

East Cairngorms

Intermediate Zone Statistical Summary

2023

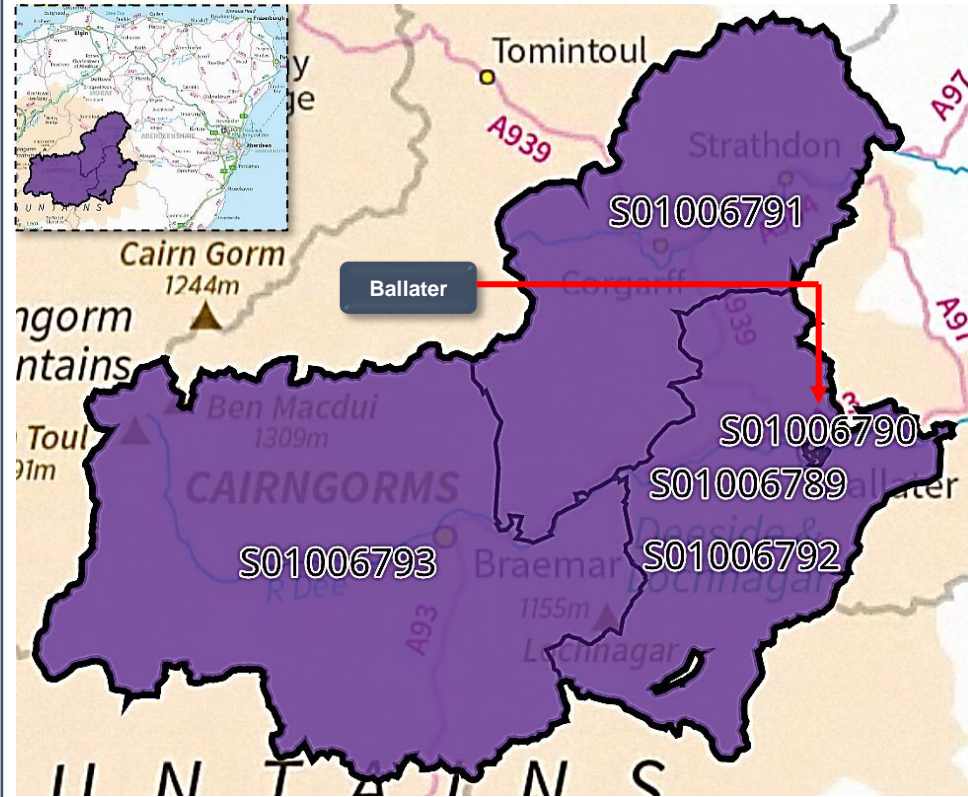


Craig Watson

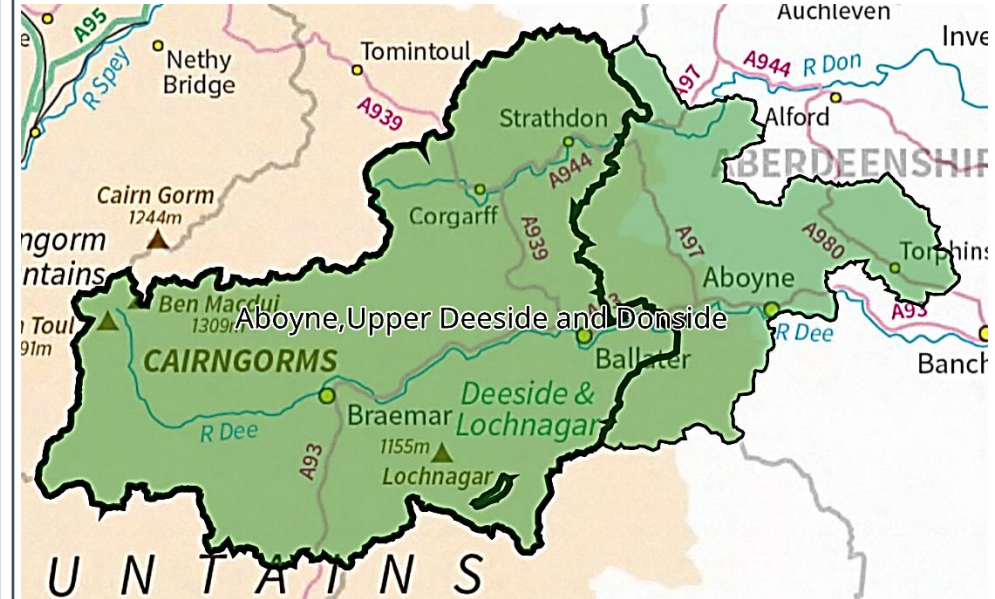


East Cairngorms

Data Zones Within the Intermediate Zone



Relevant Multi-Member Wards



Notes on the Maps

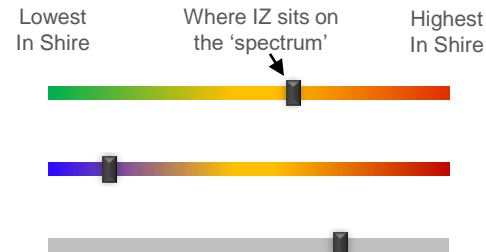
The map on the left shows the location and geographic area of the East Cairngorms Intermediate Zone. It contains 5 Data Zones. Ballater comprises two Data Zones – S01006789 and S01006790.

Only one MMW straddles the Intermediate Zone – Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside. These maps are shown for reference only.

Spectrum Charts Explained

The following statistical pages frequently utilise spectrum charts as a visual aid to accompany an indicator. They are used to place the relevant Intermediate Zone (IZ) in the context of all other IZs in Aberdeenshire with regards to that indicator.

The charts to the right are examples of the spectrum charts used in this report. The black line represents where the IZ sits in the context of the highest and lowest figures in Aberdeenshire. If the black line is situated towards the left-hand side, the IZ recorded one of the lowest figures in Aberdeenshire. Conversely, if the black line is towards the right-hand side, it recorded one of the highest figures in Aberdeenshire.



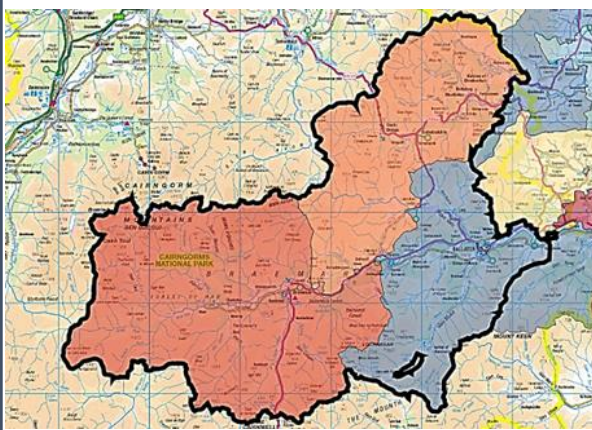
The green/red spectrum charts are the most common type. If the black line is situated towards the red end of the spectrum, it means the figure is objectively worse than most other IZs in Aberdeenshire and vice versa.

