



## ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

# Labour Market Statistics for Young People (16 to 24 year olds): Scotland and UK

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey,  
April 2020 to March 2021 dataset, 18 August 2021

### About this publication

This publication contains the latest estimates of the level and rate of employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK for April 2020 to March 2021. Estimates are sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS) dataset publicly released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The APS combines the results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts to provide a larger annual sample of households in Scotland and the UK. Compared with the main quarterly LFS, these annual datasets provide more statistically robust labour market estimates for local areas and smaller groups of the population (including those aged 16 to 24 years).

The Annual Population Survey is the National Statistics source for labour market indicators by region and age. For information, Annex A contains the most recent employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds from the LFS dataset, April-June 2021 (at the time of this publication). These are published as Official Statistics.

### Important Note:

Annual Population Survey (APS) responses for periods April 2019-March 2020 onwards have been reweighted to new populations derived using growth rates from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI), to allow for different trends during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The reweighting will give improved estimates of both rates and levels.

Government policies introduced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented during the period of the latest APS estimates and the impact of these policies are likely to be shown in the estimates. LFS estimates in Annex A also cover the period since policies were introduced; however, smaller sample sizes may result in less reliable estimates. Consistent with labour market definitions outlined by [ONS](#), employees who are furloughed will be classified as employed, but temporarily away from work.

Due to re-weighting the release of information for April 2020 to March 2021 had been delayed from June 2021. The next release of Annual Population Survey information for July 2020 to June 2021 will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.



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## **NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS**

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were reviewed, as part of a [compliance check](#), against the [Code of Practice](#) in May 2021. This review found a range of positive features that demonstrate the trustworthiness, quality and value of this bulletin.

Since then we have made a number of improvements including:  
Incorporating key findings; presenting the figures as 'estimates' and including confidence intervals in the tables and providing more detailed information on quality assurance carried out while preparing the publication.

Additional estimates have also been included for employment for young people 16-24 years in local authorities.

## Key points

The latest Annual Population Survey (APS) data for April 2020 to March 2021 provide estimates for the full year since Government policies were introduced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The latest Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland indicate that over the year, the unemployment rate for young people has increased while the employment rate has decreased but the economic inactivity rate has decreased.

In April 2020 – March 2021:

- the employment rate was estimated at 52.8 per cent;
- the unemployment rate was estimated at 12.5 per cent; and
- the inactivity rate was estimated at 39.6 per cent.

Compared with the previous year (April 2019 – March 2020):

- the employment rate decreased by 1.8 percentage points;
- the unemployment rate increased by 3.6 percentage points; and
- the inactivity rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points.

Compared with the UK:

- the employment rate was higher (52.8 per cent compared to 51.1 per cent);
- the unemployment rate was lower (12.5 per cent compared to 14.0 per cent); and,
- the inactivity rate was lower (39.6 per cent compared to 40.6 per cent).

Comparing young men and women:

- the estimated employment rate for young men was lower than for young women (52.2 per cent compared to 53.5 per cent);
- the estimated unemployment rate for young men was higher than for young women (13.1 per cent compared to 11.9 per cent); and,
- the estimated inactivity rate for young men was higher than for young women (39.9 per cent compared to 39.3 per cent).

# Employment

## Overall

In April 2020 – March 2021, there were an estimated 292,900 young people aged 16 to 24 years in employment in Scotland. This is 15,400 less than the number of young people employed in April 2019 – March 2020.

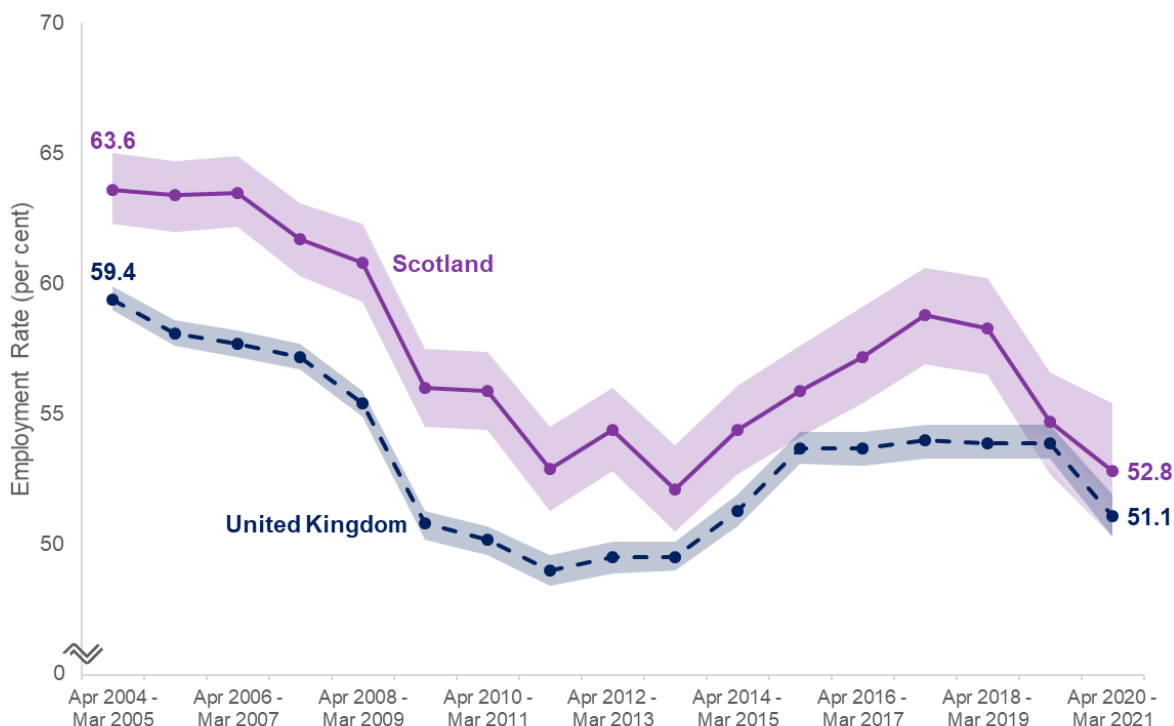
The employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 52.8 per cent in April 2020 – March 2021, 1.8 percentage points lower than a year ago (54.7 per cent).

