



Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley

# Travel to work and commuting patterns in Forth Valley

a report by cogentsi

Executive Summary (Phases 1 & 2)

COGENT STRATEGIES INTERNATIONAL LTD  
Killylung Dumfries DG2 0RL Scotland  
Tel +44 (0) 1387 720 462 Email [info@cogentsi.com](mailto:info@cogentsi.com)

[www.cogentsi.com](http://www.cogentsi.com)

June 2004

## Contents

Introduction .....	1
1 Living and working .....	2
2 A rising trend .....	4
3 The draw of the cities .....	5
4 Intermediate areas.....	9
5 In-commuting.....	11
6 Conclusions .....	12

## Introduction

*'Colonel! We're surrounded on both sides!'*

*civilian to officer (Stephen McNally) The Stand at Apache River (1953)*

Situated in the plumb centre of Scotland, Forth Valley is 'surrounded' to the west by the Glasgow conurbation and to the east by Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Although full details are not yet available, Census results confirm that commuting has become an increasingly important phenomenon in Forth Valley. The length and frequency of journeys into and out of the region has increased. Furthermore, in Forth Valley population growth has outdistanced job growth more than elsewhere in Central Scotland, so out-commuting has risen fastest.

This report summarises phases one and two of a three phase study looking at the travel to work and commuting patterns of the region. It is designed to summarise what can be said *now*, using information available at the end of May 2004. It begins with an overview of work and residence patterns and the rising trend in journeys to work. This is followed by a review of three types of commuting and the factors behind them:

- a. Out-commuting to the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow
- b. Out-commuting to the 'intermediate areas' of West Lothian and North Lanarkshire
- c. In-commuting to Forth Valley

The report draws on a restatement, from Forth Valley's point of view, of industrial and occupational specialisation across central Scotland based on employer information. From this it deduces, by comparing the pattern of work reported by residents in the Census with the pattern of jobs reported by employers, the net flows of people by occupation and industry. It also makes what comparisons are possible between the information revealed so far from Census 2001 and the data from 1991 Census, which was based on a 10 per cent sample of households that answered detailed questions on travel-to-work.

# 1 Living and working

- Most people still strike the balance between home and work by living quite near their place of work. Two-thirds of people living in Stirling and Falkirk also work there. However, in Clackmannanshire, which is smaller and has fewer jobs per resident, only just over half of people living there also work there.

residence	workplace					TOTAL
	Clackmannanshire	Falkirk	Stirling	Rest of UK and abroad		
Clackmannanshire	11,291	1,523	4,522	3,138		20,474
Falkirk	727	44,686	3,833	15,887		65,133
Stirling	1,289	2,527	26,276	8,170		38,262
Rest of Scotland	1,509	8,465	5,439			
TOTAL	14,816	57,201	40,070			

*lives and works in own area*

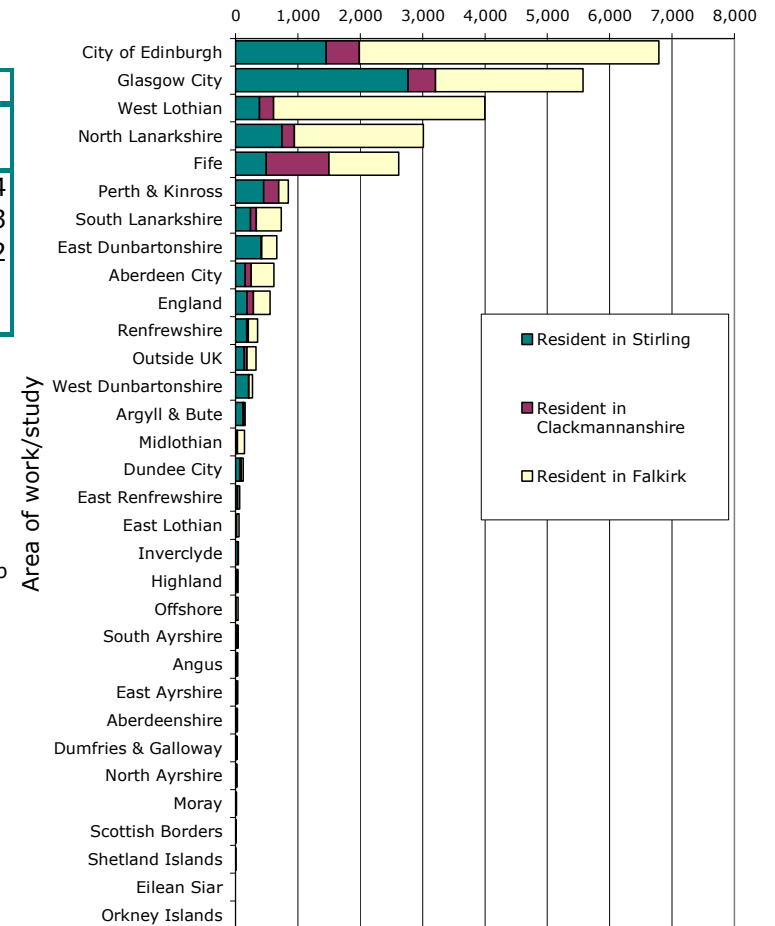
Source: Census 2001 Origin-destination statistics