The blue/red spectrum charts are used in the demographic section to denote high population growth (red) and population decline (blue).

The grey spectrum charts are simply used to denote high and low in the context of Aberdeenshire, where the high / low figure is neither good nor bad. An example would be the proportion of dwellings that fall within Council Tax Bands F-G.

East Cairngorms Demographic Data

Map of East Cairngorms: Population Change (2014-2021)



The total population decreased by 3.9% between 2014 and 2021, which is below the Shire IZ average of 0.8% *growth*. Three of the area's five Data Zones (DZs) experienced population declines, with S01006792 recording an 8.1% decline. This DZ covers a relatively large area surrounding Ballater.

The IZ is home to a relatively large proportion of people aged over 65 (30.0%) and a relatively low proportion of children (11.3%). Indeed, this is the highest and lowest proportions in Aberdeenshire respectively. Like the child population, the proportion of those of Working Age is towards the lower end of the spectrum. This suggests the IZ is home to an older population, more so than is the case in most other parts of Aberdeenshire.

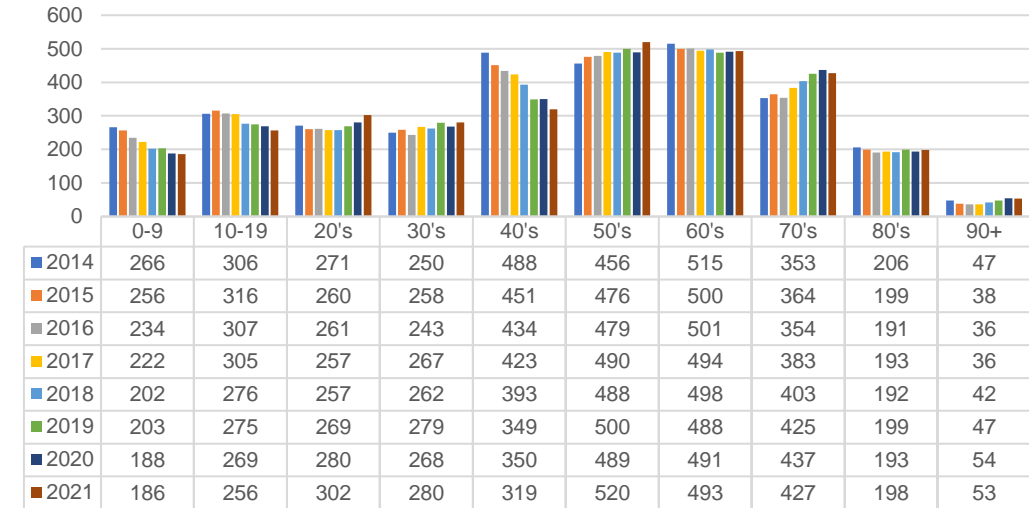
In terms of age groups, relatively large declines were seen among those under 20 years of age and those in their 40's. This suggests the IZ is home to fewer young families in 2021 relative to 2014. Conversely, those in their 20's and 30's increased at a relatively fast rate, although the proportion of people in this general age group remains relatively small compared to those aged 50+.

This latter age group also recorded increases over the period covered. DZs S01006791 and S01006793 both bucked the trend and experienced population gains. These areas cover a relatively large rural zone encompassing places like Strathdon and Braemar.

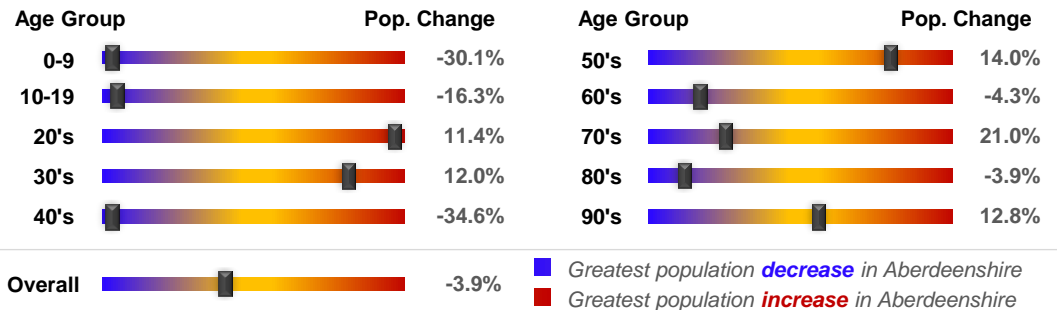
Population Change per Data Zone, 2014 & 2021

Data Zone	2014	2021	% Difference
S01006789	613	565	-7.8%
S01006790	890	822	-7.6%
S01006791	551	559	1.5%
S01006792	509	468	-8.1%
S01006793	595	620	4.2%
Total	3158	3034	-3.9%

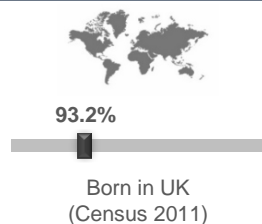
Population per Age Group, East Cairngorms, 2014-2021



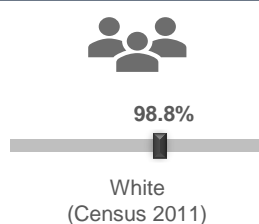
Rate of Population Change per Age Group, 2021 Compared to 2014



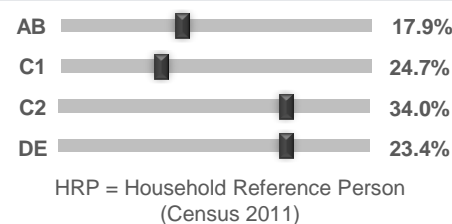
Country of Birth



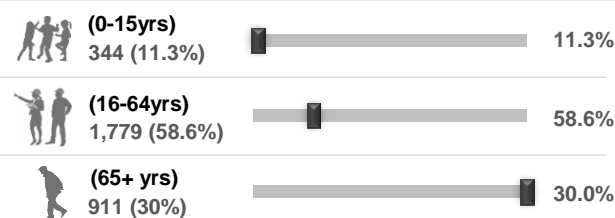
Ethnicity



Approximated Social Grade of HRP



Population per Broad Age Group, 2021



In 2021 3,034 people lived in East Cairngorms -- 344 (11.3%) were under 15 years of age, 1,779 (58.6%) were aged 16-64, and 911 (30%) were over 65.

