

# Shetland in Statistics



APRIL 1972

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

In this, the first issue of "Shetland in Statistics", an attempt has been made to provide the general public as well as incoming industry, workers and tourists with a useful guide to facts and figures regarding Shetland's climate, population, economy, etc. Figures since the turn of the century have been included to provide the necessary background and establish trends, while subsequent issues at half-yearly intervals will provide only information for the relevant six month period

At a time when Shetland is entering a period of rapid change, statistics are of a necessity out of date before being published, but it is hoped that these will provide an indication of the state of the county at the time of going to print.

A booklet of this size must limit the amount of material used, and there is a danger of presenting a false picture in limited statistics. This has been avoided as far as possible, but it is stressed that any one wishing to use these statistics for other than general interest should apply to the relevant authority, acknowledgements to whom appear with each group of figures.

No attempt has been made to draw conclusions from the figures published, but the Development Office welcome criticism and would appreciate any suggestions from users.

County Development Office,  
4b Market Street,  
LERWICK

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**CLIMATE**

Climatological Records have been kept by the Observatory, Lerwick, since 1921. Extracts from these records are given in Table II. A comparison of Lerwick's temperature and rainfall data with some East Coast Scottish stations and with Bergen in Norway and Nanortalik in Greenland, both with latitudes similar to that of Lerwick, is given in Table I. It is interesting to notice that both Foreign and Scottish stations experience greater annual ranges of temperature and lower winter minimum temperatures than does Lerwick.

Rainfall recorded at Lerwick is near the Scottish average, being slightly greater than the East Coast stations but very much lower than over the Highlands and West Coast of Scotland. Sunshine averaging 1082 hours per annum is a little below the Scottish average of about 1280 hours. Strong winds are not uncommon with average wind speeds of about 17 knots and days of gales averaging about 40 to 50 days per annum, being more frequent and severe from October to April.

TABLE I.

	Average Temps. °C		Extreme Temps. °C		Annual Rainfall mms.
	Max	Min	Max	Min	
Bergen	13.9	2.8	31.7	-17.9	2000
Nanortalik	4.5	-1.4	20.0	-18.8	890
Inverness	11.1	5.0	30.0	-12.9	730
Aberdeen	11.1	5.5	28.4	-12.9	840
Edinburgh	11.6	5.5	28.4	-10.5	710
Lerwick	9.5	5.0	23.3	- 8.9	1016

**TABLE II**  
**CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR LERWICK OBSERVATORY**  
 Latitude 60°08'N Longitude 01°11'W:  
 Height above mean sea level 82 metres

	Temperatures (°C)								Rainfall (mm's)				
	Day Maximum				Night Minimum				a	b	c	d	e
	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d					
January	4.8	11.6	11.7	4.8	1.8	-6.7	-8.9	2.7	133	121	36	43	82
February	4.4	8.8	11.7	5.3	1.0	-6.8	-7.2	2.8	92	96	26	46	77
March	5.3	10.9	13.3	6.5	1.4	-7.2	-8.3	3.1	108	78	33	47	68
April	7.5	14.1	16.1	7.8	2.7	-5.7	-5.7	3.1	66	76	28	37	61
May	9.6	16.4	19.4	11.0	5.2	-1.5	-2.8	6.8	76	58	50	50	90
June	12.7	19.0	23.3	11.3	7.8	0.0	-0.6	6.5	62	63	19	32	30
July	13.3	20.7	22.8	13.4	8.6	3.5	3.3	8.7	68	70	22	94	47
August	13.8	19.6	20.6	13.8	9.3	3.1	1.7	9.2	73	80	25	47	58
September	12.3	18.3	19.4	12.6	8.4	1.7	-0.6	8.4	116	99	45	51	108
October	10.1	14.9	17.2	10.2	6.6	-2.2	-3.3	6.4	129	117	30	34	126
November	6.4	12.5	13.9	6.2	3.0	-5.7	-5.7	2.8	126	126	45	71	189
December	5.2	11.0	12.2	7.5	2.0	-8.0	-8.3	4.7	146	132	31	45	166
YEAR	-	20.7	23.3	-	-	-8.0	-8.9	-	1195	1116	50	94	-

- a. 10 year monthly mean (1962-1971)
- b. Extreme daily value during 10 year period
- c. Extreme daily value since 1921
- d. Latest monthly mean value (April, 1971 to March, 1972)

Figures printed by permission of Lerwick Geophysical Observatory, to whom application should be made for enquiries other than of general interest.

