2024	2025	Mean (1931-2025)	Maximum	Year recorded	Minimum	Year recorded
Jan	23.8	22.4	24.7	57.7	1998	8.1	1954
Feb	64.9	95.4	53	90.7	1975	23.2	1983
Mar	74	76.1	89.4	135.7	1931	52.9	1980
Apr	142.4	140	133.7	194.1	1966	64.2	1944
May	172.5	231.2	164.5	271.5	1948	74.5	1933
Jun	96.6	156.1	148.9	239.5	1955	80.5	2014
Jul	108.3	186.9	122.3	228.0	1947	75.5	1957
Aug	146.9	135.3	121.5	228.5	1938	74.3	1970
Sept	121.1	160.6	98.9	136.7	2004	63.1	1998
Oct	74.6	47.1	66.2	136.2	2016	40.7	1982
Nov	28.2	32.4	33.4	59.2	2000	10.5	1983
Dec	11.2	12.2	15.6	34.3	2010	4.0	1982
Year	1064.5	1295.7	1072.1	271.5	1948	4.0	1982

Rainfall (Total mm / Month)				Rainfall (Total mm / Month) - Extremes 1922 - 2025			
Month	2024	2025	Mean (1931-2025)	Maximum	Year recorded	Minimum	Year recorded
Jan	192.4	101.8	130.6	302.4	2015	29.0	1941
Feb	150	53.4	101.3	249.9	1989	10.8	1986
Mar	97.2	144.8	97.5	206.0	1994	19.0	1931
Apr	101.6	35.4	68.6	146.5	1985	2.2	1974
May	50.6	65.6	57.2	131.2	2015	7.4	2008
Jun	86.2	91.4	58.9	134.0	1990	9.5	1982
Jul	64	35.2	67.4	156.1	1988	21.0	1955
Aug	105	94.8	80.3	184.2	2014	0.7	1947
Sept	110	39.8	103.2	181.3	1982	28.0	1931
Oct	140.4	167.8	124.3	247.8	1981	29.2	1946
Nov	109	125.6	133.4	236.3	1973	49.2	1968
Dec	172.5	122.2	136.9	274.2	1999	49.0	1933
Year	1378.9	1077.8	1159.6	302.4	2015	0.7	1947

Extreme Values	2024		2025	
	Date / Month	Measure	Date / Month	Measure
Max Temperature	29 Jul	18.4°C	21 Jul	21.1°C
Min Temperature	17 Jan	-7.0°C	3 Jan	-3.8°C
Sunniest day	16 May	15.7 hrs sunshine	14 May	15.7 hrs sunshine
Sunniest month	May	172.5 hrs sunshine	May	231.2 hrs sunshine
Wettest Day	10 Sep	44.6 mm rainfall	4 Aug	41.4 mm rainfall
Wettest Month	Jan	192.4 mm rainfall	Oct	167.8 mm rainfall
Driest Month	May	50.6 mm rainfall	Jul	35.2 mm rainfall
Highest Wind Gust	22 Jan	69 knots	25 Jan	62 knots
Windiest Month	Jan	10 gale days	Dec	8 gale days

Source: The Met Office, Lerwick

Climatic Conditions (days) 2024 & 2025														
	Rain		Hail/ice pellets		Snow/ sleet		Air frost		Thunder		Gales		Fog	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Jan	22	27	6	4	8	9	6	6	1	0	10	5	0	1
Feb	28	17	7	1	9	0	4	0	0	0	8	4	0	0
Mar	25	25	3	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	5	5	1	1
Apr	23	12	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
May	9	14	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	6	2
Jun	23	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	2
Jul	19	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Aug	24	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	3	1
Sept	23	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Oct	25	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0
Nov	24	28	0	3	6	7	5	2	0	0	4	2	1	2
Dec	28	23	2	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	8	9	0
Total	273	250	19	12	30	18	19	10	3	3	37	33	24	12

Rain: Precipitation 0.2mm or more recorded in the 24 hour period commencing 0900hrs GMT

Hail/ice pellets: Solid precipitation, of which the outer parts are clear ice observed at any time of day

Snow/sleet: Snow or sleet observed at any time of day

Air frost: Minimum air temperature less than 0.0°C at any time of day

Thunder: Thunder heard at any time of day

Gales: Mean wind speed greater than or equal to 39.2mph (34knots) for at least 10 minutes

Fog: Visibility less than 1000 meters at 0900hrs GMT

Source: The Met Office, Lerwick

Ozone Values (Dobson Units)							
	Monthly mean			Lowest Daily Value		Highest Daily Value	
	2024	2025	1979-2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Jan	387	324	339	334	274	436	388
Feb	384	340	359	314	245	459	449
Mar	424	288	382	314	232	512	381
Apr	423	370	386	361	278	475	420
May	382	367	377	354	336	424	403
Jun	391	356	358	330	286	457	408
Jul	372	328	343	338	300	413	367
Aug	350	306	323	307	271	385	365
Sept	304	299	297	263	270	349	340
Oct	295	276	288	244	225	365	316
Nov	353	291	294	243	272	337	319
Dec	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Average	370	323	341	309	272	419	378

-- December values are not available due to low elevation of the sun in mid-winter

Sources: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/ozone-data.php>; Historical monthly mean data: The Met Office, Lerwick

## 5 Transport

### Internal Transport Services

Inter-Island Ferries								
Route	Passengers				Vehicles – Domestic & Commercial			
	2020	2023	2024	2025	2020	2023	2024	2025
Bressay	123,151	182,284	184,134	189,887	53,357	70,210	72,711	76,637
Skerries	2,505	4,579	4,818	5,192	1,006	2,177	2,220	2,362
Unst/Fetlar	79,161	136,960	141,833	141,825	49,130	76,236	78,801	77,680
Whalsay	98,119	154,360	156,197	159,281	59,171	80,561	83,836	86,568
Yell	162,438	259,072	260,553	260,304	99,980	145,704	150,291	152,040
Fair Isle	13	246	313	242	19	39	48	23
Papa Stour	2,006	3,700	4,655	5,128	990	1,450	1,692	1,676
Foula	83	112	118	195	4	24	22	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>467,476</b>	<b>741,313</b>	<b>752,621</b>	<b>762,054</b>	<b>263,657</b>	<b>376,401</b>	<b>389,621</b>	<b>397,005</b>

Note: All ferry routes are operated by Shetland Islands Council apart from Foula, which is operated by BK Marine

Source: Shetland Islands Council, apart from Foula service which was BK Marine

Inter-Island Flights									
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tingwall Airport Traffic									
Passengers	12,180	15,453	4,747	5,181	2,300	2,886	2,913	2,840	2,768
Aircraft Movements	2,815	2,917	2,394	1,539	1,175	1,315	1,243	1,190	1,061
Small Airfield - Passengers									
Fair Isle	841	2,048	2,030	3,316	1,442	1,921	1,910	1,905	2,560
Foula	1,175	n/a	1,296	1,299	858	1,013	1,003	935	929
Papa Stour	n/a	n/a	238	127	0	-	-	-	-
Skerries	271	900	840	484	-	-	-	-	-

Source: CAA [UK airport data | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk)

