

Falkirk as a Location

Statistical information on the Council area

April 2011



Falkirk Council

Introduction

Falkirk is situated right at the centre of Scotland. It has a growing population of over 152,000, with over 60,000 people working in the area. The main towns are Falkirk itself, Grangemouth - Scotland's premier port and home to its only major oil refinery - Bo'ness, Denny, Larbert and Stenhousemuir.

Falkirk is one of the best connected areas in Scotland – within half an hour of two major European cities, just 20 minutes drive from Edinburgh airport, with excellent motorway and train links and a sea terminal. 60% of Scotland's population is within a 60 minute journey.

Grangemouth is Scotland's largest deep sea container port, with excellent road and rail connections. Warehousing and distribution are key growth areas. Grangemouth's major industry is chemicals with BP, Ineos, Syngenta, Avecia and Rhom & Haas located in the area. Other key sectors in the Falkirk area include vehicle manufacturing, timber processing, tourism and leisure.

Falkirk town is the main administrative and shopping centre for the area. It has a vibrant town centre with many of the major retail chains including Marks and Spencer and BHS located there. It ranks well above what might be expected for a town of Falkirk's size in the retail hierarchy. Development and regeneration plans for each of the other town centres are progressing.

New housing is developing rapidly and house prices are competitive compared to surrounding areas. Traditional villas and canal side developments are attracting people to come and live in the area.

The Community Schools Project resulted in all eight high schools in the Falkirk area being rebuilt in 2009. This has enhanced the role which the schools will play in their community. Each school will become the focal point of each community in terms of community participation, lifelong learning and active citizenship.

Forth Valley College provides further education services to the community with over 10,000 students currently enrolled in Falkirk. The college provides courses in engineering, business administration and call centre training. A HMIe review rated the College at the highest level ever achieved by any FE college in Scotland.

The world famous Falkirk Wheel was built as part of the Millennium project to re-open the historic Forth & Clyde and Union canals. It is currently attracting over 400,000 visitors each year. This adds to the existing attractions of the Antonine Wall - the Roman Empire's most northerly frontier and part of a World Heritage site designated in 2008 - the unique Dunmore Pineapple, Callender House, Blackness Castle, Bo'ness Steam Railway and the Scottish Railway Museum.

In a joint project with British Waterways and Central Scotland Forest Trust, the Council has secured £25m of Big Lottery funding for the Helix Eco Park project which will consist of an environmental community with a second boat lift built in the form of two giant kelpies.

The fantastic new multi-use Falkirk Community Stadium adds to the area's numerous leisure facilities which include an indoor and outdoor athletic stadium in Grangemouth, 7 golf courses, canal network, parks and cycle paths. The Eco Park is the newest green space being created in the area, the vision is an urban park that will provide residents and visitors with a series of outdoor rooms providing opportunities for a range of recreational activities and habitats for wildlife.

The Falkirk area has much to commend it as a location for business and as a place in which to live, work and visit. The My Future's in Falkirk initiative is a transformational economic development programme for the Falkirk area, delivered by a radically open partnership between Falkirk Council, BP and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley. The 10 year initiative is already delivering real benefits for the economy, environment and social fabric of the area. The overall objective is to make the Falkirk area an even better location for business investment, families and visitors. For more information on current action areas visit www.myfuturesinfalkirk.co.uk.

Population

The population of the Falkirk area is increasing. It currently stands at 152,480 (2009) but it is expected to grow to 171,211 by 2033 (an increase of 13%), making it one of the fastest growing areas in Scotland. The population of the area has increased by more than 5 percent over the last decade, with most of this growth taking place in the last four to five years.