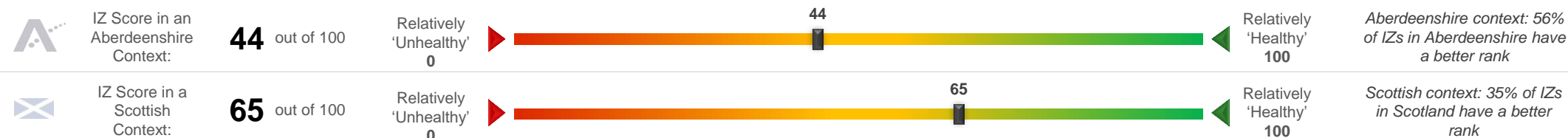
The black markers show where these percentages sit in the context of Aberdeenshire: left = low; right = high.

East Cairngorms Health Data (1 of 2)

SIMD 2020 Health Domain Rank		Universal Credit (UC) Limited Work Capability Households	Personal Independence Payments																																																															
<p>Relatively Good Ranking Relatively Poor Ranking</p>		<p>No. of Households in receipt of Universal Credit</p> <p>% of Households where at least 1 occupant has limited work capability (May-2023) - Aberdeenshire Context</p> <p>1.7%</p>	<p>No. of Cases with Entitlement</p> <p>% of Working Age Population (16-64) Receiving PIPs (Jul-2023) - Aberdeenshire Context</p> <p>2.2%</p>																																																															
<p>Day-to-Day Activities</p> <p>Proportion of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little or a lot - Aberdeenshire Context (Census 2011)</p> <p>19.5%</p>	<p>Health Rating</p> <p>Proportion of people who rated their health as either 'good' or 'very good' - Aberdeenshire Context (Census 2011)</p> <p>86.3%</p>	<p>According to monthly health-related benefits data, the number of households on Universal Credit decreased up until September 2022 but has steadily increased since. The number of households with Limited Work Capability or LWC (due to physical or mental health issues) has likewise increased and remained relatively high throughout. However, the IZ figure of 1.7% of households with at least 1 occupant assessed as having LWC is low in the context of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>A higher proportion of the Working Age Population (2.2%) receive Personal Independence Payments (PIPs). This helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health. The IZ trend has remained relatively static over the past couple of years, dipping below 60 cases with entitlement for the first time in the past couple of years. The 2.2% figure is slightly lower than the Shire average.</p> <p>According to SIMD 2020 data, DZ S01006793 has the best health ranking and S01006790 has the worst (eastern half of Ballater). However, in a Scottish context, each DZ is situated towards the healthier end of the spectrum.</p>																																																																
SIMD 2020 Health Domain Indicators per each Data Zone in the East Cairngorms Intermediate Zone (compared to Aberdeenshire average)																																																																		
<p>SIMD Health Domain Indicator (Data Zones colour-coordinated with map) >></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>S01006789</th> <th>S01006790</th> <th>S01006791</th> <th>S01006792</th> <th>S01006793</th> <th>Shire</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Health Domain Rank (see map for colour-coded rankings) (the higher, the better)</td> <td>5611</td> <td>5148</td> <td>6269</td> <td>6551</td> <td>6775</td> <td>5,254</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comparative Illness Factor (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</td> <td>45</td> <td>55</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> <td>35</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emergency stays in hospital (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</td> <td>65.8</td> <td>59.2</td> <td>62.5</td> <td>39.7</td> <td>41.5</td> <td>71.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospital stays related to alcohol misuse (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</td> <td>33.6</td> <td>109.9</td> <td>6.0</td> <td>14.0</td> <td>23.1</td> <td>45.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospital stays related to drug misuse (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</td> <td>60.1</td> <td>44.3</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proportion of live singleton births of lowbirth weight (the lower, the better)</td> <td>7.7%</td> <td>0.0%</td> <td>0.0%</td> <td>0.0%</td> <td>0.0%</td> <td>4.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis</td> <td>15.8%</td> <td>19.3%</td> <td>13.2%</td> <td>14.3%</td> <td>10.0%</td> <td>15.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standardised Mortality Ratio (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</td> <td>78</td> <td>62</td> <td>88</td> <td>73</td> <td>75</td> <td>85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					S01006789	S01006790	S01006791	S01006792	S01006793	Shire	Health Domain Rank (see map for colour-coded rankings) (the higher, the better)	5611	5148	6269	6551	6775	5,254	Comparative Illness Factor (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)	45	55	45	45	35	58	Emergency stays in hospital (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)	65.8	59.2	62.5	39.7	41.5	71.5	Hospital stays related to alcohol misuse (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)	33.6	109.9	6.0	14.0	23.1	45.4	Hospital stays related to drug misuse (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)	60.1	44.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	30	Proportion of live singleton births of lowbirth weight (the lower, the better)	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	Proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis	15.8%	19.3%	13.2%	14.3%	10.0%	15.6%	Standardised Mortality Ratio (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)	78	62	88	73	75	85
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East Cairngorms Health Data (2 of 2)

East Cairngorms's position on the 'Health Spectrum' – Aberdeenshire and Scottish Context (the higher the score, the better)



Selection of ScotPHO indicators, East Cairngorms IZ compared to Aberdeenshire & Scotland (latest data)

