



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Public Sector Employment in Scotland Statistics for 1st Quarter 2022

About this publication

The statistics in this release are based on administrative records and surveys of individual public sector bodies carried out by the Scottish Government and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This is a snapshot of employment as at March 2022.

The publication includes information on public sector employment in Scotland with distinctions made for employment in devolved bodies and reserved bodies (located in Scotland). Annual information is also included in this publication for the number of people aged 16 to 24 who are employed in the devolved public sector in Scotland.

The public sector is defined based on UK National Accounts definitions. The statistics in this release (excluding the devolved public sector employment statistics for 16 to 24 year olds) were designated National Statistics in December 2009.

Revision: For estimates of the total and private sector employment, this publication uses data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This data was recently reweighted for periods from January to March 2020 onwards using updated HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI) data, resulting in small revisions to the total and private sector employment numbers from Q1 2020 onwards.

Contents

Public Sector Employment in Scotland Statistics for 1st Quarter 2022.....	1
About this publication.....	1
Contents	2
Summary	4
16-24 year old employment in the devolved public sector	5
About this publication	6
Major Reclassifications	6
National Accounts Classifications.....	6
Public Sector Employment Web section.....	6
UK Comparisons.....	7
Background Notes	7
Devolved and Reserved Civil Service Tables.....	7
1. Total Employment and Public and Private Sector Employment in Scotland; Headcount	8
Impact of Excluding Major Reclassifications from Public Sector	10
2. Public Sector Employment by Devolved and Reserved Responsibility; Headcount	11
3. Devolved Public Sector Employment in Scotland; Headcount	13
4. Reserved Public Sector Employment in Scotland; Headcount.....	16
List of Tables	18
Tell us what you think	26
A National Statistics publication for Scotland	26

Quarterly Public Sector Employment in Scotland

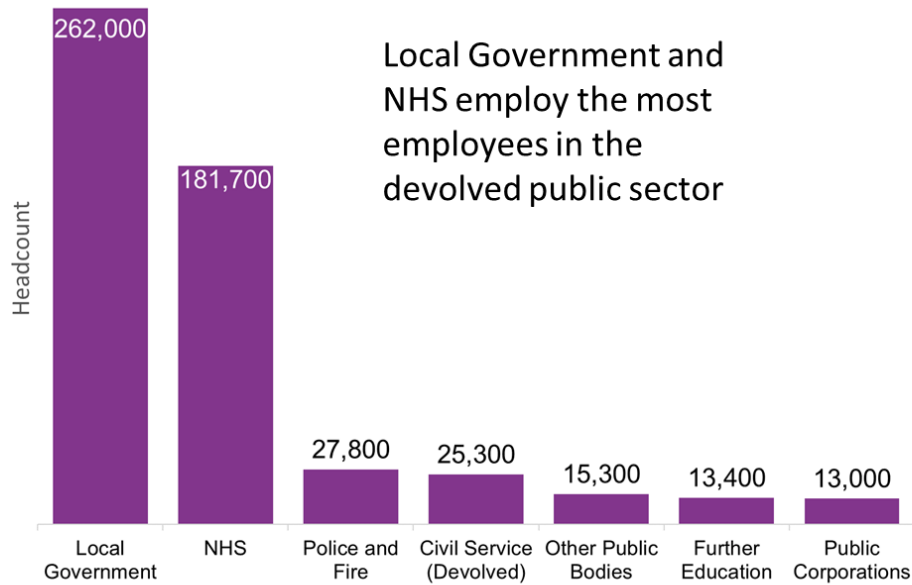
Q1 2022

Public Sector
Employment
Headcount
593,900
↑ 2.4%



Private Sector
Employment
Headcount
2,094,300
↑ 2.1%

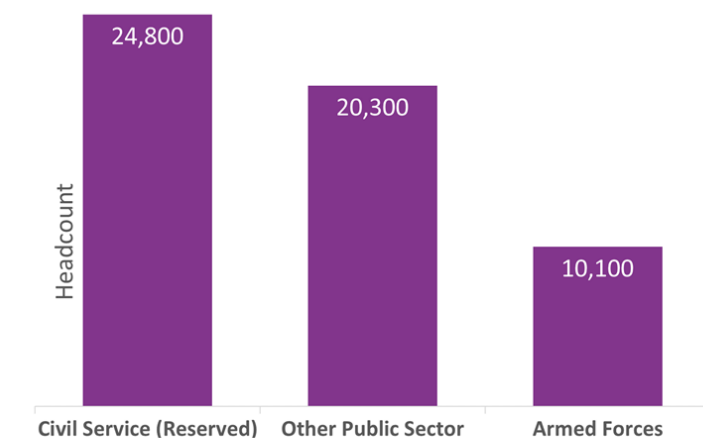
Devolved Public Sector Headcount: 538,700 ↑ 2.7%



Local Government and NHS employ the most employees in the devolved public sector

Change: ↑ 3.2% ↑ 2.3% ↓ -1.7% ↑ 13.9% ↓ -2.5% ↑ 0.1% ↓ -2.0%
Mar 2021 to Mar 2022

Reserved Public Sector Headcount: 55,200 ↓ -0.4%



Change: ↓ -1.1% ↑ 0.3% ↔ 0.0%
Mar 2021 to Mar 2022

Over the year, the devolved public sector headcount increased, while the reserved public sector decreased.

'Devolved civil service' saw the largest percentage increase (13.9%), while 'other public bodies' saw the largest decrease (2.5%).

Source: Public Sector Employment, Joint Staffing Watch, Scottish Government, ONS
Changes between Mar 2021 and Mar 2022 are shown

Summary

Key points (based on headcount data) include:

- In March 2022, there were 593,900 people employed in the public sector in Scotland, accounting for 22.1% of total employment¹.
- In March 2022, employment in the public sector was 13,950 (2.4%) more than in March 2021.
- When major reclassifications are excluded, the public sector increased between March 2021 and March 2022 by around 14,000 (2.5%)².
- Of the total 593,900 people employed in the public sector in Scotland, 538,700 (90.7%) were employed in the devolved public sector in March 2022, which is 14,150 (2.7%) more than in March 2021.
- Between March 2021 and March 2022, employment in the devolved public sector increased in Local Government by 8,160 (3.2%), in the NHS by 4,010 (2.3%), in the devolved Civil Service by 3,100 (13.9%), and in Further Education Colleges by 20 (0.1%). Employment in the devolved public sector has decreased in Police and Fire Related Services by -490 (-1.7%), Other Public Bodies by -400 (-2.5%) and in Public Corporations by -270 (-2.0%).
- In March 2022, there were 55,200 people employed in the Reserved Public Sector in Scotland, 200 (-0.4%) less than in March 2021. The Reserved Public Sector accounts for 9.3% of total public sector employment.
- Between March 2021 and March 2022, employment within the Reserved Public Sector decreased in the reserved Civil Service by -260 (-1.1%), increased in Other Public Sector³ by 60 (0.3%) and was unchanged for employment in the Armed Forces⁴.

¹ Estimates for **total employment and private sector employment** are based on the Labour Force Survey, ONS. Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for Jan-Mar 2020 onwards were reweighted in June 2021 using updated HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI) data.

² Further details on major reclassifications are provided on page 5 and online at [about public sector employment statistics](#).