The tables below show the estimated age groups for Falkirk Council compared to Scotland in 2010 and eight settlements population estimates for 2009

Age Group Estimations are:

Age Group	Falkirk		Scotland	
	2009	%	2009	%
<15	26,357	17.29%	850,477	16.37%
15-29	27,728	18.18%	1,027,095	19.77%
30-44	32,787	21.50%	1,048,544	20.19%
45-59	31,522	20.67%	1,079,180	20.78%
60+	34,086	22.35%	1,188,704	22.89%
Total	152,480		5,194,000	

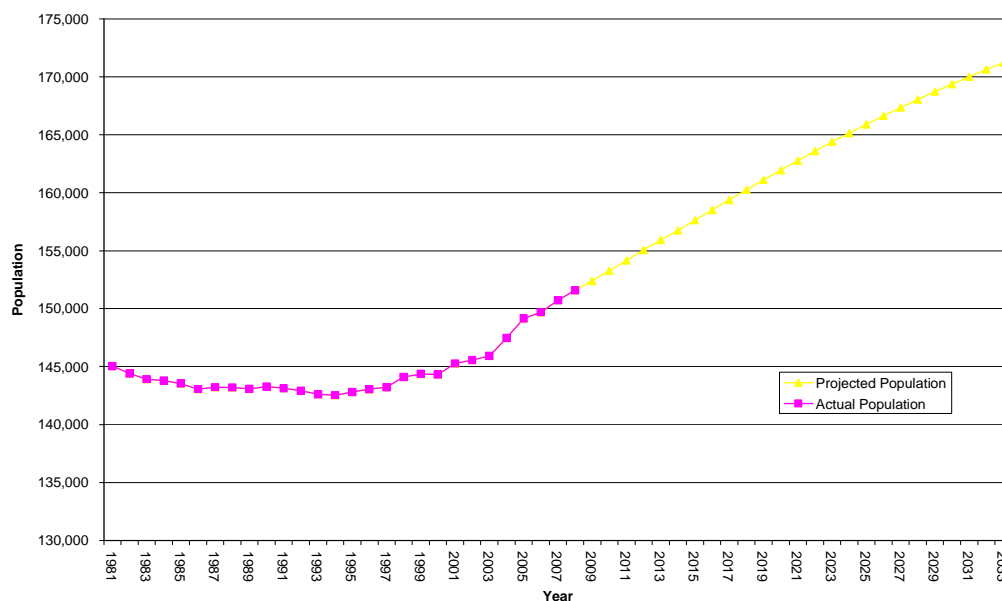
Source: GROS population estimates, 2009

The populations of the main towns are:

Settlement	Population
Falkirk	34,939
Grangemouth	16,838
Bo'ness	14,449
Stenhousemuir	10,190
Denny	7,813
Larbert	7,796
Polmont	5,321
Bonnybridge	5,359

Source: Falkirk Council settlement population estimates, 2009

Graph: Population Projections for Falkirk Council 1981-2033



Labour Market.

Falkirk has more people employed within manufacturing than Scotland as a whole, particularly related to the chemicals and petro-chemicals industries.

Table: Jobs by Sector

	Total		Scotland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Primary (agriculture, mining, utilities)	700	1.2%	95,400	4.0%
Manufacturing	7,200	12.7%	187,800	7.9%
Construction	4,300	7.6%	132,200	5.5%
Wholesale and Retailing	10,400	18.4%	351,400	14.7%
Hotels and restaurants	3,400	6.0%	173,400	7.3%
Public sector	18,200	32.2%	732,300	30.7%
Financial Services	900	1.6%	120,800	5.1%
Transportation and Communication	4,000	7.1%	159,600	6.7%
Other Services	7,400	13.1%	429,600	18.0%
Total	56,500	100.0%	2,382,500	100.0%

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey 2009

Note: for confidentiality reasons the figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Business Sector

Within the manufacturing sector, Scotland had a gross value added of £13,985.6m. Falkirk (11.1%) was the top local authority for gross value added, followed by, Glasgow (9%), Fife (7.5%) and North Lanarkshire (6.0%).

Table: Manufacturing by local authority

Local Authority	Year	Gross Value Added at Basic Prices £m
Falkirk	2006	2,070.6
	2007	1,790.9
	2008	1,546.3
North Lanarkshire	2006	676.0
	2007	724.9
	2008	836.9
Fife	2006	961.2
	2007	919.9
	2008	1,042.3
Glasgow, City of	2006	1,233.4
	2007	1,422.3
	2008	1,258.7

Source: Scottish Annual Business Statistics, Scottish Government, 2008

The table below illustrates the different sectors within the manufacturing category of the Annual Business Statistics. The highest number of employees in this sector is within the metal goods etc with 2,500 employees.