The employment rate had been gradually increasing since April 2013 – March 2014 but has been decreasing since April 2017 – March 2018.

For the UK as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was estimated at 51.1 per cent, 2.9 percentage points lower than a year ago (53.9 per cent) which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 1 shows the long-term trend in the employment rate of young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

**Chart 1: Employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

## Employment by Gender

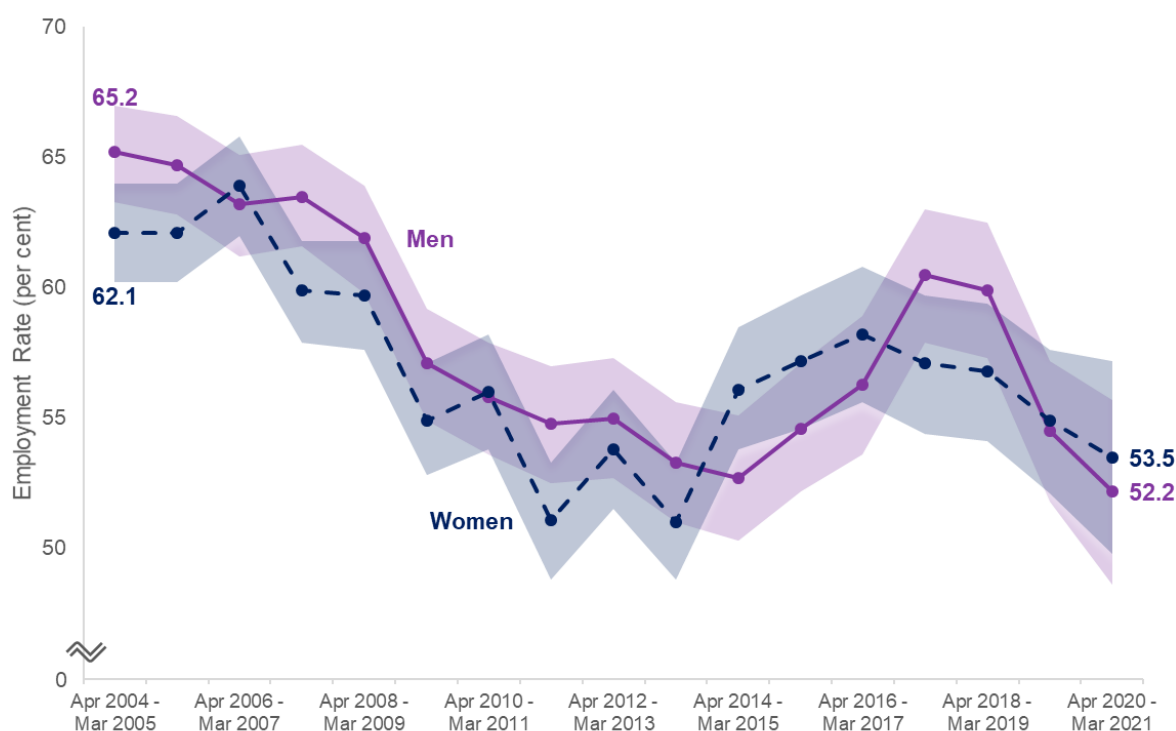
In April 2020 – March 2021, there were an estimated 145,500 men and 147,400 women aged 16 to 24 in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in April 2020 – March 2021 was estimated at 52.2 per cent, 2.3 percentage points lower than a year ago.

The employment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in April 2020 – March 2021 was estimated at 53.5 per cent, 1.4 percentage points lower than a year ago.

Chart 2 shows the long-term trend in the employment rate of young men and women (16 to 24 year olds) from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

**Chart 2: Employment Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

## Employment by Local Authority areas

Some estimates in this section are based on small sample sizes. Estimates of this type are marked with an \* to indicate they may be less precise and should be used with caution.

In April 2020 – March 2021, the highest employment rate estimates for young people aged 16-24 were seen in:

- Highland (69.6\* per cent),
- Clackmannanshire (63.4\* per cent); and,
- South Lanarkshire (63.0 per cent).

The lowest employment rate estimates for young people were seen in:

- Aberdeen City (39.6\* per cent);
- West Lothian (40.6\* per cent); and,
- Midlothian (42.5\* per cent).

Over the year<sup>†</sup>, 10 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in the employment rates for young people, while 20 saw a decrease. The two local authorities with the largest decreases were:

- Midlothian (-23.8\* p.p.) and
- Aberdeen City (-23.1\* p.p.)

Since April 2010 – Mar 2011<sup>‡</sup>, the employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds in 9 local authorities had increased, while 20 showed a decrease over this period. The two local authorities with the largest decreases were:

- Aberdeen City (-33.7\* p.p.) and
- Midlothian (-18.2\* p.p.)

