



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

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

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey,
October 2020 to September 2021 dataset, 15 December 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 October 2020 to September 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, Aug-Oct 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 to 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 October 2019 to September 2020 included in this publication may differ from those previously published.

Some Government policies introduced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were still 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 were furloughed between April 2020 and the end of September 2021 were classed 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 levels and rates for young people (16 to 24 years) in local authorities.

Key points

The latest Annual Population Survey (APS) data for October 2020 to September 2021 provide estimates for the period when some Government policies were still 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 decreased while the employment rate has increased and the economic inactivity rate has decreased.

In October 2020 to September 2021:

- the employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was estimated at 53.4 per cent;
- the unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was estimated at 10.4 per cent; and
- the inactivity rate for 16 to 24 year olds was estimated at 40.4 per cent.

Compared with the previous year (October 2019 to September 2020):

- the employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds increased by 1.0 percentage point;
- the unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds decreased by 1.2 percentage points; and
- the inactivity rate for 16 to 24 year olds decreased by 0.3 percentage points.

Compared with the UK:

- the employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was higher (53.4 per cent compared to 50.5 per cent);
- the unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was lower (10.4 per cent compared to 13.3 per cent); and
- the inactivity rate for 16 to 24 year olds was lower (40.4 per cent compared to 41.8 per cent).

Comparing young men and women aged 16 to 24 years:

- the estimated employment rate for young men was lower than for young women (52.1 per cent compared to 54.8 per cent);
- the estimated unemployment rate for young men was higher than for young women (12.8 per cent compared to 7.9 per cent); but
- the estimated inactivity rate for young men was slightly lower than for young women (40.3 per cent compared to 40.6 per cent).

Employment

Overall

In October 2020 – September 2021, there were an estimated 293,300 young people aged 16 to 24 years in employment in Scotland. This is 100 less than the number of young people employed in October 2019 – September 2020.

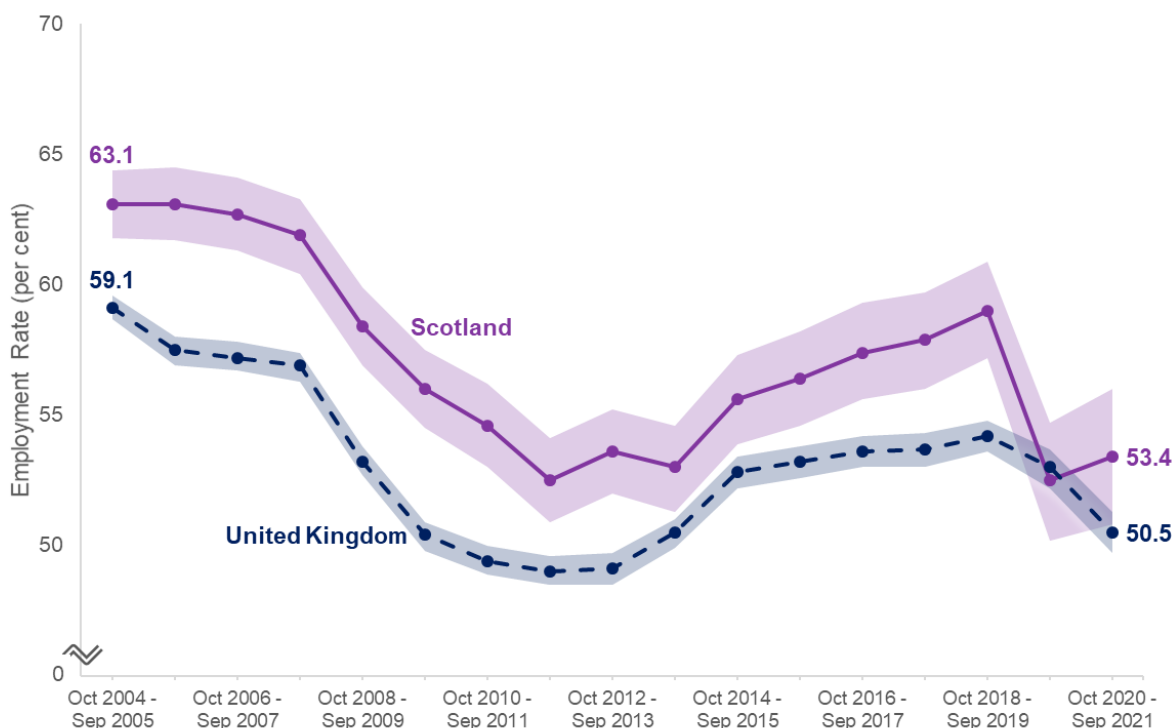
The employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 53.4 per cent in October 2020 – September 2021, 1.0 percentage point higher than a year ago (52.5 per cent).

The employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds had been gradually increasing since October 2013 – September 2014 but decreased sharply in October 2019 – September 2020 before increasing slightly in October 2020 – September 2021.

For the UK as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was estimated at 50.5 per cent, 2.5 percentage points lower than a year ago (53.0 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, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Employment by Sex

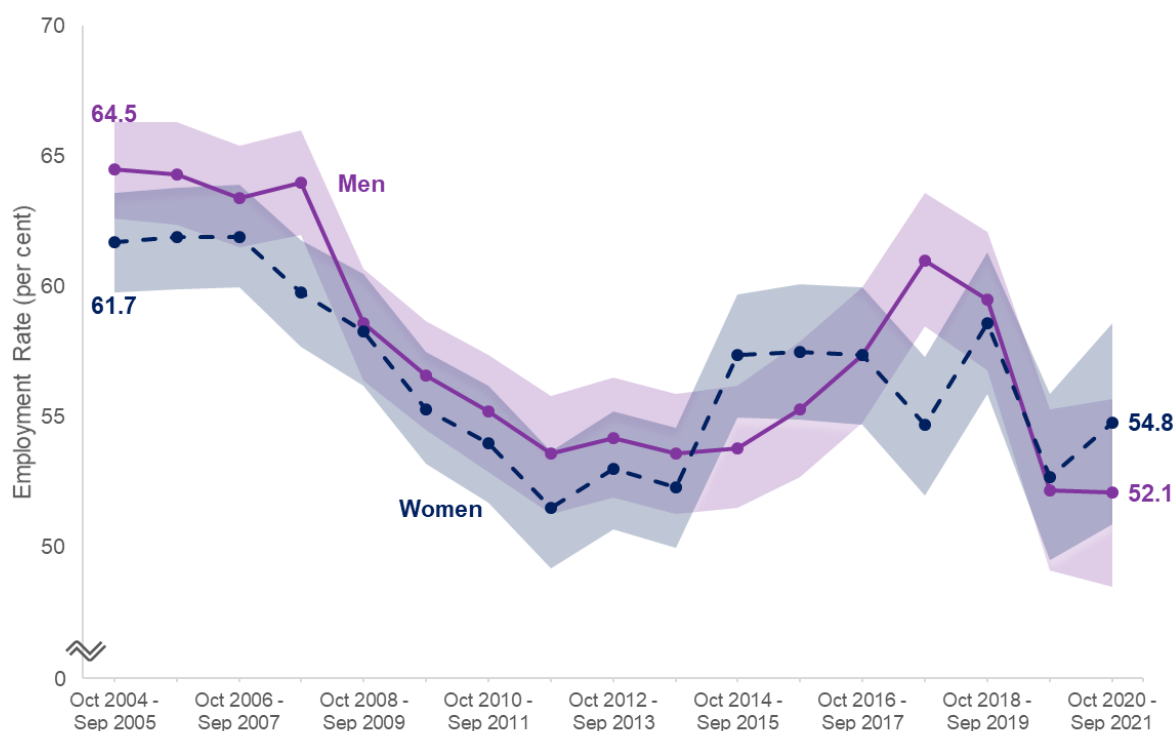
In October 2020 – September 2021, there were an estimated 144,000 men and 149,300 women aged 16 to 24 in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2020 – September 2021 was estimated at 52.1 per cent, 0.1 percentage points lower than a year ago.

The employment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2020 – September 2021 was estimated at 54.8 per cent, 2.0 percentage points higher than a year ago.

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

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



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep 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 a * to indicate they may be less precise and should be used with caution[†].

In October 2020 – September 2021, the highest employment rate estimates for young people aged 16 to 24 were seen in:

- North Lanarkshire (69.0 per cent),
- Moray (64.0 per cent); and
- East Dunbartonshire (62.7 per cent).

The lowest employment rate estimates for 16 to 24 year olds were seen in:

- Perth & Kinross (37.6* per cent);
- Aberdeen City (38.7* per cent); and
- East Renfrewshire (42.8* per cent).

Over the year, 13 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in the employment rates for 16 to 24 year olds, while 15 saw a decrease and one remained unchanged. The two local authorities with the largest decreases were[‡]:

- Perth & Kinross (-22.1* p.p.) and
- Highland (-13.9* p.p.).

The change over the year for Perth & Kinross represents a statistically significant decrease.

Since October 2010 – September 2011[§], the employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds in 12 local authorities had increased, while 16 showed a decrease over this period. The two local authorities with the largest decreases were:

- Aberdeen City (-25.7* p.p.) and
- Perth & Kinross (-19.4* p.p.),

both of which were statistically significant decreases.