Table: Falkirk Council: Manufacturing Sector 2008

	Total Employees Th's	Gross Value Added at Basic Prices £m	Gross Value Added Per Employee £
Food Products and beverages	1.5	88.3	60,335
Textiles, Footwear, Leather and Clothing	*	*	*
Petroleum Products, Chemicals & Minerals	*	*	*
Metal Goods, Mechanical Engineering & Transport Equipment	2.5	*	*
Electrical and Instrument Engineering	0.2	10.8	55,623
Other Manufacturing	1.3	50.0	38,181
Totals	8.4	1,546.3	183,418

Source: Scottish Government Annual Business Statistics
* not available due to confidentiality constraints

The table below provides a break down on the different industries within the service sector in Falkirk Council for 2008. The highest number of employees within the service sector is in the category of retail trade with 7,400 employees.

Table: Falkirk Council: Service Sector, 2008

	Total Employees Th's	Total Turnover £m	Gross Value Added at Basic Prices £m	Gross Value Added Per Employee £
Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; retail sale of automotive fuel	1.2	241.4	40.8	33,334
Wholesale trade and commission trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2.2	3,419.2	152.1	68,468
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; repair of personal and household goods	7.4	685.0	164.4	22,124
Hotels and restaurants	3.5	82.5	45.4	12,965
Transport, storage & communication	3.8	494.0	178.3	46,728
Real estate, renting & business activities	5.7	411.9	262.0	46,314
Education, health & social work	3.0	61.1	36.4	12,324
Other community, social and personal service activities	1.9	262.7	57.9	30,890
Totals	28.7	5,657.9	937.4	32,679

Source: Scottish Government Annual Business Statistics

Income and Earnings

The average income for full-time workers in the Falkirk area is £24,089 compared to the UK average of £25,879 and the Scottish average £25,106. Gross weekly pay is below the Scotland and UK average¹.

Table: Gross Weekly Pay

	Falkirk	Scotland	UK
Full time workers	£478.0	£486.9	£498.8
Male full time workers	£521.0	£521.8	£538.2
Female full time work	£427.2	£430.1	£439.0

¹ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2010

Unemployment

The table below illustrates unemployment rates in the Falkirk area and across Scotland and the United Kingdom as a whole. Overall, unemployment in Falkirk is higher than the Scottish and UK average for January 2011. The rate of unemployment claimants for males (7.3%) is higher than both the Scottish rate of 6.3% and the UK rate of 5.2%. The rate of unemployment for females is higher than both the Scottish and UK average (2.3%).

Table: Unemployment for January 2011

Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Falkirk	3,558	7.3%	1,193	2.4%	4,751	4.8%
Scotland	106,193	6.3%	39,968	2.3%	146,161	4.3%
United Kingdom	1,050,720	5.2%	454,348	2.3%	1,505,068	3.7%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Counts for January 2011

Unemployment declined steadily over the past decade until recently. The table below shows the January unemployment rates for the past decade. The rise in rates since 2008 is due to the economic recession.

