

# Scotland's People Annual Report 2017

A National Statistics publication for Scotland



Scottish Government  
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# **Acknowledgement**

The survey is voluntary and so we would like to acknowledge and thank the 10,680 people across Scotland who gave their time to take part in the Scottish Household Survey 2017, as well as a number of analysts in the Scottish Government who contribute to this project every year.

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# 1 Introduction to the Survey

## 1.1 Introduction

### The Scottish Household Survey is:

- a face-to-face survey of a sample of people in private residences in Scotland
- interviewer-administered in people's homes
- voluntary
- Scotland-wide; covers all 32 local authorities
- essentially 3 surveys in one: Transport and Travel in Scotland survey, the Scottish House Condition Survey as well as the Scottish Household Survey
- long-running since 1999
- wide-ranging in topics covered, including evidence on the physical condition of Scotland's homes
- a provider of robust evidence on the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of private households and individuals

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a continuous survey based on a random sample of the general population in private residences in Scotland. Questions are asked face-to-face by an interviewer in homes all over Scotland. Participation is voluntary, but is important in helping us make representative estimates for Scotland.

Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) is used to collect the survey data. This has a number of important advantages over 'pen and paper' interviewing techniques, including faster interviews, automatic edit checks and a quicker flow of information from the survey interviewer to the survey database.

The survey started in 1999 and up to 2011 followed a fairly consistent survey design. From 2012 onwards, the survey was substantially redesigned to include elements of the Scottish House Condition Survey<sup>1</sup> (SHCS) including the follow-up physical survey component. The SHS is now essentially 3 surveys in one: Transport and Travel in Scotland survey, the Scottish House Condition Survey as well as the SHS. The survey is run through a consortium led by Ipsos MORI.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.scot/SHCS](http://www.gov.scot/SHCS)

The SHS is designed to provide reliable and up-to-date information on the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of private households and individuals, both nationally and at a sub-national level and to examine the physical condition of Scotland's homes. It covers a wide range of topics to allow links to be made between different policy areas.

The specific aims of the survey are to:

- Meet central and local Government needs for priority policy relevant data across a broad range of topics (including needs for continuing time-series of data collected the SHS and SHCS previously);
- Be understandable and useful to stakeholders and so lead to a high level of buy-in and use of the SHS;
- Have built in flexibility to respond to different data needs regarding geography and frequency (e.g. to provide some data annually at Local Authority level, and some biennially at national level), and changes to these requirements over time;
- Align with other surveys and data vehicles (in particular the Scottish Health Survey and Scottish Crime and Justice Survey);
- Produce high quality data in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>2</sup> so as to provide data that is suitable for the production of National Statistics publications in a cost effective way;
- Permit disaggregation of information both geographically and in terms of population sub-groups (such as families with children or households in the social rented sector);
- Allow the relationships between social variables within households to be examined. This will support cross-analysis on a range of issues;
- Allow detailed follow-up surveys of sub-samples from the main survey sample, if required.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/)

## 1.2 Reporting

The SHS results have been reported **in a series of annual reports between 1999 and 2017**. The annual report is designed to act as an introduction to the survey and to present and interpret some of the key policy-relevant results at a national level. **Complementary local-authority tables** will be published soon after. Findings from the physical survey component and other house condition information will be published through a separate **Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) 2017 Key Findings** report usually scheduled for publication later in the year.

The SHS is the source of information on 14 of the 81 national indicators in the refreshed Scottish Government's **National Performance Framework**<sup>3</sup>. The SHS Annual Report provides estimates for 12 of these national indicators, an overview of these is in the Table 1.1.. One of the 14 indicators, State of historic sites, is based on the SHCS data, which will be reported on separately through the above-mentioned SHCS Key Findings report. The final indicator, Journeys by active travel, will also be reported on separately by Transport Scotland within their **2017 Transport and Travel in Scotland report**<sup>4</sup> which will also include the SHS Travel Diary 2017.

**Table 1.1: National indicators reported in the SHS report**

National Indicator	Topic	Chapter
Satisfaction with housing	Housing	Chapter 3
Perceptions of local area	Neighbourhoods	Chapter 4
Public services treat people with dignity and respect	Local services	Chapter 9
Quality of public services	Local services	Chapter 9
Influence over local decisions	Local services	Chapter 9
Access to green and blue space	Environment	Chapter 10
Visits to the outdoors	Environment	Chapter 10
Attendance at cultural events or places of culture	Culture	Chapter 12
Participation in a cultural activity	Culture	Chapter 12
Places to interact	To be reported on in SHS 2018	
Social capital	To be reported on in SHS 2018	
Loneliness	To be reported on in SHS 2018	

<sup>3</sup> Information on the suite of indicators which comprise the performance framework can be found at <http://www.nationalperformance.gov.scot>

<sup>4</sup> [www.transportscotland.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/publications/transport-and-travel-in-scotland-previous-editions](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/publications/transport-and-travel-in-scotland-previous-editions)

Additionally SHS data is published through the Open Data Platform ([www.statistics.gov.scot](http://www.statistics.gov.scot)), which provides a range of official statistics about Scotland for information and re-use.

Whilst this publication focuses on a number of key results, the SHS collects a wide array of information and so the SHS Project Team can be contacted with any additional analysis requests or enquiries<sup>5</sup>.

## Glossary and annexes

Guidance on using the information in the report and a glossary with detailed definitions of some of the key terms are included as annexes. Additional annexes present results on the main classificatory variables used in this report and provide guidance on assessing confidence intervals and the statistical significance of the results.

### 1.2.1 Additional SHS Reporting

Further technical information on the SHS will also be published through the **Technical Reports**. The Technical Reports comprise of two documents; one providing details of the **questionnaire**<sup>6</sup> used during 2017 fieldwork; and a more detailed technical report detailing **the methodology and fieldwork outcomes**<sup>7</sup>. From 2017, an accompanying SHS ‘Key Findings’ report is also published.

A number of other Scottish Government publications covering previous years are also available. A comprehensive listing of all publications is available from the Scottish Government’s website<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> shs@gov.scot 0131 244 1685

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationQuestionnaire>

<sup>7</sup> [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology)

<sup>8</sup> [www.gov.scot/SHSPublications](http://www.gov.scot/SHSPublications)

## 1.3 Comparability with Other Sources

In some cases the SHS is not the official source of statistics on a particular topic, such as income, employment or housing. The survey collects information on these topics to select the data of particular groups for further analysis or for use as background variables when analysing other topics. **The results are included in order to set the context for, and aid interpretation of the remaining chapters.** Where results are not the official source, this is indicated in the chapter introduction.

The Scottish Government conducts several major population surveys that are used to inform the policy debate in Scotland and in some instances the surveys can be complementary. The Long-Term Survey Strategy 2018-2022<sup>9</sup>, of which the SHS is a central element, aims to ensure that the Scottish Government's population surveys continue to meet key information needs while maximising the analytical potential of the data they generate. A guide is available providing more information on Scotland's surveys<sup>10</sup>.

There are also a number of Great British (GB) or UK surveys that include a Scottish dimension i.e. the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS), which provide statistics for Scotland on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity. The results from both surveys are available from the Labour Market pages of the Scottish Government website.

**Table 1.2: Overview of the preferred sources**

Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ)	Demographic data (e.g. age, gender, religion, ethnicity or tenure) Economic activity & qualifications Disability/long term health condition
Scottish Health Survey (SHeS)	Smoking Health information
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey	Fear and Perceptions of crime Confidence in the police
Transport and Travel in Scotland (TATIS)	All transport information, including the Travel Diary results
Family Resources Survey	Scotland level household income estimates

<sup>9</sup> Update on the previous survey strategy document (The Long Term Strategy for Population Surveys in Scotland 2009-2019) providing a progress report and details of planned activities over the next four years <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533188.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/scotlandsurveys](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/scotlandsurveys)

The SHS will continue to gather information on a range of topics to **contribute** to the **Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) pooled sample**. Pooling samples across the SHS, SHeS and Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) **enables detailed and reliable analysis of national estimates** by ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, education level and a wide range of other characteristics and estimates for low levels of geography, including local authorities. **The latest estimates for the SSCQ 2016 were published in April 2018<sup>11</sup>**, the 2017 data is expected to be published in 2019. The Scottish Government recommends that users refer to the SSCQ publication as the preferred source of local authority data for these questions.

**Table 1.3: Topics covered in the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ)**

The Scottish Surveys Core Questions in 2017 covered:

disability and long-term conditions	housing tenure
smoking	car access
provision of unpaid care	ethnicity
mental wellbeing	religion
perception of local crime rate	marital status
perceptions of police performance	sexual orientation
highest qualification held	gender
economic activity	self-assessed general health
household type	age

There are some key demographic and contextual SSCQs for which data continues to be published in the SHS annual report at national level and will therefore also be published in the SHS local authority tables, as well as in the SSCQ. This includes gender, age, ethnicity, religion, economic activity and qualifications, disability/long term health condition, and tenure. **Due to its higher combined sample size, the SSCQ data on these questions will offer a higher level of precision for users seeking standalone estimates for these variables.**

Due to methodological difficulties banded household income is not currently reported in the SSCQ and will continue to be published in the SHS annual report and local authority tables as another key contextual variable. However, it should be noted that the Family Resources Survey is the preferred source of Scotland level household income estimates.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/SSCQ>

## 1.4 Survey Design

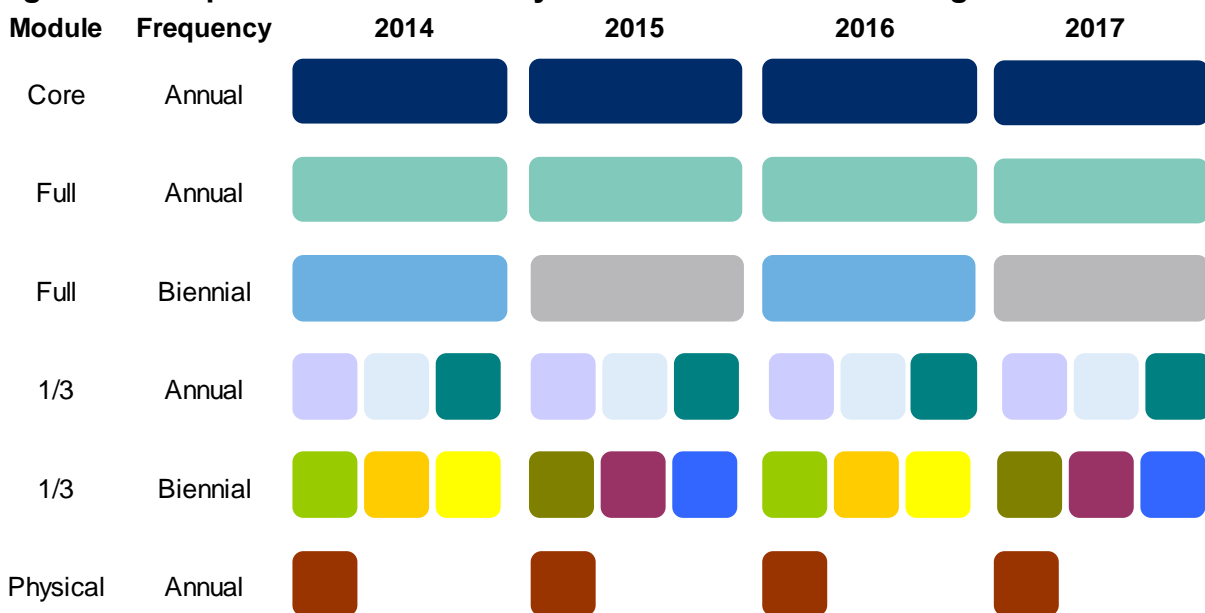
The current survey uses a **fully un-clustered core and modular structure**, meaning some questions are asked of the full sample and others of a one-third sub-sample. The overall **sample size is around 10,500** though improvements from the old survey design mean it is possible to obtain **local authority estimates on an annual basis** where sample sizes allow producing robust estimates.

Figure 1.1 provides a visual representation of how the core and modular design is structured within each year (between 2013 and 2017) and how this rotates and replicates across subsequent years. This includes a **“core” set of 20 questions which have been designed to be asked in consistent ways with other surveys**, such as age and gender. The subsequent **“modules” of questions have been designed to be flexible in terms of topic, frequency and geography**. For example, questions asked of the “full” sample and asked on an “annual” basis would be able to provide local authority level data on an annual basis. Similarly, questions might only be asked of “1/3” of the sample on a “biennial” basis (i.e. asked every second year). Such questions could only get national level estimates every second year.

The survey questionnaire itself is **structured in three main parts**:

- Household (including ‘Random Child’);
- Random Adult (including ‘Travel Diary’); and
- Physical inspection of dwelling.

**Figure 1.1: Representation of multi-year core and modular design**





The **household reference person, who is the Highest Income Householder (HIH)** or their spouse/partner, **completes part one of the interview ('Household')**. Details of all members of the household, including children, are collected during the household interview. This includes questions related to the composition and characteristics of the household, and involves capturing basic demographic information of all members of the household, such as gender, age and economic situation at this stage, as well as detailed information on dwelling characteristics as captured through the old SHCS. **The topics covered in the Household section of the survey are presented in Figure 1.2.**

Subsequently a child who is at school is selected from all household members under 16 (the 'Random School Child') and the household respondent answers questions about the school that child attends and the journey they make to go there.

**Figure 1.2: Topics covered in SHS 2017 Household component**

Household Composition	People living in household, basic demographics
Accommodation	Property type, Tenure & Length of tenure, Ownership of property, Previous home
Household Services	Number of bedrooms, Internet access, Food waste/recycling
Driving and Transport	Cars, Fuel spend, Bicycles
Health and Disability	Long-term health condition/illness
House Condition Survey	Noise, Responding to emergency, Repairs, Satisfaction with accommodation, Heating (including type of heating, control, cost, and suitability), Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Insulation, Adaptations
Household Employment	Employment details including status, working patterns, type of work
Household Income	Householder/Spouse paid/self-employed/other jobs, Benefits, Other sources
Household Finances	Banking, Savings and investments, Standard of living
Mortgages and Rent	Mortgage & Rent, Household costs including service charges and council tax, Managing financially

Once the composition of the household has been established, one of the adults in the household is randomly selected by the interview’s computer to complete part two (‘Random Adult’)<sup>12</sup>. This covers behavioural and attitudinal type questions, such as satisfaction with local services, and captures further demographic information on the random adult. This element also covers the ‘Travel Diary’ component which asks about travel behaviours on the day previous to that of the interview day. In all households with a single adult the same person completes both parts, but as the number of adults in the household increases, the probability of the random adult being the same as the household respondent declines<sup>13</sup>. The topics covered in the Random Adult section of the survey are presented in Figure 1.3.

**Figure 1.3: Topics covered in SHS 2017 Random Adult component**

Adult Characteristics	Basic demographics, Country of birth and date of entry
Accommodation	Housing experiences
Neighbourhoods and Communities	Rating, Belonging, Crime & Police performance, Anti-social behaviour, Safety, Discrimination and Harassment, Involvement with Neighbours
Education	Qualifications, Internet (including use and access, internet security)
Travel and Transport	Licence, Driving, Travel to work/education, Congestion, and Travel Diary
Local government, Volunteering, Culture, Sport, Environment	Perceptions of local government and services, Volunteering, Culture, Sport, Greenspace and Visits to outdoors
Health, Disability & Caring	Self-assessed health, Disability, Caring responsibilities, Smoking
Employment	Employment status & Government work scheme

<sup>12</sup> Adults who are household members but have been living away for the previous six months are excluded from the selection of the random adult. Children and students living away during term time are counted as household members but are excluded from the random adult and random school child selection.

<sup>13</sup> Where the same person completes both parts one and two (i.e. they are both the household respondent and selected as the random adult) the CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) script does not repeat the questions common to both sections. This means that these respondents are not asked for the same information twice.

If the household was selected to take part in the **physical inspection follow-up** the HH is asked if they would be willing to arrange an appointment for this at the end of the Household component of the survey. Such surveys are **conducted by professional surveyors through a visual and non-intrusive inspection of the dwelling**. The surveyor will assess the condition, design and energy efficiency of the home, with much of their time spent surveying the outside, but they will ask to see all the rooms inside. Results from the Physical Survey will be reported on separately later in the year in the SHCS report previously mentioned.

Further information on the SHS Questionnaire can be found via the relevant technical report on the SHS website<sup>14</sup>.

## 1.5 Sampling

Since 2012 **the SHS sample has been designed by the Scottish Government**. The sample design was coordinated with the sample designs for the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) as part of a survey efficiency project and to allow the samples of the three surveys to be pooled for further analysis.

The SHS sample has been designed to provide the following:

- nationally representative sample of private households
- nationally representative sample of the adult population in private households
- annual publication of results at a local-authority level as well as Scotland.

To meet these requirements the target sample size for Scotland was 10,678 household interviews with a minimum local authority target of 258. From 2012 onwards the physical survey of the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) has been incorporated into the SHS. A subsample of the main sample has been allocated to the physical survey, which has a target sample size of 3,004 for Scotland and a minimum target of 80 for each local authority.

**The sample is drawn from the small user file of the Postcode Address File (PAF).**

The overall design is a random sample, stratified to target a minimum of 250 interviews per local authority.

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<sup>14</sup> [www.gov.scot/SHSPublications](http://www.gov.scot/SHSPublications)

### **The main features of the design are:**

- First stage, disproportionate stratification by local authority;
- Within each local authority, second stage systematic random sampling was used to select the addresses from the sample frame with the addresses ordered by urban-rural classification, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) rank and postcode;
- Once the overall sample was selected, systematic random sampling was used to select the subsample for the physical survey.

As the samples for the SHS, SHeS and SCJS have all been selected by the Scottish Government since 2012, addresses selected for any of the surveys are removed from the sample frame so that they cannot be re-sampled for another survey. This has helped to reduce respondent burden and has facilitated the development of the pooled sample. The addresses are removed from the sample frame for a minimum of four years.

**The SHS response rate declined from 67 per cent in 2014 to 64 per cent in 2017 (the achieved sample in 2017 was 10,680).** Analysis carried out to date suggests that this has had minimal or little impact on the survey results. Further information on response rates and other such information will be available in the accompanying SHS 2017 Methodology and Fieldwork Outcomes report.

## 2 The Composition and Characteristics of Households in Scotland

### Main Findings

There were slightly more women than men in Scotland in 2017.

Twenty eight per cent of the population were under 25 years old while 24 per cent were 60 years or over in 2017.

In 2017, nearly three out of ten adults in Scotland reported having a long-term health condition, a similar proportion as in 2012.

The population in Scotland in 2017 is largely white, with nearly eight in ten adults (78 per cent) reporting having White Scottish ethnicity.

Nearly a quarter of all adults in Scotland were permanently retired from work. A half of adults aged between 16 and 64 years were working full time in 2017.

Since 2009, when this question started in the SHS, religious belonging in Scotland has been declining and this trend continued into 2017; a half of adults reported that they didn't belong to any religion.

Over a third of people in Scotland live alone; 40 per cent of adults who live alone were of pensionable age in 2017.

In 2017, only five per cent of households in Scotland were two adult families with three or more children, or three or more adult families with one or more children.

Six out of ten households in Scotland were owner-occupied in 2017.

Scotland's population in 2017 is largely urban-based, with over eight out of ten households in Scotland located in urban areas (including small towns) (84 per cent).

Just over a half (54 per cent) of households in Scotland earn less than £25,000 a year. Just over one in five (22 per cent) households earn more than £40,000 a year.

## 2.1 Introduction and Context

This chapter describes the types of homes in Scotland and who lives in them.

Collecting information on age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation provides an important contribution to the overall equality evidence base. This is used by policy makers to target services and tackle discrimination and disadvantage. The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) collects information about all household members, including children.

The age and number of people in the household are combined to give a **'household type'**. The SHS uses eight household types defined as follows:

- A **single adult** household – contains one adult of working age and no children.
- A **single parent** household – contains one adult of any age and one or more children.
- A **single older** household - contains one adult of pensionable age and no children. Pensionable age is 65 for both women and men.
- A **small family** household – contains two adults of any age and one or two children.
- An **older smaller** household – contains one adult of working age and one of pensionable age and no children, or two adults of pensionable age and no children.
- A **large adult** household – contains three or more adults and no children.
- A **small adult** household – contains two adults of working age and no children.
- A **large family** household – contains two adults of any age and three or more children, or three or more adults of any age and one or more children.

## 2.2 All Household Members

The gender<sup>15</sup> and age of all household members as well as whether a household member has a long-term illness or disability<sup>16</sup> are presented in Table 2.1. This shows that there were more women than men in Scotland, **28 per cent of the population were under 25 years old while 24 per cent were 60 or over.**

The highest income householder gives the characteristics of all household members, including children and answers questions on characteristics of the household. Due to the method of collecting this data, the household member characteristics of gender and age will be accurately reported. However, whether a member of the household has a long standing illness or disability is thought to be under reported as the household reference person may not know of individuals' conditions.

**Table 2.1: Characteristics of all household members**

Column percentages, 2017 data

All household members

		Gender	
		Male	49
		Female	51
		Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>23,080</i>
Age		Long-term physical or mental health condition	
0-15	17	Yes	22
16-24	11	No	78
25-34	13	Total	100
35-44	12	<i>Base</i>	<i>23,000</i>
45-59	22		
60-74	17		
75+	8		
Total	100		
<i>Base</i>	<i>23,080</i>		

<sup>15</sup>In the SHS 2017, the question on gender was binary, i.e. only two response options were provided to respondents: male and female. In 2018 a non-binary question is being asked,

<sup>16</sup>The question on long-term physical or mental health condition asks: "Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?" Long-term conditions were defined as a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting, or expected to last, 12 months or more. The wording of this question changed in 2012 and is now aligned with the harmonised questions for all large Scottish Government surveys. A long-term condition was defined as limiting if the respondent reported that it limited their activities in any way.



## 2.3 Adults in Private Households

Table 2.2 to Table 2. present equality characteristics of adults, based on those selected to take part in the interview. These tables provide estimates for age, gender, marital status, ethnicity, current economic situation of all adults and adults aged 16-64, whether adults have a long term illness or disability, and sexual orientation and religion of adults in Scotland.

Table 2.2 shows that there were more adult women than men in Scotland, **14 per cent of the adult population were under 25 years old while 30 per cent were 60 or over.**

**Table 2.2: Characteristics of adults – age, gender, and long-term health condition**

Column percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

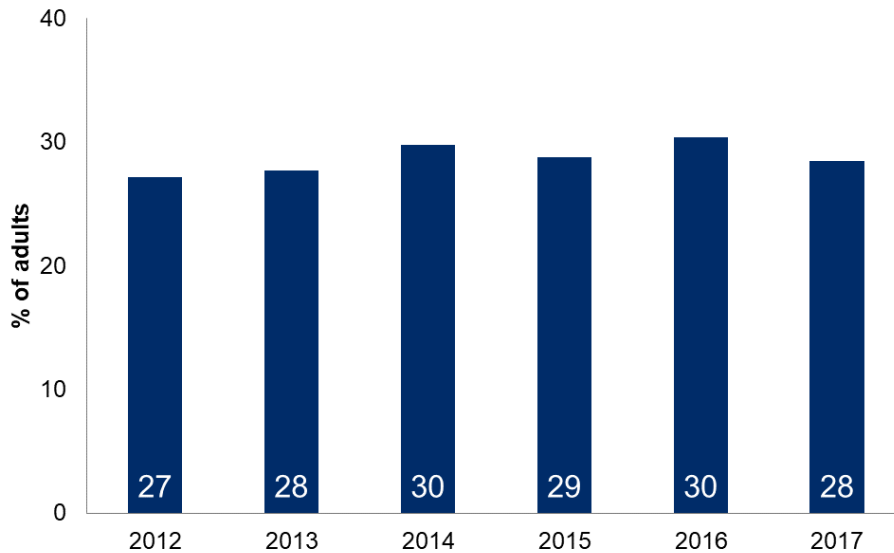
Age		Gender	
16-24	14	Male	48
25-34	16	Female	52
35-44	15	Total	100
45-59	26	<i>Base</i>	<i>9,810</i>
60-74	20	Long-term physical or mental health condition	
75+	10	Yes	28
Total	100	No	72
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,810</i>	Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>9,760</i>

### 2.3.1 Long-term physical or mental health condition of adults

In 2017, over a quarter of adults (28 per cent) reported a long-term physical or mental health condition, a similar proportion as in 2012 (27 per cent), as shown in Figure 2.1.

**Figure 2.1: Long-term physical or mental health condition of adults by year**

2012 – 2017, Adults dataset (minimum base: 3,200)



### 2.3.2 Ethnicity

The population in Scotland is largely white, with nearly eight in ten adults identifying themselves as White Scottish. Table 2.3 shows a breakdown of the Scottish population by ethnicity.

**Table 2.3: Characteristics of adults – ethnicity**

Column percentages, Adults dataset

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>95.6</b>
Scottish	79.7	78.3
Other British	12.1	11.6
Irish	1.1	0.9
Gypsy / Traveller	-	-
Polish	1.2	2.0
Other white ethnic group	2.3	2.9
<b>Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British	0.7	0.8
Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British	0.7	0.8
Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British	0.0	0.1
Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British	0.5	0.6
Other Asian ethnic group	0.3	0.3
<b>African</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
African, African Scottish or African British	0.3	0.4
Other African ethnic group	0.1	0.1
<b>Caribbean or Black</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British	0.0	0.0
Black, Black Scottish or Black British	0.0	0.0
Other Caribbean or Black ethnic group	-	0.0
<b>Other Ethnic Group</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	0.0	0.2
Any other ethnic group	0.6	0.8
Don't know	-	-
Refused	0.0	0.1
Total	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,810</i>

### 2.3.3 Economic status

Examining the economic status of all adults as well as a subset of adults aged 16-64 shows, in Table 2.4, that **almost a quarter of all adults and five per cent of adults aged 16-64 are permanently retired from work**. Only four per cent of adults aged 16-64 are unemployed and seeking work.

Examining the economic status over time, in Figure 2.2, shows that **the proportion of those who were employed full time or self-employed has increased since 1999**, while the proportion of those who worked part time has been stable. This also shows that the proportion of those who were permanently retired from work has increased since 1999, while the proportion of those looking after the home or family has decreased.

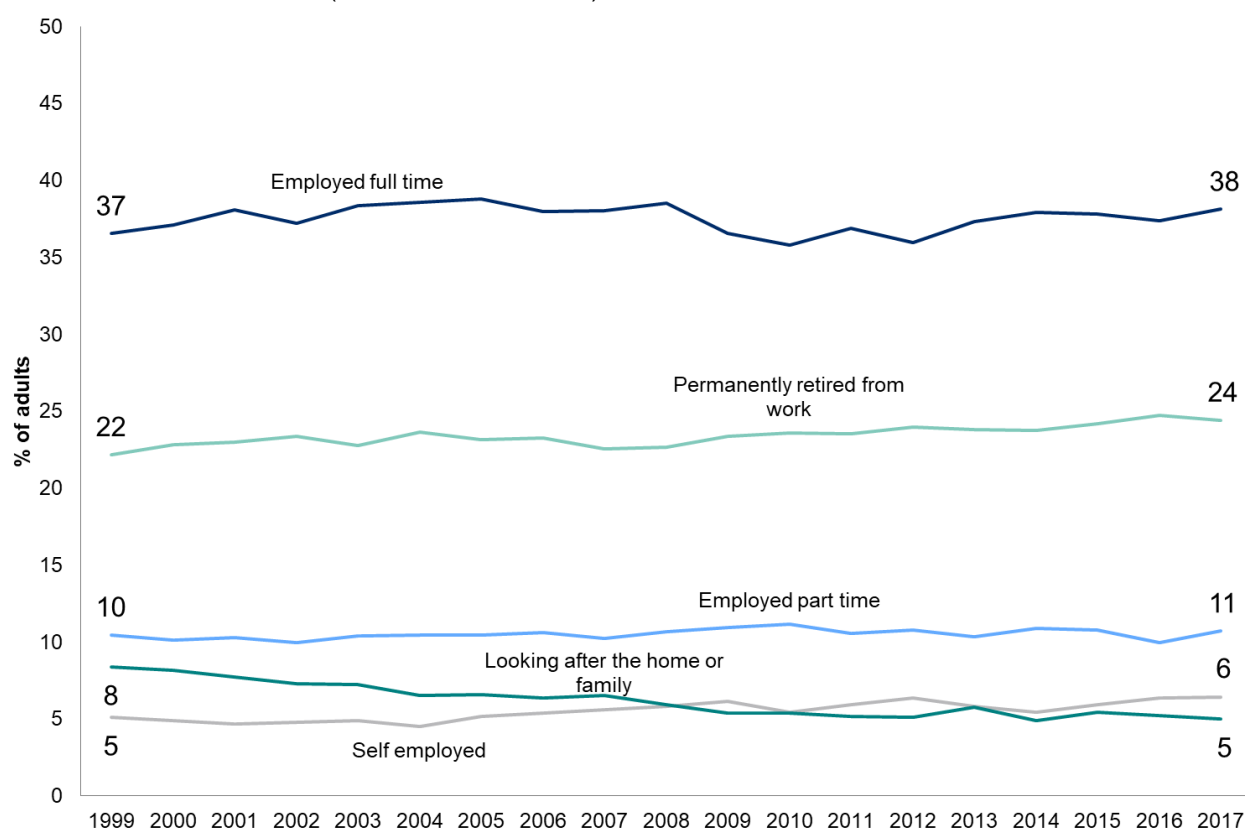
**Table 2.4: Characteristics of adults – economic status**

Column percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

Economic status	All adults	Working-age adults
Self employed	6	8
Employed full time	38	49
Employed part time	11	13
Looking after the home or family	5	6
Permanently retired from work	24	5
Unemployed and seeking work	3	4
At school	2	2
In further / higher education	5	7
Govt work or training scheme	0	0
Permanently sick or disabled	4	5
Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury	0	1
Other	0	0
Total	100	100
Base	9,810	6,610

**Figure 2.2: Economic status of adults by year – selected groups**

1999 – 2017, Adults dataset (minimum base: 9,410)



### 2.3.4 Sexual orientation

Around two per cent of all adults self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual, as shown in Table 2.5. However, it should be noted that estimates on self-identified sexual orientation from the SHS are likely to under-represent the lesbian, gay and bisexual population. Potential reasons for this are discussed in Annex 2 Glossary.

**Table 2.5: Characteristics of adults – sexual orientation**

Column percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

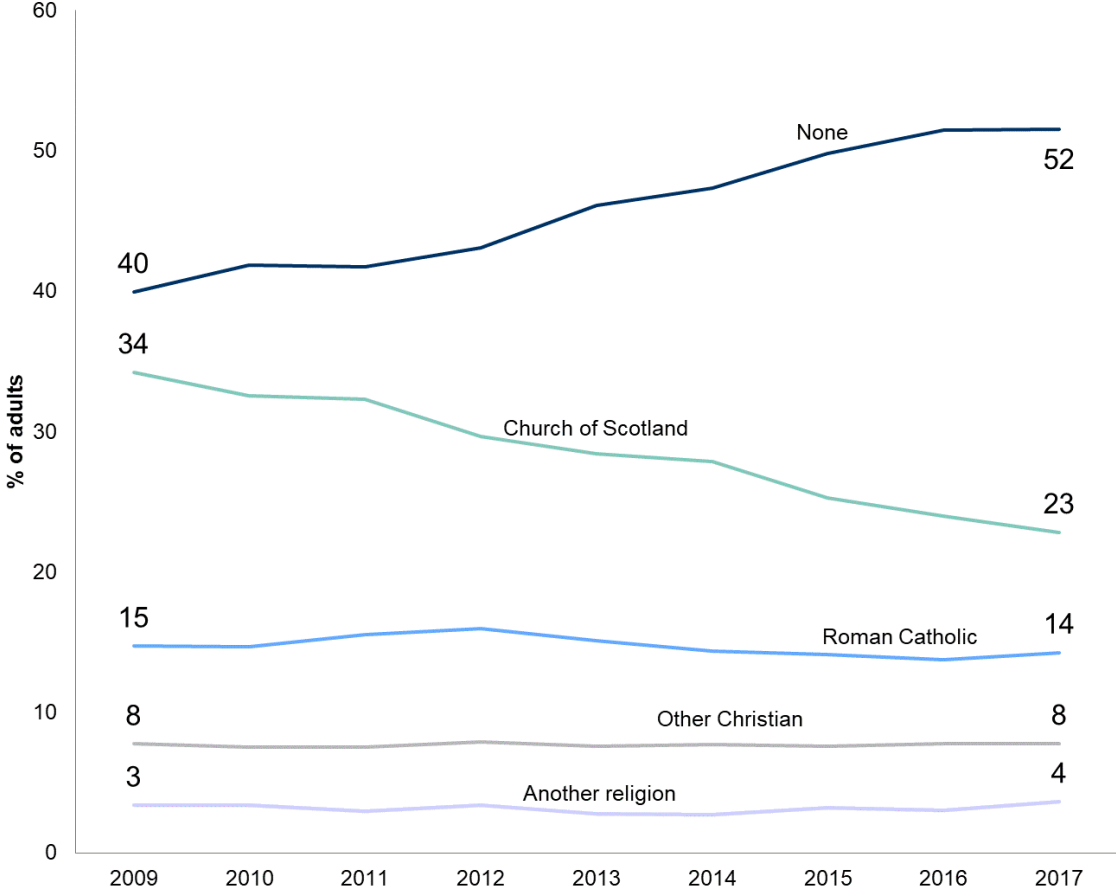
Sexual orientation	Male	Female	All
Heterosexual/Straight	97.8	98.0	97.9
Gay/Lesbian	1.3	1.0	1.2
Bisexual	0.3	0.5	0.4
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1
Refused	0.6	0.4	0.5
Total	100	100	100
Base	4,540	5,270	9,810

### 2.3.5 Religion

Since 2009, when the harmonised question on religious belonging was introduced to the SHS, there has been **an increase in the proportion of adults reporting not belonging to a religion**, from 40 per cent in 2009 to just over a half of adults (52 per cent) in 2017 (Figure 2.3). There has also been a corresponding decrease in the proportion reporting belonging to 'Church of Scotland', from 34 per cent to 23 per cent.

Figure 2.3: Religious belonging of adults by year

2009 - 2017 data, Adults dataset (minimum base: 9,410)



### 2.3.6 Marital status

The proportion of adults who have never been married or in a civil partnership has increased from 34 per cent in 2013 to 36 per cent in 2017.

**Table 2.6: Characteristics of adults – marital status**

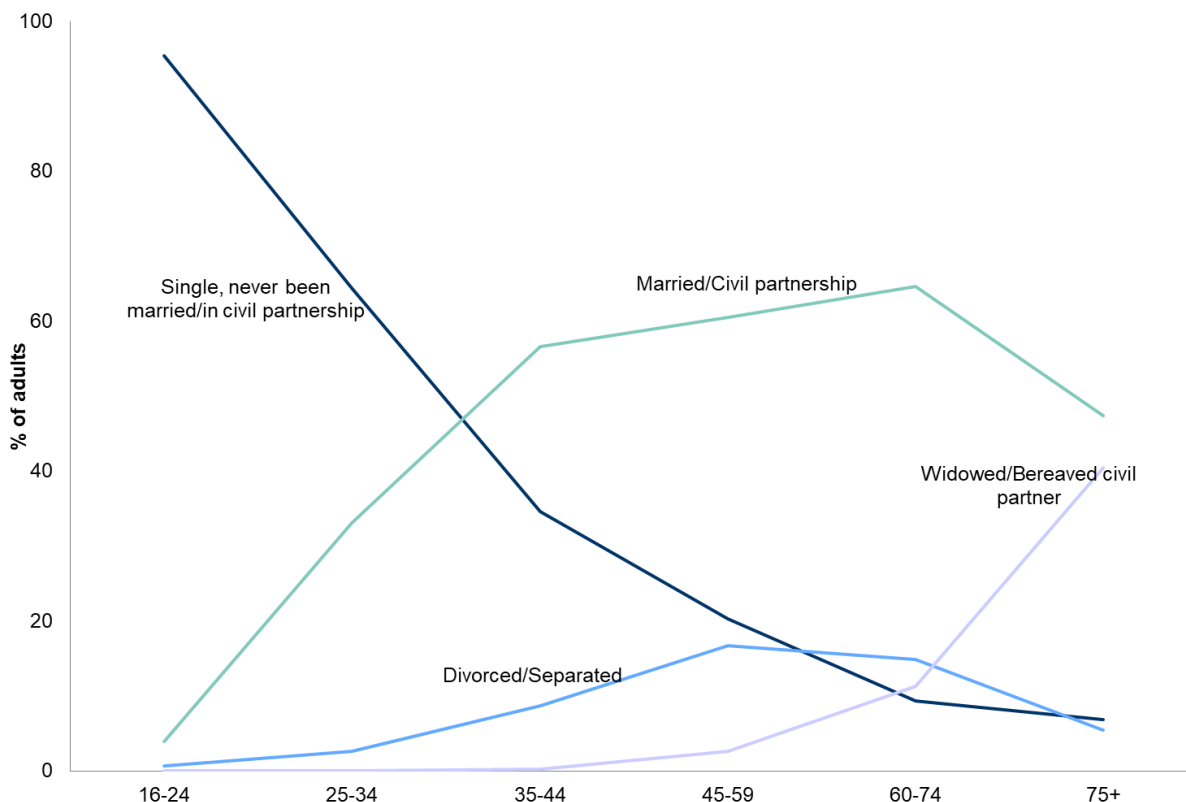
Column percentages, Adults dataset

Marital status	2013	2017
Never married and never registered a same-sex civil partnership	34	36
Married	48	47
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	0	0
Separated, but still legally married	2	2
Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership	1	0
Divorced	7	7
Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	0	0
Widowed	8	7
Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	0	0
Refused	0	0
Total	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,810</i>



**Figure 2.4: Current marital status of adults by age**

2017 data, Adults dataset (minimum base: 650)



Exploring the marital status of different age groups reveals that single adults tend to be in the younger age groups. The proportion of those who are married or in civil partnership increases with age, similarly to the proportion of those who are divorced or separated (Table 2.7).

**Table 2.7: Marital status and age of population**

Row percentages, 2017, Adults dataset

Marital status	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-74	75+	Total	Base
Single, never been married/in civil partnership	36	29	14	14	5	2	100	3,130
Married/Civil partnership	1	11	18	33	28	10	100	4,070
Divorced/Separated	1	4	13	45	31	5	100	1,340
Widowed/Bereaved civil partner	-	-	0	10	33	57	100	1,280
All	14	16	15	26	20	10	100	9,810

## 2.4 Household Characteristics

The Scottish Household Survey provides estimates of geographical characteristics (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and urban/rural classification), property type, household type, tenure and net household income<sup>17</sup> for households in Scotland.

Household type is derived from the details collected from the household respondent about all household members, using a combination of age and number of people in the household. Full definitions of each household type are included in Annex 2: Glossary. Combining the data in this way provides an indicator of the life stage and family circumstance of households. The Table 2.8 shows that:

### 2.4.1 Household type

- Over a third of people in Scotland live alone (35 per cent)
- Only five per cent of households in Scotland are two adult families with three or more children, or three or more adult families with one or more children
- Less than one in four of households in Scotland contain children

### 2.4.2 House type and tenure

- Around two thirds of households in Scotland live in a house or a bungalow with the remaining third living in a flat.
- Owner-occupier is the most common type of tenure with over six out of ten households living in a home they own outright or are buying, followed by a fifth in the social rented sector. Fifteen per cent of households are renting from a private landlord. More information on this is contained in Chapter 3 on housing.

### 2.4.3 Area type

- Over eight out of ten households in Scotland are located in urban areas (including small towns) (84 per cent), with only 16 per cent in rural areas.

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<sup>17</sup> Please note that the Scottish Household Survey is not the preferred source of income data. Income data in the SHS is mainly collected to be used to explain other results. The official source of income statistics for Scotland is the Family Resource Survey (FRS), available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/IncomePoverty>.

Modeled local level household income estimates provide the best source of income data at a sub-Scotland level, available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/supply-demand/chma/statistics>

## 2.4.4 Income

- Over a half of households in Scotland earn less than £25,000 a year (54 per cent)
- Just over one in five households earn more than £40,000 a year (22 per cent).

**Table 2.8: The characteristics of households in Scotland**

Column percentages, 2017, Households dataset

Household Type		Property Type	
Single adult	20	A house or bungalow	65.6
Small adult	19	A flat, maisonette or apartment (including four-in-a-block or conversion)	33.9
Single parent	5	A room or rooms	0.1
Small family	13	A caravan, mobile home or a houseboat	0.2
Large family	5	Other	0.3
Large adult	10	Total	100
Older smaller	13	<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>
Single older	14		
Total	100		
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>		

Tenure		SIMD quintiles	
Owner occupied	62	1 - Most Deprived	21
Social rented	22	2	20
Private rented	15	3	20
Other	1	4	19
Total	100	5 - Least Deprived	20
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>	Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>

Urban/Rural classification		Total household income	
Large urban areas	35	£0 - £6,000	3
Other urban areas	36	£6,001 - £10,000	8
Accessible small towns	9	£10,001 - £15,000	15
Remote small towns	4	£15,001 - £20,000	15
Accessible rural	10	£20,001 - £25,000	12
Remote rural	6	£25,001 - £30,000	10
Total	100	£30,001 - £40,000	15
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,680</i>	£40,001+	22
		Total	100
		<i>Base</i>	<i>10,300</i>

## 3 Housing

### Main Findings

Note: The total number of households in Scotland has increased by 13 per cent from 2.19 million households in 1999 to 2.46 million households in 2017. This means that in the main findings presented below, a specific tenure can have reduced in relative proportion over time but have increased in absolute size.

### Housing Tenure from 1999 to 2017

The proportion of households in the private rented sector grew steadily from five per cent in 1999 to 15 per cent in 2016, an estimated increase of 250,000 households, although the proportion has remained similar at 15 per cent in the latest year 2017.

The growth of the private rented sector over the years between 1999 and 2017 has largely been concentrated in urban areas. The increase in the private rented sector in these areas has equated to an increase of 200,000 households, from 80,000 households in 1999 to 280,000 households in 2017.

The percentage of households in the social rented sector declined from 32 per cent in 1999 to 23 per cent in 2007, an estimated drop of 150,000 households, and has remained at between 22 and 23 per cent of all households since then.

The percentage of households in owner occupation grew from 61 per cent in 1999 to 66 per cent in 2005, but then declined by an estimated 90,000 households between 2009 and 2014 to 60 per cent. The level has since remained around 61 and 62 per cent between 2015 and 2017.

### Characteristics of households by tenure, 2017

#### Owned-outright properties (estimated 800,000 households):

Most properties were houses (82 per cent).

Nearly three quarters (72 per cent) of households had a highest-income householder aged 60 and over.

Over half (51 per cent) of adults in these properties have lived at their address for more than 20 years.

The vast majority (83 per cent) of adults in these properties did not expect to move from their current property in the future.

**Properties owned with a mortgage or loan (estimated 720,000 households):**

Forty per cent of households contained children.

Adults in properties owned with a mortgage or loan were more likely to be employed (82 per cent) than adults in other tenures.

Over eight in ten (84 per cent) households had a net income of more than £20,000.

**Private rented properties (estimated 360,000 households):**

Sixty two per cent of properties were flats and 47 per cent were located in large urban areas.

Over six in ten (61 per cent) of households contained one or two adults under 65 with no children.

Thirty five per cent of adults in these properties had been at their address for less than one year.

**Social rented properties (local authority and housing association properties) (estimated 550,000 households):**

Half (50 per cent) of local authority properties were flats. Forty three per cent of properties were located in the 20 per cent most deprived areas.

A little under two-thirds (64 per cent) of housing association properties were flats. Over half (53 per cent) of properties were located in the 20 per cent most deprived areas and 53 per cent were located in large urban areas.

Twelve per cent of adults in social rented properties were permanently sick or disabled, and a further nine per cent were unemployed and seeking work.

Over four in ten (44 per cent) of households in social rented accommodation stated that they would most like to live in an owner occupier property, with around half (48 per cent) preferring to live in social rented accommodation.

## **Households on housing lists:**

An estimated 130,000 (5 per cent) of households were on a housing list in 2017, with a further 20,000 (1 per cent) of households estimated to have applied for social housing using a choice based letting system, or similar, within the last year.

Of the households on a housing list in 2017, over two-thirds (68 per cent) were on a single list and over half (59 per cent) had been on a housing list for 3 years or less.

For around a fifth (18 per cent) of social rented households on a housing list, the main reason for being on a list was to move to bigger or smaller property. The main reason for private rented households was that they cannot afford current housing or would like cheaper housing (identified by 27 per cent of private rented households on a housing list). The main reason for owner occupier households to be on a list was to move away from parents / partner (identified by 25 per cent of owner occupier households on a housing list).

## **Private Rented Sector – changes between 1999 and 2017:**

The growth of the private rented sector over the years between 1999 and 2017 has largely been concentrated in urban areas, with the increase in the private rented sector in these areas equating to an increase of 200,000 households, from 80,000 households in 1999 to 280,000 households in 2017.

As a result, in 2017 nearly four-fifths (79 per cent) of privately rented households were living in urban areas.

There has been a large increase in the number of full time employed adults who are living in the private rented sector, with the number of adults increasing by an estimated 180,000 people between 1999 and 2017.

The average length of stay for adults living in private rented households in urban areas has been relatively steady between 1999 and 2017, with averages of 2 years being seen for most years.

## 3.1 Introduction and Context

The Scottish Government's vision for housing is that 'All people in Scotland live in high quality sustainable homes that they can afford and that meet their needs'<sup>18</sup>. While the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)<sup>19</sup> is the primary source of information about the physical condition of housing in Scotland, the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) includes many questions on housing which can be used to provide insight into the relationships between living circumstances and the characteristics, attitudes and behaviours of Scottish households.

This chapter presents information on changes to housing tenure in Scotland between 1999 and 2017, along with tenure profiles for 2017 that provide information on characteristics of households by type of tenure.

The SHS has included a question since 2013 on whether a household is on a housing list, and therefore headline analysis on this is also presented. These estimates provide additional evidence on the proportion and number of households that are on housing lists and complement existing sources, such as the Housing Statistics for Scotland (HSfS) publication<sup>20</sup>, last published on 12 September 2017 which included statistics on the number of households on a local authority or common housing list up to 31 March 2017.

## 3.2 Housing Tenure

### 3.2.1 Long-term trends in housing tenure

Note that all figures presented in this section on the proportions of households in different tenures should be considered in the context of changes over time to the total number of dwellings in Scotland. The total number of households in Scotland has increased by 13 per cent from 2.19 million households in 1999 to 2.46 million households in 2017. This means that in the main findings presented below, a specific tenure can have reduced in relative proportion over time but have increased in absolute size.

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<sup>18</sup> Housing and Regeneration Outcomes Framework <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/HARO>

<sup>19</sup> [www.gov.scot/SHCS](http://www.gov.scot/SHCS)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSfS>



In the period prior to 1999 – the first year in which the Scottish Household Survey was undertaken – the long-term trend was a marked increase in the proportion of owner-occupier households, which doubled from around 30 per cent in 1969<sup>21</sup> to 61 per cent in 1998. There were corresponding falls in the shares of the social rented sector, which fell from 50 per cent to 32 per cent, and the private rented sector, which fell from 20 per cent to seven per cent, over this period.

From 1999 onwards, Scottish Household Survey data shows us that the percentage of households in owner occupation grew from 61 per cent in 1999 to 66 per cent in 2005 (an estimated 12 per cent increase in absolute numbers of households), but declined from 2009 to 60 per cent in 2014 (an estimated six per cent decrease in absolute numbers of households between 2009 and 2014), and has since stayed at around the same level, standing at 62 per cent in 2017 (an estimated four per cent increase in absolute numbers of households between 2014 and 2017). The increase in total numbers of households in Scotland from 1999 to 2017 means that although the share of owner occupiers in 2017 is approximately the same as in 1999, there are more owner occupier households in 2017 in terms of absolute numbers (1.52 million) than there were in 1999 (1.34 million).

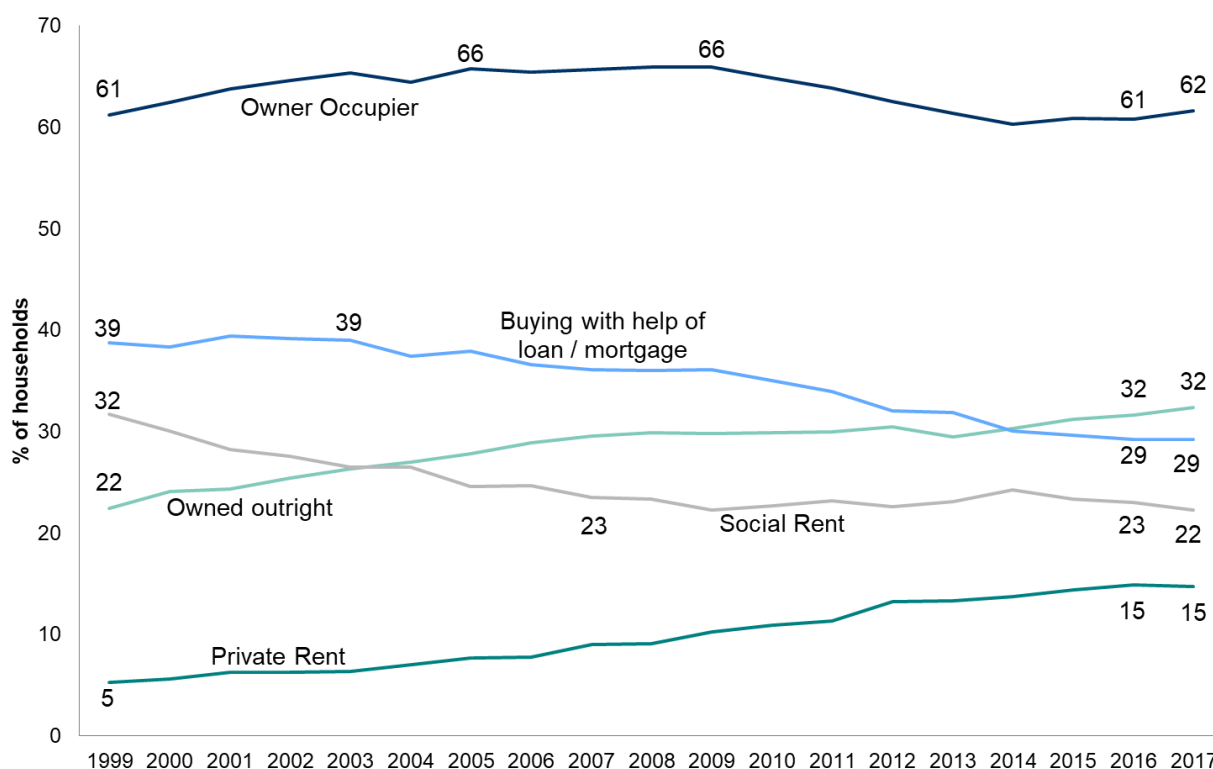
The decrease in the share of owner occupier households between 2009 and 2014 was driven by a decline in the percentage of households owning their property with a mortgage or loan, from 36 per cent of all households in 2009 to 30 per cent of all households in 2014, after which the figure has remained at similar levels, standing at 29 per cent in 2017. The proportion of all households owning outright increased steadily from 22 per cent in 1999 to 30 per cent in 2007, a level at which it has remained, with a similar figure of 32 per cent seen in 2017.

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<sup>21</sup> See MHCLG Live table 107 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants> for estimates of dwellings by tenure prior to the start of the Scottish Household Survey time series in 1999.

**Figure 3.1: Tenure of household by year**

1999-2017 data, Households (minimum base: 10,330)



\*Please note the chart excludes 'other' tenure

Trends over the medium term have also seen an increase in the proportion of households in the private rented sector, from five per cent in 1999 to 15 per cent in 2016 (an estimated 208 per cent increase in absolute numbers of households from 120,000 in 1999 to 370,000 in 2016); however this proportion remained at around 15 per cent in the latest year 2017 (an estimated 360,000 households).

The breakdown of the private rented sector into component parts of households renting from private landlord and households renting from family/friends/employers is available from 2009 onwards. This shows that the increase in the private rented sector since 2009 has been due to growth in the private landlord element of the sector, which has increased from eight per cent to 13 per cent of all households, whilst the family/friends/employer part of the sector has remained flat at two per cent of all households for most of these years.

Across the same time period, the percentage of households in the social rented sector declined from 32 per cent in 1999 to 23 per cent in 2007 (a 22 per cent drop in estimated numbers of households), after which the social sector has remained between around 22 and 23 per cent of all households for most years since then. Right to Buy sales have been a key driver for this reduction in social rented stock, with a total of 113,800 sales being made between 1999 and 2007, an annual average of 12,600 homes per year over this period. The number of Right to Buy sales in the subsequent period between 2009 and 2017 has been lower, with a total of 22,500 sales, equating to an annual average of 2,250 homes per year.<sup>22</sup>

The tenure category of “Other” includes households living rent-free, and this category accounted for one per cent of households surveyed in 2017.

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<sup>22</sup> Statistics on sales of social housing are available at <https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSfS/Sales>

**Table 3.1: Households by tenure and year**

Column percentages and estimated numbers, 1999-2017 data

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Owner Occupier</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>
Owned outright	22	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	30	30	30	30	31	30	30	31	32	32
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	39	38	39	39	39	37	38	37	36	36	36	35	34	32	32	30	30	29	29
<b>Social Rent</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>
Local authority	27	25	23	22	20	19	17	17	16	15	14	14	15	13	14	14	13	13	13
Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust	5	5	5	6	6	8	7	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	9
<b>Private Rented</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Private landlord	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	13	13
Family/Friends/Employer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Other</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	14,680	15,550	15,570	15,070	14,880	15,940	15,400	15,620	13,410	13,810	14,190	14,210	14,360	10,640	10,650	10,630	10,330	10,470	10,680

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Owner Occupier</b>	<b>1,340,000</b>	<b>1,380,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,430,000</b>	<b>1,460,000</b>	<b>1,450,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>	<b>1,540,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,530,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>	<b>1,490,000</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>1,460,000</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,490,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>
Owned outright	490,000	530,000	530,000	560,000	590,000	610,000	630,000	660,000	690,000	700,000	700,000	710,000	710,000	730,000	710,000	730,000	760,000	770,000	800,000
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	850,000	850,000	860,000	870,000	870,000	840,000	860,000	840,000	840,000	840,000	850,000	830,000	810,000	760,000	760,000	730,000	720,000	710,000	720,000
<b>Social Rent</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>660,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>560,000</b>	<b>570,000</b>	<b>540,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>540,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>540,000</b>	<b>560,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>570,000</b>	<b>560,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>
Local authority	580,000	550,000	500,000	490,000	450,000	420,000	390,000	390,000	370,000	350,000	330,000	330,000	350,000	320,000	330,000	330,000	320,000	320,000	330,000
Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust	110,000	110,000	120,000	120,000	140,000	170,000	170,000	180,000	180,000	200,000	190,000	200,000	210,000	220,000	230,000	250,000	240,000	240,000	220,000
<b>Private Rented</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>
Private landlord	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,000	220,000	230,000	270,000	270,000	290,000	310,000	320,000	320,000
Family/Friends/Employer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	40,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Other</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
All*	2,186,100	2,203,160	2,194,564	2,211,430	2,230,797	2,251,262	2,274,283	2,295,185	2,318,966	2,337,967	2,351,780	2,364,850	2,376,424	2,386,660	2,400,342	2,416,014	2,429,943	2,446,171	2,463,569

Note that these estimates differ to the estimated stock of dwellings by tenure figures presented in annual Housing Statistics for Scotland publications. Housing Statistics for Scotland estimates focus on the number of dwellings each year as at March and use separately collected figures on social rent stock.

\* Household estimates are from National Records of Scotland. <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/households/household-estimates>

Note that during 2003, Dumfries and Galloway, Glasgow and Scottish Borders transferred their local authority social rented housing stock to housing associations. Following this, Argyll & Bute and Na h-Eileanan Siar transferred their stock in late 2006, and Inverclyde transferred its stock in December 2007.

### 3.2.2 Age group of the highest income householder

Figure 3.2 shows the trends from 1999 to 2017 in the proportions of households split by age group of the highest income householder. **The proportion of households with a highest income householder of age 16 to 34 years fell from 22 per cent in 1999 to 19 per cent in 2003, and has remained around this level since then, being 19 per cent in 2017.** The percentage of households with a highest earner of age 35 to 59 years increased from 45 per cent in 1999 to 48 per cent in 2003, before falling back to 45 per cent in 2015, where it has remained. **The proportion of households with a highest income householder of age 60 and over has risen gradually from 32 per cent in 1999 to 36 per cent in 2017.**

These trends reflect changes over time in both the underlying age structure of the population of Scotland and differences in household composition. The proportion of adults in the population in Scotland aged 16 to 34 has fallen from 32 per cent in 1999 to 30 per cent in 2017, whilst that of adults aged 60 or over has increased from 26 per cent in 1999 to 30 per cent in 2017<sup>23</sup>. In terms of household composition, separate Census data<sup>24</sup> shows that the percentage of people aged 20 to 34 living with their parents increased by 2 percentage points between 2001 (24 per cent) and 2011 (26 per cent).

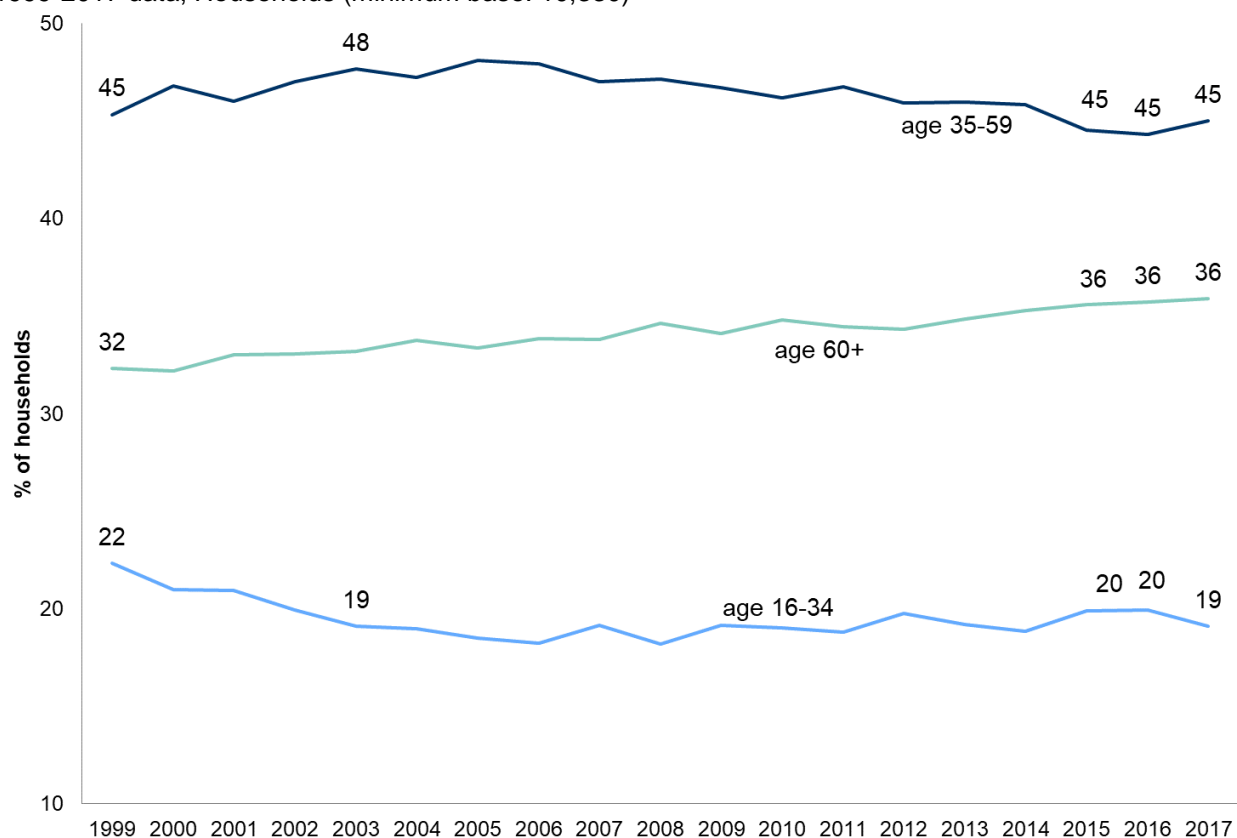
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<sup>23</sup> See NRS Population Estimates time-series data at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/population-estimates-time-series-data>

<sup>24</sup> NRS Census 2011 Analytical Report on composition for specific groups of people in Scotland [http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/analytical\\_reports/HHper cent20report.pdf](http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/analytical_reports/HHper cent20report.pdf)

**Figure 3.2: Households by age of highest income householder, 1999 to 2017**

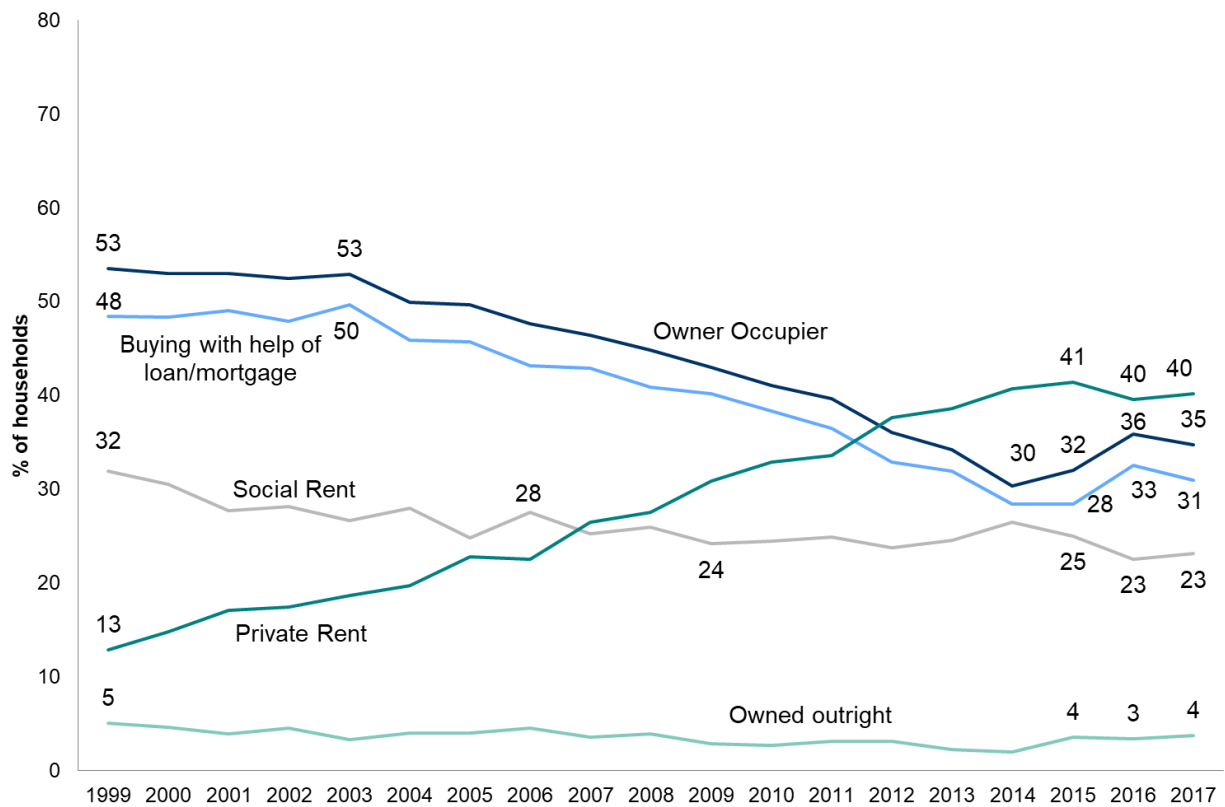
1999-2017 data, Households (minimum base: 10,330)



The proportion of households with a highest income householder aged between 16 and 34 years living in the private rented sector increased substantially from 1999 (13 per cent) to 2015 (41 per cent), but remained at a similar level of around 40 per cent to 41 per cent between 2015 and 2017 (Figure 3.3). The percentage of households in properties owned with a mortgage fell from 50 per cent in 2003 to 28 per cent in 2014. This figure has varied in more recent years, with the proportion increasing to 33 per cent in 2016, after which it stood at 31 per cent in the latest year 2017.

**Figure 3.3: Tenure of households by year (HIH aged 16 to 34)**

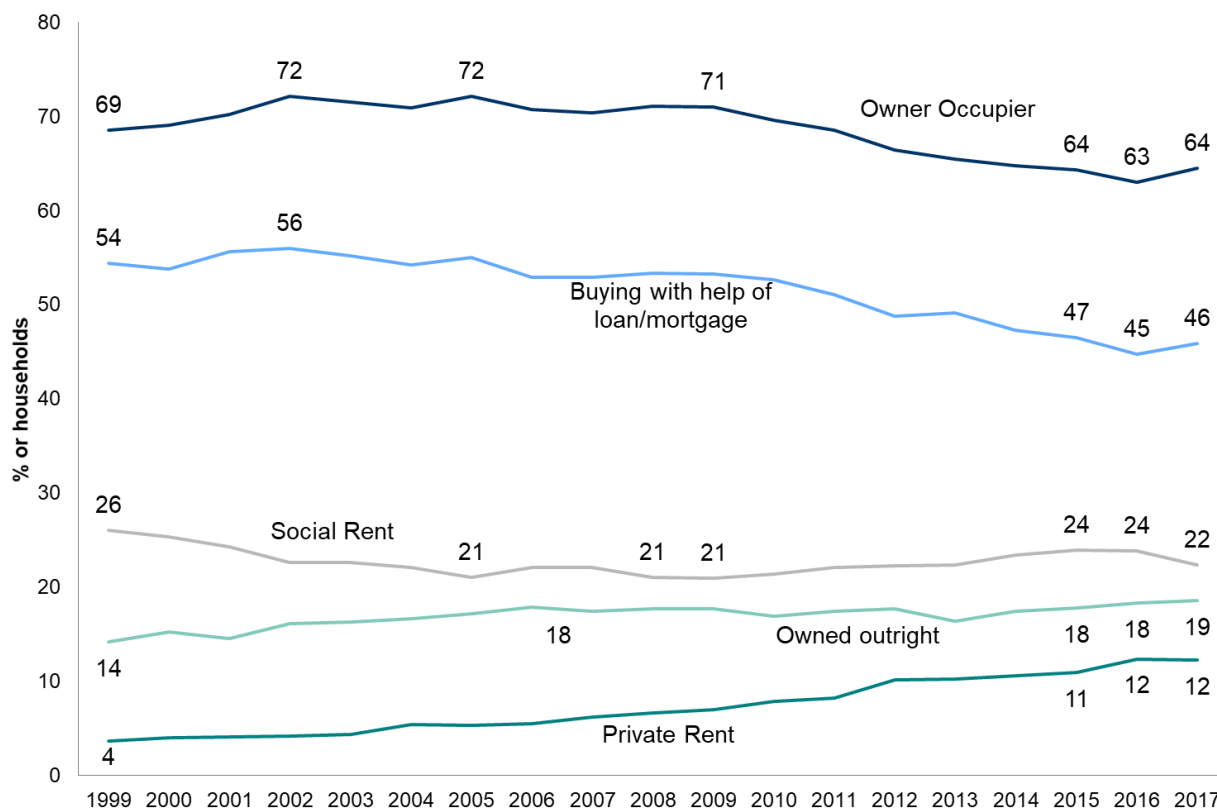
1999-2017 data, Households (minimum base: 1,700)



Households in which the age of the highest income earner is between 35 and 59 years (Figure 3.4) have also seen a rise in the percentage renting in the private sector, from four per cent in 1999 to 12 per cent in 2016, however this proportion has also levelled off in the most recent year. The proportion owning with a loan or mortgage has correspondingly dropped from 54 per cent in 1999 to 46 per cent in 2017.