Indicator	Latest Available Figures				IZ Trend	Indicator Measurement
	IZ	IZ's latest figure compared to:				
		Aberdeenshire	Scotland			
Alcohol-related hospital stays	303.6	14.2%		-50.3%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
All-cause mortality among the 15-44 year olds	222.0	135.2%		89.6%	Up	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	51.4	10.9%		19.6%	Down	% of babies with a valid feeding status
Bowel screening uptake	72.4	-0.6%		6.9%	Up	% of eligible people (aged 50-74)
Child dental health in primary 1	58.3	-20.5%		-14.8%	Down	% of P1 pupils
Child dental health in primary 7	72.2	-7.5%		-2.7%	Up	% of P7 pupils
Child healthy weight in primary 1	88.2	10.9%		18.5%	Up	% of P1 pupils
Deaths all ages	911.0	-14.0%		-22.8%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Developmental concerns at 27-30 months	6.1	3.3%		-8.5%	Up	% of children reviewed
Early deaths from cancer (<75)	150.2	14.0%		0.4%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Early deaths from coronary heart disease (<75)	51.7	36.8%		-1.7%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Female life expectancy	85.6	4.5%		6.0%	Down	Life expectancy at birth in years
Healthy birth weight	83.7	0.6%		-0.5%	Down	% of all singleton births
Immunisation uptake at 24 months - 6 in 1	97.6	-0.2%		0.6%	Down	% of children in relevant age group
Immunisation uptake at 24 months - MMR	92.9	-1.9%		-1.5%	Down	% of children in relevant age group
Male life expectancy	79.7	2.5%		4.1%	Down	Life expectancy at birth in years
Maternal obesity	30.6	6.2%		4.5%	Up	% of women at antenatal booking
Patients (65+) with multiple A&E hospitalisations	5610.8	-10.8%		-17.8%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Patients hospitalised with asthma	63.9	100.0%		-6.6%	Up	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Patients hospitalised with COPD	24.3	-79.2%		-88.3%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Patients hospitalised with coronary heart disease	216.8	-26.3%		-36.6%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Patients with emergency hospitalisations	4213.2	-20.2%		-41.8%	Down	Rate per 100,000 pop.
Premature births	5.8	-3.5%		-2.5%	Down	% of all live births
Uptake of the HPV vaccine in S3 girls	88.9	-0.5%		4.1%	Down	% of S3 girls

Based on the 24 health-related indicators in the table, this IZ is situated towards the more vulnerable end of the spectrum in an Aberdeenshire context - but not so in a Scottish context. The older age profile of this IZ may to some extent explain the Aberdeenshire ranking to some extent: older age groups tend to exhibit poorer health outcomes.

The area compares favourably to most other areas in Scotland in terms of Patients with emergency hospitalisations; Patients hospitalised with COPD; Child healthy weight in primary 1; and Patients hospitalised with coronary heart disease. In each case the area is ranked in the top 10% in Scotland.

Life expectancy is also higher-than-average in this IZ, both for males (79.7 years) and females (85.6 years), albeit the male figure decreased relative to the previous reporting cycle, which contributed to a deteriorating ranking overall.

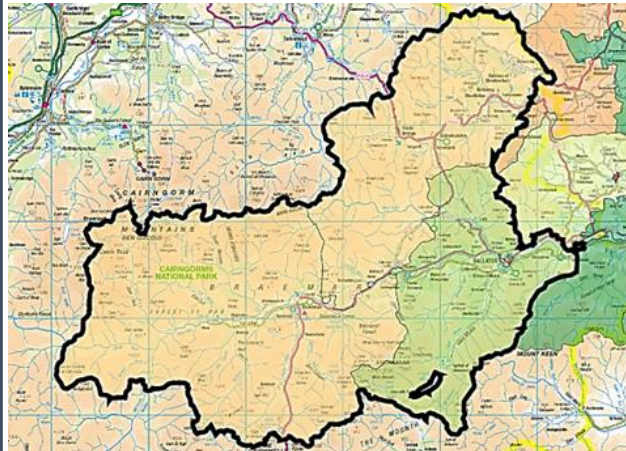
Issues that may require further investigation include:

- Child dental health in primary 7;
- Maternal obesity;
- Immunisation uptake at 24 months - MMR;
- Child dental health in primary 1;
- Patients hospitalised with asthma; and
- All-cause mortality among the 15-44 year olds;

In each instance the IZ compares less favourably to other areas in Aberdeenshire and, indeed, Scotland and/or the trend is worsening.

East Cairngorms Economic Data (1 of 3)

Rank of Household Income per Data Zone (2023)



In terms of household income, this IZ is more or less in keeping with Aberdeenshire averages. The median household income in 2023 equated to £41,330, which is slightly lower than the £41,756 Aberdeenshire average. The figure was slightly higher-than-average last year but the difference was marginal.

Median household income ranges from £36,462 in DZ S01006790 (eastern half of Ballater) to £50,064 in DZ S01006792 (rural area surrounding Ballater).

Approximately 5.0% of households in this IZ earn less than £10,000 per year. This equates to approximately 74 households, an improvement on last year. Areas with a particularly high concentration of such households are located in the central eastern portion of Ballater (in and around Old Station Place and Sheridan Place). Households here may feel the cost-of-living crisis more acutely than other places in the region.

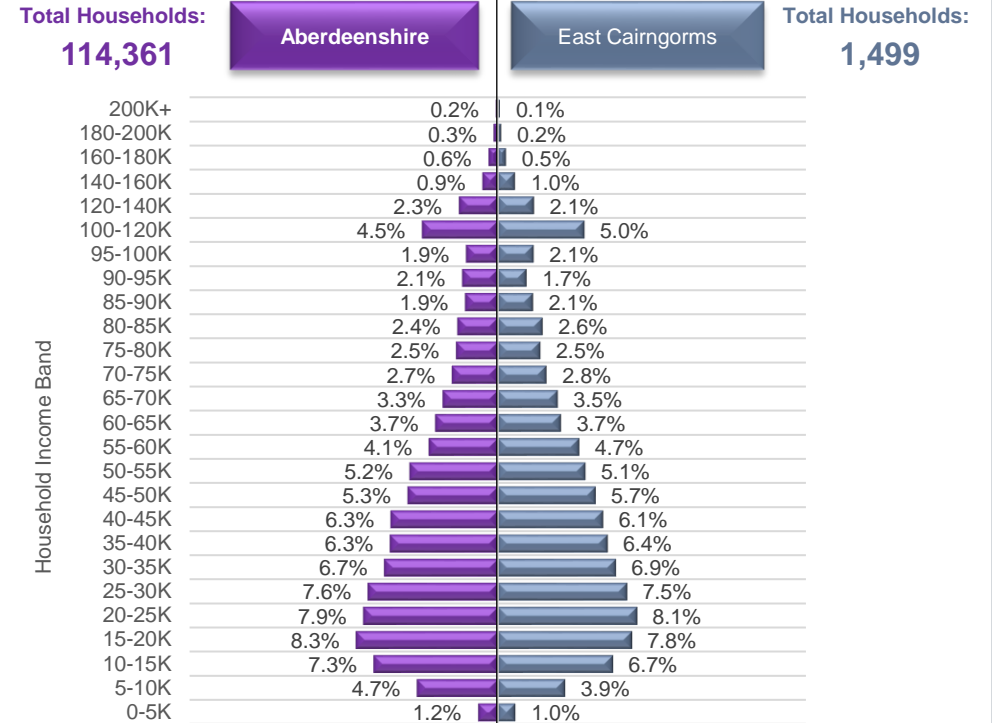
High income households are located in the western portion of Ballater and south-east of the River Dee.



