

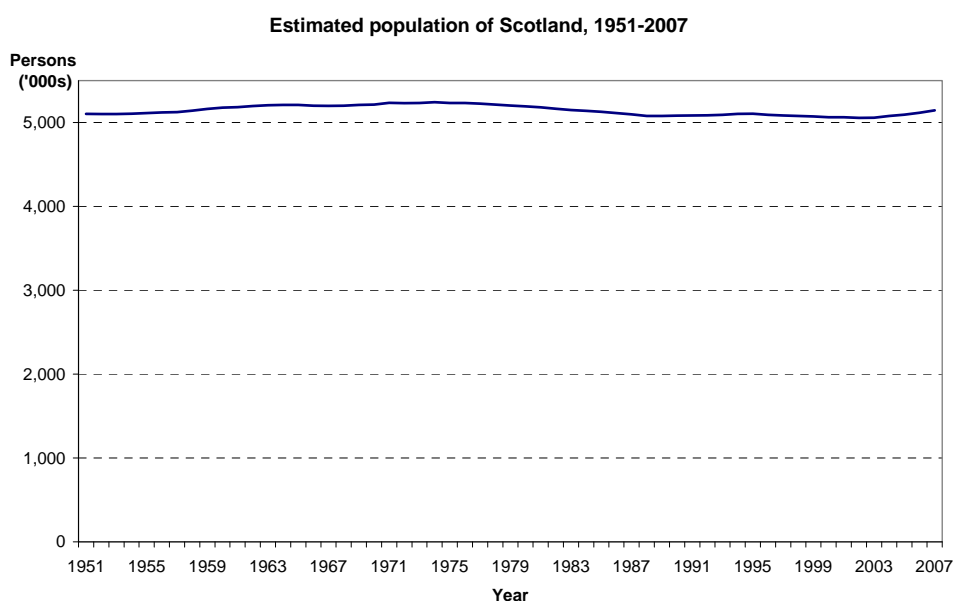
Improving Scottish Education 2005-2008

Demographic Context

Population

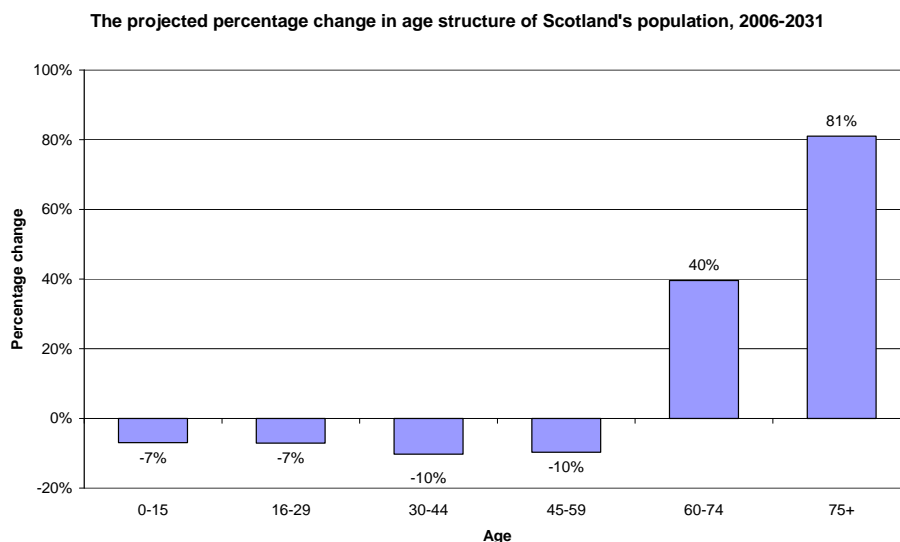
For the fifth year running, Scotland's population increased in the year to 30 June 2007, reaching 5.14 million - the highest figure since 1983.

SCOTLAND, Mid-year population estimates



Looking forward, Scotland can expect to see fewer people in the younger age groups and more older people.

The projected percentage change in age structure of Scotland's population 2006-2031