**Figure 3.4: Tenure of households by year (HIH aged 35 to 59)**

1999-2017 data, Households (minimum base: 4,640)

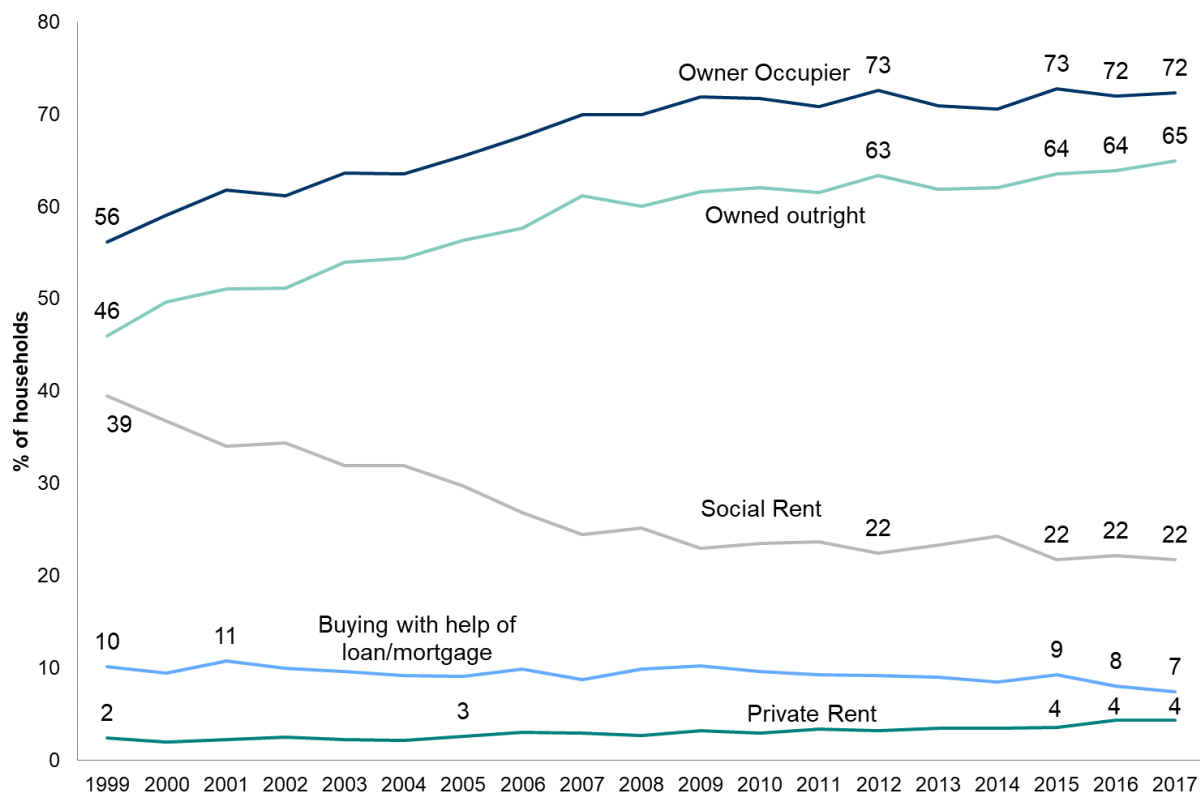


Households in which the age of the highest income earner is 60 years or over have seen a rise in the percentage who own outright, from 46 per cent in 1999 to 65 per cent in 2017 (Figure 3.5). There was been a corresponding drop in the proportion renting a social sector property from 39 per cent in 1999 to 22 per cent in 2012, after which the proportion has stayed at similar levels. One factor behind the changes seen in the proportions of older households owning outright and living in social rented accommodation between 1999 and 2012 is likely to have been Right to Buy, given that households in this age group are most likely to have been able to benefit from the scheme compared to younger households.



**Figure 3.5: Tenure of households by year (HIH aged 60 plus)**

1999-2017 data, Households (minimum base: 3,980)



### 3.3 Characteristics of Households by Tenure

#### 3.3.1 Household Characteristics

The long-term decline in the percentage of social housing has been accompanied by substantial changes in the profile of its tenants. Data from the Scottish Census<sup>25</sup> show that in 1981 the profile of social sector tenants was similar to the profile of all Scottish households in terms of size, composition, and social and economic characteristics. This is no longer the case and **household characteristics in 2017 show some marked differences by tenure**. Table 3.2 to Table 3.6 explore these differences in characteristics for 2017 in more depth across all main tenure categories.

Table 3.2 focuses on housing characteristics for the year 2017 such as dwelling type, location (urban/rural and index of multiple deprivation) as well as size of property as measured by the numbers of bedrooms.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/201716/0053780.pdf> (Page 35, Chart 10)

Properties owned with a mortgage or loan generally have a similar profile to properties owned outright. **Owner occupier properties are much more likely to be houses** (80 per cent) than flats (19 per cent). Half (50 per cent) of owner occupier properties are located in the 40 per cent least deprived areas of Scotland, while only 12 per cent are in the 20 per cent most deprived areas. Only five per cent of owner occupier properties have one bedroom, with two-thirds (67 per cent) of properties having three or more bedrooms.

In contrast to owner occupier properties, **private rented properties are more likely to be flats** (62 per cent) than houses (37 per cent), and they are generally much smaller – one in five (23 per cent) have one bedroom and a half (50 per cent) have two bedrooms. **Seventy-nine per cent of private rented properties are located in urban areas.**

For local authority dwellings there is an equal split between local authority flats and houses. Forty-three per cent of local authority properties are located in the 20 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland, and seventy-five per cent are located in the 40 per cent most deprived areas. Meanwhile 50 per cent are located in 'other' (i.e. not large) urban areas.

Housing association properties have a broadly similar profile to private rented properties in terms of dwelling type (64 per cent are flats). Fifty-three per cent of housing association properties are located in the 20 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland, and 74 per cent are located in the 40 per cent most deprived areas. Housing association properties are more likely to have just one bedroom (31 per cent) than local authority properties (23 per cent), private rented dwellings (23 per cent), and owner occupied properties (5 per cent).

**Table 3.2: Housing characteristics by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing		All	Other	All
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority	association**			
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Dwelling type</b>									
House	82	79	80	37	50	35	44	59	66
Flat	18	21	19	62	50	64	56	39	34
Other	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>SIMD 2016</b>									
1 - Most Deprived	11	13	12	21	43	53	47	24	21
2	17	17	17	21	32	22	28	18	20
3	22	20	21	22	17	14	16	26	20
4	24	24	24	19	7	8	7	20	20
5 - Least Deprived	26	27	26	18	1	4	2	12	20
<b>Urban / Rural Classification</b>									
Large urban areas	30	35	32	47	25	53	36	25	35
Other urban areas	35	36	36	32	50	29	42	31	36
Accessible small towns	10	10	10	7	10	4	8	12	9
Remote small towns	4	3	4	2	4	5	4	2	4
Accessible rural	13	11	12	8	8	4	6	15	10
Remote rural	9	4	7	5	3	5	4	16	6
<b>Number of bedrooms</b>									
1 bedroom	4	5	5	23	23	31	26	12	12
2 bedrooms	29	27	28	50	53	45	50	45	36
3 bedrooms	44	41	43	20	22	21	21	29	34
4+ bedrooms	22	27	24	8	3	2	3	14	17
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,920</i>	<i>2,900</i>	<i>6,820</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>1,390</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>10,680</i>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

Table 3.3 provides information on household characteristics for the year 2017 such as number of people in the household, type of household composition, and number of cars.

**Properties owned outright are more likely to contain older adults** compared to other tenures, with 72 per cent having a highest income householder aged 60 years or more. Households who own outright also have the biggest percentage of two-person households (49 per cent) across all main tenure types. **Only 17 per cent of owned outright households have three or more people living in them.** Correspondingly, households in this tenure are much more likely than other tenures to be older one-person (26 per cent) or older two-person (32 per cent) households. Eighty-three per cent of households owning outright have at least one car. Almost three quarters (74 per cent) of owned-outright households state that they are managing very well or quite well financially, a figure higher than other tenures.

Households owning with a mortgage or a loan are more likely to have a highest income householder of age 35 to 44 (28 per cent) or 45 to 59 (43 per cent) than any other tenure. Households owning with a mortgage or loan also have the highest proportion of three people (22 per cent) or four or more people (31 per cent) living in the household. Correspondingly, 40 per cent of these households have children. **Over 90 per cent (92 per cent) of households that own with a mortgage or loan have at least one car and 84 per cent of households have a net household income of over £20,000, the highest of any tenure.**

Households in private rented accommodation are more likely to have a highest income householder aged 16 to 24 (19 per cent) or 25 to 34 (33 per cent) than other tenures. Sixty-one per cent of private renting households are either single adult households or small adult households. Forty-four per cent of private renting households do not have a car.

The profiles of households in local authority rented properties and those in housing association properties are similar. **Social rented households are characterised by large percentages of one-person households (48 per cent)**, and correspondingly have a high proportion of single adult households (29 per cent). Six in ten (58 per cent) of social sector households do not have a car, and **almost half (45 per cent) have a net household income of £15,000 or less**. Thirty per cent of social sector households state that they manage well financially, a figure lower than other tenures. **Around one in five (20 per cent) state that they don't manage well, a figure that is higher than other tenures.**

**Table 3.3: Household characteristics by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier with mortgage outright *			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing Local associatio n**			Other	All
	32	29	All 62	15	13	9	All 22	1	100
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors</b>									
<b>Number of people in household</b>									
1 person	35	17	26	38	48	48	48	50	33
2 people	49	30	40	34	27	27	27	32	36
3 people	10	22	15	14	11	13	12	7	14
4+ people	7	31	18	14	13	12	13	12	16
<b>Household composition</b>									
Large adult	11	13	12	7	6	8	7	3	10
Large family	2	10	6	5	5	3	5	7	5
Older smaller	32	3	18	2	7	8	7	11	13
Single adult	11	17	14	35	30	27	29	27	20
Single parent	1	3	2	8	10	11	11	4	5
Single older	26	2	14	5	19	22	20	24	14
Small adult	15	26	20	26	13	12	12	17	19
Small family	3	27	14	13	8	9	9	7	13
<b>Age of highest income householder</b>									
16 to 24	0	1	1	19	5	4	5	13	5
25 to 34	2	19	10	33	15	14	15	14	14
35 to 44	3	28	15	20	16	17	16	14	16
45 to 59	23	43	32	17	29	28	29	17	29
60 to 74	45	7	27	8	21	23	21	22	23
75 plus	27	2	15	3	14	13	13	20	13
<b>Number of cars</b>									
0 cars	17	8	13	44	58	59	58	39	28
1 car	50	41	46	42	34	35	35	43	43
2+ cars	33	50	41	14	8	6	7	18	29
<b>Net household income</b>									
£0-£6,000	3	1	2	5	3	3	3	7	3
£6,001-£10,000	9	2	5	8	15	12	14	17	8
£10,001-£15,000	15	5	10	14	28	28	28	14	15
£15,001-£20,000	16	7	12	17	20	22	21	14	15
£20,001-£25,000	13	8	11	13	13	11	12	18	12
£25,001-£30,000	10	10	10	10	8	7	7	6	9
£30,001-£35,000	7	10	8	9	5	5	5	6	8
£35,001-£40,000	6	11	8	7	3	3	3	6	7
£40,001-£50,000	8	20	13	7	1	2	2	7	10
£50,001-£60,000	4	12	8	3	1	1	1	1	5
£60,001-£70,000	2	7	4	1	0	0	0	1	3
£70,001-£80,000	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Over £80,000	2	5	3	0	0	-	0	-	2
Don't know/Refused	4	1	3	6	4	5	4	4	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,920</i>	<i>2,900</i>	<i>6,820</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>1,390</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>10,680</i>
<b>How well household is managing financially****</b>									
Manages well	74	64	69	41	28	33	30	54	56
Gets by	24	31	27	46	51	50	51	35	35
Does not manage well	2	5	4	12	21	17	20	10	9
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,880</i>	<i>2,885</i>	<i>6,770</i>	<i>1,350</i>	<i>1,380</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>2,330</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>10,590</i>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

\*\*\* Excludes Don't know / Refused responses.

\*\*\*\* The "Manage well" category has been created by combining the response categories "Manages very well" and "Manages quite well". The "Does not manage well" category has been created by combining the response categories "Does not manage very well", "Has some financial difficulties" and "Is in deep financial trouble".

### 3.3.2 Adult Characteristics

Table 3.4 provides information on characteristics for the year 2017 such as ethnicity, length of tenure and tenure of previous address of adults.

Over half of adults in owned-outright properties are estimated to be **permanently retired** from work (53 per cent), **and have been in living in the same address for more than 20 years** (51 per cent). Of the small proportion (4 per cent) of adults who have moved into their address within the previous year, it is estimated that nearly half (44 per cent) have moved from another owned-outright property.

Adults in properties owned with a mortgage or loan were more likely to be employed<sup>26</sup> (82 per cent) than adults in other tenures. Of the eight per cent of adults who have moved into their address in the previous year, an estimated 39 per cent moved from another property owned with a mortgage and a further 32 per cent moved from the private rented sector.

An estimated 22 per cent of adults in the private rented sector are in school or further/higher education. Only 58 per cent have recorded their ethnicity as white Scottish, which is much lower than other tenures, while 35 per cent have been at their current address for less than one year, much higher than any other tenure. For those who have moved into their property in the last year, over half (55 per cent) moved from another private rented dwelling, whilst 24 per cent moved from their parental home.

The profiles of adults living in local authority dwellings and housing association properties are very similar. **Adults in social rented properties have a higher proportion of people permanently sick or disabled** (12 per cent) compared to adults in private rented households or owner occupier households, **and a higher proportion of people unemployed and seeking work** (nine per cent) compared to other tenures. **Eighty-six per cent of people in social sector properties record their ethnicity as white Scottish, compared with 78 per cent for Scotland as a whole.** For the nine per cent who have moved into their property in the last year, 45 per cent had moved from another social rented property.

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<sup>26</sup> Includes full-time, part-time and self-employed.

**Table 3.4: Adult characteristics by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing		Other	All	
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority	association**			
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors***</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
White Scottish	81	81	81	58	89	81	86	67	78
White other British	14	11	12	15	6	7	7	17	12
White Polish	1	2	1	5	1	4	2	2	2
White other	2	3	2	12	1	3	2	10	4
Any Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	2	3	2	6	1	2	1	0	3
African, Caribbean or Black	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Other Ethnic Group	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
Refused	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Economic situation</b>									
Self employed	8	8	8	6	2	3	2	4	6
Employed full time	21	62	42	41	24	24	24	30	38
Employed part time	9	12	11	9	12	11	11	10	11
Looking after the home or family	3	4	3	7	10	9	9	10	5
Permanently retired from work	53	5	29	6	24	25	25	24	24
Unemployed and seeking work	1	2	2	4	10	7	9	7	3
At school	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	2
In further / higher education	2	3	2	20	3	6	4	3	5
Gov't work or training scheme	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	.	0
Permanently sick or disabled	2	1	2	4	12	13	12	6	4
Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Other (specify)	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Length of time at current address</b>									
Less than one year	4	8	6	35	9	10	9	18	11
1 to 2 years	6	14	10	32	18	19	18	25	15
3 to 4 years	5	14	9	15	14	15	14	10	11
5 to 10 years	11	25	18	12	21	24	22	15	18
11 to 20 years	23	27	25	4	19	23	21	14	21
More than 20 years	51	11	31	2	20	11	16	18	24
Average time at current address in years	22.4	9.9	16.2	3.0	12.1	9.5	11.0	10.4	13.2
<b>Base</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>9,810</b>
<b>Tenure of previous address****</b>									
Owned outright	44	4	16	5	1	2	2	-	8
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	14	39	31	8	4	10	7	-	15
Private Rented	14	32	26	55	21	22	22	-	39
Rent – Local authority	3	4	4	3	47	14	33	-	9
Rent - Housing association/Coop/Charitable trust	3	1	2	2	4	23	12	-	3
Other	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	-	4
In parental/family home	20	19	19	24	19	25	21	-	22
<b>Base</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>950</b>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

\*\*\* Based on Household sample (base: 10,470)

\*\*\*\* Only asked of those who have been at their current address for less than a year

Note that the figures provided in this table are based on the random adult part of the survey, and therefore reflect characteristics of adults within households rather than the entire household.

### 3.3.3 Neighbourhood views, reasons for moving and future housing aspirations

Table 3.5 and Table 3.6 provide information for the year 2017 on people's views on their neighbourhood, their satisfaction with their current housing, their reasons for moving to the area, and their future housing aspirations.

Over nine in ten households (92 per cent) reported that they were very or fairly satisfied with their housing, with 56 per cent being very satisfied and 36 per cent being fairly satisfied.

Around a third (37 per cent) of households who own their property outright moved to their area to get the right size or kind of property, a figure higher than for rented tenures. Over two thirds (68 per cent) of households who own outright rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live, with a further 30 per cent rating their neighbourhood as fairly good. Nearly half (47 per cent) of households who own outright have a very strong feeling of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood, with a further 39 per cent having a fairly strong feeling of belonging. Eighty three per cent of households who own outright expect not to move from their current property in the future, and nearly all owned-outright households (99 per cent) state that the type of accommodation they would most like to live in would be an owner occupier property. Around seven in ten (70 per cent) of households owning their property outright were very satisfied with their housing, a proportion higher than any other tenure group.

Similar to owned-outright households, **around a third (38 per cent) of households owning with a mortgage or a loan moved to their area to get the right size or kind of property.** Nearly one in five (16 per cent) of households owning with a mortgage or a loan state that they would expect to move from their current property within 5 years. **Almost three quarters (74 per cent) expect not to move from their current property in the future.** Similar to owned-outright households, nearly all (98 per cent) of households owning with a mortgage or a loan state that the type of accommodation they would most like to live in would be an owner occupier property.

Around one in five (20 per cent) households in private rented accommodation moved to their area to be close to work or employment, a higher percentage figure than other tenures. Only 19 per cent of households in private rented accommodation had a very strong feeling of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood, whilst 35 per cent felt not very strongly or not at all strongly; the highest of any tenure.



Over half (55 per cent) of households in private rented accommodation expect to move from their current property within the next 5 years, a percentage much higher than in other tenures. **Three quarters (74 per cent) households in private rented accommodation state that the type of accommodation they would most like to live in would be an owner occupier property.** Six per cent would most like to live in social rented accommodation and 15 per cent would most like to live in private rented accommodation.

Local authority dwellings and housing association properties show a very similar profile. Around four in ten (39 per cent) of households in social rented properties rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live, a percentage which is lower than other tenures. Almost eight in ten (76 per cent) expect not to move from their current property in the future. **Over four in ten (44 per cent) of households in social rented accommodation state that the type of accommodation they would most like to live in would be an owner occupier property, with around half (48 per cent) preferring to live in social rented accommodation.**

**Table 3.5: Views on housing aspirations, by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing		All	Other	All
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority	association**			
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors ***</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Reasons for moving to area ****</b>									
To be near family/friends	10	8	9	10	11	13	12	20	10
To be close to work/employment	11	11	11	20	3	4	3	28	11
Change in family/household circumstances / left home	21	22	22	22	24	28	26	28	23
To buy own house/flat or rent place of own	13	23	18	11	10	8	9	0	14
Health reasons, including move to bungalow / flat	3	0	2	1	11	9	10	4	4
Moved to sheltered housing / supported accommodation	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	1
Like the area / nice area	21	18	20	13	10	9	10	5	16
Move to the countryside / sea	3	2	3	2	0	-	0	1	2
Good schools	1	4	3	3	0	1	0	-	2
Good services / amenities	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	5	3
Good transport	0	1	1	2	-	0	0	-	1
Wanted a garden / land	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	2
Right size / kind of property	37	38	38	19	25	32	27	14	32
Cheaper property	1	2	1	6	2	1	2	3	2
No choice - allocated by council / Housing Association, eviction	1	0	1	2	12	9	11	8	3
To avoid violence / discrimination	0	1	0	2	3	1	2	3	1
Other	1	0	1	3	1	2	1	-	1
Don't know	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	-	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>3,840</i>
<b>When the householder expects to move</b>									
Within 6 months	1	1	1	12	3	4	3	-	3
Over 6 months to less than 1 year	1	3	2	14	1	3	2	-	4
Over 1 year, less than 2 years	2	3	3	12	5	5	5	-	5
Over 2 years, less than 3 years	2	5	3	10	2	4	2	-	4
Over 3 years, less than 4 years	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	-	2
Over 4 years, less than 5 years	2	2	2	4	3	1	2	-	2
More than 5 years	3	6	4	3	2	0	1	-	4
Don't expect to move	83	74	79	30	76	76	76	-	70
Don't know	4	4	4	12	7	6	7	-	6
<b>Accommodation householder would like to live in</b>									
Owner occupier	99	98	98	74	48	38	44	-	83
Local Authority Rent	0	1	1	5	42	5	27	-	7
Housing Association Rent	0	0	0	1	3	48	22	-	5
Private Rent	0	0	0	15	1	1	1	-	3
Sheltered / Supported accommodation	1	0	0	1	3	4	3	-	1
Other	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0
Don't know	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	-	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,190</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>2,060</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>3,210</i>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

\*\*\* Based on Household sample (base: 10,680)

\*\*\*\* Columns may not add up to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed

**Table 3.6: Views on neighbourhood and housing satisfaction, by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

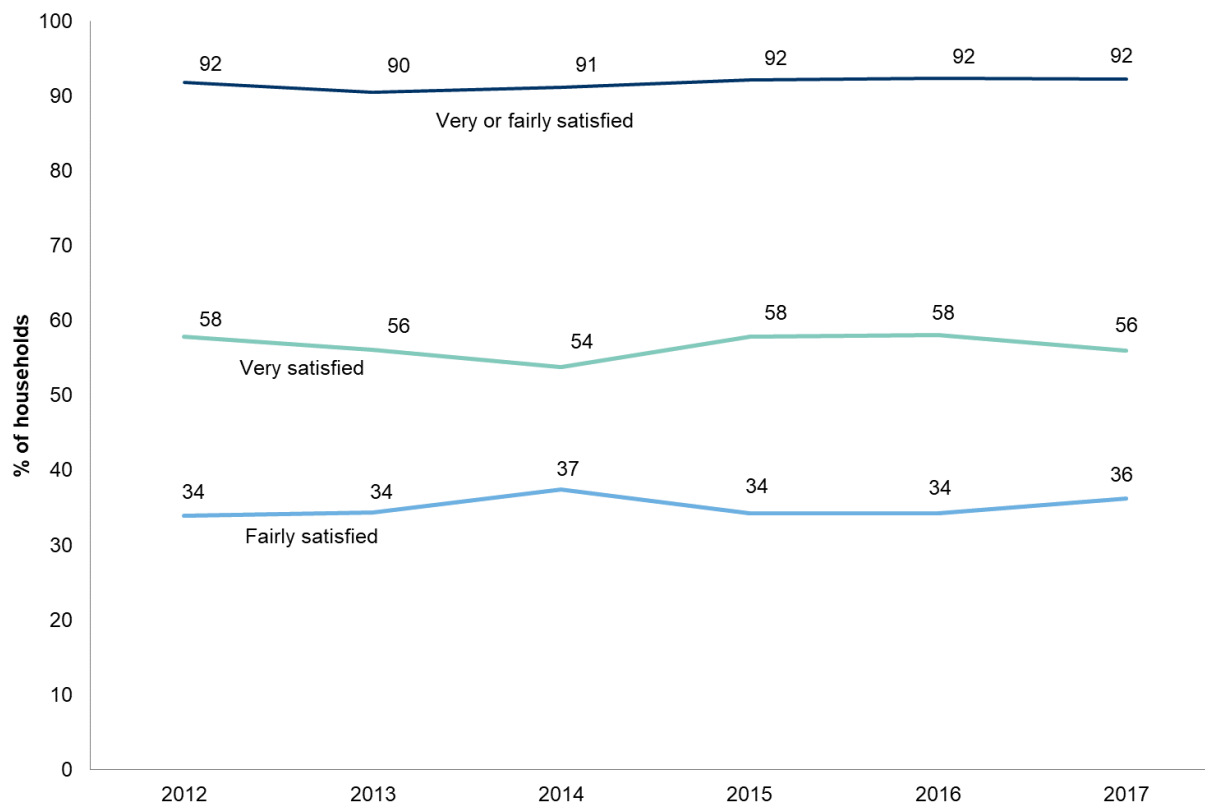
	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing		All	Other	All
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority	association**			
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors*</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live</b>									
Very good	68	60	64	49	38	41	39	57	57
Fairly good	30	37	34	45	48	48	48	37	38
Fairly poor	1	2	2	5	8	7	8	5	3
Very poor	1	0	1	1	5	3	4	1	1
No opinion	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	-	0
<b>Strength of belonging to immediate neighbourhood</b>									
Very strongly	47	31	39	19	33	30	32	29	35
Fairly strongly	39	49	44	44	40	41	41	34	43
Not very strongly	11	14	13	25	16	20	18	25	16
Not at all strongly	3	4	3	10	9	7	8	9	5
Don't know	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,670</i>	<i>2,580</i>	<i>6,250</i>	<i>1,250</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>2,170</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>9,810</i>
<b>Housing Satisfaction</b>									
Very satisfied	70	58	65	38	42	44	43	73	56
Fairly satisfied	28	37	32	49	40	39	40	20	36
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	2	1	7	7	6	6	-	3
Fairly dissatisfied	0	1	1	4	8	7	8	7	3
Very dissatisfied	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	-	2
No opinion	0	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,190</i>	<i>880</i>	<i>2,080</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>3,220</i>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

**Figure 3.6: Percentage of households very or fairly satisfied with housing**

2017 data, Households (minimum base: 3,220)



### 3.3.4 Housing adaptations and support

Table 3.7 and Table 3.8 provide information for the year 2017 on housing adaptations and support.

Households owning their property outright (43 per cent) and households in social rented accommodation (58 per cent) were more likely than other tenures to have a member of the household with a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more.

For households with a person with a physical or mental health condition, **the most common aspects of their home that limit activities that can be done** (based on the question options provided in the Scottish Household Survey) **were not being able to get upstairs inside the house** (six per cent) **and the bath or shower being difficult to access or use** (four per cent). Of all households with a person with a physical or mental health condition, 86 per cent stated that nothing about the home limited activities that could be done.

Twelve per cent of households with a person with a physical or mental health condition stated that their home requires adaptations to make it easier to go about daily activities, which equates to a total of around 110,000 households.

The most common types of home adaptations already in place for all homes (whether needed or not) are handrails, which are in 11 per cent of all homes, and in 20 per cent of social sector homes. **Over one in ten (11 per cent) of social sector homes have a specially designed or adapted bath or shower, and six per cent of social sector homes have a specially designed or adapted toilet.**

Two per cent of all households currently receive a home care worker or home help to help with housework, cooking and cleaning, whilst one per cent receive a home care worker to help with washing, bathing, dressing etc. Four per cent of homes receive some sort of assistance from a relative, friend or neighbour, rising to ten per cent of social sector homes.

**Table 3.7: Limiting activities by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing association**		All	Other	All
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority				
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors***</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Household has someone with a long term physical/mental health condition/illness****</b>									
Yes	43	24	34	26	57	58	58	51	38
No	57	76	66	74	43	42	42	49	62
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,920</i>	<i>2,900</i>	<i>6,820</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>1,390</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>10,680</i>
<b>What about the home limits activities that can be done*****</b>									
Can't get upstairs inside house	6	5	6	2	7	6	6	-	6
Too small / need more rooms	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	-	1
Can't leave house because of stairs to house	2	1	2	-	2	2	2	-	1
Restricted movement / can't get around the house due to design / layout	2	1	2	-	2	2	2	-	1
Doors too narrow	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	-	0
Rooms too small	-	0	0	1	1	2	1	-	1
Bath / shower difficult to access / use	4	4	4	4	6	4	5	-	4
Toilet difficult to access / use	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	-	2
Electric lights / sockets are difficult to reach / use	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Heating controls are difficult to reach / use	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	-	1
Can't open windows	2	1	2	1	4	1	3	-	2
Difficulty answering / opening door	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	-	1
Cupboards / shelves are difficult to reach / use	3	1	2	1	5	2	4	-	3
Can't get into / use garden	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1
Other	1	-	1	1	1	0	1	-	1
None / nothing	85	92	87	92	79	87	82	-	86
<b>Whether the home requires adaptations to make it easier to go about daily activities*****</b>									
Yes	11	6	10	9	17	12	15	-	12
No	88	93	90	91	82	88	85	-	88
Don't know	1	0	1	-	1	0	1	-	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>580</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>1,720</i>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

\*\*\* Based on Household sample (base: 10,470)

\*\*\*\* A long term condition is defined as lasting or expecting to last for 12 months or more

\*\*\*\*\* Asked of households with someone with a long term condition/illness

Columns may not add up to 100 due to multiple answers allowed

**Table 3.8: Housing adaptations and support, by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing		All	Other	All
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority	associatio n**			
<b>Proportional sizes of sectors***</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Home adaptations that are already in place</b>									
Ramps	3	2	3	2	4	3	4	3	3
Door widening	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Relocated light switches and power points	1	2	1	0	3	4	3	4	2
Individual alarm systems	2	1	2	1	4	4	4	3	2
Stairlift	2	0	1	-	3	2	1	1	1
Through floor lift	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	-	0
Handrails	12	5	8	6	22	16	20	12	11
Specially designed / adapted kitchen	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	-	1
Specially designed / adapted bathroom / shower	5	2	4	3	13	9	11	9	5
Specially designed / adapted toilet	3	1	2	1	5	6	6	2	3
Door entry phone	3	2	3	7	8	10	9	7	5
Extension to meet disabled person's needs	0	1	0	-	-	1	0	-	0
Special Furniture	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	-	1
Other	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	0
None needed / provided	78	87	82	84	65	69	67	68	79
Don't know	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1
<b>Services that household members currently receive</b>									
Home care worker / home help (helping with housework, cooking, cleaning)	3	0	2	1	3	4	4	3	2
Home care worker (helping with washing / bathing, dressing, toilet)	2	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	1
Meals delivered to home / meals on wheels	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	-	0
Day care / day centre (in hospital, residential home or other organisation)	0	-	0	-	1	1	1	-	0
Respite / short term care in residential / nursing home	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	1	0
Occupational therapy / physiotherapy	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
Help with shopping	2	0	1	1	7	5	6	2	2
Night care (someone present at night only)	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0
Assistance from relative / friend / neighbour	4	2	3	2	11	8	10	3	4
None	92	98	95	96	84	85	84	93	93
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,830</i>	<i>1,350</i>	<i>3,180</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>470</i>	<i>1,120</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>5,060</i>

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

\*\*\* Based on Household sample (base: 10,470)

Columns may not add up to 100 due to multiple answers allowed

## 3.4 Housing Lists

**An estimated 130,000 (5 per cent) of households were on a housing list in 2017**, with a further 20,000 households estimated to have applied for social housing using a choice based letting system, or similar, in the last year.

The number of people on housing lists helps provide an indication of the demand for social housing. In Scotland anyone over the age of 16 has the right to be admitted to a housing list. Since there is no test of particular housing need at the stage that an application is made, housing lists are indicators of demand and not necessarily of housing need.

Housing lists are held by social landlords, local authorities and housing associations, individually or jointly as Common Housing Registers. They can include people who are already in social housing but are seeking a move and in some cases applicants will be on more than one landlord's list. Social landlords are responsible for allocating their housing, in line with their allocation policies and the legislative framework.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 contains provisions intended to support social landlords to allocate and manage their housing in a way which balances the variety of housing needs in their area and gives local communities a greater say in who gets priority for housing.

A question about being on a housing list was introduced to the SHS in 2013 and these questions are asked of the random adult<sup>27</sup>. However, note that changes were made to the 2017 questions with the aim to better capture households who are using choice based lettings when seeking social housing. These may affect comparisons over time, and therefore some caution should be used when comparing the 2017 results to earlier years. Table 3.9 provides information on households on a housing list in 2017.

Also note that the Scottish Household Survey is based on a sample of the general population living in private residences in Scotland, and therefore it may exclude some people or households or who are on a housing list but who are living in other types of accommodation such as hostels or bed and breakfast accommodation.

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<sup>27</sup> [Further explanation of the interview structure is contained in the Introduction to the Survey](#)

**Ten per cent of private rented households stated that they were on a housing list**, of which almost three quarters (71 per cent) are only on one list. Over half (56 per cent) of private rented households on a housing list had been so for 3 years or less, with one third (35 per cent) on a list for one to three years. Ten per cent had been on a housing list for more than 10 years. **For around three in ten (27 per cent) of private rented households on a housing list, the main reason for being on a housing list was that they can't afford current housing or would like cheaper housing.** This was a much larger percentage than the equivalent figure for social rented households (3 per cent).

**Thirteen per cent of social rented households stated that they were on a housing list**, of which 67 per cent were only on one list. Fifty-eight per cent of social rented households on a housing list had been so for 3 years or less, with around a quarter (23 per cent) on a list for less than a year. Nine per cent had been on a housing list for more than 10 years. **For around a fifth (18 per cent) of social rented households on a housing list, the main reason for being on a housing list was to move to a bigger or smaller property**, with the next highest reason being threatened with homelessness (15 per cent). An additional two per cent of social rented households had applied for social housing under a choice-based letting scheme, or similar, in the last year.

**One per cent of owner occupier households stated that they were on a housing list**, of which almost three quarters (69 per cent) are only on one list. Around two-thirds (65 per cent) of households on a housing list had been so for 3 years or less. Ten per cent had been on a housing list for more than 10 years. **For around a quarter (25 per cent) of owner occupier households on a housing list, the main reason for being on a housing list was to move to their own property away from parents / partner.**



**Table 3.9: Households on a Housing List by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

	Owner Occupier			Private Rent	Social Rent Housing			Other	All
	Owned outright	Buying with mortgage*	All		Local authority	association**	All		
<b>Whether household is on a housing list</b>									
Yes	1	1	1	10	14	12	13	8	5
No***	99	98	99	90	84	87	86	92	94
Don't know / refused	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	-	1
<b>If not on a housing list, whether household has applied for social housing under a a choice-based letting scheme, or similar, in the last year</b>									
Yes	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	2	1
No****	100	100	100	99	96	96	96	98	99
Don't know	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	-	1
Base	3,670	2,580	6,250	1,250	1,270	900	2,170	140	9,810
<b>The number of housing lists that households are on (households on a list)</b>									
1 list	-	-	69	71	69	63	67	-	68
2 lists	-	-	9	11	9	14	11	-	10
3 or more lists	-	-	4	7	7	7	7	-	6
Don't know / refused	-	-	18	11	15	16	16	-	15
<b>How long the household has been on a housing list***** (households on a list)</b>									
Less than a year	-	-	31	21	25	19	23	-	24
1 to 3 years	-	-	35	35	33	38	35	-	35
4 to 5 years	-	-	9	18	14	17	15	-	15
6 to 10 years	-	-	12	16	10	13	11	-	12
More than 10 years	-	-	10	10	10	8	9	-	9
Don't know	-	-	3	0	7	5	6	-	4
<b>The main reason for household being on a housing list (households on a list)</b>									
Can't afford current housing / Would like cheaper housing	-	-	10	27	1	5	3	-	10
Threatened with homelessness	-	-	15	13	18	10	15	-	15
To move to a different area - anti-social/safety concerns in current area	-	-	2	3	12	4	9	-	6
To move to a different area - for work opportunities	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	-	2
To move to a different area - to a better area	-	-	6	7	11	12	11	-	9
To move to a different area - to be nearer family and friends	-	-	5	4	7	10	8	-	6
To move to a different area - other reason	-	-	0	2	2	2	2	-	2
To move to a different property - bigger/smaller	-	-	7	13	18	18	18	-	15
To move to a different property - need adaptations	-	-	9	4	5	6	6	-	6
To move to a different property - need ground floor access	-	-	13	5	5	13	8	-	8
To move to my own property away from parents/partner etc	-	-	25	11	10	9	9	-	12
To move to a different property - other reason	-	-	3	7	6	7	7	-	6
Other	-	-	4	2	1	1	1	-	2
Don't know	-	-	1	0	3	1	2	-	1
Base	40	30	70	130	170	100	270	10	480

\* The full category name is "Buying with the help of loan/mortgage"

\*\* The full category name is "Housing association / Co-op / Charitable trust"

\*\*\* Respondents who have said that either they have never looked for social housing or that they have looked for social housing but are not currently on a list

\*\*\*\* Respondents who have said that either they have never looked for social housing or that they have looked for social housing but are not currently on a list and they have also not applied for housing under a choice based letting scheme in the last year

\*\*\*\*\* where a household has been on multiple lists, is this the time spent on the list that they have been on for the longest

Table 3.10 and Table 3.11 present the results for 2017 based on the percentage of respondents who indicated that they were on at least one housing list, whether through a Council, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or a Common Housing Register (CHR).

**Table 3.10: Adults on housing lists**

Column percentages and population estimates, 2013 to 2017 data

All adults	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Per cent	Adults	Per cent	Adults	Per cent	Adults	Per cent	Adults
No, not on a housing list	91.9	4,060,000	92.9	4,120,000	94.3	4,210,000	95.5	4,290,000
Yes, on a housing list	6.4	280,000	6.0	270,000	5.0	220,000	3.9	170,000
Don't know / refused	1.7	80,000	1.1	50,000	0.7	30,000	0.6	30,000
All*	100	4,416,121	100	4,436,559	100	4,460,738	100	4,488,783
Base	9,920	-	9,800	-	9,410	-	9,640	-

All adults who have ever looked for social housing	2017	
	Per cent	Adults
No, not on a housing list**	94.7	4,270,000
Yes, on a housing list	4.9	220,000
Don't know / refused	0.4	20,000
All*	100	4,507,358
Base	9,810	-
Not on a housing list, but have applied for social housing using choice based lettings, or similar, in the last year	0.6	30,000

\* Adult estimates (population aged 16 and over) are from National Records of Scotland

<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates>

\*\* Respondents who have said that either they have never looked for social housing, or that they have looked for social housing but are not currently on a list

Note that changes were made to the 2017 SHS questions on housing lists with the aim to better capture households who are using choice based lettings when seeking social housing. This may have also affected comparisons over time, and therefore some caution should be used when comparing the 2017 results to earlier years

**Table 3.11: Households on housing lists**

Column percentages and household estimates, 2013 to 2017 data

	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Per cent	Households	Per cent	Households	Per cent	Households	Per cent	Households
No, not on a housing list	90.9	2,180,000	92.2	2,230,000	94.0	2,280,000	94.9	2,320,000
Yes, on a housing list	7.3	170,000	6.6	160,000	5.2	130,000	4.4	110,000
Don't know/refused	1.8	40,000	1.2	30,000	0.8	20,000	0.7	20,000
All*	100	2,400,342	100	2,416,014	100	2,429,943	100	2,446,171
Base	9,920	-	9,800	-	9,410	-	9,640	-

	2017	
	Per cent	Households
No, not on a housing list**	94.3	2,320,000
Yes, on a housing list	5.2	130,000
Don't know / refused	0.5	10,000
All*	100	2,463,569
Base	9,810	-
Not on a housing list, but have applied for social housing using choice based lettings, or similar, in the last year	0.7	20,000

\* Household estimates are from National Records of Scotland <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/households/household-estimates>

\*\* Respondents who have said that either they have never looked for social housing, or that they have looked for social housing but are not currently on a list

Note that changes were made to the 2017 SHS questions on housing lists with the aim to better capture households who are using choice based lettings when seeking social housing. This may have also affected comparisons over time, and therefore some caution should be used when comparing the 2017 results to earlier years.

The estimated share of households on a housing list has been calculated based on responses from the random adult but weighted to make it representative of households. This methodology is likely to slightly under-estimate the true figure due to assumptions which are discussed in Annex 2: Glossary.

To convert the SHS estimate into the corresponding number of adults, the SHS percentage is multiplied by the estimated adult population<sup>28</sup>. This results in an estimate that there were 220,000 adults in Scotland on housing lists for 2017. It is important to note that this estimate does not include children and that, where an adult is responsible for a child, the child will effectively also be on a housing list. A further 30,000 adults were estimated to have applied for social housing using a choice based letting system, or similar, in the last year.

<sup>28</sup> National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates Scotland <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population>

Housing list statistics are more commonly reported in terms of the number of households on lists rather than the number of adults. Table 3.9 reported that five per cent of households were on a list, and in a similar way to adults, this is multiplied to give an estimate the total number of households, as set out in Table 3.11. This shows that an estimated 130,000 households are on a list, with a further 20,000 households estimated to have applied for social housing using a choice based letting system, or similar, in the last year.

### 3.4.1 Other Sources of Housing List Statistics

Housing list statistics are also reported in Housing Statistics for Scotland (HSfS)<sup>29</sup>, which recorded 162,200 applicant households on Local Authority or Common Housing Register housing waiting or transfer lists as at 31 March 2017, compared with the estimate of 130,000 from the SHS. The Housing Statistics for Scotland figure includes some double counting of households who are on multiple housing lists. However, it also excludes six Local Authorities (including Glasgow) which have transferred all of their social housing stock to Housing Associations.

## 3.5 Private rented sector - changes between 1999 and 2017

As covered in previous sections, the private rented sector has seen significant growth in recent years, with the proportion of households living in this sector growing steadily from five per cent in 1999 to 15 per cent in 2016, an estimated increase of around a quarter of a million households from 120,000 to 370,000. In 2017, the sector remained at similar levels, with the estimated total of 360,000 households in the sector comprising 15 per cent of all households.

Given this increase in the size of the sector, there has been a high level of interest in understanding more about how the sector has changed over time. There is also likely to be interest in the coming years in assessing any impacts of the introduction of the new private residential tenancy, which came into effect on 1 December 2017 for all new tenancies.

This section provides information on trends in some of the key characteristics of private rented sector households between 1999 and 2017. For each characteristic of interest, results for each year are presented in three complementary ways:

(i) Privately renting households with each characteristic as a percentage of all households in the private rented sector. This will reflect changes in the composition of the sector.

<sup>29</sup> Housing Statistics for Scotland <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSfS/HousingLists>

(ii) The number of privately renting households with each characteristic.

(iii) Privately renting households<sup>30</sup> with each characteristic as a percentage of all Scottish households with that characteristic. This measure helps to distinguish whether a change in the composition of the private rented sector, as captured by (i), is due to a change in the relative importance of the private rented sector for households with the particular characteristic, or whether it reflects changes in the composition of the Scottish population.

Key characteristics that are covered are the urban / rural location of households, the age of the highest income householder, household composition, the economic status of adults in the sector, the average length of time at current address, and previous tenure. This information is covered in detail in Table 3.12 to Table 3.14.

### 3.5.1 Urban / Rural location of private rented households

Table 3.12 illustrates that **the growth of the private rented sector over the years between 1999 and 2017 has largely been concentrated in urban areas. In 1999, the share of the private rented sector was higher in rural areas.** In particular, the private rented sector accounted for 10 per cent of homes in remote rural areas, double the share across all locations (5 per cent). **Since then**, while there has been little growth in rural areas, **the share of the private rented sector in urban areas and small towns has increased significantly**, for example **rising by 13 percentage points in large urban areas so that by 2017 one fifth (20 per cent) of households in these areas were living in the private rented sector.** This is equivalent to an additional 110,000 households in large urban areas in 2017 compared with 1999, a nearly three-fold increase over this time period.

The share of privately renting households in 'other urban' areas (i.e. non-large urban areas) has increased by 10 percentage points over the same period to reach 13 per cent in 2017. This equates to **an additional 90,000 privately renting households in 'other urban' areas, a nearly five-fold increase since 1999.** This high growth rate is reflected in changes in the composition of the private rented sector, with the proportion of all privately renting households who live in 'other urban' areas rising by 16 percentage points over the period from 1999 to stand at 32 per cent in 2017. This increase has been compensated by a small decline in the share of households living in large urban areas, and larger declines in the share of privately renting households living in rural areas, with little change in the proportions living in small towns. As a result, **in 2017 nearly four-fifths (79 per cent) of privately rented households were living in urban areas** (either large urban areas or other urban areas).

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<sup>30</sup> Or adults, where the characteristic reflects the random adult in the household who is interviewed.

### 3.5.2 Ages of private rented householders

Table 3.13 provides information on the age of households in the private rented sector over the period 1999 to 2017, based on the age of the highest income adult in each household.

This shows that **the growth in the private rented sector between 1999 and 2017 has been greater for households with younger highest income householders**, with all age groups except those aged 75 and over seeing an increase in the share living in the private rented sector. **The proportion of all households aged 16 to 24 who are living in the private rented sector has increased from 30 per cent in 1999 up to 60 per cent in 2017**, equivalent to an increase of 40,000 households.

**The largest increase in the number of households has been in the age category 25 to 34 years, which has seen an increase of 80,000 households**, from 40,000 households in 1999 to 120,000 households in 2017. For this age group, the share of households living in the private rented sector has increased from nine per cent in 1999 up to 34 per cent in 2017.

The share of households living in the private rented sector has also increased for households aged 35 to 44 years. Four per cent of this age group were living in private rented households in 1999, and this has since risen to 19 per cent in 2017, equivalent to an increase of 50,000 households.

This growth across almost all age categories means that the composition of the private rented sector has not changed significantly, with a small increase in the share of the private rented sector of households with a highest income householder between 25 and 59 offset by decreases in the shares of the 16-24 and over 60 age categories.

### 3.5.3 Household composition of private rented households

Table 3.14 shows that **there has been substantial growth in the number of both single adult households as well as small adult households (i.e. a couple younger than pensionable age with no children) living in the private rented sector**, increasing by an estimated 80,000 and 70,000 households respectively between 1999 and 2017.

As a result, over this period the share of all single adults who rent privately and the share of all small adult households who rent privately have both increased by 13 percentage points, to stand at 25 per cent and 20 per cent respectively in 2017. An even larger increase was seen in the single parent category, with **the share of all single parent households who live in the private rented sector rising by 18 percentage points from 1999, so that almost a quarter (24 per cent) of single parents were renting**

**privately by 2017**, equivalent to an increase of 20,000 households from 10,000 to 30,000. The share of all small family households (i.e. households of two adults and one or two children) living in the private rented sector has also risen, from three per cent in 1999 to 14 per cent in 2017, equivalent to an increase of 10,000 households from 10,000 to 20,000.

In 1999, only two per cent of all older smaller households (i.e. two adults, at least one of pensionable age, and no children) and three per cent of all single pensioner households were living in the private rented sector. These proportions have remained at similar levels, standing at three per cent (10,000 households) and five per cent (20,000 households) respectively in 2017.

In terms of the composition of the private rented sector, there has been a small increase in the share of households with children, which has risen by 4 percentage points since 1999, so that **in 2017 nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of all privately renting households were households with children**. However it is worth noting that the private rented sector has a smaller share of large families, and so the proportion of all children living in the private sector is lower than 24 per cent. There were an estimated 150,000 children living in the private rented sector in 2017 (See Table 3.15), which equates to around 15 per cent of the 973,036 0-16 year olds in Scotland (mid-2017 population estimates).

### **3.5.4 Economic status of adults in private rented households**

Table 3.15 provides information on the economic status of adults in privately renting households from 1999 to 2017. It is based on interview responses from the 'random adult' in the household, and so is representative of adults in private rented accommodation and not entire households. The results should therefore be considered in terms of the overall number of adults in privately renting households, which has estimated to have increased by 420,000 from 200,000 adults in 1999 to 620,000 adults in 2017.

**There has been a large increase in the number of full time employed adults who are living in the private rented sector**, with the number of adults increasing by an estimated 180,000 people between 1999 and 2017. In 1999, the share of all full time employed adults living the private rented sector was five per cent, but this has since risen to 16 per cent in 2017. This growth rate is reflected in changes to the composition of adults living in the private rented sector over time, with the proportion of adults renting privately who are working full time rising by 7 percentage points over the period from 1999 to stand at 41 per cent in 2017.

There has also been an increase in the number of adults in further or higher education who are living in the private rented sector, rising by an estimated 90,000 people between 1999 and 2017. In 1999, the share of all adults in further or higher education who were living in the private rented sector was 26 per cent, but **by 2017 over half (56 per cent) of**



### **all adults in further or higher education were living in the private rented sector.**

Despite this increase, the share of all private renting adults who are in further or higher education was at similar level in 2017 (20 per cent) as in 1999 (22 per cent) due to the overall growth of the sector.

Consistent with the finding in Section 3.5.3 that there has been an increase in share of households with children in the private rented sector, the share of all adults looking after the home or family living in the private rented sector has risen from three per cent in 1999 to 20 per cent in 2017, an increase from 10,000 to 40,000 households.

Ten per cent of all adults in the private rented sector in 1999 were permanently retired from work, and this proportion has fallen to six per cent by 2017. However, given the increase in the sector as whole, this lower share still equates to an increase in the number of permanently retired adults renting privately, rising from an estimated 20,000 adults in 1999 to 40,000 adults in 2017.

### **3.5.5 Length of time at current address, and previous tenure, of adults in private rented households**

Table 3.16 provides information on the length of time at current address, along with information on the previous tenure, of adults in private rented households. It is based on interview responses from the 'random adult' in the household, and therefore is representative of adults in private rented accommodation and not entire households. Information on length of tenure is available from 1999 to 2017, whilst information on previous tenure is available from 2009 to 2017.

As with the previous results on the economic status of adults, the results should be considered in terms of the overall number of adults in private rented households, which is estimated to have increased by 420,000 from 200,000 adults in 1999 to 620,000 adults in 2017.

The growth in the private rented sector has brought about some changes to the profile of adults in the sector in terms of the length of time that people have been living at their current address. Within the private rented sector as a whole, there have been falls since 1999 in the percentages of adults that have been resident at their address for less than a year (46 per cent in 1999, down to 35 per cent in 2017), and at their address for 11 or more years (11 per cent in 1999, down to six per cent in 2017), with increases seen for those at their address for 1 to 2 years (23 per cent in 1999, up to 32 per cent in 2017) and for those at their address for 3 to 10 years (20 per cent in 1999, up to 27 per cent in 2017).



However it is important to note that any changes to these profiles over time are likely to reflect in part changes to the underlying composition of the sector over time, such as the increase of the share of properties located in urban or small town areas, which have different underlying profiles for lengths of stay.

The long term trend in the average length of time at current address shows a slightly downward trajectory through most years within the period, however this may be reflecting the change in the composition of the sector in terms of the growth in the number of properties in urban areas, households which generally have shorter lengths of stay on average than compared to properties in small town or rural areas. **The average length of stay for adults living in private rented households in urban areas has been relatively steady between 1999 and 2017, with averages of 2 years being seen for most years.**

Where adults have been at their current address for less than one year, information is available on the previous tenure of these adults. Sample sizes are relatively low for this, so some caution should be used when comparing trends over time. The results show that **in 2017 almost 8 in 10 (79 per cent) of adults in private sector accommodation had moved into their current address in the last year from either other private sector accommodation (55 per cent) or from their parental / family home (24 per cent).**

These percentages both appear to have remained relatively stable over the years 2009 to 2017. Equating these figures to numbers of adults shows that during 2017, of the estimated 620,000 adults living in private sector accommodation, around 220,000 adults had been living at their address for less than one year, and of these 120,000 had moved from another private sector household and 50,000 had moved from a parental or family home.

**Table 3.12: Urban Rural Location of private rented households, by year**

Column percentages and household estimates, 1999 to 2017 data

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Estimated number of households in the private rented sector</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>
<b>Urban / Rural Classification of private rented sector households (percentages of all private rented households):</b>																			
Large urban areas	50	51	52	53	53	52	55	55	50	52	52	53	52	50	50	51	47	46	47
Other urban areas	16	18	18	20	17	18	18	20	24	20	23	24	23	26	26	25	32	31	32
Accessible small towns	6	5	6	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	6	5	6	6	7	6	7	7
Remote small towns	2	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	2
Accessible rural	17	12	14	12	13	14	11	10	11	11	12	10	11	10	9	9	7	8	8
Remote rural	10	10	8	9	9	8	7	7	8	7	6	4	6	5	5	5	6	4	5
<b>As approximate number of private rented households:</b>																			
Large urban areas	60,000	60,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	140,000	140,000	160,000	160,000	170,000	160,000	170,000	170,000
Other urban areas	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Accessible small towns	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000
Remote small towns	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Accessible rural	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Remote rural	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<i>Base</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>790</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>820</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>1,230</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>1,160</i>	<i>1,160</i>	<i>1,180</i>	<i>1,200</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>1,250</i>
<b>For each urban/rural category, private rented households as a proportion of all households:</b>																			
Large urban areas	7	8	8	8	9	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	19	19	20
Other urban areas	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	7	6	8	9	9	12	11	10	13	13	13
Accessible small towns	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	8	7	10	9	11	10	12	11
Remote small towns	3	6	8	5	7	7	5	5	8	9	9	7	8	12	11	10	8	11	9
Accessible rural	8	5	7	6	7	8	8	6	8	10	11	9	11	12	11	11	10	11	11
Remote rural	10	10	9	11	10	10	9	8	12	11	9	9	11	9	11	13	13	11	11
All areas	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	11	11	13	13	14	14	15	15
<i>Base</i>	<i>13,780</i>	<i>14,560</i>	<i>14,610</i>	<i>14,040</i>	<i>13,970</i>	<i>14,780</i>	<i>14,070</i>	<i>14,190</i>	<i>12,240</i>	<i>12,370</i>	<i>12,540</i>	<i>12,440</i>	<i>12,890</i>	<i>9,890</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>9,400</i>	<i>9,640</i>	<i>9,810</i>

**Table 3.13: Age of Highest Income Householder in Private Rented Households, by year**

Column percentages and population estimates, 1999 to 2017 data

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Estimated number of households in the private rented sector</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>
<b>Age of highest income householder (percentages of all private rented households):</b>																			
16 to 24	22	24	25	26	23	21	22	21	22	23	22	23	22	19	18	19	19	19	19
25 to 34	31	32	32	30	31	32	32	31	33	32	35	34	35	37	37	36	37	33	33
35 to 44	17	20	17	18	18	20	20	18	18	19	18	19	19	19	20	20	18	19	20
45 to 59	14	13	13	13	15	16	14	17	14	15	14	14	14	17	16	15	16	18	17
60 to 74	9	7	6	9	7	7	8	10	7	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	8	8
75 plus	6	5	6	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3
<b>As approximate number of private rented households:</b>																			
16 to 24	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
25 to 34	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	70,000	80,000	90,000	90,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	130,000	120,000	120,000
35 to 44	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	70,000	60,000	70,000	70,000
45 to 59	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
60 to 74	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000
75 plus	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Base</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,250</b>
<b>For each age category, private rented households as a proportion of all households:</b>																			
16 to 24	30	32	37	38	37	36	42	40	44	45	46	52	51	51	51	59	55	57	60
25 to 34	9	11	12	12	13	15	17	18	21	21	26	26	28	33	35	35	37	34	34
35 to 44	4	5	5	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	9	11	12	14	15	16	16	18	19
45 to 59	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	8	7	7	8	9	9
60 to 74	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	5
75 plus	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
All ages	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	11	11	13	13	14	14	15	15
<b>Base</b>	<b>14,680</b>	<b>15,550</b>	<b>15,570</b>	<b>15,070</b>	<b>14,880</b>	<b>15,940</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>15,620</b>	<b>13,410</b>	<b>13,810</b>	<b>14,190</b>	<b>14,210</b>	<b>14,360</b>	<b>10,640</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>10,630</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>10,470</b>	<b>10,680</b>

**Table 3.14: Household composition of private rented households, by year**

Column percentages and households estimates, 1999 to 2017 data

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Estimated number of households in the private rented sector</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>
<b>Household composition (percentages of all private rented households):</b>																			
Large adult	7	11	6	10	7	5	7	6	7	7	7	8	8	5	6	6	5	6	6
Large family	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	4
Older smaller	6	3	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	2	2
Single adult	38	37	42	38	40	38	37	37	36	33	34	33	33	34	34	33	35	37	37
Single parent	7	9	8	10	8	10	10	9	8	9	9	10	10	11	10	9	9	10	8
Single pensioner	8	7	6	8	6	5	6	7	7	7	5	5	6	5	5	6	4	6	5
Small adult	20	20	21	19	21	24	22	26	25	27	29	25	23	26	27	28	27	26	25
Small family	8	10	9	8	9	10	10	8	10	9	9	11	12	12	12	13	11	11	12
<b>As approximate number of private rented households:</b>																			
Large adult	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Large family	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
Older smaller	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Single adult	50,000	40,000	60,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	70,000	80,000	90,000	90,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	120,000	140,000	130,000
Single parent	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	30,000
Single pensioner	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000
Small adult	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	70,000	60,000	80,000	90,000	90,000	100,000	90,000	90,000
Small family	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
<i>Base</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>790</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>820</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>1,230</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>1,160</i>	<i>1,160</i>	<i>1,180</i>	<i>1,200</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>1,250</i>
<b>For each household composition category, private rented households as a proportion of all households:</b>																			
Large adult	5	6	5	7	6	4	6	7	8	8	9	10	9	8	10	9	10	11	11
Large family	4	4	3	4	4	5	5	4	7	6	5	7	10	9	9	10	12	11	13
Older smaller	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Single adult	12	12	16	13	14	15	16	15	17	16	16	19	20	23	23	23	23	25	25
Single parent	6	9	9	10	9	12	12	12	13	16	16	20	21	25	22	24	26	27	24
Single pensioner	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	5
Small adult	6	7	8	7	8	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	16	20	22	23	21	20	20
Small family	3	4	4	4	4	5	6	5	7	7	8	10	11	14	13	14	14	14	14
All types of households	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	11	11	13	13	14	14	15	15
<i>Base</i>	<i>14,680</i>	<i>15,550</i>	<i>15,570</i>	<i>15,070</i>	<i>14,880</i>	<i>15,940</i>	<i>15,400</i>	<i>15,620</i>	<i>13,410</i>	<i>13,810</i>	<i>14,190</i>	<i>14,210</i>	<i>14,360</i>	<i>10,640</i>	<i>10,650</i>	<i>10,630</i>	<i>10,330</i>	<i>10,470</i>	<i>10,680</i>

**Table 3.15: Economic Situation of adults in private rented households, by year**

Column percentages and households estimates, 1999 to 2017 data

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Estimated number of households in the private rented sector</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>
<b>Estimated number of children</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Estimated number of adults</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>460,000</b>	<b>530,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>560,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Estimated number of people</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>580,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>740,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>770,000</b>
<b>Economic situation of adults (percentages of all adults in private rented households):</b>																			
Self employed	6	6	5	6	5	5	6	5	7	5	5	5	6	8	6	6	7	8	6
Employed full time	34	34	37	32	37	41	37	40	41	42	40	38	40	40	44	44	44	41	41
Employed part time	8	6	6	5	8	7	7	8	7	9	10	9	10	9	8	7	9	8	9
Looking after the home or family	5	6	8	9	9	8	10	8	8	9	6	7	6	6	8	7	7	8	7
Permanently retired from work	10	8	9	8	7	7	8	8	6	6	7	5	6	6	5	5	5	6	6
Unemployed and seeking work	8	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	5	4	9	11	6	7	7	5	6	5	4
At school	-	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
In further / higher education	22	27	22	27	22	19	21	20	19	20	19	21	20	17	17	21	18	20	20
Gov't work or training scheme	1	0	0	0	0	1	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	0
Permanently sick or disabled	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	4
Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Other	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>As approximate number of adults in private rented households:</b>																			
Self employed	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	40,000
Employed full time	70,000	70,000	80,000	70,000	80,000	110,000	110,000	120,000	150,000	150,000	170,000	170,000	180,000	210,000	240,000	250,000	260,000	250,000	250,000
Employed part time	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	60,000
Looking after the home or family	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	50,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	50,000	40,000
Permanently retired from work	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000
Unemployed and seeking work	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	40,000	50,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	20,000
At school	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
In further / higher education	40,000	60,000	50,000	60,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	80,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	120,000	100,000	120,000	130,000
Gov't work or training scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permanently sick or disabled	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Base</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,250</b>
<b>For each economic status category, private rented adults as a proportion of all adults:</b>																			
Self employed	6	7	6	8	6	8	9	7	11	9	8	10	11	16	13	15	17	18	15
Employed full time	5	5	6	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	14	15	16	17	16	16
Employed part time	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	6	6	8	9	9	10	11	10	9	12	12	12
Looking after the home or family	3	4	6	7	7	8	12	9	11	13	11	14	14	16	18	20	18	21	20
Permanently retired from work	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3
Unemployed and seeking work	9	8	11	11	9	10	14	11	12	11	17	20	13	17	17	15	24	19	17
At school	-	5	3	4	2	4	2	3	3	2	5	4	9	7	8	8	9	9	16
In further / higher education	26	35	32	32	29	29	34	33	31	38	38	40	40	42	41	49	46	48	56
Gov't work or training scheme	11	1	7	3	4	20	-	4	16	10	13	7	-	26	27	-	-	26	62
Permanently sick or disabled	4	4	5	4	5	6	6	5	8	6	6	4	8	11	10	8	9	8	13
Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury	10	6	7	11	10	14	6	7	9	9	12	10	12	24	6	20	11	13	27
Other (specify)	3	10	3	4	9	10	11	10	7	7	3	17	17	20	28	11	5	28	-
All adults	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	11	11	13	13	13	14	14	15
<b>Base</b>	<b>13,780</b>	<b>14,560</b>	<b>14,640</b>	<b>14,040</b>	<b>13,970</b>	<b>14,780</b>	<b>14,070</b>	<b>14,190</b>	<b>12,240</b>	<b>12,370</b>	<b>12,540</b>	<b>12,440</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>9,890</b>	<b>9,920</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,410</b>	<b>9,640</b>	<b>9,810</b>

**Table 3.16: Length of time at address in private rented households, by year**

Column percentages and households estimates, 1999 to 2017 data

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Estimated households in the sector</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>
<b>Estimated number of children</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Estimated number of adults</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>460,000</b>	<b>530,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>560,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Estimated number of people</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>580,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>740,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>770,000</b>
<b>Length of time at current address (percentages of all adults in private rented households):</b>																			
Less than one year	46	45	48	52	46	47	46	45	49	47	39	42	42	44	40	44	43	41	35
1 to 2 years	23	27	25	21	30	26	26	27	28	28	30	30	29	30	27	28	27	27	32
3 to 4 years	11	11	10	11	7	9	11	11	10	8	10	11	13	13	14	14	14	15	15
5 to 10 years	9	7	7	7	8	9	9	9	7	9	9	10	9	9	10	10	10	12	12
11 to 20 years	6	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	3	5	5	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4
More than 20 years	6	4	4	5	4	4	3	3	4	3	7	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	2
<b>As approximate number of adults in private rented households:</b>																			
Less than one year	90,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	110,000	120,000	130,000	140,000	180,000	170,000	170,000	190,000	190,000	230,000	220,000	240,000	250,000	250,000	220,000
1 to 2 years	50,000	60,000	50,000	50,000	70,000	70,000	80,000	80,000	100,000	100,000	130,000	140,000	140,000	150,000	160,000	150,000	170,000	160,000	200,000
3 to 4 years	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	90,000	90,000
5 to 10 years	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	80,000
11 to 20 years	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
More than 20 years	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Average time at current address	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.5	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0
Base	700	790	870	820	830	960	1,030	1,040	960	980	1,150	1,230	1,300	1,160	1,160	1,180	1,200	1,270	1,250
Average time (years) - urban areas	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.6	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	3.6	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4
Base	410	500	540	520	520	620	690	730	640	650	780	840	890	800	810	810	840	910	920
Average time (years) - small towns	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.3	3.4	4.0	3.2	2.5	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.3	3.3	3.6
Base	70	90	110	80	90	90	100	100	80	120	120	130	140	150	140	150	150	160	130
Average time (years) - rural areas	8.1	6.5	9.1	8.6	6.6	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.0	9.9	8.7	6.7	7.5	6.1	6.6	6.4	5.5	6.4	6.7
Base	230	210	210	210	220	250	240	220	240	220	260	210	270	210	210	220	210	200	200
<b>Tenure of previous address* (percentages of all adults in private rented households):</b>																			
Owned outright	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2	3	4	3	2	4	5	5
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	6	7	10	11	9	8	7	8
Private Rented	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	56	57	54	53	55	52	56	55	55
Rent – Local authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	3	5	4	5	5	3	2	3
Rent - Housing association/Coop/Charitable trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	2	3	5	3	4	4	3	3
In parental/family home	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	28	26	23	21	27	24	26	24
<b>As approximate number of adults in private rented households:</b>																			
Owned outright	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Buying with help of loan/mortgage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Private Rented	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	90,000	110,000	100,000	120,000	120,000	130,000	140,000	140,000	120,000
Rent – Local authority	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Rent - Housing association/Coop/Charitable trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
In parental/family home	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	70,000	60,000	60,000	50,000
Base	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	450	500	510	460	450	480	460	470	430

\* asked of those who have lived at their current address for less than one year

## 4 Neighbourhoods and Communities

### Main Findings

Over nine in ten adults view their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live, with the majority of adults in Scotland (57.0 per cent) rating their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2017. In addition, the proportion of adults who described their neighbourhood as very or fairly good in 2017 was significantly higher than in each individual year between 1999 and 2013.

Neighbourhood ratings vary by area deprivation. Adults in less deprived areas are more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. This has been a consistent finding in recent years. Whilst the proportion of people living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas who rate their neighbourhood as very good has increased over the last decade, the gap between the most and least deprived areas in 2017 was broadly a similar size as in 2007 when we look at those describing their neighbourhood as very good.

Those in accessible or remote rural areas were more likely to describe their neighbourhood as a very good place to live than those in urban areas.

Most potential neighbourhood problems are not considered to be particularly common. In 2017, the most prevalent issue cited was animal nuisance (e.g. noise or fouling) which was reported as being very or fairly common by 32 per cent of adults.

43 per cent of all adults reported that they did not experience any neighbourhood problems in 2017, although this proportion has decreased in recent years. Those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas were more likely to experience neighbourhood problems.

