

POPULATION OF ALL OF SCOTLAND'S INHABITED ISLANDS: 1841, 1961 to 2001

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In 1841 there were 133 inhabited islands in Scotland. By 2001 44 had become uninhabited (names in red in the following listing). A further 82 had fewer people than in 1841. Just seven isles had more people. The most severe depopulation occurred in Pabbay which was home to 338 souls in 1841 and saw its last residents depart by the 1970s. The second column is the name of the modern shire to which each isle has been assigned. Tourist accommodation and local development is retaining some population, but at least four more isles have become empty of permanent residents since 2001 (marked by asterisk *).

Island	District	1841	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Ailsa Craig	N. Ayrshire	29	10	3	2	0	0
Arran	N. Ayrshire	6241	3700	3564	3845	4475	5058
Auskerry	Orkney	6	3	0	0	0	5
Baleshare	Western Isles	157	59	64	67	55	49
Barra	Western Isles	1977	1369	1005	1264	1244	1078
Benbecula	Western Isles	2107	1358	1355	1869	1771	1219
Benera	Western Isles	713	317	276	278	262	233
Berneray A	Western Isles	30	201	131	133	141	136
Berneray B	Western Isles	est. 10	3	6	0	0	0
Boreray	Western Isles	181	5	0	0	0	0
Bound	Shetland	est. 10	3	3	0	0	0
Bressay	Shetland	904	269	248	334	352	384
Bruray	Shetland	628	34	35	33	27	26
Burray	Orkney	470	262	209	283	363	357
Bute	Argyll & Bute	7811	9793	8423	7306	7354	7149
Calve	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	4	0	0	0	0
Canna	Highland	255	24	22	11	20	6
Carna	Highland	est. 10	2	3	0	4	0
Cava	Orkney	23	0	0	2	2	0
Coll	Argyll & Bute	1442	147	144	131	172	164
Colonsay	Argyll & Bute	840	164	137	133	98	108
Copinsay	Orkney	13	3	3	0	0	0
Danna	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	10	9	7	1	5
*Davaar	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	3	8	4	0	2

Island	District	1841	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Dry	Highland	est. 10	2	2	9	1	0
Dubh Artach	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	3	6	0	0	0
Easdale	Argyll & Bute	531	16	16	32	41	58
East Burra	Shetland	200	92	64	78	72	66
Eday	Orkney	1011	198	179	147	166	121
Egilsay	Orkney	163	54	39	23	46	37
Eigg	Highland	546	74	69	64	69	67
*Eilean Ban	Highland	est. 10	0	0	2	0	2
*Eilean Donnan	Highland	est. 10	5	2	0	0	1
Eilean na Cille	Western Isles	est. 10	5	4	0	0	0
Ensay	Western Isles	16	2	2	0	0	0
Eriskay	Western Isles	80	231	219	201	179	133
Erraid	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	1	0	0	0	8
Ewe Island	Highland	34	10	10	11	12	12
Fair Isle	Shetland	232	64	65	58	67	69
Fara	Orkney	55	5	0	0	0	0
Fetlar	Shetland	761	127	88	101	90	86
Fladday	Highland	7	12	0	0	0	0
Flannan	Western Isles	est. 10	3	3	0	0	0
Flodda	Western Isles	53	14	9	7	8	11
Flotta	Orkney	1558	123	73	178	126	81
Foula	Shetland	215	54	33	39	40	31
Gairsay	Orkney	71	0	7	6	3	3
Gigha	Argyll & Bute	550	163	174	153	143	110
Gometra	Argyll & Bute	100	15	10	4	0	5
Graemsay	Orkney	214	51	39	21	27	21
Great Cumbrae	N. Ayrshire	1400	1638	1296	1300	1393	1434
Grimsay A	Western Isles	est. 30	13	4	11	24	19
Grimsay B	Western Isles	269	239	193	204	215	201
Helliar Holm	Orkney	est. 10	5	0	0	0	0
Holm of Grimbister	Orkney	est. 10	5	6	0	0	0

Island	District	1841	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Holy Island	N. Ayrshire	est. 20	7	10	0	0	0
Housay	Shetland	200	71	63	49	58	50
Hoy	Orkney	1486	511	419	461	450	392
Hyskier	Highland	39	3	5	0	2	0
Inch Kenneth	Argyll & Bute	est. 20	13	2	0	0	0
Inchmarnock	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	6	6	5	0	0
Iona	Argyll & Bute	460	130	145	122	130	125
Islay	Argyll & Bute	13602	3860	3816	3792	3538	3457
Isle Martin	Highland	45	0	0	1	1	0
Jura	Argyll & Bute	1320	249	210	228	196	188
Kerrera	Argyll & Bute	187	42	27	38	39	42
Killegray	Western Isles	7	0	2	0	0	0
Leiravay	Western Isles	est. 10	2	0	0	0	0
Lewis & Harris	Western Isles	21466	24107	22222	22476	21737	19918
Lismore	Argyll & Bute	2501	155	166	129	140	146
Little Cumbrae	N. Ayrshire	8	8	14	6	6	0
Luing	Argyll & Bute	est. 250	187	151	157	179	212
*Lunga	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	0	0	3	2	7
Mainland Orkney	Orkney	16141	13495	12747	14000	15123	15315
Mainland Shetland	Shetland	16141	13282	12944	17722	17562	17550
Muck	Highland	68	29	24	20	24	30
Muckle Flugga	Shetland	est. 10	3	3	0	0	0
Muckle Roe	Shetland	214	103	94	99	115	104
Mull	Argyll & Bute	10064	2149	2024	2197	2678	2667
Musdile	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	3	0	0	0	0
North Ronaldsay	Orkney	520	161	134	109	92	70
North Uist	Western Isles	3788	1620	1469	1399	1404	1271
Noss	Shetland	24	0	3	0	0	0
Ornsay	Highland	102	1	0	5	4	0
Oronsay	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	2	2	3	8	5
Orsay	Argyll & Bute	est. 20	7	11	0	0	0

