



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

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

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey,
July 2020 to June 2021 dataset, 15 September 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 July 2020 to June 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, May-July 2021 (at the time of this publication). These are published as Official Statistics.

Important Note:

In August 2021, Annual Population Survey (APS) responses for periods April 2019-March 2020 onwards were 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. The new weightings gave improved estimates for both rates and levels. Therefore estimates for July 2019-June 2020 included in this publication may differ from those previously published.

Government policies introduced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were in place 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.



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

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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 July 2020 to June 2021 provide estimates for the period when Government policies were in place 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 July 2020 – June 2021:

- the employment rate was estimated at 51.8 per cent;
- the unemployment rate was estimated at 12.4 per cent; and
- the inactivity rate was estimated at 40.8 per cent.

Compared with the previous year (July 2019 – June 2020):

- the employment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points;
- the unemployment rate increased by 2.7 percentage points; and
- the inactivity rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points.

Compared with the UK:

- the employment rate was higher (51.8 per cent compared to 49.6 per cent);
- the unemployment rate was lower (12.4 per cent compared to 14.6 per cent); and
- the inactivity rate was lower (40.8 per cent compared to 41.9 per cent).

Comparing young men and women:

- the estimated employment rate for young men was lower than for young women (50.4 per cent compared to 53.3 per cent);
- the estimated unemployment rate for young men was higher than for young women (15.4 per cent compared to 9.4 per cent); but
- the estimated inactivity rate for young men was lower than for young women (40.4 per cent compared to 41.2 per cent).

Employment

Overall

In July 2020 – June 2021, there were an estimated 285,700 young people aged 16 to 24 years in employment in Scotland. This is 12,400 less than the number of young people employed in July 2019 – June 2020.

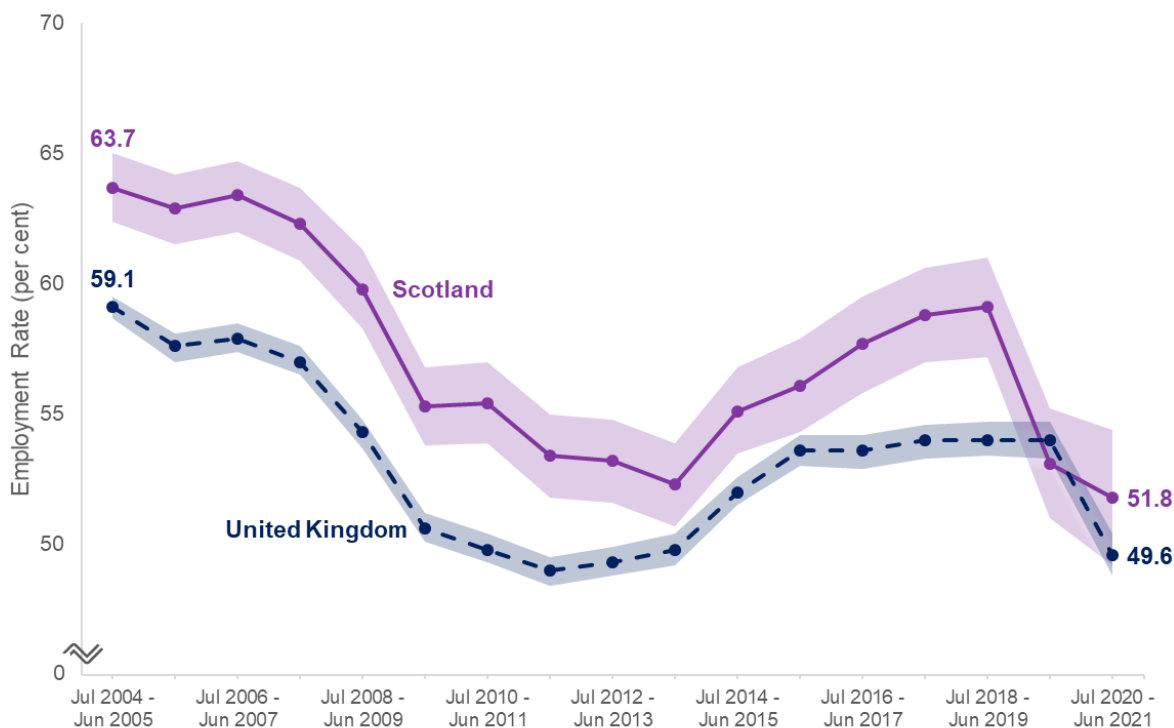
The employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 51.8 per cent in July 2020 – June 2021, 1.3 percentage points lower than a year ago (53.1 per cent).

