

BUCKIE FORECAST

Buckie Locality Plan Monitoring Group



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The following information has been taken from national and local data sources to paint a picture of life in Moray, and Buckie in particular.



THEME 1: ECONOMY

Moray has a low wage economy. In 2020 the average gross weekly Full-Time wage (by place of residence) in Moray was £550.80. Moray ranks as the 3rd lowest weekly wage of Scotland's 32 Local Authorities. The average in Scotland was £595.

Almost a quarter of the Moray workforce (23.7%) are employed as process plant and machine operatives, or in elementary occupations, compared to 15.2% on average across Scotland. For positions that typically attract higher salaries Moray has relatively fewer people working as Managers, Directors or Senior Officials (7.3%) than the national average (9%). Across Scotland almost 4 out of 10 jobs (38.9%) are in Professional and Technical occupations, whereas in Moray the proportion for this type of employment is less than one-third (31.1%).

Evidence published by the University of Aberdeen earlier this year suggests that the impact of Covid-19 on lower- and middle- incomes is that it is pushing people further into poverty thus exacerbating pre-existing economic inequalities. More vulnerable groups such as the young, manual workers, those on low incomes and the self-employed are those hit the hardest.

Approximately 8,000 of Moray's working population (46,000) are employed within the Wholesale/Retail and Hospitality sectors, representing 17.4%, a higher rate than nationally. These sectors have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, as a result it is likely to have impacted negatively on the local economy, reducing the opportunities for young people.

In 2020 the Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) showed that:

- 21.5% of workers in Moray earned less than the Living Wage, a decrease of just over 1% from 2012. Nationally the proportion has decreased from 18.8% to 15.2% over the same period.

Information on apprenticeship numbers for Buckie is not readily available. However, at the end of June this year there were 669 modern apprentices in training throughout Moray. 57 of these started this over the summer, almost half of whom were aged between 16-24 years. After a reduction in people starting Modern Apprenticeships last year there are signs of numbers recovering back to 2019/20 levels. 71.6% of apprentices in Moray successfully achieve a modern apprenticeship, slightly below the average of 76.4% across Scotland. Last year 43 school pupils started Foundation Apprenticeships in Moray.

Since 2011 the number of business enterprises in Moray has increased from 2,865 to 3,180, an increase of 12%. Over the same period the number of enterprises across Scotland rose by almost double the Moray figure at 21%. In Buckie this year between April and June 4 new businesses started-up.



THEME 2: WELFARE AND WELLBEING

In 2019 an estimated 24.6% (around 613,000 households) of all Scottish households were in fuel poverty. For Moray this proportion is almost one-third at 32%, equivalent to approximately 13,000 households.

Food poverty is on the increase in Moray. Reasons for this are varied but include changes in personal circumstances, illness, welfare reform, low income, and unexpected bills. Between April 2020 and March 2021 Moray FoodPlus received 2,907 referrals and supported 7,386 people. Over the same period Moray Community Food Hub redistributed almost 18 tonnes of quality surplus food and over 8,500 litres of milk that would otherwise have been wasted.

Across Scotland 44% of households contain at least one person who is long-term sick or disabled. For Moray this situation exists in more than half of households (52%) which is equivalent to about 22,000 households.

The Phoenix Centre, part of Health & Social Care Moray, is a community facility in Buckie which opened in February 2015. The centre houses many different services providing support and resources to the community including the Phoenix Mental Health Day Service.

The proportion of people living in Moray who die before their 75th birthday, known as 'early mortality', has been around 14% lower than the rate across Scotland over the past decade and has been decreasing steadily over that period. In the west of Buckie and the Mains of Buckie the rate in 2019/20 was 371 per 100,000 people, very close to the Moray average of 358 per 100,000. However, in parts of Buckie the early mortality rate is 23% higher than for Moray as a whole and remains above the national rate.

Just like the rest of the residents in Moray, people living in Buckie are less likely to require emergency admission to hospital compared to the wider Scottish population (the rate for Buckie is 20-25% lower than the rate nationally). Moreover, for residents living in the Mains of Buckie or the west of the town the rate for emergency hospital admissions is less than the average for Moray by about 5%.





THEME 3: PLACE

In 2017 approximately 20% of Buckie residents lived within 500m of derelict land. While this was less than the Scottish average of 30% it was double the proportion of residents across Moray living near derelict sites.

Moray Council roads department is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of:

- 1,000 miles of road
- 350 miles of footpaths
- 25 miles of cycle tracks

In 2020/21 close to one-third (28.5%) of Moray's road network was considered to be in need of maintenance treatment. This places Moray Council as the 6th best performing Scottish local authority in this category.

Moray Council Local Housing Strategy contains an affordable housing supply target of 1,179 new houses to be built between 2019 and 2024 to meet the housing need in Moray. Of these 191 were identified as being needed for Buckie.

According to the most recent Scottish Household Survey (undertaken in 2019) Moray is perceived to have relatively low levels of vandalism, graffiti and rowdy behaviour. The common observations about anti-social behaviour concern rubbish and litter (36% of people living in Moray who responded to this question had experienced this problem), and animal nuisance, which had affected 46% of the Moray respondents. The survey found that 95% of the residents questioned in Moray rated their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live, just above the national average of 94%.

Nature includes green spaces (vegetation) and 'blue spaces' referring to the visible surface waters of lakes, rivers and coastal water. Some studies have shown that green and blue spaces have positive effects on our physical and mental health. If neighbourhoods can be designed so that all people can take a stroll in a garden or enjoy a good book on a shaded bench – and feel comfortable while there – there can be a positive effect on mental health. Furthermore, accessible greenspace can improve the sense of being connected to your local community and playing a role within it. About one-third of Moray residents visit their nearest green or blue space several times a week or every day. However, almost the same proportion say they never visit such places at all. The majority of people in Moray are satisfied, or fairly satisfied, with their nearest green or blue space according to the 2019 Scottish Household Survey. However, the proportion of satisfied residents has been gradually decreasing from 91% in 2013 to 71%.

Across Moray the majority of people believe that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem (65% of Moray respondents to the 2019 Scottish Household Survey), while 1 in 5 believe it is more of a problem for the future. Relatively few are not convinced that it is happening or that it is not really a problem.

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