Just over one in twenty adults reported that they had experienced discrimination or harassment in the last three years. Some groups are more likely than others to report having experienced discrimination or harassment in Scotland, for instance those under the age of 60 and those from minority ethnic groups. The most common reason cited as a motivating factor was the respondent's ethnicity.

Almost eight-in-ten (78 per cent) adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2017, however this varied according to age, ethnic group and deprivation. The majority of adults in Scotland strongly agreed that they would assist neighbours in an emergency and could rely on those around them for advice and support.

The majority of households in Scotland reported that they have not thought about or made any preparations for events like severe weather or flooding.

## 4.1 Introduction and Context

One of the Scottish Government's recently revised 11 National Outcomes<sup>31</sup> is that **'We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe'**.

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is one of the sources of evidence that can be used to assess progress towards achieving this outcome, with this chapter presenting the latest findings from the survey relevant to neighbourhoods and communities.

This chapter includes results used to monitor one of the National Indicators: Perceptions of local area – the percentage of people who rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. Therefore the chapter starts with an overview of the latest results on that indicator, including the variation in views by demographic and geographic characteristics.

The chapter then goes on to explore the perceptions and experiences of various forms of anti-social behaviour, before looking at experiences of discrimination and harassment. Finally, the chapter investigates how engaged people were with their local community and how prepared households were for emergency situations in 2017.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>



## 4.2 Neighbourhoods

The section below explores how people view their neighbourhoods and their impression of how their local area has changed (if at all) over the last few years.

### 4.2.1 Overall Ratings of Neighbourhoods

The **majority of adults in Scotland** (57.0 per cent) rated their neighbourhood as a **very good place to live in 2017**, as shown in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by year**

Column percentages, 1999; 2007-2017 data

Adults	1999	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Very/fairly good</i>	90.7	92.0	92.4	92.5	93.6	93.5	93.9	93.7	94.1	94.4	94.6	95.0	95.0
Very good	49.4	51.1	51.7	53.1	55.0	55.4	55.9	55.2	55.2	55.8	56.3	56.7	57.0
Fairly good	41.3	40.9	40.7	39.4	38.6	38.1	38.0	38.5	38.9	38.5	38.3	38.3	38.1
Fairly poor	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4
Very poor	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.3
No opinion	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	13,780	14,190	10,390	9,310	12,540	12,440	12,890	9,890	9,920	9,800	9,410	9,640	9,810

Overall ratings of neighbourhoods have been consistently high since the SHS began in 1999, with over **nine in ten adults viewing their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live in each year**. This proportion has increased over the years as shown in the above table, meaning the percentage of adults who described their neighbourhood as very or fairly good in 2017 was significantly higher than in each individual year between 1999 and 2013.

**Table 4.2: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by Urban Rural classification**

Column percentages, 2017 data

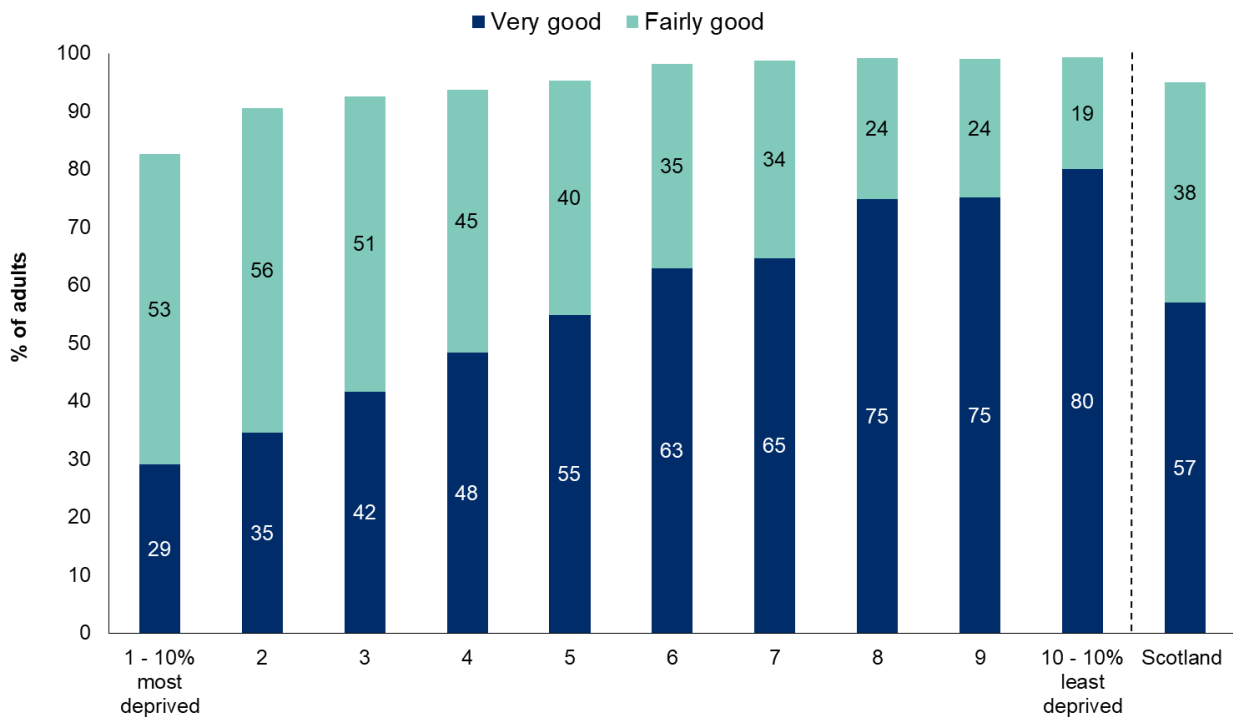
Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
<i>Very/fairly good</i>	94	94	97	96	98	98	95
Very good	53	53	59	65	70	76	57
Fairly good	41	41	38	30	28	22	38
Fairly poor	4	4	2	2	2	2	3
Very poor	2	2	0	1	0	1	1
No opinion	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	2,810	3,530	880	570	1,000	1,030	9,810

Whilst neighbourhoods were rated fairly positively across the board, the strength of view varied by urban rural classification, with **those in accessible or remote rural areas most likely to describe their neighbourhood as a very good place to live** (70 per cent and 76 per cent respectively). In contrast, just over half (53 per cent) of those in large urban areas rated their neighbourhood as very good, as shown in Table 4.2.

Neighbourhood ratings also vary by deprivation<sup>32</sup>, with the proportion of **adults rating their neighbourhood as a very good place to live increasing as deprivation decreases**, as found consistently over recent years.

**Figure 4.1: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 900)



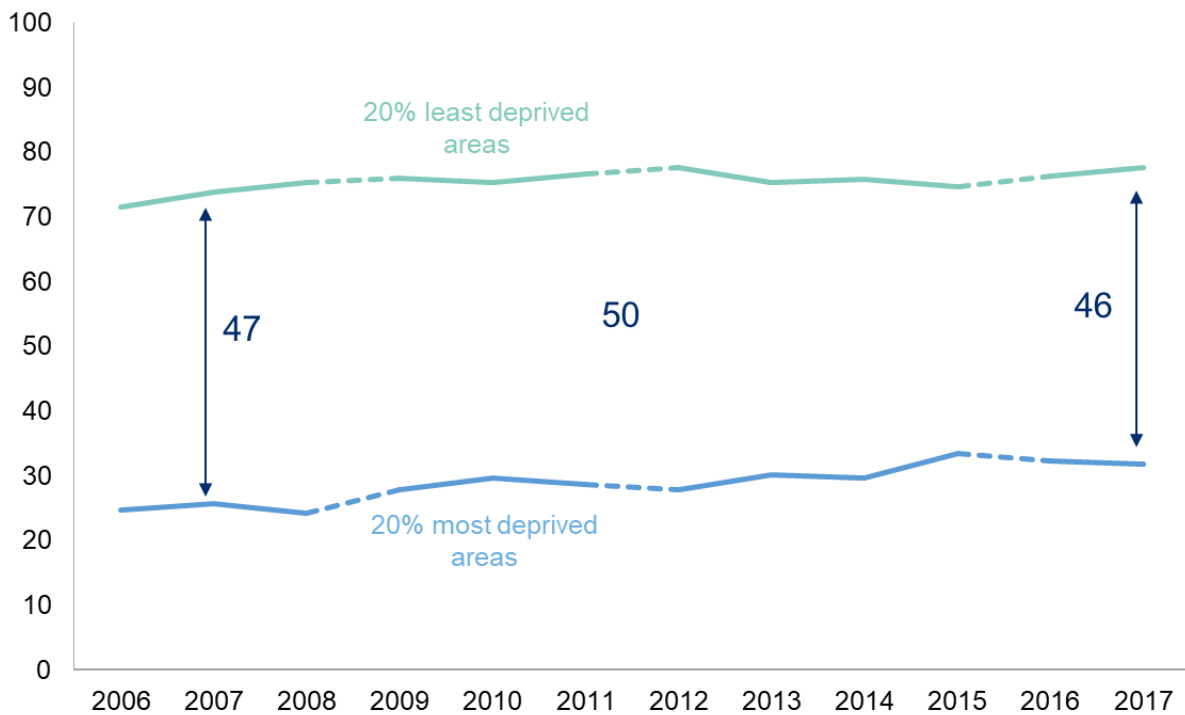
As shown in Figure 4.1, just under three in ten adults (29 per cent) in the 10 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2017, compared to eight in ten (80 per cent) of those living in the 10 per cent least deprived areas. Overall however, it is worth noting that more than four-fifths (83 per cent) in the most deprived areas did describe their neighbourhood as either very or fairly good.

In addition, neighbourhood ratings have improved amongst those living in the most deprived areas over the last decade. For example, when we look at the 20 per cent most deprived areas, the proportion rating their neighbourhood as very good has increased from 26% in 2007 to 32% in 2017. However, notwithstanding some year-to-year fluctuations in results, the gap between the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas in 2017 was broadly a similar size as in 2007 when we look at those describing their neighbourhood as very good, as shown in Figure 4.2 .

<sup>32</sup> As defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation – see Annex 2: Glossary

**Figure 4.2: Rating of neighbourhood as a very good place to live by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 20% most and 20% least deprived areas**

2006-2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 1,580)



Note: Dotted lines represent breaks in SIMD data

#### 4.2.2 Neighbourhood Improvements

Respondents were also asked whether and to what extent they thought their neighbourhood had changed in the preceding three years. Overall just under **two-thirds of adults** (63%) reported in 2017 that they **thought their neighbourhood had stayed the same over the last few years**. The proportions thinking their neighbourhood had got better or worse over that time period were very similar at 16 and 15 per cent respectively.

However, as shown in Table 4.3 below, perceptions varied by deprivation with **those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland least likely to believe that their area had stayed the same in recent years**.

**Table 4.3: Perceptions of neighbourhood improvements in past three years by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	1 - 20% most deprived	2	3	4	5 - 20% least deprived	Scotland
Got much better	4	5	2	2	2	3
Got a little better	15	15	12	13	13	13
Stayed the same	53	56	66	68	70	63
Got a little worse	14	13	12	10	9	12
Got much worse	7	6	3	3	1	4
Don't know	7	7	6	4	5	6
All	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1,820	1,960	2,140	2,080	1,810	9,810

### 4.2.3 Neighbourhood Ratings and Fear of Crime

As discussed in section 1.3 (Comparability with Other Sources), the [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#) outputs present detailed analysis in relation to perceptions and fear of crime, and confidence in the police, which should be viewed as the primary source for evidence on those topics. However, the SHS questions on fear of crime uniquely enable the link between neighbourhood ratings and feelings of safety to be explored as outlined below.

Table 4.4 below shows a **clear association between how adults rated their neighbourhood and how safe they felt in their communities**. For example, the majority of all respondents (82 per cent) said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. However, this was true for just over a third (35 per cent) of adults who rated their neighbourhood as a very poor place to live, compared to 84 per cent of those who rated their local area as very or fairly good.

**Table 4.4: Perceptions of safety when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark and in their home alone at night by rating of neighbourhood as a place to live<sup>33</sup>**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Very/fairly good	Fairly poor	Very poor	No opinion	All
<b>Walking alone</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	84	51	35	*	82
Very / A bit unsafe	12	46	60	*	14
Don't Know	4	4	6	*	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,340</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9,810</i>
<b>At home</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	98	88	74	*	97
Very / A bit unsafe	2	12	26	*	3
Don't Know	0	-	-	*	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,340</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9,810</i>

<sup>33</sup> In previous years, the sample for this analysis using the 'walking alone' variable has excluded those who said 'don't know' to the walking alone question (i.e. a smaller base than the whole sample). This approach has been changed this year so that this analysis is now based on the whole sample – consistent with the 'home alone' analysis.

## 4.3 Neighbourhood Problems

### 4.3.1 Perceptions of neighbourhood problems

As well as asking respondents about their general views on their neighbourhood and how it may have changed, the SHS also collects information on perceptions and experiences of specific neighbourhood problems, such as anti-social behaviour. As with previous years, the nine neighbourhood problems which respondents were asked about can be categorised in four key groups as shown below.

<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>	<b>Neighbour problems</b>	<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	Noisy neighbours/ loud parties	Rubbish or litter lying around	Abandoned or burnt out vehicles
Groups or individuals harassing others	Neighbour disputes	Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	
Drug misuse or dealing			
Rowdy behaviour			

Perceptions of neighbourhood problems overall are outlined in Table 4.5 which shows the percentage of adults describing each issue as very or fairly common in their neighbourhood over the last 10 years.

Continuing the trend seen over the last decade, **the most prevalent issues cited in 2017** were:

- **Animal nuisance** such as noise or dog fouling (which 32 per cent saw as very or fairly common); and
- **Rubbish or litter lying around** (which 30 per cent said was very or fairly common).

Notwithstanding relatively minor (although sometimes statistically significant) fluctuations in the estimated proportion of adults viewing each issue as common between survey sweeps, many perceived problems have been broadly stable in recent years. However, looking over the longer term reveals more notable changes in some categories. For instance, **the proportion of people citing vandalism/damage to property as common issue almost halved between 2007 and 2017** (despite having increased slightly in the last year), whilst the perceived commonality of animal nuisance has increased since 2009.

**Table 4.5: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood**

Percentages, 2007-2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>											
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to	17	15	14	11	11	11	10	8	8	8	9
Groups or individual harassing	12	11	10	8	8	8	7	6	6	6	6
Drug misuse or dealing	12	13	12	11	12	13	12	11	12	12	13
Rowdy behaviour	17	17	16	14	14	15	13	12	11	11	12
<b>Neighbour problems</b>											
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	9	10	10	10	10	12	11	11	10	10	11
Neighbour disputes	5	5	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>											
Rubbish or litter lying around	29	29	26	24	25	29	27	27	28	30	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	-	-	24	23	26	30	31	31	31	31	32
<b>Vehicles</b>											
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,390</i>	<i>9,310</i>	<i>11,400</i>	<i>11,140</i>	<i>11,280</i>	<i>9,890</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>9,410</i>	<i>9,640</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

### 4.3.2 Variation in Neighbourhood Problems

#### Deprivation

The perceived prevalence of neighbourhood problems varies by deprivation. Table 4.6 shows that **those living in most deprived areas were more likely to perceive each issue to be a very or fairly common problem**. For example, there is a difference between adults in the 10 per cent most and 10 per cent least deprived areas in perceptions of rubbish or litter lying around (50 per cent compared to 22 per cent), drug misuse or dealing (33 per cent compared to three per cent), and rowdy behaviour (30 per cent compared to five per cent).

**Table 4.6: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	10% most deprived										Scotland	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
<b>General anti-social</b>												
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	21	17	11	10	8	5	4	3	5	5	9	
Groups or individual harassing others	13	11	10	8	4	3	3	1	1	2	6	
Drug misuse or dealing	33	25	18	15	11	7	6	4	5	3	13	
Rowdy behaviour	30	22	14	14	10	8	6	7	5	5	12	
<b>Neighbour problems</b>												
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	23	18	15	13	10	9	6	5	5	5	11	
Neighbour disputes	14	11	7	7	5	5	5	2	1	2	6	
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>												
Rubbish or litter lying around	50	47	35	36	30	24	22	20	19	22	30	
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	42	45	35	34	31	27	29	25	25	23	32	
<b>Vehicles</b>												
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	
<i>Base</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>9,810</i>	

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

## Tenure

Table 4.7 shows that **neighbourhood problems** were generally perceived to be **more common by those who lived in social rented housing** compared to owner occupiers and private renters. For instance, drug misuse or dealing was most likely to be perceived to be a very or fairly common problem by those in social rented accommodation, with a quarter (26 per cent) citing it as regular issue compared to 11 per cent of those in private rented housing and 9 per cent of owner occupiers. In part, these associations show the link between social rented housing and deprivation.



**Table 4.7: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by tenure of household**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	All
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>					
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	7	15	9	10	9
Groups or individual harassing others	4	12	6	4	6
Drug misuse or dealing	9	26	11	11	13
Rowdy behaviour	8	21	17	12	12
<b>Neighbour problems</b>					
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	7	21	17	9	11
Neighbour disputes	4	13	6	5	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>					
Rubbish or litter lying around	27	39	31	29	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	31	39	27	22	32
<b>Vehicles</b>					
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	1	3	2	0	2
Base	6,250	2,170	1,250	140	9,810

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

## Age

**Perceptions of neighbourhood problems generally decrease with age**, as shown in Table 4.8 below. For example, those aged 16-24 were more likely than those aged 75 and above to view rowdy behaviour as a very or fairly common issue (reported by 21 per cent and 3 per cent respectively).

**Table 4.8: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by age of respondent**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>							
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	14	11	10	9	6	4	9
Groups or individual harassing others	11	6	6	5	4	2	6
Drug misuse or dealing	18	14	13	12	11	5	13
Rowdy behaviour	21	17	12	10	8	3	12
<b>Neighbour problems</b>							
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	21	14	10	10	7	3	11
Neighbour disputes	9	8	6	6	4	2	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>							
Rubbish or litter lying around	36	35	31	29	28	22	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	28	34	39	32	30	23	32
<b>Vehicles</b>							
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	3	2	2	2	1	1	2
Base	650	1,290	1,400	2,410	2,590	1,480	9,810

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

However, it should be noted that the association between age and the perceived prevalence of neighbourhood problems is not entirely linear across all of the issues considered, despite the general declining trend in reported prevalence with increasing age. For example, whilst one-quarter (28 per cent) of adults aged 16-24 reported animal nuisance (such as noise or fouling) as being very or fairly common, this was true for around a third (34 per cent) of those aged 25-34.

### Urban/Rural area

Table 4.9 shows that **adults living in urban areas were generally more likely to consider neighbourhood problems to be common**, compared to those in rural areas. In particular, those living in large urban areas were generally most likely to perceive each issue as being very or fairly common, whilst those in accessible and remote rural areas tended to be least likely to consider neighbourhood problems to be common.

Continuing the trend from recent years, the issue most commonly reported by those in large urban areas was rubbish or litter lying around (38 per cent), a problem only rated as very or fairly common by 20 per cent of those in accessible rural areas, and 16 per cent of adults living in remote rural areas.

Compared to 2016, perceptions of neighbourhood problems within area classifications were relatively stable for most measures. Considering notable changes, it is worth highlighting that between 2016 and 2017 there was a decrease in the proportion of those living in remote small towns who perceived rubbish lying around and drug misuse or dealing to be common issues (decreasing by 8 and 6 percentage points respectively). This follows an increase in the perceived prevalence of these issues, by similar magnitudes, between 2015 and 2016 in these areas.

**Table 4.9: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by Urban Rural classification**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>							
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	12	9	6	7	4	2	9
Groups or individual harassing others	6	7	4	4	2	3	6
Drug misuse or dealing	13	14	13	14	8	7	13
Rowdy behaviour	17	12	8	11	4	4	12
<b>Neighbour problems</b>							
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	14	11	9	11	5	4	11
Neighbour disputes	7	6	5	6	3	4	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>							
Rubbish or litter lying around	38	31	22	23	20	16	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	33	32	35	32	27	23	32
<b>Vehicles</b>							
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	3	1	1	2	2	2	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,810</i>	<i>3,530</i>	<i>880</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

### 4.3.3 Personal Experience of Neighbourhood Problems

The previous section examined perceptions of neighbourhood problems by a range of socio-demographic and geographic characteristics. This section will now focus on personal experience of neighbourhood problems.

It is important to note that it is not always necessary to have direct personal experience of an issue to know about it or perceive it as a problem in an area. For example, in the case of vandalism, a person may not have experienced vandalism to their property, but may have seen other vandalised property in their neighbourhood.

In addition, what respondents define as “experience” is related to their own perceptions, beliefs and definitions. For instance, one respondent may consider witnessing drug dealing as experiencing the issue, whilst another respondent may only report experience of this problem if they personally have been offered drugs.

Figure 4.3 compares the perception that a neighbourhood problem is fairly or very common with reported experiences of that problem in the previous year. It is notable that some problems were perceived to be common by a higher percentage of the adult population than had actually experienced the issue (with the reverse being true of animal nuisance). For example, 13 per cent of individuals believed drug misuse or dealing was a very or fairly common problem in their neighbourhood, yet only 7 per cent of adults reported that they had personally experienced this problem. That said, the relationship between experiences and perceptions was much more evident for certain neighbourhood problems (such as issues with neighbours like noise and disputes).

**Figure 4.3: Perceptions and experience of neighbourhood problems**

2017 data, Adults (base: 9,810)

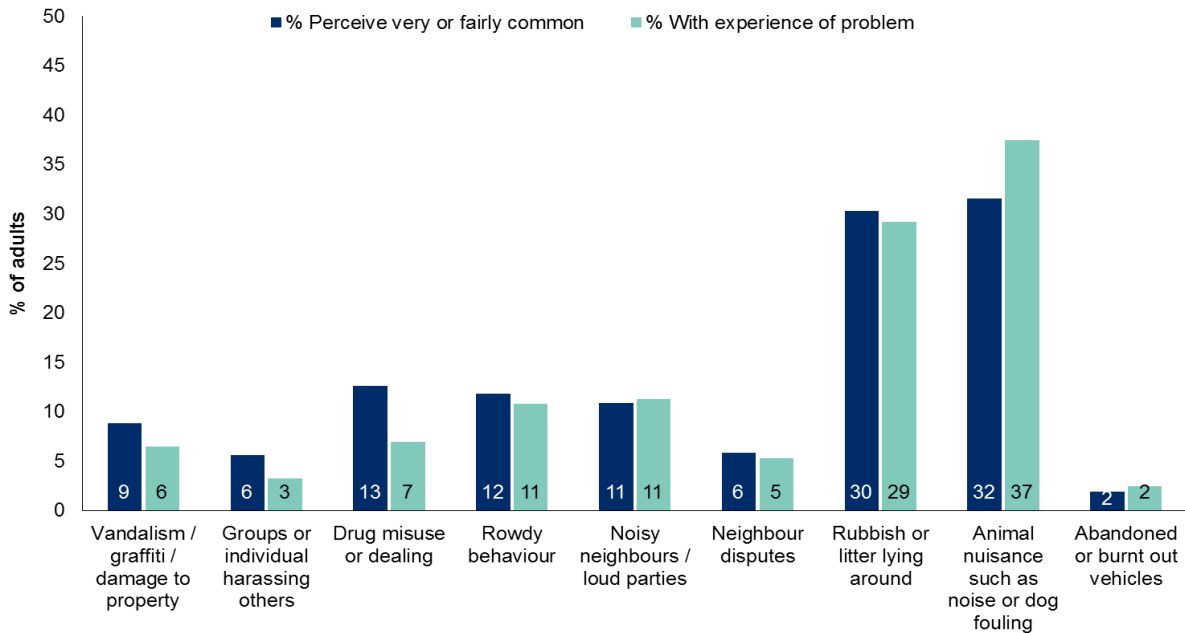


Table 4.10, Table 4.11 and Table 4.12 present the proportions of people who said that they have experienced each of the neighbourhood problems broken down by area deprivation, housing tenure and urban rural classification respectively. These show:

- Although 43 per cent of all adults in Scotland reported that they had experienced no neighbourhood problems in 2017, the proportion experiencing at least one issue has increased in recent years. For example, **the proportion of the population reporting that they have experienced no neighbourhood problems has decreased from 58 per cent in 2011 and 46 per cent in 2016;**
- Those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas were most likely to report experiencing problems;
- Adults in social rented accommodation were generally more likely than those in owner occupied and private rented housing to say they had experienced neighbourhood problems; and
- People living in rural areas were the most likely to report having experienced no neighbourhood problems in the last year.

**Table 4.10: Experience of neighbourhood problems by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	1 - 20% most deprived	2	3	4	5 - 20% least deprived	Scotland
<b>General anti-social</b>						
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	12	7	5	4	5	6
Groups or individual harassing others	6	4	3	3	1	3
Drug misuse or dealing	14	9	6	3	3	7
Rowdy behaviour	19	12	9	6	7	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>						
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	19	14	10	6	7	11
Neighbour disputes	9	6	4	4	3	5
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>						
Rubbish or litter lying around	41	32	28	22	23	29
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	45	38	36	34	35	37
<b>Vehicles</b>						
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	4	2	2	2	2	2
None	31	39	45	50	50	43
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,820</i>	<i>1,960</i>	<i>2,140</i>	<i>2,080</i>	<i>1,810</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

**Table 4.11: Experience of neighbourhood problems by tenure of household**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	All
<b>General anti-social</b>					
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	5	10	8	5	6
Groups or individual harassing others	2	6	4	2	3
Drug misuse or dealing	5	15	7	7	7
Rowdy behaviour	8	16	15	11	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>					
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	7	19	18	6	11
Neighbour disputes	4	11	6	7	5
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>					
Rubbish or litter lying around	28	35	29	29	29
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	38	40	30	26	37
<b>Vehicles</b>					
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	3	3	0	2
None	45	36	44	49	43
Base	6,250	2,170	1,250	140	9,810

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

**Table 4.12: Experience of neighbourhood problems by Urban Rural Classification**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
<b>General anti-social</b>							
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	9	6	5	6	3	2	6
Groups or individual harassing others	3	4	2	2	2	2	3
Drug misuse or dealing	9	7	5	8	3	3	7
Rowdy behaviour	14	12	7	11	5	4	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>							
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	14	12	9	10	5	3	11
Neighbour disputes	5	6	4	6	4	5	5
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>							
Rubbish or litter lying around	34	30	22	22	21	20	29
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	38	38	41	39	33	28	37
<b>Vehicles</b>							
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
None	41	40	45	44	52	56	43
Base	2,810	3,530	880	570	1,000	1,030	9,810

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

## 4.4 Discrimination and Harassment

### 4.4.1 Experiences of discrimination and harassment

The SHS explores whether respondents have experienced any kind of discrimination or harassment<sup>34</sup>, in the last three years, whilst in Scotland. **In 2017**, just over **one in 20 adults** reported that they **had experienced either discrimination** (7 per cent) **or harassment** (6 per cent) **in Scotland at some point over the last three years**. At a national level, reported experiences of discrimination and harassment were stable between 2016 and 2017.

As in previous years, adults aged 60 and over adults were least likely to have experienced either discrimination or harassment over the last three years, as shown in Table 4.13 below.

**Table 4.13: Experience of discrimination and harassment by gender, age and level of deprivation**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Discrimination		Harassment		Base
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	6	94	6	94	4,540
Female	7	93	6	94	5,270
<b>Age</b>					
16 to 24	8	92	8	92	650
25 to 34	9	91	8	92	1,290
35 to 44	8	92	7	93	1,400
45 to 59	8	92	7	93	2,410
60 to 74	3	97	3	97	2,590
75+	1	99	2	98	1,480
<b>Deprivation</b>					
20% Most Deprived	8	92	7	93	1,820
20% Least Deprived	8	92	6	94	1,810
All	7	93	6	94	9,810

<sup>34</sup> *Discrimination* was defined in the survey as: occasions when you felt you were treated unfairly or with less respect than other people because of your age, gender, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation or for sectarian or other reasons.

*Harassment* was defined in the survey as: occasions when you have felt intimidated, threatened or disturbed because of your age, gender, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation or for sectarian or other reasons.

Table 4.14 displays the proportion of adults experiencing discrimination or harassment by a further range of demographic breakdowns: sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, and whether the individual has a long term physical or mental health condition which has (or is expected to) last at least 12 months. It highlights that **some groups are more likely than others to report having experienced discrimination or harassment** in the last three years in Scotland (although small base sizes for some groups – such as ‘gay/lesbian/bisexual’ - means that estimates can have relatively large degrees of uncertainty around them and should therefore be interpreted with caution).

It is also important to note that Table 4.13 and Table 4.14 do not show the reasons behind experiences of discrimination and harassment, which can be but are not necessarily related to the equality characteristics presented. To get an understanding of this, those who have experienced such issues are also asked about the factors they believe may have motivated their experiences (as detailed below).

**Table 4.14: Experiences of discrimination and harassment by sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion and long term physical/mental health condition**

Row percentages, 2017 data<sup>35</sup>

Adults	Discrimination		Harassment		Base
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>					
Heterosexual/Straight	6	94	6	94	9,610
Gay/Lesbian/ Bisexual	20	80	21	79	130
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
White	6	94	6	94	9,490
Other minority ethnic group	19	81	11	89	310
<b>Religion</b>					
None	6	94	6	94	4,710
Church of Scotland	4	96	4	96	2,620
Roman Catholic	9	91	6	94	1,310
Other Christian	8	92	7	93	880
Another religion	16	84	12	88	310
<b>Long term physical/mental health</b>					
Yes	9	91	8	92	3,310
No	6	94	5	95	6,450
All	7	93	6	94	9,810

Reported experiences of discrimination and harassment were stable across socio-demographic breakdowns when comparing results in 2017 to the 2016 SHS. Whilst there are some apparent differences in the estimates for specific groups between years, when confidence intervals are taken into account these are not statistically significant changes.

<sup>35</sup> Caution around the precision and significance of findings should be exercised when interpreting percentages with a base number less than 100 as results derived from a relatively small number of individuals have large margins of error around them and are subject to large fluctuations based on the experiences of only a few people. This is particularly important when considering trends over time or comparing experiences of different population groups.



## 4.4.2 Motivating factors

Adults who reported that they had experienced harassment or discrimination were asked what they think might have motivated this. Respondents were asked to provide spontaneous responses to these questions and where possible, the interviewer coded these answers into one of the main categories shown in Table 4.15 (e.g. age, disability, gender, and so on). As there were a wide range of options which adults could have provided (and the fact multiple reasons could be given), it was not possible to code every potential type of response in advance, which has resulted in high levels of ‘other’ reasons being recorded.

Table 4.15 shows that around **a third** (31 per cent) **of respondents who had been discriminated against believed the reason behind this was their ethnic origin**. Aside from ‘other’ reasons, the next most common motivating factors were said to be the respondent’s age, gender or disability.

Of those who had experienced **harassment**, just **under a fifth cited their ethnic group as the perceived reason** (17 per cent), with ‘other reasons’ being the most common response (39 per cent).

**Table 4.15: Reasons for discrimination and harassment**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Discrimination	Harassment
Age	15	7
Disability	10	6
Gender	12	15
Ethnic group	31	17
Religion	5	5
Sexual orientation	4	5
Sectarian reasons	5	3
Other	20	39
Don't know	3	8
Refused	1	1
<i>Base</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>510</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

As in previous years, those who had experienced harassment or discrimination were more likely to say that they feel very or a bit unsafe walking in their local neighbourhood or at home late at night as shown in Table 4.16<sup>36</sup>.

<sup>36</sup> As discussed in section 1.3 (Comparability with Other Sources), the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey outputs present detailed analysis in relation to perceptions and fear of crime which should be viewed as the primary source for evidence on those topics. However, this section does make use of the fear of crime questions as an analytical variable to provide breakdowns on experiences of harassment and discrimination.

**Table 4.16: Perceptions of safety when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark and in their home alone at night by experience of discrimination and harassment<sup>37</sup>**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Have experienced discrimination	Have not experienced discrimination	Have experienced harassment	Have not experienced harassment	All
<b>Walking alone</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	73	83	68	83	82
Very / A bit unsafe	25	13	28	13	14
Don't Know	2	4	3	4	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Base	570	9,240	510	9,300	9,810
<b>At home</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	94	97	90	98	97
Very / A bit unsafe	6	2	10	2	3
Don't Know	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Base	570	9,240	510	9,300	9,810

## 4.5 Community Engagement and Resilience

### 4.5.1 Community Engagement

The SHS also seeks to explore how strongly adults feel that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood. Table 4.17 shows that **78 per cent of adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2017**, a finding which has been very stable in recent years.

However, whilst the majority of those in all categories shown said that they felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging, it is important to note the variation in feelings by gender, age, ethnic background and deprivation. For example, almost nine in ten adults (87 per cent) aged 75 and above said they felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their community, compared to just over seven in ten (73 per cent) of those aged between 16 and 24.

<sup>37</sup> In previous years, the sample for this analysis using the 'walking alone' variable has excluded those who said 'don't know' to the walking alone question (i.e. a smaller base than the whole sample). This approach has been changed this year so that this analysis is now based on the whole sample – consistent with the 'home alone' analysis.

**Table 4.17: Strength of feeling of belonging to community by gender, age, ethnicity and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Row percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Very strongly	Fairly strongly	Not very strongly	Not at all	Don't know	Total	Base
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	31	46	16	5	1	100	4,540
Female	38	41	15	5	1	100	5,270
<b>Age</b>							
16-24	25	48	19	5	3	100	650
25-34	23	43	23	9	2	100	1,290
35-44	27	49	17	6	1	100	1,400
45-59	37	43	14	5	0	100	2,410
60-74	45	41	11	3	1	100	2,590
75+	51	36	10	3	1	100	1,480
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
White	35	44	15	5	1	100	9,490
Minority Ethnic Groups	23	40	26	6	5	100	310
<b>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</b>							
20% Most Deprived Areas	28	42	19	9	2	100	1,820
20% Least Deprived Areas	38	45	14	3	1	100	1,810
All	35	43	16	5	1	100	9,810

Table 4.18 highlights that **the vast majority of adults in Scotland reported that they would help their neighbours in an emergency** and are also positive about the ability to call on others around them for support if need be, offering a slightly different perspective of community engagement.

**Table 4.18: Involvement with other people in the neighbourhood**

Row percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Base
Could rely on friends/relatives in neighbourhood for help	63	25	6	5	2	9,810
Could rely on friends/relatives in neighbourhood to look after home	65	22	6	5	2	9,810
Could turn to friends/relatives in neighbourhood for advice or	59	24	8	6	4	9,810
Would offer help to neighbours in an emergency	71	20	5	2	1	9,810

## 4.5.2 Resilience and preparedness for emergency situations

For 2017, an updated set of questions were included in the SHS to explore how prepared the population are for potential emergency situations.

The first question sought to understand how much thought and/or activity households in Scotland had undertaken in preparation for issues like **severe weather or flooding**. As shown in Table 4.19, **in 2017 just over three in five households in Scotland had given no thought to preparing for such situations**, whilst a further 17 per cent had thought about it but had taken no action. By contrast just over one in twenty households (6%) said they were fully prepared.

Households in the most deprived areas were most likely to report having given no thought to preparing for issues like severe weather or flooding.

**Table 4.19: Activity undertaken to prepare for events like severe weather or flooding**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	1 - 20% most deprived	2	3	4	5 - 20% least deprived	All
Given it no thought	69	69	55	59	58	62
Thought about but haven't done anything	14	14	19	16	21	17
Thought about and have made some preparations	9	10	17	18	16	14
Thought about and am fully prepared	5	5	8	7	4	6
Don't know	2	2	1	0	1	1
All	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	540	620	710	710	600	3,180

Table 4.20 shows the proportion of households with specific items readily available for potential use in the event of severe weather or flooding, by tenure and SIMD. It highlights that:

- Relatively few have an emergency kit prepared (22 per cent);
- Around two-fifths have a battery-powered radio (40 per cent); and
- Just under two-thirds have a first aid kit (65 per cent).

Households were more likely to hold copies of important documents, such as insurance policies, with 74% having these readily accessible. Availability did vary across household types however. For example, four in five owner occupier households had such documents to hand, whilst only three in five social renters did.

**Table 4.20: Availability of emergency response items in household by tenure of household and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	20% Most Deprived	20% Least Deprived	All
An emergency kit already prepared with essential items	25	18	19	*	21	25	22
A working radio with batteries	45	32	31	*	35	43	40
A first aid kit	73	51	57	*	58	70	65
Copies of important documents (like insurance policies)	80	61	67	*	67	80	74
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,050</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>3,180</i>

## 5 Economic Activity

### Main Findings

More women are now in work than in 1999.

The proportion of adults without any qualifications has decreased from 23 per cent in 2007 to 16 per cent in 2017 while the proportion of adults with a degree or professional qualification has increased (23 per cent in 2007 to 31 per cent in 2017). The proportion of those with a degree or professional qualification was highest in the 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 age categories.

As income increased, the proportion of adults aged 16-64 with a degree or professional qualification increased; half of 16-64 year old adults in households earning over £40,000 had degree level or professional qualifications, while only two per cent had no qualifications.

A higher proportion of men (60 per cent) compared to women (51 per cent) were 'in work'. This gap has stayed around the same level since 2009.

Almost every other adult aged between 16 and 64 years was employed full time (49 per cent), an increase from 45 per cent since 1999.

Men aged 16-64 were more likely to be in employment than women (73 and 65 per cent respectively). Men were employed predominantly full-time (58 per cent) or self-employed (10 per cent), while the employment of women showed greater variation; 39 per cent were employed full time, followed by 21 per cent employed part-time.

Those with limiting health issues were less likely to be in full-time employment. In 2017, over a quarter (28 per cent) of adults aged 16-64 with a limiting long-term physical or mental health condition or illness were permanently sick or disabled and just over two in five (22 per cent) were in full-time employment.

Just over three fifths (62 per cent) of households had at least one adult in paid employment. The number of working adults in a household varied according to the deprivation levels of the area in which they were situated. Just over a half of households in the 20 per cent most deprived areas contained at least one adult in paid employment (54 per cent). This rose to nearly seven in ten (68 per cent) in the 20 per cent least deprived areas.

The majority of women aged 16-64 were in some form of work and the presence of children in the household did not affect this considerably.

## 5.1 Introduction and Context

The Scottish Government is committed to improving the economic situation and opportunity of people in Scotland, through sustainable economic growth<sup>38</sup>. The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) gathers information about the current economic situation and the characteristics of individuals and households in different economic activity categories.

The information gathered in the SHS about the current economic situation of members of the household is reported by the respondent in the 'household'<sup>39</sup> part of the interview and may not conform to official definitions of employment and unemployment. The SHS has questions on these topics only for selecting the data of particular groups, such as working adults or those who are permanently retired from work, for further analysis or for use as background variables when analysing other topics.

The official source of statistics on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity is the Labour Force Survey for Scotland and the Annual Population Survey at a local authority level. Results from both surveys are available from the Scottish Government website<sup>40</sup>.

[Scotland's Labour Market Strategy](#) provides a framework for our approach to the labour market. It describes the actions to be taken forward and how this approach will help to drive inclusive growth.

In this chapter, the current economic situation of adult men and women (aged 16 years and over) is considered. This is followed by an examination of the economic situation of working households, starting with the number of working adults within households. In households with adults aged 16-64, the current economic situation is further analysed by gender and whether an adult has a long standing illness, health problem or disability. Finally, this chapter explores the current economic situation of women aged 16-64; specifically investigating whether the presence of children in the household might have an impact on their economic situation.

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<sup>38</sup> Scotland's Economic Strategy (March 2015) <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/5984>

<sup>39</sup> See chapter 1 for further information on the survey design

<sup>40</sup> [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market)

## 5.2 Highest Qualification Level

Table 5.1 shows that **the proportion of those with a degree or professional qualification was highest for those aged 25 to 34 and 35 to 44** (40 and 44 per cent, respectively) and can then be seen to decrease by increasing age group. The proportion of adults with degree level or professional qualifications was lowest for those aged 16 to 24 (17 per cent), likely to be because many adults in this age category were in higher or further education and had therefore not completed degree qualifications, and for those aged over 75.

In contrast, just **around one in six adults (16 per cent) aged 16 and over had none of the qualifications** listed below. Of these, the highest proportion was in the 75 and over age group, with over two in five (43 per cent) adults having no qualifications.

**Table 5.1: Highest level of qualification held by gender and age**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
Degree, Professional Qualification	30	31	17	40	44	33	27	17	31
HNC/HND or equivalent	13	11	12	16	15	14	7	6	12
Higher, A level or equivalent	18	17	38	17	15	16	13	9	18
No qualifications	15	17	4	7	7	14	28	43	16
O Grade, Standard Grade or equivalent	20	18	28	17	17	22	16	9	19
Other qualification	3	5	0	1	1	1	8	14	4
Qualifications not known	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	4,540	5,270	650	1,290	1,400	2,410	2,590	1,480	9,810

Links between degree level qualifications and higher incomes can be seen among adults aged 16-64 (Table 5.2). In 2017, **as income increased, the proportion of adults aged 16-64 with a degree or professional qualification more than doubled** (from 21 per cent of those in the lowest income group to 51 per cent for those in the highest income group) while conversely, the proportion with no qualifications decreased from 16 per cent to only two per cent for the same income groups (Figure 5.1).

**Table 5.2: Highest level of qualification held by adults aged 16-64 by net annual household income**

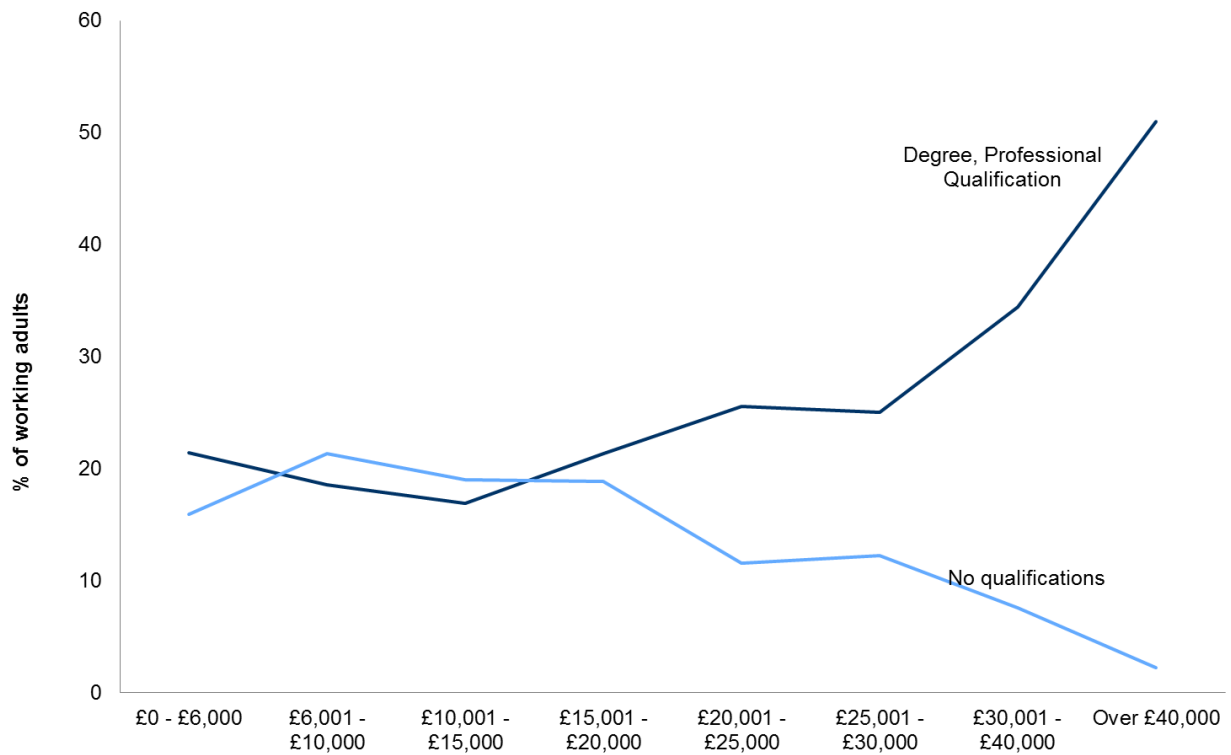
Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	£0 - £6,000	£6,001 - £10,000	£10,001 - £15,000	£15,001 - £20,000	£20,001 - £25,000	£25,001 - £30,000	£30,001 - £40,000	Over £40,000	All
Degree, Professional Qualification	21	19	17	21	26	25	34	51	33
HNC/HND or equivalent	10	11	11	14	16	16	14	14	14
Higher, A level or equivalent	36	16	21	19	18	21	20	19	20
O Grade, Standard Grade or equivalent	15	29	27	23	25	24	22	14	21
Other qualification	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	0	1
No qualifications	16	21	19	19	12	12	8	2	10
Qualifications not known	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	170	350	790	860	750	650	1,120	1,710	6,390



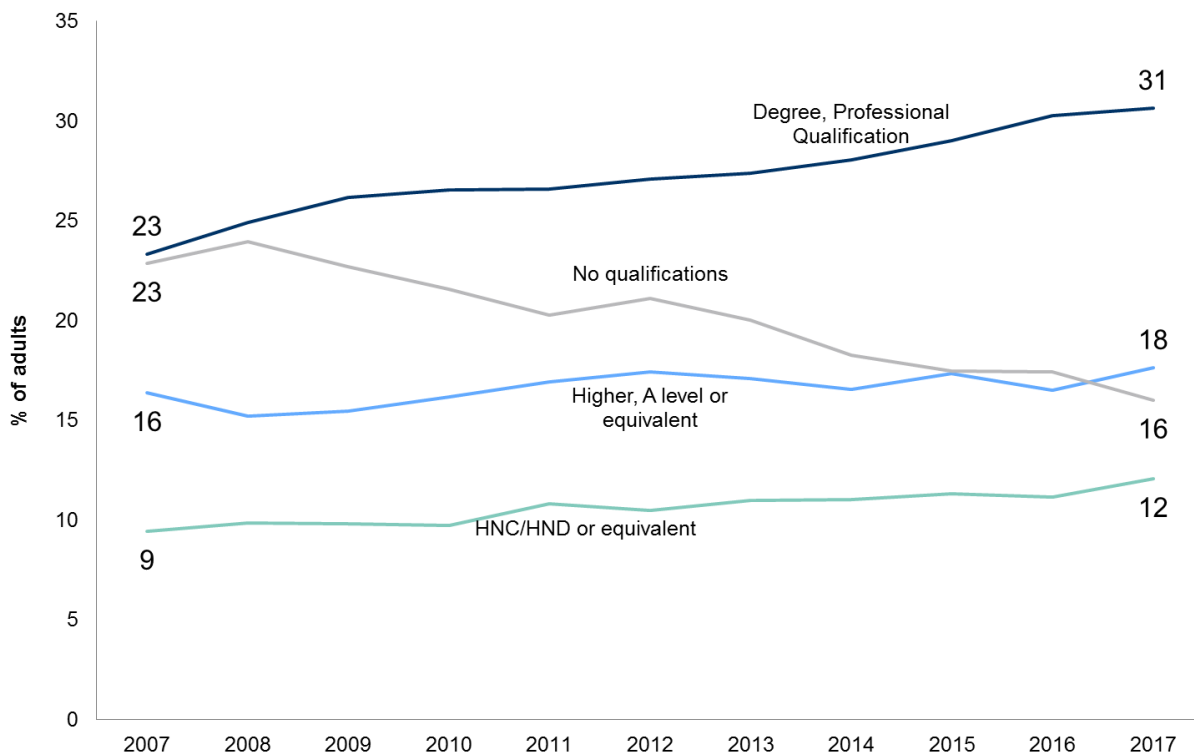
**Figure 5.1: Highest level of qualification held by adults aged 16-64 by net annual household income**

2017 data, Adults (base: 6,390)



The proportion of adults without any qualifications has decreased from 23 per cent in 2007 to 16 per cent in 2017 while the proportion of adults with a degree or professional qualification has increased from 23 per cent in 2007 to 31 per cent in 2017. The proportion of adults with other types of qualifications has been largely stable (Figure 5.2).

**Figure 5.2: Highest level of qualification held by adults aged 16 and over, over time**  
2017 data, Adults (base: 9,810)



### 5.3 Current Economic Situation

A higher proportion of men (60 per cent) compared to women (51 per cent) were currently 'in work'. In 2017, this is demonstrated in Figure 5.3, which shows that men were more likely to be in full-time employment or self-employed, while women were more likely to be employed part-time or looking after the home or family.

**Figure 5.3: Current economic situation of adults aged 16 and over by gender**

2017 data, Adults (min base: 4,540)

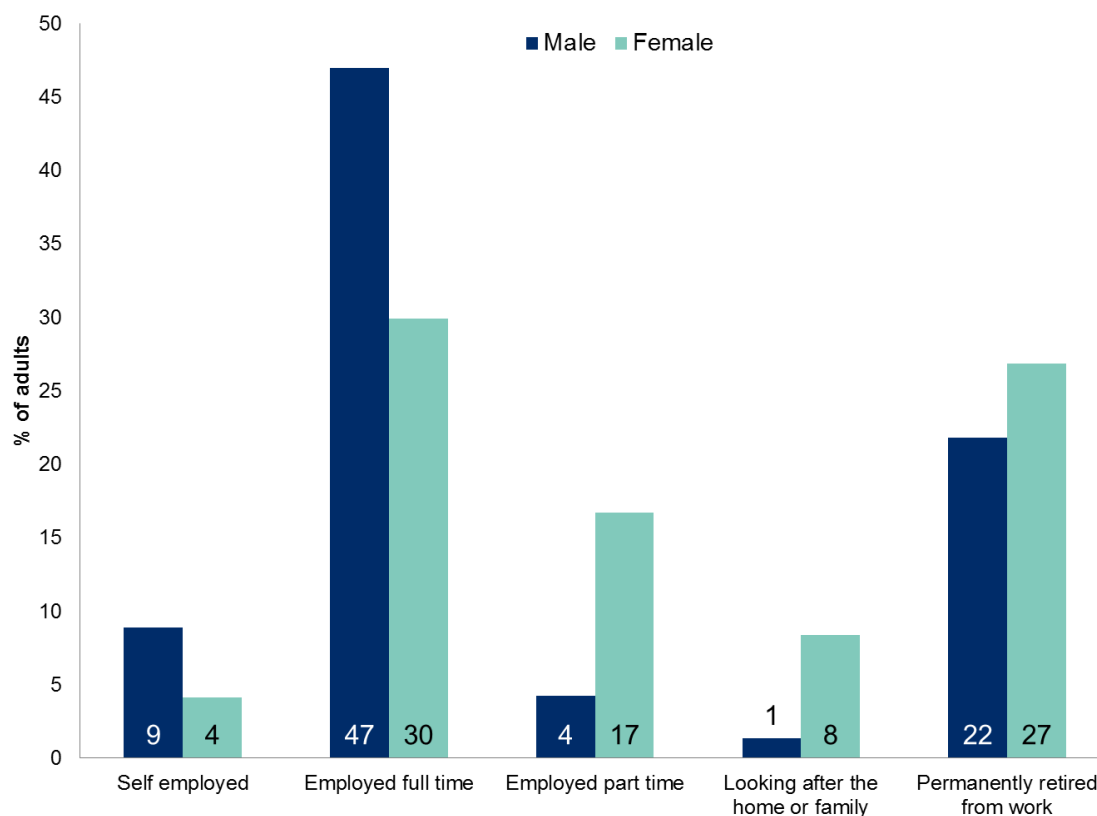
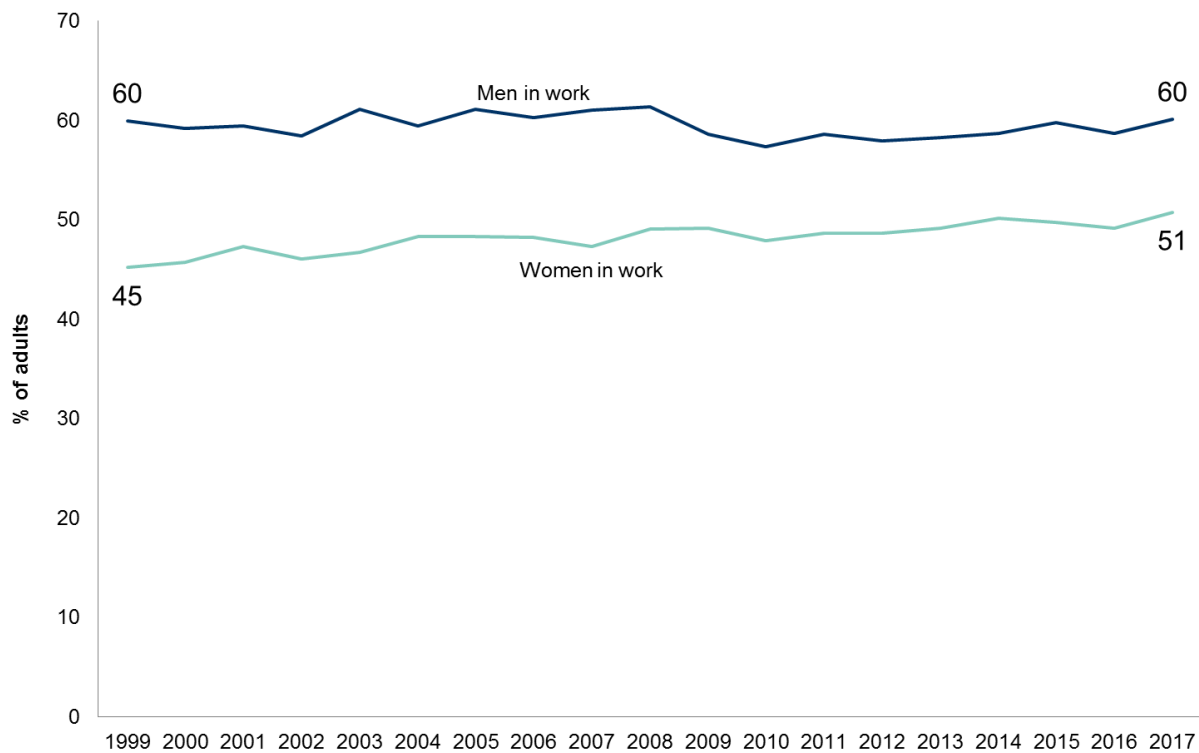


Figure 5.4 shows how the proportion of men and women in work changed over time. More women are now in work than in 1999. The proportion of men in work has been far greater than the proportion of women in work, in 1999 this was 60 and 45 per cent respectively. This gap narrowed to around nine percentage points in 2009 and has been stable since then.

**Figure 5.4: Adults aged 16 and over currently in work over time**

1999 - 2017 data, Households (minimum base: 4,240)



### 5.3.1 Current Economic Situation of Adults aged 16-64

Figure 5.5 shows the current economic situation of adults aged 16-64 over time. **Almost every other adult aged between 16 and 64 years old was employed full time** (49 per cent), an increase from 45 per cent since 1999. For the duration of the survey, since 1999, the proportion of 16-64 year olds employed part time has been stable, at around 13 per cent in 2017. The data also shows that the number of those looking after the home or family decreased from nine to six per cent while the number of self-employed increased from six to eight per cent.

**Figure 5.5: Current economic situation of adults aged 16 - 64 over time**

1999 - 2017 data, Households (minimum base: 6,590)

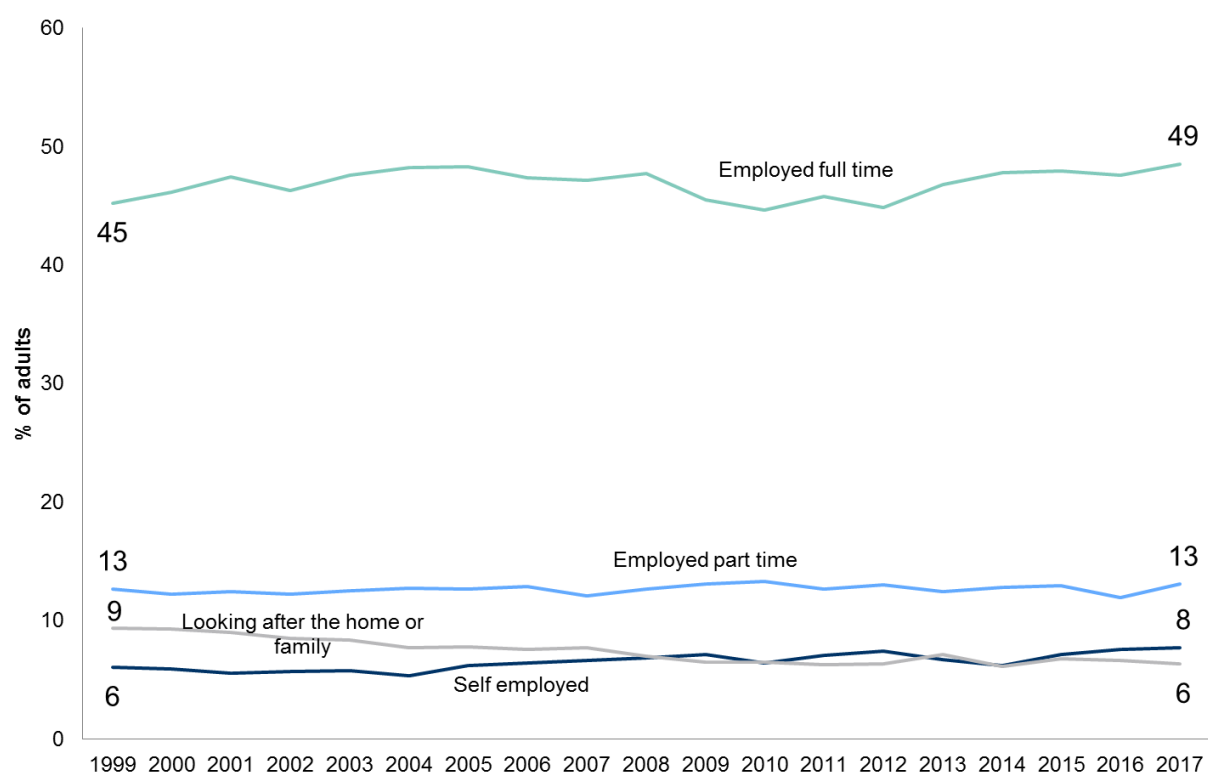


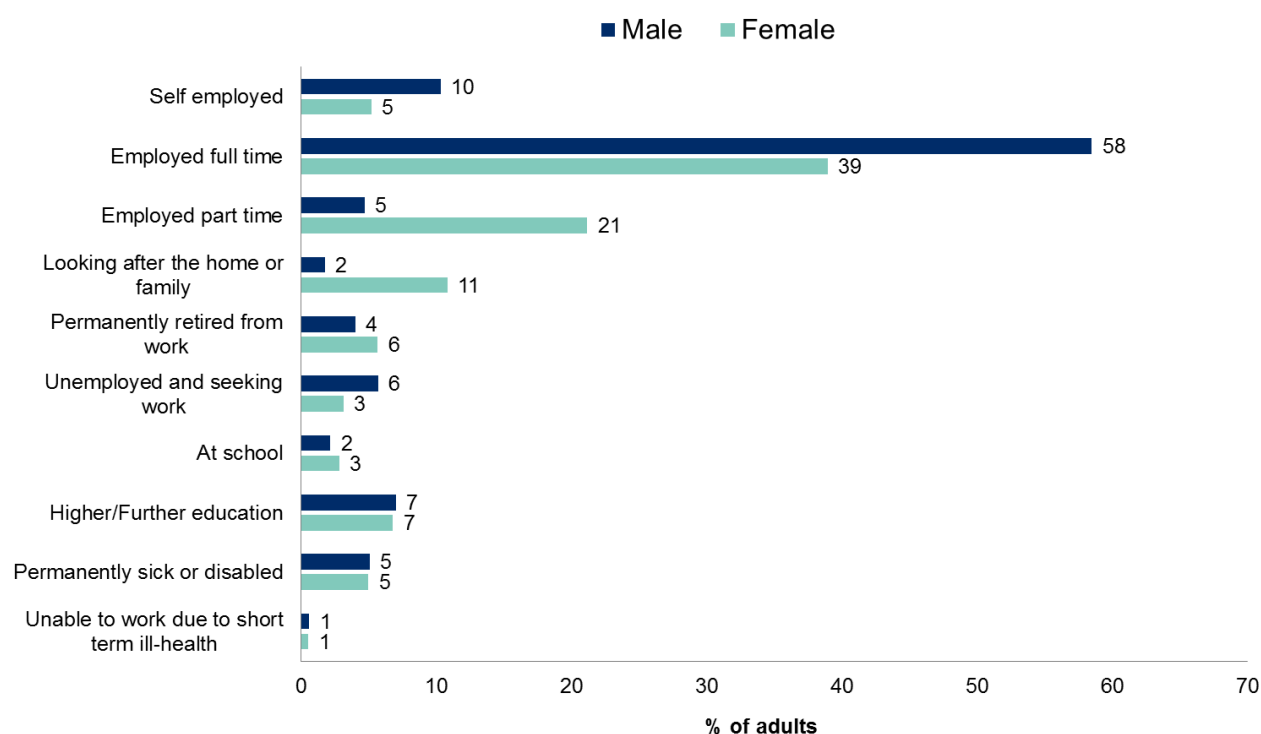
Figure 5.6 shows that **men aged 16-64 were more likely to be in employment than women**. Men were employed predominantly either full-time (58 per cent) or self-employed (10 per cent). Taken together with the relatively small proportion of 16-64 year old men employed part-time, over **seven in ten (73 per cent) men were engaged in some form of paid work**.

In comparison, **65 per cent of women aged 16-64 were in some form of paid work**. However, there was a greater variation in how women were employed. Full-time employment was the most common type of employment and accounted for 39 per cent of women aged 16-64. **Unlike men, the next most common option among women was part-time employment which accounted for 21 per cent of 16-64 year old women**.

**It was relatively uncommon for men or women aged 16-64 to be permanently retired from work** (four per cent males; six per cent females). This is likely to have under-represented all those who have taken early retirement as some who do so will subsequently take up other employment opportunities.

**Figure 5.6: Current economic situation of adults aged 16-64 by gender**

2017 data, Households (minimum base: 3,140)



There was a relationship between the highest level of qualification and full time employment (Table 5.3); **those who had attained degree level or professional qualifications were most likely to be in full-time employment** (59 per cent). In contrast, only around one in three (32 per cent) adults with no qualifications were in full time employment. This group also had the highest proportion (21 per cent) of those who were permanently sick or disabled.

**Table 5.3: Current economic situation of adults aged 16-64 by highest level of qualification**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults aged 16-64	Degree, Professional Qualification	HNC/HND or equivalent	Higher, A level or equivalent	O Grade, Standard Grade or equivalent	Other qualifications	No qualifications	Qualifications not known	All
Employed full time	10	10	7	6	4	4	4	8
Employed part time	59	54	44	43	27	32	34	49
Self employed	12	13	13	16	19	12	12	13
Higher/Further education	4	5	5	8	20	11	7	6
Looking after the home or family	6	3	4	4	9	7	5	5
Permanently retired from work	2	4	3	7	4	8	10	4
Permanently sick or disabled	0	-	5	6	-	3	10	2
Unemployed and seeking work	6	7	16	3	-	1	7	7
At school	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Unable to work due to short term ill-health	1	3	3	6	15	21	10	5
Other	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1
Government work/training scheme	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	2,210	910	1,200	1,370	100	770	60	6,610

Those with limiting long-term health issues were less likely to be in full-time employment than those with no long-term health issues (Table 5.4). In 2017, over a quarter (28 per cent) of 16-64 year old adults with a limiting long-term physical or mental health condition or illness were permanently sick or disabled and just over two in five (22 per cent) were in full-time employment.

In comparison, over a half (54 per cent) of adults aged 16-64 who reported not having a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness were in full-time employment. When excluding those who are permanently sick or disabled, the proportion of people with limiting health issues who were in full-time employment rises to 31 per cent.

**Table 5.4: Current economic situation of adults aged 16-64 by whether they have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults aged 16-64	All adults aged 16-64				Excluding 'Permanently sick or disabled'			All
	Limiting long-term condition	Non-limiting long-term condition	No long-term condition	All	Limiting long-term condition	Non-limiting long-term condition	No long-term condition	
Self employed	5	6	8	8	7	6	8	8
Employed full time	22	54	54	49	31	55	54	51
Employed part time	10	13	14	13	14	14	14	14
Looking after the home or family	9	6	6	6	13	7	6	7
Permanently retired from work	9	7	4	5	13	7	4	5
Unemployed and seeking work	8	4	4	4	11	4	4	5
At school	1	3	3	2	2	3	3	3
Higher/Further education	4	4	8	7	5	4	8	7
Government work/training scheme	0	-	0	0	1	-	0	0
Permanently sick or disabled	28	3	0	5	-	-	-	-
Unable to work due to short term ill-health	2	1	0	1	3	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1,310	360	4,920	6,590	890	350	4,910	6,140

## 5.4 Working Households

In this section the number of adults (aged 16 years and over) in paid employment in households is examined. This is followed by an analysis of the current economic situation of women; specifically investigating whether the presence of children in the household might have an impact on their economic situation.

### 5.4.1 Adults in Paid Employment

As Figure 5.7 shows, in 2017 for Scotland as a whole, **just over three fifths (62 per cent) of households had at least one adult in paid employment**; over a third of households (34 per cent) contained two or more adults in paid employment and 28 per cent had one adult in paid employment. The remaining households (38 per cent) contained no adults in paid employment.