³ Public corporations, public sector financial institutions and public bodies have been combined into 'other public sector' to ensure individual organisation employment figures are not disclosed.

⁴ Armed Forces figures remain unchanged as updated data is not yet available for 2022.

16-24 year old employment in the devolved public sector⁵

- In Q1 2022, there were 25,690 young people aged 16-24 in employment in the devolved public sector in Scotland, accounting for 4.8% of total employment in this sector. This is higher than the proportion of young people in employment in the devolved public sector in Q1 2021 which was 4.6%.
- The sector which employs the largest number of young people aged 16-24 is Local Government. In Q1 2022, there were 12,940 employees aged 16-24 working in this sector, accounting for half (50.4%) of all young people working in the devolved public sector in Scotland.
- Since 2021, the largest increases in the number of young people aged 16-24 years were in: Local Government (up 1,260) and Scottish Government Agencies (up 130); the largest decreases were in: Police and Fire Services (down 140) and Public Corporations (down 50).
- The sectors where young people aged 16-24 years made up the highest proportion of the overall workforce were: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal (7.9%, up 1.6 percentage points since 2021) and Scottish Government Agencies (5.5%, up 0.6 percentage points since 2021).

⁵ The information in this section is not national statistics. The devolved public sector employment statistics for young people aged 16-24 years are released as official statistics.

About this publication

Major Reclassifications

An outline of major reclassifications which have taken place in the Scottish public sector since 2013 are summarised at: [about Public Sector Employment statistics - classifications](#)

A separate public sector series excluding the effects of these major reclassifications has been included in this publication to show the impact of the reclassifications on the number of people employed in the public sector.

More information is available on the [Public Sector Employment Web Section](#).

National Accounts Classifications

An outline of National Accounts classifications which have taken place in the Scottish public sector since 2015 are summarised at: [about Public Sector Employment statistics - classifications](#)

Public Sector Employment Web section

The Public Sector Employment Web section provides additional information to this National Statistics publication:

[Public Sector Employment data web tables](#)

It contains detailed information including:

- Local government employment by local authority for the current quarter. A time series of total local government employment from Q1 1999 and by gender from Q1 2011.
- Detailed tables showing a full time series of data - all quarters back to Q1 1999 – are also available to download.
- Background notes outlining the methodology used to compile this series.

UK Comparisons

Public Sector Employment for Government Office Regions and Nations of the UK can be found in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publication.

Comparisons to UK data should be made using non-seasonally adjusted UK data.

See the regional tables published by ONS at:

[ONS - Public Sector Employment tables](#).

Background Notes

Statistics prior to Q1 2008 are estimates. These have been calculated using the total UK reserved public sector employment figure and applying to Scotland on a pro-rata basis as regional level data has only been collected from Q1 2008 onwards.

Background notes about the information contained in our PSE series are available at the following web section: [about Public Sector Employment statistics - background notes](#)

Devolved and Reserved Civil Service Tables

Tables and commentary on the devolved and reserved civil service are not included in this summary. However, the full time series of data for the devolved and reserved civil service including Scottish Government, Scottish Government Agencies, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal and Non-Ministerial Departments are updated and published in our associated web tables (Tables 5 and 6 for headcount figures and Tables 12 and 13 for full-time equivalent figures): [Public Sector Employment statistics web tables](#)

Next Publication: September 2022

1. Total Employment and Public and Private Sector Employment in Scotland; Headcount

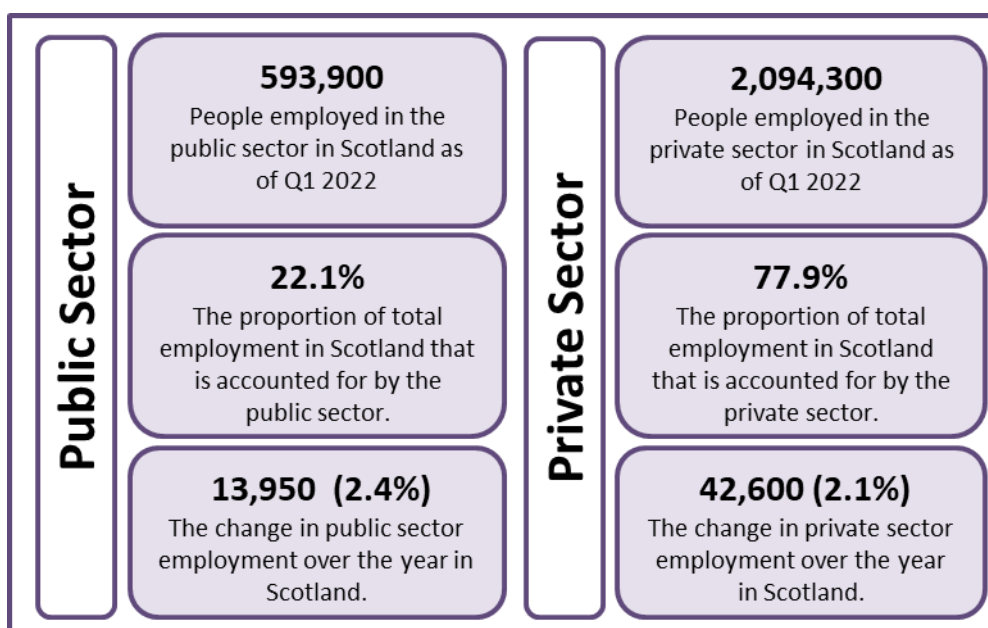
(see Table 1)

Public sector employment increased by 13,950 (2.4%) between March 2021 and March 2022. This increase in public sector employment is due to an increase in the devolved public sector.

The public sector is defined according to the [UK National Accounts Classifications Guide](#)

Figure 1 provides a summary of total employment in Scotland by public and private sector.