The employment rate had been gradually increasing since July 2013 – June 2014 but has been decreasing since July 2018 – June 2019.

For the UK as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was estimated at 49.6 per cent, 4.4 percentage points lower than a year ago (54.0 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, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Employment by Gender

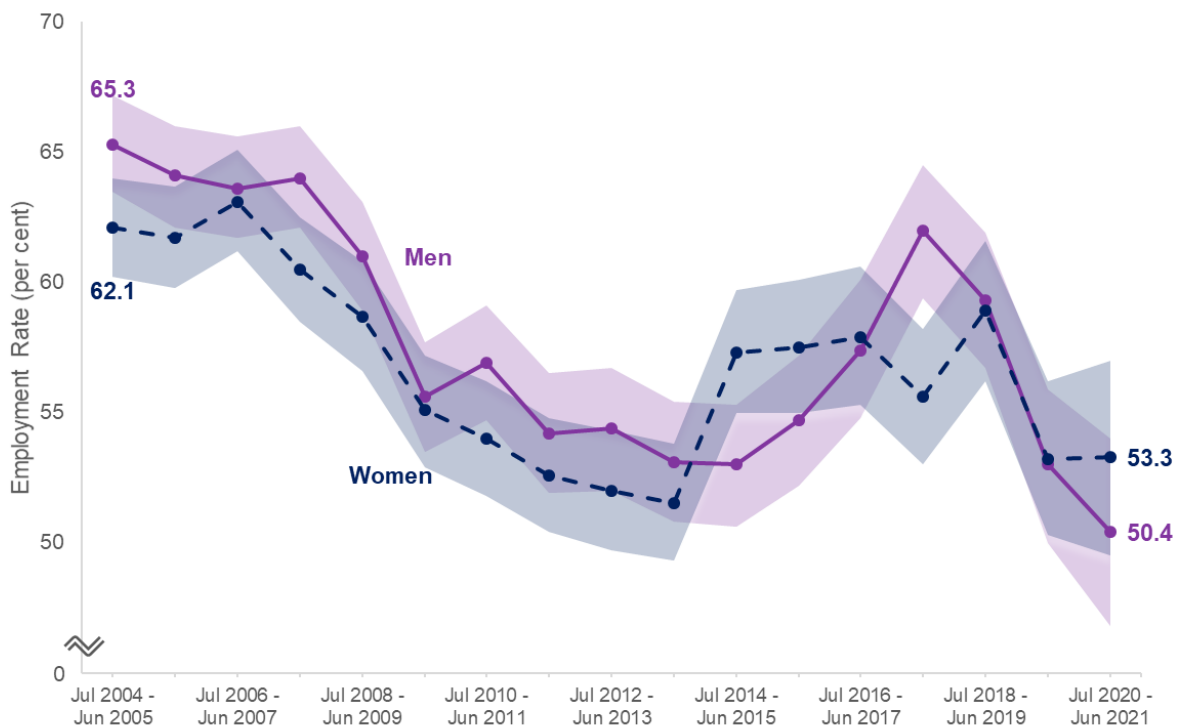
In July 2020 – June 2021, there were an estimated 139,800 men and 145,900 women aged 16 to 24 in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2020 – June 2021 was estimated at 50.4 per cent, 2.6 percentage points lower than a year ago.

The employment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2020 – June 2021 was estimated at 53.3 per cent, similar to 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, Jul-Jun 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 July 2020 – June 2021, the highest employment rate estimates for young people aged 16-24 were seen in:

- South Lanarkshire (66.5 per cent),
- Highland (66.5* per cent); and
- Moray (64.1 per cent).

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

- Aberdeen City (30.0* per cent);
- East Renfrewshire (37.7* per cent); and
- Perth & Kinross (41.0* per cent).

Over the year, 7 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in the employment rates for young people, while 22 saw a decrease and one remained unchanged. The two local authorities with the largest decreases were[‡]:

- Aberdeen City (-31.0* p.p.) and
- Perth & Kinross (-19.0* p.p.),

both of which were statistically significant decreases.

Since July 2010 – June 2011[§], 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 (-37.6* p.p.) and
- Perth & Kinross (-21.8* p.p.),

both of which were statistically significant decreases.

