



SRUC

Rural and Island Issues and Policies in Scotland

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Dr Jane Atterton

Rural Policy Centre, SRUC

jane.atterton@sruc.ac.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science
and Analytical Services

What are NISRIE and ReRIC?



- Projects within the **Scottish Government Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture 2022-2027 Strategic Research Programme**
- **Theme E: Rural Futures**

RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science
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Aim: Deliver a comprehensive and impactful **evidence base** through examination of **issues, challenges, opportunities** and through novel models to **better understand and thereby support economies, communities and land reform objectives** in these regions to ensure sustainable, inclusive and just futures.



NISRIE: Novel Insights on Scotland's Rural and Island Economies



ReRIC: Reimagined policy futures: Shaping sustainable, inclusive and just rural and island communities in Scotland

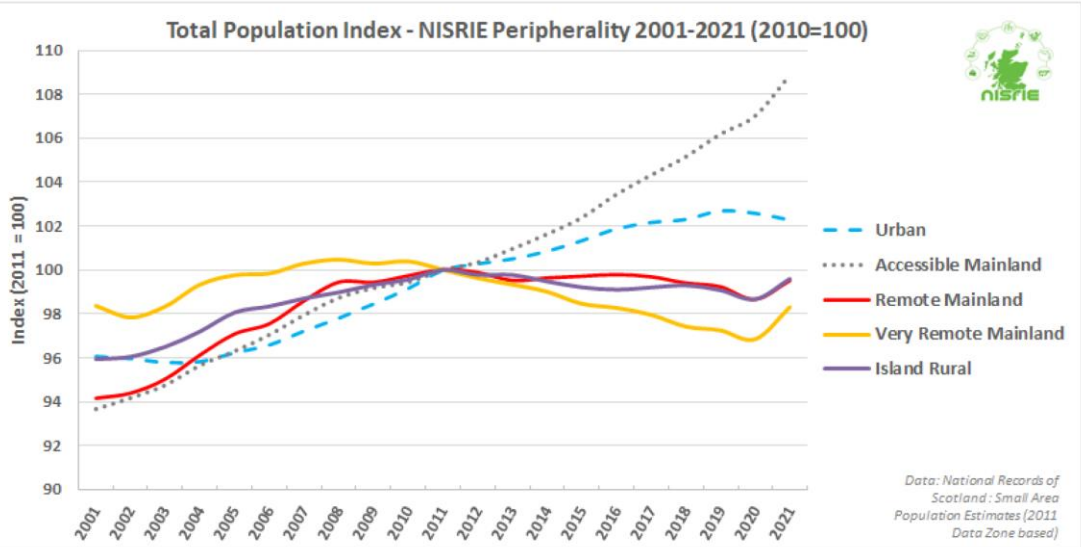
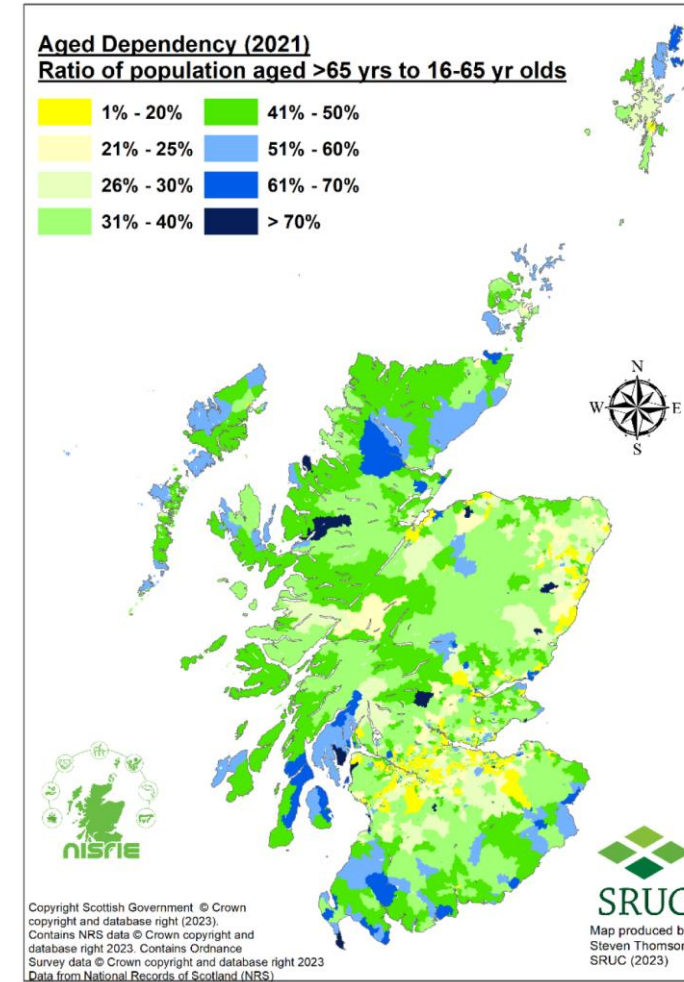
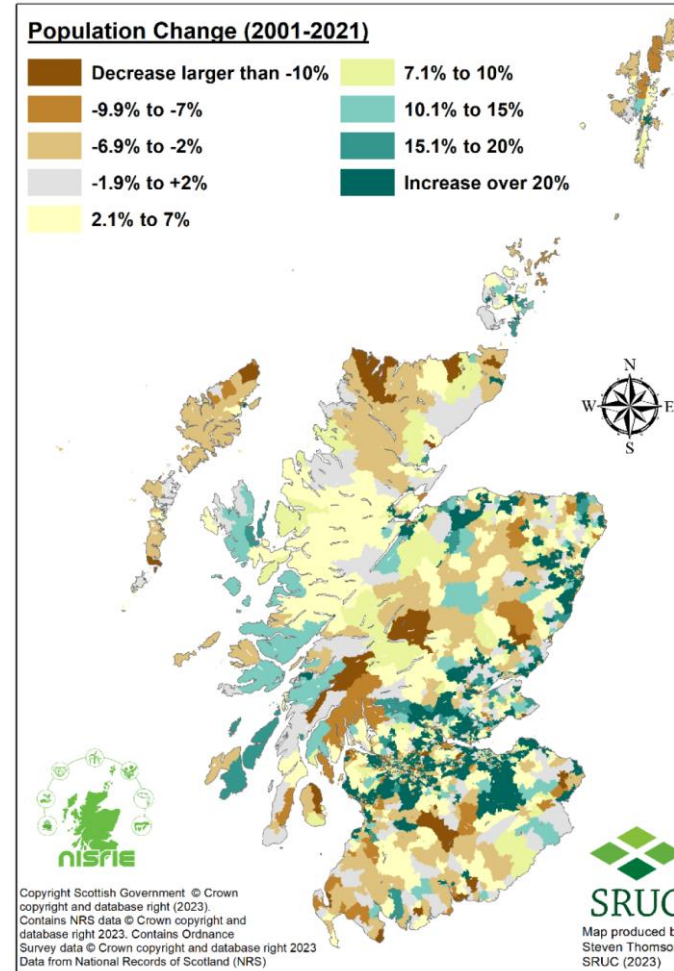
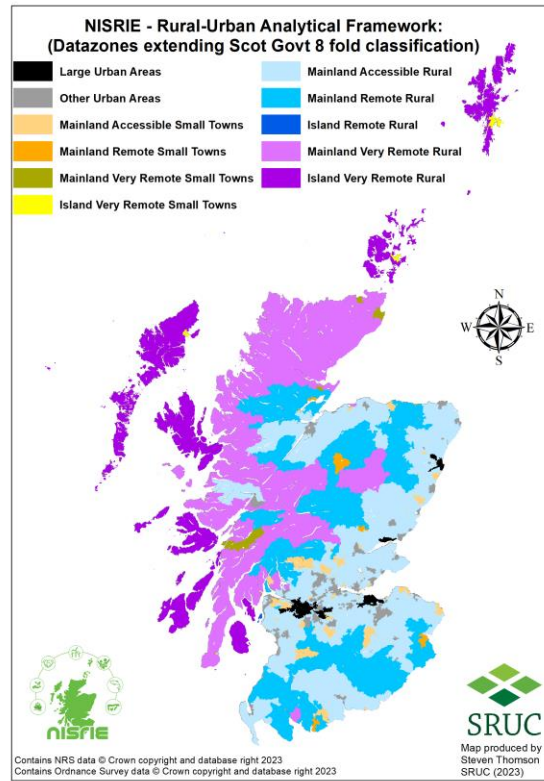
Rural and Islands Report 2023