Bus Services - Number of Passengers				
Bus Route	2022*	2023	2024	2025
Lerwick Town Service	60,271	68,277	79,259	81,583
Lerwick to Scalloway	52,099	62,806	67,870	67,363
Lerwick to North Mainland	60,646	63,288	62,839	65,385
Lerwick to South Mainland	120,372	134,813	136,476	133,268
Lerwick to West Mainland	38,906	45,871	45,988	47,305
Central Mainland and Bressay Feeders & Shoppers	9,262	8,541	9,411	9,266
North Mainland Feeders & Shoppers	4,425	4,355	5,536	3,732
South Mainland Feeders & Shoppers	10,951	9,662	9,797	5,646
West Mainland Feeders & Shoppers	10,303	12,685	10,371	9,703
Yell Services	22,031	20,219	19,467	20,308
Unst Services	19,170	14,722	16,663	16,519
Fetlar Services	664	704	795	824
<b>Total</b>	<b>409,100</b>	<b>445,943</b>	<b>464,472</b>	<b>460,902</b>

\*Notes: 2022 figures: Government scheme for free bus travel for under 22s introduced 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, COVID travel restrictions only fully lifted April 2022

Source: SIC Transport Planning

## External Transport Services

### Ferry

Northlink Ferries Carryings 2025				
Route	Total Passengers	Total Cars	Total Coaches	Total commercial vehicle lane meterage
Aberdeen - Kirkwall	38,420	5,220	8	160,040
Aberdeen - Lerwick	143,755	25,874	126	354,173
Kirkwall - Lerwick	20,452	3,771	37	34,041
Stromness - Scrabster	200,737	53,232	517	121,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>403,364</b>	<b>88,097</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>669,836</b>

Source: [NorthLink Statistics](#) | [NorthLink Ferries](#)

### Air

Sumburgh Airport Traffic									
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Passengers (Terminal & Transit)	541,761	473,626	168,281	143,731	182,320	246,390	258,478	287,211	282,238
Aircraft Movements	34,188	29,168	11,165	12,228	16,699	17,715	17,426	17,116	16,167
Freight (Tonnes)	3,488	1,448	981	315	189	199	179	194	190

Source: Pre 2011, Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd. 2011 onwards CAA [UK airport data](#) | [Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](#)

## Vehicle Ownership/Schedule of Roads

Vehicles Licensed in Shetland on 31 <sup>st</sup> December									
Type/Year	1976	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024
Private & Light Goods	5,076	7,048	8,933	10,806	13,556	14,600	15,200	15,429	15,670
Goods/Crown & Exempt*	640	801	310	251	1,481	1,800	--	--	--
Heavy Goods Vehicles	Change to how goods vehicles recorded in 2022						300	309	292
Public Transport	171	164	121	81	108	100	100	139	142
Motorcycles**	397	545	287	271	495	500	600	624	619
Other Vehicles	826	831	967	992	153	200	1,100	1,110	1,145
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,110</b>	<b>9,389</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>12,401</b>	<b>15,793</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>17,611</b>	<b>17,868</b>

\*Goods vehicles exclude heavy goods that are exempt from tax; Crown and Exempt include vehicles in the special concessionary group; \*\*Includes all two wheeled motor vehicles

Source: Transport Scotland - [Scottish Transport Statistics 2025](#) | [Transport Scotland](#)

Schedule of County Roads - 31 March 2025	Km	Miles
A Class Roads	223.9	139.1
B Class Roads	161.2	100.2
C Class Roads	193.0	119.9
Unclassified Roads	466.6	289.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1044.7</b>	<b>649.1</b>

Source: SIC Roads Service

## Lerwick Harbour

Shipping in Lerwick Harbour									
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
General	316	418	738	796	763	592	622	609	631
Oil Tankers	51	140	114	105	78	62	67	65	66
Oil Rig Tenders	79	1,556	888	319	571	240	256	291	287
Other Vessels	489	430	522	1,277	1,246	1,006	1,353	1,593	1,472
Yachts – Cruising		112	366	415	531	144	557	539	542
Yachts – Racing						0	41	24	53
British Fishing*	1,440	677	1,606	829	630	294	601	740	423
Local Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	1,777	1,340	1,439	1,617
Foreign Fishing	1,580	246	216	103	207	53	165	542	555
Total	3,955	3,579	4,450	3,844	4,026	4,168	5,002	5,842	5,646

\*Excludes local fishing fleet

Tonnage Handled in Lerwick Harbour									
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
General Cargo Imports	45,760	200,077	226,715	409,088	453,272	441,353	421,231	396,444	423,370
General Cargo Exports	48,849	57,471	98,335	325,055	327,614	382,311	401,223	443,267	421,142
Oil Related Imports	342	288,999	238,684	211,681	17,903	5,962	8,346	14,921	19,021
Oil Related Exports	0	421,807	315,996	203,685	81,310	54,218	46,397	32,835	47,907
Total	94,951	968,354	879,730	1,149,509	880,099	883,844	877,197	887,467	911,440

Weight of containers excluded

Foreign Fishing Vessels in Lerwick Harbour									
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
Denmark	374	117	66	23	22	26	7	4	2
Faroe	242	14	19	6	0	0	0	7	4
France	16	13	18	8	9	11	2	7	60
Germany	3	1	22	8	1	1	0	0	2
Iceland	215	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	0	0	20	20	60	9	7	4	5
Netherlands	12	0	7	1	1	0	0	1	6
Norway	551	96	50	30	105	4	148	518	476
Russia	60	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	100	1	7	5	9	2	1	1	0
Other*	7	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,580	246	216	103	207	53	165	542	555

\*Includes foreign vessels from Bulgaria, Finland, Greenland and Poland

Lerwick Port Authority Revenue (£000)									
1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
49	2,100	4,576	5,762	9,064	10,008	12,016	15,387	16,760	18,548

Source: Lerwick Port Authority

## Scalloway Harbour

Shipping in Scalloway Harbour (No. of Vessels)									
	1986	1991	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UK Commercial	11	0	61	13	149	127	145	69	81
Foreign Commercial	100	103	158	34	240	89	58	63	47
Oil-related	5	1	37	71	0	0	0	0	0
UK Fishing	163	207	68	99	73	50	108	65	54
Foreign Fishing	17	28	12	20	0	2	3	3	0
Yachts	9	33	1	5	0	2	2	0	2
Salmon Cages	0	0	87	40	50	2	6	12	2
SIC Vessels	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	0	2
Other	0	0	46	7	2	12	12	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>194</b>

Cargo Handling in Scalloway Harbour (Tonnes)									
	1986	1991	2001	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Imports	5,037	6,351	20,405	2,937	14,017	10,260	3,292	13,789	6,928
Exports	16,120	893	25,616	19,695	8,509	9,840	16,122	6,339	5,379
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,157</b>	<b>7,244</b>	<b>46,021</b>	<b>22,632</b>	<b>22,526</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>19,414</b>	<b>20,128</b>	<b>12,307</b>

Scalloway Harbour Revenue (£)								
1986/87	1991/92	2000/01	2011/12	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
160,838	202,598	218,086	592,325	1,093,666	1,389,490	1,280,813	882,288	708,519