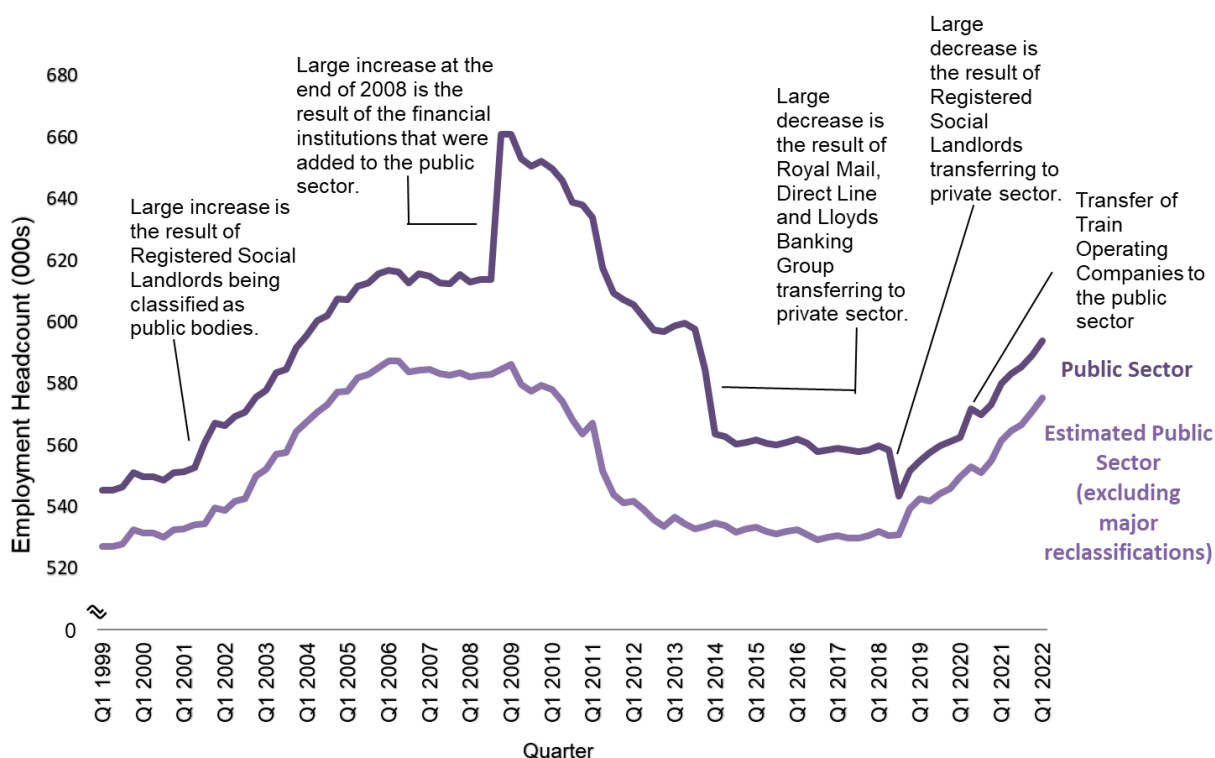
Figure 1: Public and Private⁶ Sector Employment in Scotland as at March 2022



Source: Public Sector Employment in Scotland, Quarter 1 2022

⁶ Estimates for **private sector employment** are based on total employment estimates from the Labour Force Survey, ONS and public sector employment figures. ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for Jan-Mar 2020 onwards were reweighted in June 2021 using updated HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI) data.

Chart 1: Public Sector Employment in Scotland between March 1999 and March 2022, Headcount, non-seasonally adjusted



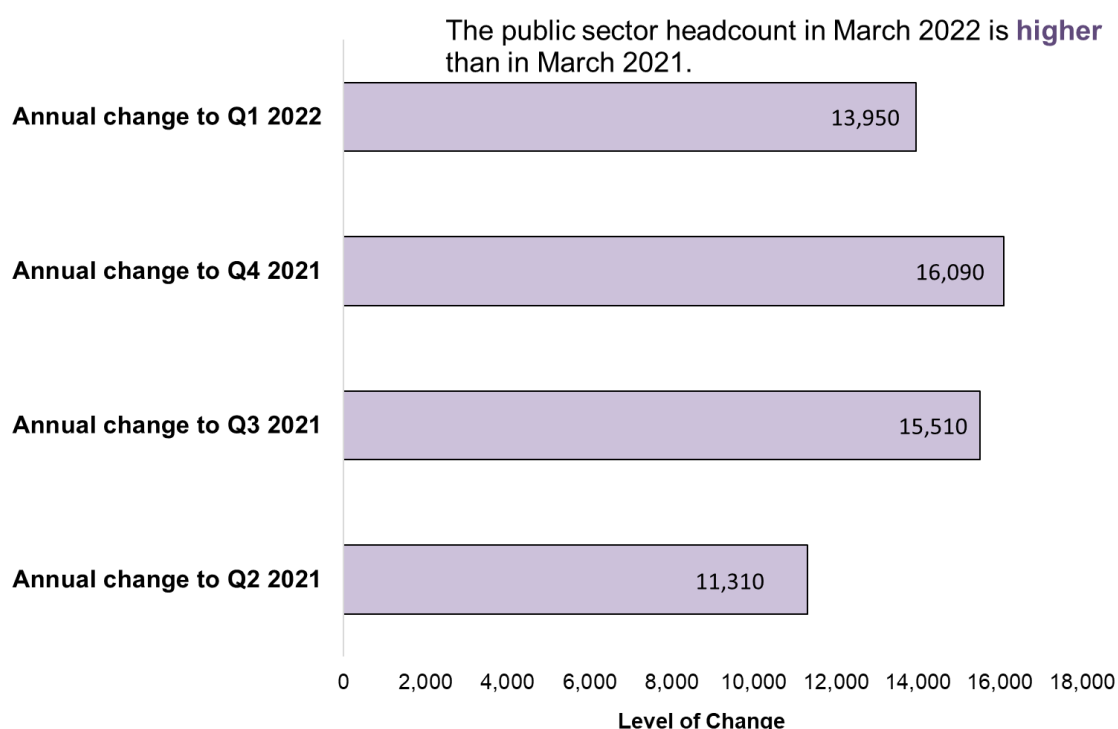
Source: Public Sector Employment in Scotland, Quarter 1 2022

Chart 1 shows that the number of people employed in the public sector remained relatively constant between Q1 2014 and Q2 2018, before falling in Q3 2018 and rising again from Q4 2018 onwards. Excluding the effects of major reclassifications⁷ (i.e. taking out the headcounts for all large organisations listed in footnote 6 from the overall numbers), the number of people employed in the public sector gradually reached a peak in Q2 2006, decreased until Q3 2013 and remained relatively constant until Q3 2018. The increase between Q3 2018 and Q4 2018 is mainly due to Cordia services moving back under Glasgow City Council services and the series has continued to rise from Q4 2018 onwards.

Chart 2 shows the annual change in employment for the public sector. Employment increased by 13,950 (2.4%) between March 2021 and March 2022, driven by increases in the devolved public sector headcount. The devolved public sector headcount has mainly risen due to increases in the NHS, local government and the devolved Civil Service.

⁷ Major reserved reclassifications include Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Lloyds Banking Group plc, Northern Rock plc, Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance, Lloyds Bank Asset Finance, Scottish Widows, Direct Line, Royal Mail Group plc, (known as the Post Office Ltd (until Q2 2006) and Network Rail. Devolved reclassifications include Registered Social Landlords, with Train Operating Companies split across Reserved and Devolved responsibility.

Chart 2: Annual Change in Employment for Public Sector, Headcount



Source: Public Sector Employment in Scotland, Quarter 1 2022

Impact of Excluding Major Reclassifications from Public Sector

If the major reclassifications⁶ were to be excluded from the public sector series (i.e. the headcounts for all large organisations listed in footnote 6 were taken out of the overall numbers), there would be around 575,000 people employed in the public sector in March 2022. This was 21.4% of the total employment in Scotland compared with 22.1% if major reclassifications are included.

Public sector employment, excluding the effects of the major reclassifications, would be around 14,000 (2.5%) higher in March 2022 compared with March 2021. This shows that the increase over the year is due to increases in substantive public sector organisations and is not overly influenced by reclassifications.

