

Economic Impact of Crofting Survey Results

4,000 crofters were invited to participate in a self-completion survey to understand the uses and financial situation of crofts. A total of 942 surveys were submitted via post, email or online, representing a 24% response rate. The response profile was representative of the population of crofters in terms of age, tenure and region. This document provides a summary of the responses.

Crofting background, demographics and key changes



68%
male

The number of female crofters continues to grow (up to 30%)



68%
aged 55+



42%
2 person household



48%
Crofting 20+ years
The % entering crofting in the last 5 years has increased to 17%



73%
raise livestock



43%
grow crops



18%
forestry/woodland

Financial issues in crofting and investment

Income

- 38%** no income from crofting activities
- 52%** <£1,000 from crofting activities
- 63%** had not received public funding in the last year
- 61%** income of £10,000-£50,000 from non crofting activities

Expenditure

- 57%** pay rent or mortgage costs on land or house
- 46%** said mortgage costs on house in last year was £5,000-£10,000
- 61%** who pay rent paid less than £50 in last year
- 82%** had no running costs or less than £5,000

Investment made

- 60%** had invested in their croft in last 3 years
- 46%** had invested in livestock
- 10%** received additional income as a result of their investment

Planned investment

- 62%** plan to invest in their croft in next 3 years
- 52%** plan to invest in livestock
- 36%** do not plan to invest due to the financial outlay being too great.

Sources of advice/ support

38% had looked for advice or support on crofting activities. Crofters were most likely to go to the Crofting Commission for advice.

60% know where to find information on economic or financial help on crofting activities.

Future of crofting - % agree

- 92%** Crofting is not economically viable without household members supplementing income from non-crofting activities
- 61%** Diversification from agricultural based crofting activities is the only way to secure the economic future of crofting.
- 42%** The Scottish Government is committed to protecting the future of crofting
- 34%** Believe crofting in its present form has a sustainable future

Peatland restoration, biodiversity and woodland creation

72% had not carried out these activities and 66% did not plan to carry these out in the future.