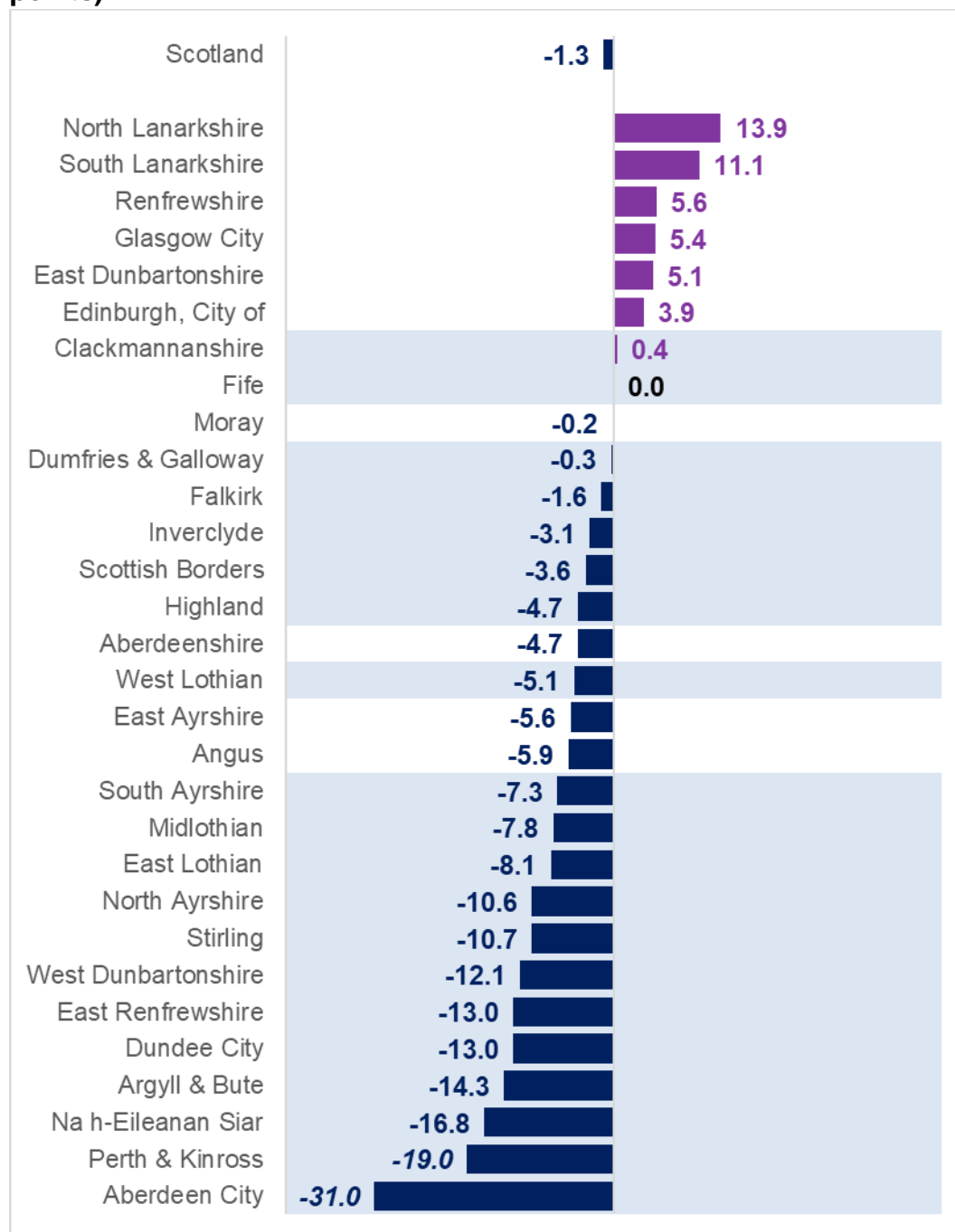
Chart 3 shows the change since July 2019 – June 2020 in the employment rate of young people (16 to 24) for Scotland and Local Authority areas from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

[†] Estimates for Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands are not available as they are considered to be unreliable.

[‡] p.p – percentage point change

[§] 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 July 2019 – June 2020 and July 2020 – June 2021 by Local Authority area (percentage points)



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun 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 July 2020 – June 2021, there were an estimated 40,600 young people aged 16 to 24 years who were unemployed in Scotland. This is 8,300 more than the number of unemployed young people in July 2019 – June 2020.