2. Public Sector Employment by Devolved and Reserved Responsibility; Headcount

(see Tables 2, 3 and 4)

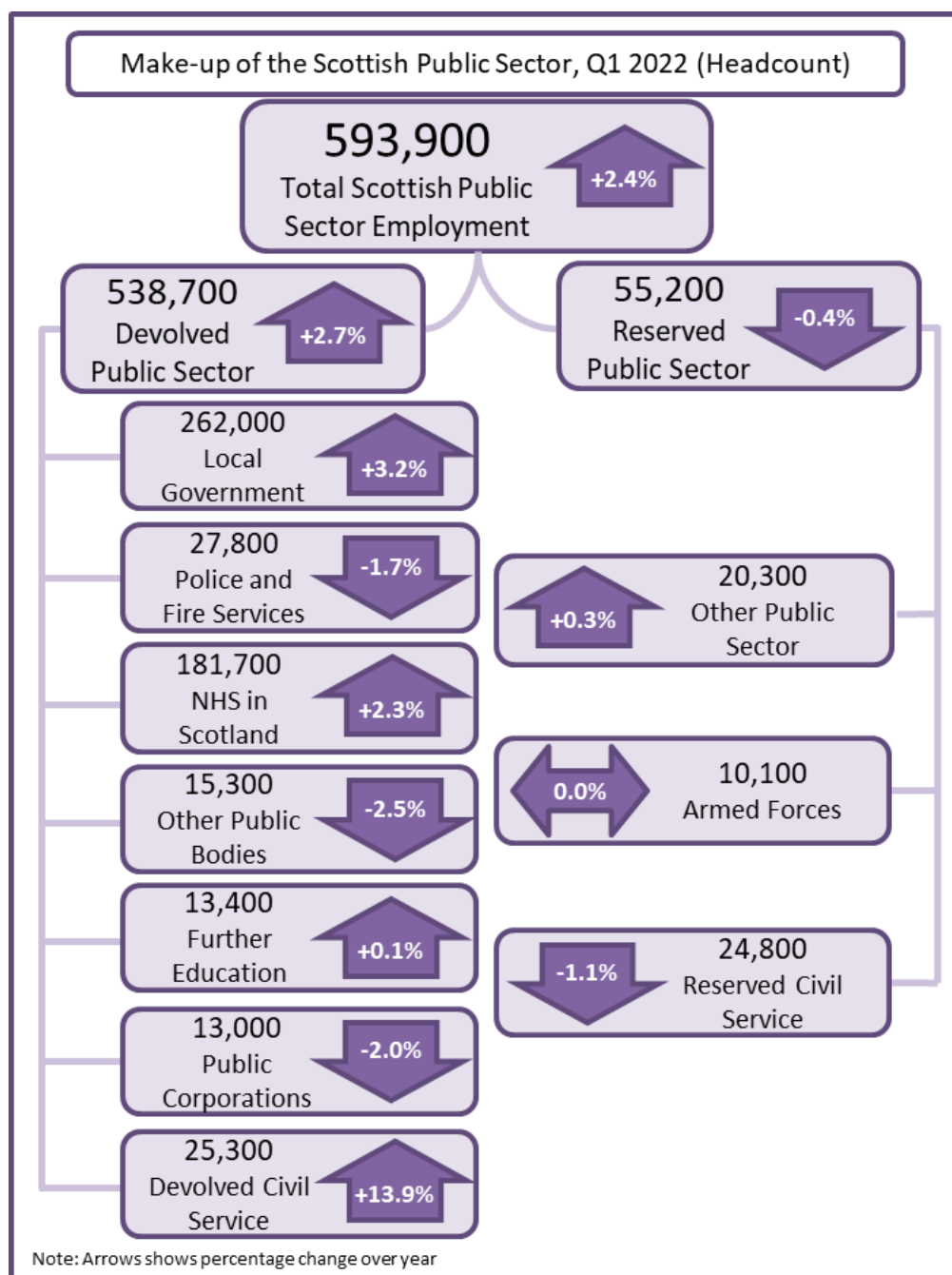
The devolved public sector headcount was 2.7% higher and the reserved public sector was 0.4% lower as at March 2022 compared with March 2021.

Devolved Civil Service saw the largest percentage increase (13.9%) in the Devolved public sector, while Other Public Bodies had the largest percentage decrease (-2.5%).

In the Reserved public sector, reserved Civil Service saw the largest percentage decrease (-1.1%), while Other Public Sector had the largest percentage increase (0.3%).

The devolved public sector covers those bodies which are the responsibility of the Scottish Government or Scottish Parliament while the reserved public sector in Scotland covers those bodies for which the UK Government has ministerial responsibility.

Figure 2: Make-up of the Scottish Public Sector as at March 2022, Headcount⁸



Source: Public Sector Employment in Scotland, Quarter 1 2022

Changes in the devolved and reserved public sector are explored in more detail in sections 3 and 4 respectively.

⁸ For further details on the make-up of the Scottish Public Sector, please see the background notes for this publication at: [about public sector employment statistics - background notes](#)

3. Devolved Public Sector Employment in Scotland; Headcount

(see Table 3)

Employment in the devolved public sector was 14,150 (2.7%) higher at 538,700 in March 2022 compared with 524,500 in March 2021.

The devolved public sector includes:

Devolved Civil Service (see section 5),

Local Government, covering Scottish Local Authorities, Police and Fire Services (up to Q1 2013), Valuation Joint Boards and Regional Transport Partnerships,

