

Hit the headlines...

Assistant Statisticians in the Scottish Executive take on a significant level of responsibility for their area of work. Here is a small sample of the column inches racked up in the last few months:

Scots manufacturers hail rise in exports
(*The Scotsman*)

Fewer homeless in B&Bs
(*Evening Times*)

More smokers managing to kick the habit
(*The Herald*)

Scotland hits recycling targets
(*BBC News*)

Road deaths hit 50-year low
(*Edinburgh Evening News*)

Heart disease deaths fall by a third
(*The Herald*)

...and then do something really important.

Of course, grabbing the headlines is only the by-product of an Assistant Statistician's role in the Scottish Executive. Although, it should be clear from the above excerpts that an assistant statistician's job is an important one.

The ability for our profession to provide information that is both relevant and objective has clear implications for the effectiveness of the devolved Scottish Parliament. Government Statisticians work alongside researchers and economists to produce the information that government needs to support effective decision making.

A breadth of experience...

The Scottish Executive produces statistics across a diverse range of policy and business areas. As an assistant statistician, you will be encouraged to gain experience in a number of the following subject areas:

- Agriculture, fishing and forestry
- Commerce, energy and industry
- Crime and justice
- Economy
- Education and training
- Health and care
- Labour market
- Natural and built environment
- Population and migration
- Public sector
- Social and welfare
- Transport, travel and tourism.

How to apply

If you would like us to keep you informed of direct entrant vacancies in the Scottish Executive, please add your name, address and/or email address to our register. The address is:

Rob Wishart, Chief Statistician
Scottish Executive
Room 3R.02 St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

or send an email to:
rob.wishart@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk/stats

Scottish Executive

assistant statistician
recruitment



Requirements

To apply directly for an Assistant Statistician post at the Scottish Executive you will need a good honours degree in a numerate discipline, e.g. statistics, maths, economics, sciences, etc. You also need to be able to communicate and negotiate, analyse and evaluate, and to present your findings clearly and concisely.

As an Assistant Statistician you will follow a structured development plan which will enable you to develop your skills and knowledge in different posts across a wide range of government departments.

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.



Locations

Most Scottish Executive vacancies occur in Edinburgh in a number of buildings in the North, West and centre of the city. However, there are also several posts in Glasgow city centre and Livingston. It is possible to move to different locations since assistants normally move post every 18-24 months.

Salary

Most direct entrants will start in the B1 pay band (approximately £17k to £23k). For those with relevant work experience there is also the possibility of direct recruitment at B2 level (Fast Stream equivalent), with a pay range of approximately £21k to £28k.

Training & Development

The Civil Service encourages training and development of their staff. Courses are available to improve statistical skills and there are opportunities to attend conferences on statistics and issues related to the job. Transferable skills can be developed through courses on communication, team building and managerial skills.

Promotion is based on merit and those who show a high standard of work will be given plenty of opportunity to move higher up the ranks. All Assistant Statisticians have the chance to improve their skills and potential, enabling them to move on to more senior roles, such as Statistician or Senior Statistician posts.

Other options

Direct recruitment is not the only way to join the Scottish Executive as an Assistant Statistician. You can also apply via the Fast Stream Statistician open competition. For further details telephone 020 75335043 (or email ken.anderson@ons.gsi.gov.uk). If you pass the Civil Service Selection Board assessment to become a Fast Stream Assistant Statistician you can request a post in the Scottish Executive, although it is not guaranteed that a post will be available.

Directly recruited Assistant Statisticians at the Scottish Executive are offered a permanent post after being successful at a statistical interview. Anyone interested in joining the Fast Stream is actively encouraged to apply once they are familiar with the work of the Scottish Executive.

What the people say...



James Boyce – Health Department

I joined the Scottish Executive in 2003. After a post in the Environment and Rural Affairs Department, I moved to the Health Department. My current post involves working on NHS performance targets such as the reduction of cancer waiting times. The job is both challenging and extremely varied. There is also a strong sense of relevance and purpose of being involved with issues that affect real people's lives. The Scottish Executive is also highly committed to helping you develop your career. I am currently studying towards an MSc in Applied Statistics for which I receive funding and a generous study entitlement.



Ellen Lynch – Income & Poverty Statistics

Since joining the Scottish Executive in 2004 I have worked on income and poverty statistics. The post has offered me the chance to work with a variety of people both inside and outside the Scottish Executive, including analysts, policy colleagues, Ministers, the media, and my counterparts in other government departments, such as Department for Work and Pensions. There are lots of opportunities to develop your career in a supportive environment, and work in a variety of posts.



Tim Parris – Local Government Finance

I work in Statistical Support for Local Government, having joined the Executive in 2005. I monitor councils' income and expenditure, council tax collection and model business rates. I excel in Excel and have become a black belt in various other programming disciplines. I have also become alarmingly blasé about dealing with nine-figure sums of money! Occasionally my work appears in the media, which is always exciting. There are excellent opportunities to network with other statisticians in the Executive, from seminars to nights out, which creates a friendly and fun working environment.



Sara Conroy – Education Statistics

I work within the Education Department dealing with SQA Examination data. I particularly enjoy the diversity my job offers. I am responsible for publications and website updates as well as requests from Ministers, colleagues and the public. I am also leading a small consultation on the presentation of our attainment statistics. The opportunity to move posts regularly allows you to gain knowledge of other departments whilst expanding your statistical skills. There are also a wide range of training courses available.