

High Level Summary of Statistics

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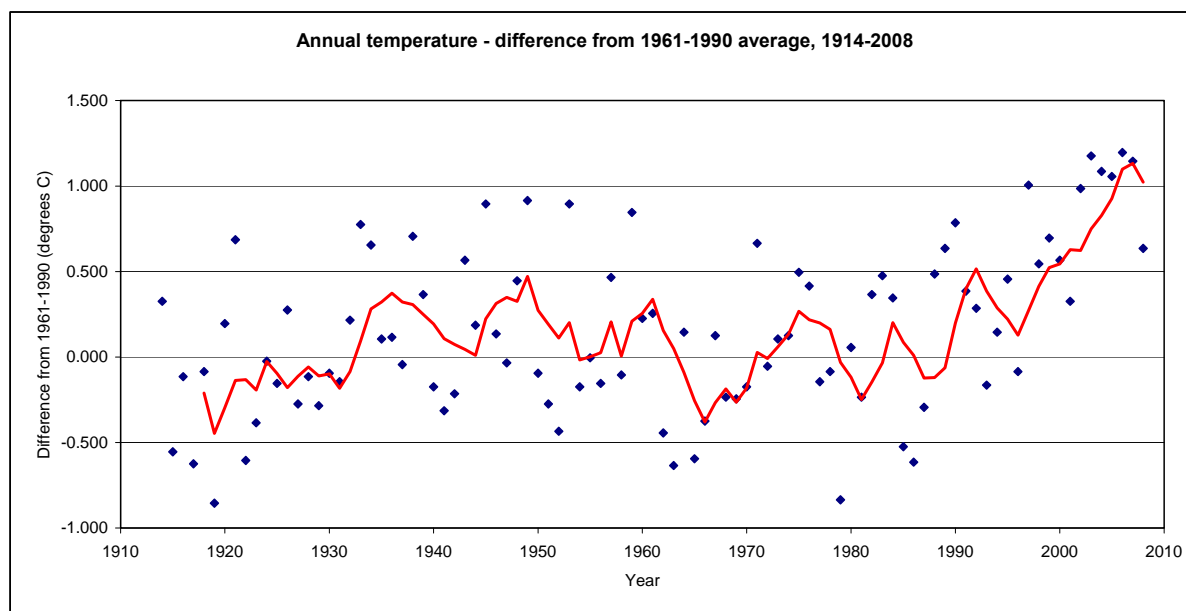
Global Atmosphere

Annual Temperature

Last updated: February 2009

The global average surface temperature has increased over the 20th century by about 0.6°C¹. The 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 temperatures for Scotland are the highest since the record began in 1914. The average annual temperature recorded in 2008 was over 0.5°C lower than in 2006 and 2007 but remained in the upper quintile of temperatures recorded since 1914.

By 2080, temperatures in Scotland are predicted to rise by around 3.5°C during the summer months and around 2.6°C during the winter months. Whilst the global impacts of climate change are considerable, there are also wide-ranging implications for Scotland. These include increased flood risk, and impacts on water resources, agriculture, transport, tourism and disease; all of great economic, social and environmental importance.



Source: Met Office

Note: 2008 data is provisional.

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/1)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/1>

Web link

[Scottish Temperature data](http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/seriesstatistics/scottemp.txt) Met Office.

<http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/seriesstatistics/scottemp.txt>

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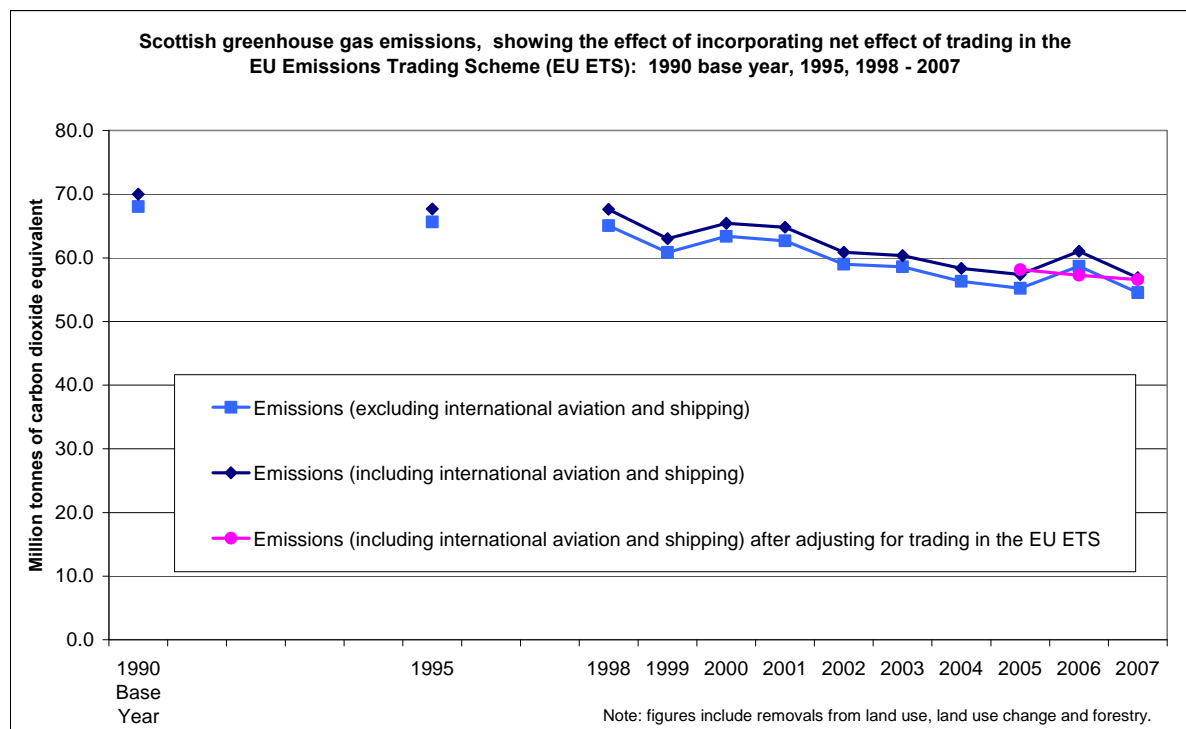
1. UKCIP (2002). [Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom](http://www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/pub_dets.asp?ID=14)

http://www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/pub_dets.asp?ID=14

Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Last updated: September 2009

Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are having a detrimental impact upon the global atmosphere. It is widely acknowledged that GHGs are contributing to changes in the global climate, with extreme weather conditions becoming increasingly common as one result. By the end of this century Scotland is expected to have warmer, wetter winters, less snowfall and an increased risk of flooding¹.



Source: AEA Energy and Environment

The Kyoto Protocol (1997) set legally binding targets under which the UK must reduce emissions of a basket of six GHGs to 12.5% below the baseline.

Scotland has a number of targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets a statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland with a reduction target of at least 80 per cent for 2050 and an interim 42 per cent reduction target by 2020. Both of these reductions are based upon the 1990 base year (1995 for the F-gases, i.e. hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride). The Scottish Government have also set a short term target within the National Performance Framework to reduce emissions by 2011, compared with a 2006 baseline. These targets include emissions from international aviation and shipping. In reporting emissions reductions against these targets, Scotland is likely to take account of emissions trading through the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

In 2007, Scottish greenhouse gas emissions, including international aviation and shipping and adjusted to take account of trading in the EU ETS were 56.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, 19.2% lower than in the 1990 base year. Between 2006 and 2007, such emissions reduced by 1.2% (0.7 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent). Ignoring the effect of trading in the EU ETS, Scottish

GHG emissions, including international aviation and shipping, fell by 6.8% between 2006 and 2007 and by 18.7% between the 1990 base year and 2007.