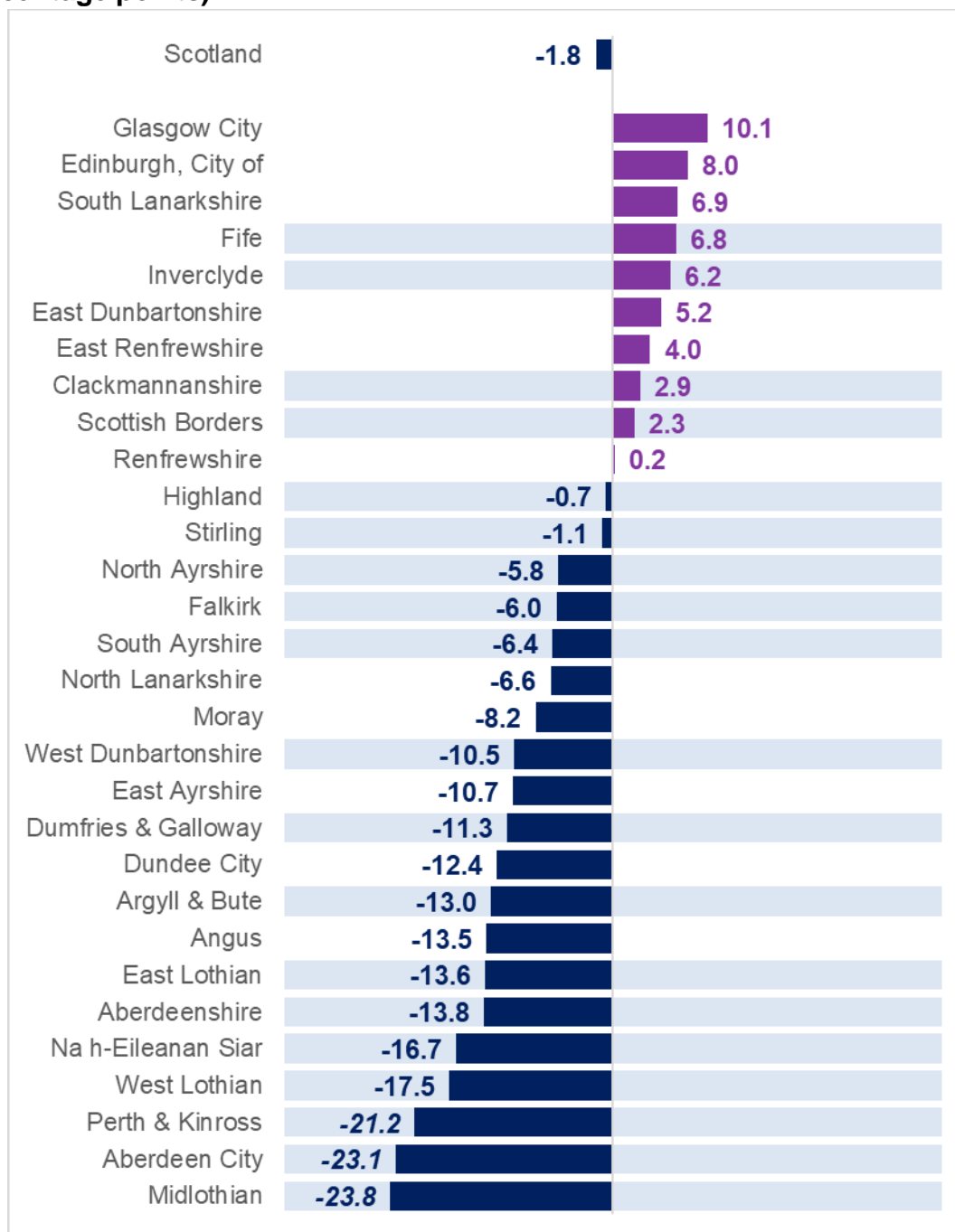
Chart 3 shows the change since April 2019 – March 2020 in the employment rate of young people (16 to 24) for Scotland and Local Authority areas from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

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<sup>†</sup> Estimates for Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands are not available as they are considered to be unreliable.

<sup>‡</sup> Estimates for Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands are not available as they are considered to be unreliable.

**Chart 3: Change in employment rates of those aged 16 to 24 between April 2019 – March 2020 and April 2020 – March 2021 by Local Authority area (percentage points)**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Estimates for Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands are not available as they are considered to be unreliable.

*Italic* text indicates a statistically significant change over the period.

A shaded background indicates estimates are based on a small sample size. This may result in less precise estimates, which should be used with caution.



# Unemployment

## Overall

In April 2020 – March 2021, there were an estimated 41,800 young people aged 16 to 24 years who were unemployed in Scotland. This is 11,700 more than the number of unemployed young people in April 2019 – March 2020.

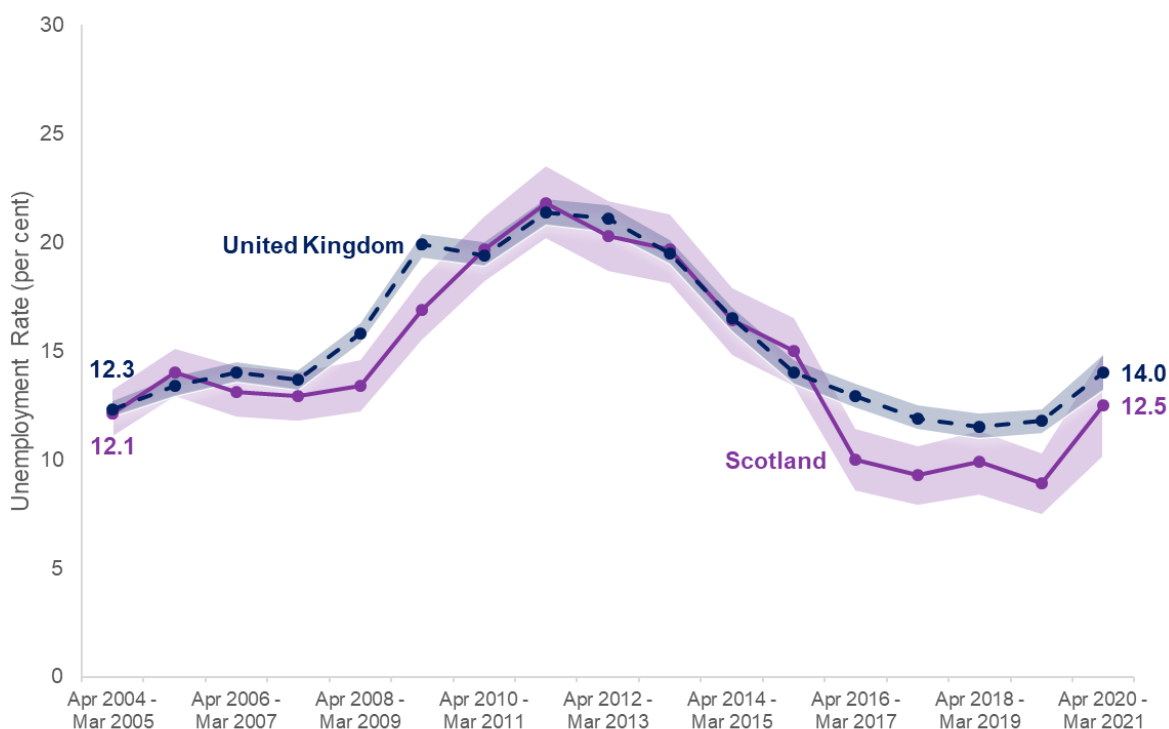
The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) in Scotland was estimated at 12.5 per cent in April 2020 – March 2021, 3.6 percentage points higher than the year before (8.9 per cent). This represents a statistically significant change over the year.

