



From mountain to sea

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 V2

Briefing Note

What is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation?

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a standard tool for identifying areas with relatively high levels of deprivation across Scotland. SIMD 2020 is the Scottish Government's sixth edition since 2004. It is a relative measure meaning it shows if one area is more, or less, deprived than another but not by how much. SIMD looks at multiple indicators of deprivation, "deprived" does not simply mean "poor" or "low income".

How is SIMD Made?

Scotland is split into 6,976 small areas, of roughly equal population sizes, called "data zones". For each data zone, by compiling a series of indicators, seven different domains of deprivation are measured. The domains cover income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

These domains are combined into one index, ranking each data zone in Scotland from 1, being most deprived, to 6,976, being least deprived.

Overall Deprivation in Aberdeenshire

There are 340 data zones in Aberdeenshire, representing 4.9% of the 6,976 data zones in Scotland. Within the context of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities Aberdeenshire has no data zones ranked within the 5% most deprived.

The lowest ranking Aberdeenshire data zone is ranked at position 569, within the 10% most deprived in Scotland, and is found in Fraserburgh (Fraserburgh Harbour and Broadsea).

Aberdeenshire has nine data zones within the 20% most deprived in Scotland, representing just 0.6% of the national share. All nine of these zones can be found in Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

29% of Aberdeenshire's datazones fall into the 20% least deprived in Scotland. These can be found across several of Aberdeenshire's settlements however also including Fraserburgh and Peterhead. This highlights that while areas within settlements can be considered deprived it does not mean the entire settlement is. 22 of these data zones are considered in

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the 5% least deprived in Scotland. Aberdeenshire's highest ranking data zone can be found in Stonehaven and is ranked at position 6,959 out of 6,976.

Individual Domains

Every data zone is also given an individual ranking for each domain.

Income

The income domain estimates the proportion of people living within the data zone that are considered as income deprived (based on the number of people claiming relevant benefits). Within Aberdeenshire nine data zones, from Peterhead and Fraserburgh are within the 20% most deprived in Scotland for income. 127 data zones are within the 20% least deprived in Scotland, representing 9% of the national share.

Employment

The employment domain similarly looks at the proportion of people who are employment deprived. Seven of Aberdeenshire's data zones are within the 20% most deprived in Scotland. Due to the significance placed on income and employment in forming overall deprivation, all but two data zones found within the most deprived for these domains form the nine most deprived overall in Aberdeenshire. These are concentrated in Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

124 data zones in Aberdeenshire are within the 20% least employment deprived in Scotland. 24% of Aberdeenshire's population lives within these data zones.

Health

Only one data zone in Aberdeenshire falls into the 20% most deprived in Scotland when it comes to health, which can be found in Fraserburgh. This domain measures seven indicators covering drug and alcohol use, mortality, long term health, depression, low birth weights and emergency hospital stays.

172 of Aberdeenshire's data zones are in the 20% least deprived in Scotland.

Education

The education domain measures school attendance and performance, the general population's qualifications, NEETs (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) and proportion of 17 to 21-year-olds entering university. Within this domain 21 of Aberdeenshire's data zone are considered within the 20% most deprived in Scotland. These include data zones from Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Inverurie, Huntly, Banff and Mintlaw. Five of these data zones are considered within the 5% most deprived in Scotland

95 data zones are within the 20% least deprived in Scotland for education.



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Access

The access domain looks at drive times and public transport times to key services and average broadband speeds. As may be expected from a predominately rural local authority Aberdeenshire performs less well in this domain. 149 of the 340 data zones in Aberdeenshire are considered within the 20% most deprived in Scotland when it comes to access. 52 of these data zones are considered within the 5% most deprived in Scotland. The lowest ranking data zone is found in the Inch, Oyne and Ythanwells area and is the 53rd most deprived in Scotland for access.

50 of Aberdeenshire's data zones are considered to be within the 20% least deprived in Scotland for access.

Crime

The crime domain looks at the number of recorded crimes within a data zone. 84 of Aberdeenshire's data zones are considered within the 20% most deprived when it comes to crime in Scotland. While the majority of these can be found within Peterhead and Fraserburgh, also included in the worst performing areas are data zones from Inverurie, Stonehaven, Huntly, Banchory, Ellon and Macduff. Seven data zones are within the 5% most deprived in Scotland. The lowest ranking data zone for this domain is Peterhead Harbour which has been scored as the 30th most deprived area in regard to crime in Scotland.

124 of Aberdeenshire's data zones can be found in the 20% least deprived in Scotland. Of these, 48 data zones have had their figures for the number of crimes recorded suppressed as the value is too low (2 or less).

Housing

The housing domain considers those households classed as "overcrowded" and those households without central heating. There are just seven data zones in Aberdeenshire that are considered within the 20% most deprived in Scotland for housing, although one is within the 5% most deprived. 112 are considered within the 20% least deprived for housing.

Revision Notice

In April 2020 the Scottish Government issued a Revision Notice called Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020v2 amending the income domain ranks due to a previous error, affecting both the income domain and overall SIMD ranks. This has had a minor effect on the Aberdeenshire data which has been reflected in this update briefing note.



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Looking for more information?

The full dataset for Aberdeenshire will be available in due course, along with guidance notes and tools on how to use the data.

If you would be interested in a workshop on the SIMD data or are looking for a bespoke report, please do not hesitate to contact an Information and Research Officer:

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