Publication

[Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2007](#) (Published September 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/07145629/0>

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](#)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/1>

Reference

1. UKCP (2009). [UK Climate Projections](#)

<http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk/>

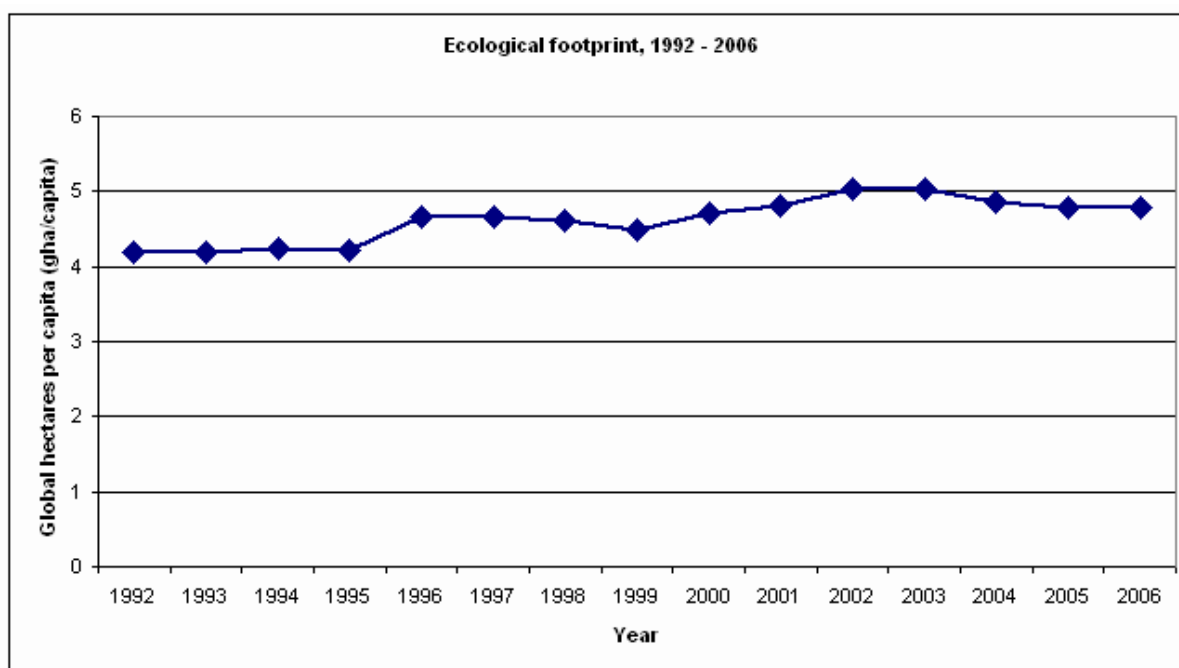
Ecological Footprint

Last updated: October 2009

The ecological footprint is defined as a measure of how much biologically productive land and water an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates using prevailing technology and resource management practices.

As with most developed countries of the world, the ecological footprint of Scotland is greater than the land used or emissions generated within the country's boundary. Growing demand is most often satisfied by an increase in imports, this means that the ecological footprint has been increasing, whilst domestic impacts have remained relatively stable or decreased.

The Scottish Government established a National Indicator to reduce the overall ecological footprint. In 2006 Scotland's ecological footprint was calculated as 4.8 global hectares per person, this is in comparison to a world-wide availability of 2.1 global hectares per person. This means that Scotland is proportionally consuming beyond the capacity of the earth's biosphere to provide services and to regenerate.



Source: Scottish Government

Between 1992 and 2006, there was a 14% increase in the per capita ecological footprint. Changes between 1992 and 2006 are not significant at the 95% confidence level.

Publication

[Production of a Time Series of Scotland's Ecological and Greenhouse Gas Footprints](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/28101012/0)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/28101012/0>

Air Quality

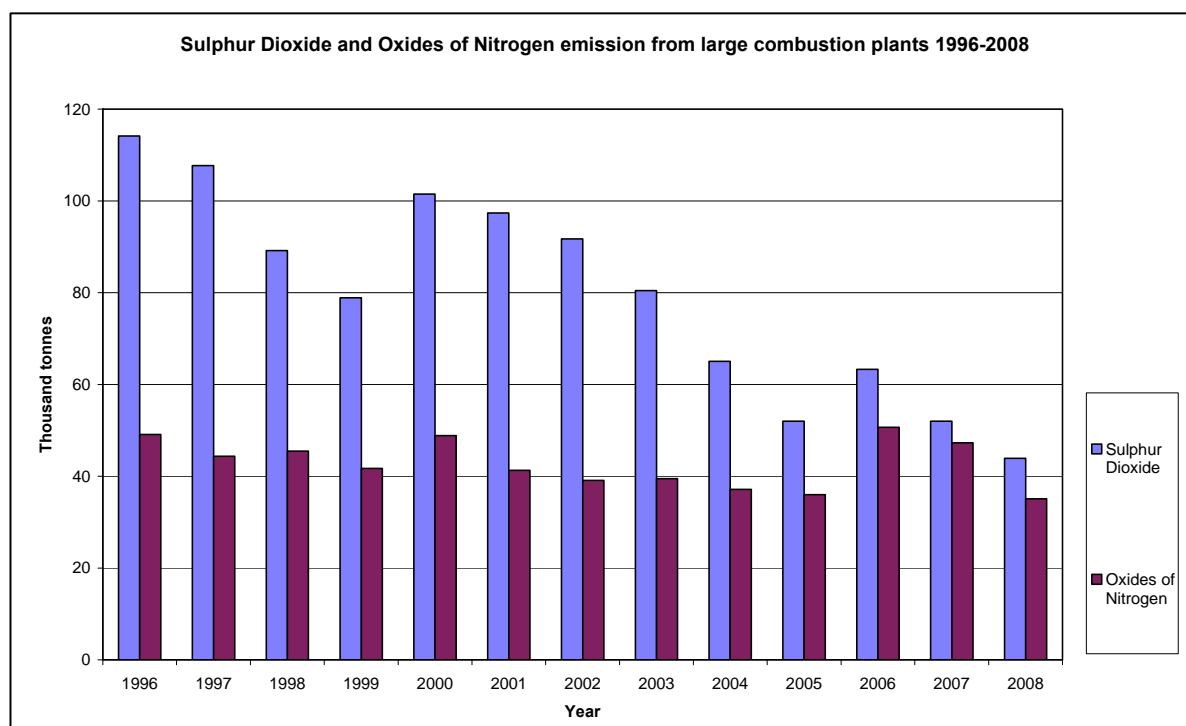
Emissions of Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen from Large Combustion Plants

Last updated: August 2009

Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) affect human health through respiratory damage, and ecosystem health through acidification. SO₂ and NO_x are released into the atmosphere through the combustion of fossil fuels. In 2006, large combustion plants (LCPs) accounted for 54% of the SO₂ emissions and 24% of NO_x emissions in the UK. (Large combustion plants have a rated thermal output of over 50 megawatts.)

The revised EC Large Combustion Plants Directive (2001/80/ EC) called for a 60% reduction in SO₂ emissions by 2003 and a 30% reduction in NO_x emissions by 1998, from a 1980 baseline. By 2002, UK emissions for SO₂ and NO_x were 78% and 64% respectively below 1980 levels¹.

In Scotland, SO₂ emissions from the electricity supply industry fell between 1996 and 1999, but rose in 2000. This was due to the increased use of coal-fired power stations, necessary to offset the reduced capacity of the nuclear sector because of refurbishment work at certain plants. Similarly, in 2006, emissions rose due to an increased use of coal-fired power stations. Over the period 1996 to 2008 there has been a 62% decrease in emissions of SO₂ and a 29% decrease in emissions of NO_x. In 2008 emissions of SO₂ and NO_x decreased by 16% and 26% respectively since 2007. This second consecutive year of reductions means that SO₂ and NO_x emissions are now at the lowest they have been since records began in 1996.



Source: SEPA

Note: 2008 data is provisional.

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2>

Web link

[Scottish Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Data: Emissions of SO₂ and NO_x from Large Combustion Plants in Scotland](http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/emissions_SO2_NOx/)

http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/emissions_SO2_NOx/

Reference

1. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [e-Digest Statistics about Air Quality](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/airqual/index.htm).

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/airqual/index.htm>

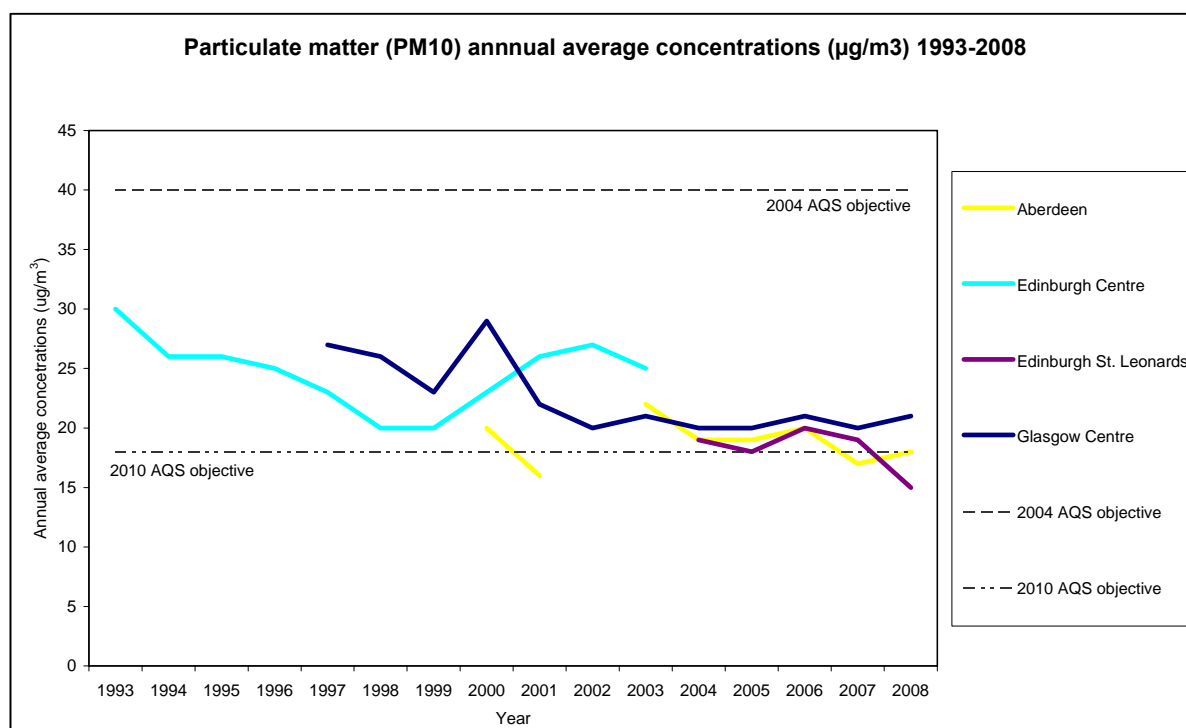
PM₁₀ Concentration

Last updated: June 2009

Particulate pollution can harm the human respiratory and cardiovascular systems, and is linked to asthma and mortality. Smaller particles are the most damaging and current targets focus on particles less than 10µm in diameter (PM₁₀).

