



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Employment, Unemployment and Inactivity for young people (16-24 years): Scotland and UK

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey, January 2019 to December 2019
18th March 2020

About this publication

This publication contains the latest estimated level and rate of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity for young people (16-24 years) for Scotland and the UK for January 2019 to December 2019. Data are sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS) data set publically released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). While the focus of this publication is on estimates for Scotland, key UK estimates are also provided for comparison.

Estimates are presented for the period January 2008 to December 2008 to January 2019 to December 2019 and intervening years from the January to December data set. Comparisons are made between the current year January 2019 to December 2019 and the comparable data set in earlier years.

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 data provide more statistically robust labour market estimates for local areas and smaller groups of the population (including those aged 16-24 years).

The Annual Population Survey is the National Statistics source for labour market indicators by region and age. The next release of Annual Population Survey estimates will be for April 2019 to March 2020 and will be published on the 17th June 2020.

For information, Annex A contains the most recent employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for 16-24 year olds from the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) data set, Nov 2019 - Jan 2020 (at the time of this publication). These are published as Official Statistics.



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Contents

About this publication	1
Contents	2
Key Results	3
Youth Employment	3
Youth Unemployment	4
Youth Inactivity	5
Further Information	7
Reliability of estimates	7
Access the data in this publication	7
Concepts and Definitions	9
Annex A	10
Labour Force Survey (LFS)	10
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland	11

Key Results

Youth Employment

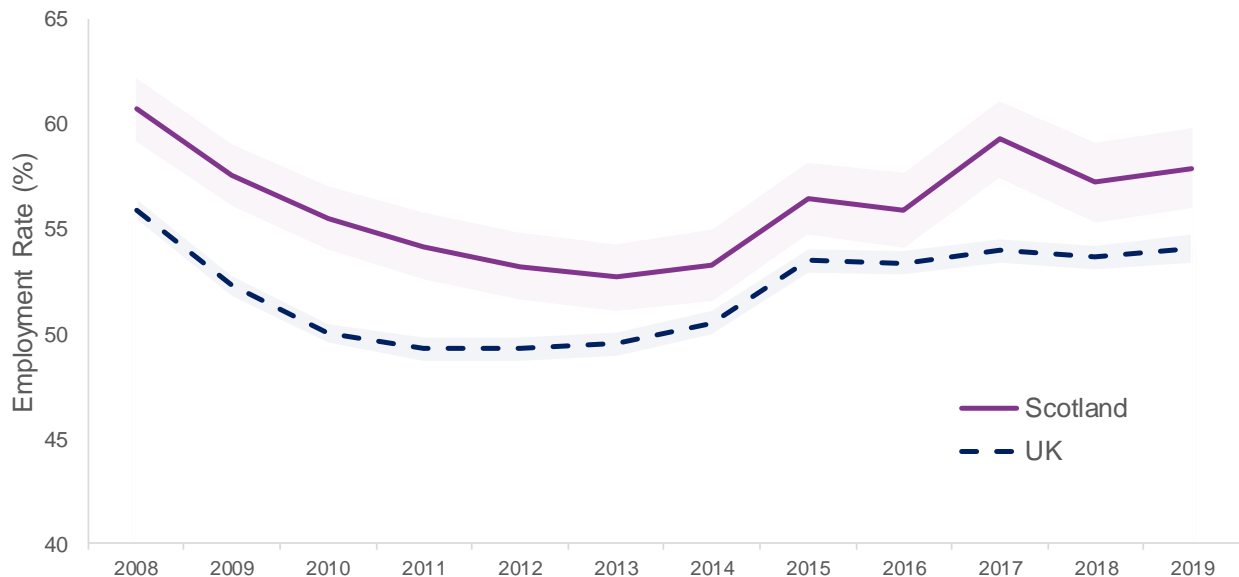
In January 2019-December 2019, 328,000 young people aged 16-24 years were in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young people (16-24 year olds) in Scotland in January 2019-December 2019 was 57.9 per cent, 0.7 percentage points higher than a year ago (57.2 per cent), not a statistically significant change. This has increased from a low of 52.7% in January – December 2013.