	Sunshine (hrs e 1/10ths)					No. of Days of Gales			No. of Days of Air Frost			
	a	b	c	d	e	a	b	c	a	b	c	
January	21.6	25.0	5.3	6.6	14.8	6.1	10.0	9	8.6	13.0	4	January
February	50.9	51.0	8.9	9.8	39.6	4.7	7.7	2	11.2	11.0	0	February
March	85.0	90.0	11.6	11.6	69.0	7.0	5.4	3	10.4	7.3	1	March
April	142.8	132.0	13.2	14.8	152.1	3.3	4.0	2	4.6	5.9	2	April
May	136.8	165.0	15.8	16.2	178.6	1.3	1.7	1	0.6	1.3	0	May
June	165.6	158.0	17.0	17.4	181.3	0.6	1.1	0	0.1	0.1	0	June
July	134.9	125.0	16.3	16.6	146.3	0.6	0.4	0	0.0	0.0	0	July
August	122.5	117.0	14.8	15.1	126.0	0.4	1.9	1	0.0	0.0	0	August
September	84.9	105.0	11.3	13.0	123.6	2.6	2.6	0	0.0	0.0	0	September
October	59.4	67.0	8.4	10.1	93.4	4.7	5.7	6	1.1	0.4	3	October
November	31.1	33.0	6.8	6.8	28.4	5.4	6.9	9	7.1	3.8	9	November
December	15.7	14.0	4.8	5.1	11.3	7.7	8.9	14	8.4	8.0	2	December
YEAR	1051.2	1082.0	17.0	17.4	-	44.4	56.3	-	52.1	50.8	-	YEAR

- a. 10 year monthly mean (1962-1971)
- b. 30 year monthly mean (1931-1960)
- c. Highest daily value during 10 year period (1962-1971)
- d. Highest daily value since 1921
- e. Latest monthly mean value (April, 1971 to March, 1972)

- a. 10 year monthly mean (1962-1971)
- b. 30 year monthly mean (1931-1960)
- c. Latest monthly mean value (April, 1971 to March, 1972)

NOTE: Days of gales are days when the mean wind speed over a period of 10 minutes or more has exceeded 34 knots. Days of air frost are days when a minimum air temperature of below 0°C has been recorded.

## POPULATION

Total County		Change in last 6 years	
Date	Population	Date	Change
1901	28,166	1966	- 71
1911	27,911	1967	- 21
1921	25,520	1968	- 92
1931	21,421	1969	- 45
1939	19,868	1970	+ 26
1951	19,352	1971	+226
1961	17,812	Period	
1971	17,567	1/10/71-31/3/72	+123

Source — General Registry Office Census Report

The decline in population since the turn of the century is shown quite clearly by the figures, while it appears to have been arrested in 1970. The tables are compiled from the Executive Council's figures for population movement — births, marriages, deaths, etc.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Total Number of Persons wholly unemployed

Year	Jan		Jul	
	Peak	Min	Peak	Min
1966	611	310		
1967	515	311		
1968	563	251		
1969	527	241		
1970	432	163		
1971	360	170		
1972	269	-		

The accompanying table showing wholly unemployed figures for the winter peak and summer minimum includes men, women, boys and girls. Also included are casual workers, dockers, etc., so any detailed analysis of these figures is extremely difficult, but they do serve to show the very healthy trend in Shetland's unemployment figures over the last 6 years.

Six Month Period October, 1971 - March, 1972

Year	Month	Men		Women		Boys		Girls		Totals
		WU	TS	WU	TS	WU	TS	WU	TS	
1971	Oct	159	193	48	3	3	6	3	2	417
	Nov	173	94	48	3	4	5	5	-	332
	Dec	184	182	48	6	2	9	2	2	435
1972	Jan	215	562	48	14	6	30	-	14	889
	Feb	220	200	42	5	3	9	1	2	482
	Mar	217	353	49	5	2	16	1	-	643

The large number of Temporarily Stopped workers in January is the normal winter increase and is on a par with the previous 6 years. However the high figure for March represents a spell of bad weather and subsequent shortage of fish, aggravated by the tripping of catches to Scotland.