Coal burning, diesel combustion, construction, mining and quarrying are the major sources of particulate emissions. Road transport accounted for around 21% of UK emissions of PM₁₀ in 2006. Between 1990 and 2006, UK emissions of PM₁₀ fell by 50%.

The Air Quality Strategy⁴ objectives for PM₁₀ come in two stages. Stage 1 (to be met by the end of 2004): a 24-hour mean of 50µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year, and an annual mean of 40µg/m³. Stage 2 (to be met by the end of 2010): a 24-hour mean of 50µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than seven times a year, and an annual mean of 18µg/m³. The stage 1 annual mean objective was met at all of the automatic monitoring sites in 2008. The stage 2 annual mean objective was met at 24 of the 39 automatic monitoring sites in Scotland, including – Aberdeen and Edinburgh St. Leonards.



Source: Scotland Air Quality Data and Statistics Database

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2>

Web link

[Scotland Air Quality Data and Statistics Database](http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/data.php)

<http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/data.php>

Reference

1. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government & DOE Northern Ireland (2003). [The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Addendum.](#)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1052/0002243.pdf>

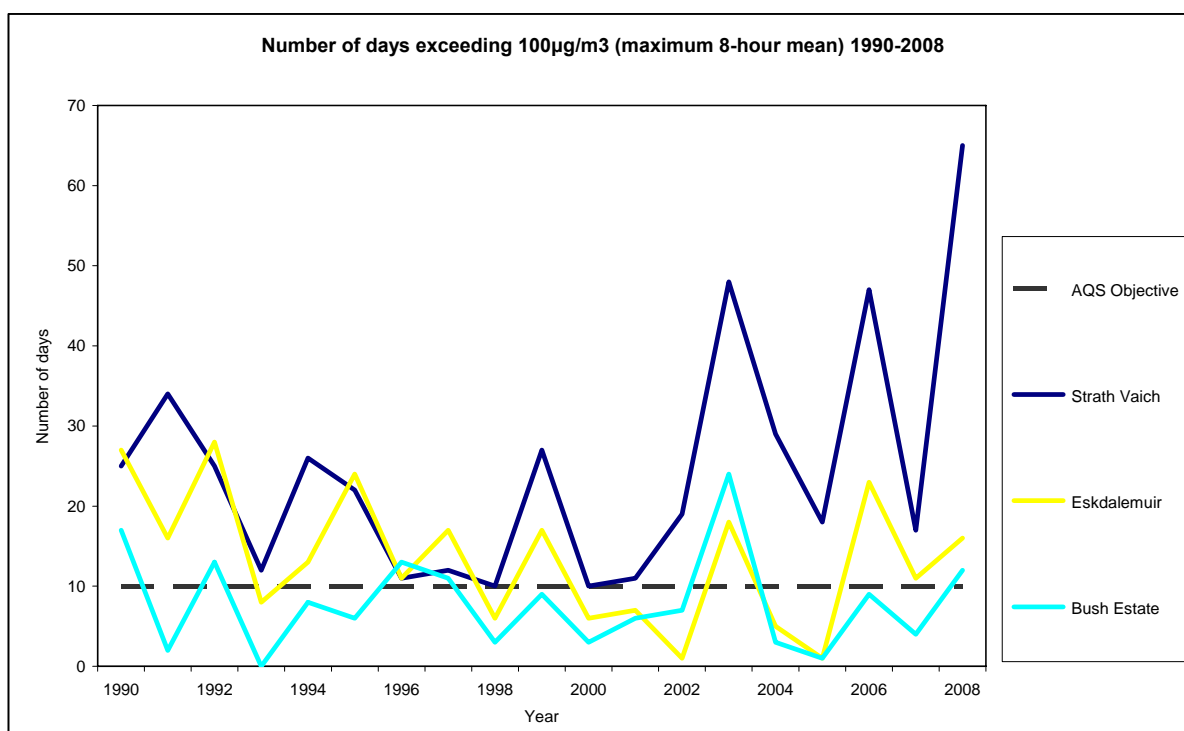
Ground Level Ozone Concentration

Last updated: June 2009

Ozone in the stratosphere forms a layer that protects the earth against harmful ultra-violet radiation, but tropospheric (ground level) ozone is a damaging oxidant. Exposure to high ozone concentrations can cause respiratory damage, and affects vegetation by damaging leaves and reducing yields.

Ozone is formed by a slow, complicated series of reactions from other pollutants that may be blown over from Europe. The most important man-made precursors are nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds produced by road transport, industrial processes and solvent use. Ozone concentrations tend to be lower in urban areas where it is converted to nitrogen dioxide by reacting with nitrogen oxides.

The Air Quality Strategy¹ objective for ground level ozone (to be met by 2005) was for the maximum daily concentration (measured as an 8-hour running mean) of $100\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ not to be exceeded more than 10 times a year. (Objective not currently included in the Air Quality Regulations because of the transboundary nature of ozone). In 2008, this objective was not met at 8 of the 10 sites, including Strath Vaich, Eskdalemuir and Bush Estate.



Source: Scotland Air Quality Data and Statistics Database

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2>

Web link

[Scotland Air Quality Data and Statistics](http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/data.php)

<http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/data.php>

Reference

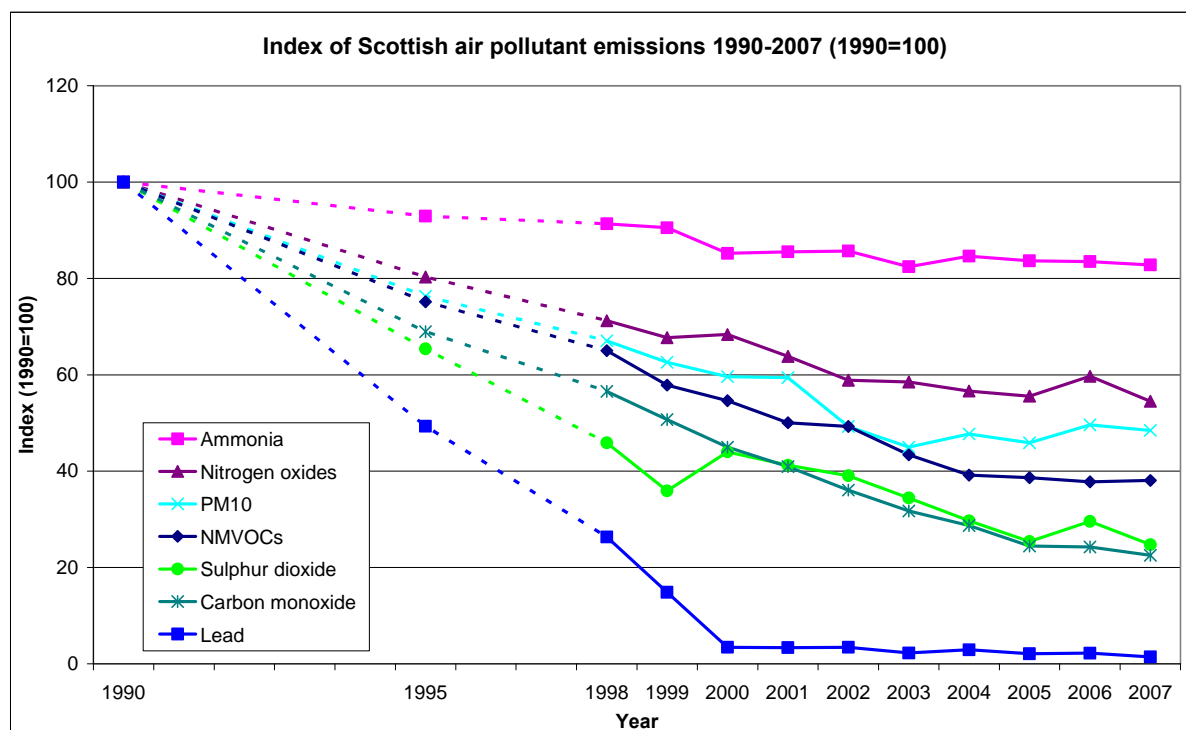
1. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government & DOE Northern Ireland (2003). [The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Addendum.](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1052/0002243.pdf)
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1052/0002243.pdf

Air Pollutant Emissions

Last updated: October 2009

Overall air quality in the UK is currently estimated to be better than at any time since the industrial revolution. However air pollution is still estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 7-8 months (AQS, 2007). A number of policies are currently in place in an attempt to improve air quality, including the air quality strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Emissions data show a similar pattern with reductions in the emissions of the main pollutants. Since 1990, there have been decreases of 17 per cent for ammonia, 45 per cent for nitrogen oxides, 52 per cent for PM10, 62 per cent for Non Methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOCs), 75 per cent for sulphur dioxide, 77 per cent for carbon monoxide and 99 per cent for lead.