The unemployment rate for young people had been gradually decreasing over time from the peak (21.8 per cent) in April 2011 – March 2012 to 8.9 per cent in April 2019 – March 2020 but has increased over the last year.

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) was estimated at 14.0 per cent, 2.2 percentage points higher than the year before (11.8 per cent) which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 4 shows the long-term trend in the unemployment rate of young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

## Unemployment by Gender

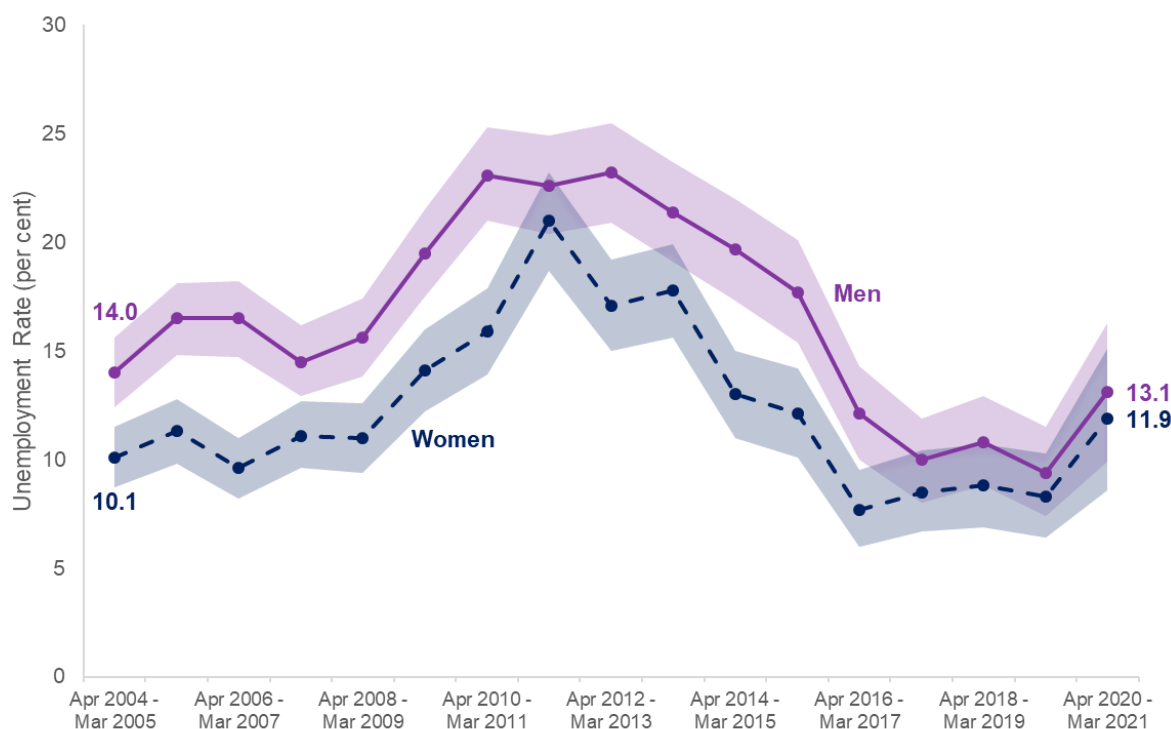
In April 2020 – March 2021, there were an estimated 22,000 unemployed men and 19,900 unemployed women aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

The unemployment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in April 2020 – March 2021 was estimated at 13.1 per cent, 3.7 percentage points higher than a year ago.

The unemployment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in April 2020 – March 2021 was estimated at 11.9 per cent, 3.5 percentage points higher than a year ago.

Chart 5 shows the long-term trend in the unemployment rate of young men and women (16 to 24 year olds) from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

**Chart 5: Unemployment Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

# Economic Inactivity

## Overall

In April 2020 – March 2021, there were an estimated 219,700 economically inactive young people aged 16 to 24 in Scotland. This is 5,800 less than the number of inactive young people in April 2019 – March 2020.