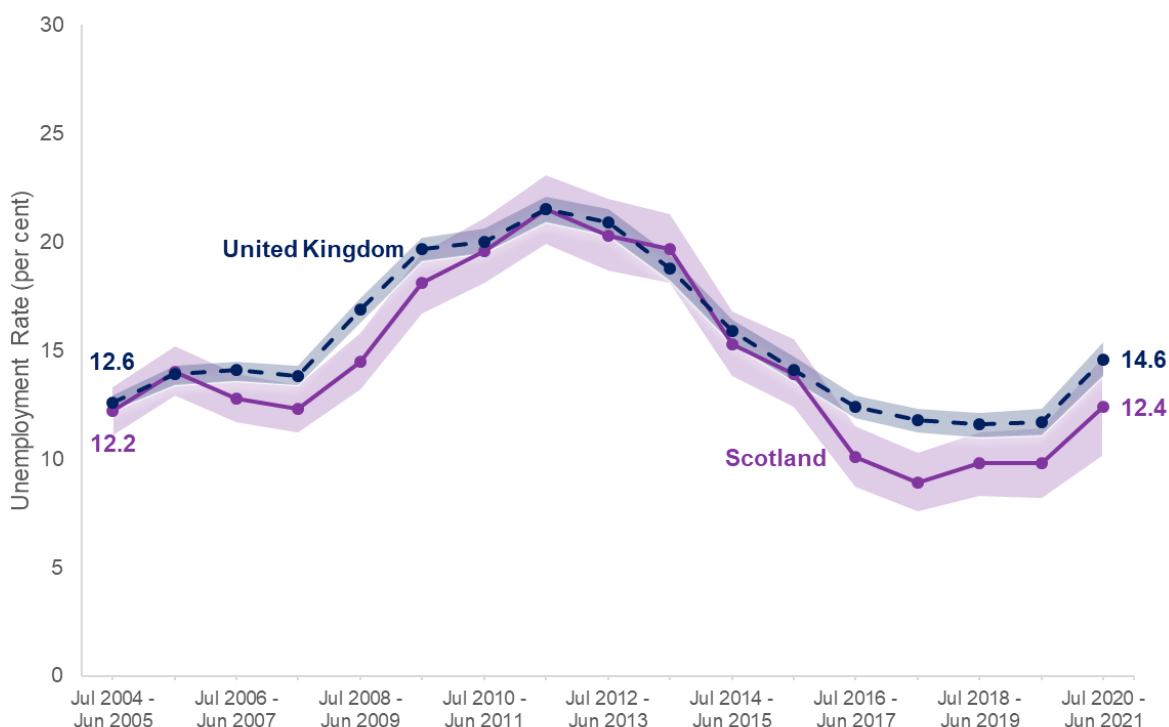
The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) in Scotland was estimated at 12.4 per cent in July 2020 – June 2021, 2.7 percentage points higher than the year before (9.8 per cent).

The unemployment rate for young people had been gradually decreasing over time from the peak (21.5 per cent) in July 2011 – June 2012 to 8.9 per cent in July 2017 – June 2018 but has increased over the last three years.

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) was estimated at 14.6 per cent, 2.9 percentage points higher than the year before (11.7 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, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Unemployment by Gender

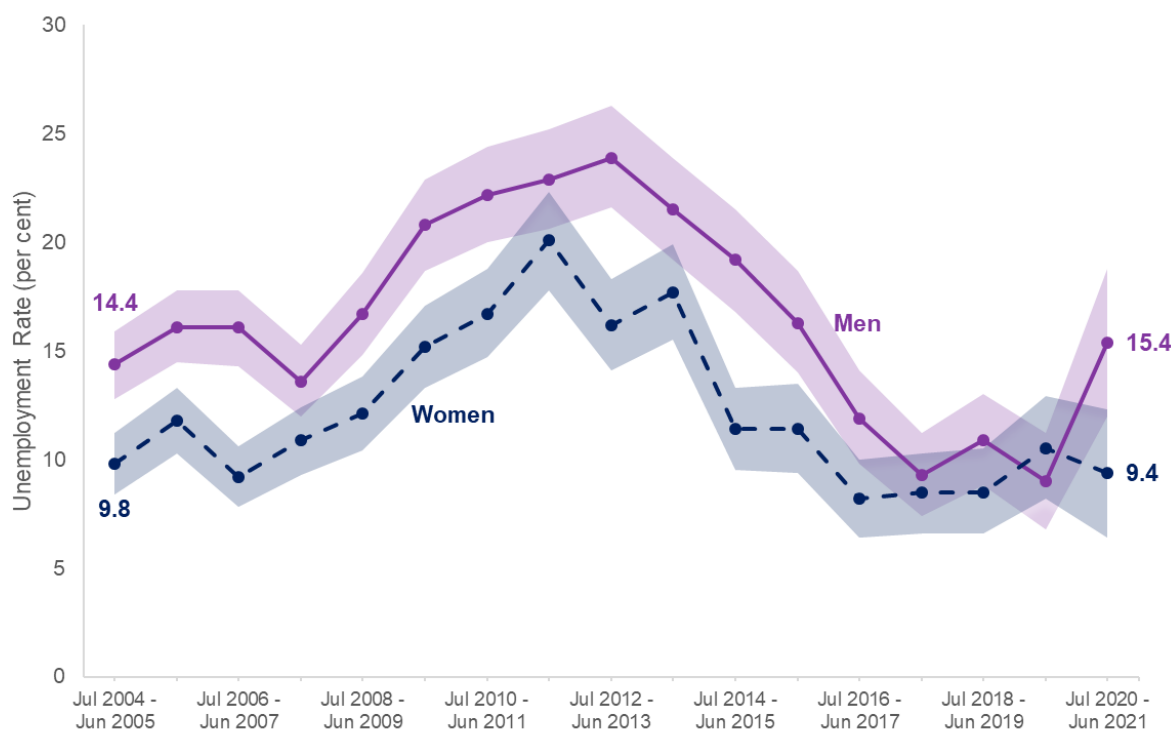
In July 2020 – June 2021, there were an estimated 25,500 unemployed men and 15,100 unemployed women aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