Source: SIC Port Operations

## 6 Housing

### Total Domestic Properties (recorded annually 1<sup>st</sup> April)

1976	1981	1991	2001	2011	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
7,287	8,612	9,156	9,877	10,674	11,366	11,432	11,492	11,567	11,672	11,687

Source: Assessor & Electoral Registration Office, Lerwick

### House Sales

House Sales – Median Residential Property Price (£)							
	2004	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aberdeen City	75,000	155,000	160,525	150,000	140,000	145,586	140,000
Aberdeenshire	95,000	190,000	200,000	215,000	210,161	212,000	205,000
Eilean Siar	55,000	87,250	126,000	137,000	150,000	147,500	150,000
City of Edinburgh	138,000	175,555	250,000	270,000	269,995	272,432	279,995
Glasgow City	92,750	113,000	160,000	172,250	173,000	180,000	188,175
Highland	89,500	140,000	186,000	200,000	203,000	210,000	212,000
Orkney	63,375	110,000	171,533	195,750	185,000	192,500	190,000
Shetland	60,000	115,025	165,000	177,500	182,250	185,000	190,000
Scotland	86,000	129,950	171,497	183,333	185,000	190,000	197,000

Number of House Sales							
	2004	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Shetland	313	302	301	275	230	270	280

Source: Registers for Scotland: [House price statistics - Registers of Scotland \(ros.gov.uk\)](https://ros.gov.uk)

## Building Completions/Planning Applications

The following tables display information regarding homes that have been constructed (completed) and those that have been granted planning permission, as well as business and Industry planning applications approved.

Note: 2020/21 to 2022/23 figures were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent economic conditions.

House Build Completions												
	2011/12			2021/22			2022/23			2023/24		
Building Type	A	P	Total	A	P	Total	A	P	Total	A	P	Total
South Mainland	0	22	22	12	10	22	0	10	10	0	8	8
Lerwick & Bressay	20	6	26	0	3	3	6	1	7	0	6	6
Central Mainland	0	12	12	0	7	7	0	6	6	40	5	45
West Mainland	10	3	13	0	3	3	0	6	6	6	0	6
North Mainland	2	14	16	0	9	9	0	3	3	2	3	5
North Isles	6	10	16	0	3	3	0	5	5	0	2	2
Total	38	67	105	12	35	47	6	31	37	48	24	72

A = Affordable housing (constructed by Shetland Islands Council and Hjaltland Housing Association)

P = Private housing (constructed by private sector developers or individual house builders)

Total Number of Housing Planning Permissions Approved						
	2013/14	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
South Mainland	45	21	14	21	10	12
Lerwick & Bressay	14	14	7	132	9	7
Central Mainland	25	87	6	19	27	5
West Mainland	6	11	13	2	15	2
North Mainland	16	20	9	5	14	7
North Isles	6	7	11	5	3	5
Total	112	160	60	184	78	38

All Business & Industry Planning Applications Approved						
	2013/14	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Use Class 4 – Business	8	3	5	1	1	2
Use Class 5 – General Industry	7	4	0	3	2	3
Use Class 6 – Storage & Distribution	5	3	1	1	0	1
Total	20	10	6	5	3	6

Source: SIC Planning

## 7 Education

### School Rolls & Staffing

Local Authority Nursery School Roll								
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
Aith Junior High	0	0	22	12	26	16	18	19
Baltasound Junior High	0	0	15	14	13	12	10	11
Bell's Brae	0	64	44	49	33	37	36	33
Brae High	51	60	27	20	28	29	32	26
Bressay	0	0	8	4	Closed 2014			
Cunningsburgh	-	-	-	22	21	19	20	25
Dunrossness	0	33	25	25	19	29	26	21
Fair Isle	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Fetlar	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Foula	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Happyhansel	0	0	13	14	9	8	6	5
Lerwick ELC	Formed in 2023, with amalgamation of Isles Haven and Lerwick Pre-School					27	41	34
Lunnasting	Opened 2009			9	9	6	10	13
Mid Yell	0	0	16	22	8	10	10	10
Mossbank	0	23	17	12	12	16	14	15
Papa Stour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwick Junior High	0	38	26	24	17	20	17	19
Scalloway	0	0	18	20	32	26	23	36
Skeld	0	0	7	7	3	2	0	0
Skerries	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sound	60	60	40	38	35	41	37	40
Tingwall	-	-	-	-	26	16	15	14
Urafirth	0	0	8	6	14	4	7	11
Whalsay Junior High	0	0	19	12	17	19	16	13
Whiteness	0	0	17	19	17	16	13	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>369</b>

Primary School Roll									
	1976	1981	1991	2001	2012	2021	2023	2024	2025
Aith Junior High	63	52	61	90	56	116	102	107	106
Baltasound Junior High	100	106	85	54	41	43	51	53	49
Bell's Brae	790	501	357	376	308	295	269	254	259
Brae High	68	171	139	105	102	153	137	125	120
Bressay	38	20	28	42	10	Closed 2014			
Burravoe	31	36	32	19	12	10	9	5	7
Cullivoe	23	24	18	12	24	10	7	10	8
Cunningsburgh	74	77	50	59	82	68	79	79	79
Dunrossness	152	209	146	138	100	95	85	89	101
Fair Isle	9	11	8	17	6	2	5	4	3
Fetlar	6	15	7	4	4	1	0	0	0
Foula	4	7	4	2	3	4	5	4	4
Gruting	11	9	Closed 1984						
Hamnavoe	65	107	96	63	44	86	74	70	67
Happyhansel	40	48	57	48	40	37	30	27	21
Haroldswick	33	21	25	Closed 1997					
Lunnasting	22	38	21	31	20	24	33	36	34
Mid Yell Junior High	76	65	48	49	46	33	30	32	26
Mossbank	-	136	70	73	31	42	45	46	43
Nesting	14	26	11	29	16	21	16	15	15
North Roe	16	23	20	12	7	14	16	16	15
Ollaberry	12	16	36	22	14	22	18	18	14
Olnafirth	30	46	31	28	13	Closed 2014			
Papa Stour	0	5	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Quarff	19	23	15	12	Closed 2003				
Sandness	7	15	13	12	7	18	15	12	8
Sandwick Junior High	81	96	69	86	97	99	82	84	79
Scalloway	136	150	117	83	104	144	143	146	132
Skeld	26	36	14	18	23	14	7	0	0
Skerries	12	11	9	4	3	0	0	0	0
Sound	-	292	354	339	308	236	234	217	213
Tingwall	43	52	50	62	68	82	86	72	53
Urafirth	29	37	29	29	12	23	21	21	19
Uyeasound	27	16	9	17	Closed 2011				
Whalsay Junior High	149	146	125	98	83	99	94	87	78
Whiteness	56	87	85	89	82	67	65	61	78
Total	2,262	2,730	2,243	2,124	1,766	1,858	1,758	1,690	1631

Secondary School Roll*									
	1976	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	2023	2024	2025
Aith Junior High	65	61	61	83	102	102	116	117	107
Anderson High	770	915	878	820	899	972	989	1,012	978
Baltasound Junior High	58	75	33	37	26	29	26	26	29
Brae High	68	164	211	265	220	148	164	175	182
Mid Yell Junior High	58	48	44	47	37	49	42	38	40
Sandwick Junior High	87	121	144	173	169	123	82	82	76
Scalloway Junior High	129	132	179	129	Closed 2011				
Skerries Junior High	6	5	2	7	4	Closed 2014			
Whalsay Junior High	54	62	45	70	57	47	57	60	68
Total	1,295	1,583	1,597	1,631	1,514	1,470	1,476	1,510	1480

\*From 2004, figures are taken from the September school roll, prior to that figures were taken from the January school roll

Local Authority Nursery & School Staffing*									
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2012	2021	2023	2024	2025
Nursery Teachers	**	**	**	16	16	8	10	10	10
Primary Teachers	91	164	140	176	156	160	151	150	149
Secondary Teachers	88	142	189	206	176	159	159	156	155
Total	179	306	329	398	348	327	320	316	314

\*Numbers are based on full time equivalent rather than head count, and have been rounded up

\*\* Information not available

Source: Schools, SIC

## Further Education/Modern Apprenticeships

Shetland UHI was founded in August 2021, from the merger of The North Atlantic Fisheries College, Shetland College and Train Shetland. The new college is a partner of the University of Highlands and Islands.