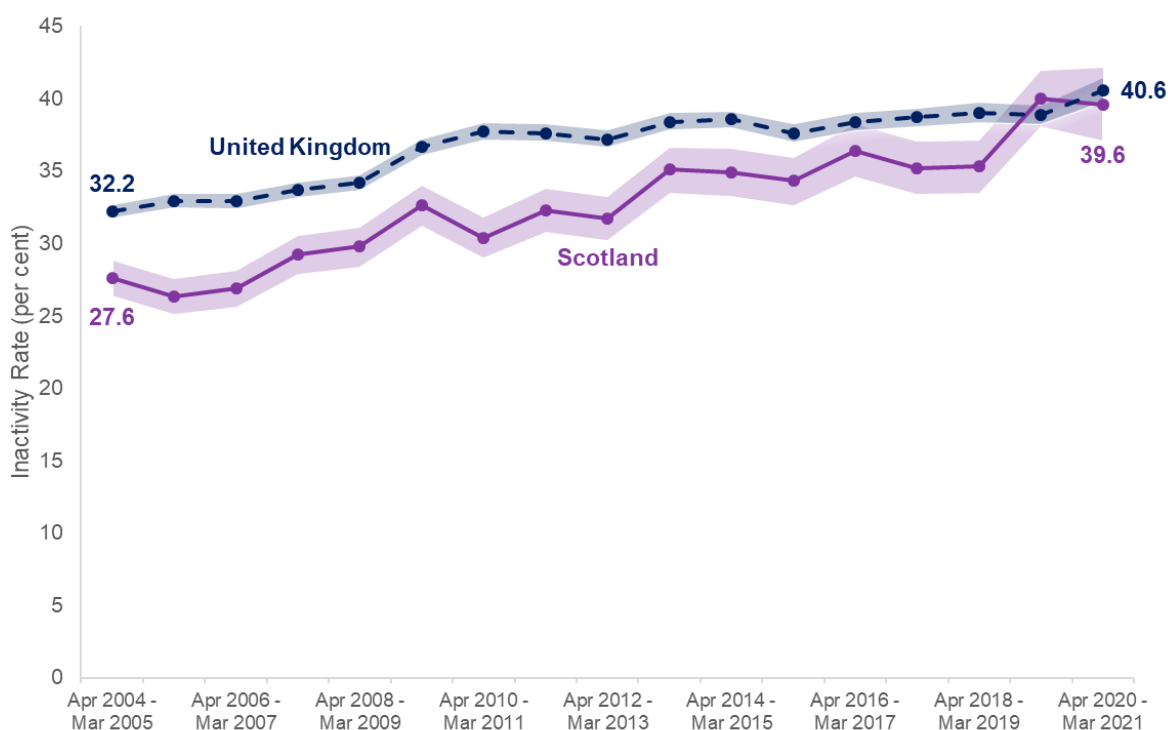
The inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 39.6 per cent in April 2020 – March 2021, 0.4 percentage points lower than the year before (40.0 per cent). Over three quarters (76.8 per cent) of young people (16 to 24 year olds) in April 2020 – March 2021 who were economically inactive were estimated to be in full-time education.

Since the series began, the inactivity rate for young people in Scotland had been steadily rising from 26.3 per cent in April 2005 – March 2006 to 40.0 per cent in April 2019 – March 2020 but has decreased over the last year.

For the UK, the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was estimated at 40.6 per cent, 1.8 percentage points higher than the year before (38.9 per cent) which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 6 shows the long-term trend in the inactivity rate of young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

**Chart 6: Inactivity Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

## Economic Inactivity by Gender

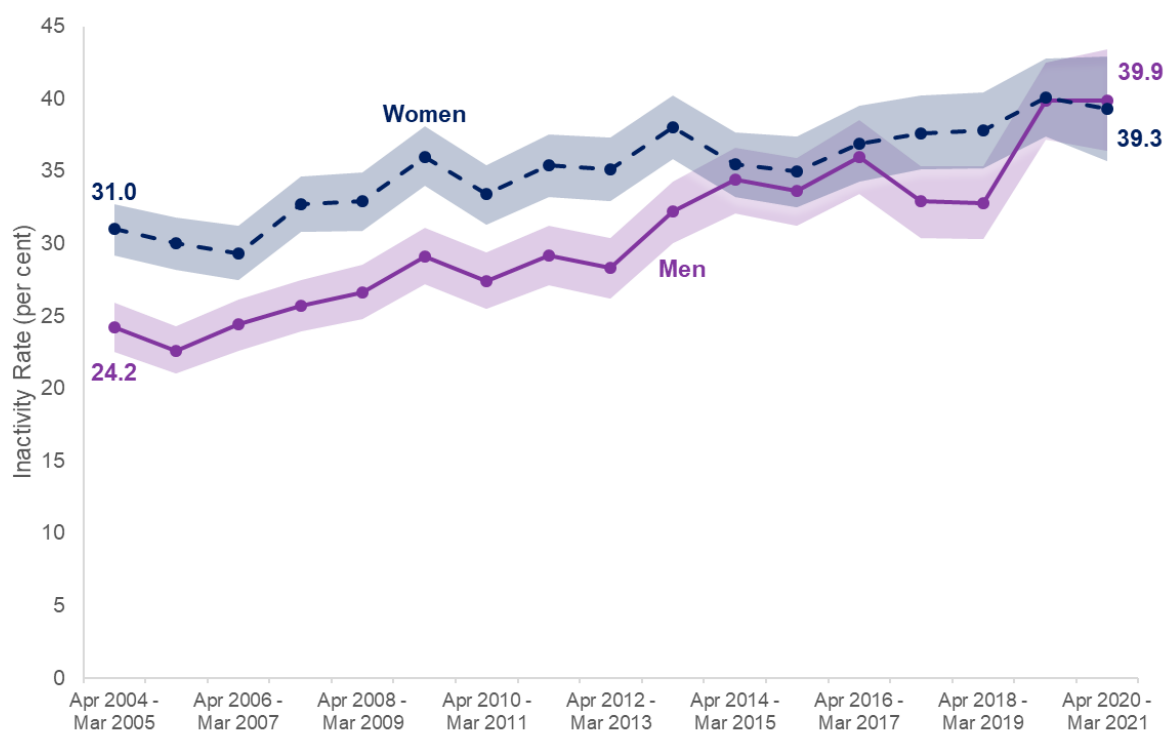
In April 2020 – March 2021, there were an estimated 111,300 inactive men and 108,300 inactive women aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

The inactivity rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 39.9 per cent in April 2020 – March 2021, 0.1 percentage points higher than a year ago.

The inactivity rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in April 2020 – March 2021 was estimated at 39.3 per cent, 0.8 percentage points lower than a year ago.