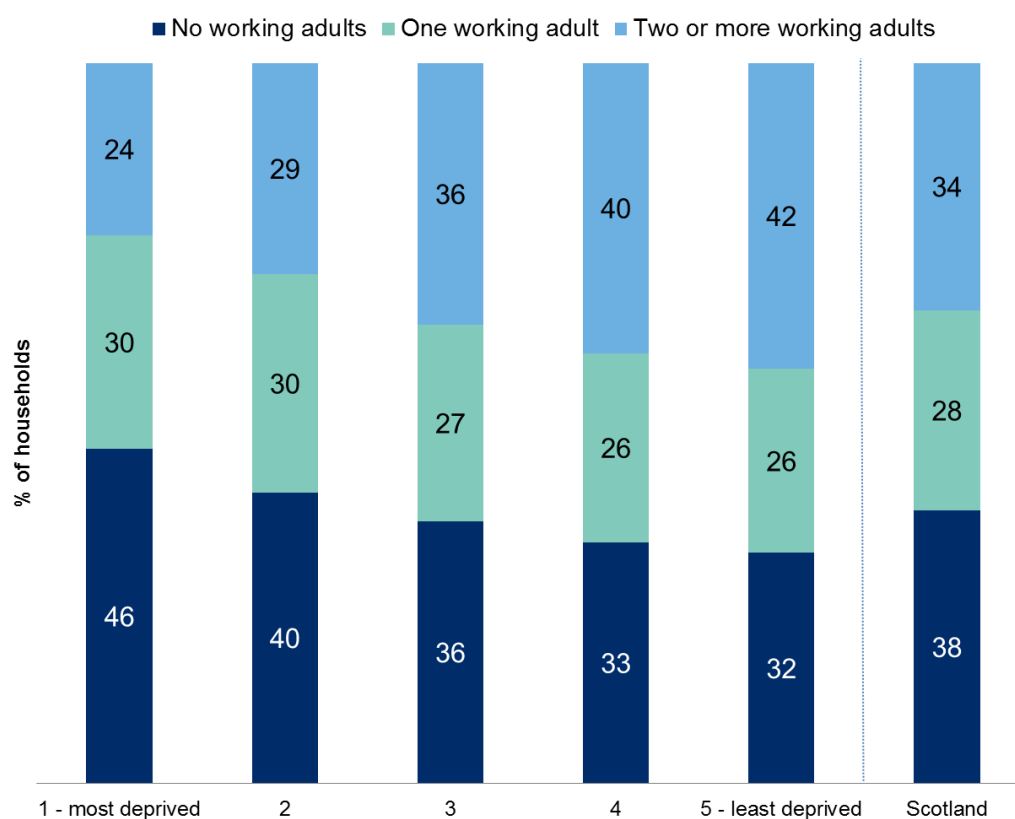
**The number of working adults in a household varied according to the deprivation levels of the area in which they were situated.** Just over a half of households in the 20 per cent most deprived areas contained at least one adult in paid employment (54 per cent). In comparison, almost seven in ten households in the 20 per cent least deprived areas contained at least one adult in paid employment (68 per cent).



It is important to note that while these estimates demonstrate that households in the most deprived areas were less likely to contain adults in employment, these households also contained fewer adults and we would therefore expect to see a smaller proportion of households in these areas having two or more working adults. Furthermore, the figures presented here are for all households that took part in the survey. This means the data presented includes people who you would not necessarily expect to be in paid employment. For example, pensioners, people who have taken early retirement and students are all included. The results have not been broken down further because the SHS is not the recognised source for employment statistics.

**Figure 5.7: Number of adults aged 16 and over in paid employment by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

2017 data, Households (minimum base: 1,980)



## 5.4.2 Women aged 16-64

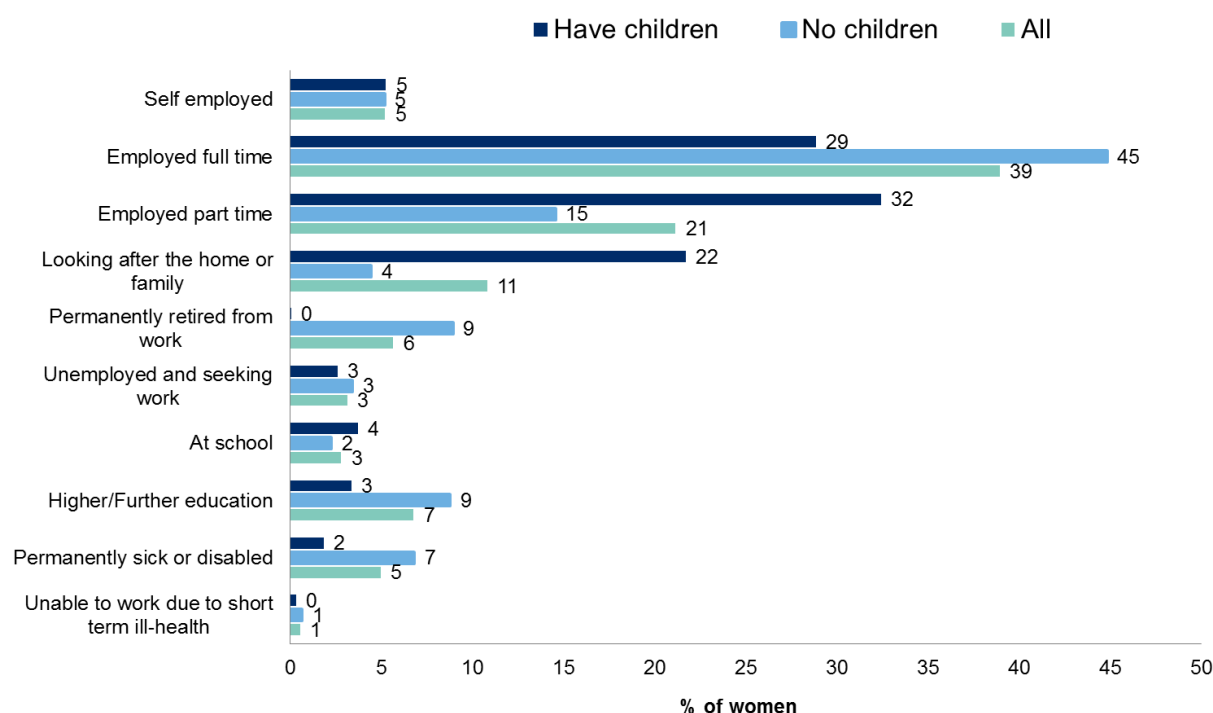
The final section of this chapter focuses on the current economic situation of women aged 16-64 and examines the difference in situation according to whether there are children in the household.

Figure 5.6 showed that **the majority of 16-64 year old women are in some form of work** and Figure 5.8 shows that **the presence of children in the household does not affect this considerably**; in 2017, 66 per cent of women in households containing children were in work, compared to 65 per cent of those without children.

The main differences between the two groups of women aged 16-64 were that **a higher proportion of those with no children in the household were employed full-time** (45 per cent compared with 29 per cent of those where children are present), while a higher proportion with children in the household were looking after the home or family (22 per cent compared with 4 per cent of those with no children present) or employed part-time (32 per cent compared with 15 per cent of those with no children present).

**Figure 5.8: Current economic situation of women aged 16 and over by presence of children in the household**

Column percentages, 2017 data



## 6 Finance

### Main Findings

On the whole, the proportion of households reporting they were managing well financially has increased, from 42 per cent in 1999 to 56 per cent in 2017. The recent levels suggest a period of recovery following the dip between 2007 and 2012, which may be explained in part by the economic downturn during that period.

As in previous years, single parent and single adult households were the most likely to report that they were not managing well financially (21 and 16 per cent respectively), both figures being above the Scotland average of nine per cent.

Owner occupiers were most likely to report they were managing well (69 per cent compared to 30 per cent for households in the social rented sector).

Households relying mainly on benefits (including the state pension) were the most likely to say they were not managing well (15 per cent), which is more than double the rate for households relying on earnings (six per cent). Only three per cent of households relying on other sources of income (including occupational pension and other investments) reported that they were not managing well.

Levels of perceived financial difficulty were higher in areas of deprivation as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The proportion of households reporting not managing well was 18 per cent for households in the 10 per cent most deprived areas, falling consistently with levels of deprivation to three per cent for households in the 10 per cent least deprived areas.

There has been an overall increase in the proportion of households reporting having savings of £1,000 or more, from 43 per cent in 2009 to 55 per cent in 2017.

Households with lower income levels were more likely to report having no savings than those with higher incomes.

The proportion of households where neither the respondent nor their spouse or partner had a bank or building society account has fallen from 12 per cent in 1999 to two per cent in 2017.

## 6.1 Introduction and Context

The Scottish Government's overall approach to tackling poverty and inequality is set out in the Fairer Scotland Action Plan, published in October 2016. The Plan sets out 50 concrete actions that the Scottish Government will take during this Parliamentary term, many of these have now been introduced or are in train. For example, a new Fairer Scotland Duty on socio-economic disadvantage is now in force, a national Poverty and Inequality Commission was launched in July 2017, and the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 was unanimously voted for by the Scottish Parliament at the end of last year.

Since then, the Scottish Government has published its first 'Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan' (March 2018), which sets out how progress will be made on reducing child poverty in the period 2018-22, underpinned by a new £50 million Tackling Child Poverty Fund, amongst other investments. The Plan sets out a range of help on incomes from work and social security, and assistance with costs of living.

That child poverty is the priority is not surprising bearing in mind recent national statistics which show that more than 1 in 5 children in Scotland live in poverty after their family's housing costs have been accounted for.

## 6.2 How Households are Managing Financially

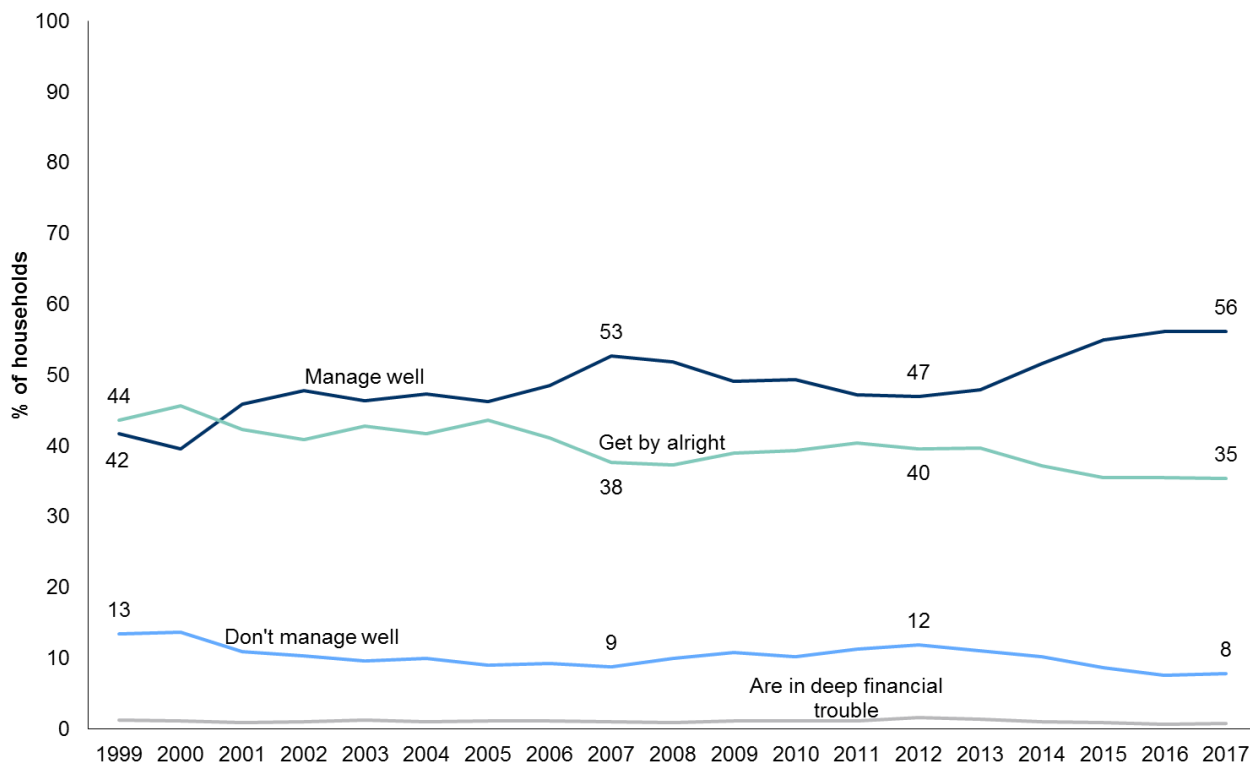
Respondents are asked how they feel the household has coped financially over the last year. Figure 6.1 shows the trend since 1999.

On the whole, **the proportion of households reporting they were managing well financially increased**, from 42 per cent in 1999 to 56 per cent in 2017. The recent levels suggest a period of recovery following the dip between 2007 and 2012, which may be explained in part by the economic downturn during that period. The proportion of households reporting that they got by alright shows a mirror trend, with an overall decrease from 44 to 35 per cent between 1999 and 2017.

The proportion of households who reported they didn't manage well/had some financial difficulties showed a flatter trend, with some small peaks and troughs in response to the economic downturn.

**Figure 6.1: How households are managing financially by year**

1999-2017 data, Households dataset (minimum base: 3,660)

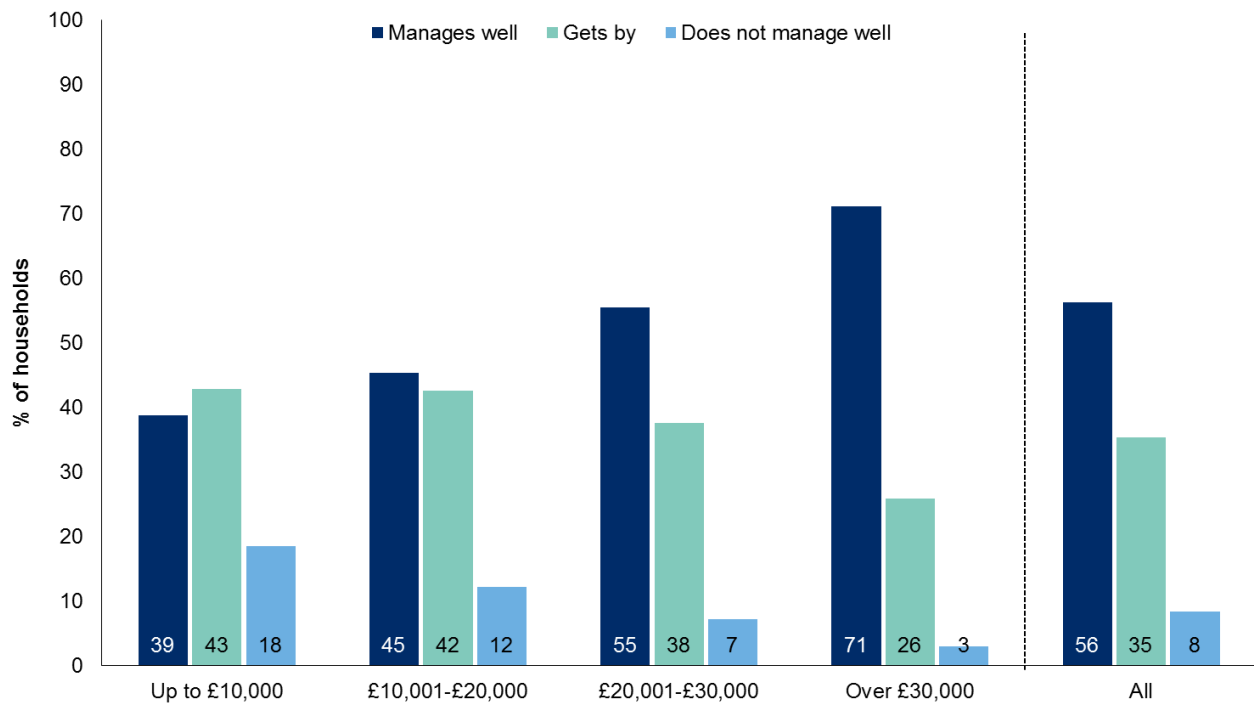


\*This question was only asked between January and March in 2003.

Household perceptions of how they managed financially varied by household income (Figure 6.2). While the majority of households on incomes up to £10,000 said that they managed well or got by (39 and 43 per cent respectively), **almost one in five (18 per cent) said they did not manage well - higher than the overall average of eight per cent.**

Households with incomes over £30,000 were most likely to report they were managing well – around seven in ten (71 per cent) reported managing well, compared to 55 per cent for households in the next highest income band, and 39 per cent for households in the lowest income category.

**Figure 6.2: How the household is managing financially by net annual household income**  
 2017 data, Households (minimum base: 1,140)

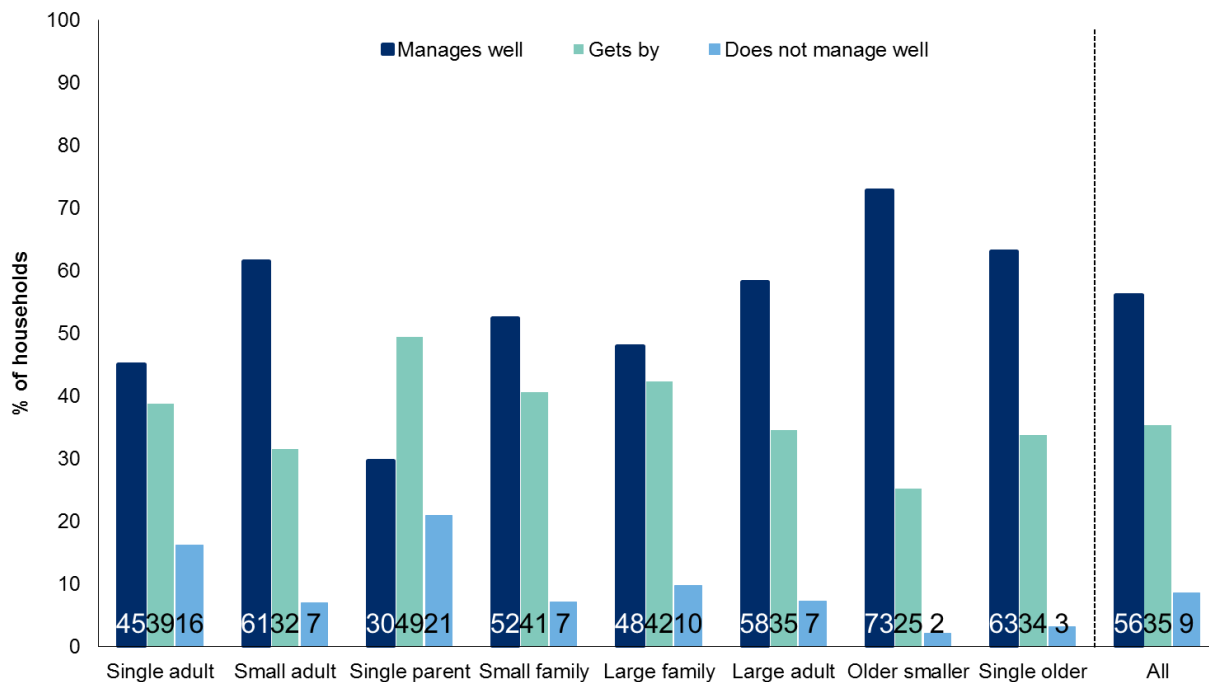


Perceptions of managing household finances varied by household type<sup>41</sup> (Figure 6.3). Single parent households and single adult households were the most likely to report that they were not managing well financially: around one in five (21 per cent) and one in six (16 per cent) respectively, compared to nine per cent overall.

<sup>41</sup> For the full definition, please see the Annex 2: Glossary

**Figure 6.3: How the household is managing financially by household type**

Column percentages, 2017 data



Perceptions of managing financially also varied with household tenure (Figure 6.4). **Owner occupiers were most likely to report they were managing well** (69 per cent compared to 30 per cent for households in the social rented sector) and **least likely to say they were not managing well** (four per cent compared to a fifth of households in the social rented sector). A more detailed breakdown by tenure can be found in Chapter 3.3.

**Figure 6.4: How the household is managing financially by tenure of household**

2017 data, Households (minimum base: 150)

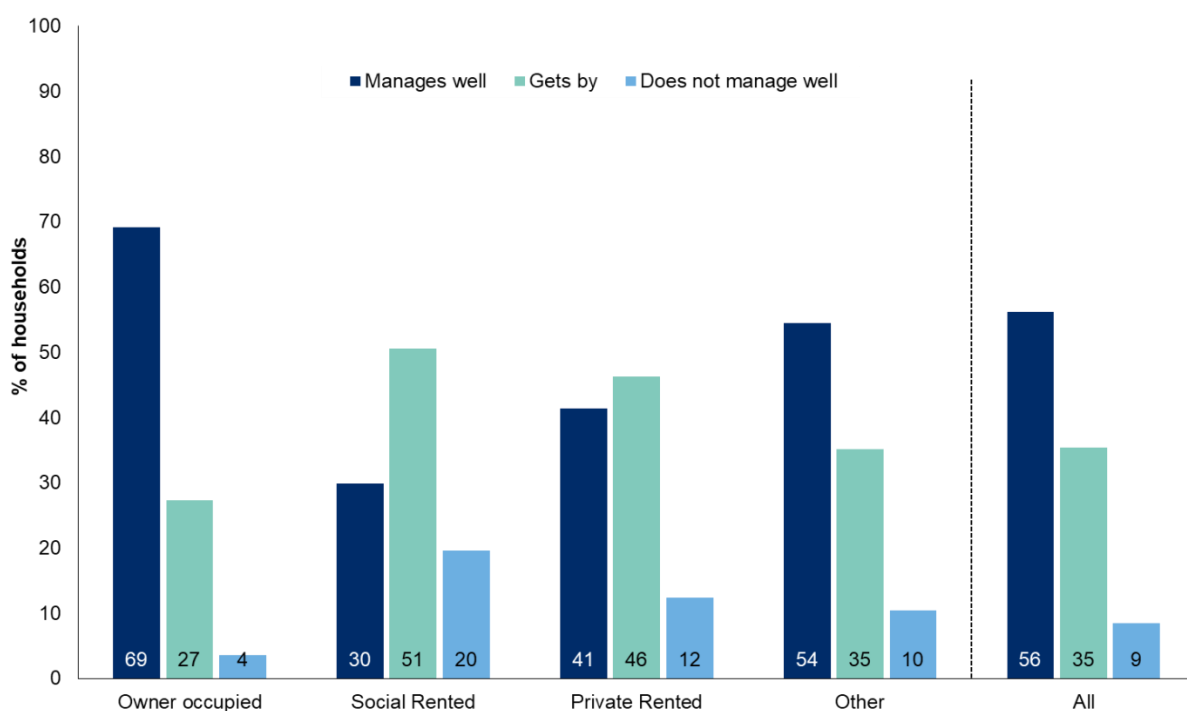


Table 6.1 shows how households were managing financially by their main income source. **Households relying mainly on benefits** (including state pensions) **were the most likely to say they were not managing well** with around one in six (15 per cent) reporting that they were not managing well, nearly double the overall rate of eight per cent. **Only three per cent of households relying on other sources<sup>42</sup> reported that they were not managing well.**

**Table 6.1: How the household is managing financially by income sources**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Households	Main income from earnings	Main income from benefits	Main income from other sources	All
Manages well	60	44	74	56
Gets by	34	42	22	35
Does not manage well	6	15	3	8
Total	100	100	100	100
Base	5,610	3,420	1,190	10,240

**Households where the highest income householder (HIH) was male were more likely to say they managed well** (Table 6.2), with three fifths saying so compared to a half of households where the highest income householder was female (60 per cent, compared with 51 per cent). **The proportion of households reporting that they were managing well was higher for older highest income householders.**

<sup>42</sup> Occupational pensions, other investments and other non-earned income such as maintenance payments or student grants.



**Table 6.2: How the household is managing financially by gender and age of highest income householder**

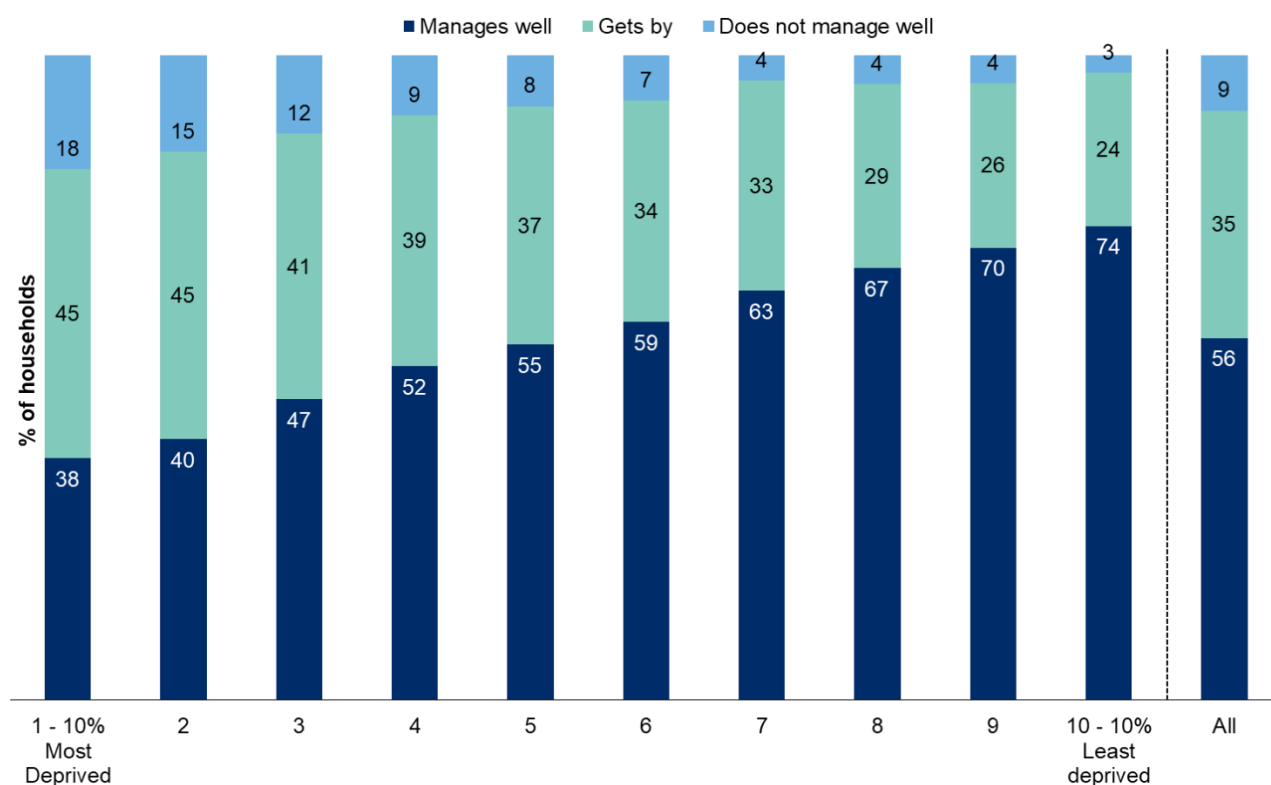
Column percentages, 2017 data

Households	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
Manages well	60	51	42	52	47	54	63	69	56
Gets by	33	39	44	38	41	35	31	30	35
Does not manage well	7	10	13	10	12	11	5	2	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	6,320	4,280	370	1,250	1,580	3,020	2,790	1,590	10,590

Levels of perceived financial difficulty were higher in areas of deprivation as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)<sup>43</sup> (Figure 6.5). The proportion of households reporting not managing well was 18 percent for households in the 10 per cent most deprived areas, falling consistently with levels of deprivation to three per cent for households in the 10 per cent least deprived areas.

**Figure 6.5: How households are managing financially by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

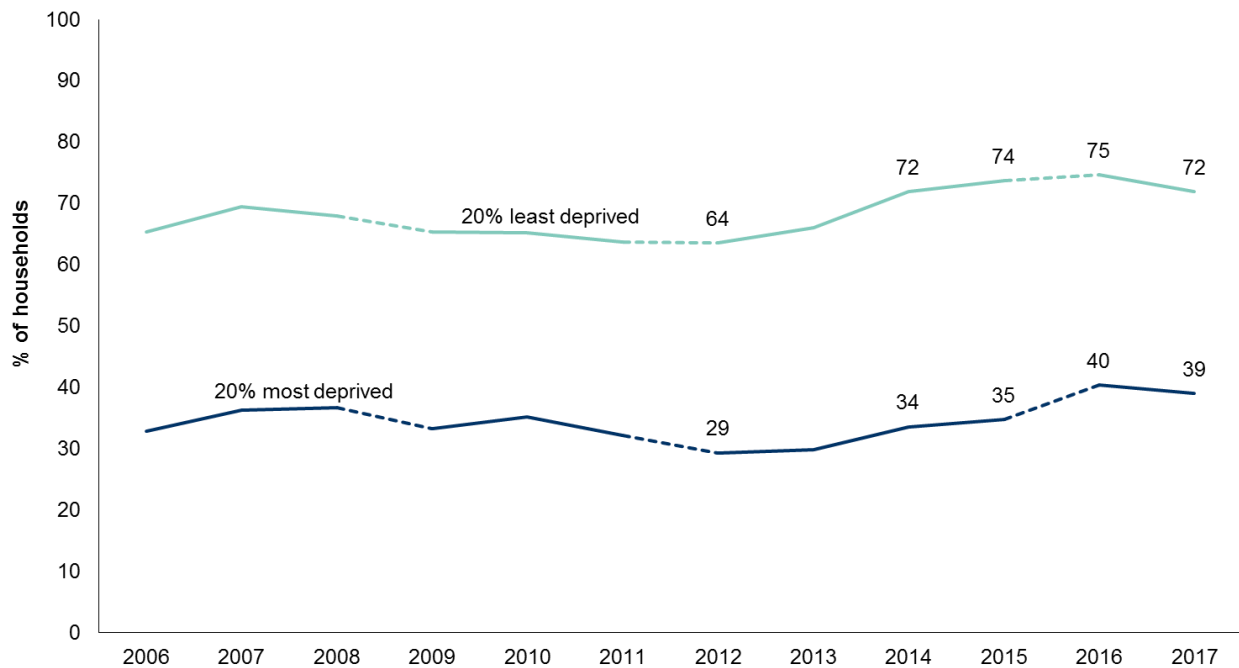
2017 data, Households (minimum base: 970)



<sup>43</sup> The SIMD is a relative measure of deprivation across small areas in Scotland. For more details see Annex 2: Glossary

Figure 6.6 shows changes over time for the proportion of households managing well financially in the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas. While the observed trends are similar for both groups as described in relation to Figure 6.1, **there has consistently been a substantial gap between those in the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas, with households in the more deprived areas being less likely to say they are managing well financially.**

**Figure 6.6: Households who manage well financially by year**  
2006 - 2017 data, Households (minimum base: 6,800)



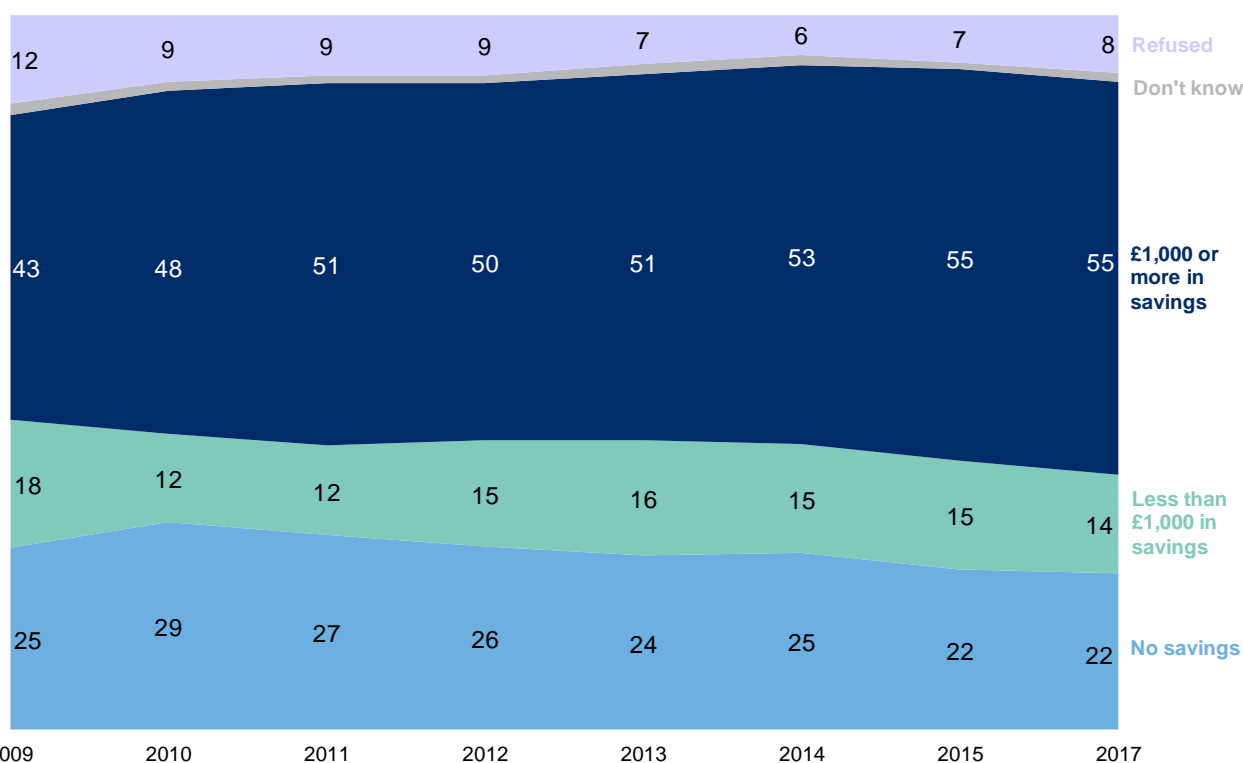
\* Based on the most recent available SIMD measure for each year: SIMD06, SIMD09, SIMD12 and SIMD16.

### 6.3 Savings and Investments

Since 2009, the SHS has asked the highest income householder in a single, consolidated question whether they had any savings or investments.

Figure 6.7 shows the proportion of households that had savings or investments from 2009. There has been an overall increase in the proportion of households reporting having savings of £1,000 or more, from 43 per cent in 2009 to 55 per cent in 2017.

**Figure 6.7: Proportion of households who have any savings or investments by year, in % 2009-2017, Households data**

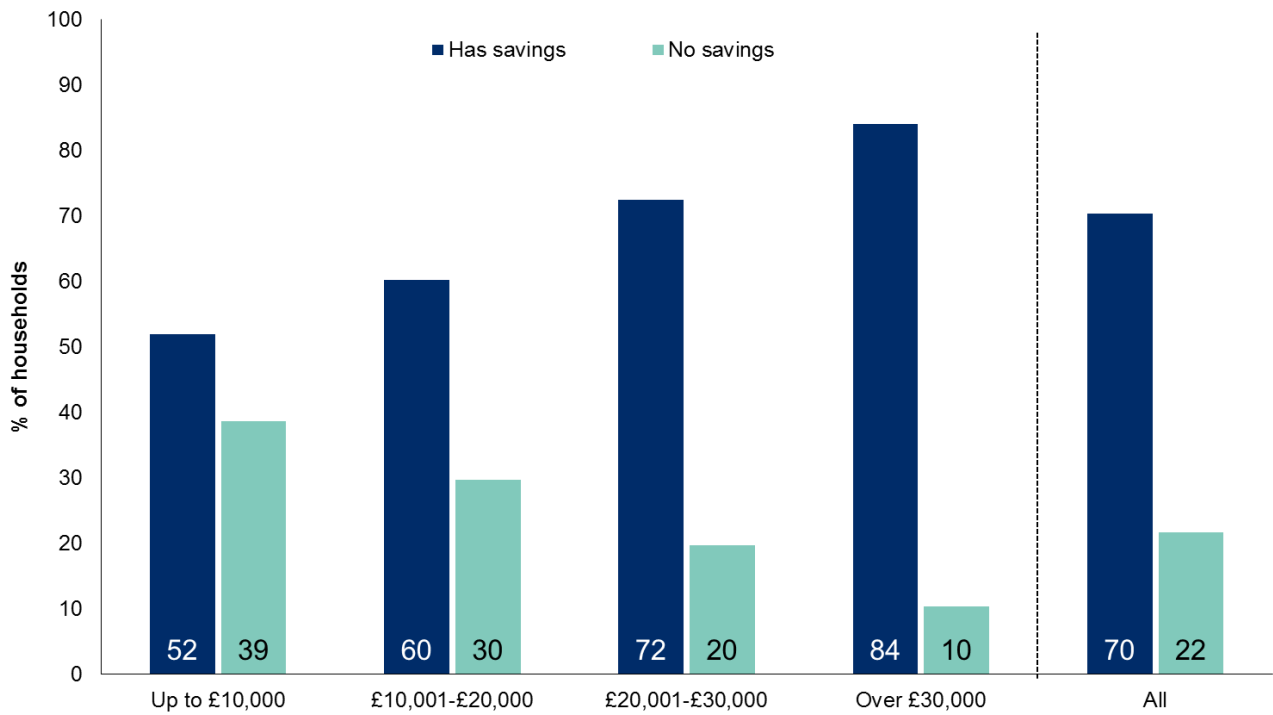


Note: Question asked only of a 1/3 sample from 2012, the questions wasn't asked in 2016.

**Households with lower income levels were more likely to report having no savings than those with higher incomes** (Figure 6.8). Only one in ten households with incomes over £30,000 reported having no savings, compared to nearly two fifths (39 per cent) of households with incomes up to £10,000.

**Figure 6.8: Whether respondent or partner has any savings or investments by net annual household income**

2017 data, Households (minimum base: 410)



The 'All' figures differs slightly from Figure 6. due to missing income information.

Access to savings also varied by household type (Figure 6.9). **Single parent households were most likely to report having no savings (52 per cent), followed by single adult households (33 per cent).** Of all household types, the older smaller households were most likely to have savings (82 per cent).

**Figure 6.9: Whether respondent or partner has any savings or investments by household type**

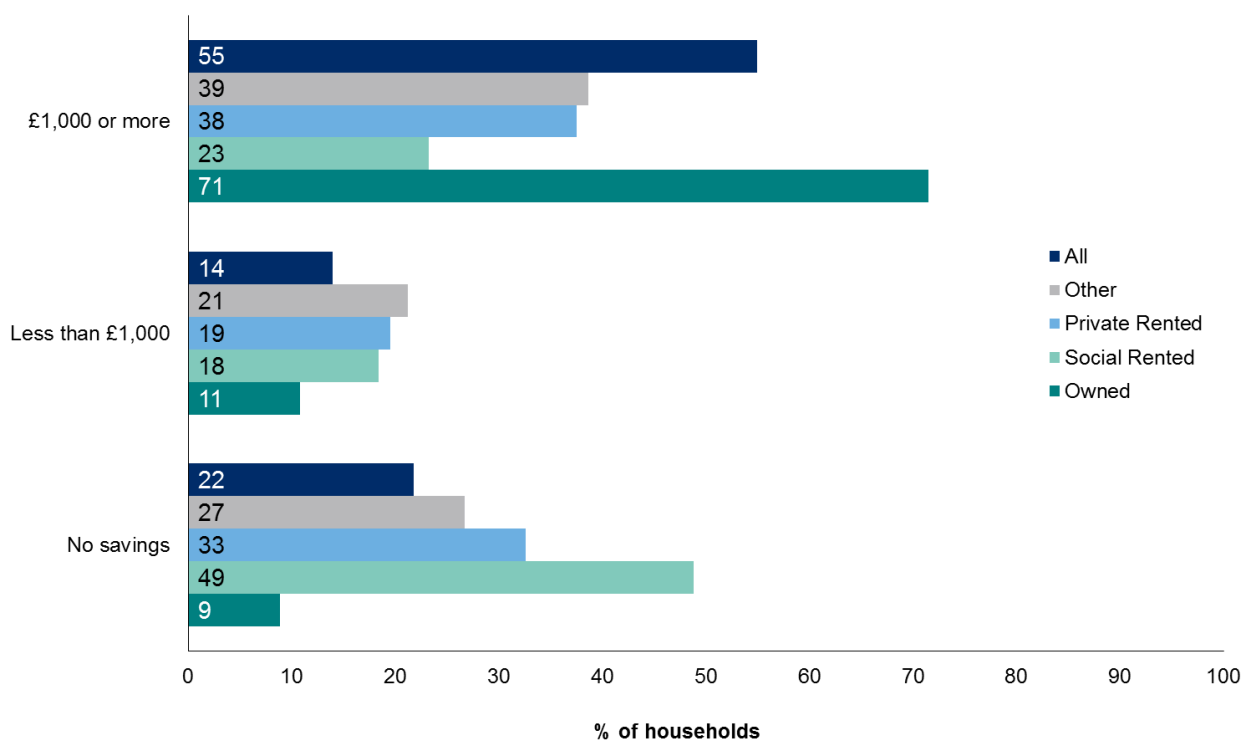
2017 data, Households (minimum base: 170)



Access to savings and investments varied by the tenure of households (Figure 6.10). **Owner occupiers were least likely to report having no savings** (nine per cent, compared to 22 per cent overall), while **nearly half of social rented households reported having no savings (49 per cent)**.

**Figure 6.10: Whether respondent or partner has any savings or investments by tenure of household**

Column percentages, 2017 data



**Access to savings increased with the age of the highest income householder** (75 per cent aged 60 to 74, compared to 69 per cent overall) (Table 6.3). **Households where the highest income householder is female were more likely to report not having any savings** (26 per cent, compared to 19 per cent for males).

**Table 6.3: Whether respondent or partner has any savings or investments by sex and age of highest income householder**

Column percentages, 2015 data

Households	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
<b>No savings</b>	19	26	40	30	28	24	13	9	22
<b>Has savings</b>	73	63	53	61	63	70	75	77	69
Less than £1,000	13	16	20	18	19	13	9	12	14
£1,000 or more	60	47	33	43	44	57	66	65	55
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	1
<b>Refused</b>	7	9	7	8	8	6	10	11	8
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	2,080	1,400	120	390	490	1,030	900	530	3,470

## 6.4 Banking

The proportion of households where neither the respondent nor their spouse or partner had a bank or building society account fell from 12 to four per cent between 1999 and 2009 (Table 6.4). In 2017, **only two per cent of households reported not having a bank or building society account.**

**Table 6.4: Whether respondent or partner has a bank or building society account by year**

Column percentages, 2009-2017 data

Households	1999	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017
Yes	86	93	92	93	93	95	95	94	94
No	12	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2
Refused	2	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	4
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	14,650	10,290	11,000	10,790	3,460	3,510	3,530	3,480	3,470

From January 2012, this question was asked of three quarters and one third of the sample, respectively. This analysis **excludes Credit Unions and Post Office** accounts, as these were not included in the questionnaire until 2007.

Access to a bank, building society or other account varied by levels of income and deprivation (Table 6.5). **Households on lower incomes were more likely to say they made use of banking facilities through the Post Office** (six per cent of those with an income up to £10,000, compared to two per cent with an income over £20,000). A similar pattern was observed for households living in the more deprived areas, with six per cent of these saying they used a Post Office account, compared to one per cent of households living in the 20 per cent least deprived areas.

**Table 6.5: Whether respondent or partner has banking facilities by net annual household income and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentages, 2015 data

Households	Up to £10,000	£10,001- £20,000	£20,001- £30,000	Over £30,000	20% Most Deprived	20% Least deprived	All
Bank Account	88	92	96	97	88	94	93
Building Society Account	12	8	13	16	5	19	12
Credit Union Account	1	2	3	5	2	2	3
Post Office card Account	6	5	2	2	6	1	3
None of these	3	1	0	0	2	0	1
Refused	3	4	3	2	6	5	4
BaseMin	370	1,070	730	1,160	660	650	3,470

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

## 7 Internet

### Main Findings

Home internet access has increased steadily over time, reaching an all-time high of 85 per cent of households in 2017.

Thirty per cent of households with internet access had a subscription to a superfast broadband service.

Households with lower incomes and households in Scotland's most deprived areas continue to be less likely to have home internet access than higher-income households and those in less deprived areas, but the gap has narrowed in recent years.

Around one in seven adults do not use the internet at all.

Older adults continue to be less likely to use the internet, but the divide in internet use between younger and older adults has narrowed over time.

Internet access and internet use amongst adults living in social-rented accommodation improved considerably over the year.

The use of smartphones to access the internet increased again in 2017, and is now equally as common as the use of a PC or laptop to access the internet.

The most common activities undertaken by those who have access to the internet include sending and receiving emails (90 per cent) and searching for information (86 per cent).

Over one third of internet users stated that security concerns made them less likely to share personal information online.

Not liking or not needing to use the internet or computers remain the main reasons for not using the internet.



## 7.1 Introduction and Context

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that all of Scotland is well positioned to take full advantage of all opportunities offered by the digital age. This includes a vision of a Scotland where businesses and individuals are making effective use of digital tools, public services are designed around the needs of users, high quality connectivity is provided across the whole of the country, the current gender gap in digital skills and careers is addressed and where digital technology is supporting inclusive economic growth, fair and rewarding work, social cohesion and future innovation.

Part of the Scottish Government's Digital Strategy<sup>44</sup> is to increase digital participation in order to enable social mobility and tackle persistent inequalities. Digital participation refers to people's ability to gain access to digital technology and use it effectively, creatively and with confidence. Being able to use the internet provides access to a range of political, educational, cultural and economic resources and is thereby an important facilitator of social inclusion. Ultimately, increased digital participation can improve people's quality of life, boost economic growth and allow for more effective delivery of public services.

The SHS provides information on a number of relevant areas of digital participation that can be used to measure progress. This chapter begins by looking at take-up of internet and broadband by households in Scotland, with a focus on how this varies by income and area. It then looks at personal use of internet – including where and how the internet is accessed – by key demographic factors, such as age, health status, income and deprivation. Next, there is coverage of some more specific use, in order to understand the activities for which the internet is being used and how confident users are undertaking different activities.

The next section looks at the reasons why adults do not use the internet and at use of Government and local authority websites to access information and services.

The final part of the chapter looks at the online security measures taken by internet users, and explores how security concerns are affecting the way in which people use the internet.

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/7843>

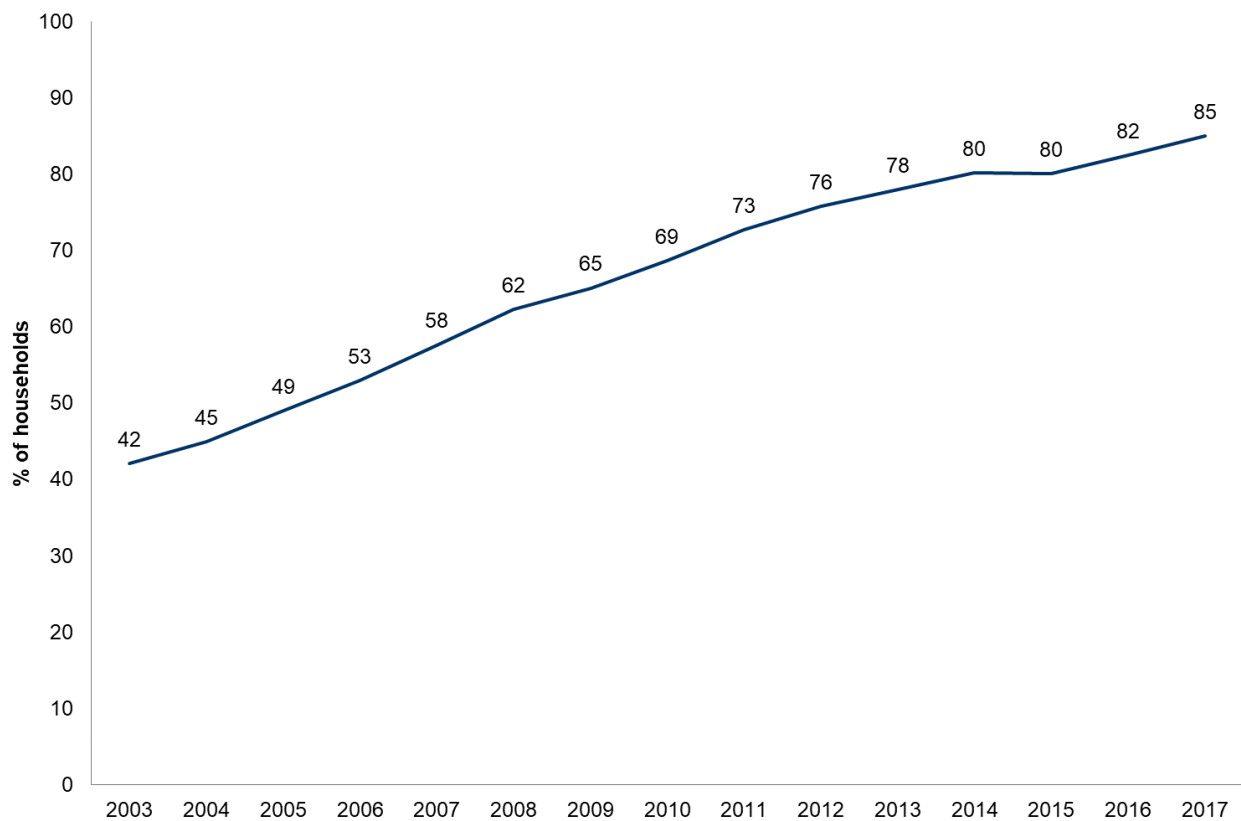
## 7.2 Internet Access and Use

### 7.2.1 Internet Access

In 2017, the proportion of households with home internet access was 85 per cent (Figure 7.1). This was an increase from 82 per cent of households surveyed in 2016, and the share has increased steadily from 42 per cent of households surveyed in 2003.

**Figure 7.1: Households with home internet access by year**

2003-2017 data, Households (minimum base: 3,190)

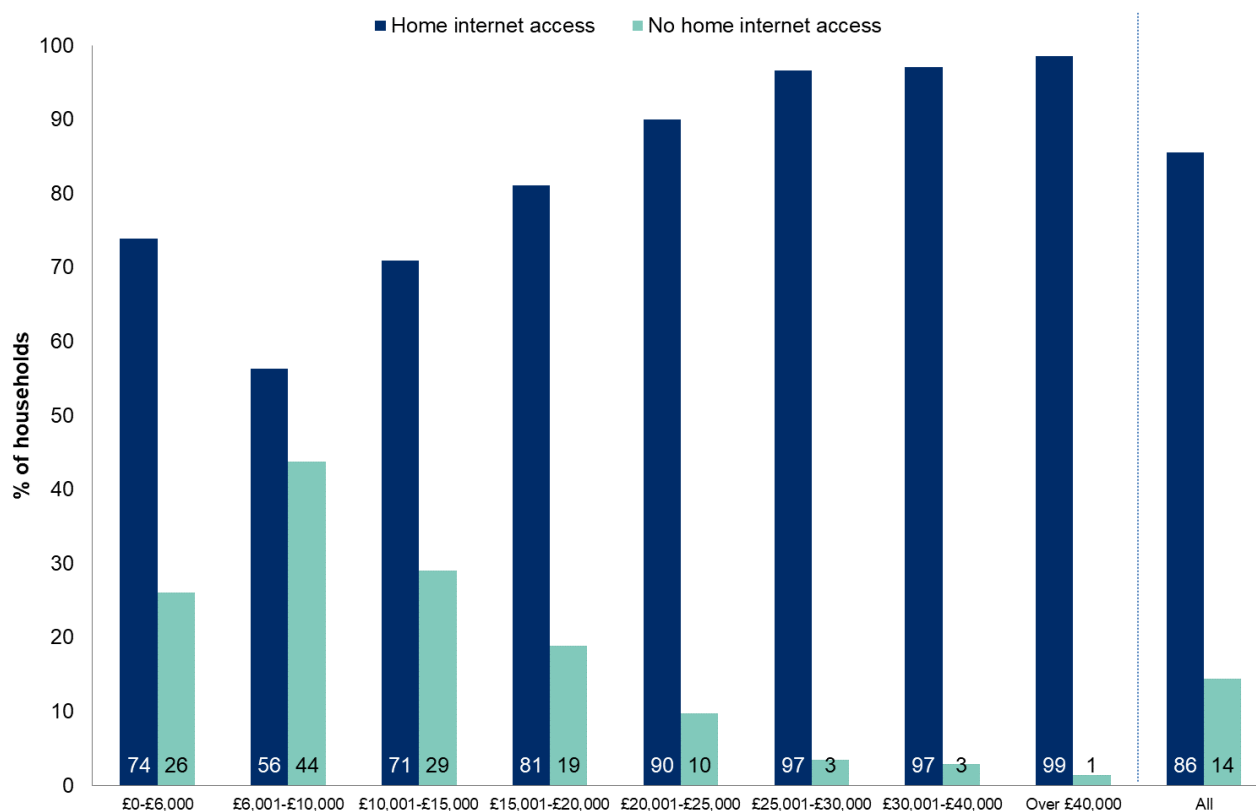


## 7.2.2 Variations in internet access

**Home internet access tends to increase with household income** (Figure 7.2), with the exception of households in the lowest income bracket (£0-£6,001). This result is likely to be driven, in part, by overrepresentation of students in this income bracket (of whom 97 per cent have home internet access).

In 2017, 66 per cent of households with incomes of £15,000 or less had home internet access, increasing to 99 per cent of households with incomes over £40,000. **Since 2007, the gap in home internet access between the income bracket with the lowest rate of internet access (£6,001 - £10,000), and the highest income bracket, has decreased from 69 percentage points to 42 percentage points in 2017.**

**Figure 7.2: Households with home internet access by net annual household income**  
2017 data, households (minimum base: 80)



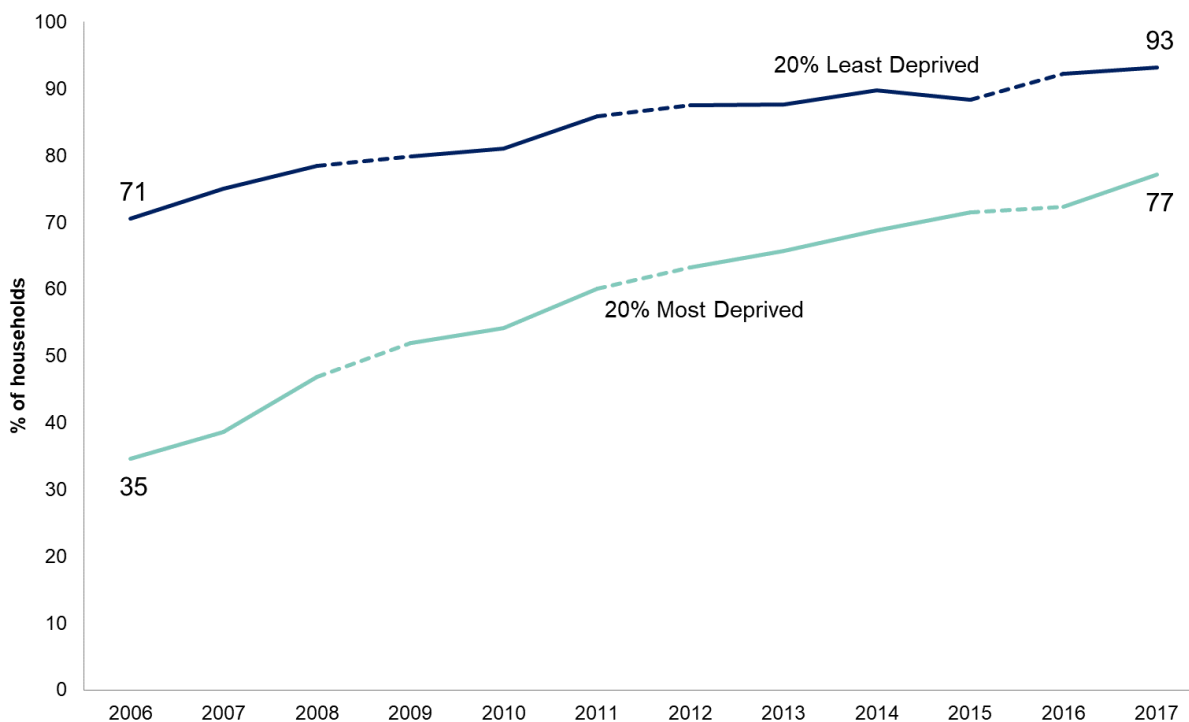
Households in the 20 per cent most deprived areas<sup>45</sup> in Scotland continue to be less likely than those in the 20% least deprived areas to have access to the internet at home (77 per cent and 93 per cent respectively in 2017).

<sup>45</sup> As defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

However, the gap in home internet access between households in Scotland's 20% most deprived areas, and 20% least deprived areas, has decreased gradually over time from 36 percentage points in 2006 to 16 percentage points in 2017 (Figure 7.3)

**Figure 7.3: Households with home internet access by area deprivation**

2006 - 2017 data, Households (minimum base: 560)



Note: Dashed lines denote updates to SIMD measure

Figure 7.4 shows how **home internet access varied by tenure**. Ninety per cent of households who own their home had home internet access, compared to 88 per cent of those in private rented housing and 71 per cent of those in social rented housing.

Households in social rented housing experienced the greatest increase in internet access over the year, from 65 per cent of households surveyed in 2016 to 71 per cent in 2017.

**Figure 7.4: Households with home internet access by tenure**

2017 data, Households (minimum base: 380)

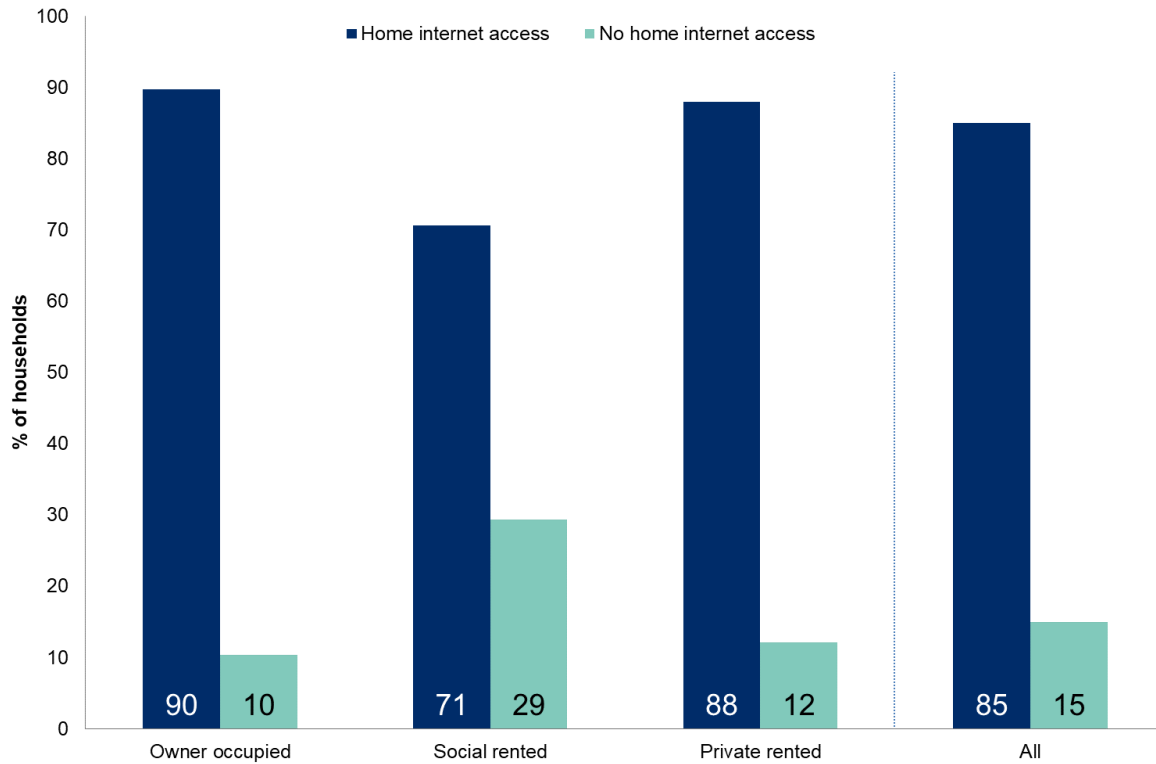
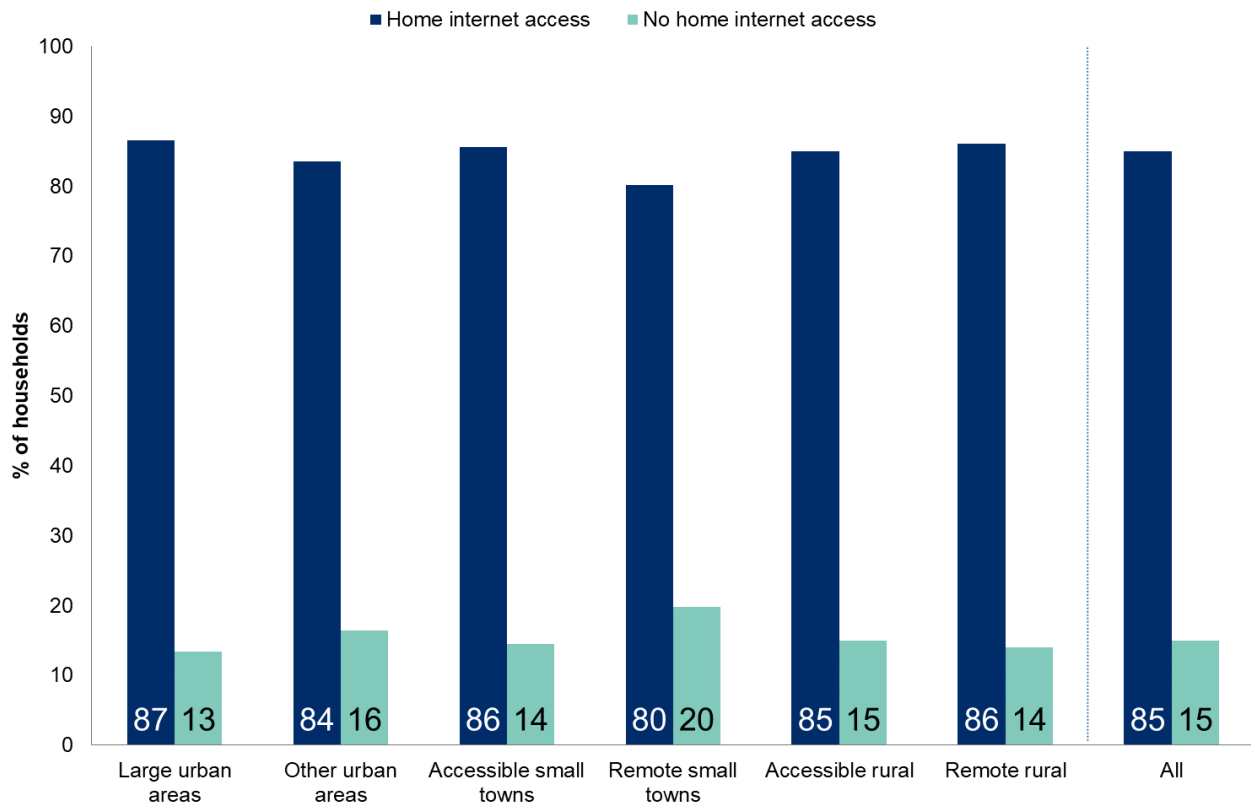


Figure 7.5 shows the prevalence of home internet access by area, based on Urban Rural Classification. There was no significant variation in access across households in different types of area.

**Figure 7.5: Households with home internet access by Urban Rural Classification**  
2017 data, Households (minimum base: 180)



Since 2007, the SHS has asked households who reported having access to the internet at home about what type of connection they have. **The vast majority of households with internet access at home had a broadband connection in 2017 (98 per cent), and 30 per cent had access via a superfast broadband subscription, an increase from 26 per cent in 2016.**

Across all households (that is, both households that have access to the internet and those who do not), 84 per cent had broadband at home in 2017.

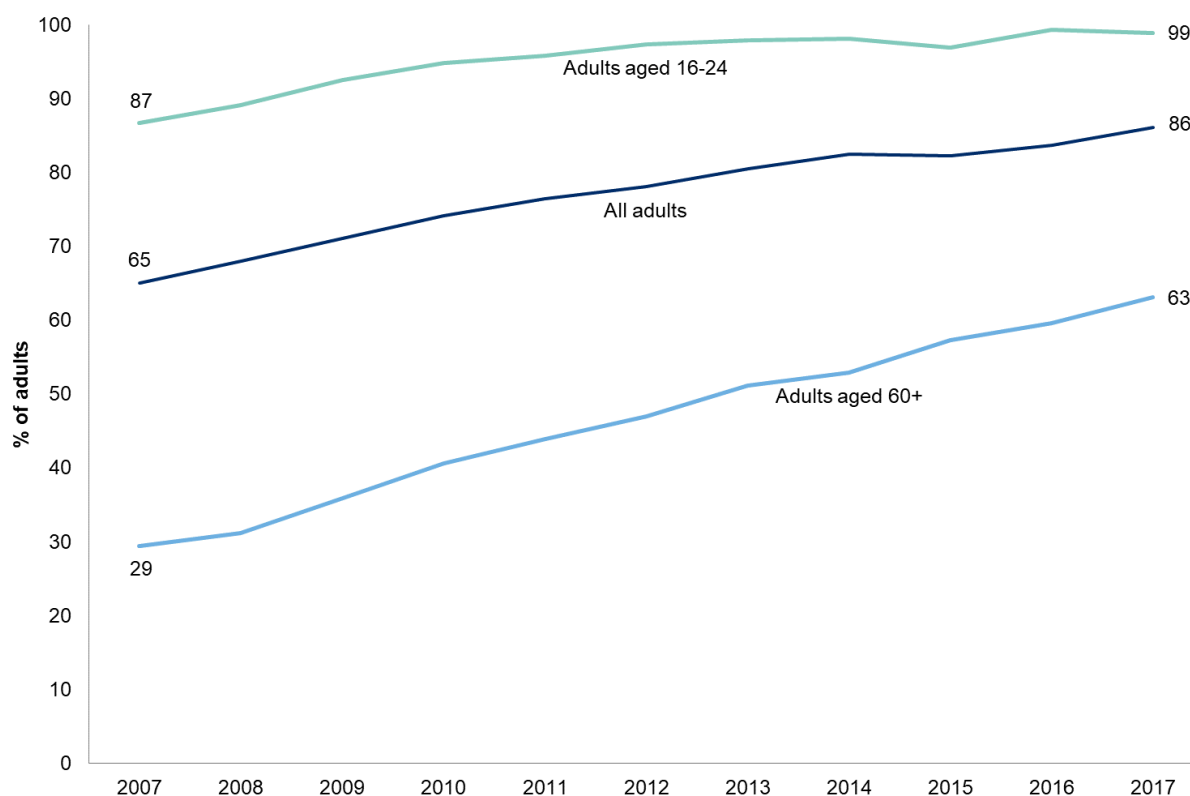
### 7.2.3 Internet Use

In addition to the questions on household take-up of internet and broadband, the SHS asks a randomly selected adult in the household whether they use the internet either for work or personal use. **Overall, 86 per cent of adults said that they used the internet in 2017 for work or personal use – an increase from 84 per cent in 2016** (Figure 7.6). Fourteen per cent of adults stated that they did not use the internet at all, and less than one per cent said that they only used it for work purposes.

Older adults are less likely to use the internet, however the divide in internet use between adults aged 16-24 and adults aged 60 and above has fallen over time – from 57 percentage points in 2007 to 36 percentage points in 2017. This result has mainly been driven by an increase in internet use amongst adults aged 60+ (from 29 per cent to 63 per cent).