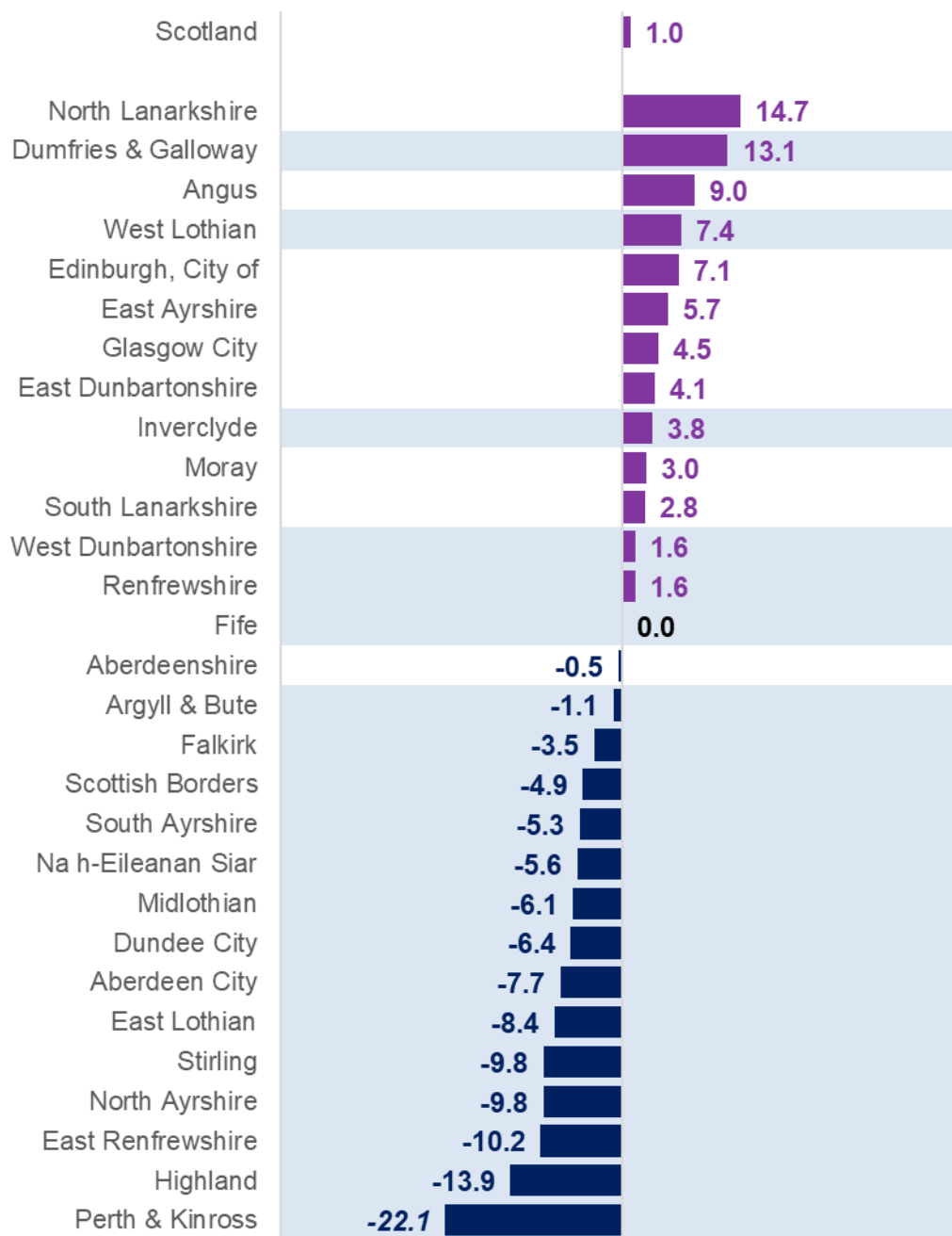
Chart 3 shows the change since October 2019 – September 2020 in the employment rate of young people (16 to 24) for Scotland and Local Authority areas from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

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

[‡] p.p – percentage point change

[§] Estimates for Clackmannanshire, 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 October 2019 – September 2020 and October 2020 – September 2021 by Local Authority area (percentage points)



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Note: Estimates for Clackmannanshire, 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 October 2020 – September 2021, there were an estimated 33,900 young people aged 16 to 24 years who were unemployed in Scotland. This is 4,400 less than the number of unemployed young people in October 2019 – September 2020.