Household Income per Data Zone (2023)

Data Zone	Households	Average Income	Median Income	Lower Quartile Income
S01006789	278	£ 51,867	£ 43,107	£ 24,797
S01006790	433	£ 44,379	£ 36,462	£ 20,353
S01006791	279	£ 47,420	£ 39,128	£ 21,841
S01006792	218	£ 57,607	£ 50,064	£ 30,336
S01006793	291	£ 49,863	£ 42,400	£ 24,470

Household Income per Band, East Cairngorms & Aberdeenshire (2023)



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Median Household Income (2023)



£41,330

Aberdeenshire: £41,756

£41,330



% of Households Earning Less Than £10k (2023)



<£10K

5.0%

Aberdeenshire: 5.3%

5.0%



% of Households Earning More Than £100k (2023)



>£100K

9.0%

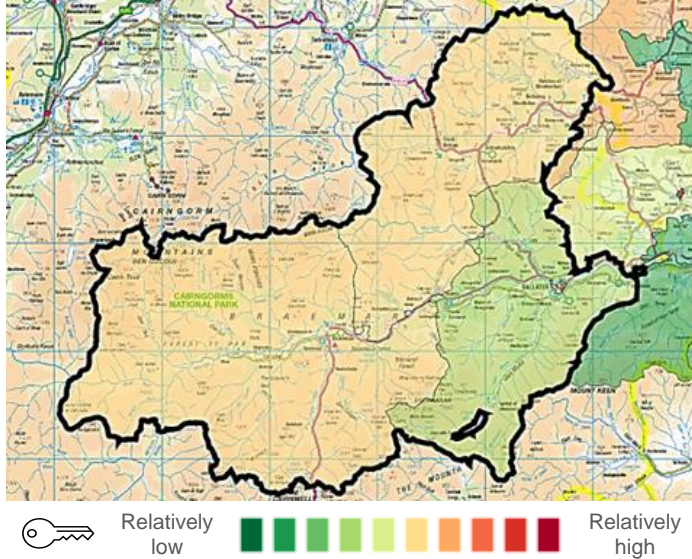
Aberdeenshire: 10.1%

9.0%

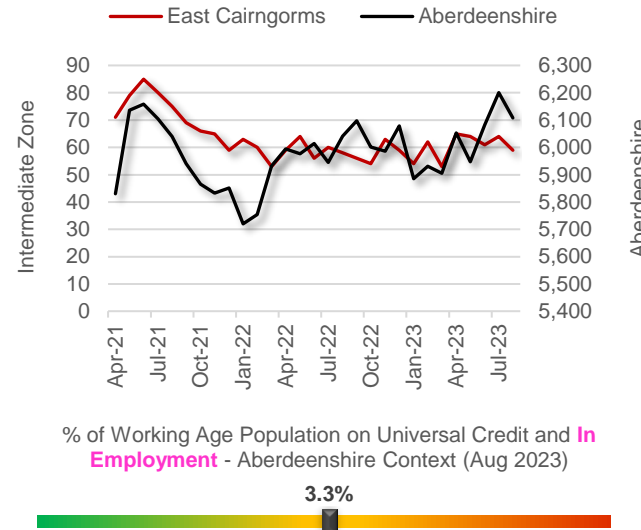


East Cairngorms Economic Data (2 of 3)

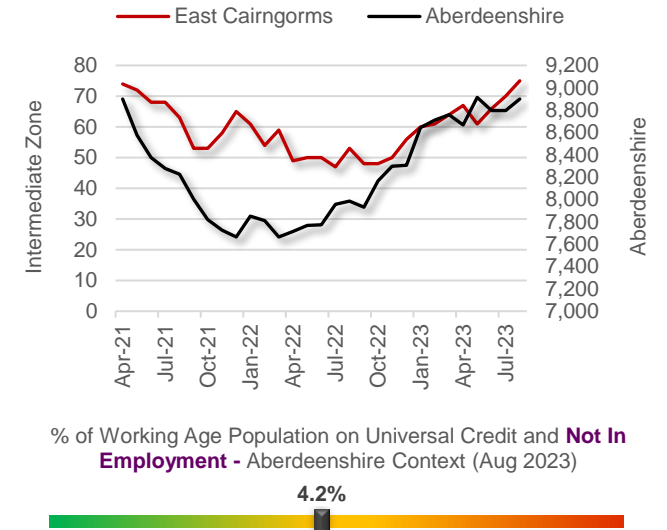
Latest Unemployment Rate - Ranking per Data Zone



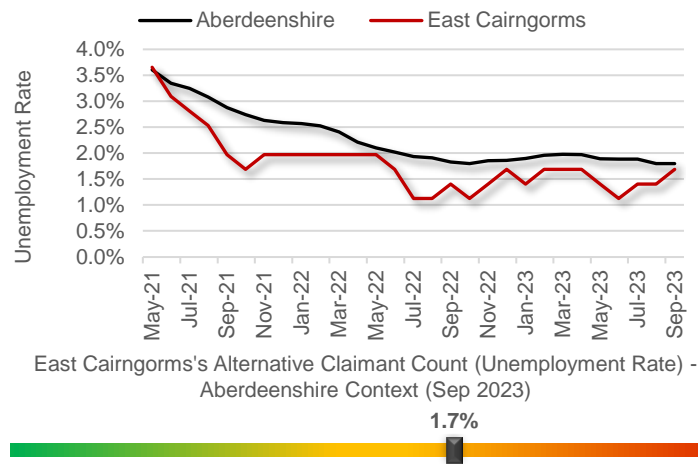
People on Universal Credit - In Employment



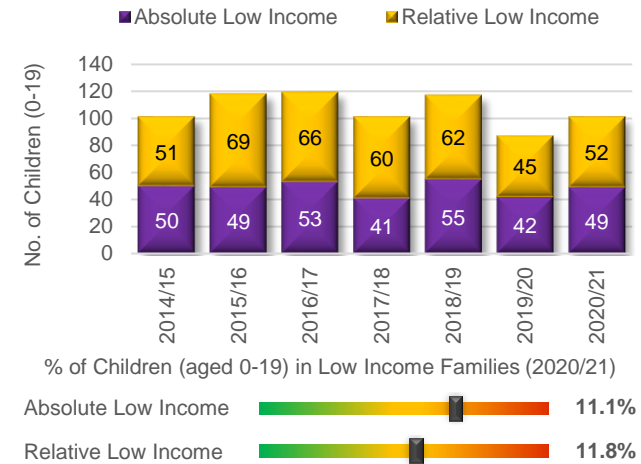
People on Universal Credit - Not In Employment



Alternative Claimant Count - Effective 'Unemployment Rate'