- Provide new data insights on rural & island communities and economies
- New analytical framework
- 750 downloads in 10 weeks & positive feedback
 - Policy – look back and forward
 - People
 - Transport
 - Affordable Housing
 - Workforce & Earnings
 - Economy – the Business Base
 - Business and Covid – some data insights



[2023 Islands & Rural Insights Report from SRUC \(nisrie.scot\)](https://www.nisrie.scot)

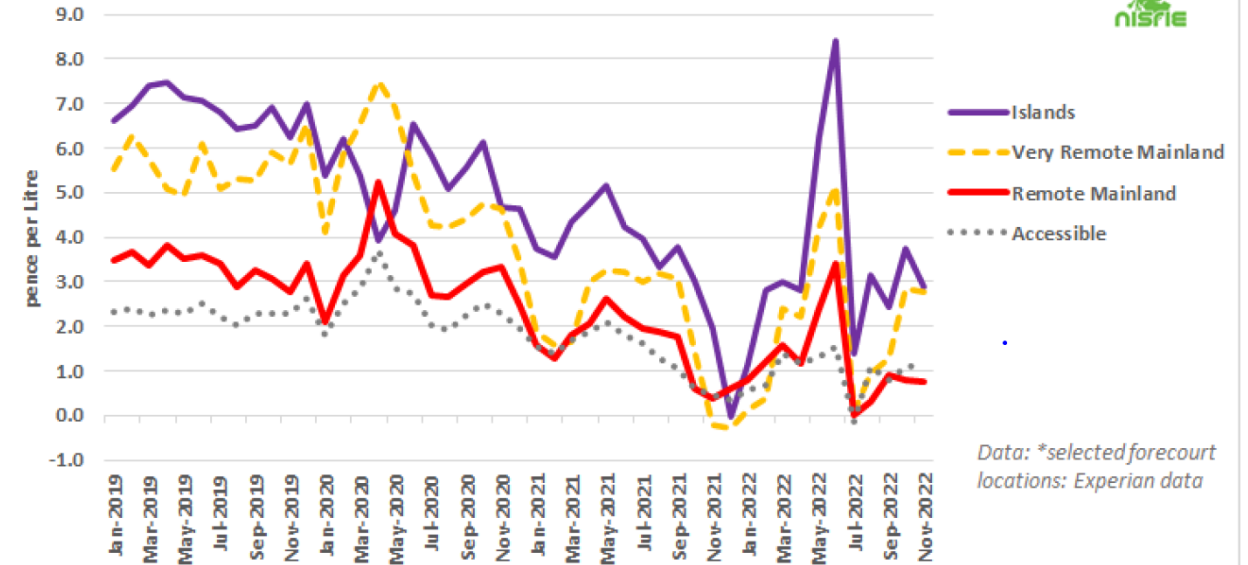
People



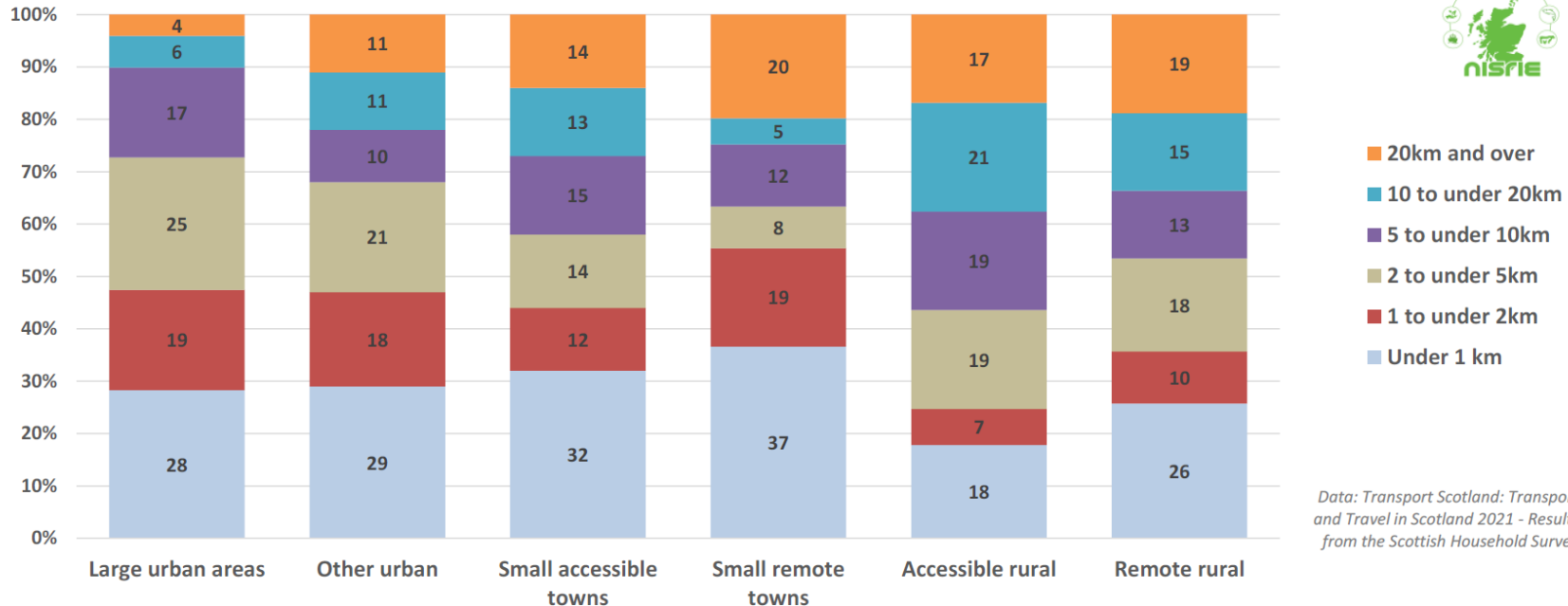
Transport



Forecourt Unleaded Petrol Price Differentials from Urban Areas
- NISRIE Peripherality*