Source: NAEI

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/2>

[Air Quality Pollutant Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2007](http://www.naei.org.uk/report_link.php?report_id=575)

http://www.naei.org.uk/report_link.php?report_id=575

Reference

1. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government & DOE Northern Ireland (2007). [The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Volume 1](#)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1052/0051687.pdf>

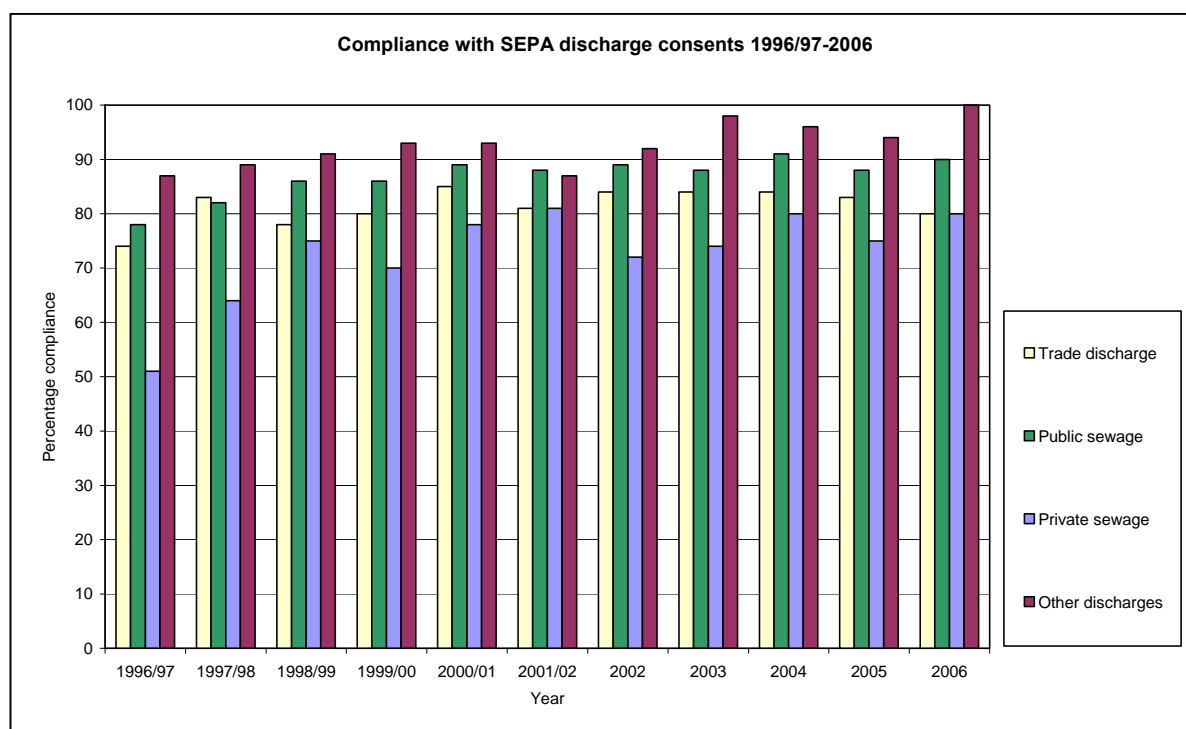
Water

Effluent Compliance with Discharge Consents

Last updated: July 2008

Under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (CoPA) it was an offence to cause or knowingly permit discharge of poisonous, noxious or polluting substances to controlled waters in Scotland. Discharges of sewage and trade effluent into the water environment (including all coastal and inland waters) were, however, permitted under a discharge consent authorised by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Authorisations contained conditions on both the quality and quantity of effluent permitted. SEPA controlled these discharges through licensing and monitoring; the CoPA provisions have with effect from April 2006 been replaced by the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

The overall compliance rate increased from 73% in 1996-1997 to 86% in 2006. Compliance rates for trade effluent rose by 6 percentage points since 1996-1997 to 80% in 2006 compared with a 12 percentage point rise for public sewage works to 90%. SEPA set a target of 95% compliance for licences issued under the Control of Pollution Act by 2003/2004. The overall compliance rate takes account of both instantaneous standards and rolling 12 month standards.



Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/6)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/6>

Web link

[Annual Report and Accounts](http://www.sepa.org.uk/publications/annual_report/index.htm) Environment Protection Agency
http://www.sepa.org.uk/publications/annual_report/index.htm

[Corporate Plan](http://www.sepa.org.uk/publications/corporateplan/index.htm) Scottish Environment Protection Agency
http://www.sepa.org.uk/publications/corporateplan/index.htm

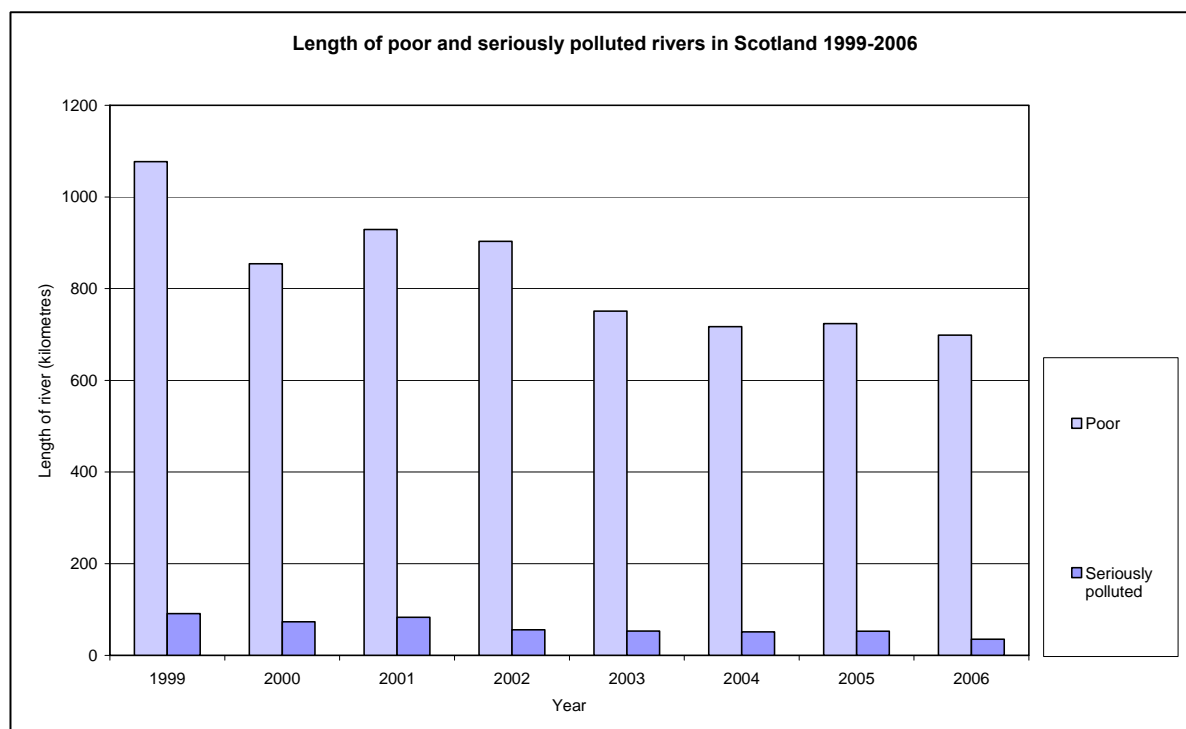
River Water Quality

Last updated: April 2009

Low standards of river water quality may threaten the aquatic environment, drinking water quality and recreational water use. Sewage, industry, urban development and agriculture are some of the factors that may affect river water quality.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has established a Digitised River Network (DRN) to classify about 25,000 km of the approximately 100,000 km of rivers and burns in Scotland. The DRN comprises those watercourses draining a catchment of 10 km² or more. Rivers are classified as *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, *poor* or *seriously polluted* according to measures of chemical, biological, nutrient and aesthetic quality. Between 2000 and 2006 the length of 'unclassified' river fell by 84% to 2076 km.

