

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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**Area:** *Loch Abar (Lochaber): Inbhir Ruaidh, A' Cheapach, Drochaid Ruaidh, Both Fhionntainn, Gleann Ruaidh & Achadh Luachrach*

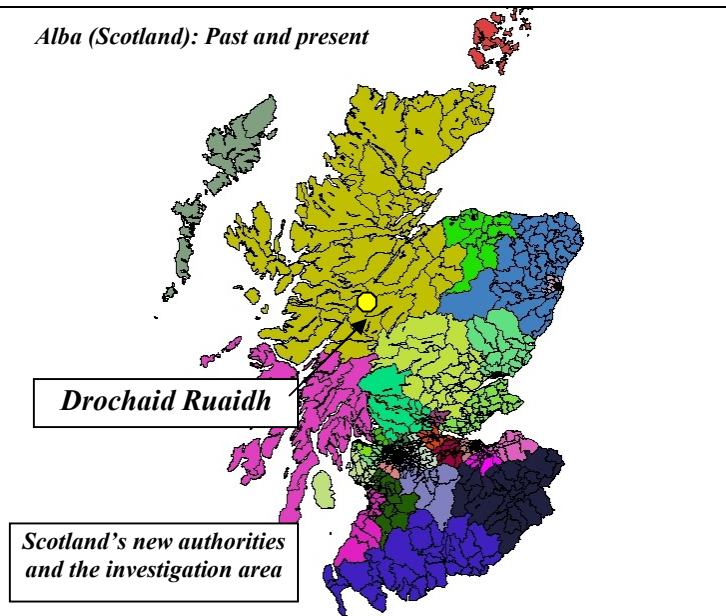
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Upper Inverroy, Lower Inverroy, Keppoch, West Bohuntin, East Bohuntin, Crenachan, Achvaddy, Braonachan, Braeroy, Annat, Achdarry, Roy Bridge, Achluachrach)

**Number of households:** 98      **Population present at census night:** 484

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 93.2 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Inverness-shire</i>	<i>Kilmonivaig</i>	Lochaber	12	1 – 11
			13	1 - 5
			14	1 – 6
			15	1 - 12

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

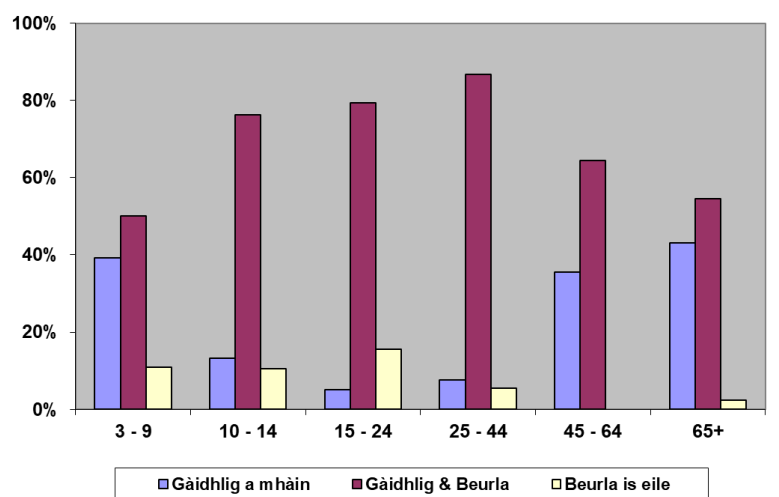
Most of the locally born and raised inhabitants still spoke Gàidhlig. Even around 20 % of them did not speak English, mostly at pre-school age or as older people. In *Inbhir Ruaidh* (Inverroy) and *Gleann Ruaidh* (Glen Roy) virtually all local people spoke Gàidhlig.

The relatively high proportion of English monoglots in the census publications of 1891 was superficially high because of the building of the West Highland Line. In this area alone 110 railway workers were enumerated along the line and their records incorporated in the published report.

## Area description:

The region under investigation comprises the mountainous country around the lower part of the *Gleann Spiothan* (Glen Spean) and the once populous *Gleann Ruaidh* (Glen Roy). The village of *Drochaid Ruaidh* (Roy Bridge) was the only notable settlement in the area.

Many of the inhabitants were engaged in one way or another with gamekeeping, shepherding, or simply servicing their lairds. Only a handful of gamekeepers remained in *Gleann Ruaidh* (Glen Roy) after the "Highland Clearances".



**Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all**

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>93.2 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>90.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>88.9 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>89.5 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>84.5 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>94.5 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>97.7 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>90.5 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>96.3 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>99.2 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>82.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45.8 %</b>

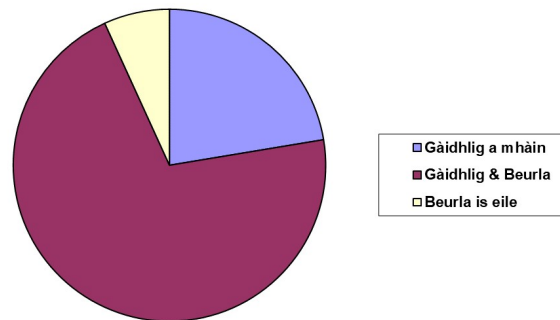
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kilmallie, Glenelg, Laggan, Boleskine & Abertarff, Urquhart & Glenmoriston (all Inverness-shire), Glenshiel (Ross & Cromarty) or Fortingall (Perthshire).

<sup>2</sup> Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms.

<sup>4</sup> Number of enumerated persons who were (1) older than 2 years of age, who were (2) not deaf & dumb and who (3) did not live only temporarily in the area.



Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

## Background of Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profiles:

The 1891 census was the first such enumeration exercise with an unequivocal language question. After more than 100 years the original census forms are publicly available for detailed analysis. During research concerned with the “Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Studies” a vast number of such local statistics have been gathered about the Gàidhlig speaking population of Scotland in that year. As many of these results could not be included in the reports these concise factsheets are a welcome way to publish some of the “local gems”. More information is provided at [http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP\\_english.htm](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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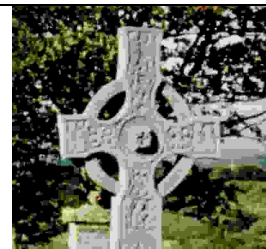
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Drochaid Ruaidh &amp; Gleann Ruaidh</i></b>	<b>98</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>93.2 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Inbhir Ruaidh (Inverroy)</i>	30	120	24	95	99.2 %
<i>Drochaid Ruaidh (Roy Bridge)</i>	40	120	10	92	85.0 %
<i>Both Fhionntainn (Bohuntin)</i>	22	88	38	45	94.3 %
<i>Gleann Ruaidh (Glen Roy)</i>	6	25	7	18	100.0 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>78.2 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>88.9 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>96.6 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>93.6 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>95.7 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41.7 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

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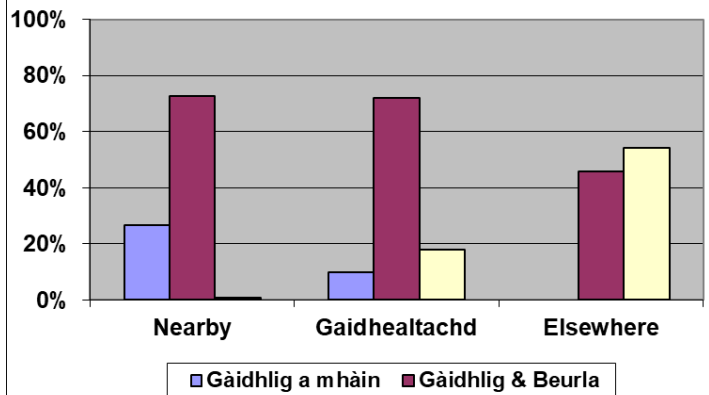
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The Gàidhlig language was spoken by almost every inhabitant except for those born far away.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Kilmonivaig or in the adjacent parishes of Kilmallie, Glenelg, Laggan, Boleskine & Abertarff, Urquhart & Glenmoriston (all Inverness-shire), Glenshiel (Ross & Cromarty) or Fortingall (Perthshire).

<sup>2</sup> Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby<sup>1</sup>  
(2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*<sup>2</sup>, or (3) elsewhere

## Remarks:

1. Official census figures reported 294 bilingual inhabitants and 83 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population (present a census night) of 484 persons (77.9%). The usually resident population of 353 persons, however, consisted of 329 Gàidhlig-speakers (93.2%) including 79 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. At the time of the census extensive works were underway to build the West Highland Line to *An Gearasdan* (Fort William). In the original census reports 110 railway workers were enumerated along the line in this region and their records incorporated in the published report. This led to very distorted percentages of Gàidhlig-speakers for this area. The resident-based statistics presented here provide a much more accurate picture.
3. Just 24 inhabitants did not speak Gàidhlig. The most conspicuous examples were a family of a former army officer from England (6 family members in total), a farmer’s family from *Crothaigh* (Croy) in Nairnshire (9 family members in total), and five domestic servants from Carlisle or Penrith respectively enumerated in *Both Fhionntainn* (Bohuntin).