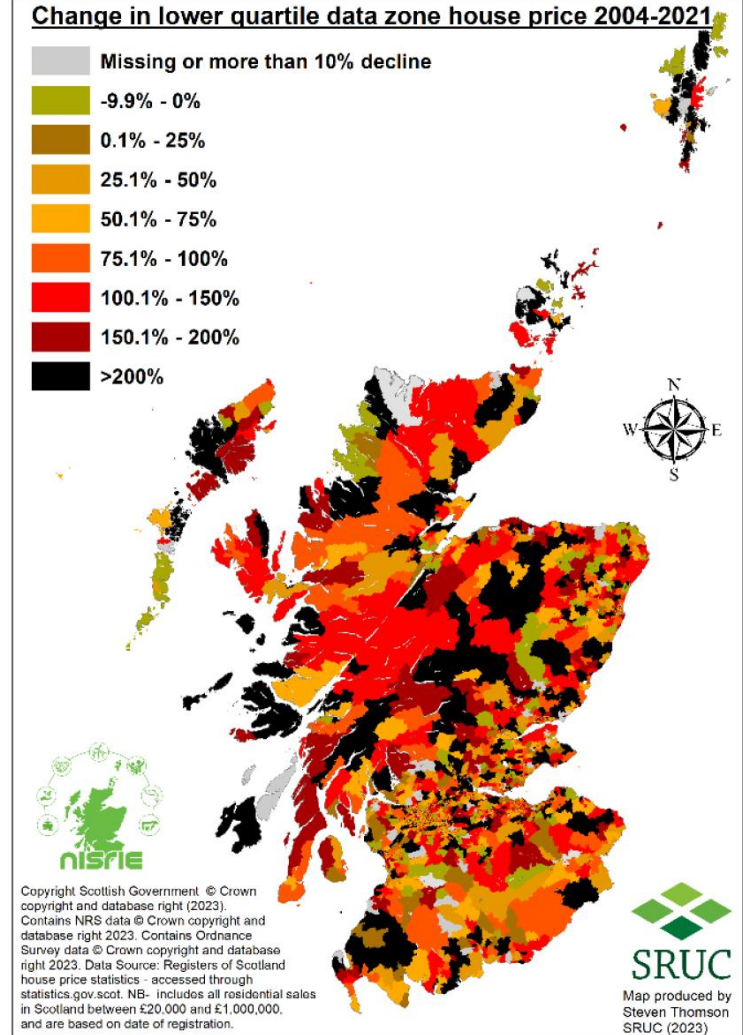
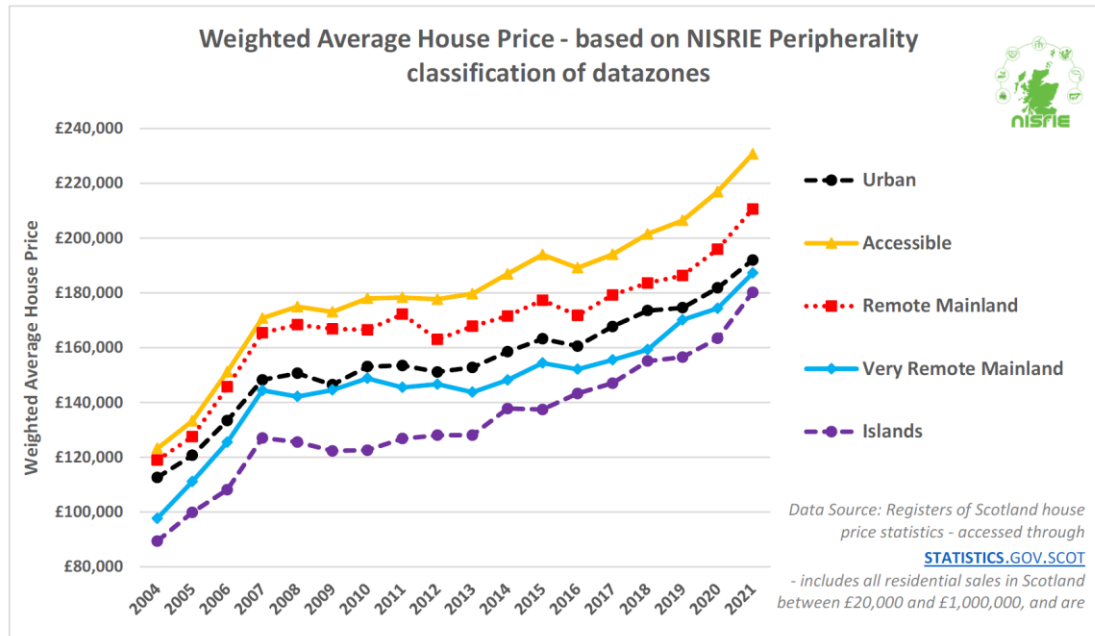
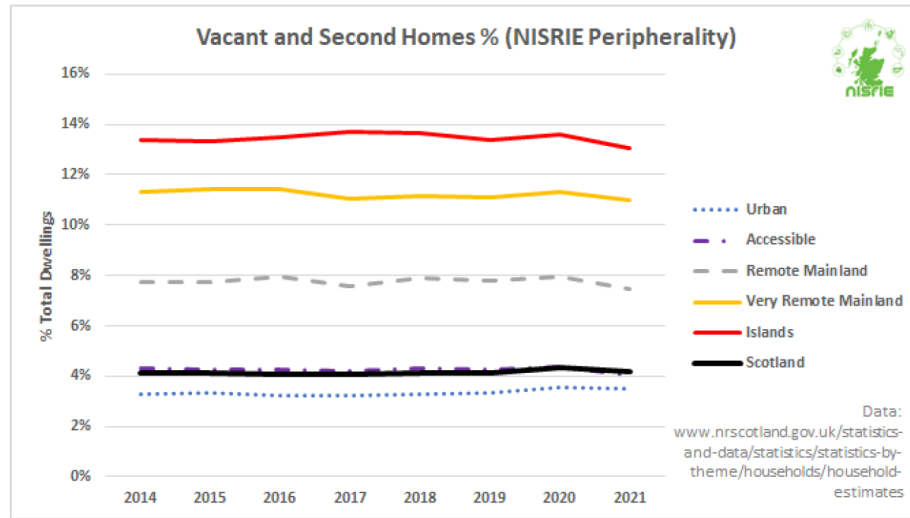
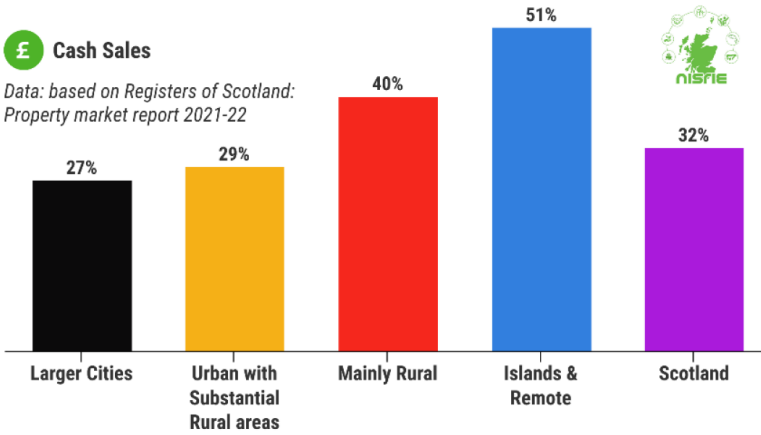
Average Journey Distance by Scottish Government 6-fold Rural-Urban Classification