Chart 7 shows the long-term trend in the inactivity rate of young men and women (16 to 24 year olds) from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

**Chart 7: Inactivity Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland**



**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Note:** Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

**Table 1: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland**

	All	Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level	Level	Rate (per cent)		Level	Rate (per cent)		Level	Rate (per cent)	
<b>Apr 2004 - Mar 2005</b>	584,700	372,100	63.6	± 1.3	51,300	12.1	± 1.1	161,300	27.6	± 1.2
<b>Apr 2005 - Mar 2006</b>	589,900	373,900	63.4	± 1.3	60,900	14.0	± 1.1	155,200	26.3	± 1.2
<b>Apr 2006 - Mar 2007</b>	594,100	377,500	63.5	± 1.4	57,000	13.1	± 1.1	159,600	26.9	± 1.3
<b>Apr 2007 - Mar 2008</b>	601,100	370,700	61.7	± 1.4	54,900	12.9	± 1.1	175,400	29.2	± 1.3
<b>Apr 2008 - Mar 2009</b>	607,600	369,500	60.8	± 1.5	57,200	13.4	± 1.2	180,900	29.8	± 1.4
<b>Apr 2009 - Mar 2010</b>	613,700	343,700	56.0	± 1.5	70,000	16.9	± 1.4	200,000	32.6	± 1.4
<b>Apr 2010 - Mar 2011</b>	619,900	346,500	55.9	± 1.5	85,000	19.7	± 1.5	188,500	30.4	± 1.4
<b>Apr 2011 - Mar 2012</b>	624,700	330,700	52.9	± 1.6	92,400	21.8	± 1.6	201,700	32.3	± 1.5
<b>Apr 2012 - Mar 2013</b>	621,800	338,300	54.4	± 1.6	86,300	20.3	± 1.6	197,200	31.7	± 1.5
<b>Apr 2013 - Mar 2014</b>	616,900	321,700	52.1	± 1.6	78,800	19.7	± 1.6	216,400	35.1	± 1.5
<b>Apr 2014 - Mar 2015</b>	611,700	332,800	54.4	± 1.7	65,200	16.4	± 1.5	213,700	34.9	± 1.6
<b>Apr 2015 - Mar 2016</b>	607,400	339,500	55.9	± 1.8	59,800	15.0	± 1.6	208,100	34.3	± 1.7
<b>Apr 2016 - Mar 2017</b>	598,100	342,300	57.2	± 1.9	37,900	10.0	± 1.4	217,900	36.4	± 1.8
<b>Apr 2017 - Mar 2018</b>	585,100	343,900	58.8	± 1.8	35,200	9.3	± 1.3	206,100	35.2	± 1.8
<b>Apr 2018 - Mar 2019</b>	574,300	335,100	58.3	± 1.9	36,600	9.9	± 1.4	202,600	35.3	± 1.8
<b>Apr 2019 - Mar 2020<sup>r</sup></b>	563,900	308,300	54.7	± 1.9	30,100	8.9	± 1.4	225,500	40.0	± 1.9
<b>Apr 2020 - Mar 2021</b>	554,400	292,900	52.8	± 2.6	41,800	12.5	± 2.3	219,700	39.6	± 2.5
<b>Change since:</b>										
<b>Apr 2019 - Mar 2020</b>	-9,500	-15,400	-1.8		11,700	3.6		-5,800	-0.4	
<b>Apr 2010 - Mar 2011</b>	-65,500	-53,600	-3.1		-43,100	-7.2		31,200	9.2	

**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Notes:**

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r - revised. APS responses for periods April 2019-March 2020 onwards have been weighted to new populations derived using growth rates from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI), to allow for different trends during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.:

1. Levels are rounded to the nearest hundred, rates are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Rates are based on unrounded numbers.
3. Estimates are for those aged 16 to 24.
4. Employment and inactivity rates use the total 16 to 24 population as denominator. Unemployment rates use those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed) as the denominator.
5. Data is subject to sampling variation and is not seasonally adjusted.
6. The +/- figures shown in grey are confidence limits.

**Table 2: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds, UK**

	All	Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level	Level	Rate (per cent)		Level	Rate (per cent)		Level	Rate (per cent)	
<b>Apr 2004 - Mar 2005</b>	6,839,300	4,065,400	59.4	± 0.4	572,700	12.3	± 0.3	2,201,200	32.2	± 0.4
<b>Apr 2005 - Mar 2006</b>	6,952,300	4,037,800	58.1	± 0.5	623,900	13.4	± 0.4	2,290,600	32.9	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2006 - Mar 2007</b>	7,056,900	4,070,700	57.7	± 0.5	664,200	14.0	± 0.4	2,322,000	32.9	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2007 - Mar 2008</b>	7,173,300	4,104,300	57.2	± 0.5	650,500	13.7	± 0.4	2,418,500	33.7	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2008 - Mar 2009</b>	7,236,100	4,007,900	55.4	± 0.5	754,800	15.8	± 0.5	2,473,400	34.2	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2009 - Mar 2010</b>	7,267,600	3,689,200	50.8	± 0.5	914,400	19.9	± 0.6	2,663,900	36.7	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2010 - Mar 2011</b>	7,326,600	3,676,200	50.2	± 0.6	886,200	19.4	± 0.6	2,764,200	37.7	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2011 - Mar 2012</b>	7,368,000	3,610,900	49.0	± 0.6	984,500	21.4	± 0.6	2,772,700	37.6	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2012 - Mar 2013</b>	7,344,400	3,634,700	49.5	± 0.6	974,300	21.1	± 0.6	2,735,400	37.2	± 0.5
<b>Apr 2013 - Mar 2014</b>	7,306,400	3,618,900	49.5	± 0.6	879,100	19.5	± 0.6	2,808,300	38.4	± 0.6
<b>Apr 2014 - Mar 2015</b>	7,279,700	3,733,700	51.3	± 0.6	737,100	16.5	± 0.6	2,808,900	38.6	± 0.6
<b>Apr 2015 - Mar 2016</b>	7,242,400	3,886,700	53.7	± 0.6	634,100	14.0	± 0.5	2,721,600	37.6	± 0.6
<b>Apr 2016 - Mar 2017</b>	7,163,300	3,844,000	53.7	± 0.6	571,700	12.9	± 0.5	2,747,600	38.4	± 0.6
<b>Apr 2017 - Mar 2018</b>	7,062,500	3,810,300	54.0	± 0.6	516,900	11.9	± 0.5	2,735,300	38.7	± 0.6
<b>Apr 2018 - Mar 2019</b>	6,971,500	3,760,300	53.9	± 0.6	489,200	11.5	± 0.5	2,721,900	39.0	± 0.6
<b>Apr 2019 - Mar 2020<sup>r</sup></b>	6,898,000	3,721,100	53.9	± 0.7	496,800	11.8	± 0.6	2,680,100	38.9	± 0.7
<b>Apr 2020 - Mar 2021</b>	6,838,100	3,492,100	51.1	± 0.8	568,100	14.0	± 0.8	2,777,900	40.6	± 0.8
<b>Change since:</b>										
<b>Apr 2019 - Mar 2020</b>	-59,900	-229,000	-2.9		71,300	2.2		97,900	1.8	
<b>Apr 2010 - Mar 2011</b>	-488,500	-184,100	0.9		-318,100	-5.4		13,700	2.9	