Police and Fire Services (Q2 2013 onwards),

NHS in Scotland,

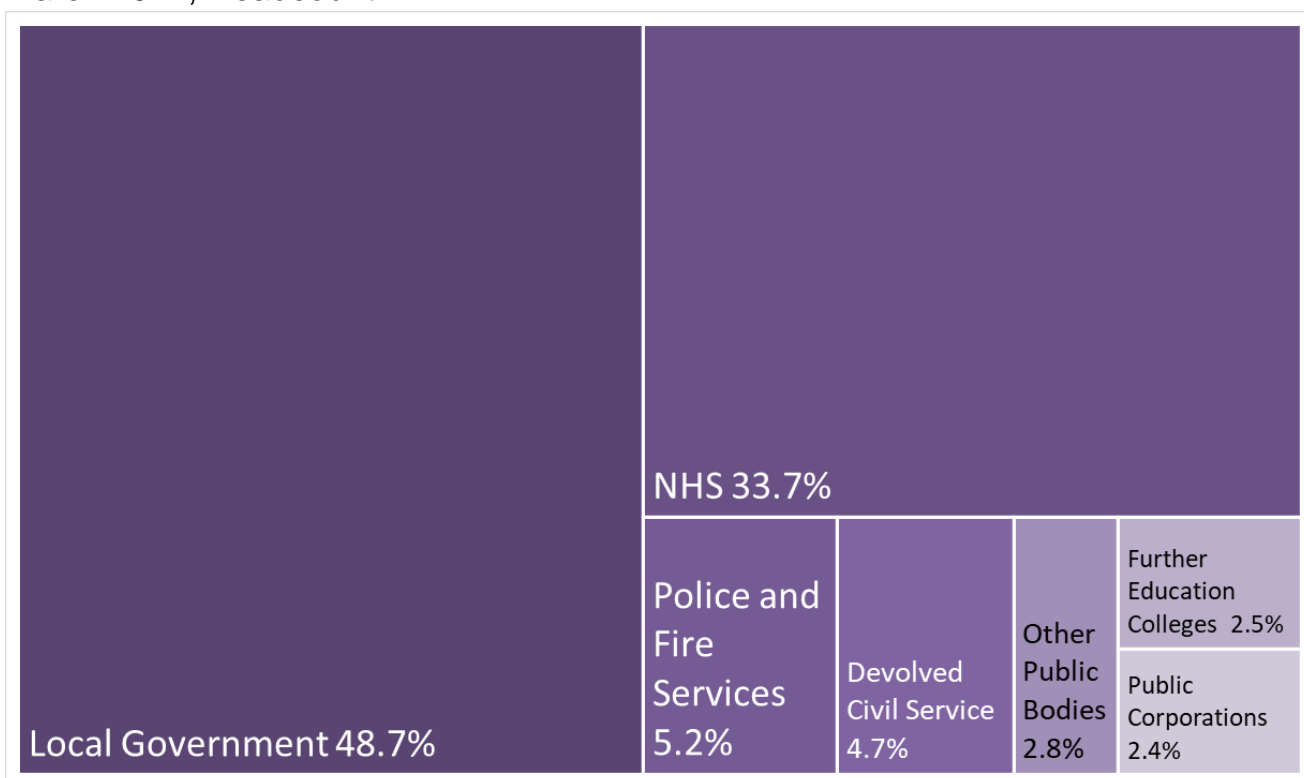
Further Education Colleges,

Devolved Public Corporations,

Other Devolved Public Bodies (which covers Non-Departmental Bodies and other bodies).

Chart 3 shows the size of each group in the devolved public sector as at March 2022. Local Government and NHS employ the largest proportion of employees in the devolved public sector.

Chart 3: Breakdown of Devolved Public Sector Employment by Category as at March 2022, Headcount



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of the individual parts due to rounding
 Source: Public Sector Employment in Scotland, Quarter 1 2022

The increase over the year in the overall devolved public sector headcount was due to (all changes are given from March 2021 to March 2022):

- Employment in Scottish Local Government increasing by 8,160 (3.2%) to 262,000;
- Employment levels in the NHS increasing by 4,010 (2.3%) to 181,700⁹;

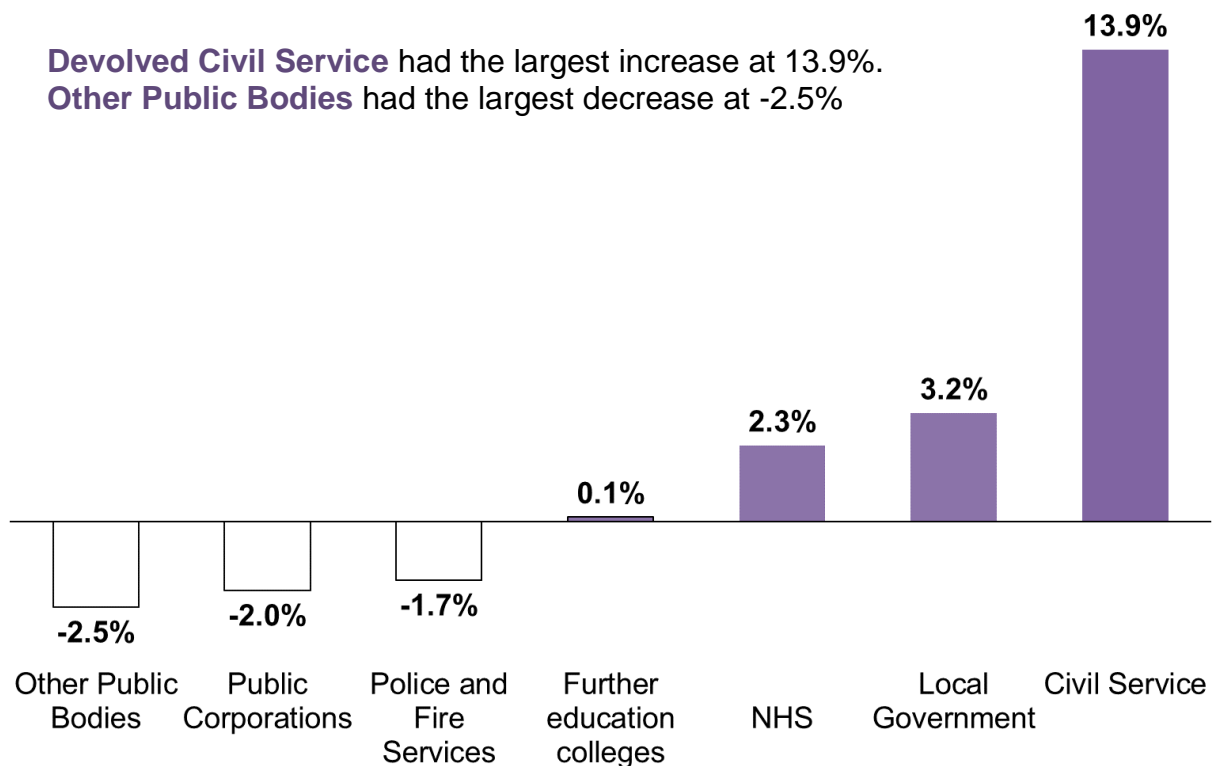
⁹ A detailed breakdown on this information by staffing group was published by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) on 7 June 2022, with data relating to 31 March 2022 at: [NHS Scotland official workforce statistics publication](#)

- Employment in the Devolved Civil Service increasing by 3,100 (13.9%) to 25,300 ¹⁰.
- Employment in Further Education Colleges increased by 20 (0.1%) to 13,400;

while:

- Employment in the Police and Fire Services decreased by -490 (-1.7%) to 27,800;
- Employment in Other Public Bodies decreased by -400 (-2.5%) to 15,300;
- Employment in Public Corporations decreased by -270 (-2.0%) to 13,000.

Figure 3: Percentage Change (from March 2021 to March 2022) in the Devolved Public Sector, Headcount



¹⁰ A more detailed breakdown of the Devolved Civil Service data is published in related [Public Sector Employment data web tables](#)

4. Reserved Public Sector Employment in Scotland; Headcount

(see Table 4)

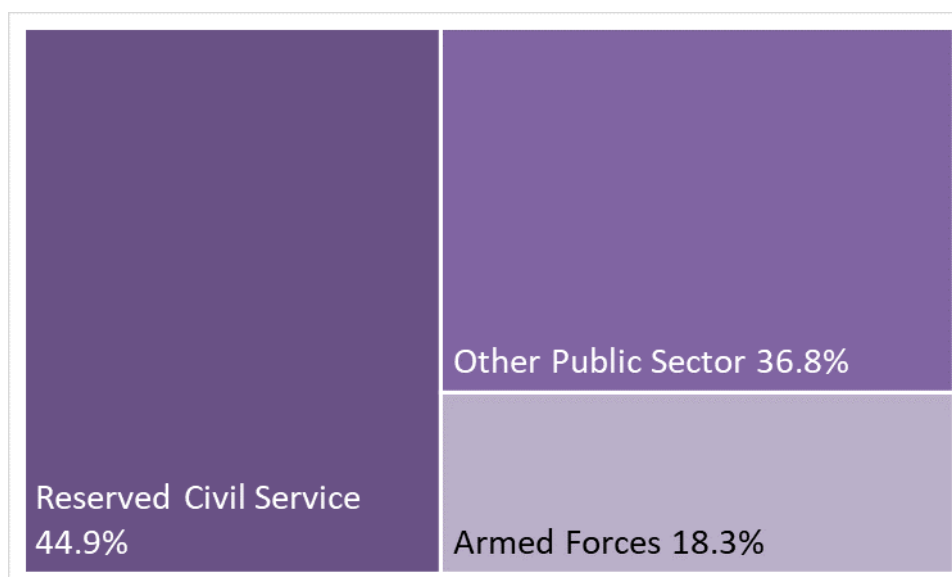
The number of people employed in the reserved public sector in March 2022 was 55,200, which is 200 (-0.4%) lower than in March 2021.