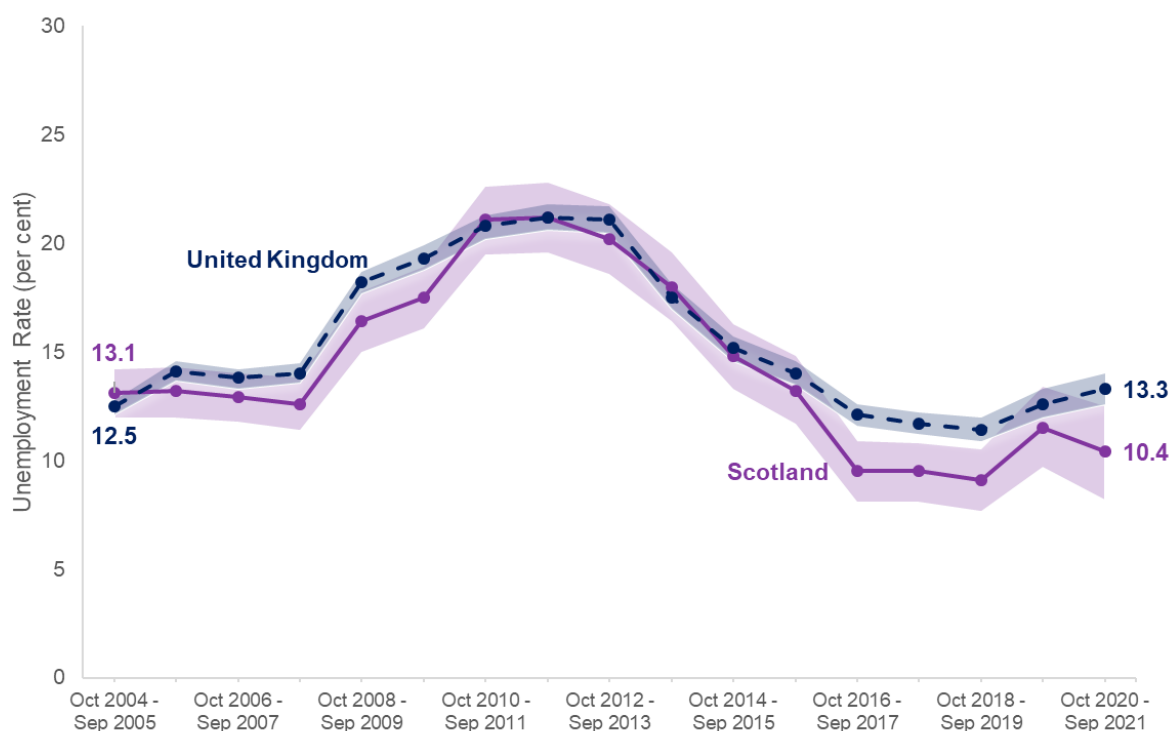
The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) in Scotland was estimated at 10.4 per cent in October 2020 – September 2021, 1.2 percentage points lower than the year before (11.5 per cent).

The unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds had been gradually decreasing over time from the peak (21.2 per cent) in October 2011 – September 2012 to 9.1 per cent in October 2018 – September 2019 but increased in September 2019 – October 2020 before declining again in October 2020 – September 2021.

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) was estimated at 13.3 per cent, 0.7 percentage points higher than the year before (12.6 per cent).

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, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Unemployment by Sex

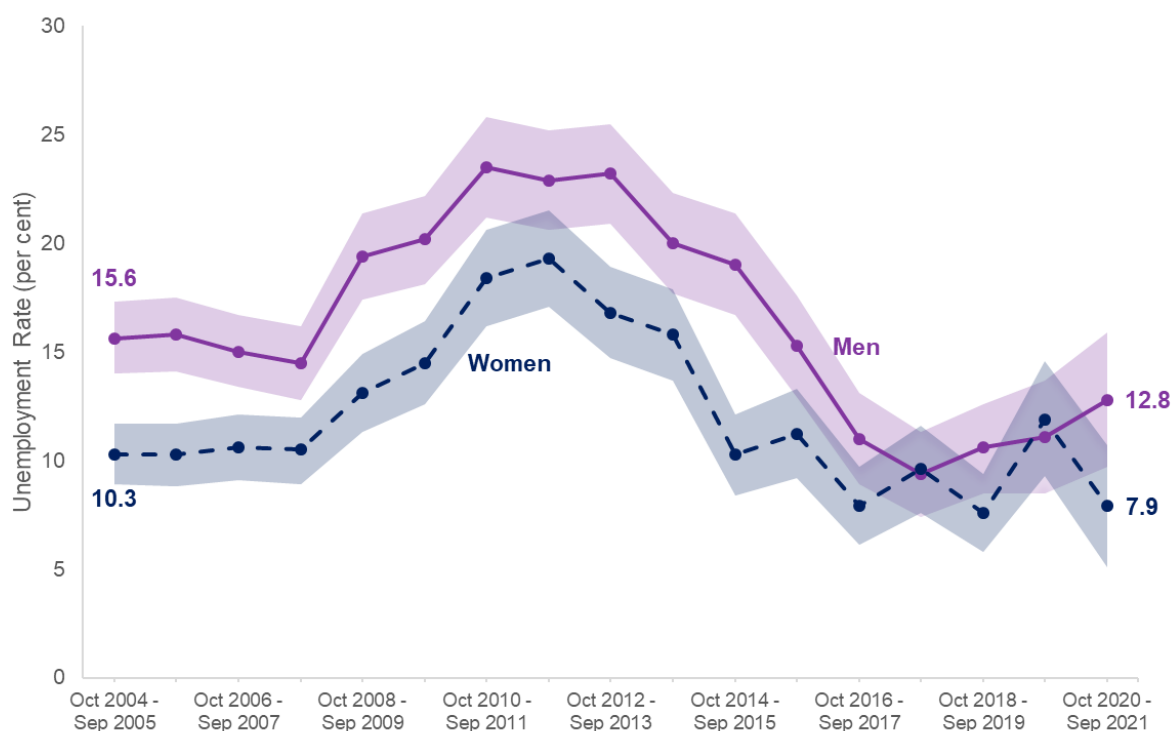
In October 2020 – September 2021, there were an estimated 21,100 unemployed men and 12,800 unemployed women aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