Number of Students Enrolled					
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Full time courses	74	66	64	50	87
Part time courses*	1,596	1,600	1,968	1,820	1,598
Total	1,699	1,701	2,056	1,884	1,685

\*Duration of part time courses range from under 10 hours to up to full time

Student Outcomes (%)						
	Full time students			Part time students		
	Completed successfully	Partial success	Withdrew	Completed successfully	Partial success	Withdrew
2019/20	77	12.2	10.8	94.6	2.9	2.5
2020/21	63.6	19.7	16.7	85.3	11.6	3.2
2021/22	76.6	14.1	9.4	90.4	7.2	2.3
2022/23	78	10	12	94.1	4.1	1.8
2023/24	82.8	9.2	8.0	95.5	1.8	2.8

Source: UHI - [About us - Performance Indicators](#)

Modern Apprenticeships in Shetland						
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
New enrolments (starts)	225	178	171	155	182	200
Already in training	371	383	342	357	329	356
Achievement rate, as a % of all leavers - Shetland	91%	79%	81%	81.1%	81.3%	84.5%
Scottish average achievement rate, as % of all leavers	77%	76%	72%	72.7%	76.0%	79.8%

Source: Skills Development Scotland - [Modern Apprenticeships statistics - Skills Development Scotland](#)

Shetland Skills Surveys gather information on skills, training and recruitment issues, and identify key areas where local training provision needs to be developed, strengthened or supported. The Shetland Islands Council has carried out two surveys, in 2017 and 2024: [Shetland Skills Survey – Shetland Islands Council](#).

## 8 Health and Social Care

Shetland has one hospital, located in Lerwick, and 10 GP surgeries throughout Shetland. There are also 4 NHS dental clinics in the islands.

### Staffing

NHS Shetland Staffing												
	1986	1991	2001	2011	Dec 2016		Dec 2021		Dec 2024		Dec 2025	
					HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE
Administrative Services	43	59	73	119	162	131.4	237	193.9	231	188.5	244	201.6
Allied Health Professionals	-	-	-	-	44	36.7	55	47.2	61	49.2	59	47.4
Medical & Dental	36	42	49	24	39	34.4	70	51.1	76	52.2	78	56.2
Medical & Dental Support	-	-	-	55	54	43	53	42.7	48	37.8	48	38.3
Nursing & Midwifery	194	251	212	186	238	189.7	272	222.9	275	224.0	284	230.2
Support Services	139	147	86	131	96	77.4	97	76	92	69.4	99	76.7
Other Services*	-	-	-	-	44	39.8	72	59.5	87	78.0	82	70.6
<b>Total**</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>552.4</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>693.3</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>699.1</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>721.1</b>

\*Includes Healthcare Science, Therapeutic Services and Personal & Social Care

\*\*HC totals may not add up as staff can have a job across two job groups, so are counted once in each group but only once in the total

HC = Headcount; WTE = Whole Time Equivalent

Source: [NHS Scotland Workforce Dashboards | Turas Data Intelligence](#)

General Practice Staffing - Shetland						
	General Practitioners				Nurses	
	HC	Est. WTE	HC/10,000 patients	WTE/10,000 patients	HC	WTE
2019	28	25	12.4	11.1	17	17
2023	26	17.2	11.3	7.5	40	18.0
2024	26	10.4	11.4	4.5	33	13.3
2025	24	20.3	10.2	8.6	40	28.2

General Practice Staffing - March 2025								
	General Practitioners						Nurses	
	GP HC	GP WTE	HC/10,000 patients	WTE/10,000 patients	Locum WTE as % of GP WTE	Practices using locum	HC	WTE
Eilean Siar	30	24.3	11.1	9	11.1	100%	23	17.3
Highland	379	300	11.2	8.8	7.2	75.6%	199	133.5
Orkney	38	33.6	17	15.1	3.6	100%	30	21.9
Shetland	24	20.3	10.2	8.6	22.2	100%	40	28.2
Scotland	4,582	3,591.5	7.6	5.9	7.2	87.2%	2,464	1,735.7

HC = Headcount; WTE = Whole Time Equivalent

Source: [General Practice Workforce Dashboards | Turas Data Intelligence](#)

## Hospital Activity

<b>Gilbert Bain Hospital (Board of Treatment - NHS Shetland)</b>							
	2012/13	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
Inpatient Episodes							
Day Cases	2,071	2,467	1,326	1,981	2,148	2,165	2,090
Elective Inpatients	309	290	194	307	200	186	155
Emergency Inpatients	2,259	1,859	1,647	1,756	1,854	1,772	1,351
Transfers	90	257	310	244	280	281	247
<b>All Inpatient Episodes</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>4,873</b>	<b>3,477</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>4,404</b>	<b>3,843</b>
Outpatients							
<b>All Outpatient attendances</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>12,859</b>	<b>8,918</b>	<b>11,515</b>	<b>10,718</b>	<b>10,801</b>	<b>10,901</b>

\*Provisional Figures

Source: [Publications and data - Hospital care - Primary and secondary care - Our areas of work - Public Health Scotland](#)

## Social Care

Services are provided by the SIC Social Care Service, except where stated							
	1984/5	1990/1	2001/2	2011/2	2021/2	2023/4	2024/5
Local Authority beds for older people	44	54	56	130	131	131	131
Voluntary Sector beds for older people*	56	56	86	16	16	16	16
Day care places for older people**	-	-	26	95	98	98	98
Shetland Welfare Trust day care places for older people	25	25	66	-	-	-	-
Day care places for adults with learning disabilities	-	-	-	-	77	77	77
Supported living for adults with learning disabilities	-	-	20	32	39	40	40
Places in Children & Young Peoples Residential Services	10	10	5	8	12	12	12
Places for mentally/physically disabled children – respite care	0	0	6	6	5	5	5
Meals delivered	45,107	54,800	40,585	38,116	25,334	29,460	29,787
Care at home – clients receiving domestic tasks	584	576	573	301	261	187	160
Care at home – clients receiving personal care***				264	398	290	314
Homes connected to community alarm system	0	482	731	677	693	674	622

\*Voluntary sector beds: 16 are provided by Church of Scotland, and the remainder up to 2011/12 were provided by The Shetland Welfare Trust

\*\*The Church of Scotland provide 10 of the day care places for older people

\*\*\*Data from 2011 onwards - Food preparation classed as personal care by Scottish Government

## 9 Recreation

### Leisure Activities

Shetland.org has a range of information on outdoor: [Outdoors and adventure | Shetland.org](#), and indoor: [Leisure and things to do | Shetland.org](#), facilities/activities throughout the isles, as well as heritage sites: [History and heritage | Shetland.org](#).