The unemployment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2020 – June 2021 was estimated at 15.4 per cent, 6.4 percentage points higher than a year ago. This represents a statistically significant change.

The unemployment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2020 – June 2021 was estimated at 9.4 per cent, 1.2 percentage points lower 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, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Economic Inactivity

Overall

In July 2020 – June 2021, there were an estimated 225,200 economically inactive young people aged 16 to 24 in Scotland. This is 6,000 less than the number of inactive young people in July 2019 – June 2020.

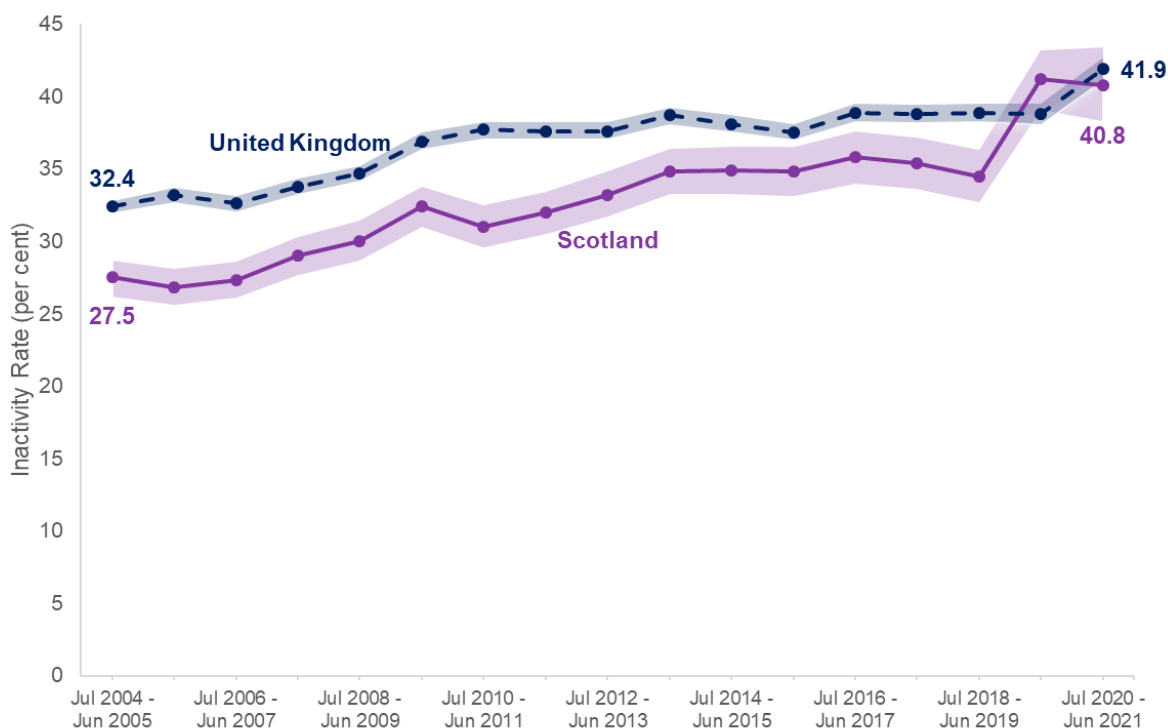
The inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 40.8 per cent in July 2020 – June 2021, 0.3 percentage points lower than the year before (41.2 per cent). Over three quarters (76.9 per cent) of young people (16 to 24 year olds) in July 2020 – June 2021 who were economically inactive were estimated to be in full-time education.

The inactivity rate for young people in Scotland had been steadily rising from 26.8 per cent in July 2005 – June 2006 to 34.5 per cent in July 2018 – June 2019. The inactivity rate for young people then significantly increased to 41.2 per cent in July 2019 – June 2020 but has decreased slightly over the last year.