Between 1999 and 2006, the length of poor and seriously polluted rivers in Scotland fell by 37% to 734 km. SEPA set a target of a reduction of 351 km in poor and seriously polluted rivers for the period 1999-2006¹. Poor biological and nutrient quality are the most frequent reasons for classifying rivers as poor or seriously polluted.



Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Following the introduction of the EU's Water Framework Directive, Scotland has focused attention on the changes in monitoring networks and reporting required for compliance with this. It is intended to develop a new indicator incorporating the new networks for publication in 2010.

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/7)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/7>

Web link

[National Water Quality Classification 2006](#) Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2007).

http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/water_qual_class_2006.pdf

Reference

1. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2003). [Corporate Plan April 2003-March 2004](#)

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/publications/corporateplan/index.htm>

Marine

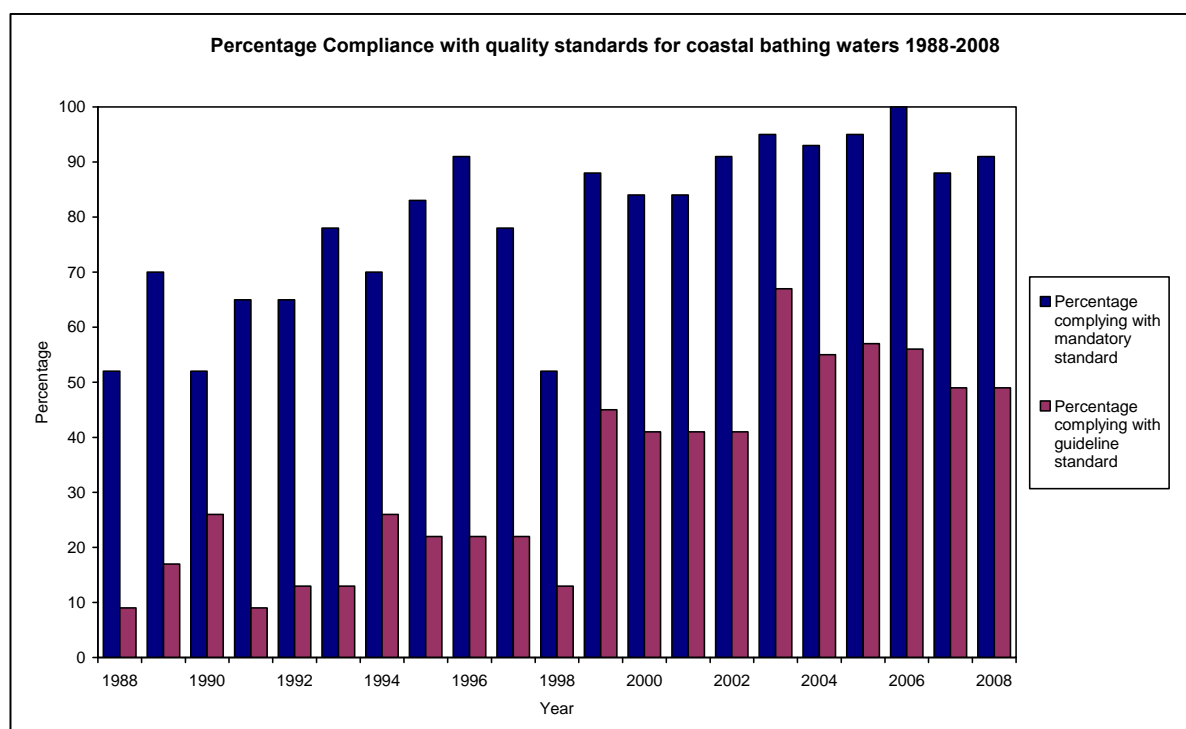
Coastal Bathing Water Quality

Last updated: April 2009

High quality bathing waters are important for a wide variety of interests and support Scotland's tourism industry. Monitoring the quality of these waters provides an indication of the health risks of bathing from both direct and diffuse discharges of effluents containing faecal contaminants.

EC Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC)¹ sets out two quality standards - the 'mandatory' standard, and the stricter 'guideline' standard. Member states should comply with the mandatory standard and aim to comply with the guideline standard. In 2008, 91% of identified coastal bathing waters achieved the mandatory standard, and 49% also complied with the guideline standard. In addition to these coastal bathing waters, the three inland bathing waters both met the mandatory standard.

It is important to note that the weather is thought to affect compliance, with wet weather often contributing to poorer results and, conversely, drier, sunnier weather associated with better results. The fall in compliance rates between 2003 and 2004, and 2006 and 2008 may have been a result of the wet weather. In 2003, the summer rainfall was 27.3 per cent below the 1961 - 1990 baseline, whereas 2004 was 42.4 per cent higher than the baseline. Similarly, 2006 was 12.7 per cent lower than the baseline and 2008 was 39.5 per cent above.



Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/8)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/8>

Web link

[Scottish Bathing Waters](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing_waters.aspx) Scottish Environment Protection Agency
http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing_waters.aspx

References

1. European Commission (1976). [Bathing Water Directive \(76/160/ EEC\)](http://europa.eu/water/water-bathing/directiv.html)
http://europa.eu/water/water-bathing/directiv.html

Land

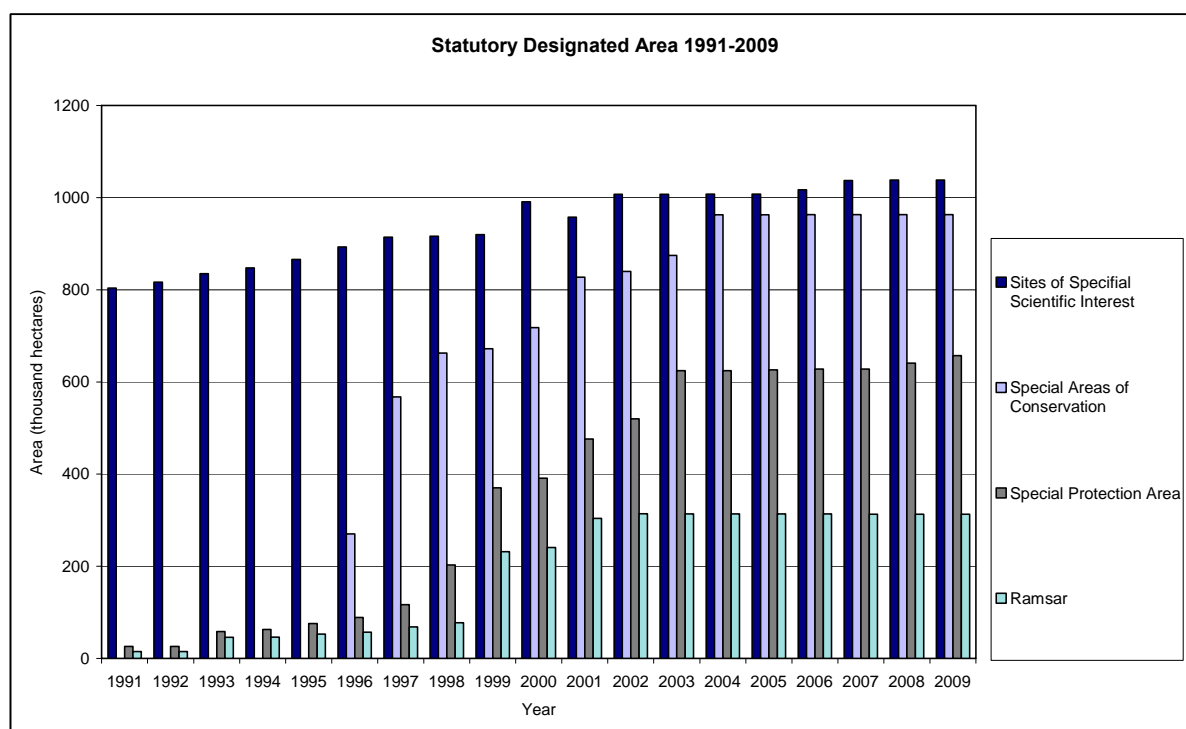
Statutory Designated Areas

Last updated: September 2009

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are notified as areas of outstanding quality to protect their flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features. At 31 March 2009, there were 1,456 SSSIs in Scotland, covering a total of 1,038,000 hectares (13% of land in Scotland).

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under the 1992 EC Habitats Directive to protect certain species and habitat types throughout the EU. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under the 1979 EC Wild Birds Directive to safeguard the habitat of a number of wild bird species. Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. At 31 March 2009, there were 239 SACs, 146 SPAs and 51 Ramsar sites in Scotland.

A designated site may be protected by more than one designation. For example, about two thirds of the area of SACs and 86% of SPAs and Ramsar sites also have SSSI designations.