The reserved public sector employment includes:

- Reserved Civil Service (see section 5);
- Armed Forces;
- Other Public Sector (which covers Public Sector Financial Institutions, Non-Departmental Bodies and Other Bodies).

Chart 4 shows the size of each group in the reserved public sector as at March 2022. The reserved civil service employs the largest proportion of employees in the reserved public sector.

Chart 4: Breakdown of Reserved Public Sector Employment by Sector as at March 2022, Headcount



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of the individual parts due to rounding.
Source: Public Sector Employment in Scotland, Quarter 1 2022

The decrease over the year in the overall reserved public sector headcount was due to:

- Employment levels for the Reserved Civil Service decreasing by -260 (-1.1%) to 24,800 in March 2022;

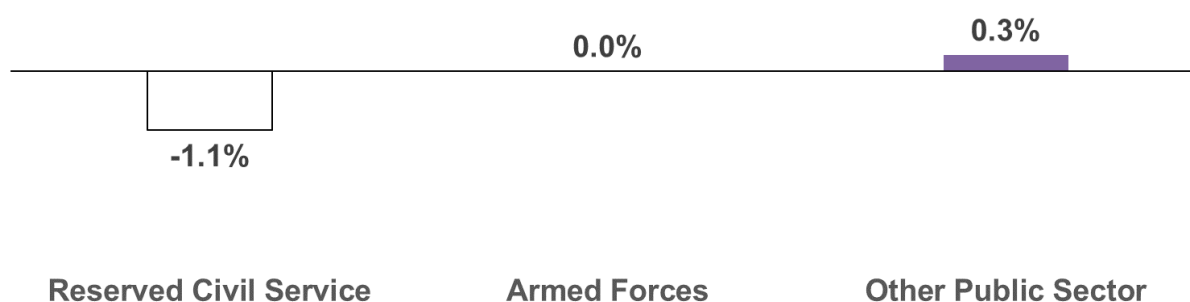
while:

- Employment levels for Other Public Sector increased by 60 (0.3%) to 20,300 in March 2022.

New data for Armed Forces for 2022 is not yet available, so its value remains unchanged at 10,100.

Figure 4: Percentage Change (from March 2021 to March 2022) in the Reserved Public Sector, Headcount

Reserved Civil Service decreased by -1.1%.
Other Public Sector increased by 0.3%.



List of Tables

	Page
Table 1: Number of people employed by public and private sector; Scotland, Headcount	19
Table 2: Public sector employment by devolved and reserved sector; Scotland, Headcount and Full-time equivalent	20
Table 3: Total devolved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Headcount	21
Table 4: Total reserved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Headcount	22
Table 5: Total devolved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Full-time Equivalent	23
Table 6: Total reserved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Full-time Equivalent	24
Table S1: 16-24 year old Employment in the Devolved Public Sector, Q1 2013 - Q1 2022, Scotland, Headcount	25

These tables include comparisons for Q1 in 1999 and 2015 to 2022 only. A complete time series, including all quarters back to Q1 1999 is provided in the excel spreadsheets published at the public sector employment web section at: [Public Sector Employment web tables](#)

Table 1: Number of people employed by public and private sector; Scotland, Headcount¹

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Quarter	Total Employment ⁶	Private Sector ²		Public Sector		Estimated Private Sector including major reclassifications ^{3, 4}		Estimated Public Sector excluding major reclassifications ^{3, 5}	
	Level	Level	Percentage of total employment	Level	Percentage of total employment	Level	Percentage of total employment	Level	Percentage of total employment
Q1 1999	2,228,000	1,682,900	75.5%	545,500	24.5%	1,701,000	76.3%	527,000	23.7%
Q1 2016	2,575,000	2,013,400	78.2%	562,100	21.8%	2,043,000	79.3%	533,000	20.7%
Q1 2017	2,644,000	2,085,200	78.9%	558,900	21.1%	2,113,000	79.9%	531,000	20.1%
Q1 2018	2,643,000	2,083,200	78.8%	559,900	21.2%	2,111,000	79.9%	532,000	20.1%
Q1 2019	2,676,000	2,120,800	79.3%	554,900	20.7%	2,133,000	79.7%	543,000	20.3%
Q1 2020r	2,630,000	2,067,700	78.6%	562,500	21.4%	2,081,000	79.1%	550,000	20.9%
Q1 2021r	2,632,000	2,051,700	78.0%	580,000	22.0%	2,070,000	78.7%	561,000	21.3%
Q1 2022	2,688,000	2,094,300	77.9%	593,900	22.1%	2,113,000	78.6%	575,000	21.4%
Change on year to Q1 2022	56,540	42,600	-0.1 p.p.	13,950	0.1 p.p.	43,000	-0.1 p.p.	14,000	0.1 p.p.
% change on year Q1 2022	2.1%	2.1%		2.4%		2.1%		2.5%	

r = revisions to total employment and private sector employment figures (see note below)

Important Note: Estimates for total employment and private sector employment are based on the Labour Force Survey, ONS. Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for Jan-Mar 2020 onwards were reweighted in June 2022 using updated HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI) data, resulting in small revisions to the total and private sector employment numbers from Q1 2020 onwards.

Notes:

p.p. - percentage points

1. Employment figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, unless otherwise stated. Change on year rounded to the nearest ten.

Totals may not equal the sum of individual parts due to rounding.

2. Private sector is derived as the difference between the Labour Force Survey 'Total employment' workforce based estimate for the whole of Scotland (not seasonally adjusted) and the public sector estimate (derived from individual organisation statistical returns).

3. Major reclassifications include: Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Lloyds Banking Group plc, Northern Rock plc, Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance, Lloyds Bank Asset Finance, Scottish Widows, Direct Line, Royal Mail Group plc, Post Office Ltd (until Q2 2006), Network Rail, Registered Social Landlords and Train Operating Companies.

4. Private sector including major reclassifications includes the figures for the above organisations in the private sector series when they were part of the public sector and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

5. Public sector excluding major reclassifications excludes the figures for the above organisations from the public sector series when they were part of the public sector and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

6. Total employment figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and are taken from Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Table 2: Public sector employment by devolved and reserved sector; Scotland, Headcount and Full-time equivalent¹
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Quarter	Headcount			Full-time equivalent		
	Total Public Sector	Devolved Public Sector ²	Reserved Public Sector ³	Total Public Sector	Devolved Public Sector ²	Reserved Public Sector ³
Q1 1999	545,500	471,000	74,400	455,200	384,000	71,200
Q1 2016	562,100	504,000	58,100	480,600	426,200	54,500
Q1 2017	558,900	502,900	56,100	477,900	425,200	52,700
Q1 2018	559,900	503,900	56,000	479,800	427,200	52,600
Q1 2019	554,900	499,900	55,000	473,700	421,900	51,800
Q1 2020	562,500	508,600	53,900	480,400	429,700	50,700
Q1 2021	580,000	524,500	55,400	499,000	446,600	52,400
Q1 2022	593,900	538,700	55,200	511,700	459,300	52,400
Change on year to Q1 2022	13,950	14,150	-200	12,700	12,750	-50
% change on year Q1 2022	2.4%	2.7%	-0.4%	2.5%	2.9%	-0.1%

Notes:

1. Employment figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Change on year rounded to the nearest ten. Percentages are based on unrounded figures. Totals may not equal the sum of individual parts due to rounding.