For the UK, the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was estimated at 41.9 per cent, 3.2 percentage points higher than the year before (38.8 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, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Economic Inactivity by Gender

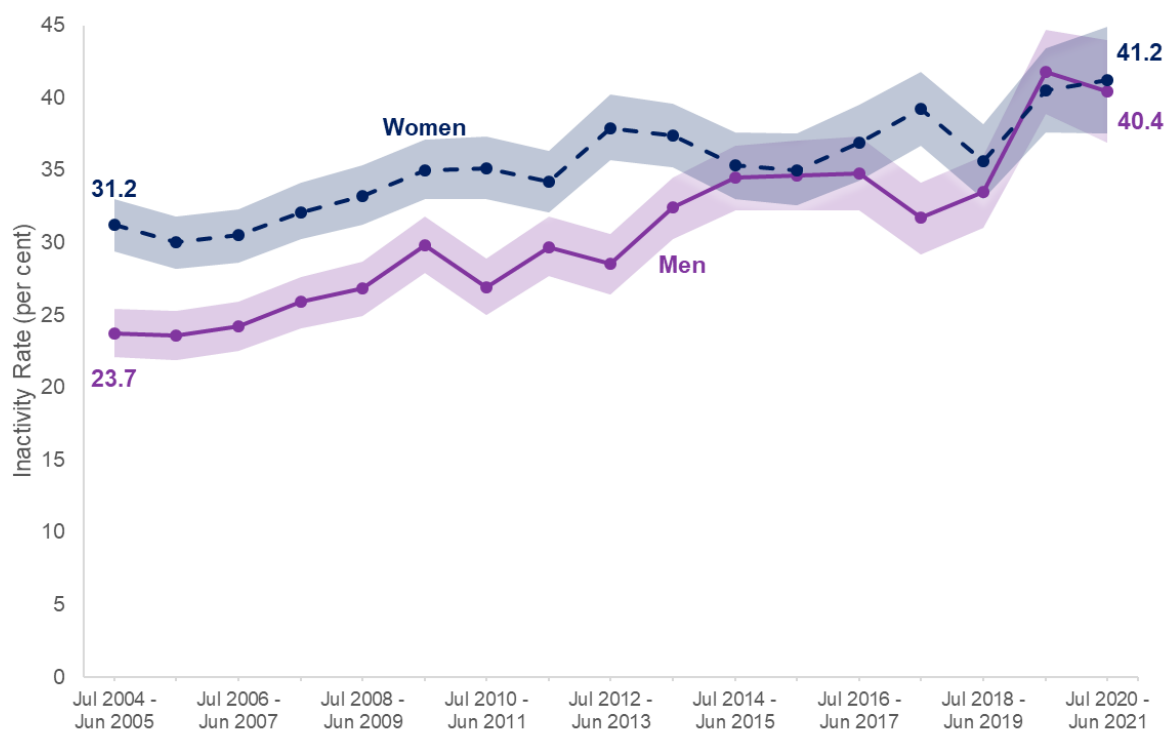
In July 2020 – June 2021, there were an estimated 112,300 inactive men and 112,900 inactive women aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

The inactivity rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 40.4 per cent in July 2020 – June 2021, 1.4 percentage points lower than a year ago.

The inactivity rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2020 – June 2021 was estimated at 41.2 per cent, 0.7 percentage points higher 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, Jul-Jun 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)	
Jul 2004 - Jun 2005	586,100	373,400	63.7	± 1.3	51,900	12.2	± 1.1	160,900	27.5	± 1.2
Jul 2005 - Jun 2006	590,800	371,500	62.9	± 1.4	60,700	14.0	± 1.1	158,600	26.8	± 1.2
Jul 2006 - Jun 2007	595,900	377,600	63.4	± 1.4	55,300	12.8	± 1.1	163,000	27.3	± 1.3
Jul 2007 - Jun 2008	602,800	375,300	62.3	± 1.4	52,600	12.3	± 1.1	174,900	29.0	± 1.3
Jul 2008 - Jun 2009	609,200	364,500	59.8	± 1.5	61,700	14.5	± 1.3	183,000	30.0	± 1.4
Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	615,200	340,400	55.3	± 1.5	75,200	18.1	± 1.4	199,500	32.4	± 1.4
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	621,700	344,700	55.4	± 1.6	84,100	19.6	± 1.5	193,000	31.0	± 1.5
Jul 2011 - Jun 2012	624,100	333,300	53.4	± 1.6	91,300	21.5	± 1.6	199,400	32.0	± 1.5
Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	620,600	330,100	53.2	± 1.6	84,300	20.3	± 1.6	206,100	33.2	± 1.5
Jul 2013 - Jun 2014	615,400	321,900	52.3	± 1.6	79,000	19.7	± 1.6	214,500	34.8	± 1.5
Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	610,900	336,900	55.1	± 1.7	61,000	15.3	± 1.5	213,100	34.9	± 1.6
Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	605,500	339,800	56.1	± 1.8	54,900	13.9	± 1.5	210,800	34.8	± 1.7
Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	594,700	343,000	57.7	± 1.9	38,600	10.1	± 1.4	213,100	35.8	± 1.8
Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	582,500	342,600	58.8	± 1.8	33,600	8.9	± 1.3	206,300	35.4	± 1.8
Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	571,500	337,700	59.1	± 1.9	36,500	9.8	± 1.4	197,300	34.5	± 1.8
Jul 2019 - Jun 2020r	561,600	298,200	53.1	± 2.1	32,300	9.8	± 1.6	231,200	41.2	± 2.0
Jul 2020 - Jun 2021	551,500	285,700	51.8	± 2.6	40,600	12.4	± 2.3	225,200	40.8	± 2.6
Change since:										
Jul 2019 - Jun 2020r	-10,100	-12,400	-1.3		8,300	2.7		-6,000	-0.3	
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	-70,200	-58,900	-3.6		-43,500	-7.2		32,200	9.8	