### Leisure Centre & Swimming Pool Admissions\*

Facility	2022/3	2023/4	2024/25
Clickimin Leisure Complex	207,615	215,828	256,851
North Mainland Leisure Centre	24,540	23,325	24,395
Scalloway Pool	17,808	15,420	13,559
South Mainland Pool	13,829	13,313	13,339
Unst Leisure Centre	11,757	10,807	13,242
West Mainland Leisure Centre	27,672	23,145	22,176
Whalsay Leisure Centre	20,545	21,221	17,590
Yell Leisure Centre	8,318	8,245	8,821
<b>Total Admissions</b>	<b>332,084</b>	<b>331,304</b>	<b>369,973</b>

\*Admission figures do not include spectators or school PE activity

Source: Shetland Recreational Trust

### Community Halls & Centres

There is a network of community halls and centres located throughout the isles which act as hubs for local communities and are host to a wide range of activities through the year. In addition to the list below, there are also a number of clubs, church halls and other buildings used by local communities.

<b>Lerwick &amp; Bressay</b>	<b>West Mainland</b>	<b>North &amp; Outer Isles</b>	<b>Central Mainland</b>
Bressay Hall	Aith Hall	Fetlar Hall	Bridge End Hall - Burra
Islesburgh Community Centre	Bixter Hall	Skerries Hall	Hamnavoe Hall - Burra
Lerwick Town Hall	Gruting Community Centre	Baltasound Hall - Unst	Trondra Hall
North Staney Hill Hall	Sandness Hall	Haroldswick Hall - Unst	Scalloway Hall
Sandveien Community Centre	Skeld Hall	Uyeasound Hall - Unst	Whiteness & Weisdale Hall
Sound Hall	Walls Hall	Isbister Hall - Whalsay	Tingwall Hall
		Symbister Hall - Whalsay	
<b>North Mainland</b>	<b>South Mainland</b>	Burrae Hall - Yell	<b>Outdoor Education Centres</b>
Brae Hall	Bigton Hall	Cullivoe Hall - Yell	Bridge End - Burra
Eshanness Community Centre	Boddam Hall	East Yell Hall - Yell	Voxter - Brae
Hillswick Hall	Carnegie Hall	Mid Yell Hall - Yell	
Lunnasting Hall	Cunningsburgh Hall	Sellafirth Hall - Yell	<b>Youth Centres</b>
Mossbank Hall	Fair Isle Hall	North Ness Hall - Yell	Brae
Muckle Roe Hall	Gulberwick Hall	West Sandwick Hall - Yell	Cunningsburgh Village Club
North Nesting Hall	Levenwick Hall		Livister - Whalsay
North Roe & Lochend Hall	Quarff Hall		Sandwick
Ollaberry Hall			Scalloway
South Nesting Hall			The Hub - Lerwick
Sullom & Gunnister Hall			Unst
Voe Hall			

Source: Community Planning & Development, SIC

## 10 Services

### Fire Service

There are 14 retained fire stations located in Shetland, 2 multi-pump stations in Lerwick and Brae and 12 single pump stations in Bixter, Bressay, Fair Isle, Fetlar, Hillswick, Sandwick, Scalloway, Sumburgh, Unst, Walls, Whalsay and Yell.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, Fire Scotland had a core of 8.5 whole-time staff based in Lerwick and 118 on call staff throughout its 14 Shetland stations. As well as crewing, the whole-time staff deliver activities which support Shetland's Local Fire and Rescue plan and contribute to the wider Shetland Community Plan.

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Incidents Attended, Shetland						
Incident Type		2019/20	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Fire - Building	Chimney Fire	10	5	7	4	5
	Derelict Building	1	-	-	-	-
	Dwelling	12	14	16	23	22
	Non Residential	6	6	2	3	4
	Other Residential	1	-	2	2	2
Fire - Outdoor	Grassland, woodland and crops	2	6	4	2	5
	Other outdoors (including land)	-	4	1	1	4
	Outdoor equipment and machinery	4	6	4	2	5
	Outdoor structures	3	2	6	2	3
	Refuse	4	2	2	3	1
Fire - Vehicle	Aircraft	-	-	-	-	-
	Boats	1	1	2	-	1
	Road Vehicle	3	5	9	9	5
Special Service	Animal Assistance	-	1	1	-	2
	Flooding / Water Rescue	2	2	3	4	3
	Hazardous Materials	-	1	3	-	1
	Humanitarian	3	3	2	1	1
	Inter-Agency	10	4	23	8	18
	Other Non-Fire	6	1	-	13	1
	Securing Scene	-	2	1	4	1
	Vehicle	9	15	10	13	8
False Alarm	Due to Apparatus	94	106	97	58	38
	Good Intent	31	27	30	52	41
	Malicious	5	5	-	2	4
Total Incidents - Shetland		207	218	225	206	175

Source: Fire Scotland

## Police Service

There are 3 police stations in Shetland, in Lerwick, Brae and Yell. In 2024/25 there were 180 crimes and 171 offences recorded per 10,000 population, which were the lowest in Scotland.

Crimes and Offences Recorded by Police Scotland / Detection Rates - Shetland Islands					
Crime/Offence Group	Number of crimes & offences recorded			Detection Rate (%)	
	2015/16	2020/21	2024/25	2020/21	2024/25
Group 1	209	119	121	98	76
Group 2	35	58	48	85	88
Group 3	189	74	69	60	49
Group 4	106	76	53	62	38
Group 5	270	172	123	100	83
Group 6	229	65	59	99	83
Group 7	24	25	16	96	69
Group 8	741	353	318	Not available	
Total	1,803	942	807		

Number of Crimes and offences recorded Per 10,000 Population						
	2015/16		2020/21		2024/25	
	Crimes (Gp 1-5)	Offences (Gp 6-8)	Crimes (Gp 1-5)	Offences (Gp 6-8)	Crimes (Gp 1-5)	Offences (Gp 6-8)
Aberdeen City	777	592	641	400	629	309
Aberdeenshire	315	278	291	226	290	223
Eilean Siar	242	342	271	237	220	239
Edinburgh	786	324	641	255	728	281
Glasgow	887	969	850	504	829	499
Highland	429	704	399	384	434	356
Orkney	213	242	189	185	234	255
Shetland	346	425	243	194	180	171
Scotland	572	522	554	346	545	321

Gp 1 - Non sexual crimes of violence

Gp 2 - Sexual crimes

Gp 3 - Crimes of dishonesty

Gp 4 - Damage and reckless behaviour

Gp 5 - Crimes against society

Gp 6 - Antisocial offences

Gp 7 - Miscellaneous offences

Gp 8 - Road traffic offences

Source: [Supporting documents - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2024-25 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/crime-reports/2024-25/Supporting%20documents%20-%20Recorded%20Crime%20in%20Scotland,%202024-25%20-%20gov.scot)