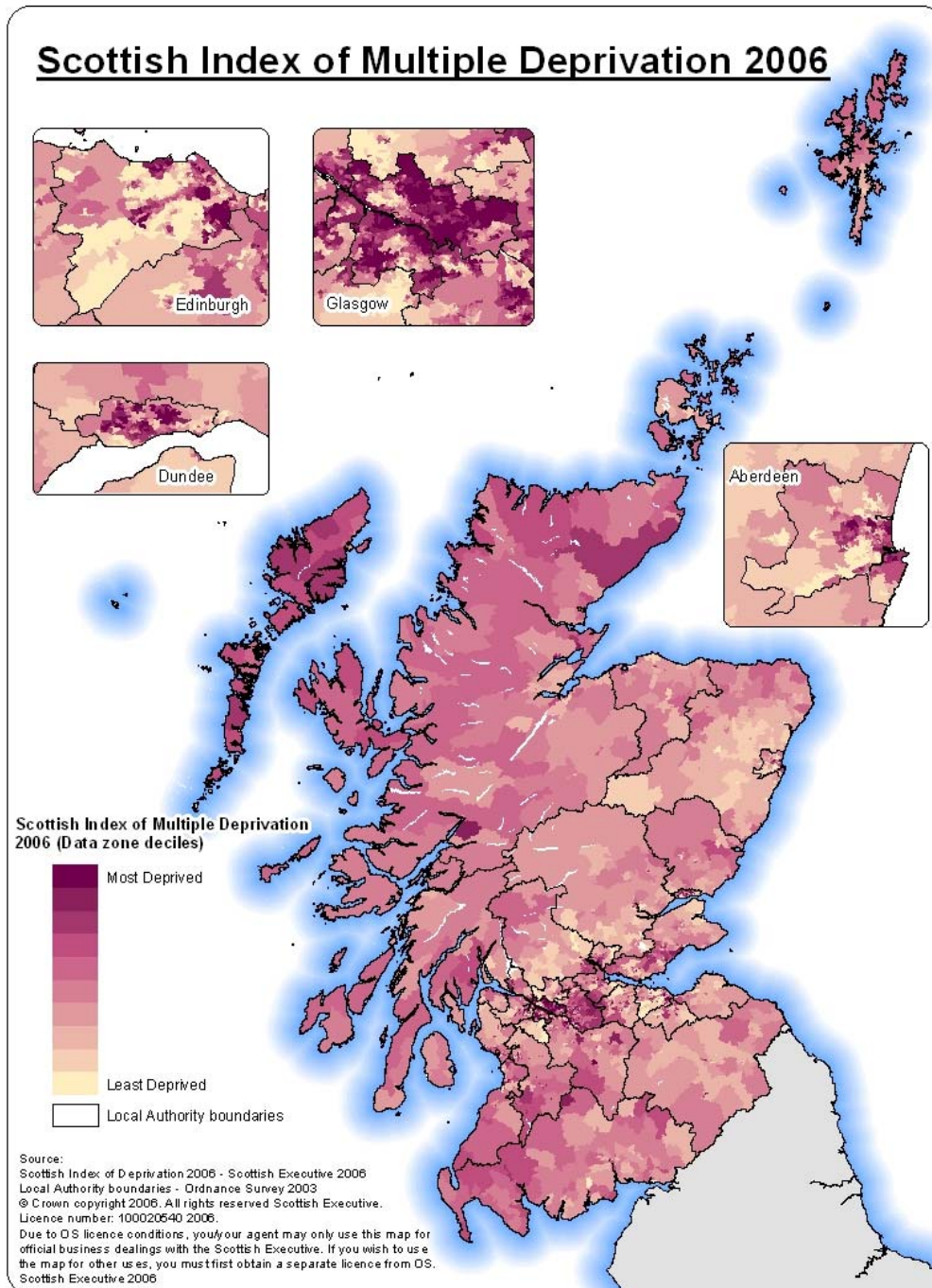


Historically, Scotland has been a country of net out-migration, with more people leaving Scotland to live elsewhere than moving to live in Scotland. However, since the 1960s, net out-migration has greatly reduced and in some years during the late 1980s and early 1990s Scotland experienced net migration gains. This has also been the case in the last five years, with net gains of around 9,000 in the year to mid-2003, 26,000 to mid-2004, 19,000 to mid-2005, 21,000 to mid-2006 and 27,000 to mid-2007. This most recent net migration gain is the highest level recorded since current records started in 1952. The patterns of migration over the period 1997 to 2007 indicate that the highest net out-migration rates were in Shetland Islands, Dundee City and East Dunbartonshire. The highest net in-migration rates were in Perth & Kinross, East Lothian and Scottish Borders.

Areas of deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 provides a relative ranking of small areas across Scotland, allowing the most deprived areas to be identified. Analysis of the data indicates that, for example, over half of Glasgow's population live within the most deprived 15% of areas in Scotland. East Lothian, Eilean Siar, Moray, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands have no areas within the most deprived 15% of datazones.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006



Employment

The largest industry in Scotland is 'Education, Health & Public Administration' followed by the service industries of 'Distribution, Hotels & Restaurants' and 'Banking, Finance & Insurance'. These sectors have experienced growth in employment over the past year (based on the latest quarterly employer surveys as at June 2008). However the slowdown in the economy is affecting the construction and manufacturing sectors with employment declining over the year in these sectors.

The latest business surveys indicate severely weakened employment growth across all sectors of the Scottish economy, suggesting there may be further weakening in the Scottish labour market in the coming months as a result of the global economic slowdown.

Summary

All the above factors, along with their accompanying socio-economic implications, have an increasing impact on many aspects of education across all sectors. Local authorities, colleges and other providers must take them into account in their approach to and provision for learners. Further commentary on the ways in which Educational Authorities take such issues into account is to be found in the HMIE report on the first cycle of inspections of the educational functions of local authorities [Improving Scottish Education: Effectiveness of Education Authorities](#) (November 2006) and the report on Community Learning and Development [Making a Difference in Scotland's Communities](#) (September 2007).