



The Scottish Government

Scottish Household Survey 2008 Quarter 2

Statistics Publication Notice



A National Statistics Publication
for Scotland

Scottish Household Survey (2008 – Quarter 2)

This is the latest in a series of quarterly Statistics Publication Notices which announces the availability of the Scottish Household Survey for a particular quarter. In accordance with National Statistics, this will help to ensure orderly and open access to the Scottish Household Survey (SHS). In practice, this means that the SHS for this quarter can be used to answer questions to inform policy from people within and outwith the Scottish Government.

The SHS is a rich source of information covering communities, transport and local government. This publication notice presents a range of results based on the main findings from the survey. Further details on the trends provided in this publication, over time, can be found at the Data Trends section of the SHS website (www.scotland.gov.uk/shs).

The apparent quarter-to-quarter fluctuations in the figures may well be the result of sampling variability. Quarter-to-quarter changes should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Communities

- Since the question was introduced in 2001, the percentage of adults who make use of the internet for personal use has risen steadily from 29 per cent in the first quarter of 2001 to 60 per cent in the second quarter of 2008. Men make greater personal use of the internet than women.
- The data on respondents' perceptions of their neighbourhood as a good place to live shows very little change over the nine years to 2008. In 2008 quarter 2, 56 per cent said it was a very good place to live, and a further 37 per cent agreed that it was a fairly good place to live.
- Since the survey started, the percentage of households where either the respondent or their partner has a bank or building society, credit union or post office account has risen from around 85 per cent in 1999 to about 94 per cent in the second quarter of 2008.
- Since the survey started, around 12 per cent of households contain at least one person who needs regular help or care.

Transport

- Since the survey started in 1999, the percentage of households without a car has fallen from around 37 per cent to around 30 per cent, and the percentage with two cars has risen from roughly 15 per cent to over 20 per cent.
- More than three-quarters of men aged 17+ have a full driving licence compared with around 60 per cent of women - a rise on 1999 for females.

- The percentage who said that they work at or from home has increased from around 7 per cent in 1999 to around 10 per cent in 2008 quarter 2.
- Almost 70 percent of those who travel to work usually go by car or van, around 12 per cent walk and around one in ten people take the bus. The percentage driving appears to have increased, whilst those travelling as a passenger has decreased, thereby increasing the overall usage of cars to work since 1999.

Housing

- Data on tenure from the Scottish Household Survey show gradual but relatively consistent changes for home ownership and renting from public authorities (local authorities or Scottish Homes).
- While the overall proportion of owner-occupiers has increased slightly between 1999 and 2008 quarter 2 to around 68%, the proportion who are buying with help of a mortgage has fallen gradually since 2002. This coincides with the rise in house prices in Scotland at that time and the associated drop in the proportion of first-time buyers.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of those who own their homes outright has steadily increased, from 22% in 1999 to 32% in 2008 quarter 2.
- The proportion of respondents renting from public authorities (local authorities and Scottish Homes) has nearly halved since 1999, from 29% to under 16% in the second quarter of 2008.
- The data show a gradual increase in the proportion of respondents renting from a private landlord over recent years, from 5% in 1999 to just over 7% in 2008 quarter 2. The other data on tenure show a situation of relative stability.

Recycling

- The percentage of households reporting recycling glass, plastic, metal cans or newspaper / magazine / paper / cardboard increased from just under 53 per cent in the second quarter of 2003 to just under 89 per cent in the second quarter of 2008.
- The greater increase in the percentage of households recycling paper, plastic and cans compared with glass is a result of the introduction of kerbside collection of materials.

More detailed results are available for the full 2007 survey in the SHS Annual Report 2007 – further information available from the SHS annual publication summary pages (www.scotland.gov.uk/SHSPublications).

Background

The Scottish Household Survey is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general adult population in private residences in Scotland. The survey started in 1999 and is financed by the Scottish Government and undertaken by a consortium of Ipsos-MORI Scotland, TNS System Three and the Scottish Centre for Social Research.

The aim of the survey is to provide accurate, up-to-date information about the composition, characteristics and behaviours of Scottish households and individuals, both nationally and at local authority levels (every two years). The survey covers a wide range of topics to allow links to be made between different policy areas. There is a particular focus on information to inform policy on Transport, Communities and Local Government.

Results are reported in a series of quarterly publications, annual reports, topic reports and other Scottish Government publications which can be found on the survey's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/shs.

Anonymised copies of the survey are deposited with the UK Data Archive (www.data-archive.ac.uk) after each calendar year, together with supporting documentation to facilitate wider access to, and analysis of, the information gathered.

This is a National Statistics publication

This is a National Statistics publication. It has been produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice Protocol – see www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/cop/default.asp

These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Details of pre-release access will be provided in the Scottish Government Statistics Website under 'Forthcoming Publications'.

Contacts

Contact: SHS Project Manager
Telephone: 0131 244 0824
e-Mail: shs@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.scotland.gov.uk/shs

Published: 10 December 2008