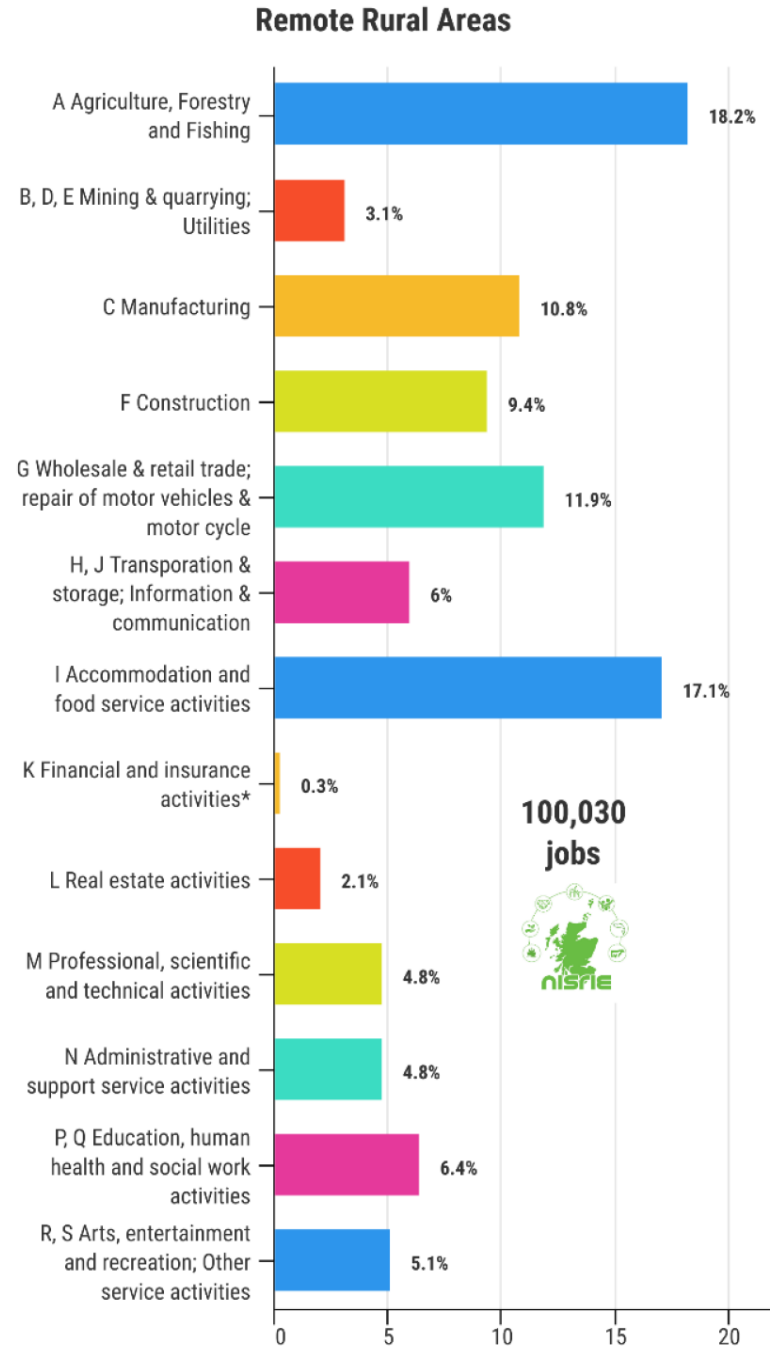
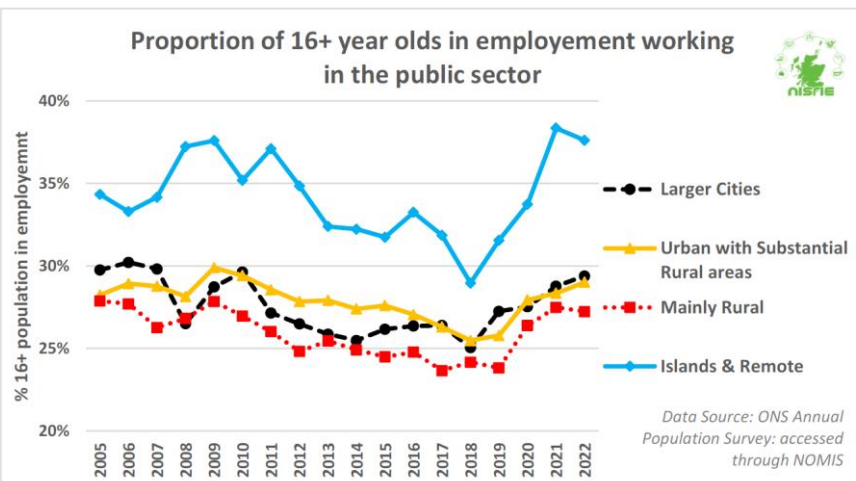
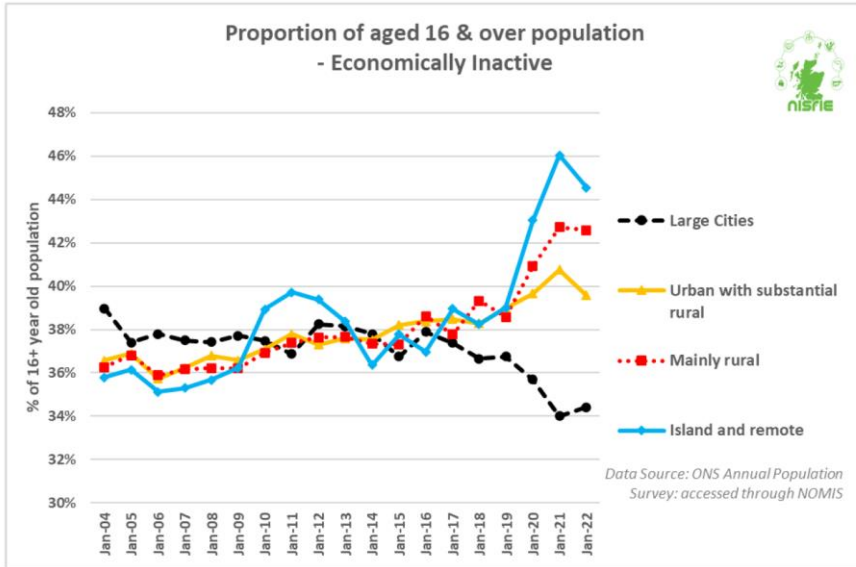
Housing