**Figure 7.6: Use of internet by year and age**

2007 – 2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 300)

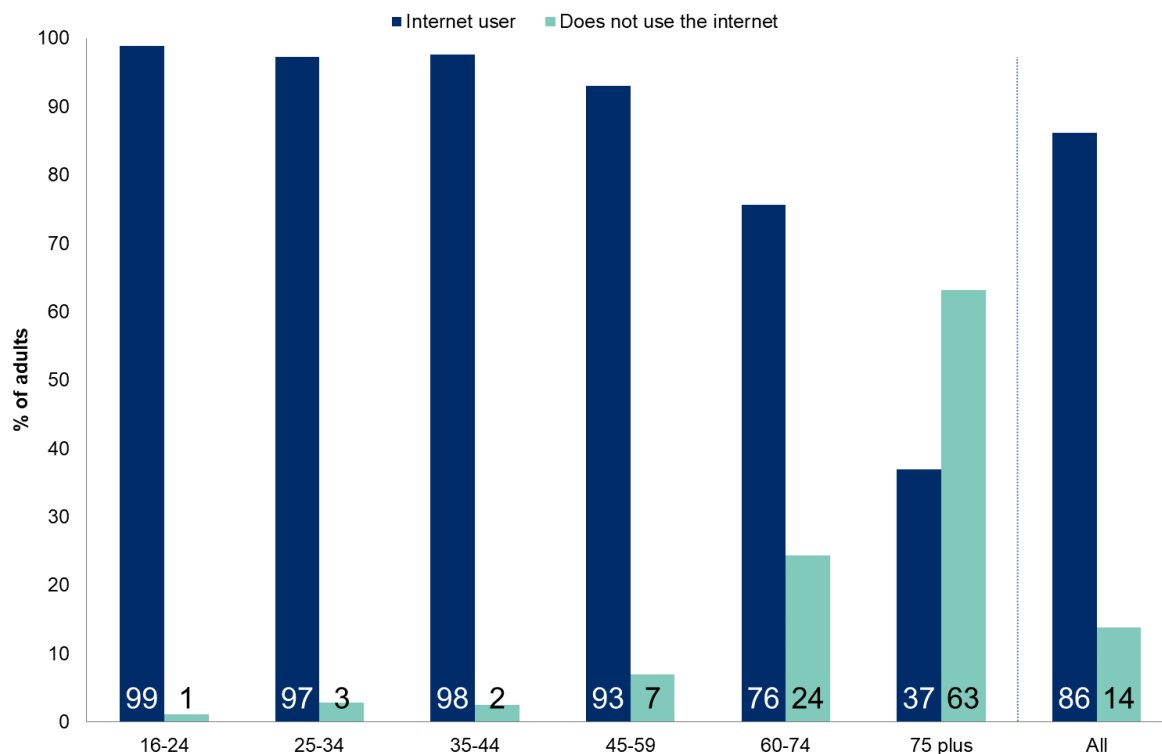


The following section mainly focuses on those who do not use the internet at all. In order to increase digital participation and enable more people to enjoy the benefits that the internet can offer, it is important to identify if there are any groups of society that face barriers accessing or using the internet. In particular, this section looks at those who do not use the internet by age, health, income, level of deprivation and tenure.

Figure 7.7 shows that there is a clear relationship between age and use of internet, with lower rates of internet use among older adults. In 2017, around 1 per cent of adults aged 16 to 24 reported not using the internet, compared to 63 per cent of those aged 75 and over. However, the gap in internet use between younger and older adults has steadily decreased over time ([see Figure 7.6 above](#)).

**Figure 7.7: Use of internet by age**

2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 300)



Twenty-eight per cent of adults who have some form of longstanding physical or mental health condition or illness reported not using the internet, compared with eight per cent of those who do not have any such condition (Table 7.1). This divide in internet use is more marked among the older age groups, but is prevalent across all age bands to some extent.



**Table 7.1: Proportion of adults who do not use the internet by age and whether they have a physical or mental health condition lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more**

Column percentages, 2017 data

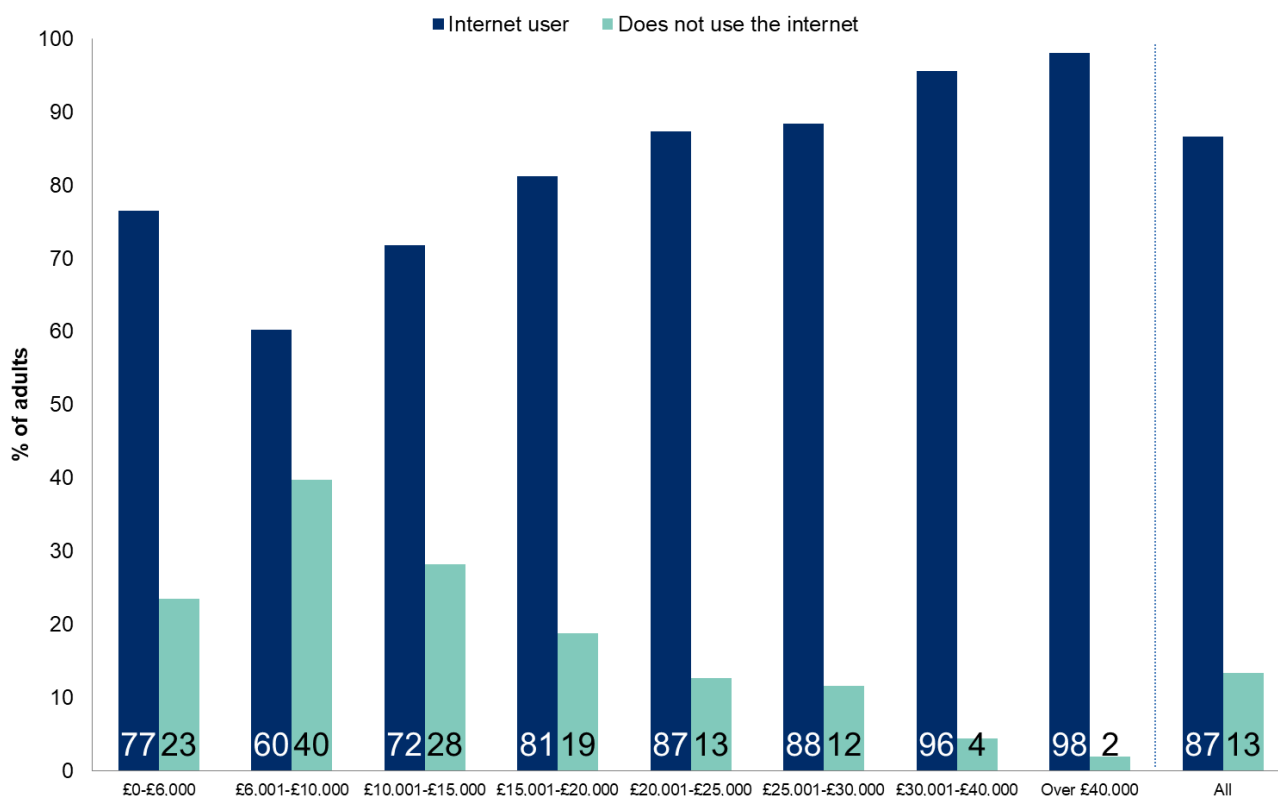
	Does not have a physical or mental health condition or illness	Has a physical or mental health condition	All
<b>16-24</b>			
Internet user	99	*	99
Does not use the internet	1	*	1
<i>Base</i>	260	40	300
<b>25-34</b>			
Internet user	98	92	97
Does not use the internet	2	8	3
<i>Base</i>	510	90	590
<b>35-44</b>			
Internet user	98	94	98
Does not use the internet	2	6	2
<i>Base</i>	500	140	640
<b>45-59</b>			
Internet user	96	86	93
Does not use the internet	4	14	7
<i>Base</i>	790	390	1,180
<b>60-74</b>			
Internet user	80	70	76
Does not use the internet	20	30	24
<i>Base</i>	680	510	1,200
<b>75+</b>			
Internet user	44	32	37
Does not use the internet	56	68	63
<i>Base</i>	300	410	710
<b>All</b>			
Internet user	92	72	86
Does not use the internet	8	28	14
<i>Base</i>	3,040	1,570	4,610

Excludes 'Don't know'/'Refused' statements

Figure 7.8 shows that, as with internet access, **there is a broadly positive relationship between internet use and income**, with a break in the trend for the lowest income bracket (this feature of income is discussed in the internet access section above).

Two per cent of adults living in a household with a total net income of £40,000 or more did not use the internet in 2017 compared with 40 per cent of those in the £6,001-£10,000 bracket. **Since 2007, the gap in internet use between adults in the income bracket with the lowest internet use (£6,001-£10,000) and highest income brackets has fallen from 62 to 38 percentage points.**

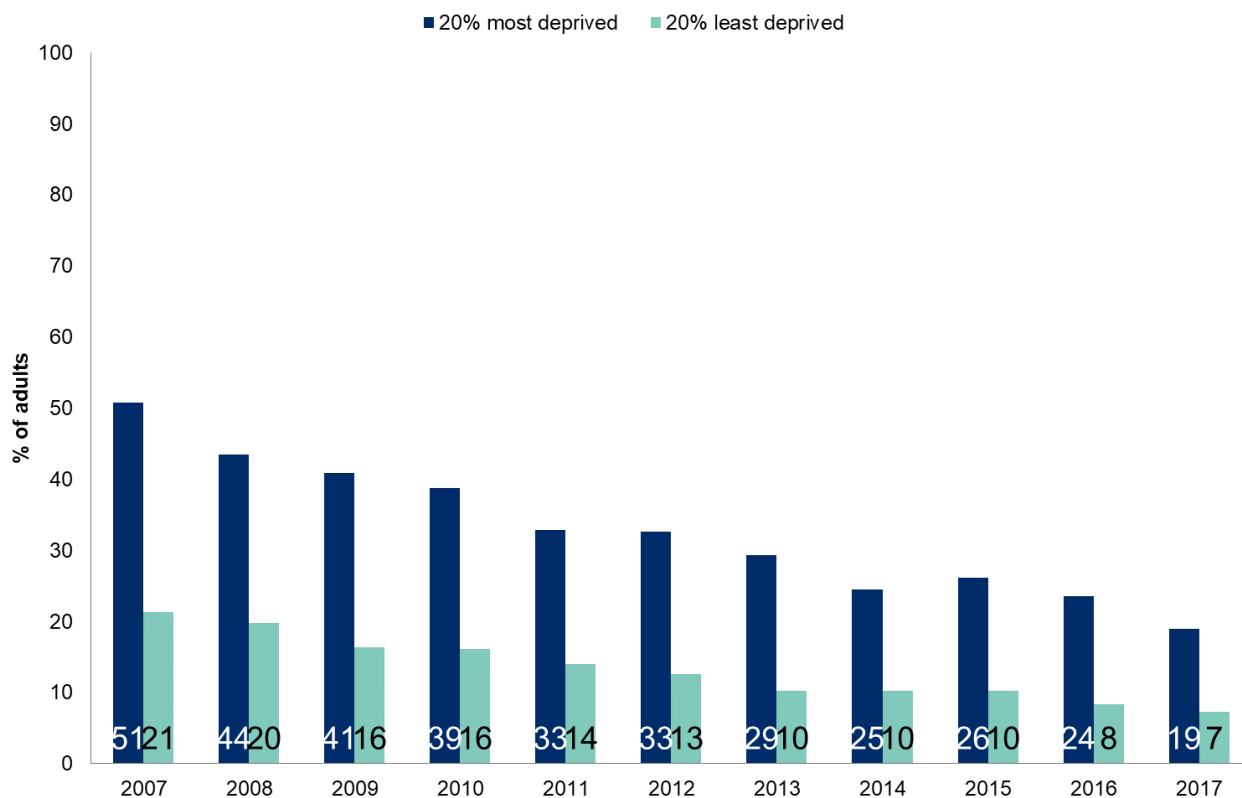
**Figure 7.8: Use of the internet by net annual household income**  
2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 120)



As with internet access, there is a difference in internet use by area deprivation 20 per cent least deprived areas (Figure 7.9). Nineteen per cent of adults living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas in Scotland reported not using the internet in 2017, compared with seven per cent in the 20 per cent least deprived areas.

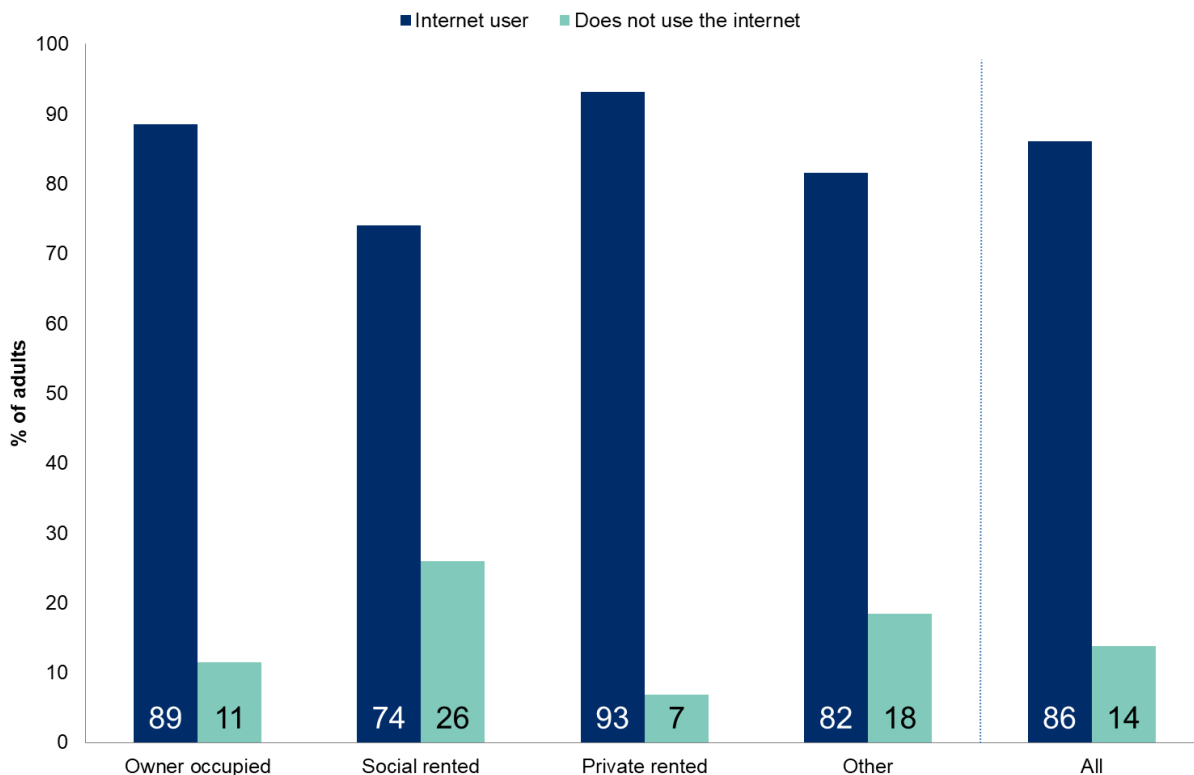
**Figure 7.9: Adults in the 20% most and 20% least deprived areas who do not use the internet**

2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 870)



Twenty six per cent of adults in social rented housing reported not using the internet in 2017, compared to only seven per cent of those in private rented housing and 11 per cent of those that own their own homes (Figure 7.10). Internet use amongst social rented housing tenants increased over the year, from 69 per cent in 2016 to 74 per cent in 2017.

**Figure 7.10: Use of the internet by tenure**  
2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 70)



### 7.3 Where and How Users Access the Internet

The ways in which people access the internet are becoming increasingly diverse. Since 2007, the SHS has asked adults who use the internet for personal use about the location where they access it and the methods they use.

#### 7.3.1 Where internet users access the internet

Almost all internet users (97 per cent) said that they use the internet at home (Table 7.2.) **Those reporting that they access the internet on the move using a mobile phone or tablet has continued to rise, increasing by seven percentage points over the year to 58 per cent in 2017.** Over a quarter of internet users (28 per cent) said that they make personal use of the internet at work.

There is a broadly positive relationship between household income and the share of internet users accessing the internet on the move via a smartphone or tablet. A positive relationship is also displayed between income and the share of internet users making personal use of the internet at work.

**Table 7.2: Where adults who use the internet access it for personal use by annual net income**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make personal use of the internet	£0-£6,000	£6,001-£10,000	£10,001-£15,000	£15,001-£20,000	£20,001-£25,000	£25,001-£30,000	£30,001-£40,000	Over £40,000	All
At home	94	91	96	97	98	98	97	99	97
On the move via a mobile phone/smartphone/tablet	50	49	43	50	49	58	62	69	58
At work	26	8	11	16	23	23	29	46	28
At another person's home	18	23	11	11	12	16	16	20	16
School, college, university, other educational institution	16	13	7	9	6	4	4	7	7
Internet café or shop	10	9	4	5	2	3	5	9	6
Public library	8	8	6	5	3	2	4	4	4
Somewhere else	1	-	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
Community or voluntary centre/organisation	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
A government/council office	-	3	0	1	0	-	2	1	1
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>290</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>2,260</i>

### 7.3.2 How internet users access the internet

Table 7.3 shows which methods are used to access the internet for personal use by age. **The proportion of internet users reporting that they access the internet using a smartphone continued to increase** (from 72 per cent in 2016 to 78 per cent in 2017), **and is now broadly the same as the share of internet users using a PC or laptop to go online** (79 per cent).

**Over the year, the 45-59 age group showed the largest increase in accessing the internet by a method other than a PC or laptop** (up nine percentage points). This was driven mainly by an increase in the use of mobile phones to access the internet (from 70 per cent in 2016 to 79 per cent in 2017). **There was also an increase in the use of mobile phones to access the internet amongst 60-74 year olds** (from 45 per cent in 2016 to 53 per cent in 2017).

**Table 7.3: Methods used by adults who use the internet for personal use by age**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make personal use of the internet	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-74	75 plus	All
A personal computer or laptop	74	75	84	80	80	76	79
Mobile phone/iPhone/Smartphone	93	90	91	79	53	19	78
A tablet - iPad/Playbook or similar	47	54	61	55	57	46	54
Digital, cable or satellite television	16	26	24	18	11	4	18
A games console	27	25	21	7	2	0	14
Another way	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Other than a personal computer or laptop	97	95	93	88	74	51	88
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>2,330</i>

### 7.3.3 Common internet activities and online confidence

As shown in Table 7.4, the **most common activities** undertaken by those who have access to the internet **include sending and receiving emails** (90 per cent of all adults who make personal use of the internet), **searching for information** (86 per cent), **buying goods or services** (75 per cent), using social media (72 per cent) and internet banking (64 per cent). Adults renting private housing were more likely than average to use the internet for making telephone/video calls and looking/applying for jobs. Those in social rented housing were less likely than average to use the internet for banking and buying goods or services.

**Table 7.4: Reasons for using the internet by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make personal use of the internet	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	All
Send and receive e-mails	92	79	91	*	90
Search for information	87	79	88	*	86
Buy goods or services	80	60	72	*	75
Use social media	69	72	85	*	72
Internet banking	67	45	69	*	64
Play or download games, films or music	50	50	59	*	51
Make telephone/video calls over the	49	38	62	*	49
Look for/apply for jobs	23	29	37	*	26
Create websites or blogs	11	8	18	*	11
None of these	1	2	2	*	2
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>1,580</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>2,330</i>

Among those that use the internet, **a lower proportion of adults in social housing were confident in their ability to use any of the activities** listed in Table 7.5 than those in private rented housing and those who own their own home. Confidence also declined with age across all listed activities, with internet users aged 75+ reporting the lowest levels of confidence online.

**Table 7.5: Confidence in pursuing activities when using the internet by tenure**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make personal use of the internet	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	All
Send and receive e-mails	94	86	96	*	93
Use a search engine	96	92	97	*	95
Shop online	89	83	93	*	88
Use public services online	87	79	92	*	86
Identify and delete spam	86	78	90	*	85
Be able to tell what websites to trust	83	73	88	*	82
Control privacy settings online	78	76	88	*	80
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>1,530</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>2,250</i>

## 7.4 Why People Do Not Use the Internet

Among those adults who made no personal use of the internet, not liking or not needing to use a computer remained the most commonly reported reasons for non-use (Table 7.6).

Over the year, there was a decrease in the share of non-internet users stating that they did not know how to use a computer as a reason for not going online, from 21 per cent in 2016 to 17 per cent in 2017.

**Table 7.6: Reasons why people do not use the internet (other than for work)**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make no personal use of the internet	
I don't like using the internet or computers	42
I don't need to use the internet or computers	32
I don't know how to use a computer	17
There's nothing of interest to me on the internet	15
It would be too difficult to learn how to use the internet	12
I prefer to do things in person rather than use computers	6
I can't afford a computer	8
Other reason	4
I am concerned about privacy e.g. keeping credit card or personal details safe	5
I have a disability or illness that prevents me	4
Internet connection would be too expensive	3
I am worried about unsuitable or inappropriate material on the internet	2
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>640</i>

## 7.5 Use of Public Services Websites

It is possible to access an increasing number of public services and information online. Online services can be quicker and more convenient for people to use, and can be provided at a lower cost than other methods. However, a person's use of websites to access public services is dependent both upon internet access and their tendency to access information or services online. The SHS explores people's use of digitally delivered public services by asking which, if any, things they have used the websites for.

In 2017, the most commonly visited public services websites were Local Authority websites (44 per cent of internet users), NHS websites (37 per cent) and the Scottish Government website (22 per cent). Seventeen per cent of internet users reported accessing the Visit Scotland website.

Thirty-six per cent of internet users had not used any public services websites over the past 12 months, broadly the same share as in 2015.

Table 7.7 presents the proportions of internet users who reported having used a Local Authority or Scottish Government website over the past 12 months, and the reason for doing so. **The most common reason for using Local Authority and Scottish Government websites was looking for information** (33 per cent and 17 per cent respectively).

**Table 7.7: Use of public services on the internet in the past 12 months**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make use of the internet	Local Authority Website	Scottish Government Website
Any purpose	44	22
Look for information	33	15
Download forms	6	2
Send completed forms	5	1
Ask a question	5	1
Make a complaint	4	0
Access services like report a fault, renew library books, planning application	6	1
Make a payment (council tax etc)	8	1
Apply for a job	2	1
Apply for funding (housing benefit, legal aid or student funding)	1	0
Report a crime	0	0
Participate in a consultation	1	1
Another reason	3	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,530</i>	<i>2,530</i>



As shown in Table 7.8, the **main perceived benefits of public services websites were the time savings** (86 per cent of adults who used a public service website). **Eighty-three per cent** of these adults were fairly or very **satisfied with the overall quality** of the public services they had used online, **and 80 per cent were** fairly or very **satisfied with the ease of finding information**. These findings were broadly the same as those in the 2015 survey.

**Table 7.8: Perceptions of using public services websites**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make use of the internet	% who agree	
	2015	2017
Accessing public services online helps me save time	89	86
Accessing public services online helps me save money	54	56
It is easier to access public services online than in person	78	80
I am satisfied with the ease of finding information on public services websites	80	80
Public services websites are easy to use	77	77
I am satisfied with the overall quality of the public services I have used online	86	83
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	1,440	1,480

Excludes Don't know/Refused responses

## 7.6 Online safety and security

Since 2015, the SHS has asked about the security measures adults take to protect themselves whilst online and how security concerns are impacting on internet use.

### 7.6.1 Security measures used online

Some online security measures remain more popular than others. The most common online security measures taken were avoiding opening emails or attachments from unknown people (69 per cent), avoiding giving personal information online (67 per cent), and using different passwords for different online accounts (62 per cent). The share of internet users who say they make sure their mobile phone has up-to-date anti-virus software increased from 34 per cent to 40 per cent over the year.

Use of the various online security measures varied by age, with **those aged 60 and above generally less likely to adopt each of the measures** than those in younger age groups as shown in Table 7.9. In particular, internet users aged 75+ were notably less likely to use online security measures, with **19 per cent** stating that they **did not take any of the suggested actions**. Moreover, whilst 69 per cent of internet users aged 16-24 said that they set complex passwords for online accounts, this is true for only 41 per cent of those aged 60-75 and 29 per cent of those aged 75 and above.

**Table 7.9: Online security measures taken by age and deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults who make use of the internet	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-74	75 plus	20% Most Deprived	20% Least Deprived	All
Avoid opening emails or attachments from unknown people	72	70	68	72	65	55	57	64	69
Avoid giving personal information online	70	68	67	69	65	54	57	77	67
Use different passwords for different accounts	73	61	59	63	57	45	52	69	62
Make sure my home wi-fi is protected with a username and password	59	64	66	63	52	43	50	62	60
Make sure my computer has up-to-date anti-virus software	58	55	62	64	60	47	45	41	60
Download and install software updates/patches when prompted	62	58	58	54	48	38	43	74	55
Set complex passwords	69	61	56	51	41	29	45	69	54
Back-up important information	55	46	46	43	35	25	32	41	44
Make sure my mobile phone has up-to-date anti-virus software	51	40	40	43	30	16	35	70	40
Change passwords for online accounts regularly	43	36	36	37	30	21	33	54	35
None of these	6	6	6	7	10	19	13	5	8
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>470</i>	<i>2,330</i>

Adults living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland were less likely than those in the 20% least deprived areas to adopt each of the security measures, and **more likely to say that they took none of the suggested actions**. For example, 57 per cent of those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas stated that they avoided giving out personal information online, compared to 77 per cent of those in the rest of Scotland.

### 7.6.2 Impact of security concerns on internet use

Overall, 47 per cent of internet users stated that security concerns had not caused them to change their internet use, broadly the same as in 2016 (46 per cent).

Table 7.10 shows that, in general, younger people (particularly those aged 16-24) were less likely to have changed their use of the internet as a result of security concerns. For example, **only four per cent of those aged 16-24** said that **security concerns made them less likely to bank online**, compared to **11 per cent of 45-59 year-olds, 22 per cent of those aged between 60-74, and 21 per cent of those aged 75 and above**.

The impact of security concerns on internet activity was generally greater for internet users with a long-term physical or mental health condition. For example, 17 per cent of internet users with a long-term condition reported that they were less likely to bank online due to security concerns, compared to 10 per cent of those without such a condition.

**Table 7.10: Impact of security concerns on internet use by age and physical or mental health condition**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Age						Long -term physical or mental health		All
	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-74	75+	Yes	No	
Less likely to give personal information on	28	32	32	36	41	41	39	33	34
Only visit websites you know and trust	25	29	29	35	36	31	34	31	31
Only use your own computer/mobile device	9	13	18	23	26	24	20	18	19
Less likely to bank online	4	10	9	11	22	21	17	10	12
Less likely to buy goods online	5	7	7	9	12	18	10	8	9
Less likely to use the internet	0	2	2	3	4	5	3	2	2
No, none of the above	58	52	45	43	41	44	41	49	47
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>1,680</i>	<i>2,330</i>

## 8 Physical Activity and Sport

### Main Findings

In 2017 the vast majority of adults (81 per cent) had taken part in physical activity and sport in the previous four weeks.

Participation in all physical activity and sport remained relatively constant between 2007 and 2010 (around 72 per cent). Recently people have become more active (rising to 75 per cent in 2011 and again to 81 per cent in 2017). The rise in physical activity is driven by the rise in recreational walking.

Recreational walking (for at least 30 minutes) has consistently been the most common type of physical activity. Participation has risen from 57 per cent in 2011 to 70 per cent in 2017.

Excluding walking, just over half (53 per cent) of the adult population participated in physical activity and sport in the four weeks prior to interview. This has remained broadly constant since 2007.

Frequent participation (on more than 14 days in the past 4 weeks) was undertaken by just under half (49 per cent) of those who are active. This has remained relatively constant since 2014.

Men are more active than women (83 per cent and 80 per cent respectively).

Participation in physical activity and sport including walking declines with age.

Participation in physical activity and sport (including recreational walking) is lower for those living in deprived areas (71 per cent for those living in the most deprived areas compared to 90 per cent for those living in the least deprived).

Ill health and disability has the biggest impact on participation. Those with a long term limiting condition were less likely to be physically active (40 per cent compared to 89 per cent of those with no condition).

Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities has remained relatively constant since 2011. In 2017 86 per cent of users in the last 12 months were very or fairly satisfied.

## 8.1 Introduction and Context

Physical inactivity is associated with a range of chronic diseases and is one of the leading risk factors of death globally<sup>46</sup>. Due to its impact on population health and its pandemic levels, physical inactivity is also responsible for a substantial economic burden<sup>47</sup>. In Scotland alone it contributes to more than 2,500 deaths annually<sup>48</sup>, costing the NHS around £77 million<sup>49</sup>.

The Scottish Government recognises this as a major health challenge and has made increasing physical activity a priority. The percentage of adults meeting the Chief Medical Officers' Guidelines of 150 minutes of moderate vigorous physical activity a week is one of the 81 national indicators for the [National Performance Framework](#). Scotland's ambitions for physical activity and sport are described in the recently published Active Scotland Delivery Plan<sup>50</sup>.

More widely we have set out our ambitions for a more active Scotland in the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework<sup>51</sup> (ASOF), developed by the Scottish Government in 2014 in collaboration with partners. The ASOF has six high level outcomes, including getting the inactive active and is underpinned by a commitment to equality. We want to ensure that people of all ages and from all communities across Scotland have the opportunity to participate in physical activity and sport. The ASOF is monitored through a suite of indicators, 11 of which are based on data from the SHS.

Questions on physical activity and sport participation were introduced in the SHS for the first time in 2007. The SHS questions cover levels and frequency of participation in physical activity and sport activities in the last 4 weeks. From 2012 onwards, it is possible to obtain data at local authority level every year.

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/physical-activity>

<sup>47</sup> [Ding, D., Lawson, K. D., Kolbe-Alexander, T. L., Finkelstein, E. A., Katzmarzyk, P. T., Van Mechelen, W., & Pratt, M. \(2016\). The economic burden of physical inactivity: a global analysis of major non-communicable diseases. \*The Lancet\*, 388\(10051\), 1311-1324.](#)

<sup>48</sup> [Foster, C and Allender, S. \(2012\) Costing the burden of ill health related to physical inactivity for Scotland. British Heart Foundation Research Group report for SPARCOIL. NHS Health Scotland](#)

<sup>49</sup> [Townsend, N and Foster, C \(August 2015\) Costing the burden of ill health related to physical inactivity for Scotland. Report commissioned by the British Heart Foundation. Scottish Sports Association.](#)

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2019/06/1945>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/Outcomes-Framework>

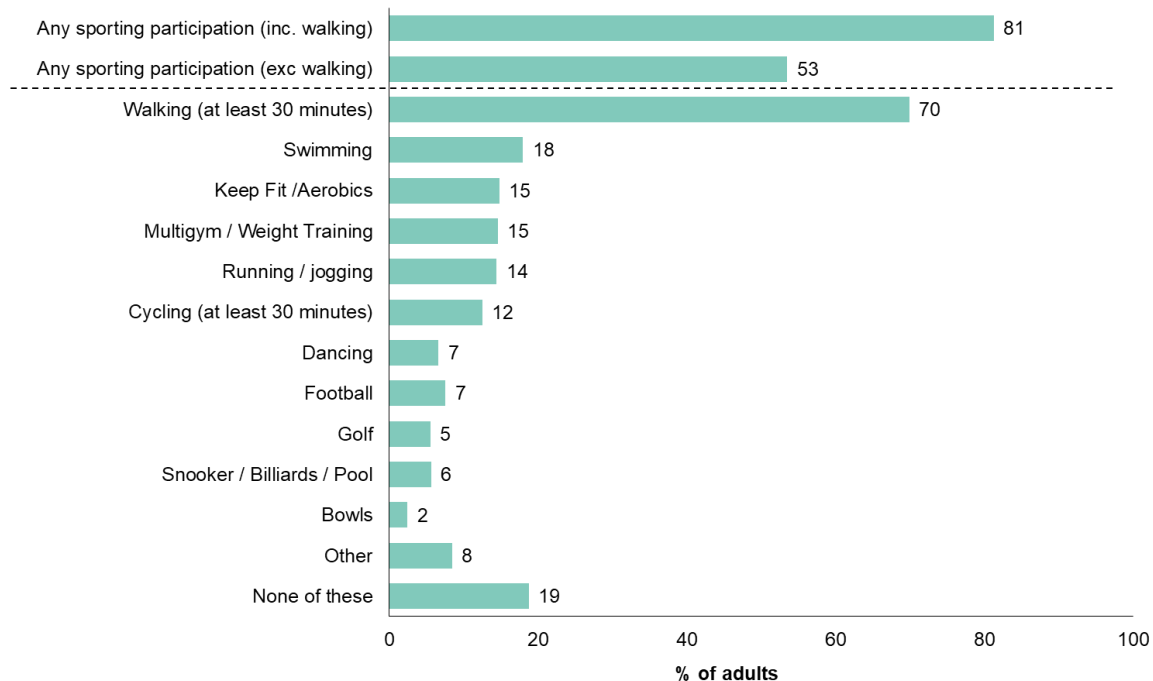
## 8.2 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport

### 8.2.1 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport in the Last Four Weeks

Figure 8.1 shows the percentage of adults participating in physical activity and sports. **In 2017 approximately four fifths of adults (81 per cent) participated in physical activity. The most prevalent activity by far was walking for at least 30 minutes (for recreational purposes), reported by 70 per cent of adults.** If walking is excluded over half of adults (53 per cent) participated in physical activity and sport. Participation in sporting activities ranged from two per cent (in bowls) to 18 per cent (swimming).

**Figure 8.1: Participation in physical activity and sport in the last four weeks**

Percentage of adults (base: 9,810)



## 8.2.2 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport – Trends Over Time

Figure 8.2 and Table 8.1 show that **participation in all physical activity and sport has been gradually increasing since 2011**, from 72 per cent in 2010 to 81 per cent in 2017.

This increase is **driven by a steady rise in the percentage of adults who walked for 30 minutes or more**, from 57 per cent in 2011 to 70 per cent in 2017. When recreational walking is excluded, participation in physical activity and sport remained relatively constant in the past 11 years, fluctuating between 51 and 54 per cent.

**Figure 8.2: Trends in participation in physical activity and sport in the last four weeks**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 9,130)

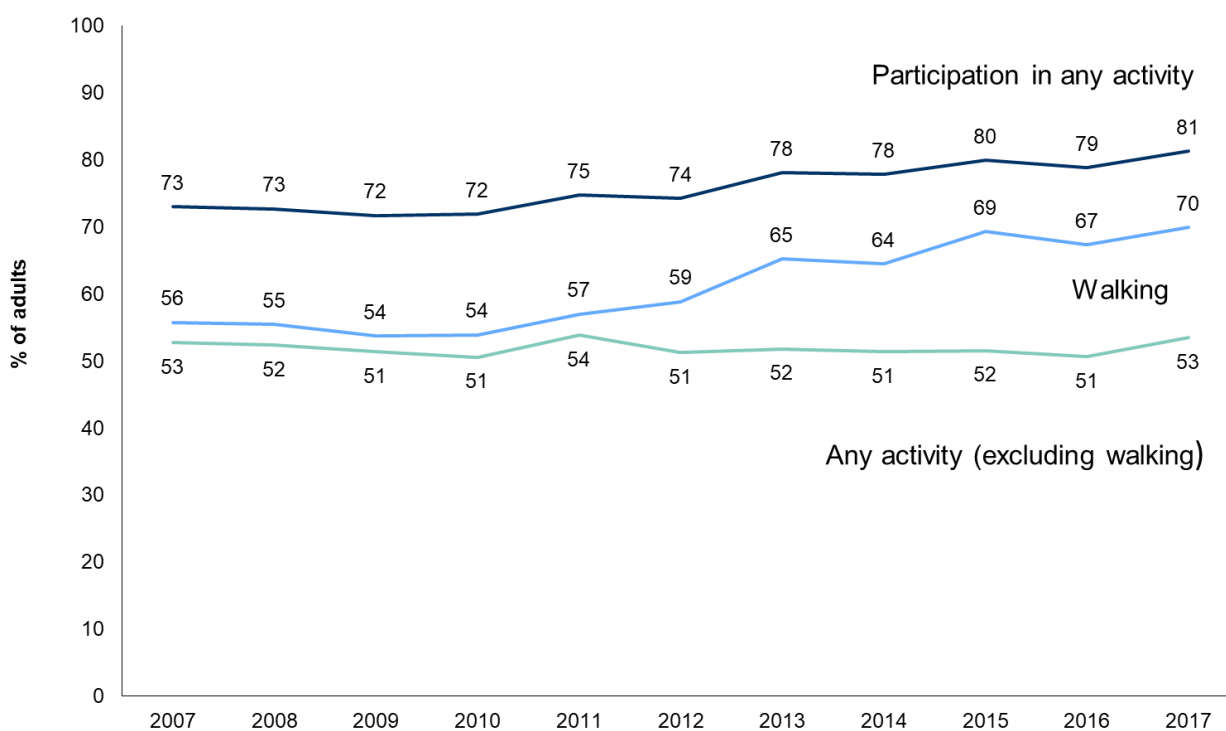


Table 8.1 shows that **participation in different types of sport remained stable over time** with the exception of dancing, which halved in popularity between 2007 and 2017 (14 to 7 per cent).

**Table 8.1: Trends in participation in physical activity and sport in the last four weeks**  
Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Any sporting participation (inc. walking)	73	73	72	72	75	74	78	78	80	79	81
Any sporting participation (exc walking)	53	52	51	51	54	51	52	51	52	51	53
Walking (at least 30 minutes)	56	55	54	54	57	59	65	64	69	67	70
Swimming	19	19	17	17	18	17	17	18	17	16	18
Keep Fit /Aerobics	12	12	12	13	14	14	13	13	14	14	15
Multigym / Weight Training	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	13	14	15
Running / jogging	10	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	12	13	14
Cycling (at least 30 minutes)	9	9	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	11	12
Dancing	14	12	11	10	10	8	7	7	7	7	7
Football	9	8	9	9	8	7	8	7	8	8	7
Golf	9	8	8	7	8	6	7	6	6	6	5
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	9	9	8	7	7	5	6	5	5	6	6
Bowls	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Other	9	10	6	8	10	10	10	9	9	9	8
None of these	27	27	28	28	25	26	22	22	20	21	19
Base	10,300	9,230	9,130	9,620	9,680	9,890	9,920	9,800	9,410	9,640	9,810

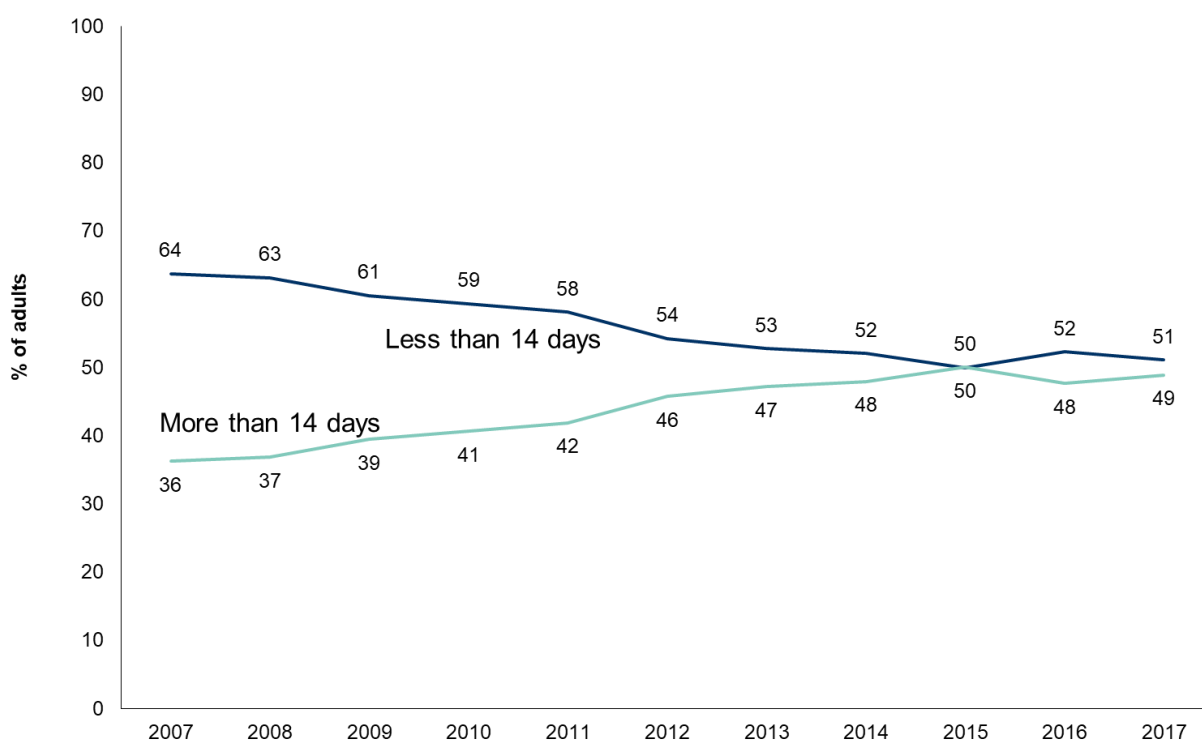


## 8.2.3 Frequency of Participation in Physical Activity and Sport – Trends over Time

Figure 8.3 shows that **frequency of participation in physical activity** and sport among participants has **increased since 2007**. The proportion of the population reporting frequent participation (on more than 14 days in the past 4 weeks) increased from just over a third (36 per cent) in 2007, to just under a half (49 per cent) in 2017. Given the relatively steady levels of participation shown in Figure 8.2 **it would appear this increase in frequency of participation is due to individuals who are already active becoming more active**.

**Figure 8.3: Trends in frequency of participation by adults who took part in physical activity and sport in the previous four weeks**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 6,240)



## 8.2.4 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport by Gender and Age

### 8.2.4.1 Gender

Overall physical activity and **sport participation is slightly higher for men than women** (83 per cent and 80 per cent respectively, as shown in Table 8.2). Gender differences are more pronounced for particular types of physical activity and sport.

This difference was larger when excluding walking (58 and 49 per cent respectively).

The **most common activity was recreational walking**, with similar level of participation for both men and women participating at around the same level (69 and 71 per cent respectively).

Men participated more than women in sporting activities (58 and 49 per cent respectively) apart from swimming (16 and 19 per cent), dancing (3 and 10 per cent) and keep fit (11 and 19 per cent respectively).

### 8.2.4.2 Age

**Participation in all physical activity and sport, including walking, declines with age** (Table 8.2). The highest levels of participation were in the 16 to 24 year age group (92 per cent). This fell gradually to 82 per cent for those aged 45 to 59. The decline becomes more evident in the 60 to 74 age group with 74 per cent participation and in the 75+ group only 51 per cent engaged in physical activity.

**Table 8.2: Participation in physical activity and sport in the past four weeks by gender and age group**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
Walking (at least 30 minutes)	69	71	73	76	77	73	66	43	70
Swimming	16	19	20	25	28	17	12	3	18
Keep Fit / Aerobics	11	19	20	20	18	14	10	5	15
Multigym / Weight Training	17	12	30	23	18	12	5	1	15
Running / jogging	17	12	28	25	22	11	3	0	14
Cycling (at least 30 minutes)	16	9	13	16	18	15	8	1	12
Dancing	3	10	10	9	6	6	5	3	7
Football	14	1	21	14	9	4	1	-	7
Golf	10	2	5	5	4	6	7	5	5
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	10	2	14	8	6	4	2	1	6
Bowls	3	2	2	2	1	2	4	4	2
Other	9	8	13	9	9	8	8	3	8
None of these	17	20	8	9	12	18	26	49	19
Any sporting participation (inc. walking)	83	80	92	91	88	82	74	51	81
Any sporting participation (exc walking)	58	49	75	66	64	52	39	21	53
Base	4,540	5,270	650	1,290	1,400	2,410	2,590	1,480	9,810

Columns add up to more than 100 per cent as multiple responses allowed.

When walking is excluded, the decline in participation with age is even more pronounced. Participation levels are highest in age group 16-24 (75 per cent), decrease by almost half in those aged 60-74 years (39 per cent) and by more than two thirds for those over the age of 75 (21 per cent).

Recreational walking levels are highest in the 35-44 age group and decline gradually to 43 per cent for those older than 75.

The **popularity of different types of** physical activity and **sports varies by age**. **Football** is one example, with 21 per cent of those **aged 16 to 24** having participated in the previous four weeks compared with four per cent of 45 to 59 year olds. Running/jogging and weight-training showed a similar pattern. Contrary to this, participation in **swimming** initially increased with age, peaking at around 28 per cent for **35 and 44 year olds** and then began to decline from the age of 45.

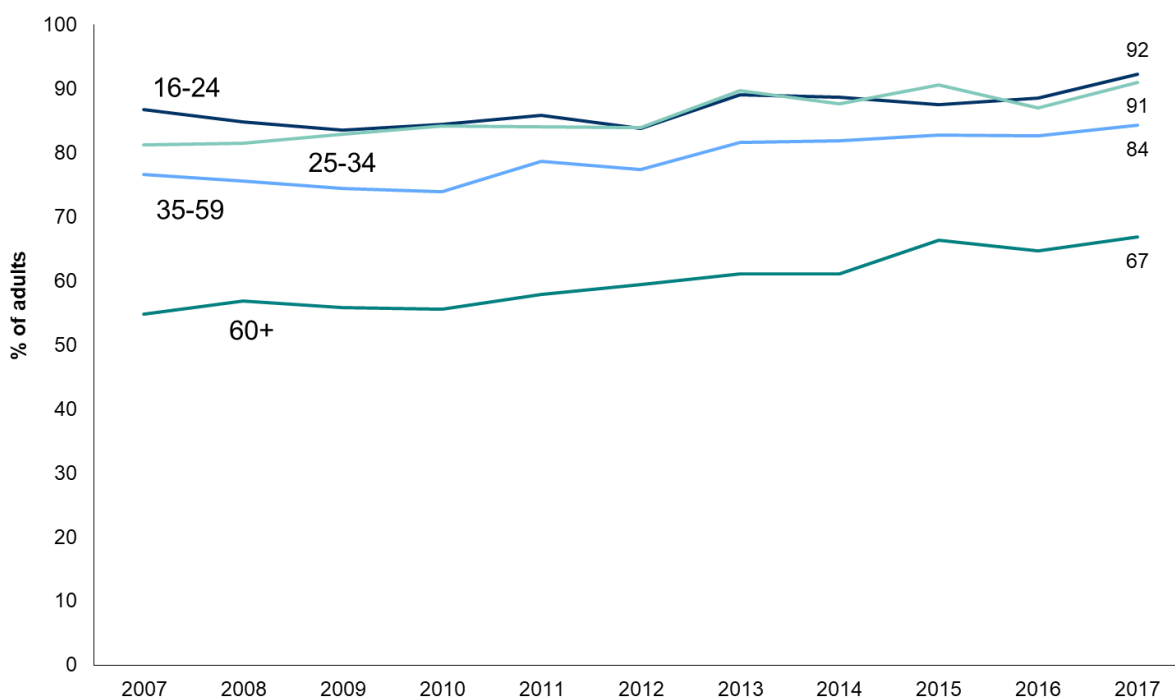
### 8.2.5 By Age Groups Over Time

Figure 8.4, Figure 8.5 and Figure 8.6 show how physical activity and sport participation changed over time for different age groups.

While fluctuations are evident, there is a definite **upward trend in participation in physical activity and sport since 2007 for all age groups** (Figure 8.4).

**Figure 8.4: Trends in participation in physical activity and sport (including walking) in the last four weeks by age**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 650)

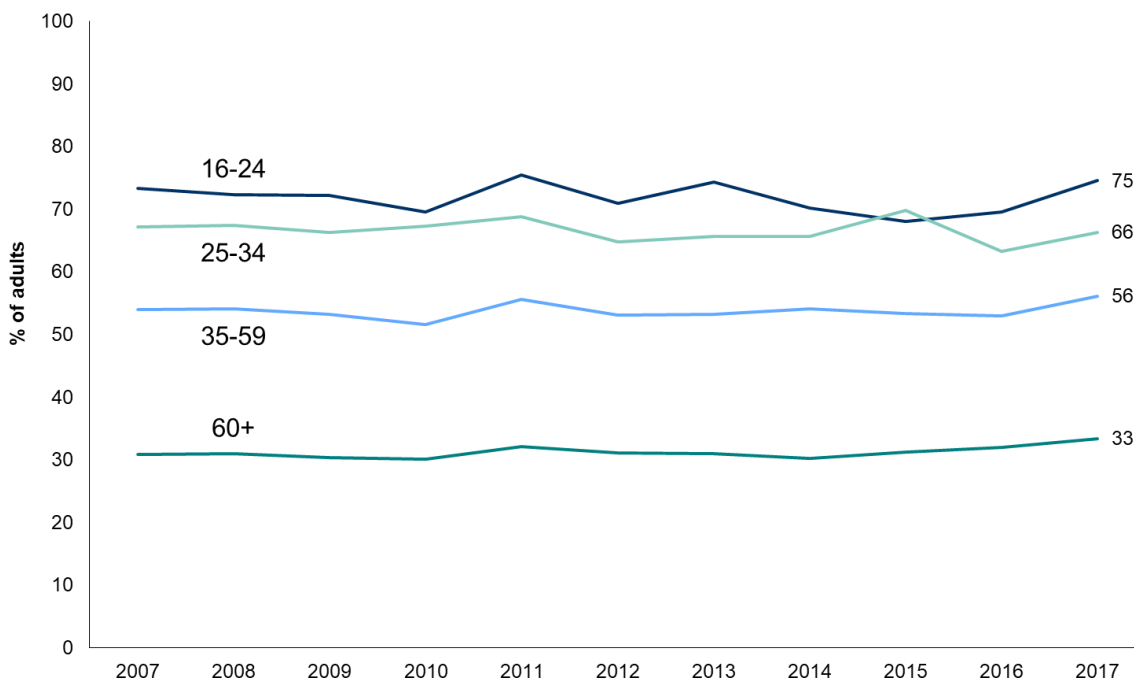


However, **when walking is excluded** (Figure 8.5), **participation remained relatively stable for most age groups over time.**

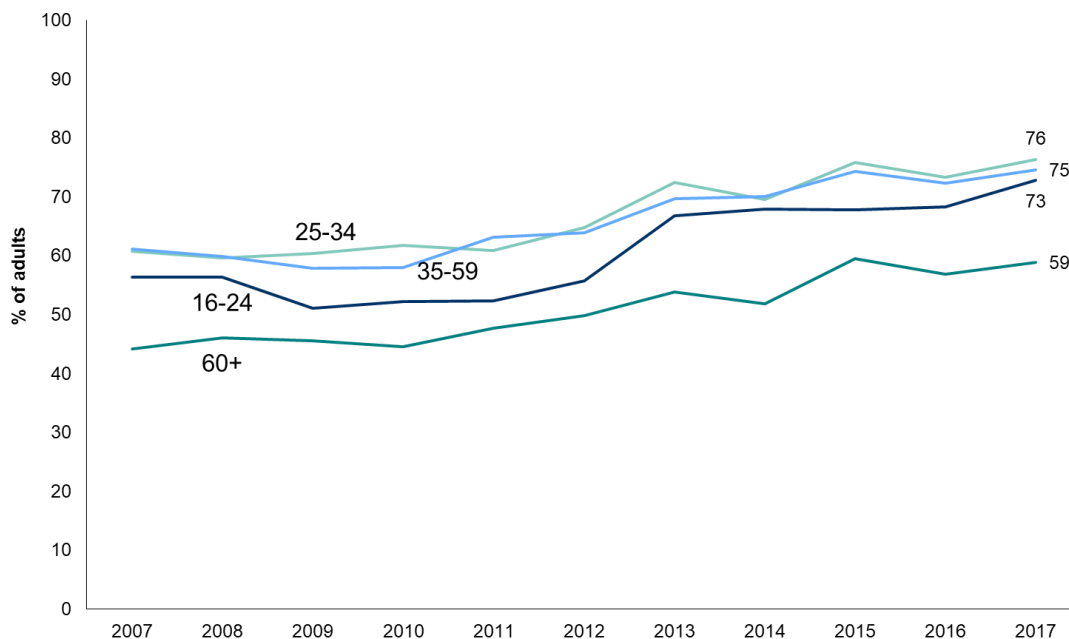
Figure 8.6 shows the **upward trend in recreational walking seen from 2011 applies to all age groups, with the exception of the 60+ age group**, where participation levels seem to plateau in 2015.

**Figure 8.5: Trends in participation in physical activity and sport (excluding walking) in the last four weeks by age**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 650)



**Figure 8.6: Trends in participation in recreational walking in the last four weeks by age**  
 Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 650)



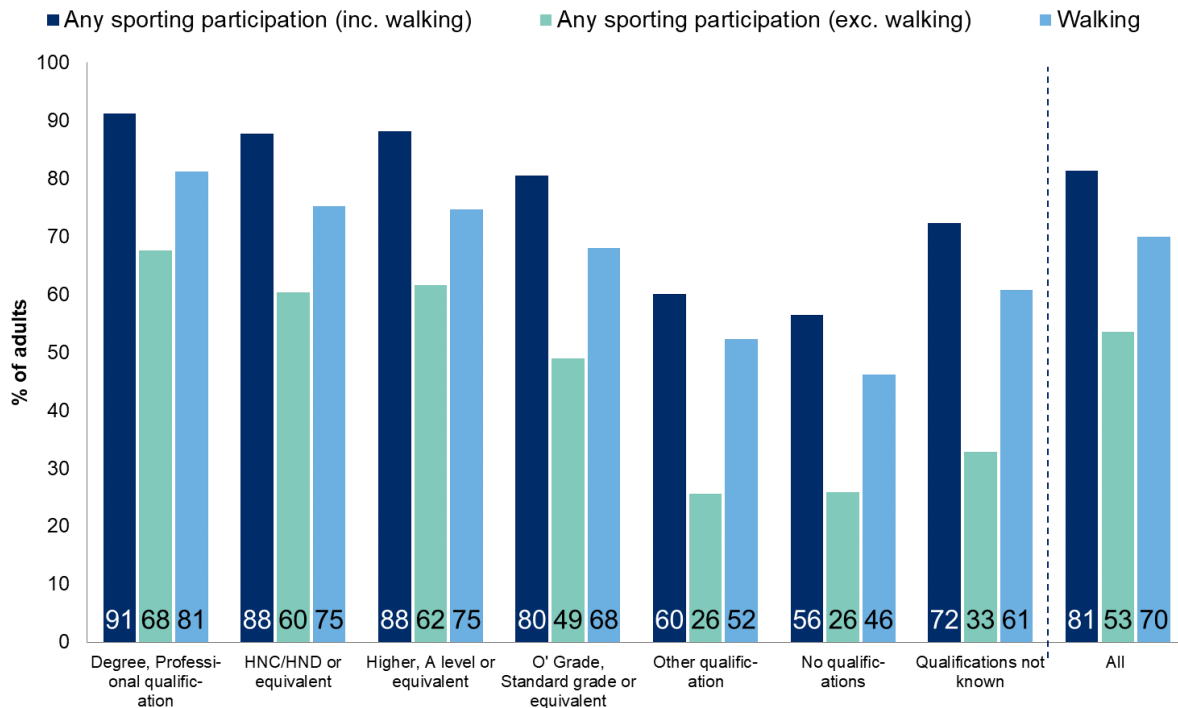
### 8.2.6 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport by Highest Level of Qualification

Figure 8.7 shows how participation in physical activity and sport varies with level of qualification. **In 2017 participation was highest amongst those with a degree or professional qualification (91 per cent) and lowest for those with no qualifications (56 per cent).**

**When walking is excluded, the difference between qualification levels is even greater (68 per cent compared to 26 per cent).** Walking is the most prevalent activity across the range of educational attainment but there is still a 35 percentage point gap in participation between those with a degree or professional qualification (81 per cent) and those with no qualification (46 per cent).

**Figure 8.7: Participation in physical activity and sport in the past four weeks by highest level of qualification**

Percentage of adults, 2017 data (minimum base: 110)



### 8.2.7 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport by Area Deprivation

Figure 8.8 shows how participation in physical activity and sport varies by area deprivation. **Participation** in the previous four weeks **was lowest** (71 per cent) **among those in the 20 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland**, compared with 90 per cent in the 20 per cent least deprived areas, as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Participation excluding walking and participation in recreational walking follow the same pattern with more activity being associated with lower levels of deprivation.

**Figure 8.8: Participation in physical activity and sport in the last four weeks by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentage of adults, 2017 data (minimum base: 1,810)

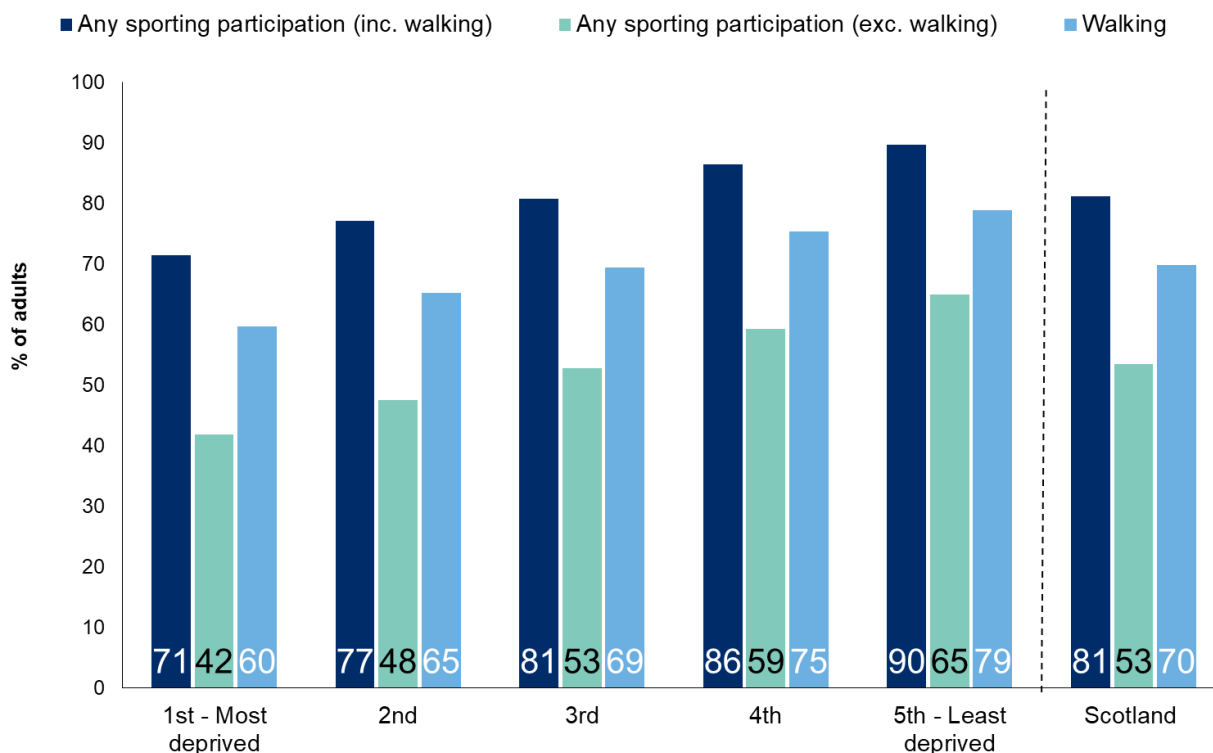


Table 8.3 shows participation in a range of different physical activity and sports by SIMD. This indicates that **walking is the most popular activity irrespective of deprivation**; however those in the least deprived areas participated substantially more than those in the areas of highest deprivation.

A similarly unequal pattern of participation was observed for swimming, keep fit, running, cycling and golf, whereas levels of participation in football, snooker, bowls and dancing were broadly similar between areas of both high and low deprivation.

**Table 8.3: Participation in different types of physical activity and sport in the last four weeks by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentage of adults, 2017 data (minimum base: 1,810)

Adults	Most deprived 20%	2nd	3rd	4th	Least deprived 20%	Scotland
Walking (at least 30 minutes)	60	65	69	75	79	70
Swimming	16	15	18	19	22	18
Keep Fit /Aerobics	9	12	14	17	21	15
Multigym / Weight Training	9	13	14	17	20	15
Running / jogging	9	10	14	17	21	14
Cycling (at least 30 minutes)	7	8	13	16	19	12
Dancing	5	6	7	6	8	7
Football	7	8	8	7	7	7
Golf	3	4	5	6	9	5
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	6	6	6	5	5	6
Bowls	2	4	2	2	2	2
Other	6	6	8	10	11	8
None of these	29	23	19	14	10	19
Any sporting participation (inc. walking)	71	77	81	86	90	81
Any sporting participation (exc walking)	42	48	53	59	65	53
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	<i>1,820</i>	<i>1,960</i>	<i>2,140</i>	<i>2,080</i>	<i>1,810</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Columns add up to more than 100 per cent as multiple responses were allowed.

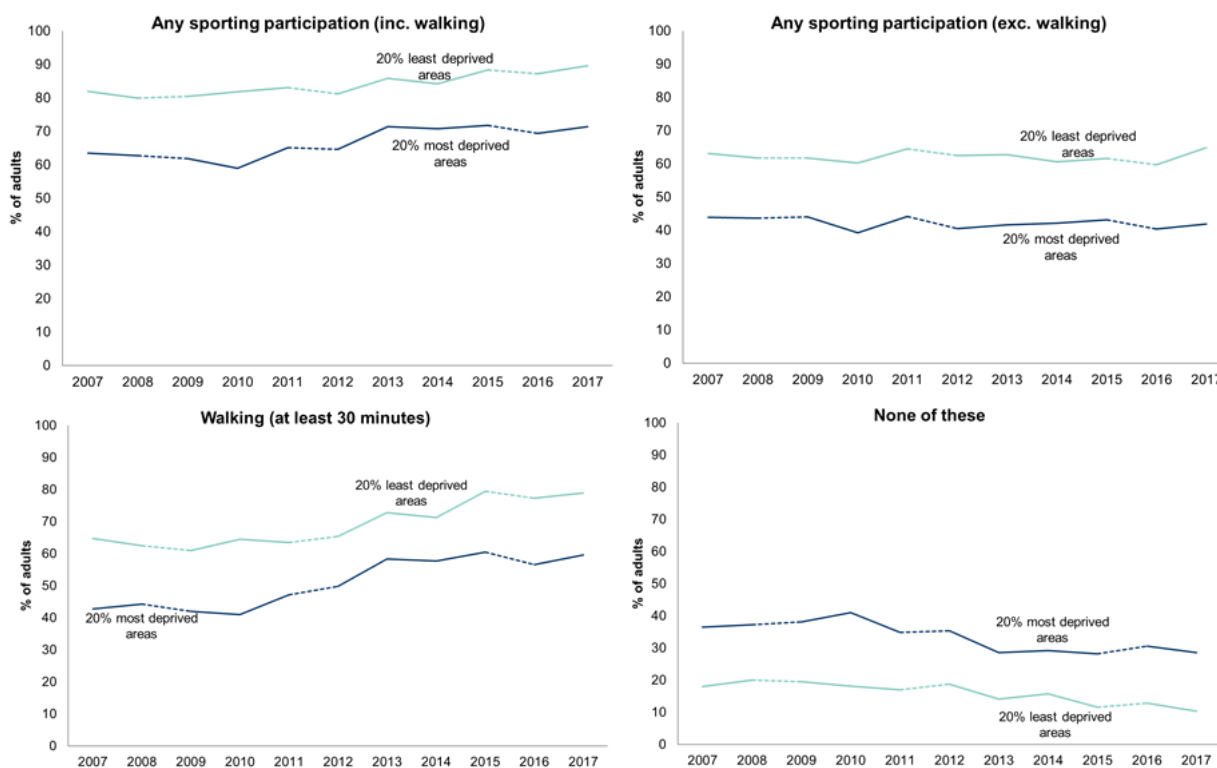
Figure 8.9 shows that the gap between participation in sport and physical activity in the 20 per cent most and the 20 per cent least deprived areas has been consistent over time. The gap was 18 percentage points in 2007 (63 per cent and 82 per cent respectively) and remains at the similar level in 2017 (71 per cent and 90 per cent respectively).

When walking is excluded the gap varied from between 18 and 23 percentage points. For recreational walking the gap narrowed over time from 22 percentage points in 2007 to 19 percentage points in 2017.



**Figure 8.9 Trends in participation in different types of physical activity and sport in the last four weeks by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 9,810)



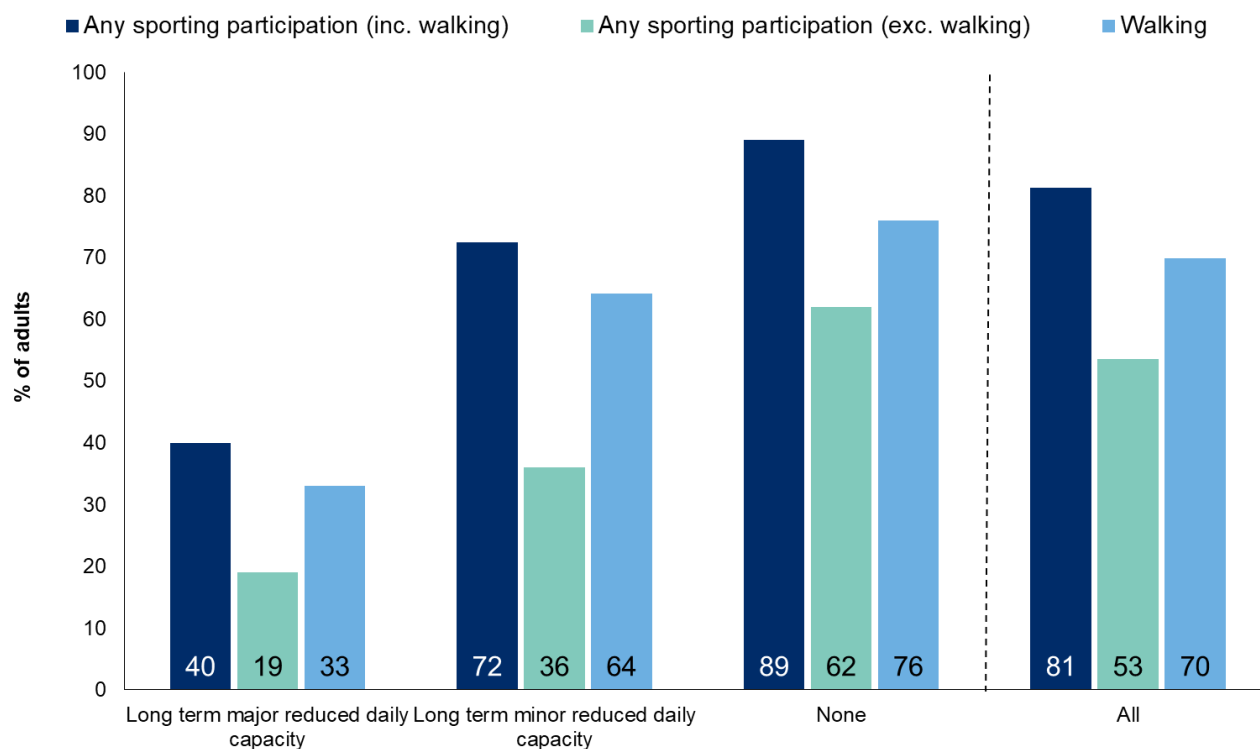
### 8.2.8 Participation in Physical Activity and Sport by Long-term Physical/Mental Health Condition

Figure 8.10 shows participation in physical activity and sport by long-term physical or mental health condition (lasting, or expected to last 12 months or more). **Participation was lowest for those who reported a long-term condition with major impact on day to day activities (40 per cent), compared to 89 per cent participation for those with no condition.** For those where the condition caused minor reduced daily capacity, the participation rate was also lower, at 72 per cent.