The unemployment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2020 – September 2021 was estimated at 12.8 per cent, 1.6 percentage points higher than a year ago.

The unemployment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2020 – September 2021 was estimated at 7.9 per cent, 4.0 percentage points lower than a year ago. This represents a statistically significant change.

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 sex, Scotland



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Economic Inactivity

Overall

In October 2020 – September 2021, there were an estimated 221,900 economically inactive young people aged 16 to 24 in Scotland. This is 5,700 less than the number of inactive young people in October 2019 – September 2020.

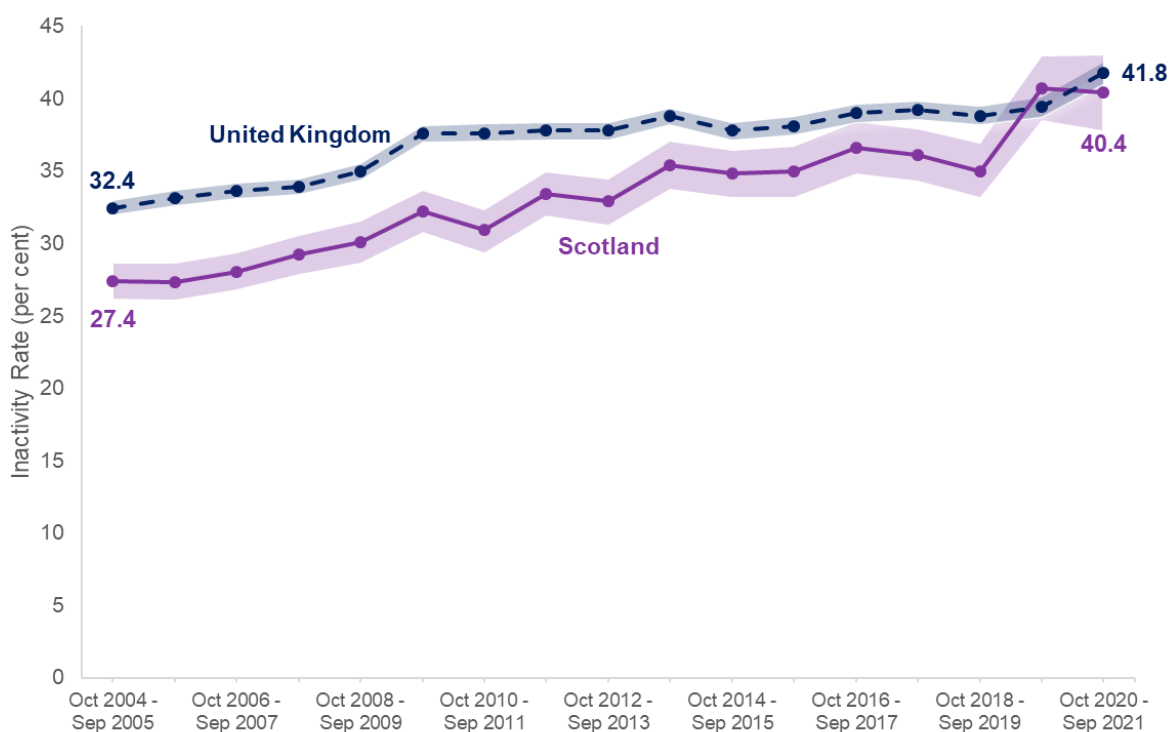
The inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 40.4 per cent in October 2020 – September 2021, 0.3 percentage points lower than the year before (40.7 per cent). Over three quarters (78.0 per cent) of 16 to 24 year olds in October 2020 – September 2021 who were economically inactive were estimated to be in full-time education.