£ Cash Sales

Data: based on Registers of Scotland: Property market report 2021-22



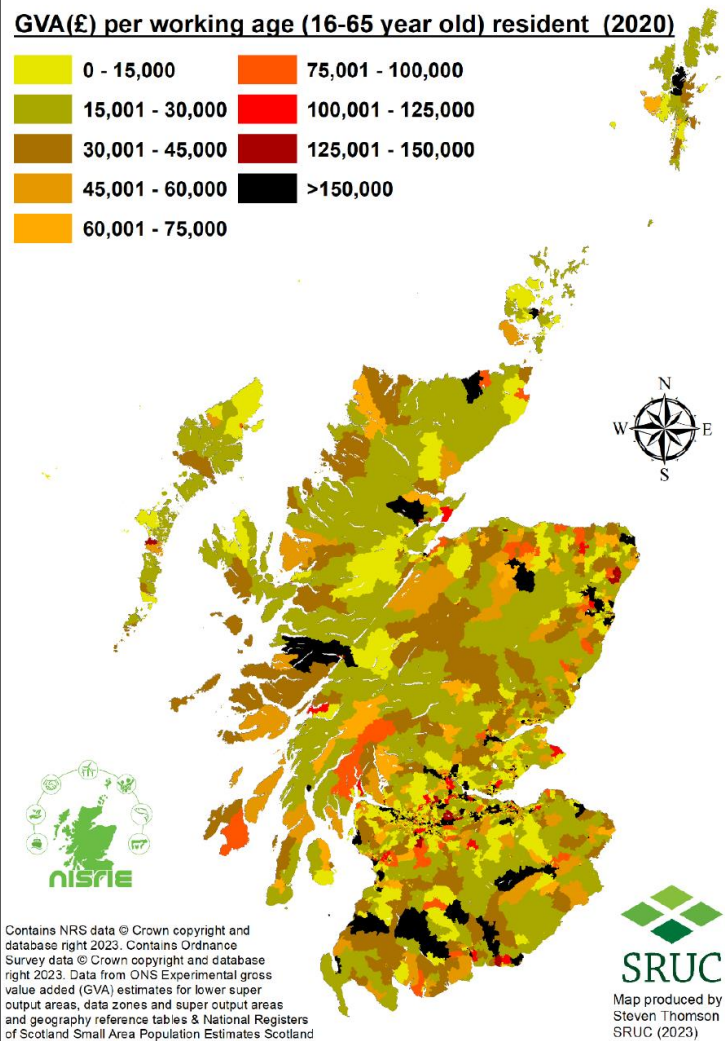
Workforce



Businesses



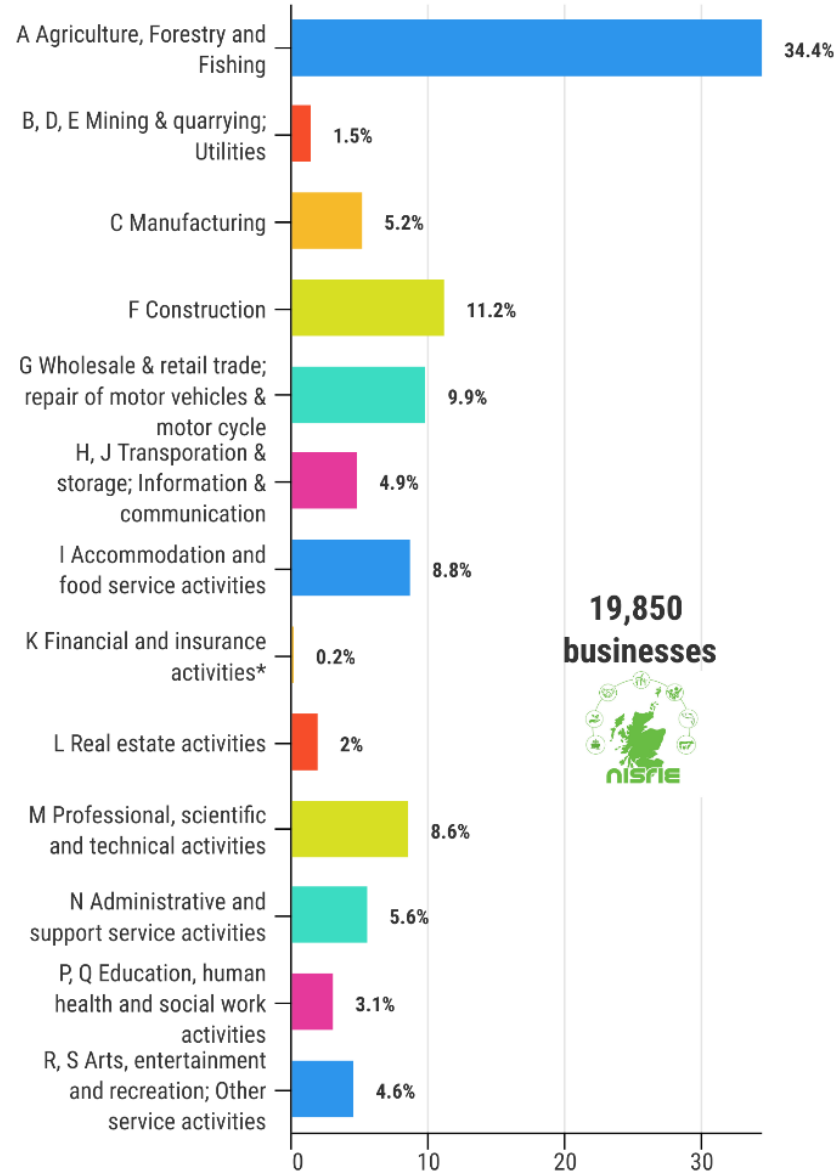
GVA(£) per working age (16-65 year old) resident (2020)



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Map produced by Steven Thomson SRUC (2023)