Table: Rate of Unemployment

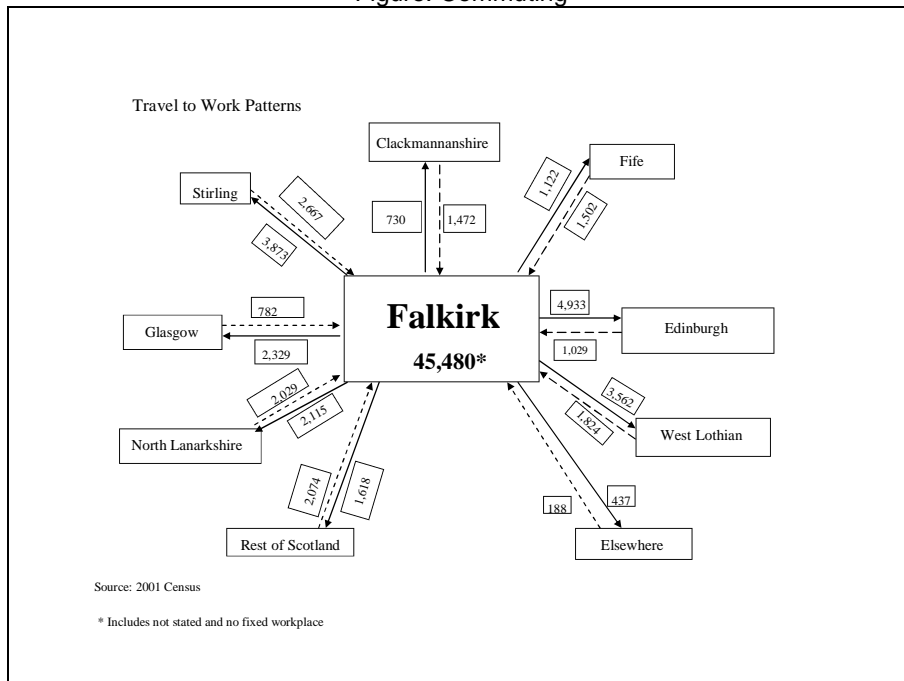
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Falkirk	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.1	3.6	4.5	4.8
Scotland	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.2	3.2	4.2	4.3
United Kingdom	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.1	3.2	4.1	3.7

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Counts for January 2001-2011

Commuting

The table below highlights significant commuting in and out of the Falkirk area.

Figure: Commuting



Education and Qualifications

School Qualifications

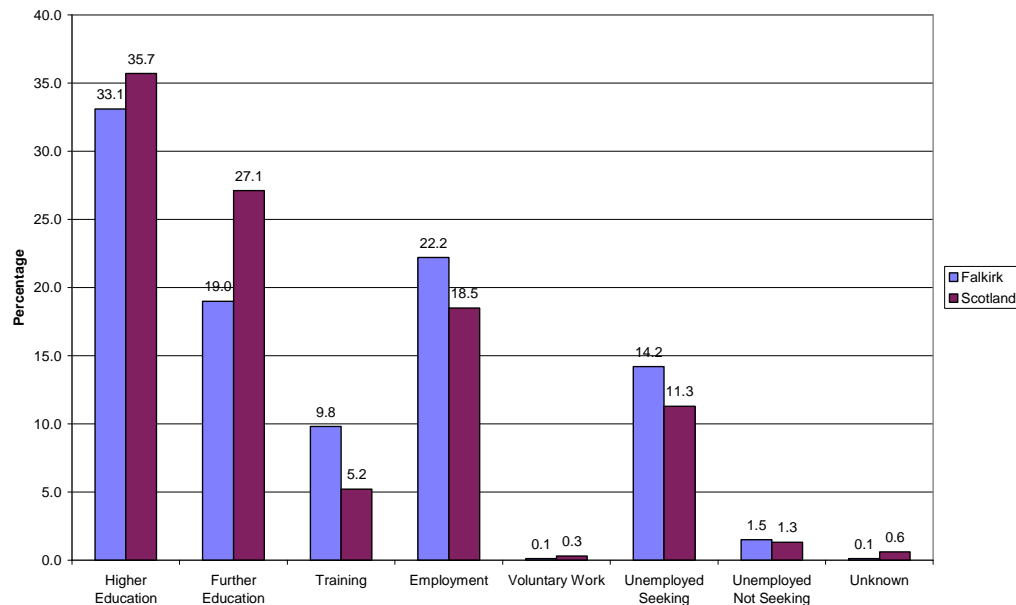
The level of school qualifications achieved in Falkirk is slightly below the Scottish rate. This is shown in the table below.

Table: Attainment Levels

		Falkirk	Scotland
S4	5+ Standard at 1-4	77.3%	77.6%
S5	3+ Higher at A-C	20.9%	23.4%
	5+Highers at A-C	44.9%	49.7%
S6	3+Highers at A-C	29.7%	31.0%
	5+Highers at A-C	17.1%	20.5%

Source: Scottish Government Attainment Levels 2009/2010

Destination of School Leavers



Source: Scottish Government School Leavers Destination Survey 2010

The percentage (33.1%) of school leavers entering higher education is slightly below the Scottish level (35.7%), while 19.9% of Falkirk school leavers go on to Further Education compared to 27.1% for Scotland. The number of leavers who go on to training (9.8%) is higher than the Scottish level of 5.2%. Those school leavers who are unemployed and are seeking employment or training is higher (14.2%) than the Scottish level (11.3%) this reflects the persistence of high youth unemployment in the Falkirk area.