## Water and Wastewater Services

Water Supplied - Megalitres (1 Megalitre = 1,000,000 litres)									
	1976	1981	1991	2001	2012	2021	2023	2024	2025
Total supplied	2,627	4,964	4,691	4,104	3,914	4,395	4,184	4,383	4,580
Av daily demand	7.19	13.60	12.85	11.24	10.72	12.04	11.46	12.01	12.55

Microbiological Quality at Water Treatment Works							
	1991	2001	2012	2021	2023	2024	2025
Percentage compliance	97.20	99.94	100	100	100	100	99.90

Networks		1999	2008	2012	2022	2025
Water connections	Domestic	9,502	9,939	12,458	11,374	11,523
	Non-domestic	1,119	1,187	1,387	1,268	1,253
Sewer connections	Domestic	6,701	6,938	10,841	8,204	8,318
	Non-domestic	712	761	1,301	772	856
Length of water mains (km)	In-use public	1,005	1,017	1,080	1,071	1,070
Length of sewers (km)	In-use public	365	372	309	312	313

New (Replacement) Mains	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Water (km)	10.1	1.3	12.4	3.8	6.8	1.1
Sewer (km)	4.1 (since 2019)			0	1.0	0.1

Treatment	1999	2002	2012	2021	2025
Wastewater treatment plants (Inc. septic tanks)	60	64	80	81	82
Water treatment works	18	18	10	10	10

Source: Scottish Water, Lerwick

## Digital Connectivity

To check broadband, 3G and 4G coverage across Shetland, follow the links below.

Broadband coverage: [View broadband availability - Ofcom Checker title](#)

3G and 4G coverage: [View mobile availability - Ofcom Checker](#)

Source: Ofcom

## 11 Energy

### Energy Sources

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks are the electricity system operator on Shetland. 50% of Shetland's electricity is currently supplied by the diesel-fired Lerwick Power Station, 30% by the gas-fired Sullom Voe Terminal Power Station (SVTPS) and around 20% small independent and community based renewable generators. These renewable sources are mainly from wind power generation but also include a small but important mix of solar, tidal and micro hydro generators.

Note: The contribution by SVTPS excludes energy used within the Sullom Voe Terminal.

Source: Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks: [Shetland Energy - SSEN](#)

Since 1991, residual heat from Lerwick's Energy Recovery Plant has been sold to Shetland Heat Energy and Power for use in the Lerwick District Heating Scheme. The network currently serves around 1,280 properties across Lerwick with heating and hot water. This includes 1,140 homes and 140 commercial and public sector buildings, including the Gilbert Bain Hospital, Clickimin Leisure Complex, schools, libraries, Council offices and a range of local businesses. The district heating network has an installed capacity of approximately 15 MW, supplies around 40,000 MWh of heat each year, and has capacity to accommodate further expansion and additional customers.

Source: Shetland Heat Energy and Power

### Electricity Generation & Distribution

Electricity Generation - Shetland		
Year	Units generated (Kilowatt hours)	Maximum demand (Megawatts)
1971/2	32,319,000	11.69
1981/2	143,539,222	36.0
1991/2	170,023,850	41.2
2001/2	230,600,000	45.2
2012/3	214,185,500	44.7
2021/2	185,054,300	38.5
2023/4	176,768,700	38.32
2024/25	177,379,700	37.4

Note: Units generated figures from 2021/2 onwards are the total of all commercial generation on Shetland, which includes Lerwick Power Station, SVTPS and 5 renewable projects. It does not include energy used within Sullom Voe Terminal or micro generation on private properties around the islands.

Electricity Distribution (Km) - Shetland								
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2012	2021	2024	2025
33,000 Volt overhead lines	24.7	98.0	128.3	167.3	175.7	172.7	162.7	162.4
33,000 Volt underground cables	0.0	3.7	11.6	10.7	12.0	23.5	33.5	33.8
11,000 Volt overhead lines	705.9	756.2	843.0	812.2	845.5	842.1	840.0	840.0
11,000 Volt underground cables	15.1	65.5	99.3	110.8	120.4	128.53	135.0	136.6
Low Voltage overhead lines	340.1	345.6	324.5	227.4	227.4	226.1	226.1	226.1
Low Voltage underground cables	18.9	65.6	122.7	219.0	242.0	264.0	280.0	286.5

Source: Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks, Lerwick Power Station

## Energy Consumption

Electricity Consumption Rates - Shetland									
	No. of meters (000s)			Total consumption (GWh)			Mean consumption (kWh/meter)		
	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Mean - All meters
2005	16.3	1.8	18.1	107	102	210	6,608	55,430	11,573
2011	17.1	1.8	19.0	104	93	196	6,064	50,192	10,355
2021	16.7	1.9	18.6	95.3	82.4	177.6	5,697	44,142	9,556
2024	16.7	1.8	18.5	90.8	85.7	176.5	5,436	46,622	9,521

Mean Domestic Consumption (kWh per household)					Domestic Electricity Smart Meters Installed		
	2007	2011	2021	2024		2024 (%)	2025 (%)
Eilean Siar	8,283	7,527	6,619	6,251	Eilean Siar	16	26
Highland	7,782	6,952	5,637	5,332	Highland	35	44
Orkney	9,515	8,591	7,585	7,297	Orkney	12	26
Shetland	11,349	10,401	9,047	8,434	Shetland	10	18
Scotland	5,186	4,692	3,786	3,448	Scotland	51	57
Great Britain	4,662	4,339	3,723	3,463	Great Britain	63	68

Sources: [Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)  
[Smart meter statistics - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) – Q1 reports (March)

Total Final Energy Consumption*								
	2005		2011		2021		2023	
	ktoe	GWh	ktoe	GWh	ktoe	GWh	ktoe	GWh
Eilean Siar	50.7	589.6	49.3	573.4	49.6	576.8	47.9	557.1
Highland	624.2	7,259.4	631.0	7,338.5	612.1	7,118.7	620.7	7,218.7
Orkney	47.8	555.9	40.5	471.0	40.3	468.7	39.1	454.7
Shetland	64.8	753.6	52.1	605.9	46.0	535.0	46.3	538.5
Scotland	15,134	176,012	13,420	156,075	12,106	140,793	11,657	135,573
Great Britain	152,852	1,777,673	131,199	1,525,844	121,226	1,409,856	116,413	1,353,886

\*Estimates produced from combining gas, electricity and transport consumption figures for local authority areas  
ktoe = Thousands of tonnes of oil equivalent      GWh = Gigawatt Hour

Source: [Sub-national total final energy consumption data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Shetland Based Energy Facilities (Tonnes)							
	2007	2011	2016	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lerwick Energy Recovery Plant	30,170	20,850	14,190	12,558	19,085	26,060	22,020
Lerwick Power Station	80,020	79,040	79,710	72,934	59,858	71,021	74,280
SVT Power Station	260,000*	267,720	211,740	180,810	167,947	163,396	158,450
SVT Refinery	100,450	170,130	100,310	28,970	25,528	59,986	89,870
Shetland Gas Plant	Opened 2016		235,230	127,788	122,989	115,669	107,230

\*SVT Power Station figure for 2008 as no 2007 data available

Source: SEPA Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory: [Scottish Pollution Release Inventory \(sepa.org.uk\)](https://sepa.org.uk)

## Renewable Energy

Shetland has a number of commercial, small independent and community owned renewable systems installed in domestic, public and community buildings - including wind, solar, tidal, hydro, biomass, heat pump and air source.