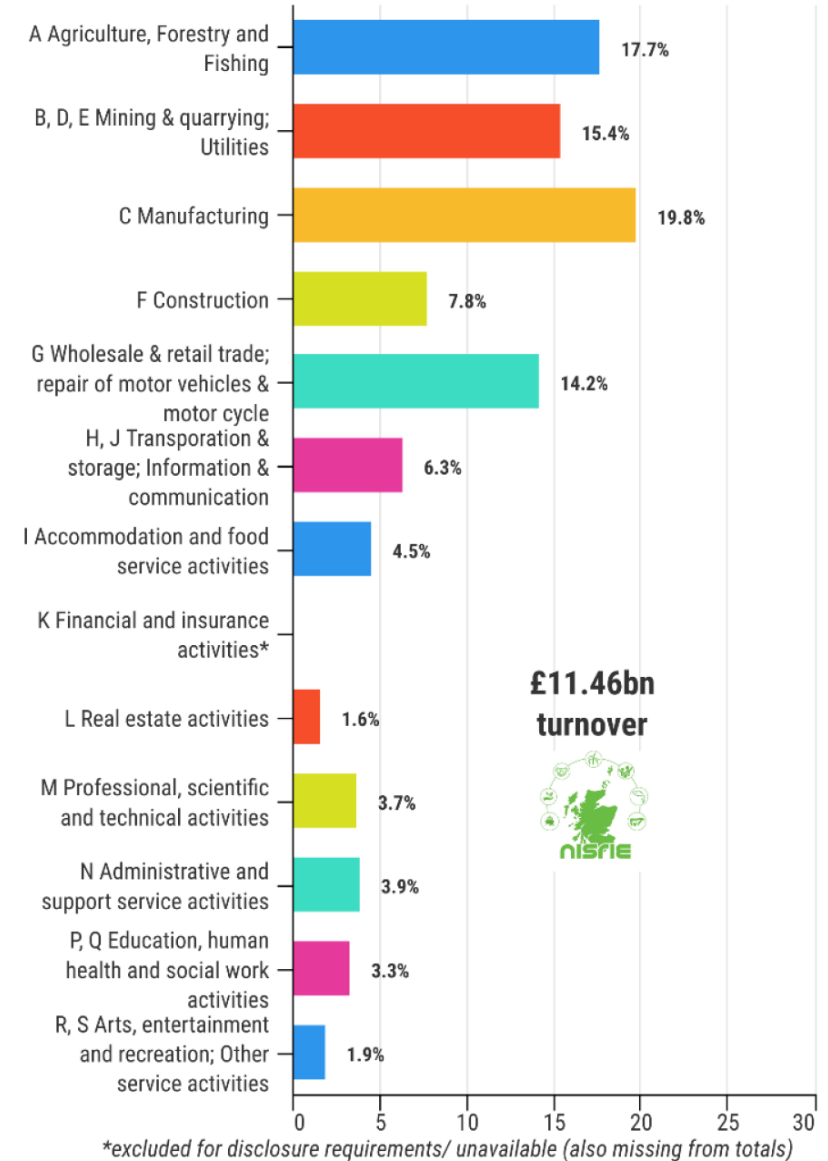
Remote Rural Areas



19,850 businesses



Remote Rural Areas



£11.46bn turnover



*excluded for disclosure requirements/ unavailable (also missing from totals)

Coming soon...

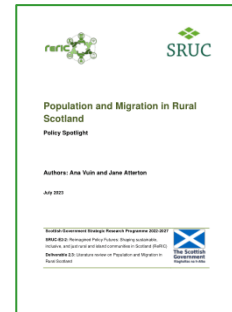
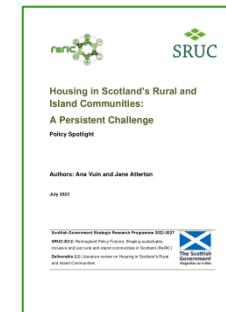
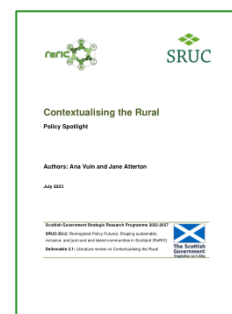
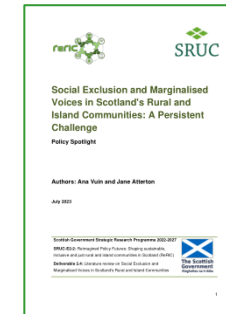
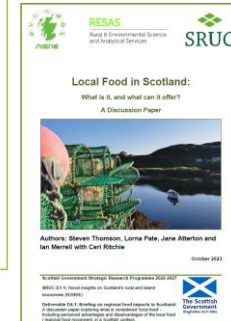


- **Soon to be published reports:**

- Community Wealth Building briefings
- Infrastructure report – incl. broadband, transport, etc.
- Rural and Islands Insight Report 2024 including data/analysis on care home and childcare provision, ferries, etc.

- **Ongoing:**

- Economic peripherality mapping methodology and testing
- Housing – new insights on a persistent challenge
- Sector insights report (qualitative evidence gathering)



The changing policy context in Scotland



- **General policy context**

- National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- Wellbeing focus, net zero ambitions, just transition
- Green Industrial Strategy and Just Transition Plans
- Community Wealth Building
- 20 minute neighbourhoods, National Planning Framework 4



- **Rural policy context**

- Recently published Rural and Island Housing Action Plan
- Application of 'Rural Lens'
 - Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, National Islands Plan, ICiAs
- Publication of Rural Delivery Plan by 2026

Rural Delivery Plan: Ministerial Working Group

Overview

A Ministerial Working Group (the group) was established in June 2023 to oversee the development of the Rural Delivery Plan.

The First Minister's Policy Prospectus, 'Equality, Opportunity, Community. New leadership – A fresh start', committed to publishing a Rural Delivery Plan by the end of this parliament:

"showing how all parts of the Scottish Government are delivering for rural Scotland. As well as policies on agriculture, land reform, marine, and our Islands Plan, this will cover areas such as transport, housing, social justice, repopulation, digital connectivity and economic development." (Rural Delivery Plan)

Acknowledgements and contact info



Professor Steven Thomson – Theme E and NISRIE Lead

@StevenGThomson

steven.thomson@sruc.ac.uk

jane.atterton@sruc.ac.uk

@RuralPolicySRUC

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