Source: Scottish Natural Heritage

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/16)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/16>

Web link

[SNHi – Interactive Facts & Figures](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=93,866334,93_884286&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL) Scottish Natural Heritage

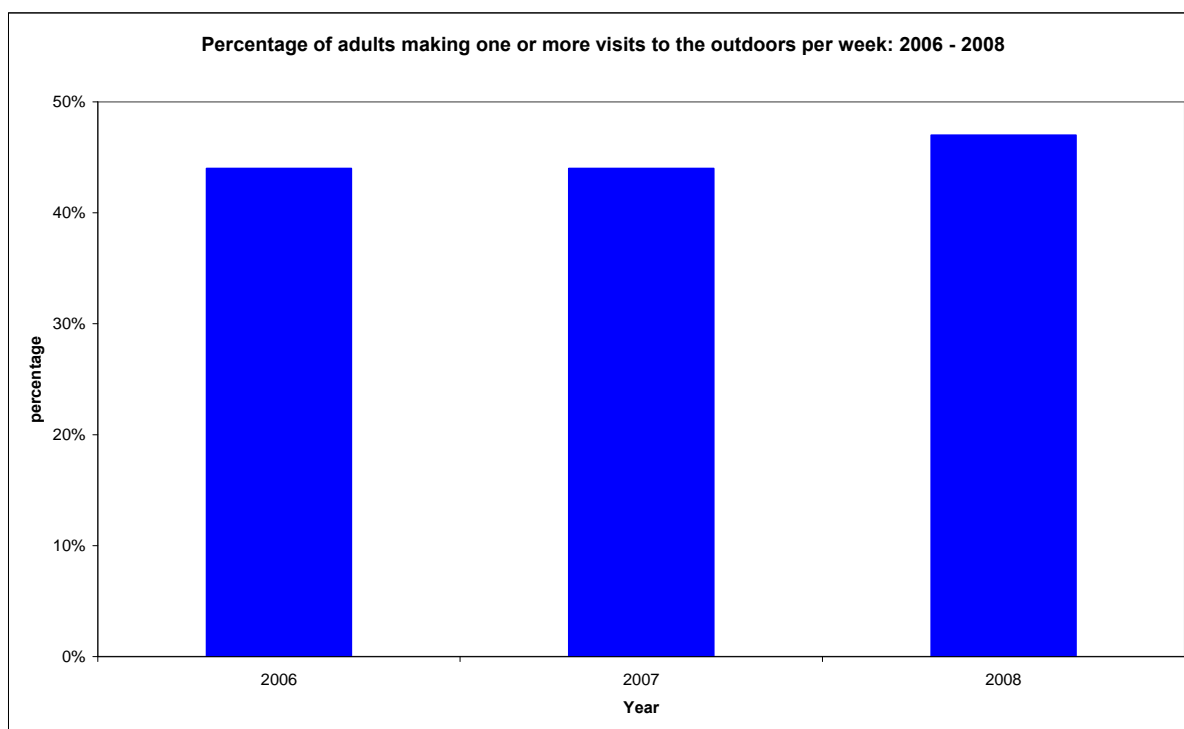
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Outdoor Visits

Last updated: May 2009

Outdoor recreation is beneficial for health and well-being. It also provides opportunities for people to come into contact with, and increase their understanding of, the natural environment. Although outdoor recreation has multiple motivations, this indicator provides a useful measure of the numbers of people who gain benefit and enjoyment from nature and biodiversity and improve their understanding of the importance and functioning of the natural environment.

The Scottish Government has established a National Indicator to increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week. During 2008, 47% of adults are estimated to have visited the outdoors one or more times per week, compared to 44% during 2007 and 2006. This data is taken from the Scottish Recreation Survey where respondents were asked how often on average they had made a visit to the outdoors for leisure and recreation in Scotland in the last 12 months.



Source: Scottish Natural Heritage

Web Link

[Scottish Recreation Survey](http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/comm-reports/srs_10.asp) Scottish Natural Heritage
http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/comm-reports/srs_10.asp

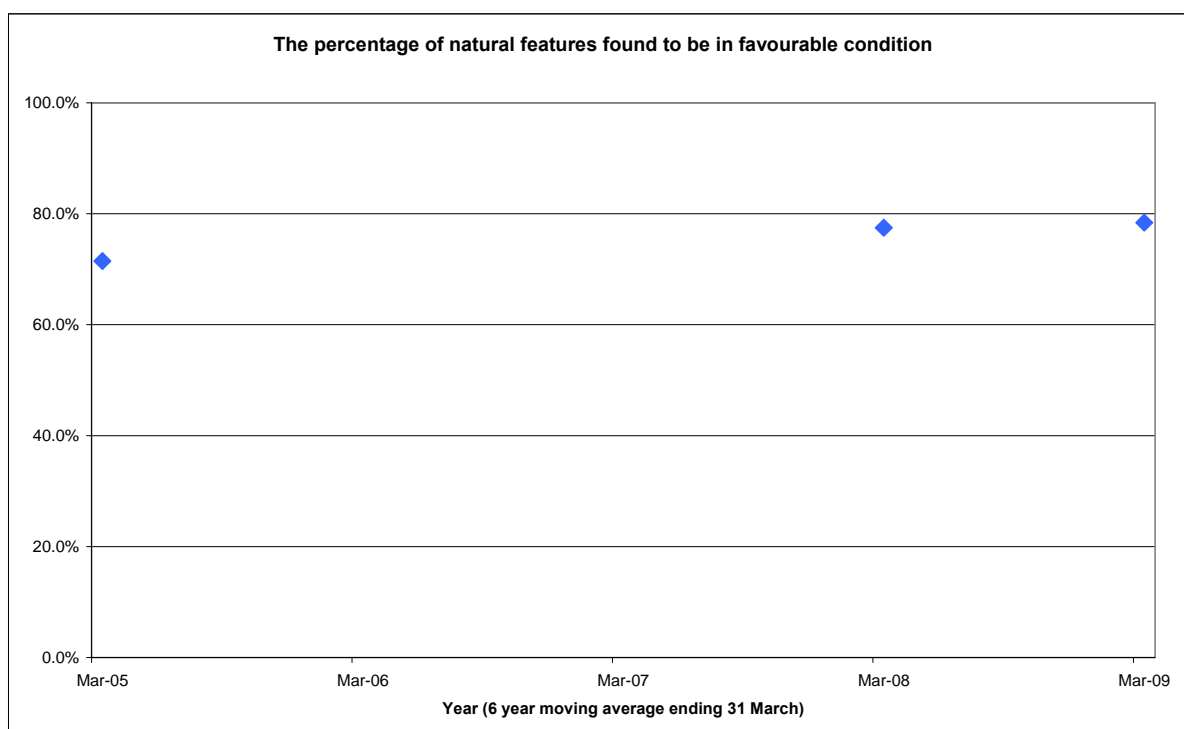
Protected Nature Sites

Last Updated: June 2009

Natura 2000 sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) represent the best of Scotland's natural heritage. These areas are 'special' either for their plants, animals or habitats, their rocks or landforms, or a combination of these. Together they form a network of the best natural features throughout Scotland and support a wider network across Great Britain and the European Union.

Over 380 Natura 2000 sites and some 1,451 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), covering more than 1,000,000 ha of Scotland, have been designated for their national or international importance, according to their special biodiversity or geodiversity interest.

The Scottish Government has established a National Indicator to increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition. In the first cycle of site condition monitoring undertaken between 1st April 1999 to 31st March 2005, 71.5% of were found to be in favourable condition. By the end of March 2009, 78.4% of natural features were assessed as being in a favourable condition, this compares to 77.5% being in favourable condition at the end of March 2008.



Source: Scottish Natural Heritage

Waste

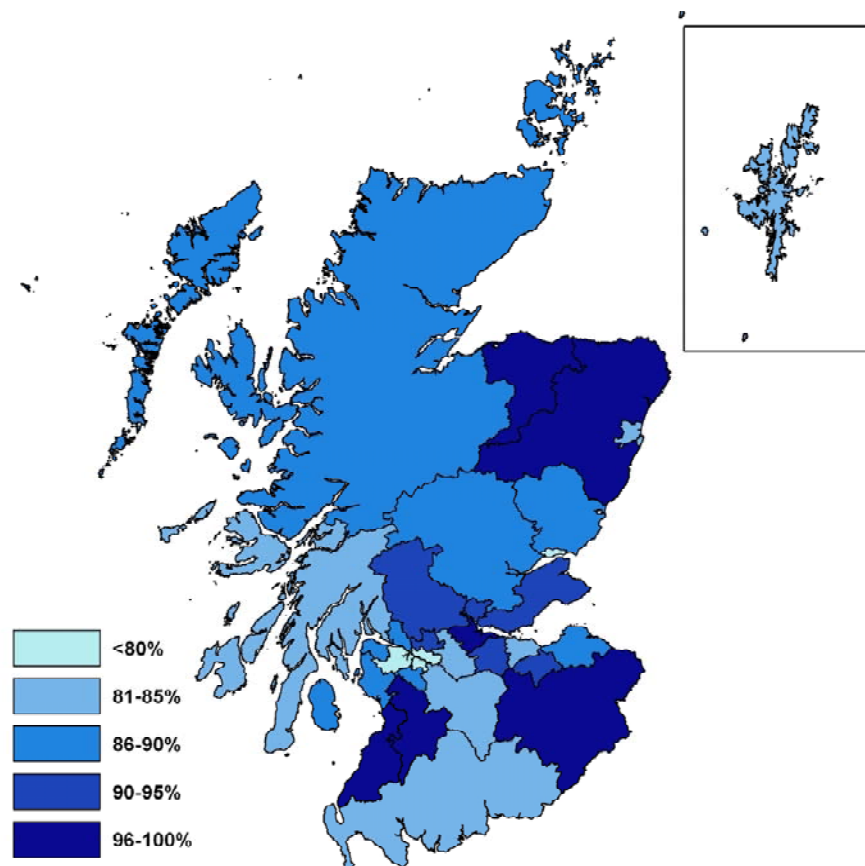
Percentage of Households Recycling Selected Items