2. Devolved Public Sector consists of the following staff groups: Civil Service, Other Public Bodies, NHS, Further Education Colleges, Local Government and Public Corporations (as shown in Table 3).

3. Reserved Public Sector consists of the following staff groups: Civil Service, Armed Forces, Other Public Sector (as shown in Table 4)

Table 3: Total devolved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Headcount^{1,4}
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Quarter	Total Devolved Public Sector	NHS	Civil Service	Police and Fire Services ²	Further Education Colleges ³	Other Public Bodies ³	Local Government ²	Public Corporations
Q1 1999	471,000	129,000	14,600	-	15,700	8,300	294,000	9,000
Q1 2016	504,000	161,700	16,900	28,200	14,200	15,300	245,000	23,000
Q1 2017	502,900	162,600	17,000	27,800	14,000	15,400	243,000	23,000
Q1 2018	503,900	163,100	17,400	27,500	14,000	15,500	243,000	23,000
Q1 2019	499,900	164,100	18,700	27,900	14,200	16,000	251,000	8,000
Q1 2020	508,600	167,000	21,100	28,400	14,400	15,800	253,000	8,000
Q1 2021	524,500	177,700	22,200	28,200	13,400	15,700	254,000	13,000
Q1 2022	538,700	181,700	25,300	27,800	13,400	15,300	262,000	13,000
Change on year to Q1 2022	14,150	4,010	3,100	-490	20	-400	8,160	-270
% change on year Q1 2022	2.7%	2.3%	13.9%	-1.7%	0.1%	-2.5%	3.2%	-2.0%

Notes:

1. Employment figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, with the exception of local government and public corporation figures which are rounded to the nearest thousand; change on year rounded to the nearest ten; percentages are based on unrounded figures. "-" denotes blank entries. Totals may not equal the sum of individual parts due to rounding.

2. Police and Fire Reform: From Q2 2013 Police and Fire Services have been reclassified as central government rather than local government (as their predecessors were). All police staff are employed by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) whether deployed with the SPA or with the Police Service of Scotland.

3. Information for further education colleges in Scotland is based on collected information from Q4 2010. The method used to create the back series is detailed in the background notes of this publication.

4. For further information on interpreting these series, see the series reclassification guide or background notes of the publication.

Table 4: Total reserved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Headcount^{1,3}
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Quarter	Total Reserved Public Sector	Civil Service	Armed Forces	Public Bodies ²	Public Corporations ²	Public Sector Financial Institutions ²	Other Public Sector ²
Q1 1999	74,400	33,700	14,800	5,600	20,300	-	25,900
Q1 2016	58,100	25,800	10,000	*	*	*	22,300
Q1 2017	56,100	25,700	9,800	*	*	*	20,600
Q1 2018	56,000	25,400	9,700	*	*	*	20,900
Q1 2019	55,000	25,000	9,700	*	*	*	20,400
Q1 2020	53,900	24,300	9,800	*	*	*	19,800
Q1 2021	55,400	25,100	10,100	*	*	*	20,200
Q1 2022	55,200	24,800	10,100	*	*	*	20,300
Change on year to Q1 2022	-200	-260	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	60
% change on year Q1 2022	-0.4%	-1.1%	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.3%

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Change on year rounded to the nearest ten. Percentages are based on unrounded figures. "-" denotes blank entries and "*" denotes entries that have been suppressed for disclosure reasons. Totals may not equal the sum of individual parts due to rounding.

2. Public corporations, public sector financial institutions and public bodies, have been combined into 'other public sector' to ensure individual organisation figures are not disclosed.

3. For further information on interpreting these series, see the series reclassification guide or background notes of the publication.

Table 5: Total devolved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Full-time equivalent ^{1,4}

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Quarter	Total Devolved Public Sector	NHS	Civil Service	Police and Fire Services ²	Further Education Colleges ³	Other Public Bodies	Local Government ²	Public Corporations
Q1 1999	384,000	106,000	14,100	-	11,500	7,700	235,000	9,000
Q1 2016	426,200	138,500	16,000	27,500	10,500	13,800	200,000	20,000
Q1 2017	425,200	139,400	16,000	27,100	10,300	13,800	198,000	21,000
Q1 2018	427,200	139,900	16,400	26,800	10,500	14,000	199,000	21,000
Q1 2019	421,900	140,900	17,700	27,300	10,600	14,200	203,000	8,000
Q1 2020	429,700	143,400	20,000	27,700	10,600	14,200	206,000	8,000
Q1 2021	446,600	152,400	21,000	27,600	10,200	14,200	208,000	13,000
Q1 2022	459,300	156,900	24,100	27,100	10,400	13,900	214,000	12,000
Change on year to Q1 2022	12,750	4,480	3,050	-460	210	-250	6,130	-420
% change on year Q1 2022	2.9%	2.9%	14.5%	-1.7%	2.1%	-1.8%	2.9%	-3.3%

Notes:

1. Employment figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, with the exception of local government and public corporation figures which are rounded to the nearest thousand; change on year rounded to the nearest ten; percentages are based on unrounded figures. "-" denotes blank entries. Totals may not equal the sum of individual parts due to rounding.

2. Police and Fire Reform: From Q2 2013 Police and Fire Services have been reclassified as central government rather than local government (as their predecessors were). All police staff are employed by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) whether deployed with the SPA or with the Police Service of Scotland.

3. Information for further education colleges in Scotland is based on collected information from Q4 2010. The method used to create the back series is detailed in the background notes of this publication.

4. For further information on interpreting these series, see the series reclassification guide or background notes of the publication.

Table 6: Total reserved public sector employment by sector; Scotland, Full-time equivalent ^{1,3}

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Quarter	Total Reserved Public Sector	Civil Service	Armed Forces	Public Bodies ²	Public Corporations ²	Public Sector Financial Institutions ²	Other Public Sector ²
Q1 1999	71,200	32,100	14,800	5,300	19,100	-	24,300
Q1 2016	54,500	23,400	10,000	*	*	*	21,100
Q1 2017	52,700	23,300	9,800	*	*	*	19,500
Q1 2018	52,600	23,200	9,700	*	*	*	19,800
Q1 2019	51,800	22,700	9,700	*	*	*	19,500
Q1 2020	50,700	22,000	9,800	*	*	*	18,900
Q1 2021	52,400	22,900	10,100	*	*	*	19,400
Q1 2022	52,400	22,800	10,100	*	*	*	19,500
Change on year to Q1 2022	-50	-150	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	100
% change on year Q1 2022	-0.1%	-0.7%	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5%

Notes:

1. Employment figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Change on year rounded to the nearest ten. Percentages are based on unrounded figures. "-" denotes blank entries and "*" denotes entries that have been suppressed for disclosure reasons. Totals may not equal the sum of individual parts due to rounding.