The inactivity rate for young people in Scotland had been steadily rising from 27.4 per cent in October 2004 – September 2005 to 35.0 per cent in October 2018 – September 2019. The inactivity rate for young people then significantly increased to 40.7 per cent in October 2019 – September 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 41.8 per cent, 2.4 percentage points higher than the year before (39.4 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: Economic Inactivity Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Economic Inactivity by Sex

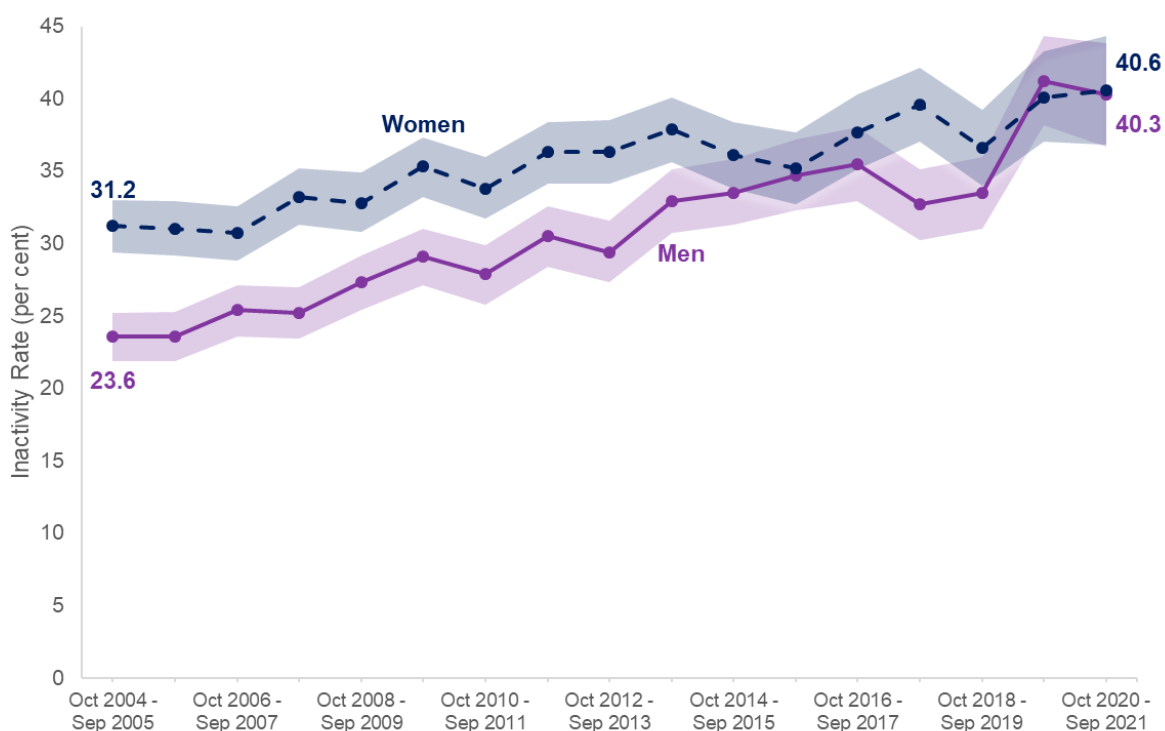
In October 2020 – September 2021, there were an estimated 111,300 inactive men and 110,600 inactive women aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

The inactivity rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was estimated at 40.3 per cent in October 2020 – September 2021, 1.0 percentage points lower than a year ago.

The inactivity rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2020 – September 2021 was estimated at 40.6 per cent, 0.4 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 sex, Scotland