Last updated: September 2009

In 2008, 87% of households surveyed in the Scottish Household Survey said they had recycled one or more of the following items in the past month: paper and card, plastic, metal cans and glass. This is an increase from 55% of households reporting in 2003. Over 80% had recycled paper and card and 65% had recycled plastic bottles and metal cans. Since 2003, the percentage of households recycling waste has increased for each item in the survey.

The chart shows the percentage of households surveyed who said they recycled some waste material, by local authority area, averaged over 2007 and 2008. (The survey provides results for local authorities every two years.)

Percentage of households surveyed 2007-2008, who reported recycling certain waste items in the past month



Source: Scottish Household Survey

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[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/9)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/9>

[Scotlands People: Annual Report - Results from the Scottish Household Survey](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationAnnual)

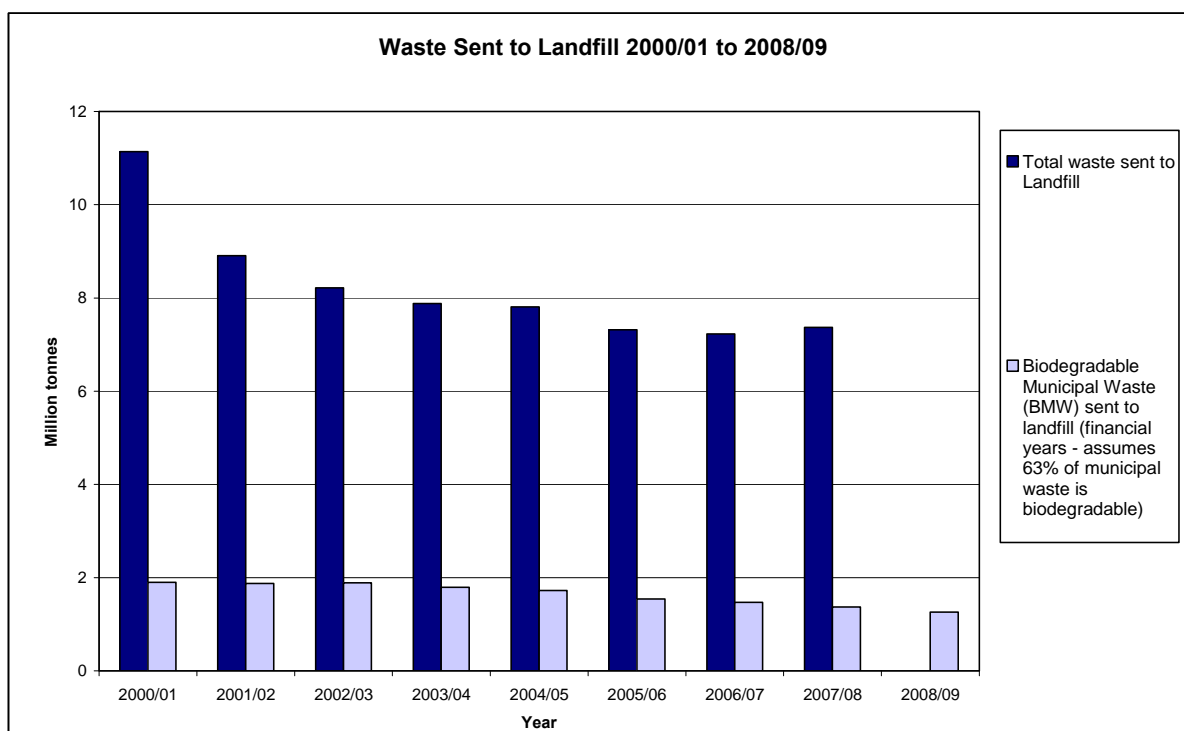
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationAnnual>

Waste sent to Landfill

Last updated: September 2009

The disposal of waste to landfill can result in the loss of many tonnes of valuable materials, release pollutants into the soil and watercourses, and emits greenhouse gases.

The National Waste Strategy¹ places disposal to landfill at the bottom of its waste hierarchy. In Scotland, 7.37 million tonnes were landfilled in 2007 and Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) accounts for approximately one fifth of this total.



Note: 2008/09 data is provisional.

Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency Licensed / Permitted Waste Management Site Returns. BMW data: 2000/01 -2003/04 Local Authority Waste Arisings Survey, 2004/05 - 2005/06 Quarterly Landfill Allowance Scheme Return, 2006/07 – 2008/09 Waste data flow

The Scottish Government has set a National Indicator to ensure a reduction in the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) Scotland sends to landfill. Biodegradable materials such as paper, card, textiles and garden waste decompose when landfilled and release the harmful greenhouse gases methane and carbon dioxide.

This indicator will monitor the extent to which Scotland contributes to meeting its share of UK targets set under the EU Landfill Directive. It is also in line with the Scottish Government's commitment to move towards a Zero Waste Scotland.

In the 2007 Spending Review the Scottish Government set a target that no more than 1.32 million tonnes of BMW would be sent to landfill in 2010. In 2008/9 the amount of BMW sent to landfill was 1.26 million tonnes. The chart shows the progress made since 2000/2001 towards the 2010 target.

Further Information

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/9)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/9>

Reference

1. Scottish Environment Protection Agency, [National Waste Strategy: Scotland](http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/guidance/nws_1999.htm).
(Published 2003).