Children in Low Income Families



Summary

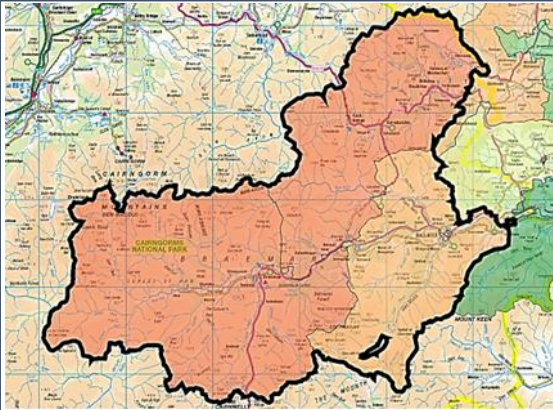
Fewer people are claiming Universal Credit (UC) compared to the first half of 2021 (the post-Covid peak). This is generally in keeping with the Aberdeenshire-wide trend. The IZ has seen a slight uptake of people on UC and not in employment over the past couple of months, suggesting certain people may be feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis more keenly than they perhaps had previously.

Like Aberdeenshire, the unemployment rate in the IZ has fallen substantially since the May 2020 peak of 4.3%. Latest data suggests approximately 1.7% of the Working Age population is currently out-of-work, which is virtually the same as the Shire-wide rate (1.8%). The rate ranges from 0.8% (S01006793, which is the large rural area surrounding Braemar) to 2.0% (S01006790, which covers the eastern half of Ballater, between Tulloch Road (A93) and Craigendarroch Walk).

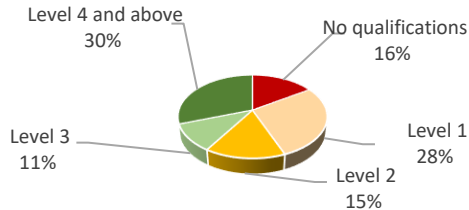
The proportion of children living in low-income households is relatively high. It's probable that these areas will correlate with areas where households earn less than £10K. However, despite a year-on-year increase, numbers are generally lower than a few years ago, which is not the case for many other IZs in Aberdeenshire.

East Cairngorms Economic Data (3 of 3)

People With No Qualifications, Census 2011



% of Employees per Qualification Type



Summary

The employment numbers per broad industrial group relate to the kind of jobs within the area, which may be filled by those living outwith the IZ.

Employment in this IZ is concentrated in a few industrial groups - Accommodation and food services, Property, and the Retail sector.

In terms of specific job types, Hotels and similar accommodation account for the greatest portion - 200 jobs. This is the highest figure since at least 2015, and double the figure registered for 2021, likely a result of Covid. Jobs relating to sports activities also doubled year-on-year, reaching 100 in 2022. Indeed, of the larger sectors, the Arts, entertainment and recreation sector experienced one of the highest percentage job increases in the region. This suggests the area is getting back to its roots in terms of accommodation and recreational activities.

The increase in the number of larger enterprises in terms of annual sales exceeding £0.2m is another positive for the area. Such enterprises tended to relate to a number of sectors, including Construction, Retail, Agriculture, and Arts & Recreation.

Approximate Employment Count per Broad Industrial Group, East Cairngorms, 2020-22

Broad Industrial Group	2020	2021	2022	2020-22 % Diff.
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	10	10	10	0%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	0	0	0	0%
Manufacturing	50	75	50	0%
Construction	50	50	75	50%
Motor trades	15	15	20	33%
Wholesale	10	10	5	-50%
Retail	250	250	225	-10%
Transport & storage (inc postal)	10	0	0	-100%
Accommodation & food services	350	300	400	14%
Information & communication	15	5	5	-67%
Financial & insurance	100	0	0	-100%
Property	250	200	225	-10%
Professional, scientific & technical	50	75	100	100%
Business administration & support services	35	45	25	-29%
Public administration & defence	45	45	45	0%
Education	40	50	40	0%
Health	75	75	45	-40%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	100	125	175	75%
Total	1,455	1,330	1,445	-1%

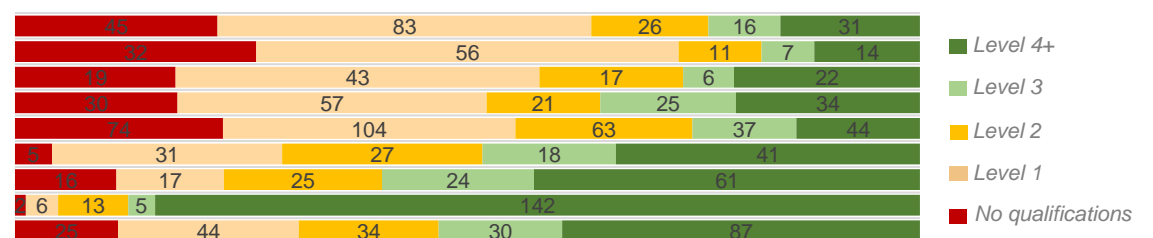
Approximate Number of Enterprises per Turnover Band (£), East Cairngorms, 2021-23

Turnover	2021	2022	2023	2021-23 % Diff.
£1m+	0	0	0	0%
£500-999k	5	0	15	200%
£200-499k	10	20	30	200%
£100-199k	85	70	60	-29%
£50-99k	25	40	25	0%
£0-49k	30	30	30	0%

Employees per Occupation Type, Census 2011

Elementary occupations	201
Process, plant and machine operatives	120
Sales and customer service occupations	107
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	167
Skilled trades occupations	322
Administrative and secretarial occupations	122
Associate professional and technical...	143
Professional occupations	168
Managers, directors and senior officials	220

Employees per Qualification & Occupation Type, Census 2011





Relatively sparse / rural

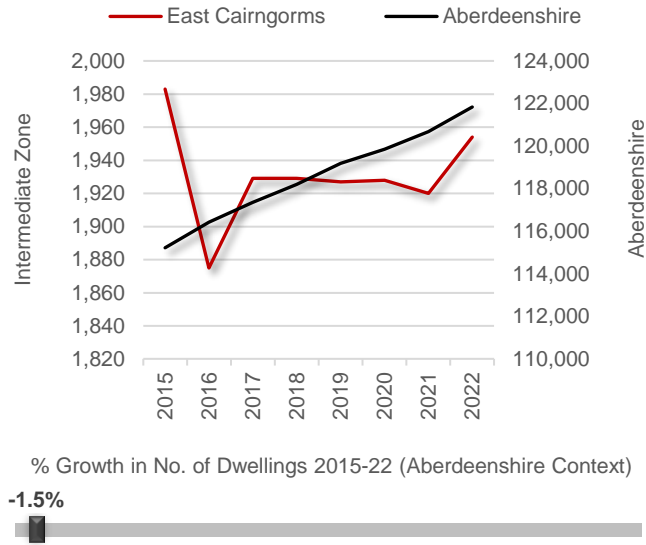
0.02

Dwellings per Hectare (2022)