**NOTE 1:** there are small discrepancies between the Key Statistic tables and the origin-destinations tables. This is probably due to the fact that information is not yet available for flows in to Forth Valley from the rest of the UK and abroad.

Ref: Y/Census 2001CD/Origin-dest/FV comm/x-tab

- There is significant interchange between Council areas within the region, but across the whole region there is very significant out-commuting, with more than a fifth of residents finding work outside. More than 27 000 people work outwith the region.
- As the graph shows Edinburgh is the major out-of-region destination, followed by Glasgow. There is also significant movement to West Lothian, North Lanarkshire and Fife. Long distance commuting – to England and Aberdeen – is far from negligible

Outward commuting from Forth Valley council areas



Source: Census 2001 Origin-destination statistics  
Ref: Y/Census 2001CD/Origin-dest/FV comm/Occht3

### *Forth Valley commuting*

3

- In-commuting is also significant, with one in seven jobs in Stirling and Falkirk filled by non-Forth Valley residents. More than 15,000 people travel in to Forth Valley for work/study.

## 2 A rising trend

- Commuting is going up. The total length of journey undertaken daily by Forth Valley residents from home to work has risen in the past decade from less than 1.7 million kilometres to more than two million. The median distance travelled to work in 2001 was 6.1km compared to 4.4km in 1991, and the mean was 10.1 km compared to 8.5 km.<sup>1</sup>
- The number of people travelling short distances (less than 5km) has gone down, the number travelling medium distances (10 to 40km) has increased and the number travelling longer distances (40km plus) has increased most of all.

### Travel to work 1991 to 2001 (km)

working population	Less than 2km	2km - less than 5km	5km - less than 10km	10km - less than 20 km	20km - less than 40km	40km plus	Estimated mean journey
2001 Stirling	7,740	5,591	4,286	4,598	5,100	3,080	12.8
2001 Falkirk	13,106	13,858	10,209	8,709	8,568	1,603	8.8
2001 Clackmannanshire	3,973	3,428	4,008	3,119	1,566	1,015	10.2
2001 Forth Valley	24,819	22,877	18,503	16,426	15,234	5,698	10.1
1991 Stirling	8,530	5,880	4,120	4,000	3,720	1,990	10.3
1991 Falkirk	14,830	13,690	10,260	7,780	6,450	1,240	7.7
1991 Clackmannanshire	4,730	4,450	3,820	2,770	890	930	10.0
1991 Forth Valley	28,090	24,020	18,200	14,550	11,060	4,160	8.5

Source: Census 1991 SWS A (residents), Census 2001 CAS222

General Register Office for Scotland © Crown Copyright

Ref DATA/Census 2001/commuting/migration-commuting/CAS22/1991-01

- Nevertheless, people are on average travelling 22 per cent further than they did in 1991
- 7,000 more people out-commute than in 1991
- and the net commuting has also increased by 3000

<sup>1</sup> Half the people travel less than the median distance, and half travel more. The mean is the average across everyone, and so reflects the small number of relatively long journeys