There is also a marked difference in participation in recreational walking between those with (33 per cent) and without longer-term physical and mental health conditions (76 per cent).

**Figure 8.10: Participation in physical activity and sport in the last four weeks, by long-term limiting health condition**

Percentage of adults, 2017 data (minimum base: 1,270)



### 8.3 Satisfaction with Local Authority Cultural and Sports Services

Since 2007, questions have been asked on the frequency of use and satisfaction with local authority cultural and sport and leisure services. Table 8.4 presents the reported levels of satisfaction with local authority sports and leisure services in 2017. It shows that **levels of satisfaction amongst respondents** (which include non-users) **have been relatively constant since 2007** at around 50 per cent. There has been a small decrease in the proportion who expressed dissatisfaction, from around nine per cent between 2007 to around five per cent in 2017.

**Table 8.4: Satisfaction with local authority sport and leisure services**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Sports and leisure facilities</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	50	50	48	49	51	51	53	52	51	50	51
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	11	9	9	9	9	7	9	12	14	14	15
Very/fairly dissatisfied	9	8	8	8	8	5	6	5	5	5	5
No opinion	30	32	35	35	33	36	33	31	30	31	29
<b>Base</b>	<b>10,220</b>	<b>9,240</b>	<b>9,710</b>	<b>9,020</b>	<b>9,660</b>	<b>9,890</b>	<b>9,920</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,410</b>	<b>9,640</b>	<b>9,810</b>

Table 8.5 shows levels of satisfaction with local authority sports and leisure services, as above, but **only** amongst **adults who have used these services in the past year. In 2017, a large majority were very or fairly satisfied** (86 per cent). This has been stable since 2011 but represents **an increase compared to 2007** (82 per cent).

**Table 8.5: Satisfaction with local authority culture and sport and leisure services (service users within the past 12 months only)**

Percentage of adults, 2007 to 2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Sports and leisure facilities</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	82	83	82	82	85	88	88	87	86	87	86
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	7	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	5	6
Very/fairly dissatisfied	10	9	10	9	8	7	6	7	7	7	6
No opinion	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,650</i>	<i>3,210</i>	<i>3,270</i>	<i>3,140</i>	<i>3,230</i>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>3,450</i>	<i>3,390</i>	<i>3,230</i>	<i>3,200</i>	<i>3,350</i>

## 9 Local Services

### Main Findings

In 2017, 51.9% of adults were satisfied with three public services: local health services, schools and public transport.

Satisfaction with the three public services is at its lowest level since first measured in 2007, and down from a peak of 66.0% in 2011 – due in part to a fall in satisfaction with local schools over the same period. The number of people who are very or fairly dissatisfied with local schools has remained stable throughout this period. The reason the number of adults very or fairly satisfied with local schools has fallen is almost entirely due to a corresponding increase from 11% to 25% in the number of people who are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Satisfaction with the three public services among people who use those services is generally higher than that of the whole adult population, and is more stable over time.

Adults living in urban areas were more satisfied with the quality of the three public services than those in small towns and rural areas – mainly due to greater satisfaction with public transport.

In 2017, around a quarter (23%) of adults agreed that they can influence decisions affecting their local area. Around a third (33%) said they would like to be more involved in the decisions their council makes.

Generally, older adults were more likely than younger adults to say they are satisfied with local government performance and less likely to want to be more involved in making decisions.

Adults living in the most deprived areas were less likely to agree that they can influence decisions in their local area and less likely to want to be more involved in local decision making.

## 9.1 Introduction and Context

High quality public services which work together and with Scotland's communities are essential to support a fair, prosperous and inclusive society. The Scottish Government's approach to public service delivery seeks to place people and communities at the centre of what we do. In particular, it is an approach designed to target the causes rather than the consequences of inequalities; and to make sure that our public services are sustainable.

The National Performance Framework (NPF), which is supported by local councils, contains two National Indicators relating to public services where progress is monitored using data from this section of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS): "quality of public services", and "influence over local decisions".

Scotland's 32 local authorities work closely with other organisations (in a range of partnerships, including Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to plan and deliver a wide range of services that improve the lives of people living in their areas. Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, community planning is about how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide or secure the provision of services which improve local outcomes in a local authority area, with a view to reducing inequalities. Each CPP must produce a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan which is collaboratively agreed. Many Community Planning Partnerships use the SHS to assess progress within their Local Outcomes Improvement Plans.

This chapter begins by exploring satisfaction with the quality of local services. It then reports respondents' views on local authority performance and attitudes to involvement in local decision-making.

## 9.2 Local Service Quality

### 9.2.1 Satisfaction among all adults in Scotland

The Scottish Government's National Indicator 'quality of public services' is measured by the percentage of adults who say they are (very or fairly) satisfied with three public services: local health services, schools and public transport. **Over the last year, the percentage of adults who said they were very or fairly satisfied with these services decreased from 56.1% in 2016 to 51.9% in 2017**, and has decreased from 66.0% in 2011 (Table 9.1).

Looking at the services individually, **adults tend to be most satisfied with local health services**. In 2017, 82% of adults were satisfied with local health services, compared to 70% who were satisfied with schools and 69% with public transport. **Satisfaction with schools has fallen over the last six years, from a high of 85% in 2011 to the current level of 70%**, and this is the biggest factor in the corresponding trend in the combined indicator over this period – though satisfaction with the other two services has also fallen since 2011.

**Table 9.1: Percentage of people very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (local health services, local schools and public transport) by year**

Percentages, 2007-2017 data

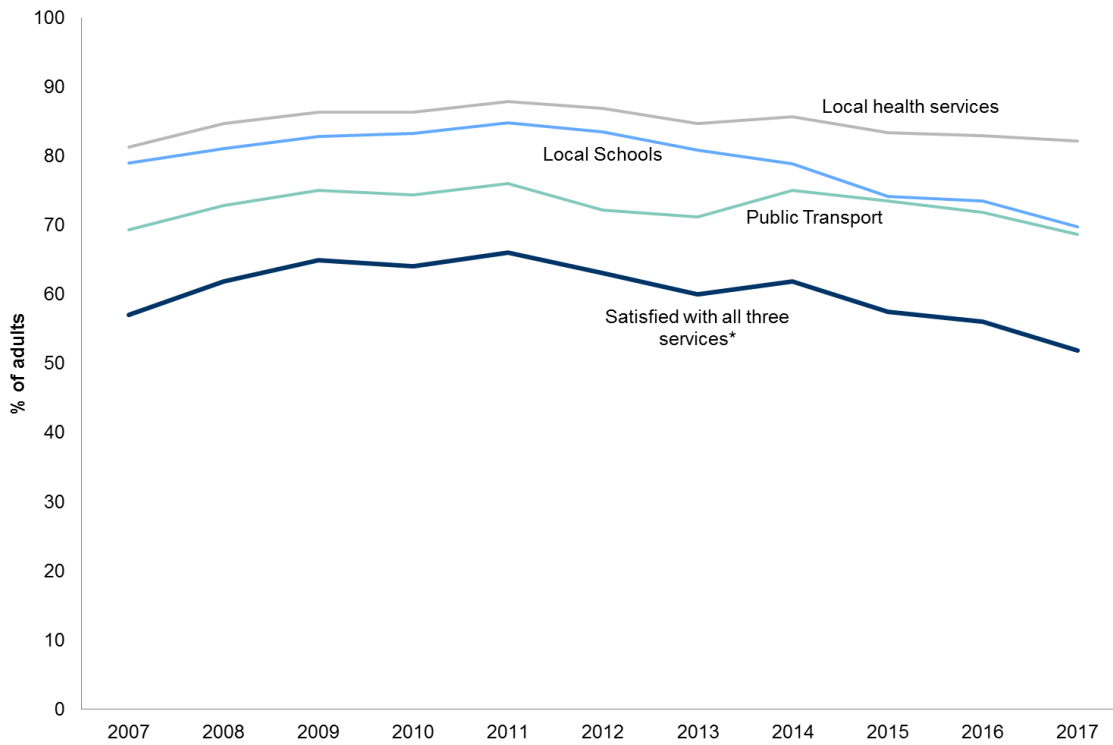
Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Local health services	81	85	86	86	88	87	85	86	83	83	82
Local Schools	79	81	83	83	85	83	81	79	74	73	70
Public Transport	69	73	75	74	76	72	71	75	74	72	69
% satisfied with all three services*	57.1	61.8	64.9	64.0	66.0	63.0	59.9	61.9	57.5	56.1	51.9
Base (minimum)	6,270	5,500	5,470	5,000	5,510	5,340	5,700	5,720	5,790	6,130	6,260

\* Percentages reported for all three services combined are those for which an opinion was given.

\* Respondents could express no opinion for up to two of the services. While the base minimum has been quoted here (for the three main services) the base size for the composite "satisfaction with all three services" is for the whole adult sample 9,810.

**Figure 9.1: Percentage of people very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (local health services, local schools and public transport) by year**

2007 - 2017 data, Adults (min base: 5,000)



\* Percentages reported for all three services combined are those for which an opinion was given. Respondents could express no opinion for up to two of the services. While the base minimum has been quoted here (for the three main services) the base size for the composite “satisfaction with all three services” is for the whole adult sample 9,810.

Table 9.2 provides a more detailed breakdown of satisfaction levels with each of the three public services. **The number of adults very or fairly satisfied with local schools has fallen from 85% to 70% since 2011, this is almost entirely due to a corresponding increase from 11% to 25% in the number of people who are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. The number of people who are very or fairly dissatisfied with local schools has remained stable throughout this period.**

**Table 9.2: Percentage of people very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (local health services, local schools and public transport) by year**

Percentages, 2007-2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Local health services</b>											
Very or fairly satisfied	81	85	86	86	88	87	85	86	83	83	82
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	6	5	5	4	5	6	5	6	6	6
Very or fairly dissatisfied	12	10	9	9	8	9	10	9	11	11	12
<b>Local Schools</b>											
Very or fairly satisfied	79	81	83	83	85	83	81	79	74	73	70
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	14	12	12	11	13	15	18	22	22	25
Very or fairly dissatisfied	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	4	5	5
<b>Public Transport</b>											
Very or fairly satisfied	69	73	75	74	76	72	71	75	74	72	69
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	12	11	12	10	14	12	13	12	15	15
Very or fairly dissatisfied	17	15	14	14	14	14	17	11	14	13	16
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	6,270	5,500	5,470	5,000	5,510	5,340	5,700	5,720	5,790	6,130	6,260

Table 9.3 shows the differences in people's perceptions of public services by urban rural classification. Overall, adults living in urban areas and remote small towns were more satisfied with the quality of public services than those in accessible small towns and rural areas. However, this is mainly due to differences in satisfaction with public transport in remote and rural areas. **Satisfaction with public transport in large urban areas was 79%, compared to only 48% in accessible rural areas.** Remote rural areas had higher levels of satisfaction with local schools (78% compared to 65% in large urban areas).



**Table 9.3: Percentage of people very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (local health services, local schools and public transport) by Urban/Rural classification**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	All
Local health services	85	79	81	76	86	83	82
Local Schools	65	72	71	78	67	78	70
Public Transport	79	70	57	66	48	51	69
% satisfied with all three services*	58.0	51.4	45.4	52.4	41.0	47.1	51.9
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	1,700	2,210	510	440	640	750	6,260

\* Percentages reported for all three services combined are those for which an opinion was given.

Respondents could express no opinion for up to two of the services. While the base minimum has been quoted here (for the three main services) the base size for the composite “satisfaction with all three services” is for the whole adult sample 9,810.

Table 9.4 shows the differences in people’s perceptions of public services by level of deprivation, as defined using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and divided into quintiles<sup>52</sup>. **Overall satisfaction with the quality of public services is broadly similar across all levels of deprivation**, with satisfaction being higher in both the most and least deprived quintiles due to higher levels of satisfaction with public transport.

**Table 9.4: Percentage of people very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (local health services, local schools and public transport) by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	← 20% most deprived		20% least deprived→			All
	1	2	3	4	5	
Local health services	80	81	82	83	84	82
Local Schools	71	69	69	70	70	70
Public Transport	74	69	65	64	71	69
% satisfied with all three services*	54.9	50.4	49.6	50.9	53.7	51.9
<i>Base (minimum)</i>	1,070	1,220	1,420	1,380	1,170	6,260

\* Percentages reported for all three services combined are those for which an opinion was given.

Respondents could express no opinion for up to two of the services. While the base minimum has been quoted here (for the three main services) the base size for the composite “satisfaction with all three services” is for the whole adult sample 9,810.

<sup>52</sup> See Annex 2: Glossary

## 9.2.2 Satisfaction among service users only

The SHS allows us to identify users of services and establish if the views of service users are different to those of the population as a whole.

Table 9.5 shows satisfaction with the three public services among service users only.

**Satisfaction with both schools (87%) and public transport (76%) was higher in 2017 among those who use these services** than the corresponding satisfaction level for the whole adult population, while satisfaction with health services (83%) among users was similar to the whole adult population. Satisfaction of service users is also more stable over time than that of all adults. This suggests that public opinion of services may be formed by more than current personal experience of those services.

**Table 9.5: Percentage of service users very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (local health services, local schools and public transport) by year**

Percentages, 2007-2017 data

Service users	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Local health services	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83
Local Schools	90	89	88	88	90	92	90	90	90	88	87
Public Transport	77	80	81	80	82	80	78	82	79	80	76
Base (minimum)	2,040	1,740	1,880	1,650	1,800	1,750	1,820	1,780	1,690	1,740	1,660

1. Users of Local health services not available prior to 2017
2. Users of Local schools identified by whether there is a school child present in the household
3. Users of Public transport identified by whether the respondent has used a bus or train within the last month

## 9.3 Perceptions of Local Authority Performance and Involvement in Local Decision Making

The Scottish Government's approach continues to be informed by the findings of the Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services in 2011<sup>53</sup>, providing consistent and clear strategic direction built around the four pillars of reform: partnership; prevention; people and performance. This approach places people and communities at the centre of public service delivery and policy making. Perceptions of local authority performance have been collected.

As well as satisfaction with local services, perceptions of local authority performance in the SHS are measured by asking people to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with various statements relating to the role of a local council and the perceived quality of communication and services, involvement in decision making, and value for money.

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/06/27154527/0>

**Figure 9.2: Percentage agreeing with various statements about local authority services and performance**

2017 data, Adults (base: 9,810)

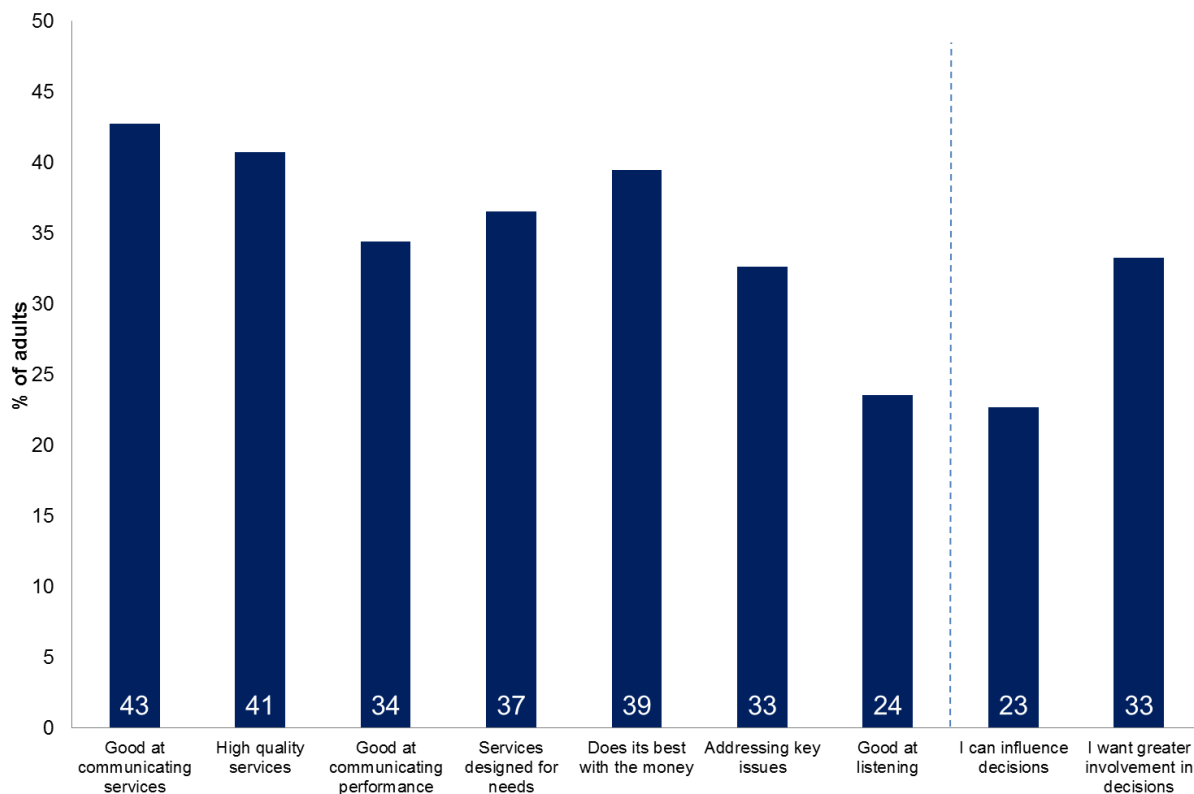


Figure 9.2, above, shows the percentage of adults who agreed (strongly or slightly) with these statements about different aspects of their local authority's performance. The highest level of agreement was amongst those who said their **council is good at letting people know about the kinds of services it provides (43%) and provides high quality services (41%).**

The lowest levels of agreement were with statements about being able to influence decisions in their local area (23%) and the council being good at listening to local people's views (24%).

The National Performance Framework National Indicator 'Influence over local decisions' is measured as the percentage of adults in the SHS who agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area.

In 2017, 22.7% of people agreed that they can influence decisions affecting their local area, as shown in Table 9.6. This is an increase of 3.1 percentage points since 2007, and is unchanged<sup>54</sup> since 2015 when the Community Empowerment Act 2015 came into force.

<sup>54</sup> once accounting for statistical significance

**Table 9.6: Percentage of people who agree with the statement 'I can influence decisions affecting my local area' by year**

Percentages, 2007-2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
I can influence decisions	19.6	21.7	21.8	21.3	22.4	21.5	22.0	23.0	23.6	23.1	22.7
Base (minimum)	10,230	9,250	9,710	9,020	9,660	9,890	9,920	9,800	9,410	9,640	9,810

In 2017, 33% of adults said they would like to be more involved in the decisions their council makes that affects their local area, compared to 23% who felt they can influence decisions affecting their local area (Figure 9.2). In 2017, around a quarter (24%) of adults agreed that their council is good at listening to local people's views before it takes decisions.

Table 9.7 shows how level of agreement with the nine statements has changed over time. The percentage of people who agree that their local council is good at communicating services and good at communicating performance were both relatively stable between 2007 and 2014. However, since then **the percentage who say that their local council is good at communicating services has declined** (from 49% to 43%), **as has the percentage who say that their local council is good at communicating performance** (from 41% to 34%).

**The percentage of people who want greater involvement in decisions affecting their local area has decreased since 2007** (from 38% in 2007 to 33% in 2017), while the percentage who think that their local council is good at listening has increased slightly over the same period (from 21% to 24%).

**Table 9.7: Percentage agreeing with various statements about local authority services and performance by year**

Percentages, 2007-2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Good at communicating services	47	48	49	48	49	48	48	49	46	45	43
High quality services	40	42	43	42	44	44	45	47	46	45	41
Good at communicating performance	42	42	41	41	40	41	40	41	38	37	34
Services designed for needs	32	34	38	39	39	40	40	41	40	40	37
Does its best with the money	35	38	36	39	39	40	40	41	41	41	39
Addressing key issues	33	34	34	34	34	35	36	37	36	36	33
Good at listening	21	22	23	23	23	25	25	26	25	25	24
I can influence decisions	20	22	22	21	22	21	22	23	24	23	23
I want greater involvement in decisions	38	37	36	36	36	33	35	34	34	34	33
Base (minimum)	10,230	9,250	9,710	9,020	9,660	9,890	9,920	9,800	9,410	9,640	9,810

All time series data is produced on a consistent basis. Figures published in the 2007 SHS Annual Report may differ slightly for some question statements

Figure 9.3 shows that there are some differences by age group in agreement with statements about local authority services and performance. **Generally, older adults are more likely than younger adults to say they are satisfied with the performance statements about local government services and less likely to want to be more involved in making decisions.** Around half of 60 to 74 year olds and those aged 75 years and over agreed with the statement that their council does the best it can with the money available, compared to around one third of 16 to 24 and 25 to 34 year olds.

The strongest desire to participate in local decision-making was shown by those aged 35 to 44, with 42% saying they would like to have greater involvement with decisions affecting their local area (compared to 29% for those aged 60-74, and 15% for those 75 and above). Those aged 75 and above were also least likely to feel that they can influence decisions (16%, compared to 25% for those aged 16-44).

**Figure 9.3: Percentage agreeing with various statements about local authority services by age**

2017 data, Adults (min base: 650)

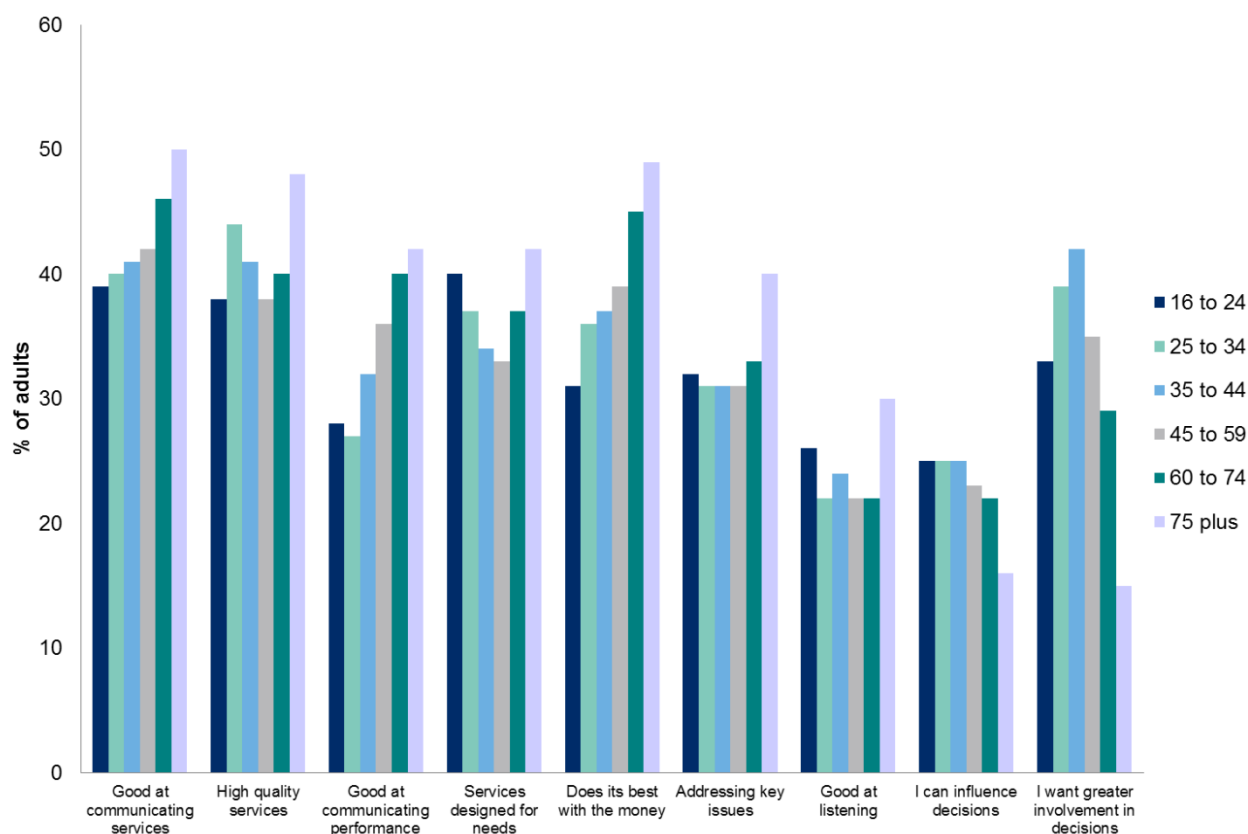
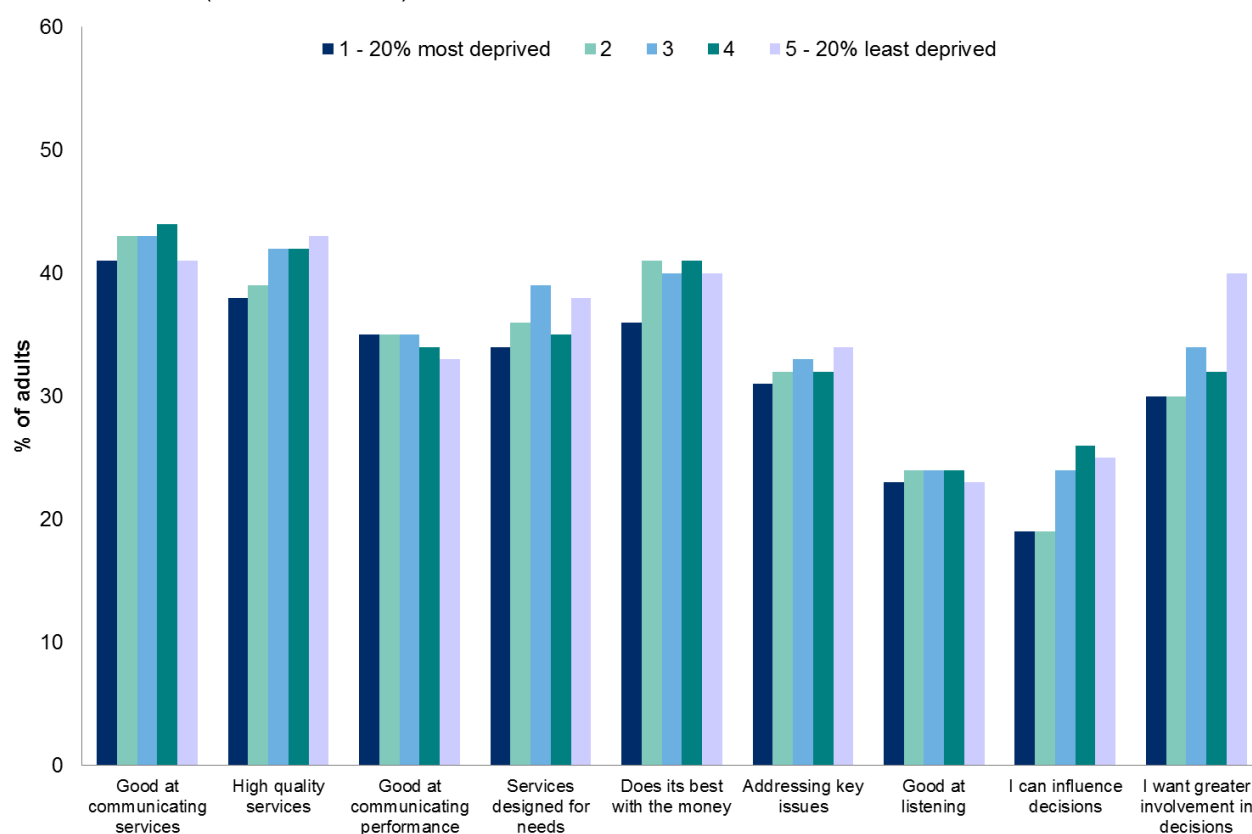


Figure 9.4 looks at differences in agreement with statements about local authority performance by the level of deprivation of the area, as defined using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and divided into quintiles as above. **Levels of agreement with most statements were similar across areas, regardless of deprivation levels.**

Perceptions of being able to influence decisions and the desire to be involved in decision-making were lower in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. Adults living in the most deprived areas were less likely to agree that they can influence decisions in their local area (19% in the most deprived areas, compared to 25% in the least deprived areas) and less likely to want to be more involved in local decision making, (30% in the most deprived areas, compared to 40% in the least deprived areas).

**Figure 9.4: Percentage agreeing with various statements about local authority services by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

2017 data, Adults (min base: 1,810)



# 10 Environment

## Main Findings

### Climate change

The proportion of adults who view climate change as an immediate and urgent problem increased by one third between 2013 and 2017, from 46 per cent to 61 per cent. Among 16-24 year olds, the proportion with this view increased by over half over the same period to 58 per cent, the largest increase of any age group.

### Recycling

More households are now disposing of their food waste in local authority-provided food caddies (55 per cent in 2017 compared with 26 per cent in 2012).

Households in flats are much more likely to dispose of their food waste with their general waste as opposed to those living in houses (65 per cent compared to 39 per cent). Households in rural areas are more likely to use composting to dispose of their food waste (19 per cent) than households in urban areas (7 per cent) but are also more likely to dispose of food waste with their general rubbish (54 per cent compared to 47 per cent).

Around four in five households report that they recycle each of the five categories of dry recyclable materials. The recycling rate is highest for paper (86 per cent) and lowest for glass and metal (both 80 per cent), which is the same pattern as observed in 2015, the last time this question was asked.

### Visits to the outdoors and greenspace

Just over half of adults (52 per cent) visited the outdoors at least once a week in the last year, an increase from 48 per cent in 2016. Adults living in the most deprived areas were more likely not to have made any visits to the outdoors in the past twelve months (20 per cent) compared to those in the least deprived areas (six per cent).

Those living closer to their nearest greenspace were more likely to use it more frequently.

Most adults (65 per cent) lived within a five minute walk of their nearest area of greenspace, a similar proportion to 2016.

More than a third of adults (37 per cent) visited their nearest area of greenspace at least once a week, which has been around the same proportion since 2013, when comparable figures were first collected.

Most adults (74 per cent) were very or fairly satisfied with their nearest area of

greenspace, a similar proportion to 2016.

Less than a sixth of adults (15 per cent) gave their views on land use in the last 12 months, the same proportion as in 2015.

## 10.1 Introduction and Context

The Scottish Government and partners are working towards creating a greener Scotland by improving the natural and built environment, and protecting it for present and future generations. Actions are being taken to reduce local and global environmental impacts, through tackling climate change, moving towards a zero-waste Scotland through the development of a more circular economy, increasing the use of renewable energy and conserving natural resources. The Scottish Government is also committed to promoting the enjoyment of the countryside and of green spaces in and around towns and cities.

The updated National Performance Framework, published in June 2018, contains a National Outcome for the environment<sup>55</sup>: **We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.**

A range of National Indicators have been developed to track progress towards this environmental outcome. Two of these indicators, 'visits to the outdoors' and 'access to green and blue space', are monitored using data from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS). **"Access to green and blue space"** is measured using the greenspace question which defines greenspaces as **"public green or open spaces in the local area, for example a park, countryside, wood, play area, canal path, riverside or beach"**.

Some local authorities also use the SHS to assess progress towards environmental objectives, including those in their Single Outcome Agreements (a statement of the outcomes that they want to see for their local area).

This chapter begins by exploring attitudes towards climate change and then reports findings on the recycling of waste. It finishes by looking at visits to the outdoors, access to local greenspace and participation in land use decisions.

Responses to questions on litter and dog fouling are found in Chapter 4 - "Neighbourhoods and Communities".

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<sup>55</sup> <http://nationalperformance.gov.scot>



## 10.2 Attitudes to Climate Change

### 10.2.1 Introduction and Context

Action to tackle climate change is a high priority for the Scottish Government. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 set a target of reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 42 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050, compared with the 1990 baseline<sup>56</sup>. The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan (Third Report on Policies and Proposals, RPP3) sets out how Scotland will continue to reduce emissions over the period 2018–2032 in order to deliver those targets<sup>57</sup>. A Bill for an Act of the Scottish Parliament to amend that Act is currently before Parliament<sup>58</sup>. It increases the level of ambition in the climate change targets in response to the Paris Agreement on climate change<sup>59</sup>.

The Scottish Government recognises that public understanding, engagement and action will be critical to achieving the social and economic transformations required to achieve a low carbon society and to meet its climate change targets. Its Low Carbon Behaviours Framework<sup>60</sup> sets out a strategic approach to encourage low carbon lifestyles amongst individuals, households, communities and businesses in Scotland.

For the last five years the SHS has included a question about perceptions of climate change as a problem, which was first asked in the Scottish Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours Survey (SEABS) in 2008<sup>61</sup>. In 2015, the SHS added four new questions to explore people's perceptions relevant to action to tackle climate change, three of which were also asked in SEABS. The SHS results are discussed in relation to the SEABS results in this section, although it is worth noting that there were some differences between the surveys. In the SEABS survey, respondents were asked a more detailed set of questions about the environment compared with the SHS, in which climate change is one of a wide range of topics on which respondents answer questions.

### 10.2.2 Attitudes towards Climate Change as a problem

Respondents were presented with four different statements about climate change and asked which, if any, came closest to their own view. Table 10.1 shows that **the proportion of adults who view climate change as an immediate and urgent problem has**

<sup>56</sup> Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact>

<sup>57</sup> The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan, Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3) (2018): <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/02/8867>

<sup>58</sup> Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill (2018): <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108483.aspx>

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Paris Agreement (2015): <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>60</sup> Low Carbon Scotland: Behaviours Framework (2013) <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/03/8172>

<sup>61</sup> Scottish Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours Survey (2008): <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/funding-and-grants/enviro-attitudes-2008>

**increased by one third between 2013 and 2017**, from 46 per cent to 61 per cent. The 2017 figure also exceeds the comparable SEABS (2008) figure of 57 per cent, for the first time since this question was included in the SHS.

**Table 10.1: Perceptions about climate change as a problem**

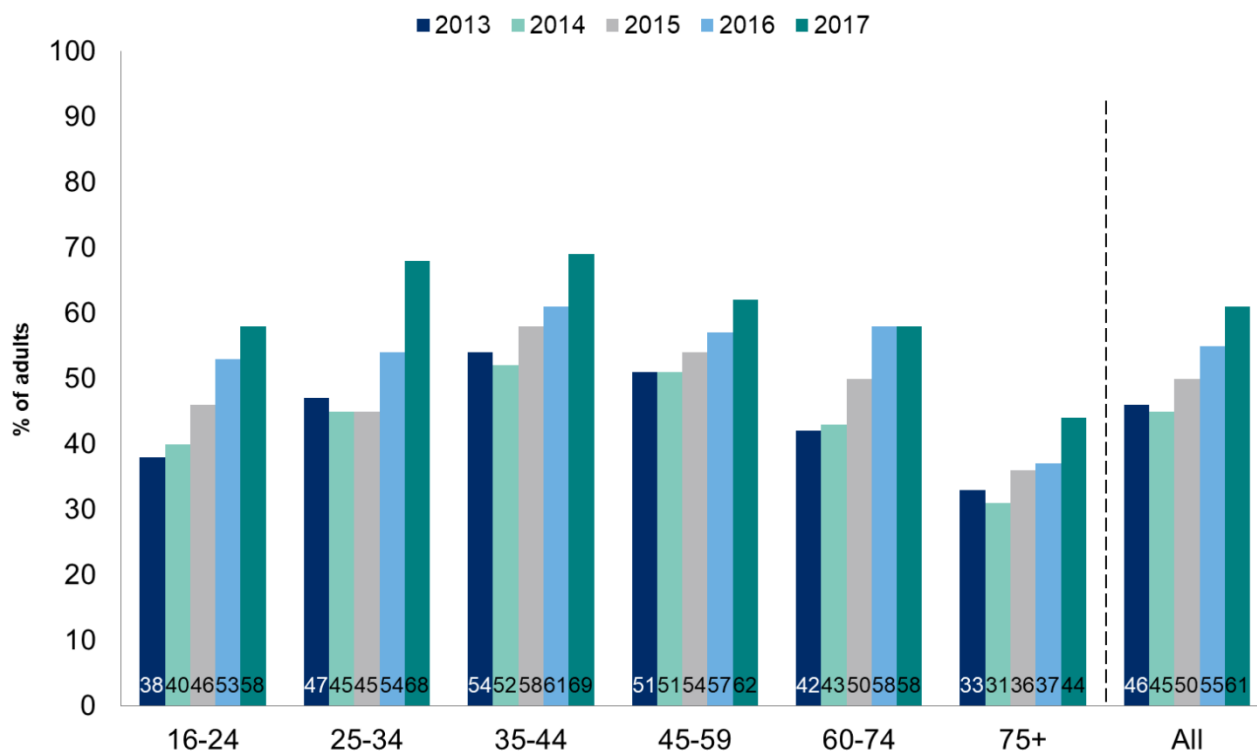
Column percentages, 2013-2017 data

Adults	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Climate change is an immediate and urgent problem	46	45	50	55	61
Climate change is more of a problem for the future	25	26	23	23	18
Climate change is not really a problem	7	8	7	6	5
I'm still not convinced that climate change is happening	13	11	11	9	8
No answer	3	3	3	2	1
Don't know	7	6	7	6	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Base	9,920	9,800	3,100	3,150	3,160

**The perception of climate change as an immediate and urgent problem continues to vary by age.** It is highest among age groups 25-34 and 35–44, and has been consistently lowest among the oldest age group, 75+. While this perception has increased among all age groups over time, **the largest increase has occurred among the youngest age group.** The proportion of 16-24 year olds who view climate change as an immediate problem has increased by over half between 2013 and 2017, from 38 per cent to 58 per cent (see Figure 10.1).

**Figure 10.1: Perception about climate change as an immediate and urgent problem by age over time**

2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 210)



The perception of climate change as an immediate problem continues to vary by educational attainment and area deprivation. **In 2017 there was still a large gap between adults with a degree or professional qualification (nearly eight out of ten), and adults with no qualifications (around four out of ten) who perceived climate change as an immediate and urgent problem. Climate change is also more likely to be perceived as an immediate problem by adults living in the least deprived quintile, compared with adults living in the most deprived quintile.**

### 10.2.3 Attitudes towards taking action to tackle Climate Change

People’s attitudes towards taking action to address climate change will be influenced by, among other things, their views about whether climate change will affect Scotland; whether their everyday behaviours and lifestyles contribute to climate change; whether any actions they take would have an impact on climate change; and whether they know what actions to take personally. Respondents’ views were explored by inviting them to agree or disagree with four statements, which vary in terms of whether agreement or disagreement represents a favourable attitude towards taking action to tackle climate change.

### 10.2.3.1 The value of individual actions to help the environment

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statement: **“It’s not worth me doing things to help the environment if others don’t do the same”**. Disagreement with this statement suggests a positive perception of the value of individual actions, regardless of the actions of others.

Table 10.2 shows that, in 2017, **two thirds of adults disagree with this statement, an increase compared with the 2015** result and similar to the SEABS (2008) result (68 per cent). The proportion of adults who strongly disagree also increased between 2015 and 2017.

**Table 10.2: “It’s not worth me doing things to help the environment if others don’t do the same”**

Column percentages, 2015 and 2017 data

Adults	2015	2017
Strongly agree/Tend to agree	23	19
Neither agree nor disagree	10	10
Strongly disagree/Tend to disagree	63	67
Don't know	4	4
Total	100	100
Base	3,100	3,160

### 10.2.3.2 The contribution of behaviour and everyday lifestyle to climate change

Respondents were then asked about their agreement or disagreement with the statement: **“I don’t believe my behaviour and everyday lifestyle contribute to climate change”**. Again, disagreement with this statement suggests a perception that there is a link between individual behaviours and lifestyle and climate change.

Table 10.3 shows that in 2017, **nearly six out of ten adults disagree with this statement, an increase compared with 2015** and with the SEABS (2008) result (48 per cent). The proportion of adults who strongly disagree also increased between 2015 and 2017.

**Table 10.3: “I don’t believe my behaviour and everyday lifestyle contribute to climate change”**

Column percentages, 2015 and 2017 data

Adults	2015	2017
Strongly agree/Tend to agree	26	23
Neither agree nor disagree	15	13
Strongly disagree/Tend to disagree	54	59
Don't know	5	5
Total	100	100
Base	3,100	3,160

### 10.2.3.3 Perceptions about where climate change will have an impact

Respondents were invited next to agree or disagree with the following statement: **“Climate change will only have an impact on other countries, there is no need for me to worry”**. Disagreement with this statement suggests a perception that climate change will have an impact on Scotland, as well as on other countries.

Table 10.4 shows that there is strong disagreement with this statement: **77 per cent of adults disagree**, the same as the 2015 result but with an increase in strong disagreement. It remains lower than the SEABS (2008) result, when 85 per cent of adults disagreed.

**Table 10.4: “Climate change will only have an impact on other countries, there is no need for me to worry”**

Column percentages, 2015 and 2017 data

Adults	2015	2017
Strongly agree/Tend to agree	7	7
Neither agree nor disagree	10	9
Strongly disagree/Tend to disagree	77	77
Don't know	6	6
Total	100	100
Base	3,100	3,160

### 10.2.3.4 Understanding about actions that people can take to tackle climate change

Finally, respondents were invited to agree or disagree with the following statement: **“I understand what actions people like myself should take to help tackle climate change”**. Agreement with this statement suggests that respondents believe that they know what actions they could take personally, though it would not show whether they actually do know, or whether they are taking any action in practice.

Table 10.5 shows that there is strong agreement with this statement: **three quarters of adults agree**, a similar finding to 2015, but with an increase in strong agreement.

**Table 10.5: “I understand what actions people like myself should take to help tackle climate change”**

Column percentages, 2015 and 2017 data

Adults	2015	2017
Strongly agree/Tend to agree	73	74
Neither agree nor disagree	13	11
Strongly disagree/Tend to disagree	9	10
Don't know	5	5
Total	100	100
Base	3,100	3,160

### 10.2.3.5 Variation in attitudes about taking action to tackle Climate Change

The pattern of responses to these four questions is very similar to the pattern in relation to perceptions about climate change as an immediate and urgent problem. The age groups more likely to perceive climate change as an immediate and urgent problem are also more likely to have favourable attitudes towards action to tackle climate change. The same pattern is evident according to respondents' educational qualifications and whether they live in less or more deprived areas.

## 10.3 Recycling

### 10.3.1 Introduction and Context

Scotland's first circular economy strategy, “Making Things Last”<sup>62</sup>, published in February 2016, sets out the Scottish Government's priorities for moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. Scottish Government's recycling and landfill targets, as originally set out in its 2010 “Zero Waste Plan”<sup>63</sup>, are as follows:

- 60 per cent of household waste recycled by 2020;
- 70 per cent of all waste recycled by 2025;
- A ban on municipal biodegradable waste going to landfill from 1 January 2021;
- No more than five per cent of all waste going to landfill by 2025.

In addition, a Scottish Food Waste Reduction Target was announced in February 2016 which commits to a 33 per cent reduction by 2025 against a 2013 baseline.

<sup>62</sup> Scottish Government (2016) Making Things Last - <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00494471.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Waste-1/wastestrategy>

To help achieve Scotland's recycling targets, the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 require local authorities to provide separate household collections for recyclable materials. Outwith specified rural areas this includes collection of food waste. Food collected for recycling can be processed to produce nutrient-rich fertilisers and biogas - a low carbon energy source. In January 2017, the Scottish Government reported that 80 per cent of Scottish households (1.95 million) had access to a food waste collection service<sup>64</sup>. Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) and the Scottish Government have also led initiatives to help people reduce unnecessary food waste (e.g. the Love Food Hate Waste, ZWS Volunteer and Community Advocate Programme, and Greener Scotland campaigns), as well as to recycle food waste.

### 10.3.2 Food Waste Recycling

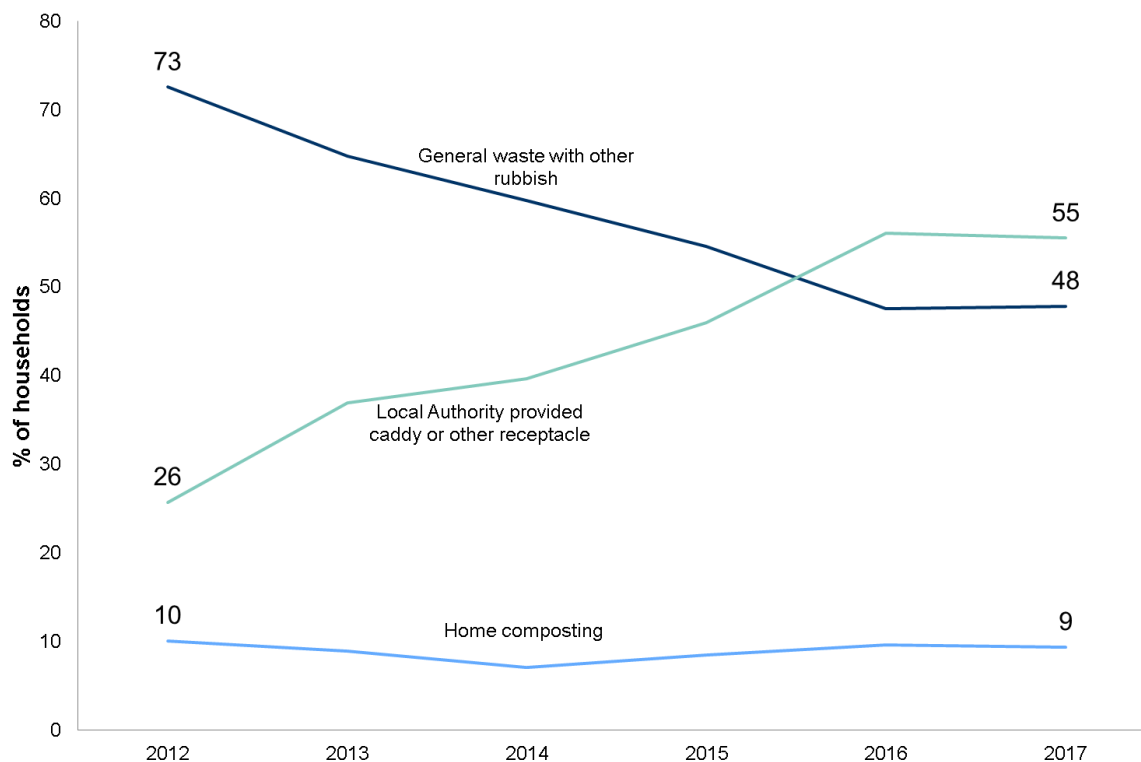
There has been **a steady increase in the number of people using food waste recycling caddies**, rather than throwing food out with general waste. Less than half (48 per cent) of households now dispose of food waste with their general rubbish (Figure 10.2), unchanged from 2016 and a decrease from 55 per cent of households in 2015. The proportion of households making use of local authority-provided food caddies was 55 per cent in 2017, similar to the 56 per cent in 2016. This represents **a substantial increase from the 26 per cent of households using food waste recycling caddies in 2012**. Nine per cent of households dispose of their food waste by home composting, which is a similar proportion to previous years.

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<sup>64</sup> Scottish Government (2017) Draft Climate Change Plan – <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/01/2768>

**Figure 10.2: Methods used to dispose of food waste in the past week**

2017 data, Households (base: 3,430)



Percentages add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

Table 10.6 shows that, in 2017, **a higher percentage of households living in houses used a food waste caddy** (63 per cent) or home composting (11 per cent) to dispose of their food waste **compared to households living in flats**. This may reflect differences in the amount of space available for food waste caddies and home composting.

Consequently a higher proportion of those living in flats dispose of their food waste with general rubbish (65 per cent), similar to 2016 (63 per cent), but down from 73 per cent in 2015. Thirty-nine per cent of those living in houses dispose of their food waste in this way, unchanged from 2016.

**Table 10.6: Method used to dispose of food waste by property type**

Percentages, 2015 - 2017 data

Household	House or bungalow			Flat, maisonette or apartment			Scotland		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
General waste with other rubbish	45	39	39	73	63	65	55	48	48
Local Authority-provided caddy or other receptacle	55	65	63	29	40	41	46	56	55
Home composting e.g. Heap in garden or allotment, green cone	11	13	11	3	4	6	9	10	9
Base	2,420	2,340	2,460	1,050	1,080	1,000	3,480	3,430	3,470



Table 10.7 shows that the largest difference between urban and rural households is in the **higher rate of food waste composting in rural areas** (19 per cent compared to seven per cent in urban areas). This might be due to households in some rural areas being provided with compost bins as opposed to food waste caddies. The proportion of households using composting as a means of disposal is similar to that observed in 2016 for both rural and urban areas. Whilst the proportion of households in urban areas disposing of food waste using food caddies is similar to 2016, there has been **a decrease in the proportion of rural households using food caddies (from 51 per cent in 2016 to 39 per cent in 2017)** and a consequent **increase in the proportion disposing of their food waste with general rubbish** (from 46 per cent in 2016 to 54 per cent in 2017). Local authorities are not legally required to provide food waste collections in rural areas.

Whilst 2017 figures use the updated 2016 urban-rural classification<sup>65</sup>, this does not account for this change. Applying the previous 2013/14 classification to the 2017 figures, the proportions for rural households are very similar: 55 per cent for general waste, 39 per cent for food caddies and 19 per cent for home composting.

**Table 10.7: Methods used to dispose of food waste by Urban/Rural classification**

Percentages, 2015 - 2017 data

Households	Urban			Rural			Scotland		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
General waste with other rubbish	56	48	47	46	46	54	55	48	48
Local Authority-provided caddy or other receptacle	46	57	59	45	51	39	46	56	55
Home composting e.g. Heap in garden or allotment, green cone	6	8	7	20	20	19	9	10	9
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,750</i>	<i>2,710</i>	<i>2,750</i>	<i>730</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>3,480</i>	<i>3,430</i>	<i>3,470</i>

### 10.3.3 Recycling of Dry Recyclable Materials

Around **four in five households reported that, in general, they recycled each of the main categories of dry recyclable materials**: paper, card, glass, food and drink cans/tins and plastic bottles/tubs, as shown in Figure 10.3. The recycling rate is highest for paper (86 per cent) and lowest for glass and metal (both 80 per cent), which is the same pattern as observed in 2015.

<sup>65</sup> See Annex 2: Glossary for the full definition

**Figure 10.3: Household who reported they generally recycle certain materials**

2017 data, Households (base: 3,470)

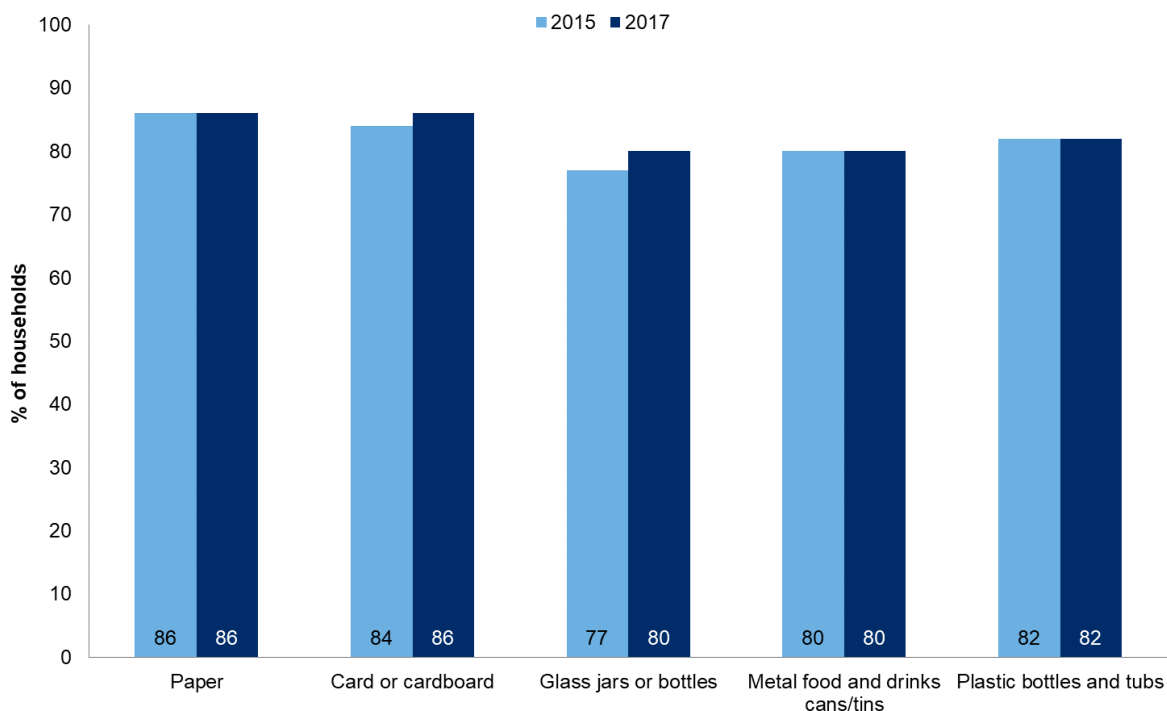


Table 10.8 shows that **households living in flats have a lower rate of recycling for all materials compared to those living in houses**. This difference is largest for glass, where 87 per cent of those living in houses report that they generally recycle glass jars or bottles compared to 66 per cent of households living in flats.

**Table 10.8: Recycling of materials by type of property**

Percentages, 2017 data

Households	House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Scotland
Paper	92	75	86
Card or cardboard	91	75	86
Glass jars or bottles	87	66	80
Metal food and drinks cans/tins	87	67	80
Plastic bottles and tubs	88	70	82
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,460</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>3,470</i>

Recycling behaviour shows a clear pattern across areas with different levels of deprivation (Table 10.9). **The most deprived areas have the lowest rates of recycling while rates improve in less deprived areas.**

**Table 10.9: Recycling of materials by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentage, 2017 data

Households	← 20% most deprived		20% least deprived →			Scotland
	1	2	3	4	5	
Paper	76	89	87	87	93	86
Card or cardboard	75	88	86	87	93	86
Glass jars or bottles	67	78	80	84	90	80
Metal food and drinks cans / tins	69	81	79	84	88	80
Plastic bottles and tubs	71	83	82	86	89	82
<i>Base</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>740</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>3,470</i>

## 10.4 Visits to the Outdoors, Greenspace

### 10.4.1 Introduction and Context

Spending time outdoors has been associated with numerous benefits, with urban green and open spaces having been shown to contribute to public health and wellbeing<sup>66</sup>.

Responsibility for promoting visits to the outdoors is shared between Scottish Natural Heritage, other agencies such as Forestry Commission Scotland, local authorities and the National Park Authorities. Local authorities and National Park Authorities are also responsible for developing core path networks in their areas. People have a right of access to most land and inland water in Scotland, for walking, cycling and other non-motorised activities.

The updated National Performance Framework includes two National Indicators which aim to measure progress in this area. These are:

- 'Visits to the outdoors', and
- 'Access to green and blue spaces'.

<sup>66</sup> James Hutton Institute et al (2014) Contribution of Green and Open Space to Public Health and Wellbeing

<http://www.hutton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/projects/GreenHealth-InformationNote7-Contribution-of-green-and-open-space-in-public-health-and-wellbeing.pdf>

The second indicator was renamed from the previous National Performance Framework to reflect that access to blue spaces should also be included when considering the importance of accessibility to greenspace. Although the term “blue space” was not used in the 2017 SHS questionnaire, greenspace was defined to include a canal path, riverside or beach and as such the indicator will continue to be based on responses to this question in the survey.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)<sup>67</sup> and National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3)<sup>68</sup> aim to significantly enhance green infrastructure networks, particularly in and around Scotland’s cities and towns.

The section starts by looking at key factors and characteristics associated with outdoor visits for leisure and recreation purposes. This is followed by an exploration of the access and use of greenspace for adults in the local neighbourhood and their satisfaction with that greenspace.

## 10.4.2 Visits to the Outdoors

Outdoor visits for leisure and recreation purposes include visits to both urban and countryside open spaces (for example, parks, woodland, farmland, paths and beaches) for a range of purposes (such as walking, running, cycling or kayaking). The associated National Indicator is measured by the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week.

**Fifty-two per cent of Scottish adults visited Scotland's outdoors at least once a week in 2017 compared to 48 per cent in 2016** (see Table 10.10). This is the first annual increase observed since 2013, with the figures up to 2016 being at around the same level. Just under a fifth of adults reported visiting the outdoors at least once a month while **12 per cent of adults reported that they did not visit the outdoors at all in 2017**. In 2012, 20 per cent of adults reported not visiting the outdoors at all.

**Table 10.10: Frequency of visits made to the outdoors**

Column percentages

Adults	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
One or more times a week	42	46	48	49	48	52
At least once a month	19	20	19	20	20	19
At least once a year	20	18	17	17	18	17
Not at all	20	16	16	14	13	12
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,890</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>9,410</i>	<i>9,640</i>	<i>9,810</i>

<sup>67</sup> Scottish Government (2014) Scottish Planning Policy - <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00453827.pdf>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Framework>

There is a substantial variation in the proportion of adults making visits to the outdoors by level of area deprivation (Table 10.11). **In the most deprived areas of Scotland, 41 per cent of adults visit the outdoors at least once a week, compared to 63 per cent of adults in the least deprived areas.** Adults in the most deprived areas are also more likely not to have visited the outdoors at all in the past twelve months (20 per cent) compared to those in the least deprived areas (six per cent).

**Table 10.11: Frequency of visits made to the outdoors by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	← 20% most deprived			20% least deprived →			Scotland
	1	2	3	4	5		
One or more times per week	41	45	54	59	63	52	
At least once a month	18	20	17	19	19	19	
At least once a year	22	21	17	12	13	17	
Not at all	20	14	12	10	6	12	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Base	1,820	1,960	2,140	2,080	1,810	9,810	

Table 10.12 shows that adults living in rural areas are more likely to visit the outdoors at least once a week compared to adults living in urban areas (61 per cent compared to 51 per cent). These figures are both increases from 2016 (47 per cent urban and 55 per cent rural).

**Table 10.12: Frequency of visits made to the outdoors in the past twelve months by Urban/Rural classification**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Households	Urban	Rural	Scotland
Once or more times a week	51	61	52
At least once a month	19	14	19
At least once a year	18	11	17
Not at all	12	14	12
Total	100	100	100
Base	7,790	2,020	9,810

The proportion of men visiting the outdoors at least once a week in 2017 (54 per cent) was higher than the proportion of women (51 per cent) (Table 10.13).

**The age group with the highest proportion visiting the outdoors at least once a week is 35-44** (61 per cent). Thirty-two per cent of the over 75 age group report that they did not visit the outdoors at all in the past twelve months, which may reflect declining mobility and accessibility issues.

**Table 10.13: Frequency of visits made to the outdoors in the past twelve months by gender and age group**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Male	Female	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-74	75+	All
One or more times per week	54	51	55	55	61	53	51	32	52
At least once a month	19	18	18	22	20	20	16	13	19
At least once a year	16	17	18	15	13	17	17	23	17
Not at all	11	13	8	7	6	10	17	31	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	4,540	5,270	650	1,290	1,400	2,410	2,590	1,480	9,810

This is further reflected in the high proportion of those adults describing their health as either bad or very bad, who did not visit the outdoors at all in the last year (36 per cent). Conversely, 57 per cent of adults who describe their health as good or very good report that they visit the outdoors at least once a week (Table 10.14).

**Table 10.14: Frequency of visits made to the outdoors in the past twelve months by self-perception of health**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Good / Very Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad	All
Once or more times a week	57	44	29	52
At least once a month	19	18	13	19
At least once a year	15	20	22	17
Not at all	8	18	36	12
Total	100	100	100	100
Base	6,860	2,050	880	9,810

### 10.4.3 Walking Distance to Local Greenspace

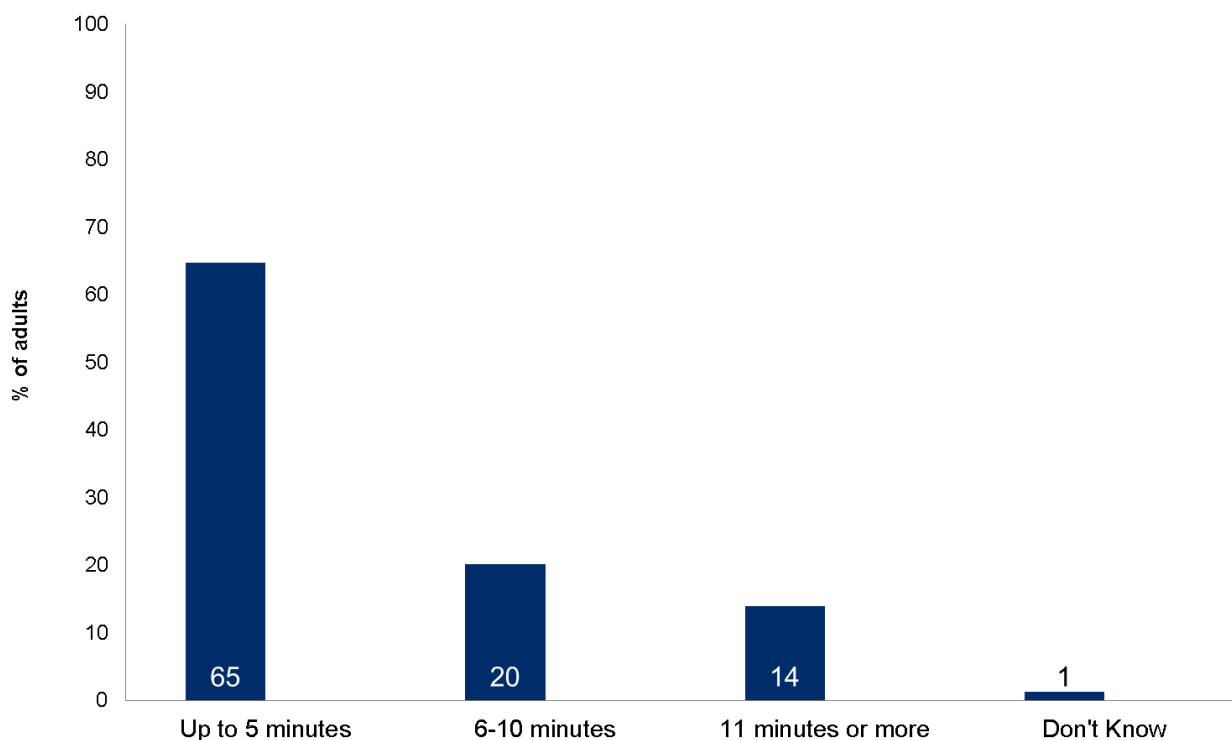
Accessibility of greenspace is an important factor in its use, both in terms of its proximity to people's homes and the ease of physical access. The accessibility standard is taken to be equivalent to a five minute walk to the nearest publicly usable open space, which is the measurement used for the National Indicator. Greenspace is defined in the SHS as public green or open spaces in the local area such as parks, play areas, canal paths, riversides and beaches (private gardens are not included).

Respondents are asked how far the nearest greenspace is from their home and how long they think it would take the interviewer to walk there.

**In 2017, 65 per cent of adults reported living within a 5 minute walk of their nearest greenspace**, unchanged from 2016 (see Figure 10.4). The earlier figures are 67 per cent in 2015, 69 per cent in 2014 and 68 per cent in 2013.

**Figure 10.4: Walking distance to nearest greenspace**

2017 data. Adults (base: 9,810)



#### 10.4.4 Frequency of Use of Local Greenspace

As shown in Figure 10.5, **there has been little change in how often local greenspace is used between 2016 and 2017**. The question was added in 2012, and the figures are comparable back to 2013. In 2017, 37 per cent of adults reported visiting their nearest green space several times a week, while 23 per cent of adults reported not visiting their nearest greenspace at all during the same period. The figures are stable over time<sup>69</sup>.

<sup>69</sup> Figures for those visiting their nearest green space at least several times a week are 36 per cent for 2013, 37 per cent for 2014, 36 per cent for 2015, and 36 per cent for 2015 and 2016.

**Figure 10.5: Frequency of use of nearest greenspace**

2015 - 2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 9,300)

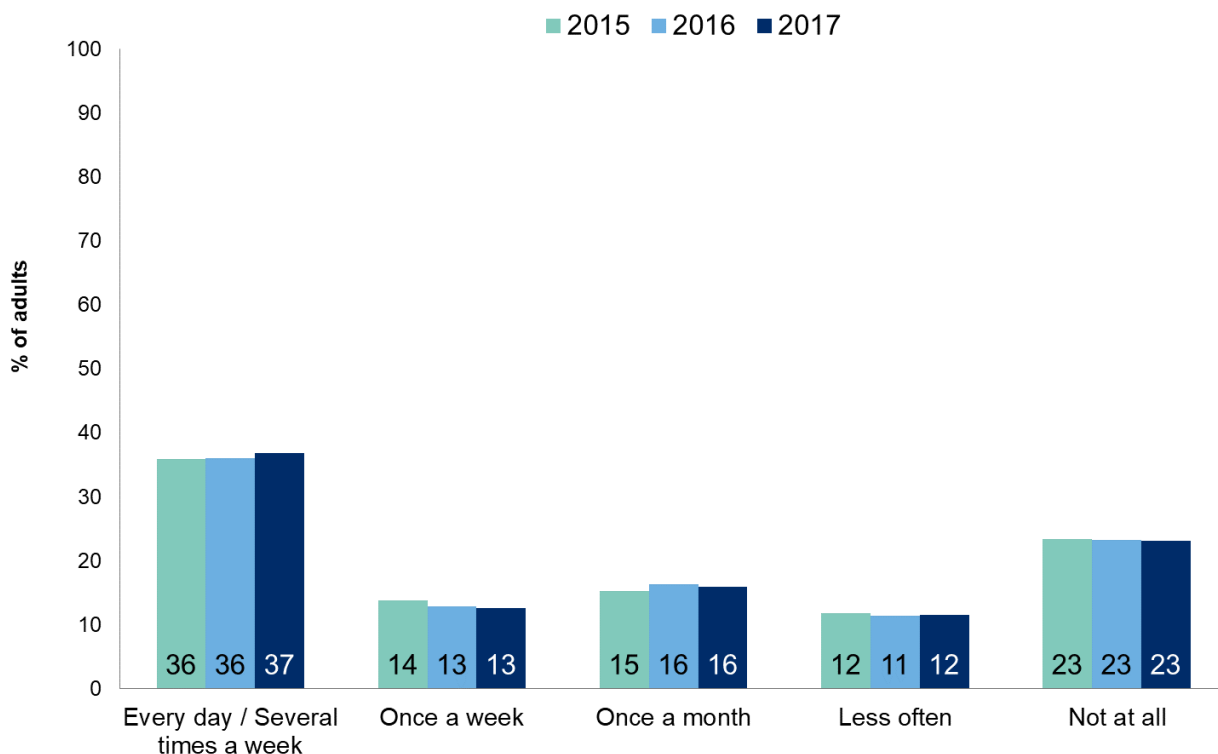


Table 10.15 shows that **a higher proportion of people who live within 5 minutes of their nearest greenspace report using it at least once a week** compared to people who live a 6-10 minute walk away (46 per cent compared to 24 per cent). **The proportion of people who live at least 11 minutes' walk from their nearest greenspace and do not use it (39 per cent) is more than twice the corresponding proportion of people who live within 5 minutes' walk (18 per cent).**

**Table 10.15: Frequency of use of nearest greenspace by walking distance to nearest greenspace**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	A 5 minute walk or less	Within a 6-10 minute walk	An 11 minute walk or more	All
Every day / Several times a week	46	24	13	37
Once a week or less	36	49	48	40
Not at all	18	27	39	23
Total	100	100	100	100
Base	6,210	1,960	1,480	9,660



As shown in Table 10.16, people's perception of their own health has a significant impact on how often they visit their nearest greenspace. **A higher proportion of people who describe their health as good or very good report using their nearest greenspace several times a week (40 per cent) than those who describe their health as bad or very bad (24 per cent).** Furthermore a higher proportion of people who describe their health as bad or very bad report not visiting their nearest greenspace at all in the last 12 months (46 per cent) than those people describing their health as good or very good (19 per cent).