Relatively dense / urban

Number of Dwellings, 2015-22



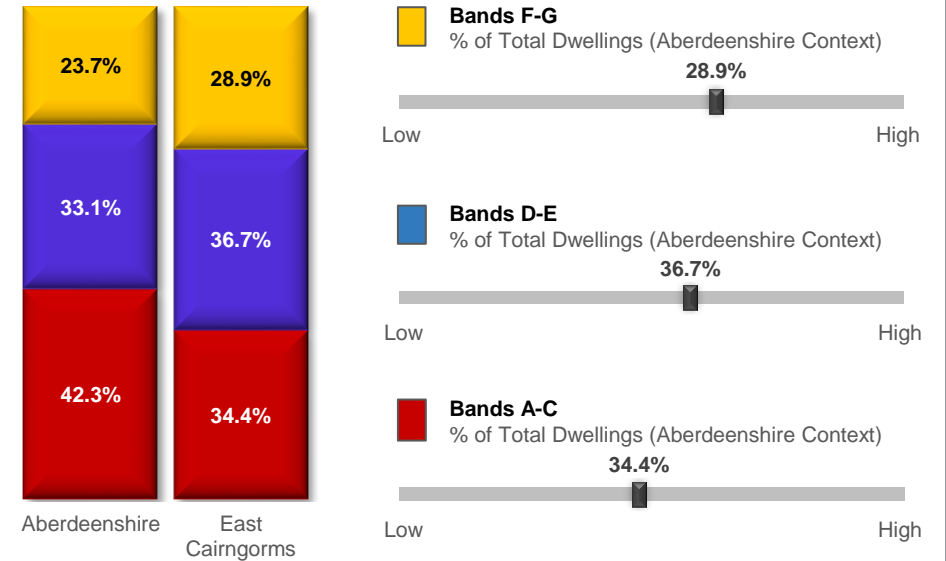
Summary

At 0.02 dwellings per hectare, this IZ is the most rural - or sparsely populated - in Aberdeenshire. Given that large proportions of it covers the foothills of the Cairngorms, this is not unexpected.

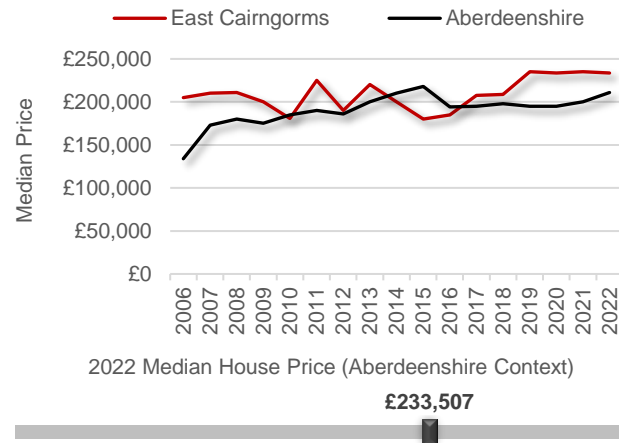
The number of houses in this area has decreased by 1.5% since 2014, which is an unusual occurrence in the southern portion of Aberdeenshire. Given that the population has decreased over a similar period, and given the area's rural nature, this outcome is arguably not surprising.

The IZ is home to a greater proportion of properties in the F-G Council Tax Band than Aberdeenshire as a whole (28.9%). A similar story emerges in relation to Bands D-E. As such, the IZ contains fewer properties in the A-C Band. Consequently, median house prices in the area are generally higher in this IZ relative to the rest of Aberdeenshire (£233,507 versus £210,995).

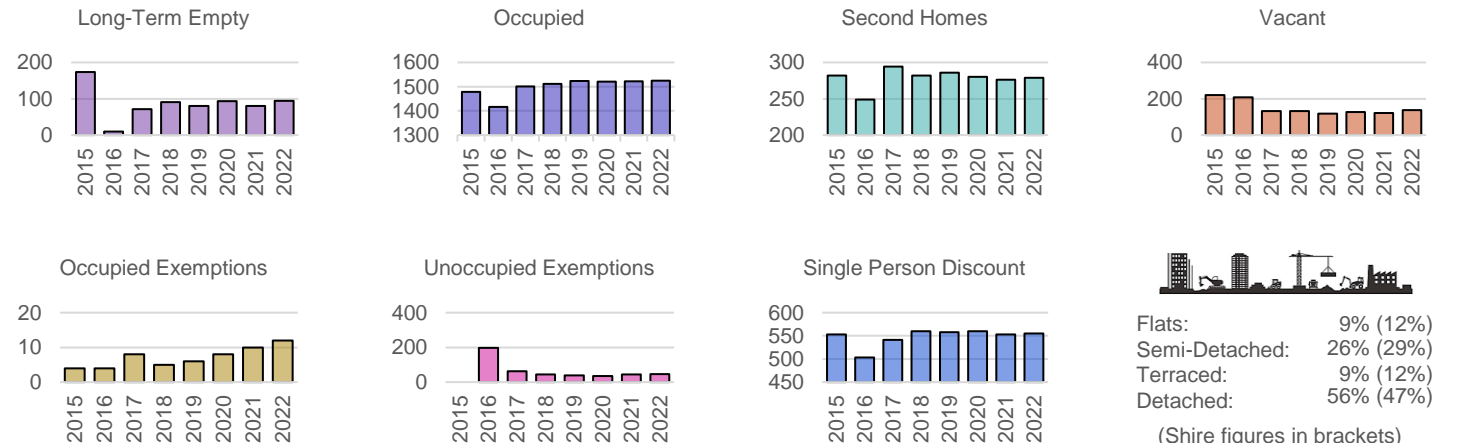
Proportion of Dwellings per Council Tax Band, 2022