With the 103 turbine Viking windfarm becoming operational on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024, the installed capacity of renewables in Shetland rose by 443,000 Kilowatts.

Renewable electricity - Shetland												
	2014			2021			2023			2024		
	No	IC (MWh)	Gen. (MWh)	No	IC (MW)	Gen. (MWh)	No	IC (MW)	Gen. (MWh)	No	IC (MW)	Gen. (MWh)
Onshore wind	166	5.7	20,474	244	13.9	35,104	247	14	19,993	251	457	382,468
Photovoltaics	40	0.2	145	103	0.6	327	230	1.2	956	327	1.5	1,073
Tidal	0	0	0	1	0.5	X	2	0.5	X	2	0.5	X
Hydro	2	0	71	2	0	X	2	0	X	2	0	X
Total	208	5.9	20,690	350	15	35,431	481	15.7	20,949	582	459	383,542

No: Number of installations

IC (MW): Installed capacity - Megawatts

GEN (MWh): Electricity Generation - Megawatt hours

X: Some generation, data suppressed

Source: [Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK](#)

## Plug-in Vehicles

Licensed Plug-in Vehicles Registered in Shetland*	2009	2011	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cars - Battery electric	1	1	33	87	122	145	175
Cars - Plug in hybrid	0	0	34	49	58	77	102
Cars - Range extended electric	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
Light Goods Vehicles - Battery electric	0	1	5	7	17	18	34
Light Goods Vehicles - Plug in hybrid	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Motorcycles - Battery electric	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
Motorcycles - Plug in hybrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	3	74	145	199	244	314

\* All figures to 31<sup>st</sup> December. Vehicles allocated to a local authority according to the postcode of the registered keeper. This is the keeper's address for privately owned vehicles or the company's registered address for a company owned vehicle. The address does not necessarily reflect where the vehicle is located.

Source: [Vehicle licensing statistics data tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – Table VEH0142

Number of Public Electric Vehicle Charge Stations Across Shetland					
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
14 stations	16 stations	21 stations	26 stations	33 stations	35 stations 85 charge points

Source: [EV charging stations in Shetland Islands Area - ChargeFinder](#)

In 2020, Shetland Islands Council set up a Climate change Programme, you can find more about the work being done here: [What are we doing? – Shetland Islands Council](#)

## 12 Conservation

### Built Heritage

Shetland currently has two Historic Marine Protected Area - Out Skerries Historic MPA and the Queen of Sweden wreck off Lerwick. There are also 338 listed buildings, 391 scheduled monuments and 4 designated gardens and landscapes, detailed below.

	Listed Buildings				Scheduled Monuments	Gardens & Landscapes
	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total		
Bressay	1	10	3	14	8	1
Delting	0	10	4	14	20	
Dunrossness	3	17	9	29	68	
Fetlar	1	2	4	7	13	1
Lerwick	3	56	47	106	16	
Lerwick Landward	0	1	1	2	-	
Nesting	0	14	8	22	46	1
Northmavine	0	10	8	18	38	
Sandsting	1	7	6	14	40	
Tingwall	2	7	29	38	25	
Unst	2	9	11	22	51	1
Walls & Sandness	1	12	10	23	52	
Yell	1	10	18	29	14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: Historic Environment Scotland [Search \(historicenvironment.scot\)](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

Sites & Monuments			
The current number of records in the Historic Environment Record is: 10,575			
Broch	148	Longhouse	123
Burnt Mound	382	Military Remains	1089
Chambered cairn	162	Souterrain	31
Fishing Station	46	Wheelhouse	20

Source: Shetland Islands Council

### Nature Conservation

Statutory Conservation Sites in Shetland		
2 National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Hermaness (Seabird colony)	980.3ha
	Noss (Seabird colony)	313.0ha
78 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):		
Geology: 33 sites	Marsh & Meadow: 7 sites	Rare Plants: 9 sites
Geomorphology: 7 sites	Limestone Grassland: 1 site	Seabirds: 18 sites
Montane Habitats: 1 site	Sand Dune Flora: 3 sites	Moorland Birds: 15 sites
Serpentine Vegetation: 4 sites	Trees & Woodland: 3 sites	Wildfowl: 2 sites
Other Heathland: 5 sites	Intertidal Habitats: 5 sites	Cliff Vegetation: 2 sites
Peatland: 5 sites	Aquatic Flora & Fauna: 8 sites	Mammals: 4 sites
Note: Some sites are notified for more than one feature of interest		
12 Special Protection Areas, covering 17 of the ornithological SSSIs, have been designated under EC Birds Directive		
3 Special Protected Areas in Marine Environment and 2 Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas		
A further 12 sites comprising 11 SSSIs and 1 non-SSSI area have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive		

Source: NatureScot: <https://sitelink.nature.scot/>

Shetland is also a designated UNESCO Global Geopark: [Geopark Shetland | Shetland.org](https://www.shetland.org/geopark); [Shetland | UNESCO in the UK](https://www.unesco.org/en/whereto/uk)

Total area covered by statutory conservation sites is 19,843 Hectares, which represents 13.5% of the total area of Shetland.			
Approximate area coverage:			
Foula: 2 sites	100%	Noss: 2 sites	100%
Papa Stour: 1 site	79%	Fetlar: 6 sites	70%
Fair Isle: 1 site	66%	Unst: 15 sites	21%
Mainland & Uninhabited Islands: 43 sites (1 shared with Yell)	9%	Yell: 8 sites (1 shared with Mainland)	4%
Muckle Roe: 1 site	0.1%		

Source: NatureScot

## Wildlife

Latest Population Estimates for Selected Species*			
Species	Est. Population	Est. Proportion of UK population	Year of count/Source
Whimbrel (Tang Whaup)	396 Pairs	97%	2021, RSPB
Red-Necked Phalarope	69 Apparently Breeding Males	75%	2021-25 average, RSPB
Red-Throated Diver (Raingoose)	400 Pairs	34%	2006, RSPB
Great Skua (Bonxie) **	1,020 - 1,360 Pairs	70%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Fulmar (Maalie) **	151,790 Pairs	43%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Arctic Skua (Scootie Alan) **	295 Pairs	41%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Black Guillemot (Tystie) **	12,295 Adults	31%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Arctic Tern (Tirrick) **	7,164 Pairs	22%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Shag (Skarf) **	3,060 Pairs	12%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Gannet (Solan)**	34,900 - 36,600 Pairs	12%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Puffin (Tammie Norrie) **	30,334 Pairs	10%	2020, <a href="#">Seabirds Count</a>
Common Seal (Selkie)	3,200 Adults	8%	2019, NatureScot
Grey Seal (Selkie)	3,000 – 3,500 Adults	2%	2019, NatureScot
Otter (Dratsie)	<i>Shetland is recognised as supporting exceptionally high densities of European otter, with coastal surveys indicating some of the highest densities Europe. However, a Shetland wide survey has not been carried out in many years, and so an est. population figure cannot be provided.</i>		

\*Figures based on the latest breeding estimates available and are estimates of the proportion of UK population.