House Prices

The average house price in Falkirk in 2010 was £126,691. The Scottish and UK prices for 2010 were £121,910 and £166,739 respectively. In 2010 the average house price for new houses in Falkirk was £183,508. 13% of all house sales were below £100,000, 26% of houses sold in Falkirk are between £100,001- £159,999 and 32% of sales are within £160,000 - £200,000. It is anticipated that over the next five years there will continue to be a considerable number of new houses built in the Falkirk area in spite of recent economic downturn.

Table: Average House Prices form 1997 – 2010

Year	Average Price	Number of Sales
1997	£53,417	2,328
1998	£53,526	2,503
1999	£57,271	2,602
2000	£60,853	2,801
2001	£64,566	2,999
2002	£72,008	3,336
2003	£79,207	3,626
2004	£100,758	3,623
2005	£110,132	3,862
2006	£121,326	4,004
2007	£135,088	3,985
2008	£135,807	2,803
2009	£121,185	1,664
2010	£126,691	1,871

Household Types

Falkirk has the following household types according to the Scottish Acorn groupings.

Table: ACORN Classification

Scottish Acorn Group	Falkirk		Scotland
	No.	%	%
A Affluent families	19,892	13.1%	10.3%
B Older prosperity	17,003	11.2%	13.0%
C Settled families	11,471	7.5%	7.1%
D Rural areas	3,379	2.2%	7.3%
E City lifestyle	2,347	1.5%	7.8%
F Young workers	8,079	5.3%	6.3%
G Traditionally comfortable	33,657	22.1%	18.6%
H Developing families	34,753	22.8%	13.1%
I Poor old age	16,011	10.5%	7.6%
J Struggling singles	3,887	2.6%	8.0%
U Unclassified	1,617	1.1%	1.1%
Total	152,096	100.0%	100.00%

Source: Acorn Classifications 2010

Business Property and Sites

The Falkirk Council Structure Plan is a strategic land use plan which provides the broad framework for detailed planning policies in the Local Plan and determining planning applications. The purpose is to indicate the general scale and location of future development in line with national policies set out by the Scottish Government. The Structure Plan contains policies covering the following key areas: overall approach to the development of the area, the number and location of new houses over the next 15/20yrs, the amount and location of new land that should be set aside for employment development, the location of new shopping and leisure development, the main transport proposals and the areas that should be protected from development. For a copy of the plan call Development Services on 01324 504 950 or email director.ds@falkirk.gov.uk.

The Business Property Register is an ideal point of reference for companies or individuals looking for land or property in which to start a new business venture, relocate or expand an existing business. To access this site visit www.myfuturesinfalkirk.co.uk or call Jennifer Anton, Falkirk Council on 01324 590975 for more information on availability.

Quality of Life

Living Conditions

Within Falkirk Council area, 67.4%² of households own their own homes; this is more than 66% for Scotland as a whole.

91%³ of people in Falkirk think that their neighbourhood is a good place to live in and 93%⁴ of people never experience any serious disputes with their neighbours. Within 2007/2008, 89%⁵ of people in the Falkirk area now have access to the internet. This is up from 34% in 2001/02.

Crime

Falkirk has a lower rate than other parts of Scotland with only 528 crimes recorded per 10,000 population in 2009/2010, compared to a Scottish figure of 651. The table below illustrates from 2007/2008 recorded crime in the Falkirk area has been declining. The clear up rate is well above the Scottish average - 61% of all crimes were cleared up, while only 49% of all crimes in Scotland were solved.

	2007/2008		2008/2009		2009/2010	
	Recorded Crime per 10,000	Clear up rate	Recorded Crime per 10,000	Clear up rate	Recorded Crime per 10,000	Clear up rate
Falkirk	642	57%	619	57%	528	61%
Scotland	749	48%	730	49%	651	49%

² Housing tenure estimates for 2009

³ Scottish Household Survey 2007/2008

⁴ ibid

⁵ ibid