(Figures extracted from Department of Employment statistics to whom application should be made for further information).

## CRIME

Crime figures are available for the year ended 31/12/71 and show a slight decrease in the number of crimes and offences in Shetland during that year. Clarification is as follows:

Numbers of crimes and offences	430
Crimes against the person	13
Crimes against property with violence	23
Crimes against property without violence	81
Malicious injury to property	6
Forgery/currency crimes	0
Other	1
Miscellaneous (Road Traffic Act, Litter Act, etc.)	306

Detections were made in 282 cases representing 65.5%. There was an increase in drunk driving offences and eight offences related to the misuse of drugs, both of which give great cause for concern.

Road accident figures were however down 7 to 92 with more injuries but fewer fatalities.

Figures courtesy of Zetland County (Northern Constabulary).

## HOUSING

Housing Requirements: Lerwick at 31st March, 1972

Families	137	Resident in Lerwick in need of housing
	36	Not resident in Lerwick in need of housing
	9	In tied housing in need of housing
	<hr/>	
	182	
	<hr/>	

Housing Requirements: County

Families	Total	330	Resident in County in need of housing
The total figure does not include families living in sub-standard			

housing, but is exaggerated by the inclusion of the same family perhaps on more than one area's housing list.

Therefore approximate total requirement:

182  
330  

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512  

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No. of Private Houses under construction at 31st March, 1972	57
No. of Local Authority Traditional Houses under construction at 31st March, 1972.	
Weisdale	29
Burravoe	11
	<hr/> 40

No. of Local Authority Norwegian Houses under construction at 31st March, 1972.	
Brae	10
Whalsay	10
Scalloway	10
Mid Yell	5
Bressay	5
	<hr/> 40

No. of Local Authority Traditional Houses under construction at 31st March, 1972.	
Lerwick	90

Proposed Housing by S.S.H.A.	
Ollaberry	18
Brae	10
Bixter	15
Weisdale	15
Lerwick	30
Sandwick	31
Sumburgh	15
Hamnavoe	30
	<hr/> Total 164

These houses originally designed to be of traditional construction may be changed to Norwegian style in order to bring forward completion dates.

Local Authority: Traditional, about to start.

Bressay	15
Skeld	14

Local Authority: Traditional, projected.

Whalsay	16
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Total No. of Houses (all types) under construction at 31st March, 1972	227
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Total No. of Houses (all types) projected at 31st March, 1972	199
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Further information regarding the present situation can be obtained from Town Clerk, Lerwick: County Architect's Department, Lerwick and County Sanitary Inspector, Lerwick.

#### FISHERIES

Seine Net and Trawl Net Landings

	Sold Locally	Direct Landings at Aberdeen	Consigned to Aberdeen
1965	184,910 cwts.	39,496 cwts.	38,098 cwts.
1966	172,000 "	69,000 "	40,000 "
1967	142,000 "	44,000 "	11,000 "
1968	117,000 "	58,500 "	900 "
1969	137,000 "	58,200 "	1,000 "
1970	254,300 "	63,800 "	270 "
1971	352,400 "	65,400 "	Nil

Herring Fishing — Total Landings in Shetland

#### DISTRIBUTION

	Crans Total	Crans Freezing	Crans Curing	Crans Oil & Meal
1965	34,726	8,786	9,300	590
1966	39,000	11,000	8,000	4,500
1967	44,000	13,000	11,000	4,400
1968	46,000	13,000	9,000	4,800
1969	66,000	15,000	13,000	12,000
1970	77,000	12,600	13,000	36,000
1971	128,300	10,200	13,200	80,500

	Shellfish		
	Lobsters	Crabs	Scallops
1965	949 cwts.	7,232 cwts.	-
1966	1,050 "	8,800 "	-
1967	910 "	6,100 "	-
1968	1,200 "	8,900 "	-
1969	1,000 "	7,300 "	10,300 cwts.
1970	700 "	9,000 "	8,700 "
1971	599 "	4,300 "	8,100 "