For UK, as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16-24 year olds) was 54.1 per cent, 0.4 percentage points higher than a year ago (53.7 per cent)

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

Chart 1: Youth (16-24) Employment Rate, Jan 2008-Dec 2008 to Jan 2019-Dec 2019, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec datasets, ONS
Shaded area represent 95% confidence interval

Youth Unemployment

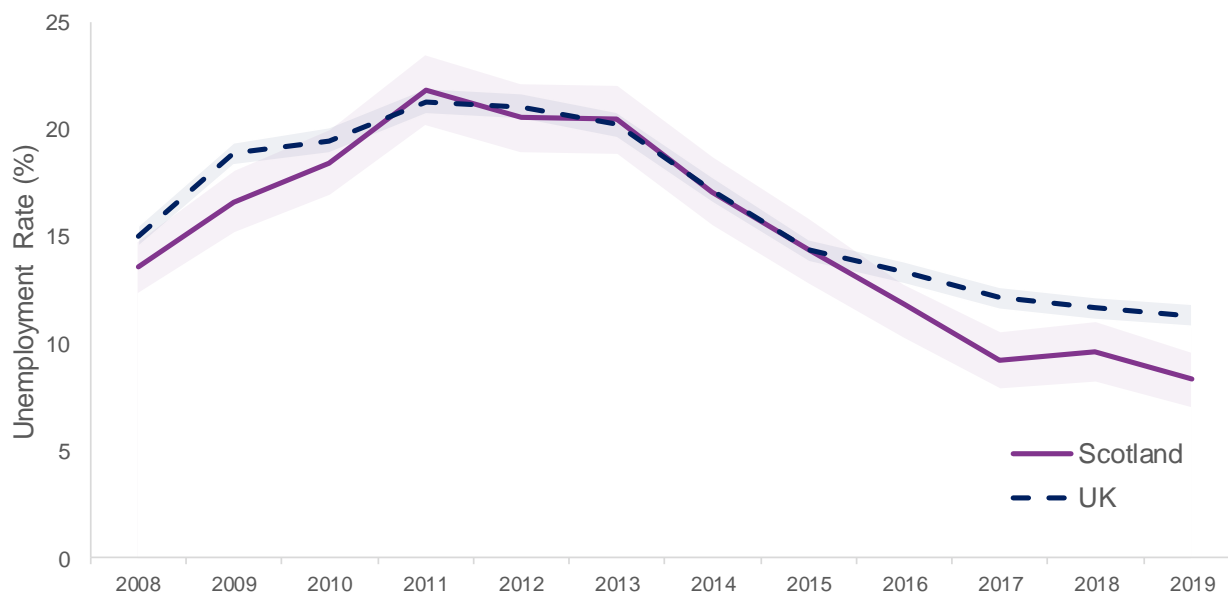
In January 2019-December 2019, 30,000 young people aged 16-24 years were unemployed in Scotland, 5,000 less than in January 2018-December 2018 when 35,000 young people were unemployed.

The unemployment rate for young people (16-24 years) in Scotland was 8.3 per cent (in January 2019-December 2019), 1.3 percentage points lower than the year before (9.6 per cent), not a statistically significant change. Unemployment reached 21.8 per cent in January - December 2011 but has fallen to a low of 8.3 per cent in January – December 2019.

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16-24 years) was 11.3 per cent, 0.3 percentage points lower than the year before (11.6 per cent).

Chart 2 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16-24) unemployment rate for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 2: Youth (16-24) Unemployment Rate, Jan 2008-Dec 2008 to Jan 2019-Dec 2019, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec datasets, ONS
Shaded area represent 95% confidence interval

Youth Inactivity

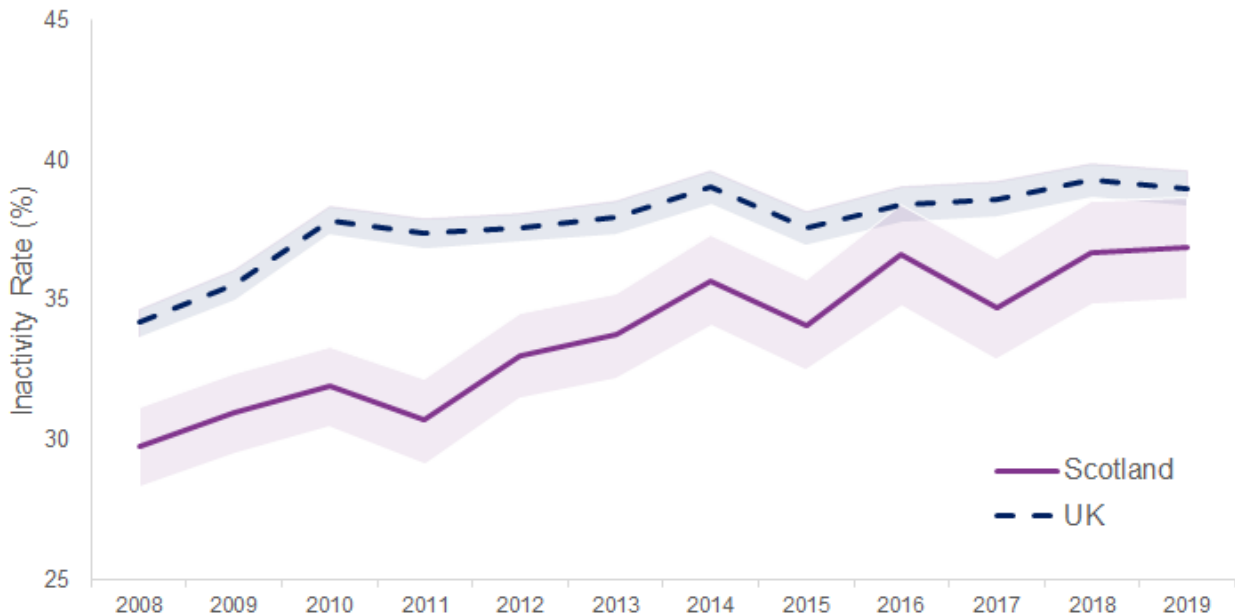
In January 2019-December 2019, 209,000 young people aged 16-24 were economically inactive in Scotland, 3,000 less than a year ago when 212,000 were economically inactive.