### 3 The draw of the cities

- Half of Forth Valley out-commuters (12,300 people) travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh.
- The table below shows that both Edinburgh and Glasgow have high levels of jobs density with more than one job for every resident of working age compared to 0.71 job per Forth Valley resident

#### Job density

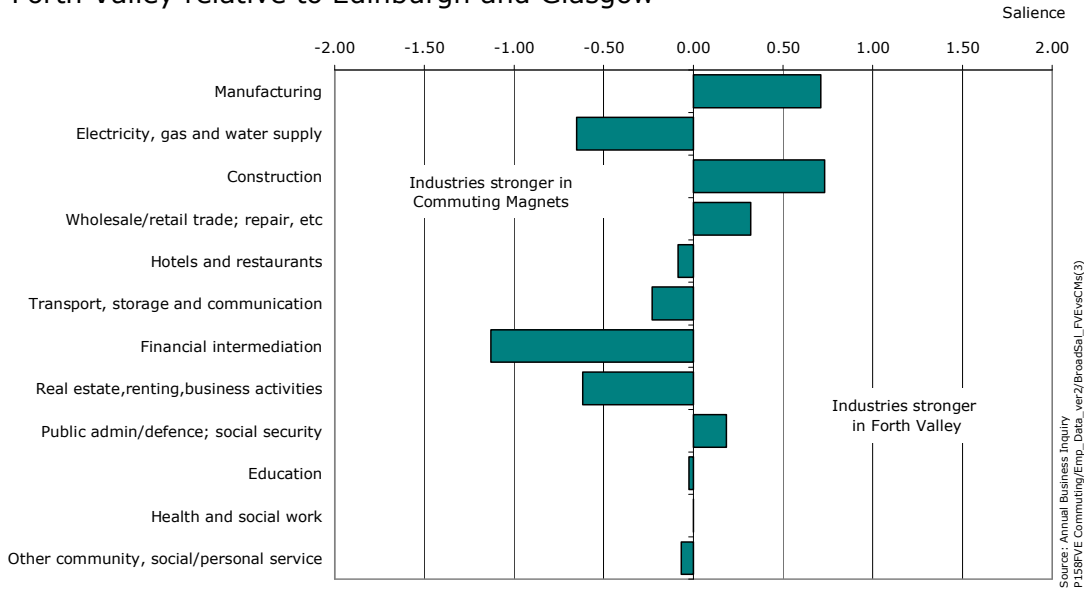
	employment	population aged 16-74	density	employment rate
Forth Valley	126,239	176,893	0.71	68.0
Glasgow	402,582	375,380	1.07	62.1
Edinburgh	331,864	300,314	1.11	77.3

Source: ABI, Census 2001, LFS and General Register Office for Scotland

Ref: P158 FVE Commuting/Emp\_Data(averaged1998emp/EGPG)

- In 2002 there were 113,000 people employed in Forth Valley which is 5 per cent of Scottish employment, and in the Cities some 694,000 people were employed, accounting for 30 per cent of Scottish employment
- The cities are therefore bigger, and offer a greater variety of jobs. However Forth Valley and the cities have in common wholesale and retailing and health and social work as important employers
- Where they differ is that at the broad sector level Forth Valley's second largest industry is manufacturing, but in the cities it's business services ("real estate, renting and business activities"). Also relatively strong are construction for Forth Valley and financial services in the city – the chart shows the distinctiveness of each relative to the overall pattern

Saliency of employment by production and service sectors in Forth Valley relative to Edinburgh and Glasgow



The chart below looks at this in more detail. To attract commuters into a city an industry needs to be both distinctive and large. Both Edinburgh and Glasgow have a large proportion of employees employed in business services (formally the real estate, renting and business activities sector). Edinburgh clearly stands out as the centre for financial services, and Glasgow has some other administrative and 'industrial capital' roles, including Glasgow shipbuilding which draws some workers from the western end of Stirling.