**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Notes:**

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1. Levels are rounded to the nearest hundred, rates are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Rates are based on unrounded numbers.
3. Estimates are for those aged 16 to 24.
4. Employment and inactivity rates use the total 16 to 24 population as denominator. Unemployment rates use those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed) as the denominator.
5. Data is subject to sampling variation and is not seasonally adjusted.
6. The +/- figures shown in grey are confidence limits.

**Table 3: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds by gender, Scotland and UK**

Scotland				Rate (per cent)			
	Level Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Change since		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Change since Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	Change since Apr 2010 - Mar 2011
		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011				
<b>Employment</b>							
Men	145,500	-9,000	↓	52.2	± 3.6	-2.3	↓
Women	147,400	-6,400	↓	53.5	± 3.7	-1.4	↓
<b>ILO unemployment</b>							
Men	22,000	5,900	↑	13.1	± 3.2	3.7	↑
Women	19,900	5,900	↑	11.9	± 3.2	3.5	↑
<b>Inactivity</b>							
Men	111,300	-1,700	↓	39.9	± 3.5	0.1	↑
Women	108,300	-4,100	↓	39.3	± 3.6	-0.8	↓

United Kingdom				Rate (per cent)			
	Level Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Change since		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Change since Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	Change since Apr 2010 - Mar 2011
		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011				
<b>Employment</b>							
Men	1,745,300	-141,200	↓	50.0	± 1.1	-3.6	↓
Women	1,746,800	-87,800	↓	52.2	± 1.2	-2.2	↓
<b>ILO unemployment</b>							
Men	319,900	31,700	↑	15.5	± 1.1	2.2	↑
Women	248,100	39,600	↑	12.4	± 1.0	2.2	↑
<b>Inactivity</b>							
Men	1,427,700	77,700	↑	40.9	± 1.1	2.6	↑
Women	1,350,300	20,200	↑	40.4	± 1.1	0.9	↑

**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

**Notes:**

1. Levels are rounded to the nearest hundred, rates are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Rates are based on unrounded numbers.
3. Estimates are for those aged 16 to 24.
4. Employment and inactivity rates use the total 16 to 24 population as denominator. Unemployment rates use those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed) as the denominator.
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## Further Information

### Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for April 2004 – March 2005 to April 2020 – March 2021 is presented. The sample size in this dataset is around 17,000 households in Scotland.

As the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) are sample surveys, these estimates are subject to an associated sampling error that decreases as the sample size increases. It is the nature of sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise the estimate is. ONS have published a detailed guidance note on this. Shading is one method used by ONS to indicate where estimates should be used with caution. However, the National Statistics marking for the Annual Population Survey reflects the larger sample size for headline estimates of Labour Market indicators by age for Scotland.

### Access the data in this publication

Results are provided for April 2004 – March 2005 to April 2020 – March 2021, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 18 August 2021.

The tables and the charts contained in this publication are also available in excel format web tables.

Annual Population Survey data for employment and economic inactivity by age for Scotland, alongside a range of other labour market indicators, are also made available on the Scottish Government Open Data Platform:

<http://statistics.gov.scot/home>

ONS also release rolling quarterly Annual Population Survey datasets covering the periods January - December, July – June, and October - September. The data for these time periods have not been used or presented within this publication. The data for these are available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

### Confidence Intervals

Confidence limits can be used to assess the range of values that the true value lies between. 95 per cent confidence intervals are included in all tables and charts.

#### What does the 95 per cent confidence limit mean?

If, for example, we have an APS estimate and confidence limit of 63 per cent  $\pm$  0.27 per cent, this means that 19 times out of 20 we would expect the true rate to lie between 62.73 per cent and 63.27 per cent. Only in exceptional circumstances (1 in 20 times) would we expect the true rate to be outside the confidence interval around the APS estimate. Thus the smaller the confidence limits, the more reliable the estimate.

The confidence limits use a design factor of 1, which may not be likely in some cases but given the lack of further information an average design factor of 1 is assumed to



be reasonable. Further information on estimating confidence intervals can be found in the [LFS user guidance](#).

## Statistical Significance

Statistical significance is based on 95 per cent Confidence Intervals. Statistical significance means that the change was large enough that it is unlikely to have resulted only from the variable nature of the sample.

## Quality Assurance

Scottish Government statisticians are given early access to Annual Population Survey microdata by the Office for National Statistics to perform quality assurance checks of the data.

