

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2009 Briefing Note

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small areas of deprivation across Scotland. The SIMD provides a relative ranking of 6,505 small areas (datazones) across Scotland from the most deprived (ranked 1) to the least deprived (ranked 6,505).

The SIMD 2009 utilises data from 2007 and 2008 and this means that effects of the recent economic downturn are not picked up. However, it is not expected that these would have a significant impact on the relative differences across Scotland.

Key Findings from SIMD 2009: Aberdeenshire (301 datazones)

- none of Aberdeenshire's datazones were found in the 5% most deprived datazones in Scotland, compared with 2 datazones in 2006 and none in 2004.
- 4 of Aberdeenshire's datazones were found in the 15% most deprived datazones in Scotland, compared with 6 datazones in 2006 and 2 in 2004. So 2 datazones have moved out, but the remaining 4 were also there unchanged from the SIMD 2006.
- Only 12 of Aberdeenshire's datazones are found in the 30% most deprived datazones in Scotland.
- 55% of Aberdeenshire's datazones are in the least deprived datazones in Scotland
- of the 15 datazones in the 5% most locally deprived in Aberdeenshire 13 remain unchanged from SIMD 2006. 2 datazones have moved out S01000532 (in Banff) and S01000546 (in Macduff) and 2 have moved in S01000488 (in Peterhead Ugieside) and S0100539 (in Banff).

The overall pattern of deprivation has not significantly altered since 2004 in that the same areas of deprivation exist, predominantly in Banff and Buchan and Buchan.

Changes in the rank of a data zone do not necessarily imply absolute change in that area, merely relative change in the overall Scottish context. Changes must therefore be interpreted carefully and take into account absolute changes in individual indicators, population change in the area and absolute change in other data zones. Absolute change in some areas may cause a relative change in the rank of other data zones that haven't undergone absolute change.

A full report on the main findings for Aberdeenshire will follow.