### Size and salience: Cities versus Forth Valley



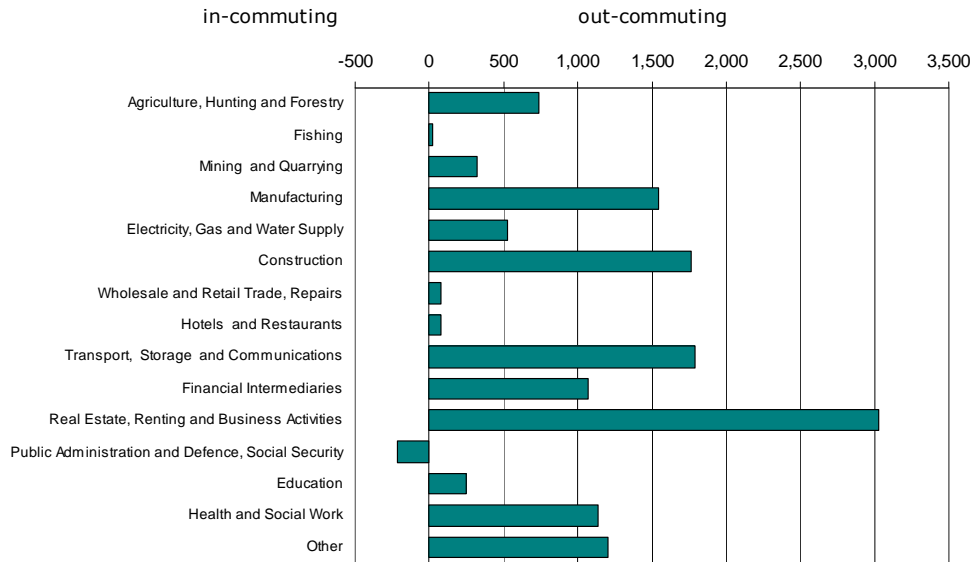
The industries within the commuting magnets which have the strongest pull are:

- Building and repairing of ships
- Transport via railways
- Security broking and fund management
- Investigation and security activities
- Other financial intermediation (eg stockbrokers)
- Banking
- Activities. auxiliary to financial intermediation
- Non-life insurance

- Research in the social sciences and humanities

It is these industries which draw commuters out. Net out-commuting by industry from Forth Valley is as follows:

### Estimated net commuting by industry based on ABI 2001 and Census



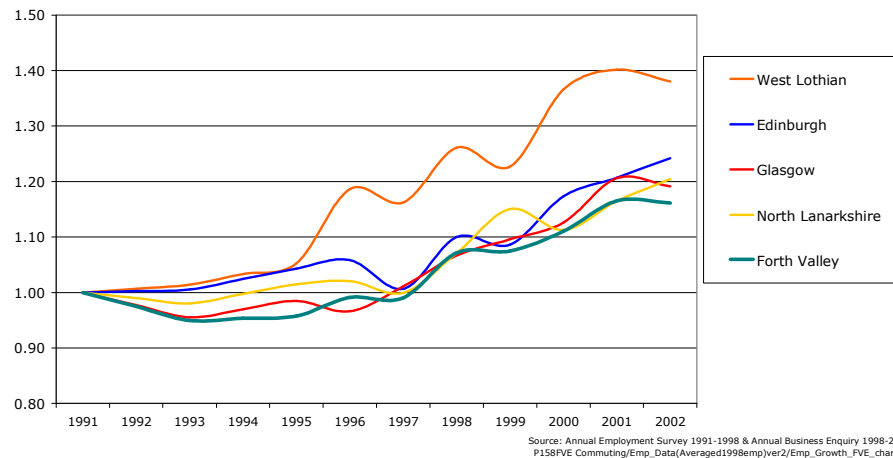
Source: Census 2001, ABI and cogentSi calculations  
Ref: P158/occup-ind2/FV

In terms of occupation within the finance and business services sectors managers, professionals and administrative workers commute out, And significant numbers employed in customer service occupations.