When producing estimates for young people in the labour market for inclusion in this publication, Scottish Government statisticians conduct in-depth quality assurance checks. Checks include different team members analysing the microdata using statistical software to ensure the same results are obtained, ensuring coherence across all data tables, crosschecking historical time series data with previously published results and benchmarking the results against other relevant data sources for this age group.

In addition to this, the estimates in Tables 1 and 2 of this publication are verified by colleagues in the Office for National Statistics.

## Context

These statistics are produced by SG Labour Market Statisticians, located within the Labour Market Analysis Unit, within the Office of the Chief Economic Advisor. Labour Market Statistics are used for policy monitoring and research, services planning and delivery.

The Annual Population Survey is used to help measure 3 of the indicators included in the Scottish Government [National Performance Framework](#), helping to measure progress towards high level outcomes, Education and Fair Work and Business. Information on the National Performance Indicators split by age is published on the [Equality Evidence Finder](#), where possible.

The APS is also used to measure the overarching indicator and four other key performance indicators in the [Young Persons Guarantee Key Performance indicators July 2021](#)

Annual Population Survey estimates for local authorities are also published in the [Young person's local authority labour market dashboard](#), alongside various other sources of information measuring labour market outcomes for young people, including claimant count, earnings, and participation measure data.

A range of labour market statistics from this source and other relevant sources on labour market topics including disability for Scotland can be accessed on [Labour market statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

## Consultation

Notifications of publications or changes to planned publications are notified via the [scotstat](#) mailing list.

We welcome feedback on the content of our outputs please contact [lmstats@gov.scot](mailto:lmstats@gov.scot)

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We also attend and present our outputs to external users at Scotland Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics group as well as other relevant forums.  
[Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics Group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

## Concepts and Definitions

**Employment:** There are two main ways of looking at employment: the number of people with jobs or the number of jobs. These two concepts represent different things as one person can have more than one job. People aged 16 or over are classed as in employment (as an employee or self-employed) by the Labour Force Survey (LFS), if they have done at least one hour of paid work in the week prior to their LFS interview or if they have a job that they are temporarily away from. People who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported training and employment programs are also included according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition.

**Employment rate:** The number of people in employment expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.

**Unemployment:** The ILO definition of unemployment covers people who are: not in employment, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight, or, out of work and have accepted a job which they are waiting to start in the next fortnight.

**Unemployment rate:** The number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the relevant economically active population.

**Economically inactive:** Economically inactive people are not in employment, but do not satisfy all the criteria for unemployment. This group is comprised of those who want a job but who have not been seeking work in the last four weeks, those who want a job and are seeking work but not available to start and those who do not want a job. For example, students not working or seeking work and those in retirement are classed as economically inactive.

**Economic inactivity rate:** The number of economically inactive people expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.

**Rates:** Rates represent the proportion of the population or subgroup of the population with a certain characteristic. They allow changes in the labour market to be interpreted in a wider context, allowing for changes in the overall population or the number of people who are economically active. Rates can be calculated for different age groups. For employment, economic activity and economic inactivity, the most widely quoted rates are those for the 16 to 64 population. For unemployment, headline rates are expressed as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. Those over retirement age who continue to be economically active will therefore be included in the base while those who are economically inactive will not.

# Annex A

## Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table A1 provides the employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for all 16 to 24 year olds based on results from the most recently available Labour Force Survey, ONS (Apr-Jun 2005 to Apr-Jun 2021).

The Annual Population Survey (APS) has a larger sample size than the LFS and therefore provides more robust information for smaller groups. However, the results from both the APS and LFS show broadly similar long-term trends in labour market statistics for those aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

**Table A1: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Levels and Rates for 16-24 year olds, Scotland**

	All	Employment		Unemployment		Inactivity	
	Level	Level	Rate (per cent)	Level	Rate (per cent)	Level	Rate (per cent)
Apr-Jun 2005	589,000	367,000	62.4	63,000	14.6	158,000	26.9
Apr-Jun 2006	592,000	359,000	60.6	65,000	15.4	168,000	28.4
Apr-Jun 2007	599,000	359,000	60.0	62,000	14.6	178,000	29.7
Apr-Jun 2008	606,000	354,000	58.5	53,000	13.1	198,000	32.7
Apr-Jun 2009	612,000	344,000	56.2	69,000	16.8	199,000	32.5
Apr-Jun 2010	618,000	330,000	53.5	95,000	22.4	192,000	31.0
Apr-Jun 2011	625,000	336,000	53.8	90,000	21.2	198,000	31.7
Apr-Jun 2012	623,000	352,000	56.4	94,000	21.1	178,000	28.5
Apr-Jun 2013	619,000	341,000	55.2	80,000	19.0	197,000	31.8
Apr-Jun 2014	613,000	341,000	55.6	66,000	16.1	206,000	33.7
Apr-Jun 2015	610,000	363,000	59.5	59,000	14.0	188,000	30.9
Apr-Jun 2016	602,000	345,000	57.2	50,000	12.7	208,000	34.5
Apr-Jun 2017	589,000	348,000	59.2	32,000	8.4	208,000	35.4
Apr-Jun 2018	578,000	325,000	56.2	35,000	9.8	218,000	37.7
Apr-Jun 2019	567,000	338,000	59.6	27,000	7.5	202,000	35.6
Apr-Jun 2020	557,000	294,000	52.8	46,000	13.6	216,000	38.8
Apr-Jun 2021	547,000	318,000	58.1	32,000	9.3	197,000	36.0
Change since:							
Apr-Jun 2020	-10,000	23,000	5.3	-14,000	-4.4	-19,000	-2.8
Apr-Jun 2011	-77,000	-18,000	4.3	-58,000	-11.9	-1,000	4.3

**Source:** Labour Force Survey, Apr-Jun datasets, not seasonally adjusted, ONS

### Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16 to 24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Rates are based on unrounded figures.
4. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.

These estimates were published on 17 August 2021 by ONS as part of the [monthly publication](#) as Official Statistics.

# An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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