http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/guidance/nws_1999.htm

Biodiversity

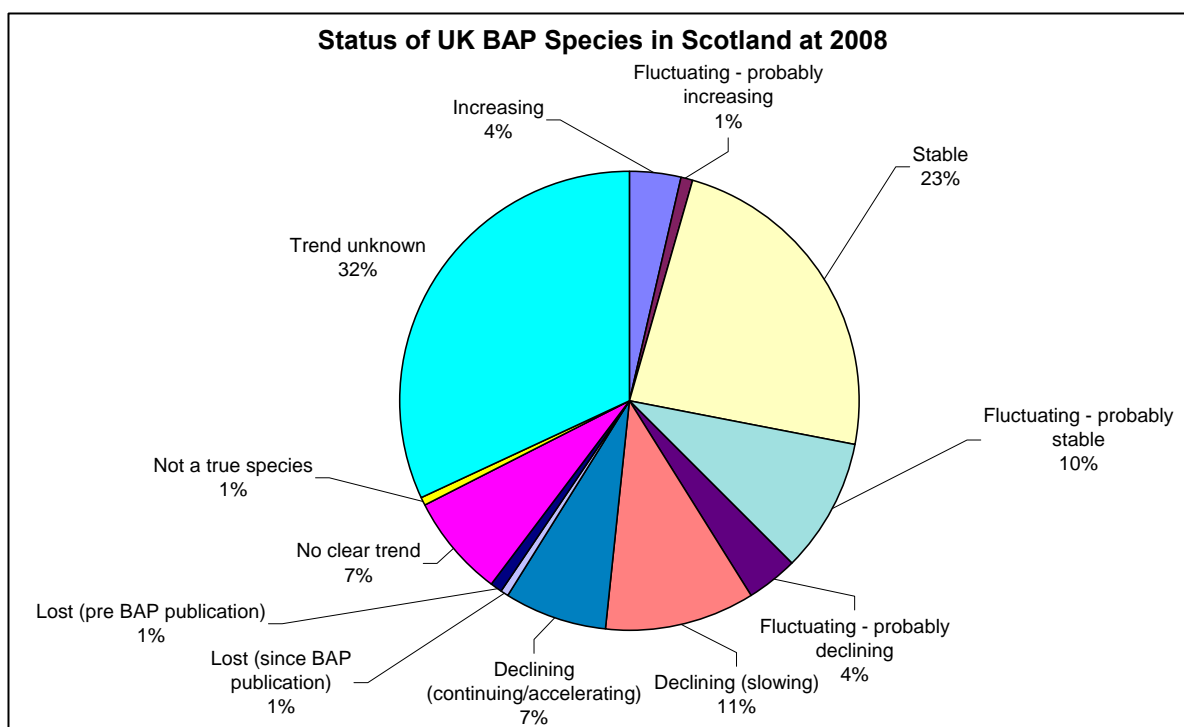
BAP species and habitats

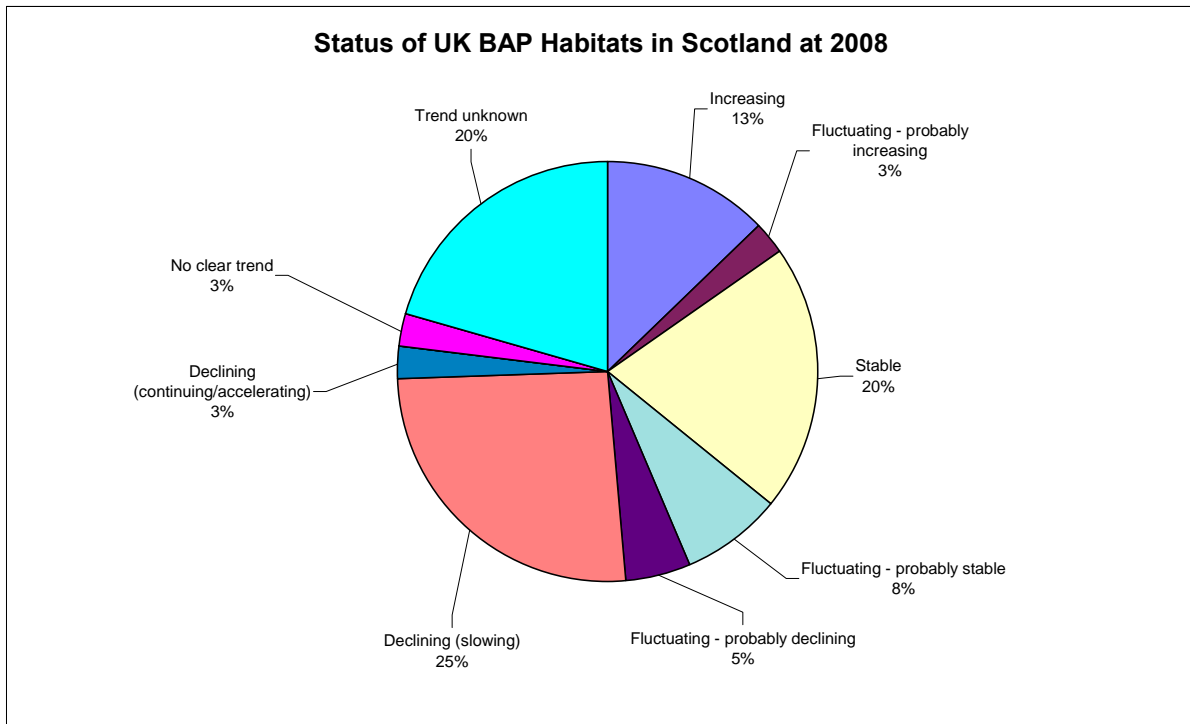
Last updated: September 2009

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life. In 1992, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity recognised the need to protect biodiversity. The UK was one of the 150 countries to sign up to the convention, and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was published to develop strategies to protect biological diversity¹. The Scottish Biodiversity Forum is responsible for implementing the objectives of the UK BAP in Scotland².

Between 1995 and 1999, action plans were developed for 391 species in the UK that had been identified as priorities. 197 of these occur in Scotland. In the 2008 assessment for Scotland, 5% of the species were increasing, 32% were stable and 22% were in decline. For the remainder of the species considered 7% showed no clear trend, 32% had an unknown trend, 1 species (Wryneck) had been lost since the commencement of BAP in 1994, 2 had been lost pre BAP and 1 was no longer considered a true species.

Between 1995 and 1999, action plans were also developed for 45 habitats in the UK, 39 of these occurred in Scotland. As at 2008, of these 39, 15% of the habitats were increasing, 28% were considered stable and 33% were in decline. For the remainder, 20% had an unknown trend and for 1 habitat the trend was unclear.





Source: Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/17)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/17>

Web link

[SNHi](http://www.snh.org.uk/snhi/) Scottish Natural Heritage

<http://www.snh.org.uk/snhi/>

[Scottish Government - Biodiversity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/16118)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/16118>

[Biodiversity Action Reporting System \(BARS\)](http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/)

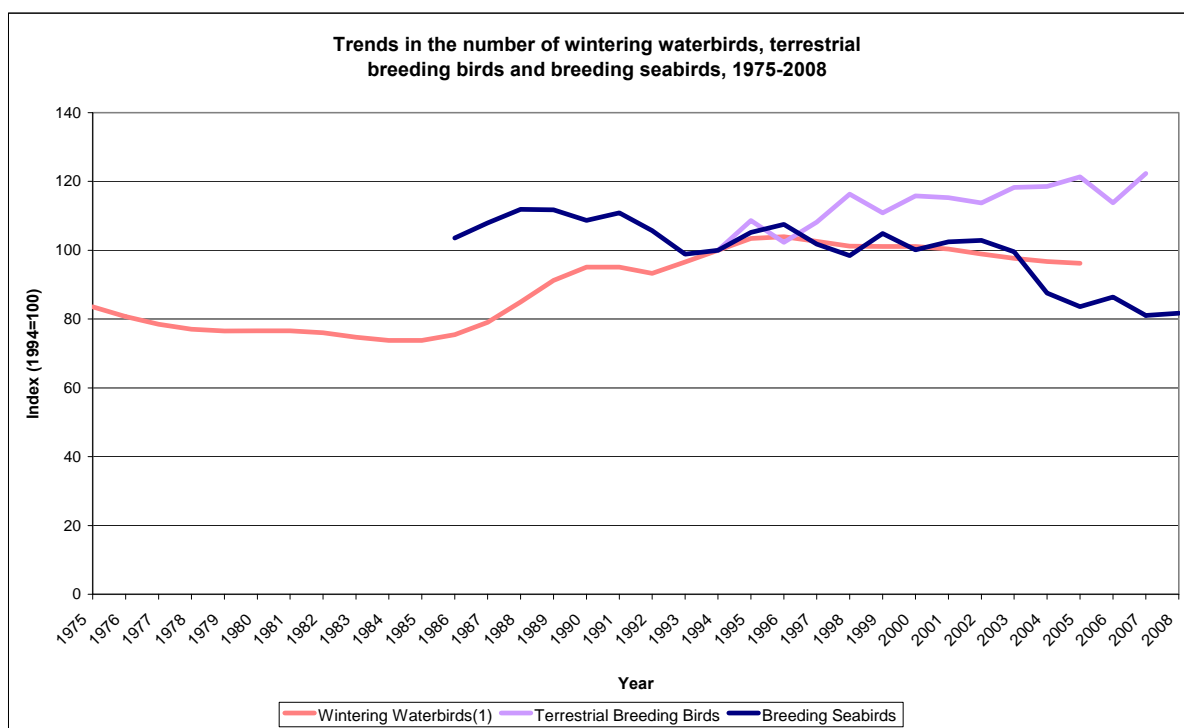
<http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

Status of Wild Bird Populations

Last updated: June 2009

Birds can respond relatively quickly to variations in habitat quality, through changes in breeding output, survival or dispersal. Since most bird species are relatively easy to identify and count, geographically widespread, abundant and diurnal, birds are often used as indicators of environmental change. The Scottish Government has established a National Indicator to increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds in Scotland against a 2006 base year. This is used as a proxy measure of biodiversity, as biodiversity cannot be measured by a single indicator. The graph shows the indices for terrestrial breeding birds, breeding seabirds and waterbirds.

The index for the 68 terrestrial breeding bird species showed a long term increase in the index of abundance by 22 index points between 1994 to 2007, the index of abundance increased by 9 index points between 2006 and 2007, this followed a decrease of 8 index points the previous year. The number of wintering waterbirds rose between the mid 1980s and mid 1990s, peaking in 1996. Since then there has been a steady decline, with the abundance of wintering waterbirds falling 8 index points between 1996 and 2005. Seabird abundance has been in decline since 1991, in 2008 the abundance of seabirds was 22% lower than it had been in 1986.



Source: British Trust for Ornithology/ Joint Nature Conservation Committee/ Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust/ Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group

Publication

[Scottish Environment Statistics Online](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/17)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/Q/TID/17>

[Scotland's Biodiversity Indicators](#)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/08091435/2>

[SNHi](http://www.snh.org.uk/SNHi/)

<http://www.snh.org.uk/SNHi/>

Web link

[The Breeding Bird Survey](http://www.bto.org/bbs/index.htm) – British Trust for Ornithology

<http://www.bto.org/bbs/index.htm>

[The Wetland Bird Survey \(WeBS\)](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/) – British Trust for Ornithology

<http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/>

[The Seabird Monitoring Programme](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1550) – Joint Nature Conservation Committee

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1550>