Median Residential House Prices (Sales), 2006-22

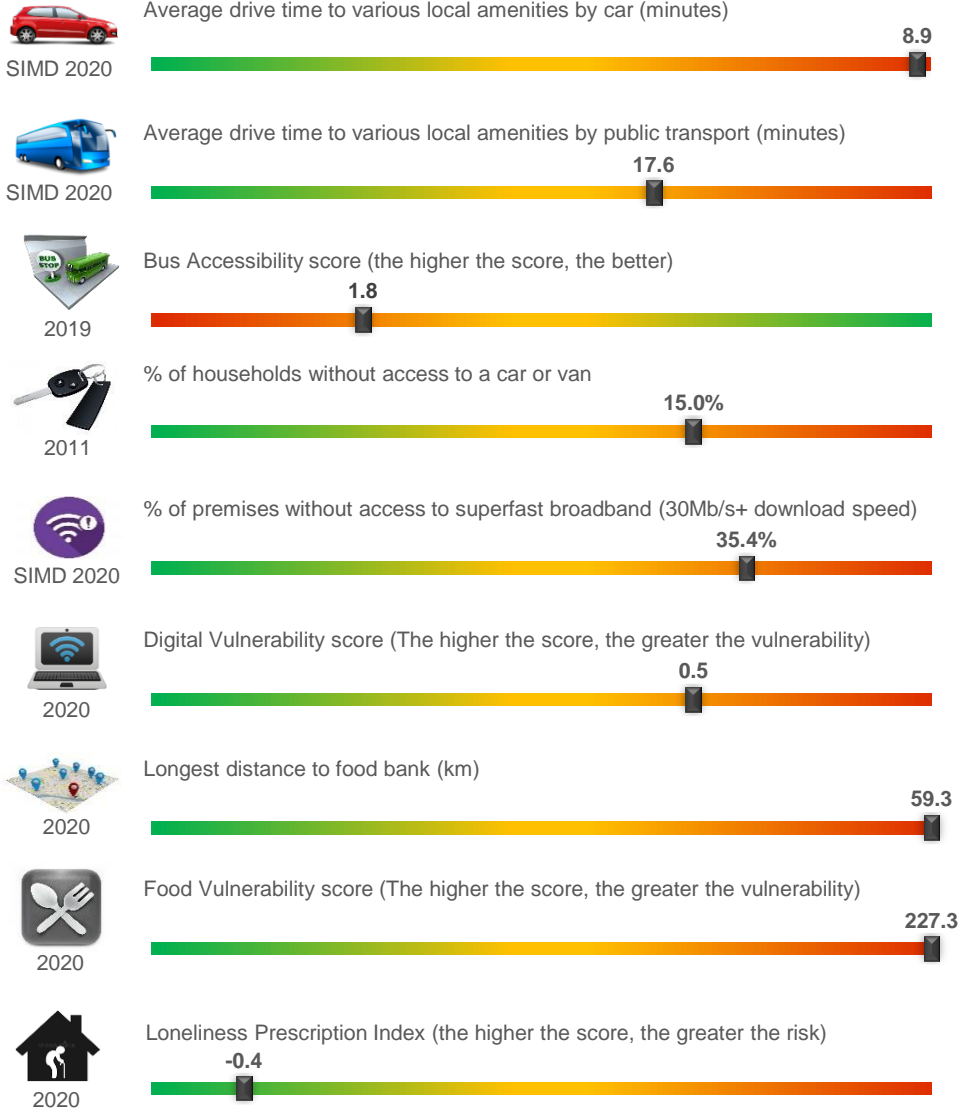


Housing Types, 2015-22 (Data on Flats, etc., relate to 2017 - the latest year for which data are available)

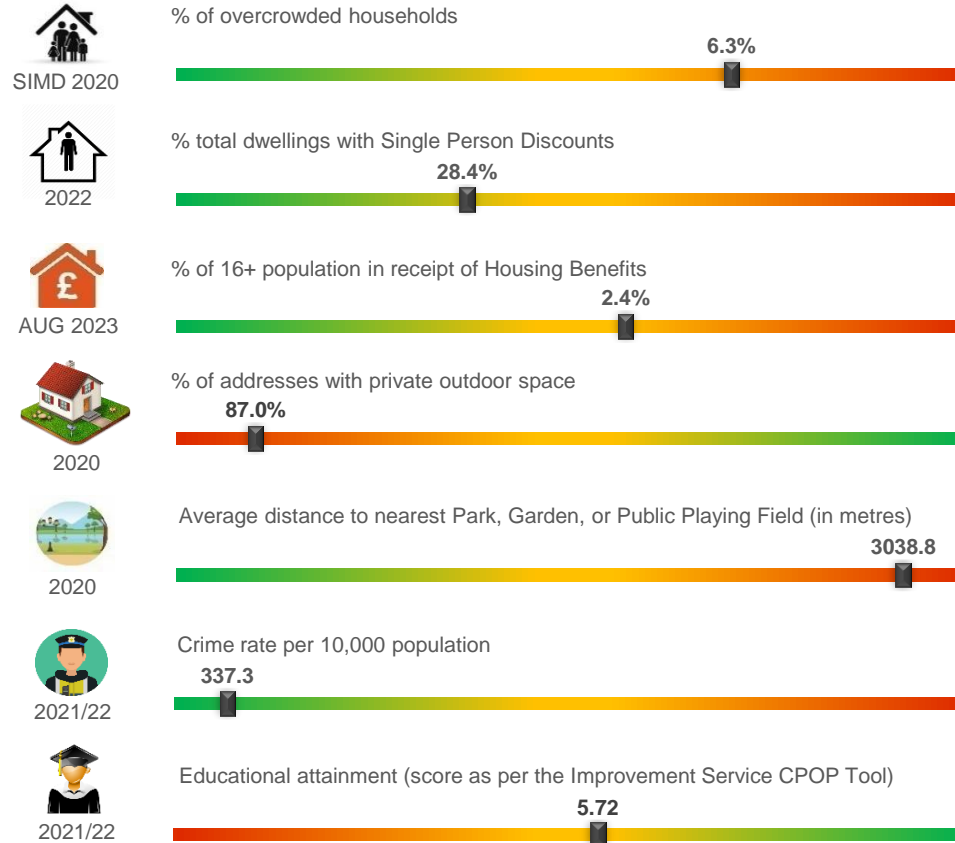


East Cairngorms Other Socio-Economic Data

Geographic Access / Digital Connectivity / Food Vulnerability / Loneliness Proxy



Housing / Environment / Crime Rate / Educational Attainment



Summary

Given the rural nature of the area, it is unsurprising that some of the indicators that measure 'remoteness' are red. For instance, average drive times to various local amenities by car is among the highest in Aberdeenshire. Consequently, Bus Accessibility is at the lower end of the scale and food vulnerability scores suggest this may be an issue (linked to the time it takes to travel to the nearest retail centre, e.g. supermarket).

Conversely, the area enjoys a relatively low crime rate, and loneliness - despite the relative remoteness - does not seem to be a problem in the area.