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Notes:

Italic text indicates a statistically significant change over the period.

r - revised. APS responses for periods July 2019-June 2020 and July 2020-June 2021 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)
Jul 2004 - Jun 2005	6,868,900	4,060,400	59.1 ± 0.4	583,900	12.6 ± 0.4	2,224,600	32.4 ± 0.4
Jul 2005 - Jun 2006	6,976,100	4,015,600	57.6 ± 0.5	646,900	13.9 ± 0.4	2,313,700	33.2 ± 0.5
Jul 2006 - Jun 2007	7,089,200	4,106,900	57.9 ± 0.5	672,500	14.1 ± 0.5	2,309,700	32.6 ± 0.5
Jul 2007 - Jun 2008	7,192,600	4,102,600	57.0 ± 0.5	657,200	13.8 ± 0.5	2,432,800	33.8 ± 0.5
Jul 2008 - Jun 2009	7,242,000	3,930,200	54.3 ± 0.5	796,500	16.9 ± 0.5	2,515,300	34.7 ± 0.5
Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	7,281,900	3,688,100	50.6 ± 0.5	903,700	19.7 ± 0.5	2,690,200	36.9 ± 0.5
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	7,341,800	3,659,100	49.8 ± 0.6	916,200	20.0 ± 0.6	2,766,500	37.7 ± 0.5
Jul 2011 - Jun 2012	7,363,600	3,604,800	49.0 ± 0.6	988,000	21.5 ± 0.6	2,770,900	37.6 ± 0.5
Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	7,333,800	3,617,400	49.3 ± 0.6	957,200	20.9 ± 0.6	2,759,300	37.6 ± 0.6
Jul 2013 - Jun 2014	7,299,700	3,634,200	49.8 ± 0.6	840,500	18.8 ± 0.6	2,824,900	38.7 ± 0.5
Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	7,273,100	3,784,400	52.0 ± 0.6	714,400	15.9 ± 0.5	2,774,300	38.1 ± 0.6
Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	7,224,700	3,873,600	53.6 ± 0.6	638,400	14.1 ± 0.5	2,712,600	37.5 ± 0.6
Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	7,137,500	3,822,400	53.6 ± 0.6	541,000	12.4 ± 0.5	2,774,100	38.9 ± 0.6
Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	7,039,400	3,799,600	54.0 ± 0.6	506,700	11.8 ± 0.5	2,733,100	38.8 ± 0.6
Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	6,949,900	3,756,000	54.0 ± 0.6	491,500	11.6 ± 0.5	2,702,500	38.9 ± 0.6
Jul 2019 - Jun 2020 ^r	6,885,500	3,720,600	54.0 ± 0.7	494,800	11.7 ± 0.6	2,670,100	38.8 ± 0.7
Jul 2020 - Jun 2021	6,822,100	3,382,800	49.6 ± 0.8	578,700	14.6 ± 0.8	2,860,600	41.9 ± 0.8
Change since:							
Jul 2019 - Jun 2020 ^r	-63,400	-337,800	-4.4	83,900	2.9	190,400	3.2
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	-519,700	-276,300	-0.3	-337,500	-5.4	94,000	4.2

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Notes:

Italic text indicates a statistically significant change over the period.