**Table 10.16: Frequency of use of nearest greenspace by self-perception of health**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Good / Very Good	Fair	Bad / Very Bad	All
Every day / Several times a week	40	29	24	37
Once a week or less	41	41	30	40
Not at all	19	30	46	23
Total	100	100	100	100
Base	6,780	2,010	840	9,660

#### 10.4.5 Satisfaction with Local Greenspace

In order to be effective, greenspace needs to be viewed as suitable for use by the local population. If individuals feel that greenspace is unsafe, unclean or otherwise not fit for purpose then they may be less likely to make use of it.

**Three quarters of adults described themselves as satisfied with their nearest greenspace in 2017**, while only ten per cent were dissatisfied (see Figure 10.6). The question on satisfaction with the nearest greenspace was first included in 2012 and these figures are stable over time. The small number of adults who reported that they did not know the walking distance to their nearest greenspace are excluded from these figures.

**Figure 10.6: Satisfaction with nearest greenspace**

2017 data, Adults (base: 9,660)

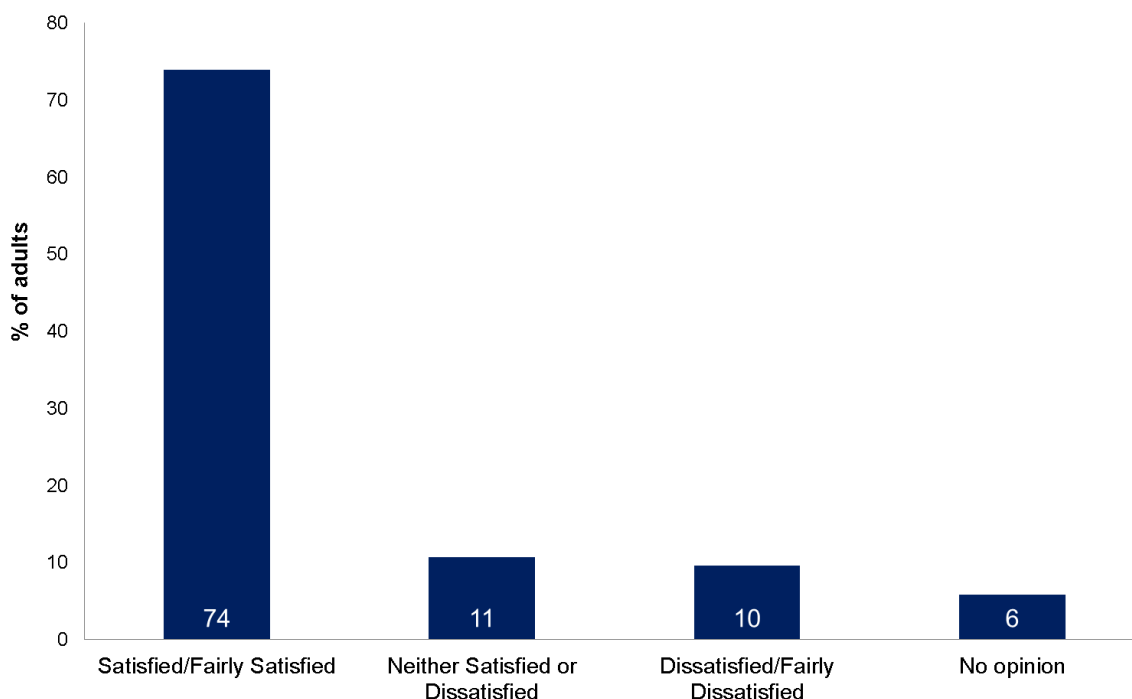


Table 10.17 shows that those who describe their neighbourhood as a fairly good or very good place to live are more satisfied with their local greenspace than those who rate their neighbourhood as a fairly poor or very poor place to live. This may be because higher levels of satisfaction with local greenspace contribute to a more favourable impression of the neighbourhood in general, or vice versa.

**Table 10.17: Satisfaction with nearest greenspace by rating of neighbourhood as place to live**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Very good	Fairly good	Fairly poor	Very poor	No opinion	Scotland
Satisfied/Fairly Satisfied	78	70	55	44	*	74
Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	9	12	14	16	*	11
Dissatisfied/Fairly Dissatisfied	7	12	23	32	*	10
No opinion	5	6	9	8	*	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	5,790	3,410	310	130	30	9,660

While those living closer to their nearest greenspace are more likely to use it more frequently, level of satisfaction with local greenspace does not have an ordinal interaction on the frequency of use (see Table 10.18). **The proportion of those satisfied or fairly satisfied who use their greenspace every day or several days a week is higher than for the other satisfaction levels.**

However a higher proportion of those who are dissatisfied or fairly dissatisfied use their greenspace more frequently than those who are neither satisfied or dissatisfied. It is possible that a number of those who report being neither satisfied or dissatisfied, or having no opinion, do so because they do not visit their nearest greenspace. These two categories have the highest proportions reporting that they do not use their nearest greenspace at all.

**Table 10.18: Use of nearest greenspace by satisfaction with nearest greenspace**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Satisfied/ Fairly Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied / Fairly Dissatisfied	No opinion	All
Every day / Several times a week	43	19	33	0	37
Once a week or less	43	39	39	6	40
Not at all	14	41	28	92	23
<i>Base</i>	<i>7,120</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>820</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>9,660</i>

#### 10.4.6 Greenspace by level of area deprivation

People's distance from their nearest greenspace and their use and satisfaction of that space vary with the level of area deprivation. Table 10.19 shows that **a greater proportion of adults in deprived areas live at least an 11 minute walk away from their nearest greenspace compared to adults in the least deprived areas** (18 per cent compared to 12 per cent).

**Table 10.19: Walking distance to nearest greenspace by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	← 20% most deprived			20% least deprived →		Scotland
	1	2	3	4	5	
A 5 minute walk or less	58	64	66	67	68	65
Within a 6-10 minute walk	22	21	19	19	20	20
11 minute walk or greater	18	13	14	12	12	14
Don't Know	1	1	1	2	0	1
All	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,820</i>	<i>1,960</i>	<i>2,140</i>	<i>2,080</i>	<i>1,810</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Also, Table 10.20 shows that adults in the most deprived areas are less likely to be satisfied with their nearest greenspace than adults in the least deprived areas. This could lead to fewer people in deprived areas making use of their nearest greenspace, as people are more likely to use greenspace if it is close by and of good quality.

**Table 10.20: Satisfaction of nearest greenspace by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	← 20% most deprived			20% least deprived →		Scotland
	1	2	3	4	5	
Satisfied/Fairly Satisfied	64	70	74	77	83	74
Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	14	11	12	9	7	11
Dissatisfied/Fairly Dissatisfied	14	13	9	7	6	10
No opinion	7	6	6	7	4	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1,780	1,920	2,120	2,040	1,790	9,660

This is supported by the figures in Table 10.21. Adults in the most deprived areas are more likely than adults in the least deprived areas not to have used their nearest greenspace in the past 12 months (31 per cent compared to 17 per cent). Adults in more deprived areas are also less likely to use their nearest greenspace several times a week compared to adults in less deprived areas.

**Table 10.21: Frequency of use of nearest greenspace by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	← 20% most deprived			20% least deprived →		Scotland
	1	2	3	4	5	
Every day / Several times a week	30	31	39	42	41	37
Once a week or less	39	44	39	37	42	40
Not at all	31	25	22	21	17	23
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1,780	1,920	2,120	2,040	1,790	9,660

## 10.5 Participation in Land Use decisions

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 recognises the importance of land in realising people's human rights. This is reflected in the principles of the Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement<sup>70</sup>. In particular Principle 4 states that:

“The holders of land rights should exercise these rights in ways that take account of their responsibilities to meet high standards of land ownership, management and use. Acting as the stewards of Scotland's land resource for future generations they contribute to sustainable growth and a modern, successful country.”

Principle 6 further states

“There should be greater collaboration and community engagement in decisions about land.”

<sup>70</sup>Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/7869>

This recognises that participation in land use decisions is important in giving communities more control over the land where they live and work. In April 2018 the Scottish Government published its Guidance on Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land<sup>71</sup>, which sets out the responsibilities of those with control over land, both owners and tenants, in terms of engaging with communities about decisions relating to land.

### 10.5.1 Participation in land use decisions

The SHS 2017 gave a list of possible ways people could have used to give their views on land use decisions, which are given in Table 10.22. **In 2017, 15 per cent of adults reported that they gave their views on land use** in at least one of these ways, the same proportion as in 2015.

**The most common way in which people report giving their views on land use is by signing a petition** (seven per cent of adults) and the least common is through discussions with a land owner or land manager (two per cent of adults). This may be because signing a petition does not require much effort and is more likely to be about an issue affecting a larger number of people. Having a discussion with a land owner or manager, on the other hand, requires more time and effort and is more likely to be about an issue affecting fewer individuals in that specific area (smaller area issues).

**Table 10.22: Percentage of people who gave their views on land use in the last twelve months**

Column percentages, 2015 and 2017 data

Adults	2015	2017
Signed a petition	7	7
Attended a public meeting/ community council meeting	5	5
Took part in a consultation or a survey	5	5
Responded to a planning application	4	4
Been involved with interest group or campaign	3	3
Contacted an MP, MSP or Local Councillor	4	3
Had discussions with a landowner/land-manager	2	2
None of the above	85	85
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,410</i>	<i>9,810</i>

As shown in Table 10.23, **a greater proportion of adults living in rural areas report giving their views on land use compared to adults living in urban areas** (20 per cent compared to 14 per cent). The proportions in 2017 are very similar to 2015.

<sup>71</sup> Guidance on Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/04/2478>

**Table 10.23: Percentage of people who gave their views on land use by Urban/Rural classification<sup>72</sup>**

Column Percentages, 2015 and 2017 data

Adults	Urban	Rural	All
2015	14	21	15
<i>Base</i>	<i>7,430</i>	<i>1,980</i>	<i>9,410</i>
2017	14	20	15
<i>Base</i>	<i>7,790</i>	<i>2,020</i>	<i>9,810</i>

<sup>72</sup> 2017 data uses the 2016 urban rural classification, 2015 data uses the 2013/14 urban rural classification

# 11 Volunteering

## Main Findings

Levels of volunteering have remained relatively stable over the last nine years, with around three in ten adults providing unpaid help to organisations or groups. In 2017, 28 per cent of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months.

The profile of volunteers has also remained relatively stable over time. Volunteers are more likely to be:

- women
- from higher socio-economic and income groups
- from rural areas
- from less deprived areas.

Overall, the volunteering results from 2017 by economic situation, household income and area deprivation continue to support existing evidence about the under-representation of disadvantaged groups in volunteering.

The type of organisations most commonly volunteered for were 'children's activities associated with schools' (21 per cent), 'youth or children' organisations (20 per cent), and 'local community or neighbourhood groups' (19 per cent).

Women were more likely to volunteer with children and young people, with 'health, disability and social welfare' organisations and 'religious groups', whilst men were more likely to volunteer with 'sport / exercise' organisations, with 'hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs' and with their local community.

Younger adults were more likely to volunteer with children and young people and help with sporting activities, whilst older adults were more likely to volunteer for religious organisations, community groups, and groups working with the elderly.

## 11.1 Introduction and Context

The Scottish Government recognises that volunteers of all ages form a valuable national resource, vital to the success of Scotland and that volunteering is a key component of strong communities. Volunteering is all about new experiences, feeling good and making a difference and it is important to recognise the benefits of volunteering, in terms of skills development, community empowerment and strengthening public services.

The definition of volunteering currently used by the Scottish Government is: “the giving of time and energy through a third party, which can bring measurable benefits to the volunteer, individual beneficiaries, groups and organisations, communities, environment and society at large. It is a choice undertaken of one's own free will, and is not motivated primarily for financial gain or for a wage or salary”<sup>73</sup>. This definition broadly encompasses ‘formal volunteering’ – where unpaid work is undertaken through an organisation, group or club to help other people or to help a cause (such as improving the environment). In contrast, ‘informal volunteering’<sup>74</sup> refers to unpaid help given as an individual directly to people who are not relatives.

The volunteering questions in the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) ask about providing unpaid help to organisations or groups, therefore the focus of this chapter is on formal volunteering. This chapter presents findings from the 2017 data about the prevalence and frequency of volunteering, and the type of organisations for which individuals give up their time. Biennially, questions are asked about the activities which individuals undertake, hours spent volunteering in the past month, and reasons why people who volunteered in the past have now given up. These questions were last asked in the 2016 survey. A number of terms are used interchangeably to refer to volunteering throughout the chapter (e.g. unpaid help, unpaid work, unpaid activity and voluntary work).

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<sup>73</sup> Scottish Executive (2004) Volunteering Strategy <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2004/05/19348/36990>

<sup>74</sup> New questions on ‘informal volunteering’ are to be asked in the survey, biennially from 2018. The first reporting of these questions will be in 2019.



## 11.2 Providing Unpaid Help to Organisations or Groups

### 11.2.1 Prevalence of Providing Unpaid Help

The overall rate of volunteering has remained relatively stable between 2009 and 2017 with the proportion of females volunteering being consistently higher than males.

Table 11.1 shows that **28 per cent of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months.**

#### Profile of volunteers

- There is an under-representation of disadvantaged groups who have volunteered.
- In 2017 as in every other year, more women (30 per cent) than men (26 per cent) volunteered in the last 12 months.
- Fewer people from lower socio-economic groups have provided unpaid help compared with higher income groups.
- The percentage of adults volunteering increased with income.
- Volunteering has been consistently lower for those in the 20 per cent most deprived areas (19 per cent), compared to 37 per cent in the 20 per cent least deprived areas.
- The rate of volunteering has been consistently higher in rural areas than in urban areas
- Those in 'education (including HE/FE)', those who are 'self-employed' and those in 'part-time employment' (all 32 per cent) were most likely to have provided unpaid help.
- Adults who are 'permanently sick or have short-term ill-health issues or are disabled' (13 per cent) were least likely to have volunteered.

There is a difference along gender lines with **a higher percentage of women** (30 per cent) saying that they **provided unpaid help compared with men** (26 per cent) (Table 11.1).

**Table 11.1: Whether provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by gender**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Male	Female	All
Yes	26	30	28
No	74	70	72
Total	100	100	100
Base	4,540	5,270	9,810

Figure 11.1 shows the trend in volunteering over the past nine years. It can be seen that the overall **rate of volunteering has remained relatively stable** over the time period with the proportion of females being consistently higher than males.

**Figure 11.1: Percentage providing unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by gender**

2009-2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 2,450)

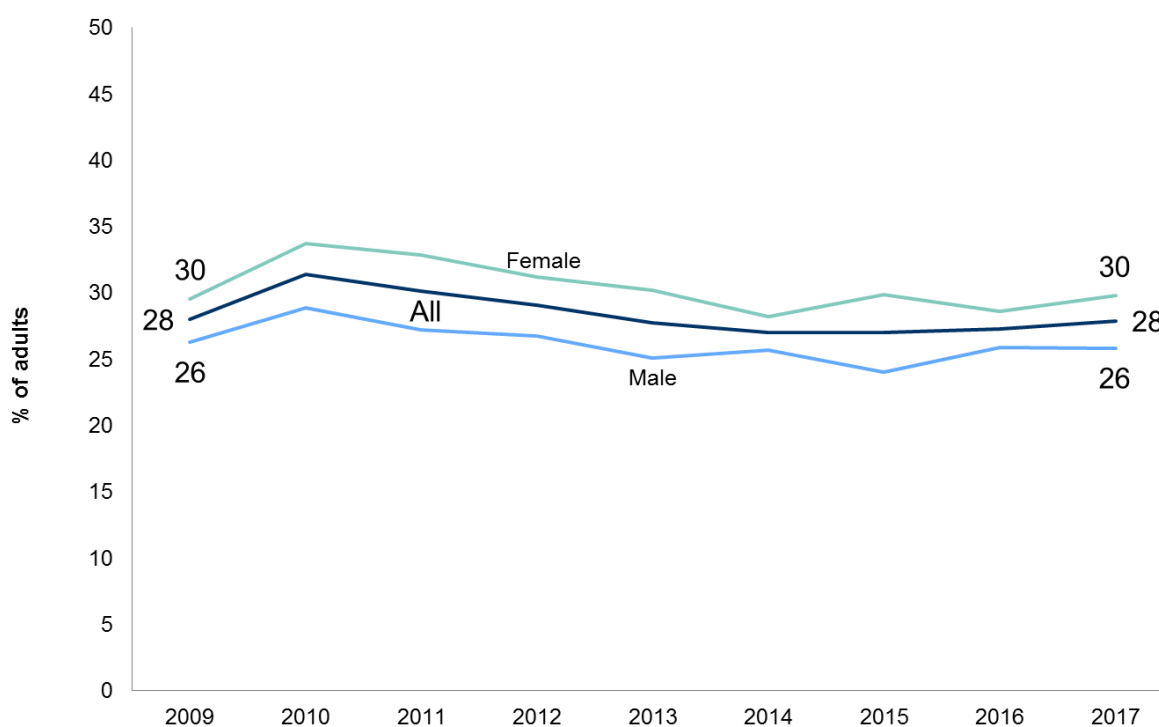
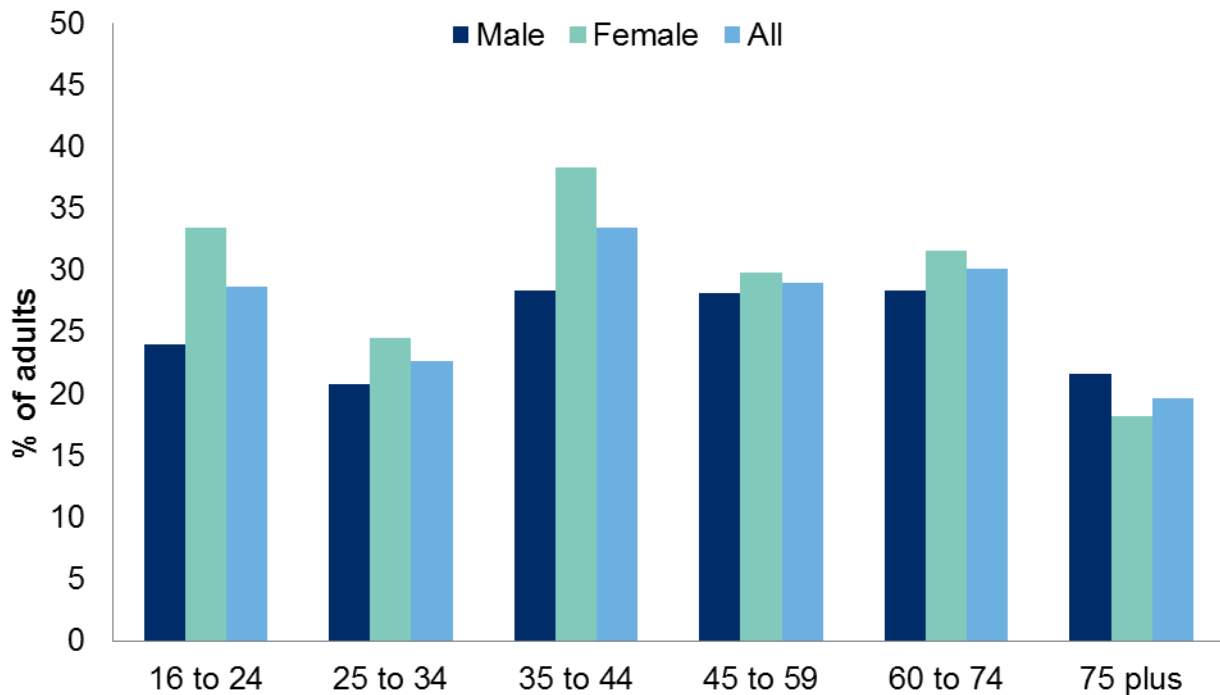


Figure 11.2 shows the gender difference in volunteering by age. In 2017, there was a difference between females and males within the 35 to 44 age group, where 38 per cent of females and 28 per cent of males volunteered. Also in the 16 to 24 age group 33 per cent of females volunteered compared to 24 per cent of males, and in the 25 to 34 age group, 24 per cent of females volunteered compared to 21 per cent of males.

**Volunteering was lowest among men aged 25 to 34 compared to all of the other age groups under 75.** After the age of 75, providing unpaid help declined particularly for women (18 per cent), and more men in this age group (22 per cent) provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months.

**Figure 11.2: Percentage providing unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by age within gender**

2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 650)



There is also variation in volunteering according to individuals' current economic situation (Table 11.2). **Those in 'education (including HE/FE)', those who are 'self-employed', and those in 'part-time employment' were most likely to have provided unpaid help** (all 32 per cent). Adults who are 'permanently sick or have short-term ill-health issues or are disabled' (13 per cent) were least likely to have volunteered. Nearly one-quarter (24 per cent) of those 'unemployed and seeking work' had volunteered in the previous 12 months.

**Table 11.2: Whether provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by current economic situation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Self - employed	Full-time employment	Part-time employment	Looking after home / family	Permanently retired from work	Unemployed and seeking work	In Education (including HE/FE)	Permanently sick or short term ill health or disabled	All
Yes	32	28	32	27	27	24	32	13	28
No	68	72	68	73	73	76	68	87	72
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	620	3,220	980	420	3,380	290	370	520	9,810

Table 11.3 shows the differences in volunteering by household income. It can be seen that **in general the percentage of adults who volunteered increased with income**. Just over a fifth of adults in households in the lowest net income bands, £0-£20,000, volunteered in the last 12 months, compared to almost two-fifths (39 per cent) of those with a net household income of more than £40,000.

**Table 11.3: Whether provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by net annual household income**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	£0 - £6,000	£6,001 - £10,000	£10,001 - £15,000	£15,001 - £20,000	£20,001 - £25,000	£25,001 - £30,000	£30,001 - £40,000	£40,001+	All
Yes	23	20	22	24	25	26	28	39	28
No	77	80	78	76	75	74	72	61	72
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	260	820	1,550	1,500	1,140	900	1,380	1,900	9,450

Household income in the SHS is that of the highest income householder and their partner only. Includes all adults for whom household income is known or has been imputed. Excludes refusals/don't know responses.

Figure 11.3 shows the prevalence of volunteering by level of deprivation, as defined using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). It can be seen that the levels of volunteering increase as area deprivation decreases, 19 per cent of adults in the 20 per cent most deprived areas volunteered in 2017 compared to 37 per cent in the 20 per cent least deprived areas

**Figure 11.3: Whether provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2017 data

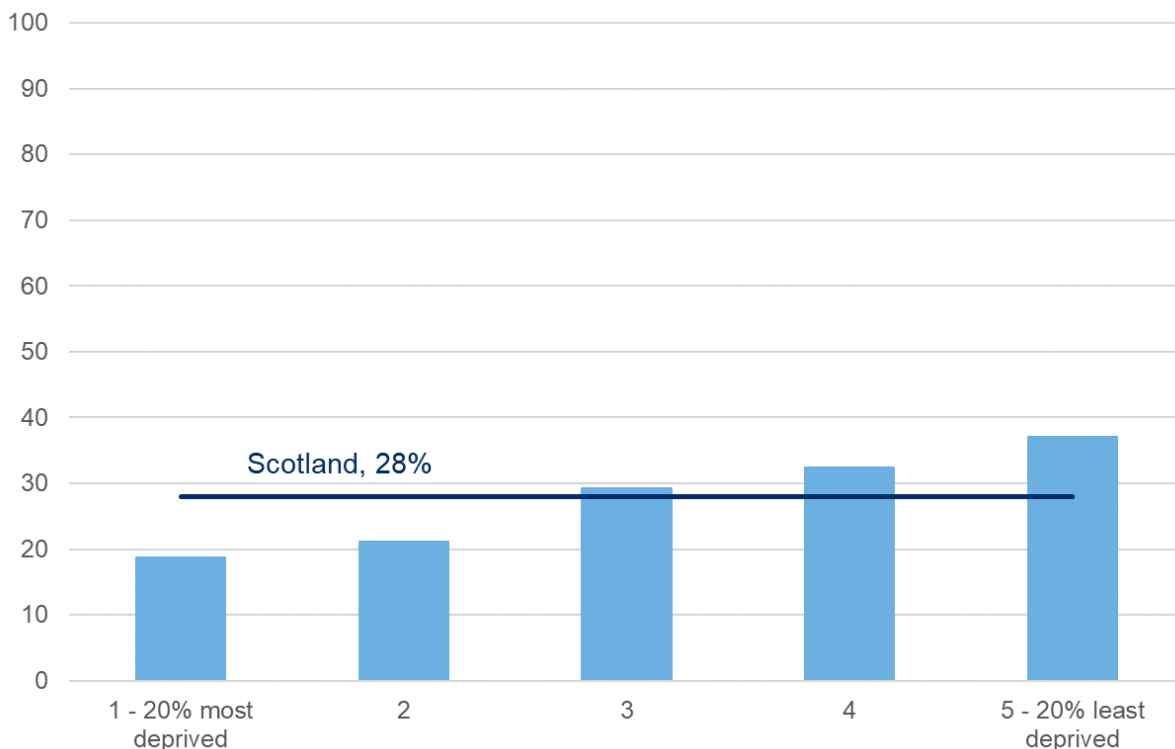


Table 11.4 shows differences in volunteering by Urban Rural classification. It can be seen that **the rate of volunteering in rural areas was higher than in urban areas**, with 31 per cent of adults in both remote rural areas and in accessible rural areas saying they provided unpaid help to groups or organisations compared to around a quarter of adults in large and other urban areas (26 per cent and 27 per cent respectively).

**Table 11.4: Whether provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months by Urban/Rural Classification**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
Yes	26	27	30	28	31	31	28
No	74	73	70	72	69	69	72
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	2,810	3,530	880	570	1,000	1,030	9,810

## 11.2.2 Types of organisations Unpaid Help Provided to

Table 11.5 shows **the most common types of organisations** which volunteers helped with **were** those who worked with **'children's activities associated with schools'** (21 per cent), followed by people who worked with **'youth / children'** (20 per cent) and people who worked with **'local community or neighbourhood groups'** (19 per cent). The next most common types of volunteering were, 'sport / exercise (coaching or organised)' and 'hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs' (both 17 per cent), and then 'health, disability and social welfare' organisations (16 per cent) and 'religious groups' (15 per cent).

**Table 11.5: Types of organisations or groups for which adults provided help for in the last 12 months by Urban/Rural Classification**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults who did voluntary work in the last 12 months	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	All
Children's activities associated	19	21	22	27	23	20	21
Youth / children	19	19	27	23	23	19	20
Local community or	18	14	21	23	23	38	19
Sport / exercise (coaching or	12	18	16	33	18	20	17
Hobbies / recreation / arts /	16	15	21	19	18	17	17
Health, disability and social	15	17	16	11	19	12	16
Religious groups	13	17	14	6	17	17	15
The elderly	8	11	12	6	14	17	11
Environmental protection	8	5	8	5	8	16	7
Education for adults	6	6	5	2	6	3	6
Citizens groups	2	3	3	5	5	10	4
Safety, first aid	2	3	5	5	5	6	4
Wildlife protection	3	3	8	3	6	10	4
Political groups	4	5	3	3	3	3	4
Justice and human rights	4	2	3	1	3	2	3
Domestic animal welfare	4	3	2	2	3	3	3
Trade union activities	1	1	0	1	1	2	1
None	5	3	1	9	2	4	4
Don't Know	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
<i>BaseMin</i>	<i>720</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>2,790</i>

Columns may add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

Table 11.5 also shows the variation in the types of organisations that adults volunteered with by Urban Rural Classification. It can be seen that similar percentages of **adults in large and other urban areas and remote and accessible rural areas** (around one-fifth) **provided unpaid help to 'children's activities associated with schools' and 'youth / children' organisations.**

A higher percentage of **adults in accessible small towns, remote small towns and accessible rural areas** (around one-fifth) provided unpaid help to **'hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs'** compared to large and other urban areas (16 and 15 per cent respectively).

A higher percentage of adults in **accessible rural areas and other urban areas** (19 per cent and 17 per cent respectively) provided unpaid help to **'health, disability and social welfare'** organisations compared to remote small towns and remote rural areas (11 per cent and 12 per cent respectively).

A higher percentage of adults in **other urban areas, accessible rural and remote rural areas provided unpaid help to 'religious groups'** (all 17 per cent) compared to large urban areas and accessible small towns (13 and 14 per cent respectively) and remote small towns (6 per cent). Providing **unpaid help to 'the elderly' was also highest in remote and accessible rural areas** (17 and 14 per cent respectively) compared to all other areas.

Thirty-eight per cent of volunteers in remote rural areas and around one-quarter in accessible small towns, remote small towns and accessible rural areas provided unpaid help to 'local community or neighbourhood groups' compared to large urban areas (18 per cent) and other urban areas (14 per cent).

Conversely, a higher percentage of **adults in remote small towns provided unpaid help to 'sport / exercise** (coaching or organising)' groups (33 per cent) than all other areas, and a higher percentage of adults (16 per cent) in remote rural areas provided unpaid help to 'environmental protection' compared to all other areas (between 5 and 8 per cent).

Table 11.6 shows the types of organisations that adults volunteered with in the last 12 months by gender and age. **Women were more likely to volunteer with ‘children’s activities associated with schools’** (26 per cent), ‘youth / children’ (22 per cent), ‘health, disability and social welfare’ organisations (18 per cent), and ‘religious groups’ (17 per cent). **Men were most likely to have volunteered with ‘sport / exercise (coaching or organising)’** (23 per cent), ‘local community or neighbourhood groups’ and ‘hobbies / recreation / arts / social club’ (both 20 per cent).

Providing help with ‘children’s activities associated with schools’ (34 per cent) was most common among adults aged 35 to 44 and providing help to ‘youth / children’ was most common among adults aged 16 to 24 (34 per cent). Adults aged 16 to 24 were also most likely to have volunteered with ‘hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs’ (27 per cent) followed by ‘sport / exercise (coaching or organising)’ (23 per cent). In contrast, volunteering for ‘religious groups’ and organisations working with ‘the elderly’ tended to increase with age, as did volunteering with ‘local community or neighbourhood groups’ (to age 60-74 on the latter). Of those adults aged 75 and over who had volunteered, 38 per cent did so with ‘religious groups’, 20 per cent did so with ‘local community or neighbourhood groups’ and 19 per cent with organisations working with ‘the elderly’.

**Table 11.6: Types of organisations or groups for which adults provided help for in the last 12 months by gender and age**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults who did voluntary work in the last 12 months	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
Children's activities associated with schools	14	26	30	25	34	19	10	3	21
Youth / children	18	22	34	20	26	20	12	5	20
Local community or neighbourhood groups	20	18	15	18	15	20	24	20	19
Sport / exercise (coaching or organising)	23	11	23	19	16	19	11	7	17
Hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs	20	14	27	13	12	15	19	12	17
Health, disability and social welfare	14	18	11	19	14	18	18	13	16
Religious groups	13	17	8	6	12	12	25	38	15
The elderly	9	12	5	5	8	12	16	19	11
Environmental protection	9	6	4	7	6	9	9	4	7
Education for adults	7	5	4	9	5	5	8	4	6
Citizens groups	4	4	0	3	4	3	5	8	4
Safety, first aid	4	3	6	3	5	4	2	0	4
Wildlife protection	5	4	3	6	5	5	4	1	4
Political groups	6	2	2	3	5	4	5	2	4
Justice and human rights	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3
Domestic animal welfare	2	4	5	5	2	3	3	1	3
Trade union activities	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	1
None	3	4	4	2	3	4	3	7	4
Don't Know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Base/Min</i>	1,210	1,580	180	330	510	720	780	280	2,790

Columns may add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.



## 12 Culture and Heritage

### Main Findings

There are high and increasing levels of cultural engagement in Scotland. Around nine in ten (93 per cent) adults were culturally engaged in 2017, either by attending or visiting a cultural event or place or by participating in a cultural activity. The level of cultural engagement has increased by around six percentage points since first recorded in 2007.

### Cultural attendance

Around eight in ten adults in Scotland had recently attended a cultural event or place of culture in 2017. The level of cultural attendance has increased by 10 percentage points since 2012.

Women, younger people, those with degrees or professional qualifications, those with good physical and mental health and those living in less deprived areas are more likely to attend cultural events. This profile has remained the same over time.

### Cultural participation

Overall participation in cultural activities is high (78 per cent), and has remained largely unchanged since 2012. The most popular form of cultural participation was reading for pleasure.

Overall participation in cultural activities was higher among women, those with degrees or professional qualifications, those with good physical and mental health and those living in less deprived areas.

The overall level of cultural participation doesn't change with age. However, the types of cultural activities people participate in changes with age for most activities. This picture of cultural participation has not changed over time.

### Cultural services provided by local authorities

Satisfaction with local authority services provision in 2017 has increased from 2007. Library services satisfaction declined during this period.

In 2017, around nine in ten adults who had used local authority cultural services were very or fairly satisfied with their provision.

## 12.1 Introduction and Context

Culture, creativity and a rich, diverse heritage sit at the heart of life in Scotland and play a critical role in the economy, communities and almost everything we do. The Scottish Government is committed to supporting, developing and advocating Scotland's culture, heritage and creativity, and ensuring that culture reaches a wide audience at home and abroad. The Scottish Household Survey is the primary source of data on heritage and cultural engagement Scotland.

The Scottish Government is currently developing a Culture Strategy for Scotland, in close consultation with partners and the general public. A public consultation was held in summer 2018 and the finalised strategy is due to be published later in 2018.

The strategy seeks to stimulate a step change that will bring about a shift in how society and government view and value culture. It is centred on the fundamental value of culture and its empowering and transformative potential for the whole of society.

### The aims of the strategy are to:

- recognise that culture and creativity are central to Scotland's cultural, social and economic prosperity;
- open up and extend culture so that it is of and for every community and everyone;
- sustain and nurture culture to flourish and to evolve as a diverse, positive force in society, across all of Scotland.

A key development that will help to achieve these ambitions is the inclusion of a new national outcome for culture in the newly refreshed National Performance Framework<sup>75</sup>. This is an important development that signifies that Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Government recognise the potential and importance of culture as an intrinsic part of Scotland's wellbeing and that other policy areas should give consideration to it. The national outcome is:

**“We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely”**

**Four new national indicators** will monitor progress against this outcome. These are:

- Attendance at cultural events or places of culture
- Participation in a cultural activity
- Growth in the cultural economy
- People working in arts and culture

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<sup>75</sup> [Scotland's National Performance Framework](#)

The first two national indicators are measured using the data from the SHS at national and sub national levels on attendance and participation in cultural activities that is presented in this chapter.

This data helps the Scottish Government and our key partners across the public sector and cultural sectors to monitor the progress of culture strategy ambitions which in turn will inform strategic policy decisions.

Cultural **engagement** is defined as those adults who have either participated in a cultural activity or who have attended at least one type of cultural event or place in the past 12 months. The SHS is the only source of data on attendance and participation at local authority level. Questions on cultural attendance were introduced in the SHS for the first time in 2007. From 2012 onwards, it is possible to obtain data at local authority level every year. For 2017, these data will be published at a later date.

**Attendance** at "a cultural event or place of culture" is defined as those adults who attended at least one type of cultural place in the previous year. There are a number of different types of cultural events and places of culture: cinemas, museums, libraries and live music events, for example. Likewise, **participation** in any cultural activity means that adults take part in at least one activity in the previous year. Examples of cultural activities include reading for pleasure, dancing and crafts.

The Glossary in Annex 2: Glossary provides a full list of activities, places or events for cultural attendance and participation.

Please note that figures from 2012 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years, due to a change of wording in 2012. More detail about the culture questions can be found in the historical SHS questionnaires<sup>76</sup>.

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<sup>76</sup> [Scottish Household Survey - Questionnaire](#)

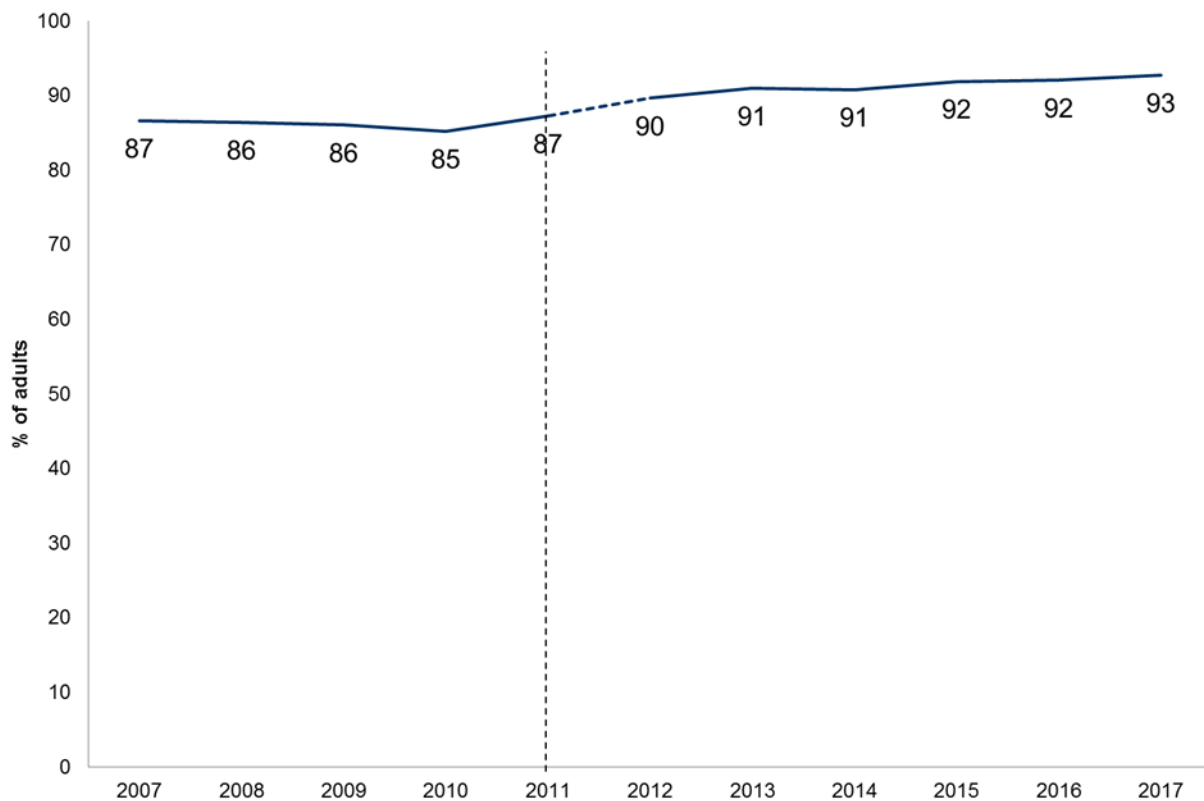
## 12.2 Cultural Engagement

Figure 12.1 shows that **around nine in ten adults had attended or participated in some cultural event or activity in 2017** (93 per cent). Trips to the cinema make up the majority of cultural attendance, and reading for pleasure is the most common participation activity. **The level of cultural engagement in Scotland has increased by around 6 percentage points since it was first recorded in the SHS in 2007.**

Cultural engagement is a composite measure of both cultural attendance and participation. Each of these will be reported on separately in the sections to follow.

**Figure 12.1: Cultural engagement by adults in the last 12 months by year**

Percentages, 2007 to 2017 data (minimum base: 9,130)



\* Note that the figures for from 2012 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years due to changes in the wording of the cultural attendance and participation questions.

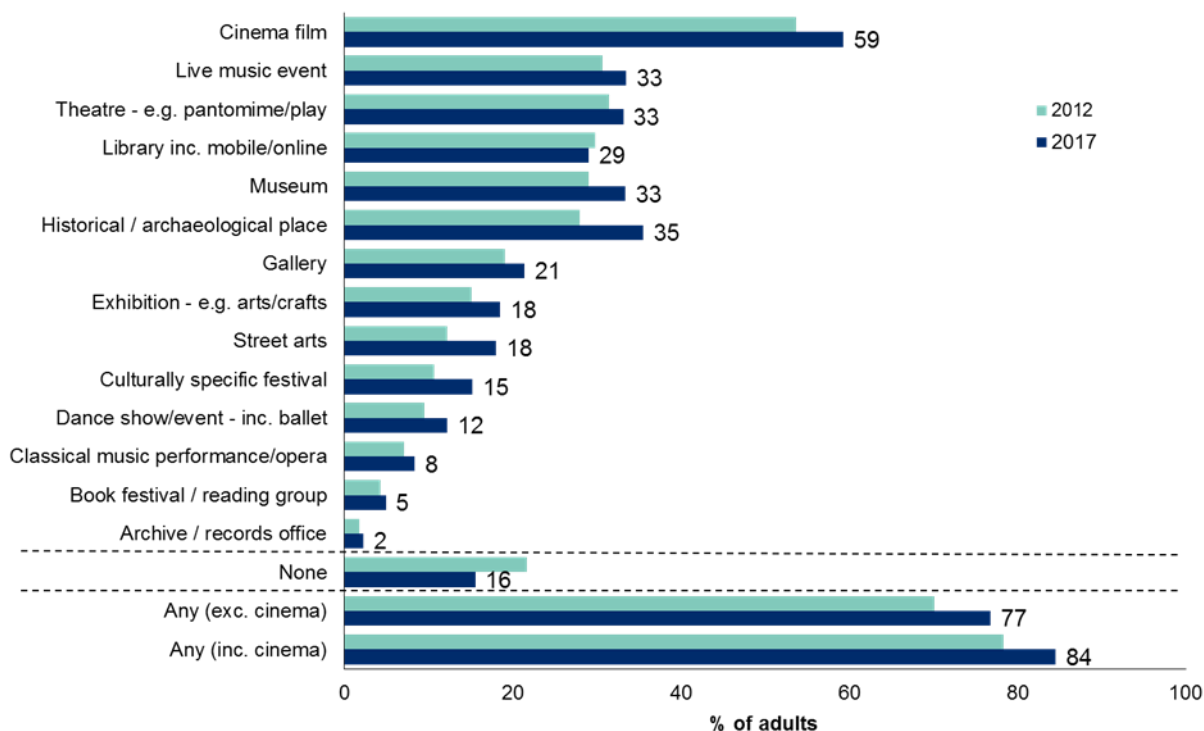
### 12.3 Attendance at Cultural Events and Places

Figure 12.2 shows how attendance has changed since 2012. In 2017, **around eight in ten adults had attended a cultural event or place of culture in the last 12 months** (84 per cent). When trips to the cinema are excluded, the attendance figure was lower at 77 per cent. Since 2012, attendance when cinema trips are included has increased from 78 per cent to 84 per cent. When trips to the cinema are excluded, the attendance figure has increased from 70 per cent to 77 per cent.

Attendance has increased for almost all of the individual cultural events or places since 2012. The biggest increases from 2012 were in the number of adults who visited historical or archaeological places which increased by 8 percentage points (28 to 35 per cent). Similarly, the number of people who attended street art events has increased by 6 percentage points between 2012 and 2017 (12 per cent to 18 per cent). Attendance at libraries and book festivals or reading groups has remained static over this period.

**Figure 12.2: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months**

Percentage of adults, 2012 to 2017 data (minimum base: 9,410)



### 12.3.1 Attendance by Gender and Age

Table 12.1 shows that in 2017, **more women attended a cultural event than men** (86 per cent and 83 per cent). Women also had higher cultural attendance than men after excluding trips to the cinema, with the gap between men and women increasing to 5 percentage points (79 per cent and 74 per cent).

More women than men attended the theatre (38 per cent, compared with 28 per cent). Women were also more likely than men to visit the library (32 per cent compared with 26 per cent).

Table 12.1 shows that in 2017, **the younger age groups were more likely to attend a cultural event than the older age groups**. Ninety four per cent of 16 to 24 year olds attended a cultural event compared to 63 per cent of those aged 75 and over. Sixteen to 24 year olds also had higher cultural attendance than those aged 75 and over after excluding trips to the cinema (80 per cent and 61 per cent).

People in the younger age groups were more likely to have attended the cinema. Eighty-five per cent of adults aged 16 to 24 and 75 per cent of 25-34 year olds visited the cinema, compared with 19 per cent of those aged 75 or over. Similarly, almost half of 16 to 24 year olds (43 per cent) attended a live music event, compared with 10 per cent of those aged 75 or over.

**Table 12.1: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months by gender and age**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
Cinema	58	60	85	75	72	60	39	19	59
Live music event - e.g. traditional music, rock concert, jazz event (not opera or classical music performance)	34	33	43	41	39	38	23	10	33
Theatre - e.g. pantomime / musical / play	28	38	25	29	35	38	38	27	33
Library (including mobile and online)	26	32	32	29	40	24	27	26	29
Museum	33	33	32	39	42	33	30	19	33
Historic place - e.g. castle, stately home and grounds, battle or archaeological site	37	34	32	40	46	38	32	18	35
Gallery	21	22	22	22	25	23	21	11	21
Exhibition - including art, photography and crafts	18	19	18	18	22	20	19	10	18
Street arts (e.g. musical performances or art in parks, streets or shopping centre)	18	18	21	22	24	19	13	4	18
Culturally specific festival (e.g. mela /Feis/ local Gala days)	15	15	15	15	24	17	12	6	15
Dance show / event - e.g. ballet	10	14	10	12	16	14	12	4	12
Classical music performance or opera	8	9	8	6	8	8	11	9	8
Book festival or reading group	4	6	4	5	6	4	6	4	5
Archive or records office (e.g. Scotland's Family History Peoples Centre)	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	2
None	17	14	6	9	8	15	23	37	16
Any cultural attendance (excluding cinema)	74	79	80	81	83	78	73	61	77
Any cultural attendance (including cinema)	83	86	94	91	92	85	77	63	84
Base	4,540	5,270	650	1,290	1,400	2,410	2,590	1,480	9,810

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

### 12.3.2 Attendance by Highest Level of Qualification

Figure 12.3 shows that in 2017, **adults with degrees or professional qualifications were most likely to attend cultural places and events; whereas attendance was lowest for those with no qualifications** (96 per cent compared to 58 per cent). The pattern holds when cinema attendance is excluded (91 per cent compared to 52 per cent).

**Figure 12.3: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months by highest level of qualification**

2017 data, percentage of adults (minimum base: 480)

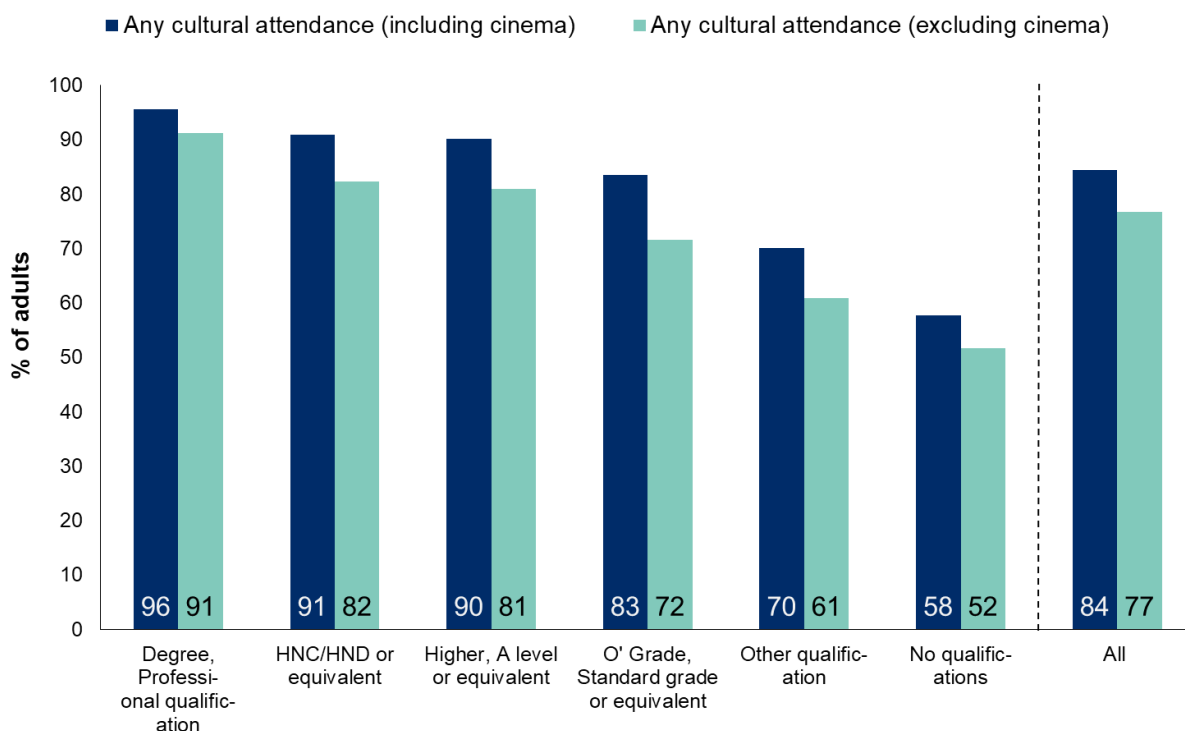


Table 12.2 gives a breakdown of attendance at each individual cultural event or place. As with the overall figure, attendance was consistently higher for adults with a degree or professional qualification at individual events or places. **The most marked differences between those with degrees and no qualifications can be seen for attendance at the cinema (75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively) and at a historic place (55 per cent and 12 per cent respectively).**

**Table 12.2: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months by highest qualification level**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Degree, Professional qualification	HNC/HND or equivalent	Higher, A level or equivalent	O' Grade, Standard grade or equivalent	Other qualification	No qualifications	All
Cinema	75	69	69	56	28	25	59
Live music event - e.g. traditional music, rock concert, jazz event (not opera or classical music performance)	47	40	37	27	11	13	33
Theatre - e.g. pantomime / musical / play	46	34	33	27	30	17	33
Library (including mobile and online)	40	29	32	21	19	18	29
Museum	52	36	33	24	19	13	33
Historic place - e.g. castle, stately home and grounds, battle or archaeological site	55	41	35	25	17	12	35
Gallery	36	24	20	13	9	7	21
Exhibition - including art, photography and crafts	34	21	17	10	5	3	18
Street arts (e.g. musical performances or art in parks, streets or shopping centre)	28	22	17	13	7	4	18
Culturally specific festival (e.g. mela /Feis/ local Gala days)	24	16	15	11	5	5	15
Dance show / event - e.g. ballet	18	12	12	10	3	6	12
Classical music performance or opera	17	6	6	4	5	2	8
Book festival or reading group	10	4	5	2	2	1	5
Archive or records office (e.g. Scotland's Family History Peoples Centre)	4	2	2	2	1	1	2
None	4	9	10	17	30	42	16
Any cultural attendance (excluding cinema)	91	82	81	72	61	52	77
Any cultural attendance (including cinema)	96	91	90	83	70	58	84
Base	2,880	1,080	1,510	1,770	480	1,990	9,810

Columns add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses allowed.

### 12.3.3 Attendance by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Figure 12.4 shows that levels of **cultural attendance increase as deprivation** as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2016) **decreases**.

In 2017 there was a 16 percentage point difference in cultural attendance (including cinema) between the 20 per cent most and 20 per cent least deprived areas (77 per cent compared with 93 per cent). This gap has narrowed since 2014 when the gap was 20 percentage points. When cinema attendance is excluded, the difference is even greater, with 65 per cent in the most deprived areas and 88 per cent in the least deprived areas.



**Figure 12.4: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 1,810)

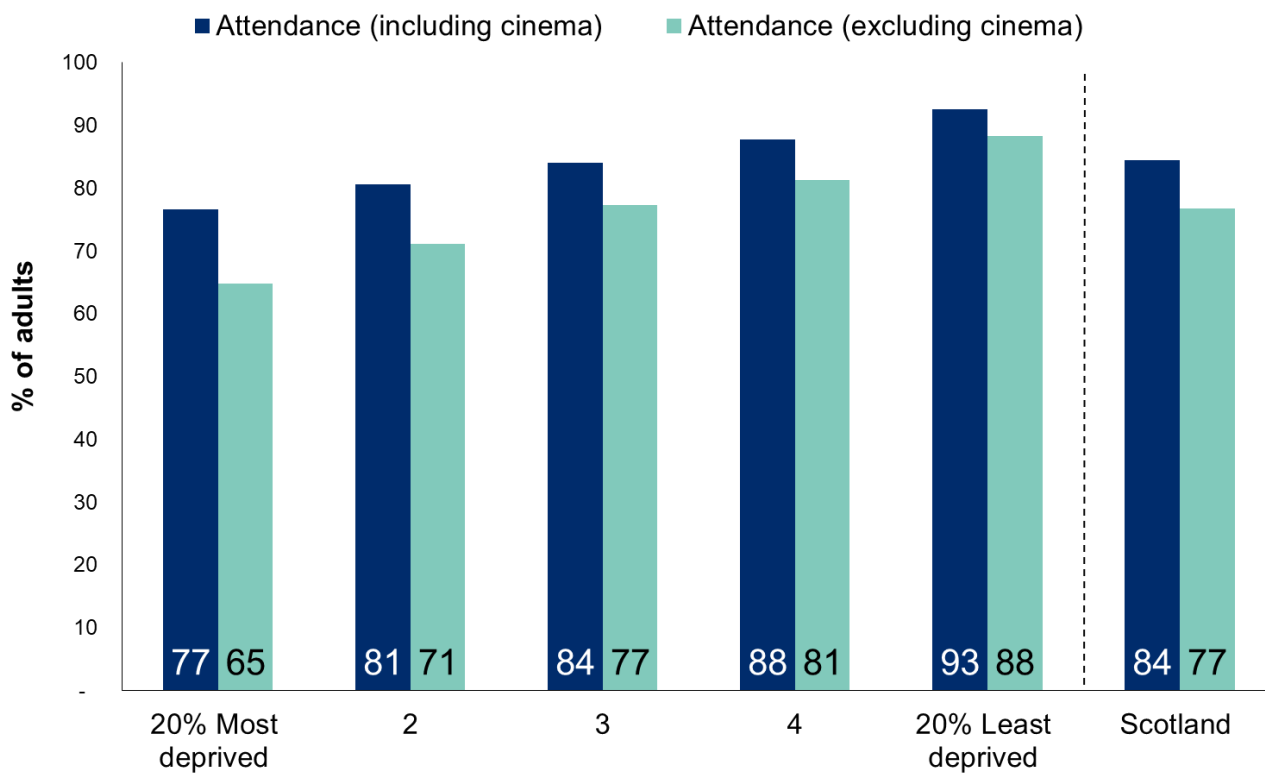
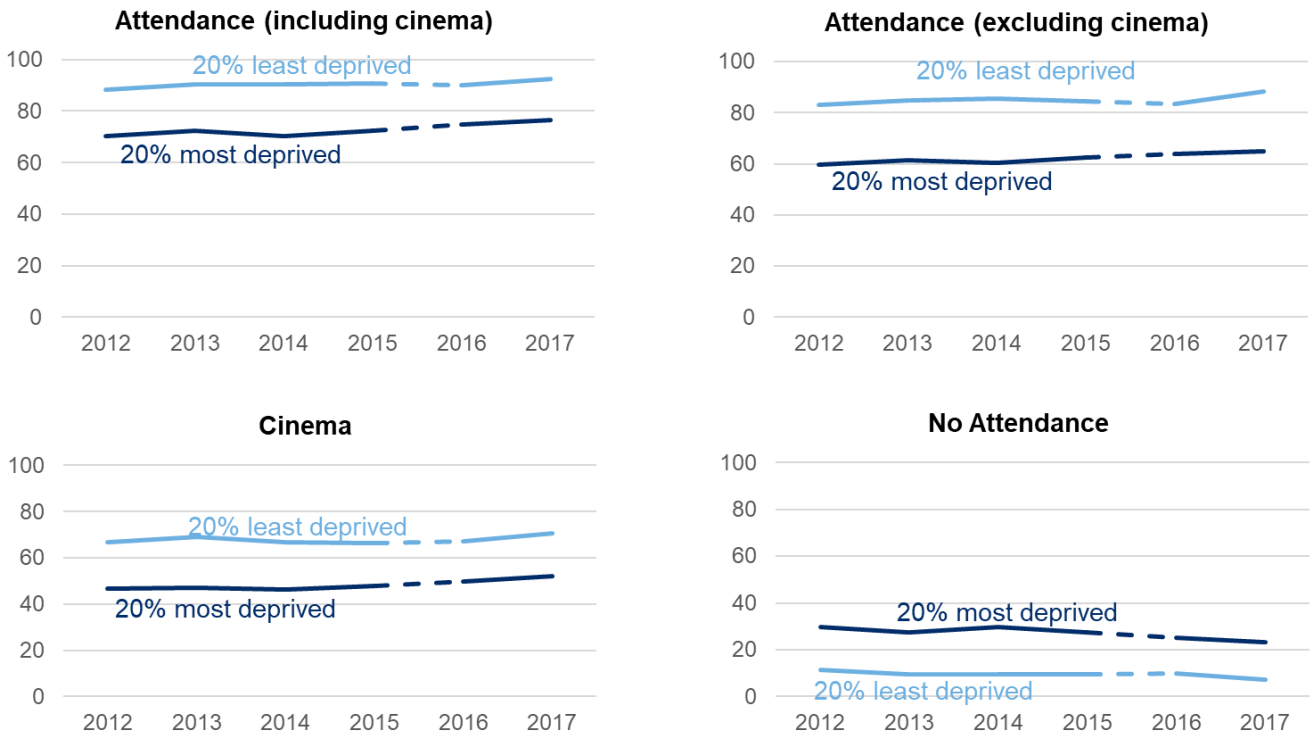


Figure 12.5 shows the difference in attendance at cultural events between the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas and how this has changed over time. This shows that this gap has narrowed since 2012 when cinema attendance is included.

**Figure 12.5: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture by area deprivation**  
2012 - 2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 1,640)

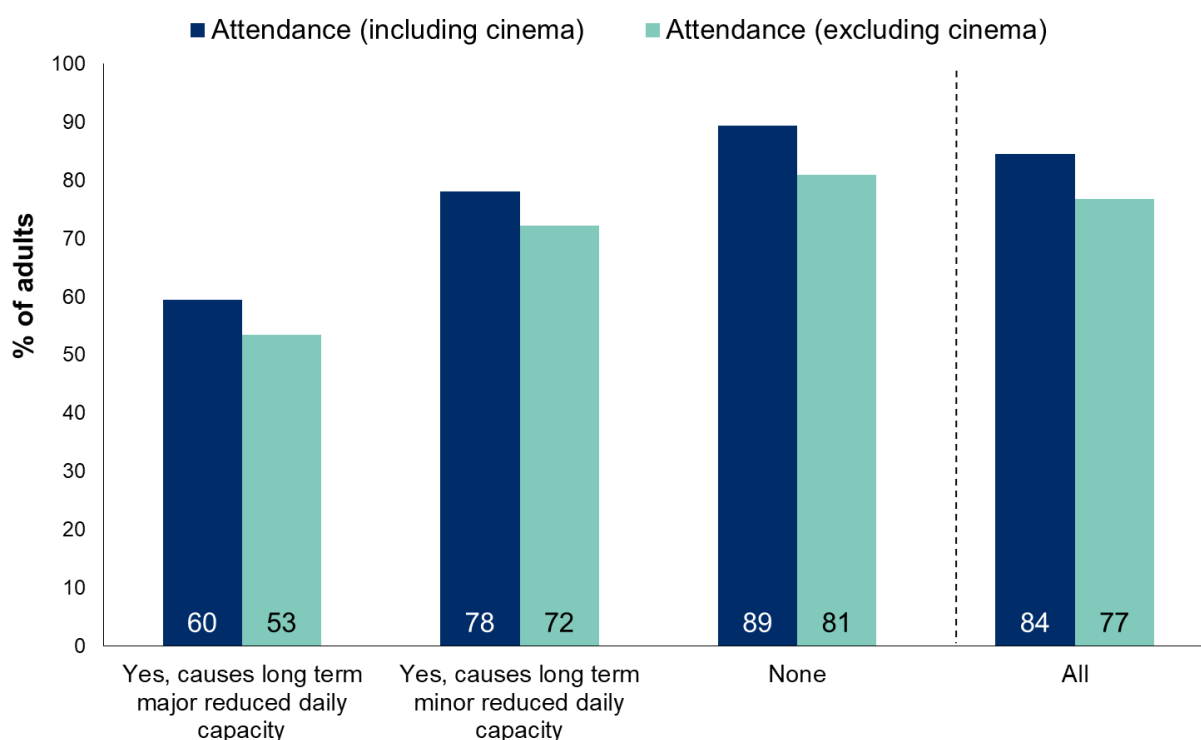


### 12.3.4 Attendance by Long-Term Physical/Mental Health Condition

Figure 12.6 shows that **cultural attendance was lowest among adults with a physical or mental health condition that caused long term major reduced daily capacity** (60 per cent compared to 89 per cent attendance for those with no condition). For those whose condition caused minor reduced daily capacity, the attendance rate was 78 per cent.

**Figure 12.6: Attendance at cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months by long term physical/mental health condition**

2017 data, adults (minimum base: 1,270)



### 12.3.5 Frequency of Attending cultural events or places

**The library was the most frequently attended cultural place or event**, with one in five people (20 per cent) attending at least once a week, and almost double that number attending at least once a month (36 per cent).

Cinema attendance was the next most popular, with 19 per cent of respondents attending at least once a month. Table 12.3 shows the frequency of cultural attendance in the past year.

**Table 12.3: Frequency of attending cultural events and visiting places of culture in the last 12 months**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	At least once a week	Less often than once a week / at least once a month	Less often than once a month but within the last 12 months	Don't know	Total	Base
Cinema	2	19	78	0	100	5,030
Live music event - e.g. traditional music, rock concert, jazz event (not opera or classical music performance)	1	10	88	0	100	2,910
Theatre - e.g. pantomime / musical / play	1	5	94	0	100	3,120
Library (including mobile and online)	20	36	43	1	100	2,810
Museum	1	10	89	0	100	3,090
Historic place - e.g. castle, stately home and grounds, battle or archaeological site	1	10	88	0	100	3,210
Gallery	2	11	87	0	100	1,980
Exhibition - including art, photography and crafts	1	7	91	1	100	1,770
Street arts (e.g. musical performances or art in parks, streets or shopping centre)	1	6	92	1	100	1,540
Culturally specific festival (e.g. mela /Feis/ local Gala days)	1	2	96	1	100	1,410
Dance show / event - e.g. ballet	1	3	96	0	100	1,090
Classical music performance or opera	1	8	90	1	100	840
Book festival or reading group	2	11	84	3	100	470
Archive or records office (e.g. Scotland's Family History Peoples Centre)	2	7	83	8	100	240

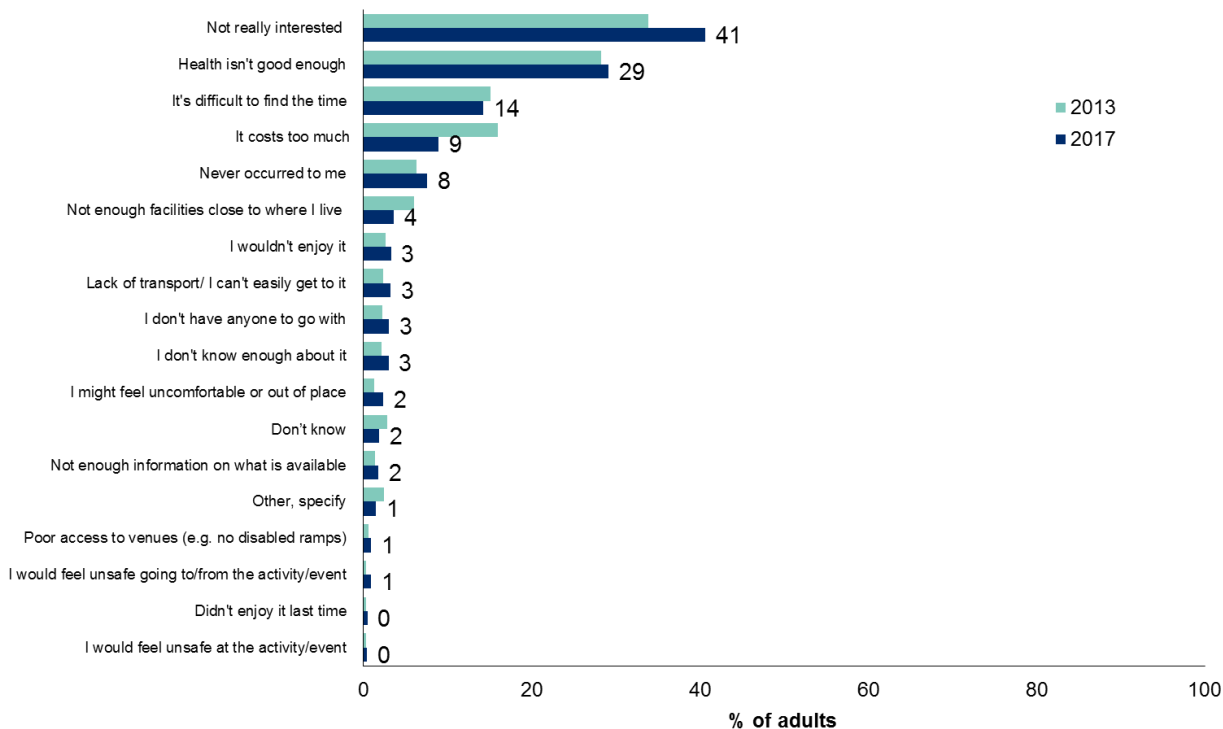
Columns add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses allowed.

### 12.3.6 Reasons for non-attendance

Those who reported not attending any cultural place or event in 2017 were asked about potential reasons for non-attendance. **In 2017, the most common reason for not attending cultural events or places was 'not really interested'**. Forty-one per cent of non-attenders stated this as a reason for not attending, an increase of seven percentage points from 2013 (34 per cent). The next most common reasons were 'health isn't good enough' (at just under a third, 29 per cent), followed by 'It's difficult to find the time' (14 per cent), and 'it costs too much' (nine per cent) (Figure 12.7).