## 4 Intermediate areas

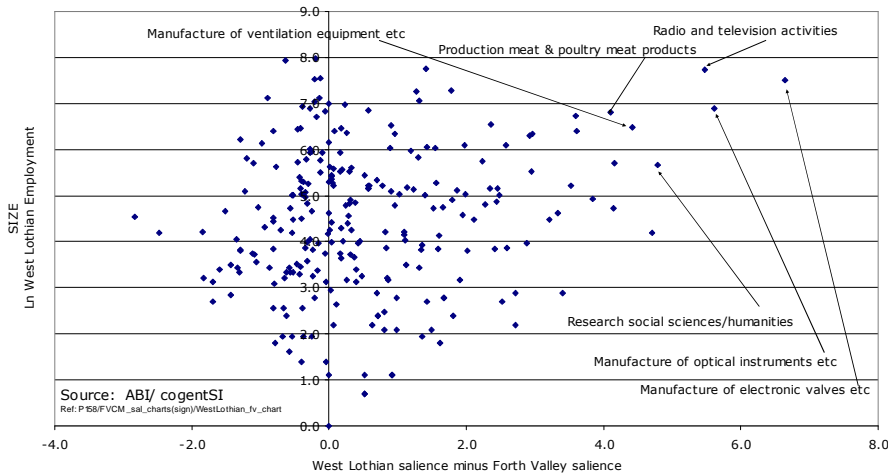
- After the major cities, 4,000 Forth Valley residents travel to West Lothian for work, 3,000 to Lanarkshire and 2,600 to Fife
- Over the past decade in Forth Valley and in the surrounding districts, employment growth has outpaced population growth. However it has done so more in West Lothian

Employment growth in the Commuting Magnets  
(1991 = 1.00)

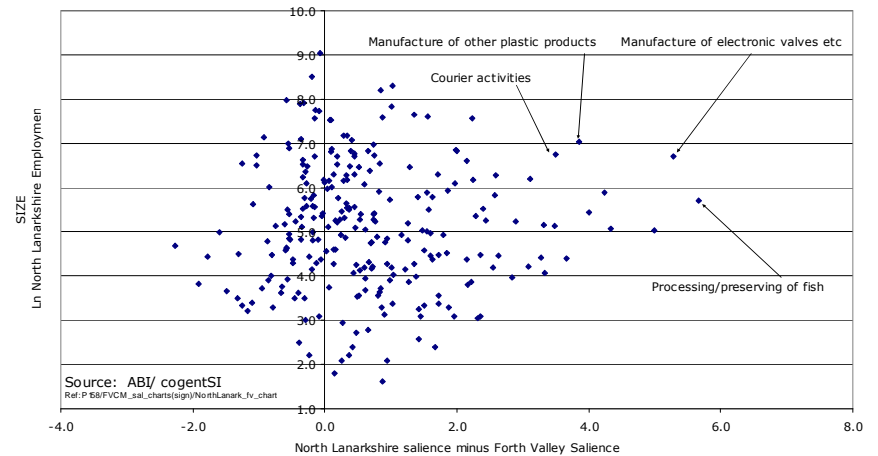


- Growth of the 'new' industries has been important
- The manufacturing sector in West Lothian has a net requirement for managers and professional and skilled trades personnel
- In North Lanarkshire, there is a net requirement in the transport sector for managers and drivers

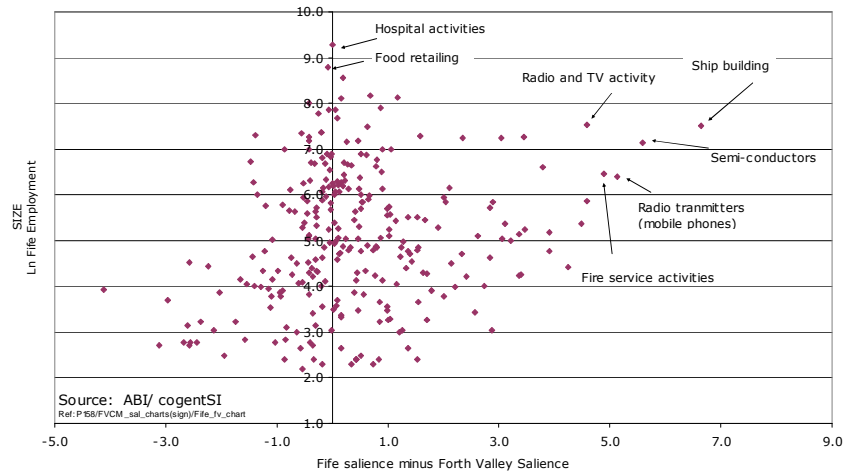
Size and salience: West Lothian versus Forth Valley