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep 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)	Level	Rate (per cent)	Level	Rate (per cent)	
Oct 2004 - Sep 2005	587,600	370,700	63.1 ± 1.3	55,800	13.1 ± 1.1	161,000	27.4 ± 1.2					
Oct 2005 - Sep 2006	591,700	373,400	63.1 ± 1.4	56,600	13.2 ± 1.1	161,700	27.3 ± 1.3					
Oct 2006 - Sep 2007	597,500	374,500	62.7 ± 1.4	55,500	12.9 ± 1.1	167,500	28.0 ± 1.3					
Oct 2007 - Sep 2008	604,500	374,000	61.9 ± 1.4	53,900	12.6 ± 1.2	176,600	29.2 ± 1.3					
Oct 2008 - Sep 2009	610,700	356,900	58.4 ± 1.5	70,000	16.4 ± 1.4	183,700	30.1 ± 1.4					
Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	616,600	345,200	56.0 ± 1.5	73,000	17.5 ± 1.4	198,300	32.2 ± 1.4					
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	623,500	340,400	54.6 ± 1.6	90,800	21.1 ± 1.6	192,400	30.9 ± 1.5					
Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	623,500	327,400	52.5 ± 1.6	87,900	21.2 ± 1.6	208,200	33.4 ± 1.5					
Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	619,400	331,900	53.6 ± 1.6	84,000	20.2 ± 1.6	203,500	32.9 ± 1.5					
Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	614,000	325,200	53.0 ± 1.6	71,400	18.0 ± 1.6	217,300	35.4 ± 1.6					
Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	610,100	339,100	55.6 ± 1.7	58,700	14.8 ± 1.5	212,300	34.8 ± 1.6					
Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	603,500	340,500	56.4 ± 1.8	52,000	13.2 ± 1.6	211,100	35.0 ± 1.8					
Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	591,300	339,400	57.4 ± 1.9	35,700	9.5 ± 1.4	216,200	36.6 ± 1.8					
Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	579,800	335,500	57.9 ± 1.8	35,100	9.5 ± 1.4	209,300	36.1 ± 1.8					
Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	568,600	335,700	59.0 ± 1.9	33,700	9.1 ± 1.4	199,300	35.0 ± 1.8					
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020r	559,100	293,400	52.5 ± 2.2	38,200	11.5 ± 1.9	227,600	40.7 ± 2.2					
Oct 2020 - Sep 2021	549,000	293,300	53.4 ± 2.6	33,900	10.4 ± 2.1	221,900	40.4 ± 2.6					
Change since:												
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020r	-10,100	-100	1.0 Not Significant	-4,400	-1.2 Not Significant	-5,700	-0.3 Not Significant					
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	-74,500	-47,100	-1.2 Not Significant	-56,900	-10.7 Significant	29,500	9.6 Significant					

Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Notes:

r - revised. APS responses for periods October 2019 - September 2020 and October 2020 – September 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.
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)	
Oct 2004 - Sep 2005	6,898,500	4,079,400	59.1	± 0.4	580,800	12.5	± 0.4	2,238,300	32.4	± 0.4
Oct 2005 - Sep 2006	7,000,700	4,022,100	57.5	± 0.5	662,600	14.1	± 0.4	2,316,000	33.1	± 0.5
Oct 2006 - Sep 2007	7,121,500	4,076,800	57.2	± 0.5	652,400	13.8	± 0.4	2,392,400	33.6	± 0.5
Oct 2007 - Sep 2008	7,211,400	4,099,900	56.9	± 0.5	669,500	14.0	± 0.5	2,441,900	33.9	± 0.5
Oct 2008 - Sep 2009	7,247,400	3,856,700	53.2	± 0.5	857,100	18.2	± 0.5	2,533,600	35.0	± 0.5
Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	7,296,700	3,675,900	50.4	± 0.5	879,900	19.3	± 0.5	2,740,900	37.6	± 0.5
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	7,357,200	3,636,400	49.4	± 0.6	952,700	20.8	± 0.6	2,768,100	37.6	± 0.5
Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	7,359,200	3,608,200	49.0	± 0.6	970,800	21.2	± 0.6	2,780,200	37.8	± 0.5
Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	7,323,300	3,597,300	49.1	± 0.6	959,600	21.1	± 0.6	2,766,500	37.8	± 0.6
Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	7,293,000	3,680,900	50.5	± 0.6	783,300	17.5	± 0.6	2,828,700	38.8	± 0.6
Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	7,266,500	3,838,000	52.8	± 0.6	685,400	15.2	± 0.5	2,743,100	37.8	± 0.6
Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	7,207,000	3,835,300	53.2	± 0.6	625,600	14.0	± 0.6	2,746,100	38.1	± 0.6
Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	7,111,500	3,813,300	53.6	± 0.6	524,700	12.1	± 0.5	2,773,500	39.0	± 0.6
Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	7,016,200	3,766,300	53.7	± 0.6	498,900	11.7	± 0.5	2,750,900	39.2	± 0.6
Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	6,928,400	3,755,200	54.2	± 0.6	485,600	11.4	± 0.5	2,687,600	38.8	± 0.6
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020r	6,870,900	3,638,600	53.0	± 0.7	524,800	12.6	± 0.6	2,707,500	39.4	± 0.7
Oct 2020 - Sep 2021	6,806,700	3,437,300	50.5	± 0.8	527,300	13.3	± 0.7	2,842,200	41.8	± 0.8
Change since:										
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020r	-64,100	-201,300	-2.5	Significant	2,500	0.7	Not Significant	134,700	2.4	Significant
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	-550,400	-199,100	1.1	Significant	-425,400	-7.5	Significant	74,100	4.1	Significant

Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Notes:

