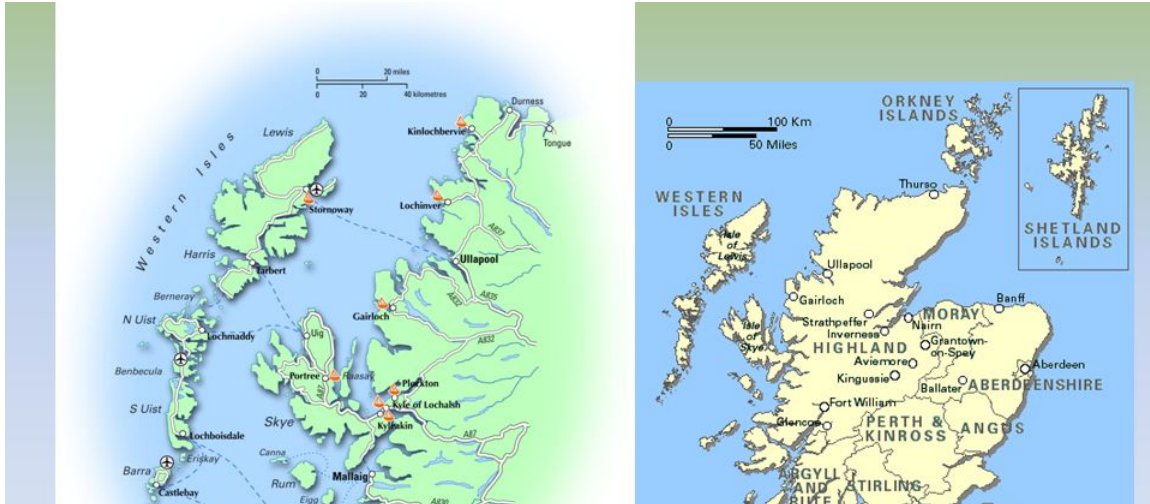
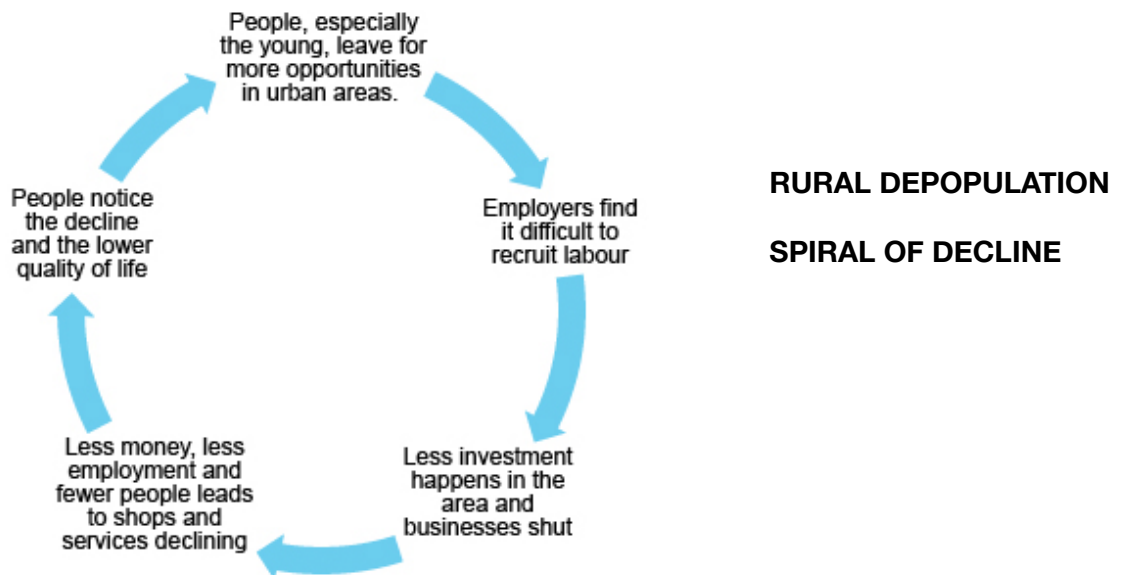


Outer Hebrides – rural decline



The Outer Hebrides (island northwest Scotland), population of 27,400 people, most live on the island of Lewis. It is suffering from rural decline (rural depopulation)

- Overall decline of over 50% since 1901 when 46,000 people lived on the islands
- Outward migration because of limited opportunities for young moved for better pay elsewhere



IMPACTS

- Number of school children falling, may result in school closures
- Fewer people of working age
- Increasing ageing population, with fewer young people to support them in the future
- Government subsidises towards costs of operating ferries and maintenance of services but it's still a struggle
- post offices and other services are closing
- Main farming breeding sheep on small farms called crofts which only provide work for 2 days per week
- 1948, there were over 900 fishing boats, by now there are just a few (prawns and lobster)
- Shellfish production has increased, but by foreign owned ships
- Development of fish farming limited due to concerns about the environment
- 2007-2014 there was 27% increase in visitors to the islands, but mostly in the summer months
- Current infrastructure is unable to support scale of tourism needed to provide alternative source of income