In January 2019-December 2019, the inactivity rate for young people (16-24 years) in Scotland was 36.9 per cent, 0.2 percentage points higher than the year before (36.7 per cent), not a statistically significant change. Inactivity has risen since January 2008 – December 2008 to a high of 36.9 per cent in January 2019 – December 2019. Around three quarter of young people 16-24 years who are economically inactive are in full-time education.

For the UK, the inactivity rate for young people (16-24 years) was 39.0 per cent, 0.3 percentage points lower than the year before (39.3 per cent).

Chart 3 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16-24) inactivity rate for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 3: Youth (16-24) Inactivity Rate, Jan 2008-Dec 2008 to Jan 2019-Dec 2019, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS
Shaded area represent 95% confidence interval

Table 1 provides the employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for 16-24 year olds in Scotland and Table 2 provides the employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for 16-24 year olds in the UK.

Table 1: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Levels and Rates for 16-24 year olds, Scotland

	Total (16-24 years)	Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level 000s	Level 000s	Rate %	(Confidence Intervals)	Level 000s	Rate %	(Confidence Intervals)	Level 000s	Rate %	(Confidence Intervals)
Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	606	368	60.7	(± 1.5)	58	13.6	(± 1.2)	180	29.8	(± 1.4)
Jan 2009 - Dec 2009	612	352	57.6	(± 1.5)	70	16.6	(± 1.4)	190	31.0	(± 1.4)
Jan 2010 - Dec 2010	618	343	55.5	(± 1.5)	78	18.5	(± 1.5)	197	31.9	(± 1.4)
Jan 2011 - Dec 2011	625	339	54.2	(± 1.6)	95	21.8	(± 1.6)	192	30.7	(± 1.5)
Jan 2012 - Dec 2012	623	331	53.2	(± 1.6)	86	20.5	(± 1.6)	206	33.0	(± 1.5)
Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	618	326	52.7	(± 1.6)	84	20.5	(± 1.6)	209	33.7	(± 1.5)
Jan 2014 - Dec 2014	612	326	53.3	(± 1.7)	67	17.1	(± 1.6)	219	35.7	(± 1.6)
Jan 2015 - Dec 2015	609	344	56.4	(± 1.7)	58	14.4	(± 1.5)	208	34.1	(± 1.6)
Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	602	336	55.9	(± 1.8)	45	11.8	(± 1.5)	220	36.6	(± 1.8)
Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	588	348	59.3	(± 1.8)	35	9.2	(± 1.3)	204	34.7	(± 1.8)
Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	577	330	57.2	(± 1.9)	35	9.6	(± 1.4)	212	36.7	(± 1.8)
Jan 2019 - Dec 2019	566	328	57.9	(± 1.9)	30	8.3	(± 1.3)	209	36.9	(± 1.8)
Change since Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	-11	-3	0.7		-5	-1.3		-3	0.2	
Change since Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	-40	-41	-2.8		-28	-5.2		28	7.1	

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec datasets, ONS, Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16-24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand and Rates are based on unrounded figures.
3. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16-24. Denominator is all persons aged 16-24.
4. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16-24. Denominator is all those aged 16-24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
5. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures, Changes of rate over time are shown as percentage points and level as (000's).
6. The +/- figures shown in grey are 95% confidence intervals. See further information for more detail.