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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)						
		Change since Oct 2020 - Sep 2021		Change since Oct 2019 - Sep 2020		Change since Oct 2020 - Sep 2021		Change since Oct 2019 - Sep 2020			Change since Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	
Employment												
Men	144,000	-2,900	↓	-27,900	↓	52.1	± 3.6	-0.1	↓	-3.1	↓	
Women	149,300	2,800	↑	-19,200	↓	54.8	± 3.8	2.0	↑	0.8	↑	
ILO unemployment												
Men	21,100	2,700	↑	-31,800	↓	12.8	± 3.1	1.6	↑	-10.7	↓	
Women	12,800	-7,000	↓	-25,100	↓	7.9	± 2.8	-4.0	↓	-10.5	↓	
Inactivity												
Men	111,300	-4,800	↓	24,500	↑	40.3	± 3.5	-1.0	↓	12.4	↑	
Women	110,600	-1,000	↓	5,000	↑	40.6	± 3.8	0.4	↑	6.7	↑	
United Kingdom												
Employment												
Men	1,741,300	-102,600	↓	-99,200	↓	50.1	± 1.1	-2.4	↓	0.4	↑	
Women	1,696,000	-98,700	↓	-99,900	↓	50.9	± 1.2	-2.5	↓	1.7	↑	
ILO unemployment												
Men	290,200	-5,600	↓	-273,100	↓	14.3	± 1.0	0.5	↑	-9.1	↓	
Women	237,100	8,100	↑	-152,300	↓	12.3	± 1.0	0.9	↑	-5.6	↓	
Inactivity												
Men	1,444,400	73,500	↑	142,100	↑	41.6	± 1.1	2.5	↑	6.4	↑	
Women	1,397,700	61,200	↑	-67,900	↓	42.0	± 1.1	2.2	↑	1.8	↑	

Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS

Notes:

Italic text indicates a statistically significant change over the period.

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.
6. The +/- figures shown in grey are confidence limits.

Further Information

Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for October 2004 – September 2005 to October 2020 – September 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 October 2004 – September 2005 to October 2020 – September 2021, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 15 December 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 July – June. The data for these time periods have not been used or presented within this publication. The data for these time periods 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 for rates 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 aged 16 to 24 in the labour market for inclusion in this publication, Scottish Government statisticians conduct in-depth quality assurance checks. Checks include analysis of the sample size obtained in the collection process; production of estimates from the microdata using statistical software and relevant coding; and 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 October 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.

We welcome feedback on the content of our outputs. Please contact: lmstats@gov.scot

Follow us on twitter  [@ScotGovOCEA](https://twitter.com/ScotGovOCEA)

We also attend and present our outputs to external users at Scotland's Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics group as well as other relevant forums.

[Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics Group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Concepts and Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annex A

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table A1 provides the employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for all 16 to 24 year olds based on results from the most recently available Labour Force Survey, ONS (Aug-Oct 2005 to Aug-Oct 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)
Aug-Oct 2005	590,000	380,000	64.4	61,000	13.9	148,000	25.2
Aug-Oct 2006	594,000	368,000	61.9	59,000	13.8	167,000	28.2
Aug-Oct 2007	601,000	378,000	62.9	54,000	12.5	169,000	28.2
Aug-Oct 2008	608,000	374,000	61.6	60,000	13.7	174,000	28.6
Aug-Oct 2009	614,000	355,000	57.9	73,000	17.0	186,000	30.2
Aug-Oct 2010	620,000	361,000	58.2	90,000	20.0	169,000	27.2
Aug-Oct 2011	625,000	341,000	54.6	117,000	25.5	167,000	26.7
Aug-Oct 2012	622,000	340,000	54.7	90,000	21.0	191,000	30.8
Aug-Oct 2013	617,000	338,000	54.8	90,000	21.0	189,000	30.6
Aug-Oct 2014	612,000	350,000	57.2	66,000	15.9	196,000	32.0
Aug-Oct 2015	607,000	373,000	61.3	62,000	14.3	173,000	28.4
Aug-Oct 2016	598,000	346,000	57.9	49,000	12.4	203,000	33.9
Aug-Oct 2017	585,000	350,000	59.8	38,000	9.7	198,000	33.8
Aug-Oct 2018	574,000	338,000	58.9	38,000	10.1	198,000	34.5
Aug-Oct 2019	564,000	318,000	56.4	30,000	8.6	216,000	38.3
Aug-Oct 2020	554,000	324,000	58.5	36,000	9.9	194,000	35.0
Aug-Oct 2021	547,000	337,000	61.6	30,000	8.2	180,000	32.8
Change since:							
Aug-Oct 2020	-7,000	13,000	3.1	-5,000	-1.7	-14,000	-2.2
Aug-Oct 2011	-78,000	-4,000	7.0	-87,000	-17.3	13,000	6.2

Source: Labour Force Survey, Aug-Oct datasets, not seasonally adjusted, ONS

Notes:

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

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 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.

These estimates were published on 14 December 2021 by ONS as part of the [monthly publication](#) as Official Statistics.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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