Island	District	1841	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Pabay	Highland	25	7	5	3	0	0
Pabbay	Western Isles	338	2	4	0	0	0
Papa Stour	Shetland	382	55	24	33	33	25
Papa Stronsay	Orkney	28	4	3	0	0	10
Papa Westray	Orkney	340	139	106	92	85	65
Pentland Skerries	Orkney	11	3	3	0	0	0
Pladda	N. Ayrshire	est. 10	6	2	0	2	0
Raasay	Highland	647	211	163	152	163	192
Rona	Highland	9	49	3	3	0	2
Rousay	Orkney	982	237	181	209	217	212
Rum	Highland	124	40	40	17	26	22
Sanda	Argyll & Bute	11	7	9	0	0	1
Sanday	Highland	8	0	11	7	0	6
Sanday	Orkney	1892	670	592	525	533	478
Scalpay	Western Isles	647	470	483	455	382	322
Scalpay A	Highland	31	2	5	6	7	10
Scarba	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	5	0	0	0	0
Scarp	Western Isles	129	46	12	0	0	0
Seil	Argyll & Bute	531	303	326	424	506	560
Shapinsay	Orkney	935	416	346	329	322	300
Shona	Highland	110	11	17	12	9	9
Shuna A	Argyll & Bute	69	3	3	7	1	1
Shuna B	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	1	0	0	0	0
Skerryvore	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	3	0	3	0	0
Skye	Highland	23082	7478	7183	7269	8843	9232
Soay	Highland	113	11	5	8	14	7
South Ronaldsay	Orkney	3194	980	776	891	943	854
South Uist	Western Isles	5093	2376	2281	2231	2106	1818
St. Kilda (Hirta)	Western Isles	108	65	65	9	0	0
Stroma	Highland	160	12	8	0	0	0 EMP

Island	District	1841	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Stronsay	Orkney	1268	497	436	420	382	343
Sule Skerry	Orkney	est. 10	3	5	1	0	0
Swona	Orkney	54	3	3	0	0	0
Tanera More	Highland	99	6	2	0	0	5
Taransay	Western Isles	88	5	5	0	0	0
Tiree	Argyll & Bute	5833	993	875	757	768	770
Torsa	Argyll & Bute	est. 10	5	0	0	1	0
Trondra	Shetland	8	20	17	93	117	133
Ulva	Argyll & Bute	589	33	23	13	30	16
Unst	Shetland	2831	1148	1124	1140	1055	720
Vaila	Shetland	29	9	5	0	1	2
Vatersay	Western Isles	84	95	77	107	72	94
West Burra	Shetland	870	561	501	767	817	753
Westray	Orkney	2131	872	735	701	704	563
Whalsay	Shetland	628	764	870	1031	1041	1034
Wyre	Orkney	96	47	36	21	28	18
Yell	Shetland	984	1155	1143	1191	1075	957
TOTALS:	133	175,927	101,001	93,486	100,299	102,834	99,623

PARISHES

Arran: Kilbride, Kilmorie

Barra, Bernera, Helesay, Mingala, Pabba, Vatersay: Barra

Benbecula, Eriskay, South Uist: South Uist

Bute: North Bute, Kingarth, Rothesay

Coll, Tiree: Tiree and Coll

Colonsay & Oronsay, Jura: Jura

Eigg, Canna, Muck, Rhum: Small Isles

Gigha, Cara: Gigha and Cara

Grimsay, Boreray, Balishear, Orinsay, Vallay, North Uist: North Uist

Harris: Harris [formerly Kilbride]

Iona: Kilfinichen

Islay: Kilchoman, Kildalton, Kilarrow

Kerrera: Kilbride

Lismore, Appin: Lismore and Appin [formerly Kilmiuluae]

Lewis: Barvas, Lochs, Stornoway, Uig

Mull: Kilfinichen and Kilvineuen, Kilninian and Kilmore [Tobermory], Torosay

Raasay: Portree

Skye: Bracadale, Duirinish, Kilmuir, Portree, Sleat, Snizort, Strath

Ulva: Kilninian and Kilmore