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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		Level				Rate (per cent)					
		Jul 2020 - Jun 2021	Change since Jul 2019 - Jun 2020		Change since Jul 2010 - Jun 2011		Jul 2020 - Jun 2021	Change since Jul 2019 - Jun 2020		Change since Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	
Employment											
Men	139,800	-9,800	↓	-36,700	↓	50.4	± 3.6	-2.6	↓	-6.5	↓
Women	145,900	-2,600	↓	-22,200	↓	53.3	± 3.7	0.0	↔	-0.7	↓
ILO unemployment											
Men	25,500	10,700	↑	-24,800	↓	15.4	± 3.4	6.4	↑	-6.8	↓
Women	15,100	-2,400	↓	-18,700	↓	9.4	± 3.0	-1.2	↓	-7.4	↓
Inactivity											
Men	112,300	-5,800	↓	28,700	↑	40.4	± 3.5	-1.4	↓	13.5	↑
Women	112,900	-100	↓	3,500	↑	41.2	± 3.7	0.7	↑	6.1	↑

United Kingdom		Level				Rate (per cent)					
		Jul 2020 - Jun 2021	Change since Jul 2019 - Jun 2020		Change since Jul 2010 - Jun 2011		Jul 2020 - Jun 2021	Change since Jul 2019 - Jun 2020		Change since Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	
Employment											
Men	1,686,100	-203,900	↓	-182,100	↓	48.4	± 1.1	-5.3	↓	-2.2	↓
Women	1,696,800	-133,900	↓	-94,200	↓	50.8	± 1.2	-3.5	↓	1.7	↑
ILO unemployment											
Men	325,500	47,200	↑	-214,200	↓	16.2	± 1.1	3.3	↑	-6.2	↓
Women	253,200	36,800	↑	-123,300	↓	13.0	± 1.0	2.4	↑	-4.4	↓
Inactivity											
Men	1,472,700	122,900	↑	185,300	↑	42.3	± 1.1	3.9	↑	7.4	↑
Women	1,387,800	67,600	↑	-91,200	↓	41.6	± 1.1	2.4	↑	1.0	↑

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun 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.
5. Data is subject to sampling variation and is not seasonally adjusted.
6. The +/- figures shown in grey are confidence limits.

Further Information

Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for July 2004 – June 2005 to July 2020 – June 2021 is presented. The sample size in this dataset is around 12,000 households in Scotland for the latest time period.

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 July 2004 – June 2005 to July 2020 – June 2021, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 15 September 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, April-March, 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 receive early access to Annual Population Survey microdata collected and produced 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 analysis of sample size obtained in the collection process, production of estimates from the microdata using statistical software and relevant coding. Cross checking of coding between team members. Further checks relate to 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 young people by 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 \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Consultation

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

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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 (May-Jul 2005 to May-Jul 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)
May-Jul 2005	589,000	371,000	63.1	70,000	15.9	147,000	25.0
May-Jul 2006	592,000	365,000	61.7	65,000	15.2	162,000	27.3
May-Jul 2007	599,000	364,000	60.7	68,000	15.7	168,000	28.0
May-Jul 2008	606,000	366,000	60.4	56,000	13.3	184,000	30.3
May-Jul 2009	612,000	340,000	55.6	74,000	17.8	198,000	32.4
May-Jul 2010	618,000	336,000	54.3	109,000	24.5	174,000	28.1
May-Jul 2011	625,000	335,000	53.6	92,000	21.5	198,000	31.7
May-Jul 2012	623,000	342,000	54.9	109,000	24.1	172,000	27.7
May-Jul 2013	618,000	355,000	57.4	98,000	21.6	166,000	26.8
May-Jul 2014	613,000	344,000	56.2	75,000	17.8	194,000	31.7
May-Jul 2015	609,000	371,000	60.9	67,000	15.3	171,000	28.1
May-Jul 2016	602,000	352,000	58.6	50,000	12.4	199,000	33.1
May-Jul 2017	588,000	362,000	61.5	38,000	9.5	188,000	32.0
May-Jul 2018	577,000	325,000	56.3	39,000	10.8	213,000	36.9
May-Jul 2019	566,000	331,000	58.4	37,000	10.1	198,000	35.0
May-Jul 2020	556,000	303,000	54.4	51,000	14.4	202,000	36.4
May-Jul 2021	547,000	325,000	59.4	36,000	10.0	186,000	34.0
Change since:							
May-Jul 2020	-10,000	22,000	5.0	-15,000	-4.4	-17,000	-2.4
May-Jul 2011	-79,000	-11,000	5.8	-56,000	-11.5	-12,000	2.3

Source: Labour Force Survey, May-Jul 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 14 September 2021 by ONS as part of the [monthly publication](#) as Official Statistics.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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Next Update: 15 December 2021

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