2. Public corporations, public sector financial institutions and public bodies, have been combined into 'other public sector' to ensure individual organisation figures are not disclosed.

3. For further information on interpreting these series, see the series reclassification guide or background notes of the publication.

Table S1: 16-24 year old Employment in the Devolved Public Sector, Q1 2013 - Q1 2022, Scotland, Headcount (Official Statistics)

	Young People ²									
	Q1 2013 r	Q1 2014 r	Q1 2015 r	Q1 2016 r	Q1 2017 r	Q1 2018 r	Q1 2019 r	Q1 2021 r	Q1 2022	Change since 2021
Scottish Government Core Directorates (excluding Agencies)	140	230	240	270	310	410	490	440	480	40
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal	90	80	100	110	120	110	130	130	190	60
Scottish Government Agencies ¹⁰	410	480	540	450	360	320	330	420	550	130
Non-Ministerial Departments	110	120	150	190	200	210	200	180	210	20
Other Public Bodies ¹²	450	520	530	630	620	600	620	560	630	80
Police and Fire Services ⁴	-	980	1,130	1,220	1,140	1,090	1,090	950	810	-140
NHS ⁵	6,130	6,650	7,300	7,380	7,210	7,140	6,950	8,670	8,790	120
Local Government ⁸	12,180	11,410	11,760	11,350	11,340	11,760	12,100	11,680	12,940	1,260
Public Corporations ^{7,9}	910	1,210	1,010	1,100	1,130	1,180	470	510	460	-50
Total Devolved Public Sector^{6,7}	21,010	22,280	23,380	23,370	23,080	23,480	23,040	24,150	25,690	1,540
	Total employment ³									
	Q1 2013 r	Q1 2014 r	Q1 2015 r	Q1 2016 r	Q1 2017 r	Q1 2018 r	Q1 2019 r	Q1 2021 r	Q1 2022	Change since 2021
Scottish Government Core Directorates (excluding Agencies)	5,100	5,300	5,400	5,400	5,500	5,900	6,700	7,800	8,800	1,030
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,800	2,000	2,400	340
Scottish Government Agencies ¹⁰	6,800	7,000	7,300	6,400	6,300	6,100	6,500	8,600	10,100	1,510
Non-Ministerial Departments	3,000	2,900	3,100	3,400	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,800	4,100	230
Other Public Bodies ¹²	15,300	13,800	14,000	15,300	15,400	15,500	16,000	15,700	15,300	-400
Police and Fire Services ⁴	-	28,700	28,400	28,200	27,800	27,500	27,900	28,200	27,800	-490
NHS ⁵	156,500	158,800	160,700	161,700	162,600	163,100	164,100	177,700	181,700	4,010
Local Government ⁸	279,000	249,000	249,000	245,000	243,000	243,000	251,000	254,000	262,000	8,160
Public Corporations ^{7,9}	21,000	23,000	22,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	8,000	13,000	13,000	-270
Total Devolved Public Sector^{6,7}	502,600	503,300	505,400	504,000	502,900	503,900	499,900	524,500	538,700	14,150
	%Young People in Total Workforce									
	Q1 2013 r	Q1 2014 r	Q1 2015 r	Q1 2016 r	Q1 2017 r	Q1 2018 r	Q1 2019 r	Q1 2021 r	Q1 2022	Change since 2021 (p.p.)
Scottish Government Core Directorates (excluding Agencies)	2.7%	4.3%	4.4%	5.1%	5.6%	6.9%	7.4%	5.7%	5.4%	-0.3
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal	5.5%	5.0%	5.6%	6.3%	6.6%	6.4%	7.0%	6.3%	7.9%	1.6
Scottish Government Agencies ¹⁰	6.0%	6.8%	7.4%	7.1%	5.8%	5.2%	5.1%	4.9%	5.5%	0.6
Non-Ministerial Departments	3.7%	4.2%	4.8%	5.5%	5.8%	5.7%	5.4%	4.7%	5.0%	0.3
Other Public Bodies ¹²	2.9%	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	3.5%	4.1%	0.6
Police and Fire Services ⁴	-	3.4%	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	3.4%	2.9%	-0.4
NHS ⁵	3.9%	4.2%	4.5%	4.6%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%	4.9%	4.8%	0.0
Local Government ⁸	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%	4.6%	4.9%	0.3
Public Corporations ^{7,9}	4.3%	5.4%	4.6%	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%	5.5%	3.9%	3.6%	-0.3
Total Devolved Public Sector^{6,7}	4.2%	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%	4.8%	0.2

r - due to minor revisions to data

Notes:

1. The information in this table is not national statistics.

See <https://www.gov.scot/publications/about-public-sector-employment-statistics/pages/public-sector-employment-by-age/> for information about this collection.

2. Youth employment levels rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Total employment levels rounded to the nearest 100, with the exception of local government and public corporation figures.

4. Police and Fire Reform: Some of the change on year estimates will be affected by reclassification of organisations as a result of reforms to the police and fire services in Scotland. From Q2 2013 Police and Fire Services have been reclassified as central government rather than local government. This reclassification has had an impact on the staffing numbers in both these categories. Also, for Q1 2014 onwards staffing levels for the Scottish Police Authority (previously Scottish Police Services Authority) are included within the Police and Fire Services category in the table above (previously included in other public bodies).

5. Information for NHS is taken from previously released data from ISD, published on 7 June 2022.

See <https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/workforce-official-statistics/nhsscotland-workforce/publications/>

6. The Total Devolved Public Sector figures include an estimate for youth employment within further education colleges, based on existing information.

7. The Public Corporations and Total Devolved Public Sector figures include an estimate for youth employment within Registered Social Landlords, based on existing information. From Q3 2018 Registered Social Landlords was reclassified to the private sector which explains the reduction in Public Corporations between 2018 and 2019.

8. In September 2018, Cordia services moved back under Glasgow City Council services, explaining part of the increase in local government employment between 2018 and 2019.

9. Train Operating Companies (TOCs) with franchise agreements with the UK and Scottish Governments agreed Emergency Measures Agreements (EMAs) to ensure continuity of operation during a period of falling passenger numbers. The result was the reclassification of TOCs as public corporations with effect from 1 April 2020. This explains an increase in Public Corporations between 2019 and 2021.

10. Scottish Government Agencies includes Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry in 2021, which has contributed to the increase in this category.

11. The annual Scottish Government collection for number of young people employed in the devolved public sector was not carried out in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

12. series revised to account for the reclassification of Moredun Research Institute out of the public sector, effecting the full series, and the inclusion of Scottish Land Commission from 2018 onwards

Tell us what you think

We are always interested to hear from our users about how our statistics are used, and how they can be improved.

Please consider answering our short [feedback survey](#) on how you found this publication.

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs
- are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards
- are explained well

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Labour Market Statistics Team,
OCEAES: Labour Market Analysis Unit,
Telephone: 0131 244 6773,
e-mail: lmstats@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,
e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical publication are available via web-tables on the [Public Sector Employment Statistics web tables](#).

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to:

Chief Statistician
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Telephone: (0131) 244 0302
e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at [scotstat webpage](#)
Details of forthcoming publications can be found at [Scottish Government statistics publications webpage](#)

ISBN 978-1-80435-589-3 (web only)

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See: [open government licence information](#)