Fish Processing Units  
Established before 1965

Location	No.
Bressay	1
Lerwick	1
Scalloway	1

Established since 1965

Location	No.
Lerwick	3
Scalloway	3
Graven	1
Wethersta	1
Whalsay	1
Yell	2
Skerries	1
Northmavine	1
Total	16

(in process of establishing)

Seine Net and Trawl Net Landings (6 month period)

	In Shetland		In Aberdeen by Shetland boats	
	Cwts.	Value	Cwts	Value
1971				
Oct	28,700	£89,763		
Nov	23,100	£70,200		
Dec	17,900	£55,500	8,900	£ 52,000
1972				
Jan	12,100	£42,400		
Feb	24,200	£88,400		
Mar	15,400	£55,000	24,000	£151,000

	Shellfish Landings			
	Lobsters	Crabs	Scallops	Queens
1971				
Oct	58 cwts.	456 cwts.	-	364 cwts.
Nov	33 "	133 "	129 cwts.	676 "
Dec	65 "	33 "	312 "	298 "
1972				
Jan	91 cwts.	107 cwts.	-	26 cwts.
Feb	14 "	83 "	276 cwts.	266 "
Mar	15 "	15 "	1365 "	126 "

No. of Fishing Boats (all types) Engaged by Areas

Area	1969	1970	1971
Whalsay	29	31	30
Burra	28	28	28
Lerwick	15	12	13
Scalloway	14	13	12
Yell	10	12	12
Skerries	6	6	8
Unst	5	7	8
Skeld	4	4	4
Vidlin	3	3	4
Foula	3	3	3
Voe	-	1	1
Ollaberry	-	-	1
Gott	-	-	1
Bressay, Eshaness, Sandness, Mossbank, West Burrafirth, Aith, Whiteness, North Roe, Papa Stour, Cunningsburgh and Gonfirth — one boat each throughout 3 year period	11	11	11
	128	131	136

As Shetland's premier industry, a multitude of figures are available for fishing in all its aspects. A few only are reproduced of which those for a 6 month period will be repeated in subsequent issues of "Shetland in Statistics" and compared with similar periods in previous years.

Thanks are due to the Fishery Officer, Lerwick, and Mr Harry Jamieson, Lerwick, for the figures printed.

## WOOLLEN INDUSTRY

The collecting and collating of woollen industry statistics is extremely difficult. No official record of the amount of wool produced by the sheep population of Shetland is available, and most figures for its monetary value are estimations. The majority of the figures for the subsequent manufacturing process to the end product of tweed and knitwear are also estimations — e.g. the number of women employed full time as knitters; the number part-time; the number of garments exported via agents or privately, etc.

The only reliable figure for the industry which shows the present healthy trend is the number of knitwear units now in operation:

Knitwear Units established prior to 1961 ... ..	12
Knitwear Units established in decade 1961 - 1971 ...	22
	<hr/>
Total	34
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## AGRICULTURE

Figures for Agriculture in Shetland are available from:

The Secretary,  
Department of Agriculture for Scotland,  
Statistical Branch,  
Chesser House,  
Gorgie Road,  
Edinburgh.

Statistics for June, 1972, will be published in September issue of "Shetland in Statistics".

Highlands and Islands Development Board  
Grants and Loans approved as at 29th February, 1972

	£ Loan	£ Grant	Employment	
			No.	ment
Manufacturing & Processing ...	245,463	126,145	54	373
Tourism, Catering & Transport ...	103,367	155,052	28	57
Others ... ..	62,459	36,547	23	33
Fisheries ... ..	262,967	49,157	54	137
Agriculture & Horticulture ...	1,000	940	2	3
Non economic (amenities, etc.) ...	-	17,662	27	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£675,256	£385,503	188	608
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total Assistance £1,060,759

Total Employment as estimated by Applicants, 608

In Shetland the present situation of almost full employment and high level of activity is in no small way due to the efforts and assistance of the Highlands and Islands Development Board. The statistical measure of this assistance is given in the above table. Any further information should be sought from the H.I.D.B. or County Development Office in Lerwick.