**Figure 12.7: Reasons for non-attendance at cultural events/places in the last 12 months, 2013 and 2017**

Percentage of adults, 2013 and 2017 data (minimum base: 1,910)



The reasons for non-attendance varied by age. **Cost as a reason for non-attendance was significantly higher among those non-attenders in younger age groups**, ranging from 26 per cent of those aged 16 to 24 to two per cent for those aged 75 and older. Poor health as a reason for non-attendance showed an opposite pattern, where younger age groups were significantly less likely to cite this reason than older age groups (12 per cent compared to 50 per cent respectively).

## 12.4 Participation in Cultural Activities

Figure 12.8 shows levels of participation by adults at specific cultural activities in the last 12 months in 2012 and 2017. **Overall participation in 2017 was 78 per cent, which has remained unchanged since 2012.** When reading is excluded, participation was 54 per cent. This has increased from 48 per cent in 2012.

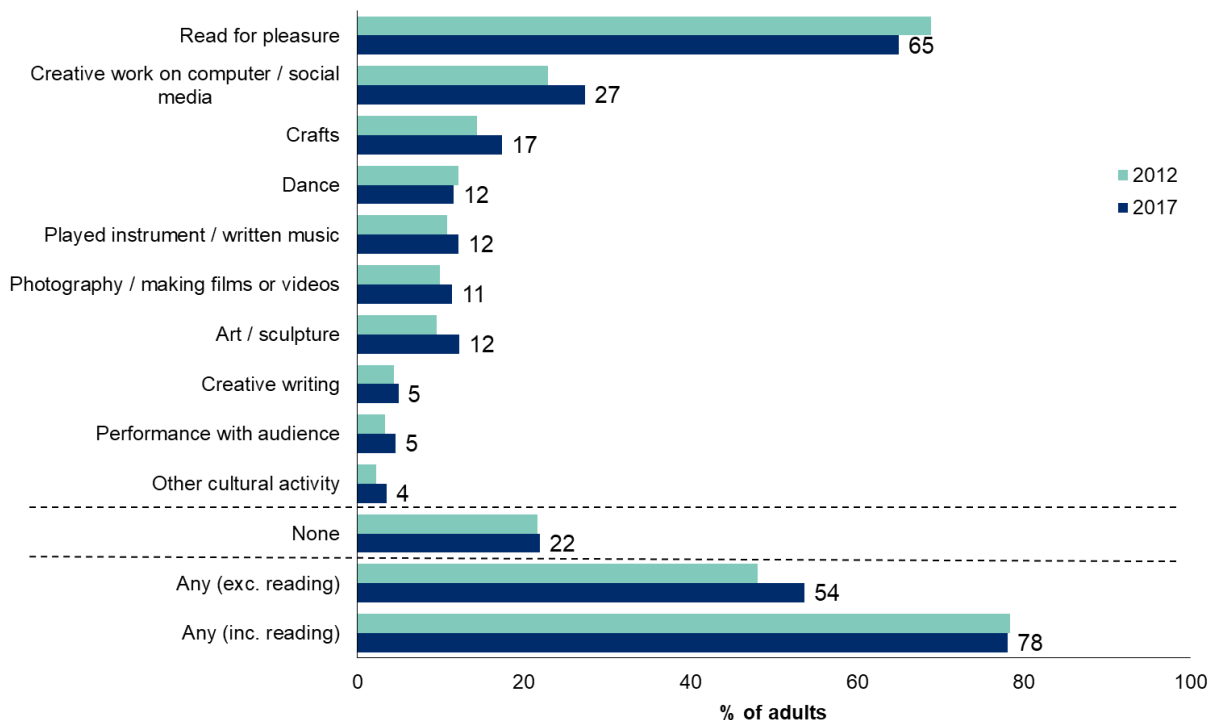
**Reading for pleasure was by far the most common cultural activity in 2017**, with 65 per cent of respondents saying that they had done this in the last year.

The next most popular activity was doing creative work on a computer or by social media (27 per cent), followed by crafts (17 per cent). Participation levels in all other cultural activities was 12 per cent or less.

**About one in five people (22 per cent) had not participated in any cultural activity in the last 12 months.**

**Figure 12.8: Participation in cultural activities in the last 12 months**

Percentage of adults (minimum base: 9,410)



### 12.4.1 Participation by Gender and Age

Table 12.4 shows that **in 2017, more women than men participated in a cultural activity in the last 12 months** (83 per cent and 73 per cent respectively), although this did vary by activity. When reading is excluded, the difference between women and men was slightly smaller (seven percentage points).

Women participated more than men in a number of cultural activities including reading for pleasure (71 per cent compared with 58 per cent), crafts (26 per cent compared with eight per cent) and dance (14 per cent compared with 9 per cent). **Men had higher participation rates than women for playing a musical instrument or writing music** (15 per cent of men and nine per cent of women) **and using a computer or social media to produce creative work** (29 per cent compared with 26 per cent).

**Overall cultural participation was broadly similar for all age groups; however, participation decreased with age when reading was excluded from the measure.**

For most cultural activities, younger adults, particularly those aged 16-24 were more likely than older age groups to participate in cultural activities. However, older people were more likely to read for pleasure and do craftwork such as knitting, woodwork and pottery.

**Table 12.4: Participation in any cultural activity in the last 12 months by gender and age**

Column percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Male	Female	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
Read for pleasure (not newspapers, magazines or comics)	58	71	56	58	68	68	70	65	65
Used a computer / social media to produce creative work of any kind	29	26	40	33	32	27	21	9	27
Crafts such as knitting, wood, pottery, etc.	8	26	11	16	16	18	22	18	17
Dance - e.g. ceilidh, salsa, Highland dancing, ballet	9	14	15	15	11	11	11	5	12
Played a musical instrument or written music	15	9	21	14	13	11	9	5	12
Photography / making films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday 'snaps')	13	10	14	12	13	12	10	5	11
Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture	9	16	21	16	16	9	9	4	12
Creative writing - stories, books, plays or poetry	5	5	8	6	6	4	4	3	5
Took part in a play / sang in a choir or other performance (not karaoke)	4	5	8	3	4	4	5	3	5
Other cultural activity	4	3	4	5	5	3	3	3	4
None	27	17	25	25	18	20	21	26	22
Participated in any (excluding reading)	50	57	61	57	57	53	51	39	54
Participated in any (including reading)	73	83	75	75	82	80	79	74	78
Base	4,540	5,270	650	1,290	1,400	2,410	2,590	1,480	9,810

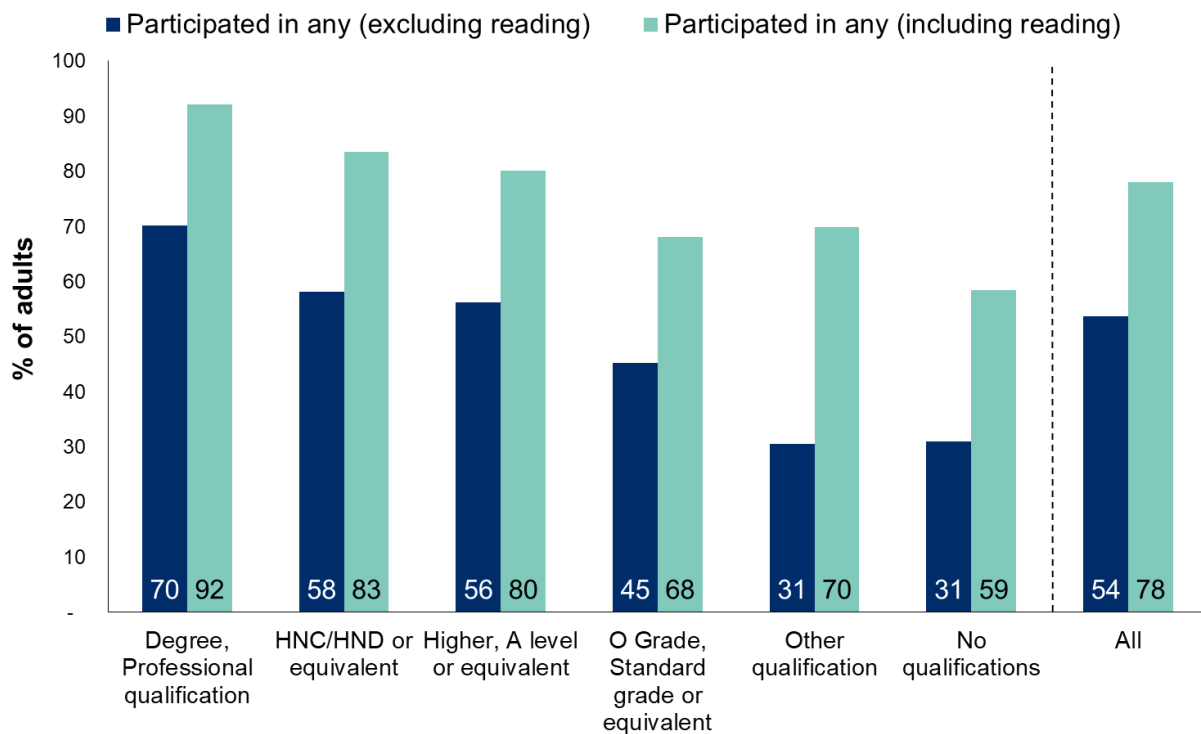
Columns add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses allowed.

## 12.4.2 Participation by Highest Level of Qualification

As with cultural attendance, Figure 12.9 shows that **participation in cultural activities in 2017 was highest among adults with a degree or professional qualification (92 per cent) and lowest for those with no qualifications (59 per cent). When reading is excluded, the difference between qualification levels is even greater (70 per cent for those with a degree or professional qualifications, compared with 31 per cent for those with no qualifications).**

**Figure 12.9: Participation in any cultural activity in the last 12 months by highest level of qualification**

2017 data, percentage of adults (minimum base: 480)





Participation rates for specific cultural activities are shown in Table 12.5.

**Table 12.5: Participation in cultural activities in the last 12 months by highest level of qualification**

Percentages, 2017 data

Adults	Degree, Professional qualification	HNC/HND or equivalent	Higher, A level or equivalent	O Grade, Standard grade or equivalent	Other qualification	No qualifications	All
Read for pleasure (not newspapers, magazines or comics)	81	71	66	52	61	46	65
Used a computer / social media to produce creative work of any kind	39	33	29	23	7	9	27
Crafts such as knitting, wood, pottery, etc.	23	18	17	13	15	13	17
Dance - e.g. ceilidh, salsa, Highland dancing, ballet	18	12	12	8	4	5	12
Played a musical instrument or written music	19	15	14	7	2	3	12
Photography / making films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday 'snaps')	18	15	11	8	3	3	11
Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture	17	14	14	9	4	5	12
Creative writing - stories, books, plays or poetry	8	6	5	3	1	1	5
Took part in a play / sang in a choir or other performance (not karaoke)	7	4	6	3	1	1	5
Other cultural activity	6	4	3	2	1	1	4
None	8	17	20	32	30	41	22
Participated in any (excluding reading)	70	58	56	45	31	31	54
Participated in any (including reading)	92	83	80	68	70	59	78
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,880</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>1,510</i>	<i>1,770</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>1,990</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Columns add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses allowed.

### 12.4.3 Participation by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2016)

**There was a large difference (24 percentage points) in cultural participation between those living in the 20 per cent most deprived and the 20 per cent least deprived areas** (64 per cent compared with 88 per cent). This is consistent with the differences observed for cultural attendance.

Figure 12.10 shows that levels of cultural participation increase as deprivation, as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2016), decreases. Sixty-four per cent of adults in the 20 per cent most deprived areas participated in cultural activities, compared with 88 per cent of adults in the 20 per cent least deprived areas. When reading is excluded, the pattern is similar, with 41 per cent in the most deprived areas and 63 per cent in the least deprived areas of Scotland participating in a cultural activity.

**Figure 12.10: Participation in any cultural activity in the last 12 months by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

2017 data, adults (minimum base: 1,810)

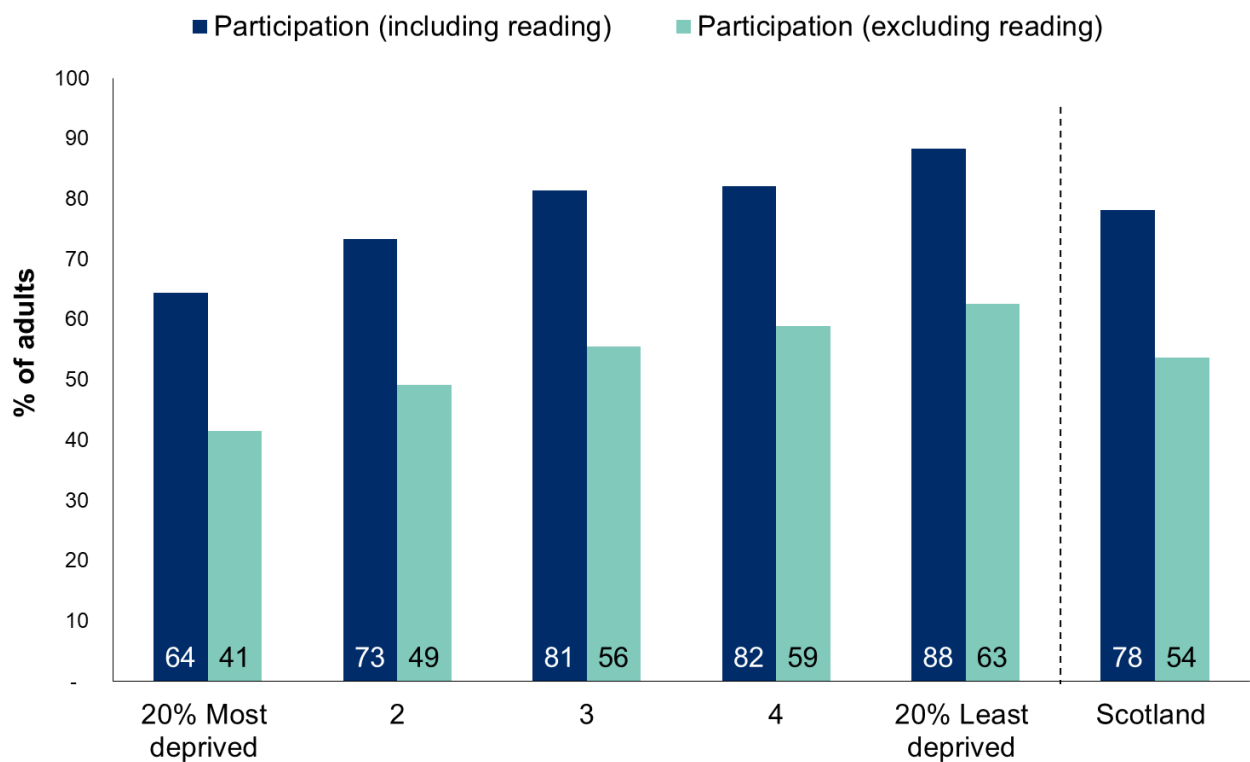
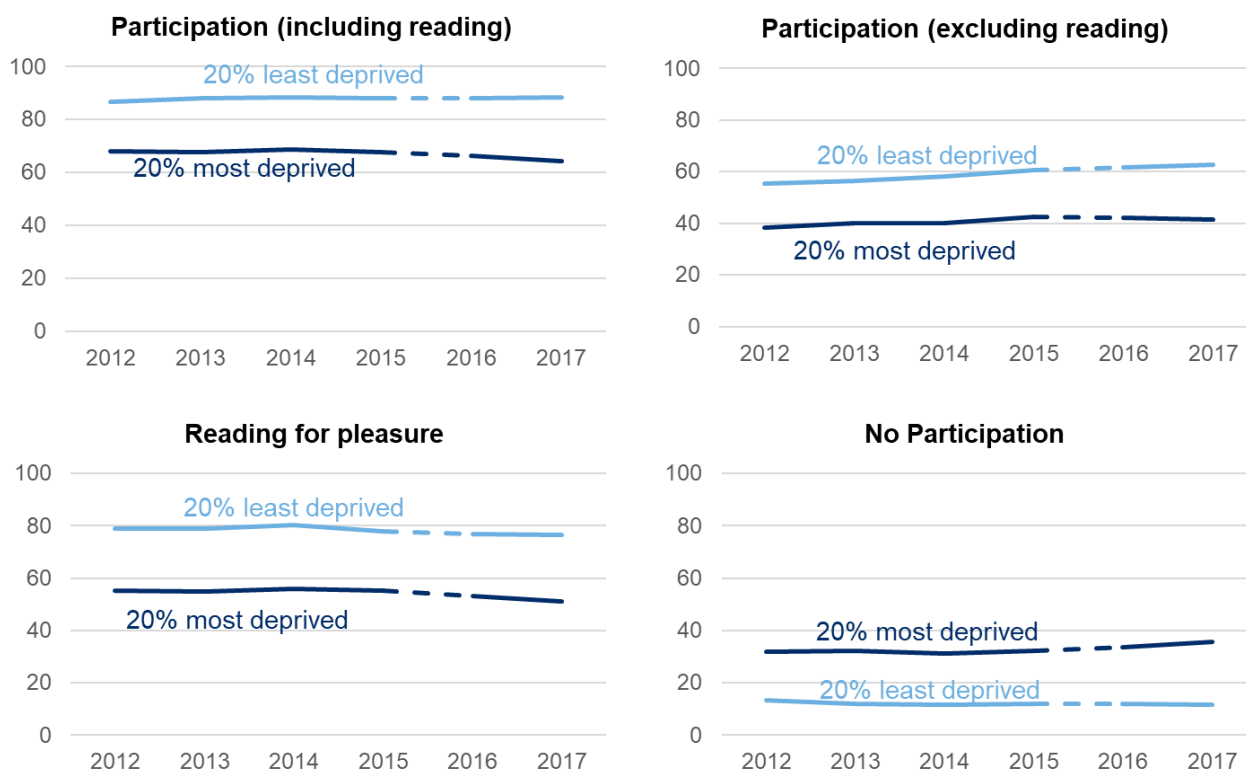


Figure 12.11 shows the difference in cultural participation between the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas and how this has changed over time. This shows that the gap in participation when reading is included has increased since 2012. When reading is excluded, this gap has also increased.

**Figure 12.11: Participation in any cultural activity in the last 12 months by area deprivation**  
2012 - 2017 data, Adults (minimum base: 1,640)



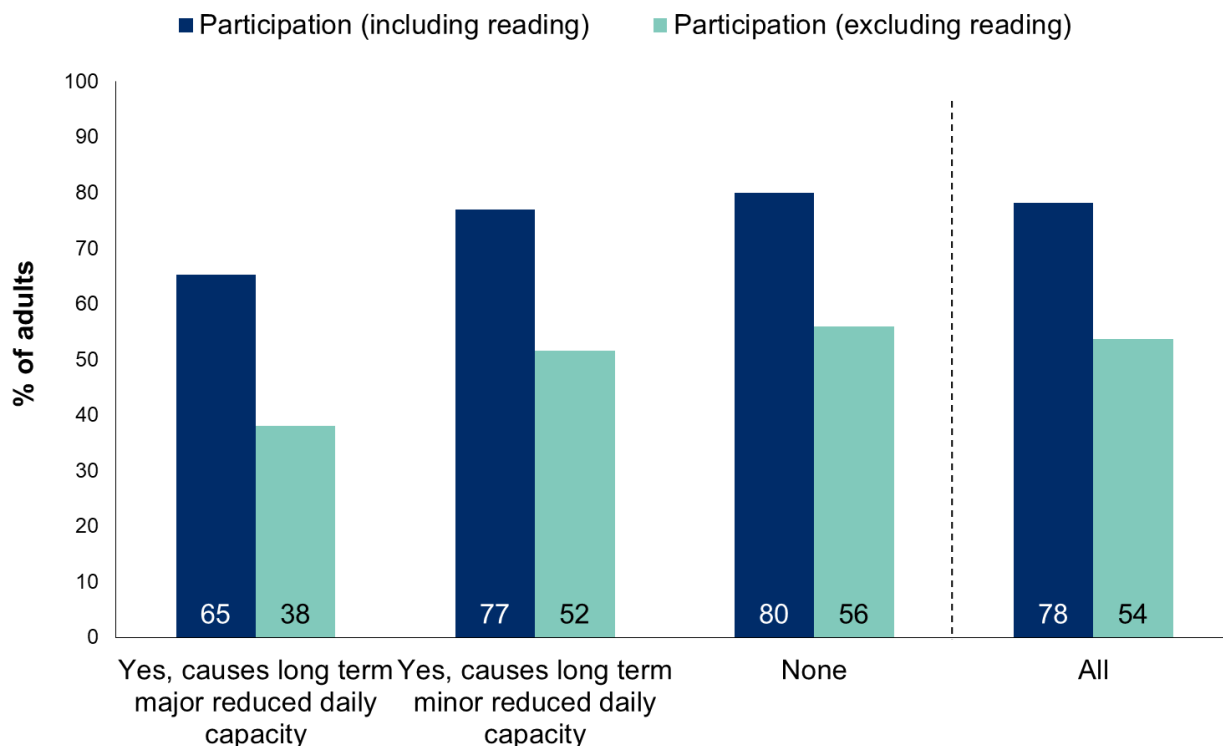
#### 12.4.4 Participation by Long-Term Physical/Mental Health Condition

Figure 12.12 shows that **cultural participation was lower for those with a physical or mental health condition** (lasting, or expected to last 12 months or more). Participation was lowest where this condition caused long term major reduced daily capacity (65 per cent) compared with 80 per cent participation for those with no such condition. For those with minor reduced daily capacity, the participation rate was 77 per cent.

When reading is excluded, participation for those with conditions with major reduced daily capacity was 38 per cent and, for those with no condition, it was 56 per cent. For those with minor reduced daily capacity, the participation rate was 52 per cent.

**Figure 12.12: Participation in any cultural activity in the last 12 months by long term physical/mental health condition**

2017 data, adults (minimum base: 1,270)



### 12.4.5 Frequency of Participating in Cultural Activities

Table 12.6 shows that **reading for pleasure was the cultural activity most frequently participated in**. Of those who read for pleasure, 77 per cent did so at least once a week, and a further 12 per cent read at least once a month. **Using a computer or social media for creative work was also popular among participants, with 68 per cent of those who participated having done so at least once a week.**

**Respondents participated in cultural activities more frequently than they attended cultural places or events.** Twenty per cent attended a library at least once a week but, apart from this, attendance at cultural events at least once a week was low. However, participation in cultural activities at least once a week ranged from 25 per cent to 77 per cent.

**Table 12.6: Frequency of participating in cultural activities in the last 12 months**

Row percentages, 2017 data

Adults	At least once a week	Less often than once a week / at least once a month	Less often than once a month but within the last 12 months	Don't know	Total	Base
Read for pleasure (not newspapers, magazines or comics)	77	12	11	0	100	6,490
Used a computer / social media to produce creative work of any kind	68	13	18	1	100	2,380
Crafts such as knitting, wood, pottery, etc.	48	26	27	0	100	1,880
Dance - e.g. ceilidh, salsa, Highland dancing, ballet	25	18	57	1	100	1,050
Played a musical instrument or written music	56	21	23	1	100	1,070
Photography / making films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday 'snaps')	34	33	32	1	100	1,090
Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture	40	28	32	0	100	1,100
Creative writing - stories, books, plays or poetry	38	25	37	0	100	460
Took part in a play / sang in a choir or other performance (not karaoke)	34	14	51	1	100	410
Other cultural activity	33	21	45	1	100	330

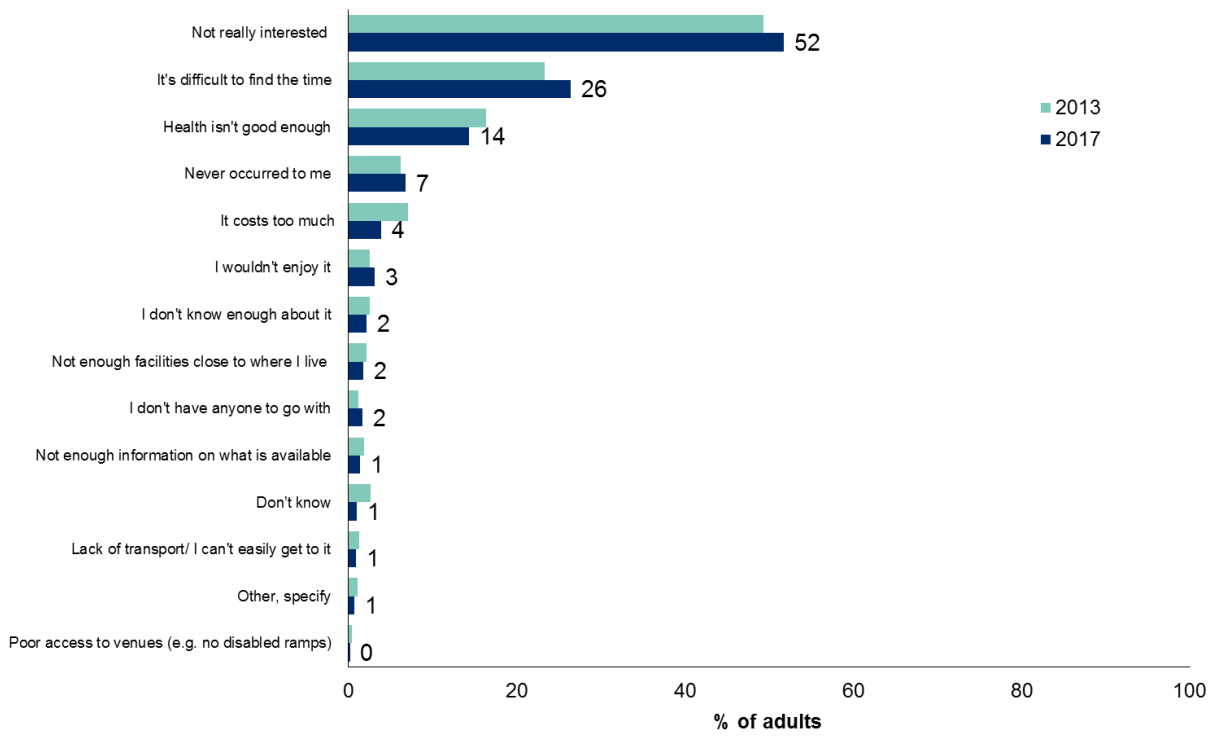
Columns add to more than 100 per cent since multiple responses allowed.

#### 12.4.6 Reasons for non-participation

Those who reported not participating in any cultural activity in 2017 were asked about potential reasons for non-participation. Overall, **the most common reason for not participating was also 'not really interested'**. Over half of non-participants (52 per cent) stated this as a reason (Figure 12.13). This figure has remained stable since 2013 (49 per cent). The next most common reasons were 'It's difficult to find the time' (over a quarter, at 26 per cent), followed by 'health isn't good enough' (14 per cent), and 'never occurred to me' (seven per cent).

The main reasons for non-participation varied by age. Lack of interest as a reason for non-participation decreased with age (61 per cent of those aged 16-24 compared to 50 per cent of those aged 75 and older). Poor health as a reason for non-participation increased with age, ranging from 4 per cent of adults aged 16 to 24, to 45 per cent of those aged 75 and older. Lack of time as a reason for non-participation was greater amongst those aged 25 to 34 (41 per cent), compared to those aged 75 and over (5 per cent).

**Figure 12.13: Reasons for non-participation in cultural activities in the last 12 months, 2017**  
 Percentage of adults, 2013 and 2017 data (minimum base: 1,940)



## 12.5 Satisfaction with Local Authority Cultural Services

Table 12.7 presents the results for satisfaction with three different types of local authority services in 2017. It shows that **adults** (including users and non-users of these services) **were more satisfied with museums and galleries and with theatres or concert halls in 2017 than they had been in 2007**. Satisfaction with museums and galleries increased by five percentage points (41 per cent to 46 per cent) between 2007 and 2017 whilst satisfaction with theatres or concert halls increased by three percentage points (44 per cent to 47 per cent). **There has been a six percentage point decrease in satisfaction with library services** (from 55 per cent in 2007 to 49 per cent in 2017).

**Table 12.7: Satisfaction with local authority culture services**

Column percentages, 2007 to 2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Libraries</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	55	55	53	52	52	50	51	49	49	48	49
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	10	8	7	8	8	8	10	12	15	15	17
Very/fairly dissatisfied	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
No opinion	32	34	37	38	37	39	38	36	34	35	32
<b>Museums and galleries</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	41	42	41	38	44	42	44	46	46	45	46
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	14	12	10	11	10	10	11	14	16	17	18
Very/fairly dissatisfied	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
No opinion	41	42	45	48	44	46	42	38	35	36	34
<b>Theatres or concert halls</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	44	44	43	42	45	44	46	47	48	47	47
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	14	11	10	10	10	9	10	13	15	16	17
Very/fairly dissatisfied	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2
No opinion	38	40	43	45	42	45	42	38	35	35	34
<i>Base</i>	<i>10,220</i>	<i>9,240</i>	<i>9,710</i>	<i>9,020</i>	<i>9,660</i>	<i>9,890</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>9,410</i>	<i>9,640</i>	<i>9,810</i>

Table 12.8 shows **levels of satisfaction with local authority provision is considerably higher when only users of the services are included in the analysis**. In 2017, around nine in ten adults were either very or fairly satisfied with each of the three services (between 87 per cent and 91 per cent). As noted above, the overall level of satisfaction with library services has decreased since 2007, with satisfaction levels among non-users driving the decrease. In contrast, the levels of satisfaction among the service users have increased or remained stable since 2007 across all services.

**Table 12.8: Satisfaction with local authority culture services. (Service users within the past 12 months only)**

Column percentages, 2007 to 2017 data

Adults	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Libraries</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	90	92	92	91	92	93	92	92	92	93	91
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	5
Very/fairly dissatisfied	3	3	3	4	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
No opinion	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>4,090</i>	<i>3,510</i>	<i>3,590</i>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>3,510</i>	<i>3,450</i>	<i>3,370</i>	<i>3,270</i>	<i>3,100</i>	<i>3,060</i>	<i>3,160</i>
<b>Museums and galleries</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	87	89	88	87	90	92	91	92	91	91	87
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	8	7	6	7	5	3	4	5	6	5	8
Very/fairly dissatisfied	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	2
No opinion	3	2	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	3
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,870</i>	<i>2,630</i>	<i>2,720</i>	<i>2,460</i>	<i>2,830</i>	<i>2,800</i>	<i>2,980</i>	<i>3,020</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>2,830</i>	<i>2,990</i>
<b>Theatres or concert halls</b>											
Very/fairly satisfied	86	87	88	88	89	90	91	91	90	90	89
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	8	6	6	6	5	5	4	5	6	6	7
Very/fairly dissatisfied	3	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
No opinion	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Base</i>	<i>3,560</i>	<i>3,210</i>	<i>3,270</i>	<i>2,960</i>	<i>3,280</i>	<i>3,020</i>	<i>3,260</i>	<i>3,290</i>	<i>3,340</i>	<i>3,230</i>	<i>3,270</i>



# Annex 1: Using the Information in this Report

## How Data is Displayed in Tables

Tables are generally presented in the format 'dependent variable by independent variable' where the independent variable is being used to examine or explain variation in the dependent variable. Thus, a table titled 'housing tenure by household type' shows how housing tenures vary among different household types. Tables generally take three forms within the report; column percentages (the dependent variable is in the rows), row percentages (the dependent variable is in the columns) and cell percentages which may show agreement or selection of a statement with one or a number of statements.

All tables have a descriptive and numerical base showing the population or population sub-group examined in it. While all results have been calculated using weighted data, the bases shown provide the unweighted counts, which have been rounded to the nearest 10 to comply with statistical disclosure control principles and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. It is therefore not possible to calculate how many respondents gave a certain answer based on the results and bases presented in the report.

## Reporting Conventions

In general, percentages in tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Zero values are shown as a dash (-), values greater than 0 per cent but less than 0.5 per cent are shown as 0 per cent and values of 0.5 per cent but less than 1 per cent are rounded up to 1 per cent. Columns or rows may not add to exactly 100 per cent because of; rounding, where 'don't know/refused' answers are not shown<sup>77</sup> or where multiple responses to a question are possible.

In some tables, percentages have been removed and replaced with '\*'. This is where the base on which percentages would be calculated is less than 50 and this data is judged to be insufficiently robust for publication.

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<sup>77</sup> Missing responses are not included within the analysis. Similarly 'don't know/refused' options are not shown as a separate category in some tables.

## Variations in Base Size for Totals

As the questionnaire is administered using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), item non-response is kept to a minimum. Bases do fluctuate slightly due to small amounts of missing information (where, for example, the age or gender of household members has been refused and where derived variables such as household type use this information).

Some questions are asked of a reduced sample and the bases are correspondingly lower. From January 2012, the redesigned survey asked questions typically of full or one-third sample allocation. This concept of streaming was first introduced to the SHS in 2007, when some questions were streamed or changed in the course of the year and again the base size is lower. Further changes to streaming have been made in subsequent years.

Chapter 2 gives details of frequencies and bases for the main dependent variables.

## Statistical Significance

All proportions produced in a survey have a degree of error associated with them because they are generated from a sample survey of the population rather than a survey of the entire population (e.g. Census). Any proportion measured in the survey has an associated confidence interval (within which the 'true' proportion of the whole population is likely to lie), usually expressed as  $\pm x$  per cent. As a general rule of thumb, the larger the sample size for a given question, the smaller the confidence interval around that result will be (thus making it easier to detect real change year-on-year and differences between sub-groups).

It is possible with any survey that the sample achieved produces estimates that are outside this range. If the survey were to be run multiple times on the same population in the same year (i.e. under repeated sampling), the number of times out of a 100 surveys that the result achieved would be expected to lie within the confidence interval is also quoted; conventionally the level set is 95 out of 100, or 95 per cent. Technically, all results should be quoted in this way however, it is less cumbersome to simply report the percentage as a single percentage, the convention adopted in this report.

Where sample sizes are small or comparisons are made between sub-groups of the sample, the sampling error needs to be taken into account. There are formulae to calculate whether differences are statistically significant (i.e. they are unlikely to have occurred by chance) and Annex 3 provides a simple way to calculate whether differences are significant. Annex 3 also provides further explanation on statistical significance and on how confidence intervals can be interpreted. The local authority tables incorporate a tool which highlights cells that are significantly different from the comparator figure - the default setting is to compare a local authority with national level data.

## Annex 2: Glossary

This Annex includes a list of terms used within the report. Definitions for those terms and, in some cases, further explanation of the term are provided.

### Household Members

For the purposes of the SHS, a **household** is defined as one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address as their only or main residence who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

The respondent for the first part of the interview must be the household reference person, a person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented or who is otherwise responsible for the accommodation.

In households that have joint householders, the **household reference person** is defined as the **highest income householder (HIH)**, that is, the person with the highest income. If householders have exactly the same income, the older is taken as the household reference person.

**Adult** is used to refer to those aged 16 and over (except where otherwise stated). **Children** are aged under 16 years.

In each household, one of the eligible adult members of the household is randomly selected to take part in the second half of the interview. Eligible adults are adult household members who have not been living apart from the household continuously for the previous six months. This might include adults working away from home, in the Armed Forces or in prison. The person selected is referred to as the **random adult**. The household respondent is automatically the random adult in one-adult households and may be the same as the household respondent in households with more than one adult.

### Household Type

The SHS uses eight household types defined as follows:

- A **single adult** household – contains one adult aged 16-64 and no children.
- A **single parent** household – contains one adult of any age and one or more children.

- A **single older** household - contains one adult of pensionable age and no children. Pensionable age is 65 for both women and men.
- A **small family** household – contains two adults of any age and one or two children.
- An **older smaller** household – contains one adult aged 16-64 and one of pensionable age and no children, or two adults of pensionable age and no children.
- A **large adult** household – contains three or more adults and no children.
- A **small adult** household – contains two adults aged 16-64 and no children.
- A **large family** household – contains two adults of any age and three or more children, or three or more adults of any age and one or more children.

## Housing Tenure

The SHS collects information on the ways in which households occupy their accommodation and from which organisation or individual their accommodation is rented, where this is the case. These are combined into a housing tenure variable, which is shown in the annual report broken down into four categories, namely:

- **Owner occupied** – Includes households who own outright and those buying with a mortgage or loan.
- **Social rented** sector – Includes households renting from a local authority and all households renting from a Housing Association or Co-operative.
- **Private rented** sector – Includes households renting from an individual private landlord.
- **Other** tenure – Includes any other category of tenure such as living rent free.

## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)<sup>78</sup> is a relative measure of deprivation across small areas in Scotland. It is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying those places in Scotland suffering from multiple deprivation. It incorporates several different aspects of deprivation, combining them into a single index.

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<sup>78</sup> [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD)

SIMD16 has been used throughout this report. It divides Scotland into 6,976 small areas, called data zones, each containing around 350 households. The Index provides a relative ranking for each data zone, from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived). By identifying small areas where there are concentrations of multiple deprivation, SIMD can be used to target policies and resources at the places with greatest need.

SIMD16 uses seven domains to measure the multiple aspects of deprivation:

- income,
- employment,
- health,
- education,
- skills and training,
- housing, geographic access to services
- and crime.

In the tables, the data zones are grouped as quintiles (from the 20 per cent most to the 20 per cent least deprived data zones)<sup>79</sup>. Occasionally deciles (from the 10 per cent most deprived data zones to 10 per cent least deprived)<sup>80</sup> are used.

There are also time series charts in the annual report, comparing certain characteristics over time using SIMD. The SIMD was updated in 2006, 2009, 2012 and, most recently, in 2016. The time series charts use the most relevant version of SIMD for each year; SIMD 2006 for 2006 – 2008 data, SIMD 2009 for 2009 – 2011 data, SIMD 2012 for 2012 – 2015 data, and SIMD16 for 2016 – 2017 data. Therefore, upon each update, some areas will shift away from being the most deprived. This creates “breaks” in the data which are represented by the dotted lines in the figures.

## A2 1: Number of households by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016

2017 data, Frequency rounded to base 10

	Unweighted Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Weighted Per cent
1 - 10% most deprived	980	1,140	10.7
2	1,000	1,110	10.4
3	1,030	1,080	10.2
4	1,090	1,050	9.8
5	1,200	1,100	10.3
6	1,150	1,030	9.7
7	1,190	1,040	9.8
8	1,060	1,040	9.7
9	980	1,010	9.5
10 - 10% least deprived	1,010	1,070	10.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>10,680</i>	<i>10,680</i>	<i>100</i>

<sup>79</sup> Numbered 1 (most deprived) to 5 (least deprived).

<sup>80</sup> Numbered 1 (most deprived) to 10 (least deprived).

## Urban Rural Classification

The Scottish Government six-fold urban/rural classification of Scotland is used throughout this report. This classification is based on settlement size and remoteness (measured by drive times) allowing more detailed geographical analysis to be conducted on a larger sample size. The classification being used in this report is the 2016<sup>81</sup> version.

The areas in which respondents live have been classified as follows:

- **Large urban areas** – settlements of over 125,000 people.
- **Other urban areas** – settlements of 10,000 to 124,999 people.
- **Accessible small towns** – settlements of between 3,000 and 9,999 people and within a 30 minute drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Remote small towns** – settlements of between 3,000 and 9,999 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Accessible rural** – settlements of less than 3,000 people and within 30 minute drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
- **Remote rural** – settlements of less than 3,000 people with a drive time of more than 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

Table A2 2 shows the percentage of households in each area type.

### A2 2: Number of households by Scottish Government 2016 Urban Rural Classification

2017 data, Frequency rounded to base 10

	Unweighted Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Weighted Per cent
Large urban areas	3,090	3,770	35.3
Other urban areas	3,820	3,880	36.3
Accessible small towns	960	930	8.7
Remote small towns	620	380	3.6
Accessible rural	1,100	1,100	10.3
Remote rural	1,100	630	5.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>10,680</i>	<i>10,680</i>	<i>100</i>

## Marital Status

The random adult is asked to confirm their legal marital status using the following categories:

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<sup>81</sup> More information on the six-fold urban/rural classification of Scotland is available at - [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification)

- Single – never married or never formed a legally recognised same sex civil partnership
- Married and living with husband/wife
- A civil partner in a legally recognised same sex civil partnership
- Married and separated from husband/wife
- In a legally recognised same sex civil partnership and separated from your civil partner
- Divorced
- Formerly a civil partner – the same sex civil partnership now legally dissolved
- Widowed
- A surviving same sex civil partner – your partner having since died

It should be noted that this question was changed from October 2012 to remove references to “single” and to simplify the wording of the other status types. Whilst two different variables have been created in the datasets to reflect the different questions being asked, a combined derived variable was produced.

Where these have been used in the report to analyse results, these categories have been combined as:

- Single/never been married
- Cohabiting/living together
- Married/civil partnership
- Separated/divorced/dissolved civil partnership
- Widowed/bereaved civil partner

## Self-identified Sexual Orientation

The question on self-identified sexual orientation, presented in Chapter 2, was introduced to the SHS in 2011 to provide statistics to underpin the equality monitoring responsibilities of public sector organisations and to assess the disadvantage or relative discrimination experienced by the lesbian, gay and bisexual population. Despite this positive step in collecting such information, it is felt that the figures are likely to under-report the percentage of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) people within society due to a number of reasons, including the following:

- Asking about sexual orientation/identity is a new development in national surveys and such questions can be seen as intrusive and personal.



- There is still significant prejudice and discrimination against LGB people in society. In a context where some LGB people will not have told friends and family about their sexual identity, there is a real question about whether LGB people generally would want to be open with an interviewer.
- The default option for being uncertain about one's sexual orientation may be to respond 'straight/heterosexual' rather than to say 'Don't know / not sure'.
- Particular LGB people are still less likely to be open where they belong to groups or communities where an LGB identity is less acceptable.

Despite the uncertainties of the data, it does make sense to collect statistics on sexual orientation to start to make this a more standard element within data collection. This does not mean that data will necessarily become reliable over the short term, but they may still be able to offer useful insights into the experience of some LGB people in particular areas of policy interest. The Scottish Government is looking at how it can improve its data collection on these issues going forward.

## **Economic Activity, Qualifications and Training**

The SHS is not directly comparable with the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is the official source of employment, qualifications and training data in the UK. Compared with the LFS, the SHS under-estimates the level of employment and over-estimates both unemployment and economic inactivity. This is due to the fact that current economic situation in the SHS is asked in a single question whereas in the LFS it is determined by a selection of other questions.

The SHS also underestimates the number of people with a qualification of some sort, as the LFS covers all possible levels of qualifications. The LFS is the preferred source of estimates on employment, qualifications and training as it uses internationally agreed definitions and is used for international comparisons including OECD indicators.

It should be noted that SHS estimates of working-age adults historically were based on the traditional working-age definition (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59). From 2011, these were replaced by estimates based on the population aged 16-64 to account for legislative changes in the state retirement age. Specifically the current female state pension age is changing dynamically to match the male state pension age. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) no longer publish rates using a working-age definition, instead reports rates for all people aged 16 to 64.

## Highest Level of Qualification

The highest level of qualification has been classified as follows:

- **O Grade, Standard Grade or equivalent** – Includes: School leaving certificate, NQ unit, O Grade, Standard Grade, GCSE, GCE O level, CSE, NQ Access 3 Cluster, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Senior Certificate, GNVQ/ GSVQ Foundation or Intermediate, SVQ Level 1, SVQ Level 2, SCOTVEC/National Certificate Module, City and Guilds Craft, RSA Diploma or equivalent.
- **Higher, A Level or equivalent** – Includes: Higher Grade, Advanced Higher, CSYS, A Level, AS Level, Advanced Senior Certificate. GNVQ/ GSVQ Advanced, SVQ Level 3, ONC, OND, SCOTVEC National Diploma, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, RSA Advanced Diploma or equivalent.
- **HNC/ HND or equivalent** – Includes: HNC, HND, SVQ Level 4, RSA Higher Diploma or equivalent.
- **Degree, Professional qualification** – Includes: First degree, Higher degree, SVQ Level 5, Professional qualifications e.g. teaching, accountancy.
- Other qualification.
- No qualifications.
- Qualifications not known.

Please see the Scottish Government Statistics website<sup>82</sup> for details of Scottish Government contacts who deal with economic activity, qualifications and training statistics.

## Current Economic Situation

The household respondent is asked to select which of the following categories best describes the current situation of each member of the household:

- Self-employed
- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Looking after the home or family
- Permanently retired from work

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<sup>82</sup> [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics)

- Unemployed and seeking work
- At school
- In further/higher education
- Government work or training scheme
- Permanently sick or disabled
- Unable to work because of short-term illness or injury
- Pre-school/not yet at school
- Other

SHS data on the economic situation of members of the household reflects the view of the respondent to the 'household' part of the interview, and so may not conform to official definitions of employment and unemployment, for example. The SHS cannot provide estimates of unemployment that are comparable to official statistics of unemployment<sup>83</sup>. Therefore, the SHS cannot be used as a source of unemployment rates or average earnings. Please see the Scottish Government Statistics website<sup>84</sup> for details of Scottish Government contacts who deal with unemployment rates and average earnings statistics through the Labour Market topic.

## Household Economic Situation

Household economic situation refers to economic situation of the highest income householder (HIH) and/or their spouse or partner. The variable is derived from the question that asks about the economic activity of members of the household. Household economic situation variable includes the following categories:

- Single working adult
- Non-working single
- Working couple
- Couple, one works
- Couple, neither work

As mentioned previously (see Current Economic Situation), SHS data on the economic situation of the household reflects the view of the respondent to the 'household' part of the interview, and so may not conform to official definitions of employment and unemployment, for example.

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<sup>83</sup> For further information, please see the SHS Methodology and Fieldwork Outcomes reports: [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology)

<sup>84</sup> [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics)

## Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)<sup>85</sup> is an occupationally-based classification which, in line with all official statistics and surveys, is used in the SHS. The eight-fold analytic version of NS-SEC has been used.

Respondents' occupations and details of their employment status (whether an employer, self-employed or employee; whether a supervisor; number of employees at the workplace) have been used to create the following classifications:

- Higher managerial and professional occupations.
- Lower managerial and professional occupations.
- Intermediate occupations.
- Small employers and own account workers.
- Lower supervisory and technical occupations.
- Semi-routine occupations.
- Routine occupations.

## Household Income

The term net annual household income refers to income (i.e. after taxation and other deductions) from employment, benefits and other sources that is brought into the household by the highest income householder and/or their spouse or partner. This includes any contribution to household finances made by other household members (e.g. dig money).

The definition is not the same as that used by other Government surveys such as the Family Resources Survey. These measure the income of all household members. Income data from the SHS should not, therefore, be compared with other sources without careful consideration of the methods used in compiling the data<sup>86</sup>. The SHS is not designed to provide reliable statistics on average income or average earnings. The current income information collected through the SHS is only intended to provide estimates by income band. The SHS asks for income only for use as a 'background' variable when analysing other topics, or for selecting the data for particular sub-groups of the population (such as the low paid) for further analysis<sup>87</sup>.

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<sup>85</sup> More information on the definition of NS-SEC can be found at - [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/index.html)

<sup>86</sup> More information on household income can be found in Raab, G., MacDonald, C., and Macintyre, C. (2004) Comparison of Income Data between Surveys of Scottish Households: Research report for Communities Scotland. Further information on this report is available on the SHS website.

<sup>87</sup> For further information, please see the SHS Methodology and Fieldwork Outcomes reports: [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology)

## Income Imputation

While in general the level of missing data throughout the SHS is minimal, one section of the questionnaire is substantially affected by missing information. In the section on household income, approximately one-in-three of respondents either refuse to answer the questions or are unable to provide information that is sufficiently reliable to report, for example, because there are no details of the level of income received for one or more components of their income.

Statistical analysis of data gathered in the survey on the characteristics of households where income is available, allows income data to be imputed for households where income data is missing. Income imputation is a process whereby complete information given by 'similar' households is used for respondents that have missing income information. Income is collected as a variety of different components, such as income from employment, benefits and other sources, which are summed to create total net household income. Income was imputed for each component using either Hot Deck imputation, where the sample is divided into subgroups based on relevant characteristics, or Predictive Mean, where a statistical model is constructed and the value is predicted using this model. After imputation, income data is unavailable for between 3 to 4 per cent of households. Please contact the SHS project team if you would like further information on the imputation process.

A more advanced income imputation project was undertaken by the Scottish Government Income and Poverty Statistics team in 2010 to impute income for adults in multi-adult households for which the SHS does not capture any information. Estimates from this project were released through the “Relative Poverty Across Scottish Local Authorities” publication in August 2010<sup>88</sup> as data being developed. These estimates were subsequently used in a project commissioned by the Improvement Service to develop improved measures of local incomes and poverty in Scotland at a small level published in March 2013<sup>89</sup>.

## Housing Lists

Housing lists are held by social landlords, local authorities and housing associations, individually or jointly as Common Housing Registers. They can include people who are already in social housing but are seeking a move and in some cases applicants will be on more than one landlord's list. Social landlords are responsible for allocating their housing, in line with their allocation policies and the legislative framework.

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<sup>88</sup> [www.gov.scot/Publications/2010/08/26155956](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2010/08/26155956)

<sup>89</sup> [www.improvementservice.org.uk/income-modelling-project.html](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/income-modelling-project.html)

Calculating an estimate of the number of households on a housing list makes an assumption that the random adult response is valid for the entire household. This may however lead to a slight under-estimate because there may be a small number of multi-adult households where one adult is on a housing list but the remaining adults are not. In these cases, the SHS estimate will be influenced by which household member is selected as the random adult. In some cases, the household member on a housing list will be picked up, but in others cases they will not. This means that some households containing a household member who is on a housing list will not be identified in the survey. An example would be where a young adult is living with their parents but now wishes to form their own household separately from the existing household.

The weighting strategy for households is based on the 10,470 households responding to the household interview, rather than the 9,642 households with a complete random adult interview (providing responses to the housing lists question). This is likely to introduce a small level of non-response bias, because those households which do not complete a random adult interview are likely to be systematically different from those that do.

There is also the possibility, as with the majority of social survey questions, for a respondent to give an incorrect answer. In this case, a respondent may report being on a housing list when they are not as a result of local authorities refreshing lists and removing people from whom they have not had any contact. A respondent may report not being on a housing list when in fact they are, because some local authorities do not refresh lists and so somebody who no longer wishes to be on a housing list may still be on one that they signed up to many years previously.

Further to this, some households may not consider themselves to be on a housing list even though they are actively seeking social housing through other routes such as choice based lettings. Changes have been made to the 2017 SHS questions on housing lists with the aim to better capture households who are using choice based lettings when seeking social housing.

A final point on the use of the Scottish Household Survey to estimate the number of households or adults on a housing list is that it is a sample of the general population living in private residences in Scotland, and therefore it may not pick up some people or households who are on a housing list but who are living in other types of accommodation such as hostels or bed and breakfast accommodation.

## Physical or Mental Health Problems and Disabilities

### Random Adult

A two part question was introduced to replace the old question on long-standing illnesses. The new question asked, of the random adult respondent, to establish the prevalence of physical or mental health conditions among the adult population and the extent to which such conditions reduce ability to carry out day-to-day activities<sup>90</sup>. The respondent's own assessment of what constitutes a physical or mental condition or illness was used rather than a medical assessment.

The current question was introduced in October 2012 and is split into two parts: 'Do you have a physical or mental condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?' and if so then 'Does your condition or illness reduce your ability to carry-out day-to-day activities?'

It should be noted that these changes in the question mean the 2013 data is not directly comparable to reports relating to the period 1999-2012.

### Household

In the household questionnaire, the household representative is asked whether anyone in the household (including children) has any physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last for twelve months or more. The current question was introduced in 2014 and has been designed to align it with the question asked of the random adult. The response options for this question are 'Yes', 'No', 'Don't know', and 'Refused'.

Previously, the question had asked the household representative whether anyone in the household had any long-standing illness, health problem or disability that limits daily activity. The response options were 'Disability', 'Long-term illness', 'Both', 'Neither' and 'Refused'.

As noted in Chapter 2, this figure is likely to under represent the true value as the household representative may not know about the health conditions of other household members.

The above changes in the question mean that the 2014 results are not directly comparable with previous years' data.

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<sup>90</sup> For further details, please see questions RG5A and RG5B in the 2013 SHS questionnaire and RG5 in previous years: [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationQuestionnaire](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationQuestionnaire)

## Participation, Attendance and Engagement in Sports and Physical Activity

Participation in “any sporting activity” means that people do at least one activity from the available list asked of respondents in the survey (rather than each and every sporting activity). The activities are listed as follows:

- Walking – at least 30 minutes for recreational purposes
- Swimming
- Football
- Cycling – at least 30 minutes for recreational, health, training or competition purposes
- Keep Fit / Aerobics
- Multigym use / Weight Training
- Golf
- Running / Jogging
- Snooker / Billiards / Pool
- Dancing
- Bowls
- Other (specified) – e.g. Angling, Badminton, Judo, Horse-riding, Skiing, Sailing, Yoga
- + Angling, bird-watching
- + Racket/ball sports
- + Field sports – shooting, archery
- + Water sports
- + Winter sports – curling, skating, skiing
- + Boxing, martial arts
- + Riding
- + Pilates, Yoga, Tai-Chi
- + Climbing, hillwalking
- None of these

Note, that activities prefixed above with a ‘+’ indicate that these are backcoded following data collection based on the open text responses to the ‘Other’ category. This means that these activities will have been coded as ‘Other’ at point of collection but then moved out during the post-data processing to be assigned against the more detailed variables, and the number of responses within the ‘Other’ category thus lowered. The analysis presented in this report groups these additional activities back under the ‘Other’ category though.



## Volunteering

This section of the questionnaire was revised for the 2006 survey in order to gather greater information on individuals' experience of volunteering and barriers that may prevent them from participation. Respondents were asked to give a 'yes' or 'no' response to a question on whether they had given up any time to help clubs, charities, campaigns or organisations in the last 12 months. This question was followed up by a question asked of those who said no to the first, which gave a list of types of groups and organisations and asked for which, if any, the respondent had undertaken any work or activities on a voluntary basis. The list of options was revised substantially in 2007. The third question asked if there were any other types of organisations not on the list for which respondents had given up their time. Respondents who did not answer 'yes' to the first question, or who answered 'none' to the first question but 'yes' to the second or third question were classed as having taken part in voluntary activities.

A series of follow-up questions are asked to determine the frequency and types of activities adults volunteer within, if it is clear from their responses to the first three questions that they have indeed volunteered within the previous 12 months. Similarly, for those that haven't volunteered a follow-up question is asked on what might encourage them to volunteer in the future.

In 2012, it was noticed that in some cases during post-data processing, respondents that have been subsequently identified as volunteers from their answers to the second and third questions, may not have been asked the follow up questions during the actual interview. As such the number of people asked the follow-up questions might not have matched the total number of volunteers identified in the final dataset.

In 2014, the routing of the questionnaire was changed so that the maximum number of suitable people were asked the follow up questions. This means that, although it will only affect a small proportion of the sample, the 2014 results to the follow up volunteering questions are not directly comparable with previous years.

## Participation, Attendance and Engagement at Cultural Events

Cultural engagement is defined as those adults who have either participated in a cultural activity or who have attended at least one type of cultural place in the previous 12 months.

A number of changes were made to the questions in 2012. The ordering of questions changed from asking about “attendance” then “participation”, in 2011 for example, to asking about “participation” first from January 2012. The types of activities or events were also reworded (e.g. ‘Dance’ became ‘Dance – e.g. ceilidh, salsa, Highland dancing, ballet’) as well as switching the order of the activities and events also. More detailed information on the changes can be found in the SHS 2011 and 2012 Questionnaire publications.

Attendance at "a cultural event or place of culture" can cover any one of the following:

- Cinema
- Library – Includes: mobile and online
- Classical music performance or opera
- Live music event – e.g. traditional music, rock concert, jazz event (not opera or classical music performance)
- Theatre – e.g. pantomime / musical / play
- Dance show / event – e.g. ballet
- Historic place – e.g. castle, stately home and grounds, battle or archaeological site
- Museum
- Gallery
- Exhibition – Includes: art, photography and crafts
- Street arts – e.g. musical performances or art in parks, streets or shopping centre
- Culturally specific festival (e.g. mela /Feis/ local Gala days)
- Book festival or reading group
- Archive or records office – e.g. Scotland’s Family History Peoples Centre
- None

Participation in "any cultural activity" means that people do at least one activity from the available list asked of respondents in the survey (rather than each and every cultural activity). The activities are listed as follows:

- Read for pleasure – not newspapers, magazines or comics
- Dance – e.g. ceilidh, salsa, Highland dancing, ballet
- Played a musical instrument or written music
- Took part in a play / sang in a choir or other performance – not karaoke
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture
- Photography / making films or videos as an artistic activity – not family or holiday 'snaps'
- Used a computer / social media to produce creative work of any kind
- Crafts such as knitting, wood, pottery, etc.
- Creative writing - stories, books, plays or poetry
- Other cultural activity
- None

# Annex 3: Confidence Intervals and Statistical Significance

## The Representativeness of the Scottish Household Survey

Although the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) sample is chosen at random, the people who take part in the survey will not necessarily be a representative cross-section of the population. Like all sample surveys, the results of the SHS are estimates for the whole population and these results might vary from the true values in the population for three main reasons:

1. The sample frame does not completely cover the population because accommodation in hospitals, prisons, military bases, larger student halls etc. are excluded from the sampling frame. The SHS provides a sample of private households rather than all households. The effect of this on the representativeness of the data is not known.
2. Some people refuse to take part in the survey and some cannot be contacted by interviewers. If these people are systematically different from the people who are interviewed, this represents a potential source of bias in the data. Comparison of the SHS data with other sources suggests that for the survey as a whole, any bias due to non-response is not significant<sup>91</sup>.
3. Samples always have some natural variability because of the random selection of households and people within households. In some areas where the sample is clustered, the selection of sampling points adds to this variability.

Each of these sources of variability becomes much more important when small sub-samples of the population are examined. For example, a sub-sample with only 100 households might have had very different results if the sampling had, by chance, selected four or five more households with children, rather than households including one or two adults of pensionable age and no younger adults.

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<sup>91</sup> For further information, please see the SHS Methodology and Fieldwork Outcomes reports - [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology)

## Confidence Intervals

The likely extent of sampling variability can be quantified by calculating the 'standard error' associated with an estimate produced from a random sample. Statistical sampling theory states that, on average:

- Only about one sample in three (33 per cent) would produce an estimate that differed from the (unknown) true value by more than one standard error;
- Only about one sample in 20 (five per cent) would produce an estimate that differed from the true value by more than two standard errors;
- Only about one sample in 400 (0.25 per cent) would produce an estimate that differed from the true value by more than three standard errors.
  - By convention, the '95 per cent confidence interval' is defined as the estimate plus or minus about twice the standard error because there is only a five per cent chance (on average) that a sample would produce an estimate that differs from the true value of that quantity by more than this amount.

The standard error of the estimate of a percentage depends upon several things:

- The value of the percentage itself;
- The size of the sample (or sub-sample) from which it was calculated (i.e. the number of sample cases corresponding to 100 per cent per cent);
- The sampling fraction (i.e. the fraction of the relevant population that is included in the sample); and
- The 'design effect' associated with the way in which the sample was selected (for example, a clustered random sample would be expected to have larger standard errors than a simple random sample of the same size).

Figure A3 1 at the end of this Annex shows the 95 per cent confidence limits for a range of estimates calculated for a range of sample sizes, incorporating a design factor of 1.18<sup>92</sup> to account for the complex survey design. To estimate the potential variability for an estimate for the survey you should read along the row with the value closest to the estimate until you reach the column for the value closest to the sub-sample. This gives a value which, when added and subtracted from the estimate, gives the range (the 95 per cent confidence interval) within which the true value is likely to lie. Where the exact value is not given in the table, we recommend using the closest value in the table. Otherwise, you may also derive more precise estimates through using standard formulas for confidence intervals from survey estimates, incorporating a design factor of 1.18.

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<sup>92</sup> The design factor is calculated as an overall average across a number of variables, and should not be taken as a 'typical' value across all variables. For further information, please see the SHS Methodology and Fieldwork Outcomes reports - [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology)

For example, if the survey estimates that 18.0 per cent of households in Scotland are 'single adult' households and this has a confidence interval of  $\pm 0.9$  per cent, it means that, we could be 95 per cent confident that the true value for the population lies between 17.1 per cent and 18.9 per cent.

However, smaller sample sizes have wider confidence intervals. So, for example, looking at household type might show that in, say, Edinburgh, 28.0 per cent of households are 'single adult' households. However, if there were 780 households in Edinburgh interviewed, this estimate would have a 95 per cent confidence interval of approximately  $\pm 3.7$  per cent. This suggests that the true value lies between 24.3 per cent and 31.7 per cent. Clearly, the estimate for any single area is less reliable than the estimate for Scotland as a whole.

### Statistical Significance

Because the survey's estimates may be affected by sampling errors, apparent differences of a few percentage points between sub-samples may not reflect real differences in the population. It might be that the true values in the population are similar but the random selection of households for the survey has, by chance, produced a sample which gives a high estimate for one sub-sample and a low estimate for the other.

A difference between two areas is significant if it is so large that a difference of that size (or greater) is unlikely to have occurred purely by chance. Conventionally, significance is tested at the five per cent level, which means that a difference is considered significant if it would only have occurred once in 20 different samples. Testing significance involves comparing the difference between the two samples with the 95 per cent confidence limits for each of the two estimates.

For example, suppose the survey estimates that there are 14 per cent 'single adult households' in Stirling ( $\pm 4.1$  per cent), 10 per cent in Aberdeenshire ( $\pm 1.7$  per cent), 15 per cent in Fife ( $\pm 2.0$  per cent), and 24 per cent in Edinburgh ( $\pm 2.5$  per cent). Assuming that the estimates' values are 'exact' (i.e. that the figure underlying 10 per cent is 10.0 per cent), we can say the following:

- The difference between Stirling and Fife is not significant because the difference between the two (one per cent) is smaller than either of the confidence limits (at least  $\pm 2.0$  per cent). In general, if the difference is smaller than the larger of the two limits, it could have occurred by chance and is not significant;
- The difference between Stirling and Edinburgh is significant because the difference (10 per cent) is greater than the sum of the limits ( $4.1 + 2.5 = 6.6$  per cent). In general, a difference that is greater than the sum of the limits is significant.

If the difference is greater than the larger of the two confidence limits, but less than the sum of the two limits, the difference might be significant, although the test is more complex.

Statistical sampling theory suggests that the absolute value of the difference between the two estimates  $|p_1 - p_2|$  is significant if it is greater than the square root of the sum of the squares of the limits for the two estimates, as explained by the following formula:

$$|p_1 - p_2| > \sqrt{[(CI_1)^2 + (CI_2)^2]}$$

The difference of five per cent between Aberdeenshire and Fife is greater than the largest confidence limit ( $\pm 4.1$  per cent) but it is less than the sum of the two limits (4.1 per cent + 2.0 per cent = 6.1 per cent) so it might be significant. In this case  $4.1^2 = 16.81$  and  $2.0^2 = 4$  giving a total of 20.81. The square root of this is 4.56, which means that the difference of five per cent is significant (although only just). Similar calculations will indicate whether or not other pairs of estimates differ significantly.

It should be noted that the estimates published in this report have been rounded, generally to the nearest whole number, and this can affect the apparent significance of some of the results. For example:

- If the estimate for Aberdeenshire was 10.49 per cent (rounded to 10 per cent) and the estimate for the Fife was 14.51 per cent (rounded to 15 per cent) the difference would be calculated as 4.02 per cent rather than five per cent. This is below the calculated 'significance threshold' value of 4.56 per cent;
- If, however, the estimate for the Lothians was 10.51 per cent (rounded to 11 per cent) and the estimate for Fife was 15.49 per cent (rounded to 15 per cent) the difference would be calculated as 4.98 per cent rather than five per cent. This is higher than 4.56 per cent.

For this reason, caution should be exercised where differences are on the margins of significance. In general, we would suggest that differences should only be considered significant where the difference is clearly beyond the threshold of significance.

## Statistical Significance and Representativeness

Calculations of confidence limits and statistical significance only take account of sampling variability. The survey's results could also be affected by non-contact/non-response bias. If the characteristics of the people who should have been in the survey but who could not be contacted, or who refused to take part, differ markedly from those of the people who were interviewed, there might be bias in the estimates. If that is the case, the SHS results will not be representative of the whole population.

Without knowing the true values (for the population as a whole) of some quantities, we cannot be sure about the extent of any such biases in the SHS. However, comparison of SHS results with information from other sources suggests that they are broadly representative of the overall Scottish population, and therefore that any non-contact or non-response biases are not large overall. However, such biases could, of course, be more significant for some sub-groups of the population or in certain council areas, particularly those that have the highest non-response rates.

In addition, because it is a survey of private households, the SHS does not cover some sections of the population - for example, it does not collect information about students in halls of residence. Please refer to the accompanying technical report<sup>93</sup> for a comparison of SHS results with information from other sources

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<sup>93</sup> For further information, please see the SHS Methodology and Fieldwork Outcomes report:  
[www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationMethodology)

**Figure A3 1: Estimated sampling error associated with different proportions for different sample sizes**

	100	200	300	400	500	700	1,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	9,000	10,000	11,000
5%	5.1%	3.6%	2.9%	2.5%	2.3%	1.9%	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
10%	7.0%	4.9%	4.0%	3.5%	3.1%	2.6%	2.2%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
15%	8.3%	5.9%	4.8%	4.1%	3.7%	3.1%	2.6%	1.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
20%	9.3%	6.6%	5.4%	4.6%	4.2%	3.5%	2.9%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
25%	10.0%	7.1%	5.8%	5.0%	4.5%	3.8%	3.2%	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
30%	10.6%	7.5%	6.1%	5.3%	4.8%	4.0%	3.4%	2.4%	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
35%	11.1%	7.8%	6.4%	5.5%	4.9%	4.2%	3.5%	2.5%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
40%	11.4%	8.0%	6.6%	5.7%	5.1%	4.3%	3.6%	2.5%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
45%	11.5%	8.2%	6.7%	5.8%	5.2%	4.4%	3.7%	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%
50%	11.6%	8.2%	6.7%	5.8%	5.2%	4.4%	3.7%	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%
55%	11.5%	8.2%	6.7%	5.8%	5.2%	4.4%	3.7%	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%
60%	11.4%	8.0%	6.6%	5.7%	5.1%	4.3%	3.6%	2.5%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
65%	11.1%	7.8%	6.4%	5.5%	4.9%	4.2%	3.5%	2.5%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
70%	10.6%	7.5%	6.1%	5.3%	4.8%	4.0%	3.4%	2.4%	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
75%	10.0%	7.1%	5.8%	5.0%	4.5%	3.8%	3.2%	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
80%	9.3%	6.6%	5.4%	4.6%	4.2%	3.5%	2.9%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
85%	8.3%	5.9%	4.8%	4.1%	3.7%	3.1%	2.6%	1.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
90%	7.0%	4.9%	4.0%	3.5%	3.1%	2.6%	2.2%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
95%	5.1%	3.6%	2.9%	2.5%	2.3%	1.9%	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%



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