Size and salience: North Lanarkshire versus Forth Valley



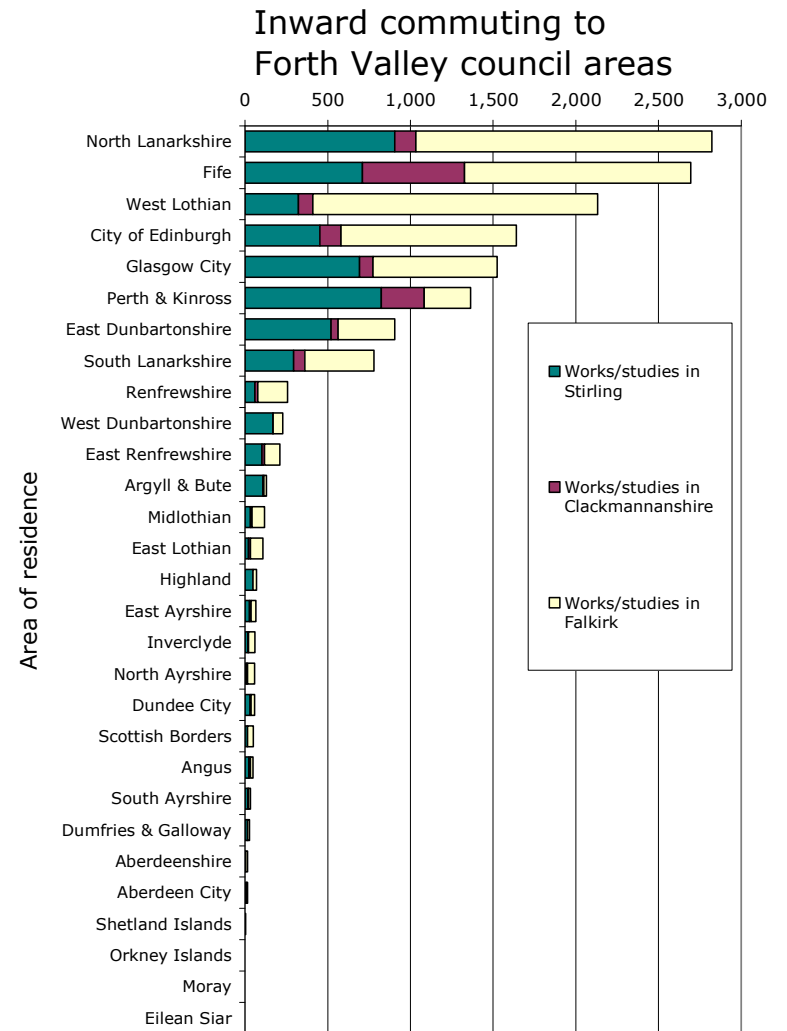
Size and salience: Fife versus Forth Valley



Data on commuting to Fife only became available as the report was going to press. Although there is virtually no net commuting there are significant but balancing flows in both directions, which have increased significantly since 1991. Therefore, we will be considering Fife in more detail in the next report in the autumn.

## 5 In-commuting

- In-commuting is also significant, with one in seven jobs in Stirling and Falkirk filled by non-Forth Valley residents. More than 15,000 people travel in to Forth Valley for work/study.
- There are differences between the regions Clackmannanshire draws workers in from neighbouring Fife whereas Falkirk pulls people in from North Lanarkshire and West Lothian
- Equal numbers from Glasgow travel to work in Stirling and Falkirk
- There is net in-commuting in skilled and elementary trades in manufacturing and in professional, technical and administrative roles in education



Source: Census 2001 Origin-destination statistics  
 Ref: Y/Census 2001CD/Origin-dest/FV comm/iccht1

## 6 Conclusions

Forth Valley's geographic position, situated in the centre of two major cities with a range of employment opportunities helps makes Forth Valley an attractive place to live. The rising trend in commuting and increasing population show that growing numbers clearly think so. The spatial pattern of commuting, where residents are commuting to and where in-commuters are coming from has implications for the transport and housing infrastructure. Congestion and demand for affordable housing are related issues. Commuting has long been a recognised issue in Forth Valley; the increasing trend would point to a need for discussion on the future balance between being a great place to live and a great place to work.