Table 2: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Levels and Rates for 16-24 year olds, UK

	Total (16-24 years)	Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level 000s	Level 000s	Rate %	(Confidence Intervals)	Level 000s	Rate %	(Confidence Intervals)	Level 000s	Rate %	(Confidence Intervals)
Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	7,231	4,044	55.9	(± 0.5)	714	15.0	(± 0.5)	2,472	34.2	(± 0.5)
Jan 2009 - Dec 2009	7,253	3,793	52.3	(± 0.5)	883	18.9	(± 0.5)	2,577	35.5	(± 0.5)
Jan 2010 - Dec 2010	7,311	3,658	50.0	(± 0.5)	885	19.5	(± 0.6)	2,768	37.9	(± 0.5)
Jan 2011 - Dec 2011	7,373	3,634	49.3	(± 0.6)	983	21.3	(± 0.6)	2,756	37.4	(± 0.5)
Jan 2012 - Dec 2012	7,355	3,624	49.3	(± 0.6)	967	21.1	(± 0.6)	2,764	37.6	(± 0.5)
Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	7,313	3,621	49.5	(± 0.6)	918	20.2	(± 0.6)	2,774	37.9	(± 0.6)
Jan 2014 - Dec 2014	7,286	3,680	50.5	(± 0.6)	763	17.2	(± 0.6)	2,843	39.0	(± 0.6)
Jan 2015 - Dec 2015	7,260	3,883	53.5	(± 0.6)	651	14.4	(± 0.5)	2,727	37.6	(± 0.6)
Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	7,189	3,836	53.4	(± 0.6)	590	13.3	(± 0.5)	2,763	38.4	(± 0.6)
Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	7,086	3,823	54.0	(± 0.6)	527	12.1	(± 0.5)	2,735	38.6	(± 0.6)
Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	6,993	3,752	53.7	(± 0.6)	495	11.6	(± 0.5)	2,746	39.3	(± 0.6)
Jan 2019 - Dec 2019	6,907	3,736	54.1	(± 0.7)	477	11.3	(± 0.5)	2,694	39.0	(± 0.6)
Change since Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	-86	-17	0.4		-17	-0.3		-52	-0.3	
Change since Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	-324	-308	-1.8		-237	-3.7		221	4.8	

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec datasets, ONS, Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16-24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand and Rates are based on unrounded figures.
3. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16-24. Denominator is all persons aged 16-24.
4. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16-24. Denominator is all those aged 16-24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
5. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures. Changes of rate over time are shown as percentage points and level as (000's).
6. The +/- figures shown in grey are 95% confidence intervals. See further information for more detail.

Further Information

Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for January 2008-December 2008 to January 2019-December 2019 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. Following this guidance none of the estimates in this publication have required shading. 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 January 2008-December 2008 to January 2019-December 2019, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 18 March 2020.

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 April-March, 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% confidence intervals are included in Table 1 and 2.

What does the 95% confidence limit mean?

If, for example, we have an APS estimate and confidence limit of 63% +/- 0.27%, this means that 19 times out of 20 we would expect the true rate to lie between 62.73% and 63.27%. 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 manuals](#).

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 samples.

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 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.

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 4 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.

Unemployment: The ILO definition of unemployment covers people who are: not in employment, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous 4 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.

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 16-64 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 16-24 year olds based on results from the most recently available Labour Force Survey, ONS for Nov-Jan 2009 to Nov-Jan 2020.

The 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 16-24 in Scotland.

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

	Total	Employment		Unemployment		Inactivity	
	Level (000s)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)
Nov-Jan 2009	609	367	60.2	50	12.0	192	31.6
Nov-Jan 2010	615	336	54.7	68	16.8	211	34.3
Nov-Jan 2011	622	354	57.0	78	18.0	190	30.5
Nov-Jan 2012	624	324	52.0	106	24.7	193	31.0
Nov-Jan 2013	621	349	56.2	71	16.9	200	32.3
Nov-Jan 2014	615	324	52.6	76	19.1	215	35.0
Nov-Jan 2015	611	342	56.1	62	15.3	206	33.8
Nov-Jan 2016	605	360	59.5	67	15.7	178	29.4
Nov-Jan 2017	595	343	57.7	32	8.5	219	36.9
Nov-Jan 2018	582	342	58.8	35	9.2	205	35.3
Nov-Jan 2019	571	338	59.1	27	7.4	206	36.1
Nov-Jan 2020	562	319	56.7	26	7.4	217	38.7
Change since Nov-Jan 2019	-10	-19	-2.4	-2	0.0	11	2.6
Change since Nov-Jan 2009	-48	-48	-3.5	-24	-4.6	25	7.1

Source: Labour Force Survey, Nov-Jan datasets, not seasonally adjusted, ONS

Notes:

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

These estimates were published on the 17th March 2020 by ONS as part of the Regional Labour Market Statistics in the UK monthly publication as Official Statistics.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Labour Market Statistics,

Office of the Chief Economic Advisor

Telephone: 0300 2446773,

e-mail: LMStats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at www.gov.scot/scotstat
Details of forthcoming publications can be found at www.gov.scot/statistics

Next Update: June 2020

Contact: lmstats@gov.scot ; Telephone: 0131 244 6773

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: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/