\*\*Recent events such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) may have negatively impacted seabird figures, especially Great Skua and Gannet populations.

### 13 Politics & Local Government

#### 2024 General Election Results in the Orkney and Shetland UK Parliamentary Constituency

Percentage Turnout: 60.74%

Candidate Elected: Alistair Carmichael (Scottish Liberal Democrats)

Source: [UK Parliamentary Election - 4 July 2024 – Shetland Islands Council](#)

#### 2021 Scottish Parliamentary Election Results in the Shetland Constituency

Percentage Turnout: 66.0%

Candidate Elected: Beatrice Wishart (Scottish Liberal Democrats)

Source: [Scottish Parliamentary Election 2021 – Shetland Islands Council](#)

#### Shetland Islands Council Members/Wards 2022-2027

Ward 1 - North Isles Turnout: Uncontested seat Candidates Elected: Duncan Simpson Ryan James Andrew Thomson By-election to fill vacant North Isles seat 04/08/2022: Turnout: 46.2% Candidate Elected: Robert William Thomson	Ward 5 - Lerwick North & Bressay Turnout: 39.0% Candidates Elected: Stephen Leask Gary Robinson Arwed Wenger
Ward 2 - Shetland North Turnout: Uncontested seat Candidates Elected: Emma Louise MacDonald Andrea Isabel Manson Tom Morton – Resigned 31/10/24 By-election to fill vacant seat 24/01/2025: Turnout: 39.6% Candidate Elected: Andrew Hall	Ward 6 - Lerwick South Turnout: 44.8% Candidates Elected: John Finlay Sinclair Fraser Dennis Leask Neil Pearson Cecil Laing Smith
Ward 3 - Shetland West Turnout: 56.5% Candidates Elected: Liz Boxwell John Robert Leask – Resigned 29/08/2022 By-election to fill vacant seat 17/11/2022: Turnout: 37% Candidate Elected: Mark Robinson	Ward 7 - Shetland South Turnout: 55.4% Candidates Elected: Alex Armitage Allison Duncan Robbie McGregor Bryan Peterson
Ward 4 - Shetland Central Turnout: 44.9% Candidates Elected: Catherine Hughson Moraig Lyall Davie Sandison Ian Scott	Further information on all elected members: <a href="#">Councillors – Shetland Islands Council</a>  Maps detailing electoral wards: <a href="#">SIC Ward Maps [May 2022] – Shetland Islands Council</a>

Source: [Local Council Elections 2022 – Shetland Islands Council](#)

#### Shetland Islands Council Structure/Departments

Management Structure: [About Your Council – Shetland Islands Council](#)

Contact information: [Contact us – Shetland Islands Council](#)

## Community Councils

There are 18 community councils in Shetland, with a total of 163 seats. The most recent elections took place in November 2025, with no seats contested and 71% of seats filled.

Shetland Community Council Seats as at 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2025							
Community Council	Total seats	Quorum	Vacancies	Community Council	Total seats	Quorum	Vacancies
Bressay	8	3	2	Sandness & Walls	10	4	5
Burra & Trondra	8	3	1	Sandsting & Aithsting	8	3	2
Delting	12	4	4	Sandwick	8	3	2
Dunrossness	12	4	5	Scalloway	9	3	3
Fetlar	6	3	1	Skerries	5	3	0
Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningsburgh	10	4	3	Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale	9	3	1
Lerwick	16	6	6	Unst	9	3	3
Nesting & Lunnasting	8	3	2	Whalsay	7	3	3
Northmavine	9	3	2	Yell	9	3	3

Source: [notice-of-uncontested-elections-2025](#)

## Shetland Islands Council Finance

Shetland Islands Council Service and General Fund Expenditure:	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Corporate & Executive Services	12,189	13,601	14,389	14,145	13,169
Development Services	11,909	12,188	16,646	19,821	18,454
Children's Services	45,779	48,735	57,014	59,936	63,337
Community Health & Social Care	21,960	21,648	27,494	32,306	37,331
Infrastructure Services	25,252	22,134	33,846	37,523	37,781
<b>Total Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>117,089</b>	<b>118,306</b>	<b>149,389</b>	<b>163,731</b>	<b>170,072</b>
Cost Pressures & Contingency	0	(2)	24	(3)	1
Covid-19	2,039	3,544	914	0	0
Crown Estate Unallocated	(1,360)	(1,572)	(1,608)	0	(3,540)
Economic Development Investment Income (net)	(910)	(1,139)	(864)	(1,143)	(1,039)
Financing Costs	1,354	1,352	1,375	1,446	1,412
Fund Manager Fees	1,142	1,596	1,503	1,212	1,979
Interest in Revenue Balances	(4)	(14)	(299)	(428)	(752)
Other Unallocated Funds	0	(125)	0	0	0
Recharges to Other Funds	(3,459)	(3,854)	(4,090)	(3,564)	(5,033)
Valuation Joint Board	0	0	0	526	483
<b>Total Net General Fund Expenditure</b>	<b>115,891</b>	<b>118,092</b>	<b>146,344</b>	<b>161,777</b>	<b>163,583</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>	<b>2020/21 £'000</b>	<b>2021/22 £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 £'000</b>	<b>2023/24 £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 £'000</b>
Grant Funding (incl. Specific grants)	(73,776)	(61,795)	(68,227)	(88,273)	(51,144)
NNDR	(17,182)	(26,690)	(35,155)	(24,302)	(65,947)
Council Tax	(10,106)	(10,285)	(10,254)	(10,914)	(11,328)
Draws on Reserves (Sustainable)	(14,562)	(20,725)	(28,803)	(29,036)	(22,935)
Draws on Reserves (Unsustainable)	0	0	(4,135)	(12,433)	(17,284)
Other Specific Reserves	(265)	1,403	230	3,181	5,055
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(115,891)</b>	<b>(118,092)</b>	<b>(146,344)</b>	<b>(161,777)</b>	<b>(163,583)</b>

Source: SIC Finance

Note: Information has been extracted from Draft Outturn report presented annually to SIC Committee

Details of SIC Council Tax charges and bands: [Council Tax – Shetland Islands Council](#)

## 14 The Shetland Partnership

The [Shetland Partnership](#) is made up of a wide range of partners and community bodies who work together to develop and deliver Shetland’s Partnership Plan, which identifies a shared vision and priorities for everyone to work towards to improve the lives of everyone in Shetland.

The Shetland Partnership’s shared vision is:

“Shetland is a place where everyone is able to thrive; living well in strong, resilient communities; and where people and communities are able to help plan and deliver solutions to future challenge”

A range of data is gathered in relation to this plan, which can be found online:

Shetland Partnership Plan annual reports	<a href="#">Annual Reports – Shetland Partnership</a>
Shetland Partnership Plan Latest data on indicators	<a href="#">Indicators – Shetland Partnership</a>
Shetland Partnership Locality Profiles	<a href="#">Locality Profiles – Shetland Partnership</a>
NHS Shetland Population Health Survey (Nov21-Aug22)	<a href="#">Population Health Survey – Healthy Shetland</a>