

## ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

# Youth Unemployment in Scotland (excluding those in full-time education)

## Summary

This analytical paper publishes data sourced from the Labour Force Survey consistent with the overarching target of the Education Working For All! - Developing Scotland's Young Workforce programme<sup>1</sup>; to reduce the level of youth unemployment (excluding those in full-time education) by 40 per cent by 2021.

The note focuses on information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for Jan-Mar in each year, the main source for this indicator. Annex A also provides information from the Annual Population Survey for reference. The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines the results from the Labour Force Survey and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts to provide a larger annual sample of households in Scotland and the UK which provides more robust labour market estimates for local areas compared to the main LFS.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/developingtheyoungworkforce/annualreport>

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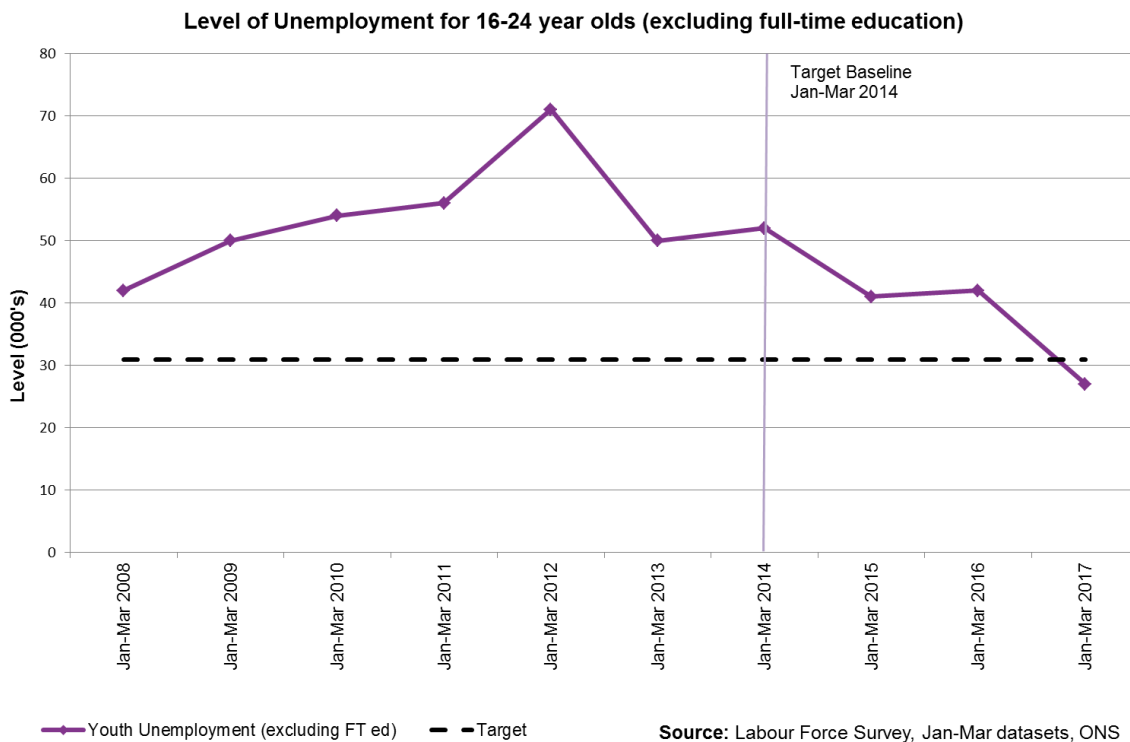
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# Key Results

The level of youth unemployment has reduced from 52,000 in Jan-Mar 2014 to 27,000 in Jan-Mar 2017, a decrease of 25,000 (48.3 per cent) since the Jan-Mar 2014 baseline.

Chart 1 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16-24) unemployment level (excluding those in full-time education) from the Labour Force Survey, ONS.

**Chart 1: Unemployment Level for 16-24 year olds (excluding those in full-time education)**



**Source:** Labour Force Survey, ONS

Tables 1 provide the level of employment, unemployment and inactivity levels for all 16-24 year olds and 16-24 year olds excluding those in full-time education from the Labour Force Survey, ONS for Jan-Mar 2008 to Jan-Mar 2017 and Table 2 provides the rates.

**Table 1: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Levels (All and excluding full-time education), 16-24 year olds, Scotland**

	Totals		Unemployment Level		Employment Level		Inactivity Level	
	All 16-24 year olds	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)
Jan-Mar 2008	604	345	55	42	357	255	192	48
Jan-Mar 2009	610	349	62	50	351	259	198	40
Jan-Mar 2010	616	346	66	54	325	231	225	61
Jan-Mar 2011	623	344	78	56	333	240	213	48
Jan-Mar 2012	624	344	97	71	325	227	203	46
Jan-Mar 2013	620	349	69	50	350	259	201	39
Jan-Mar 2014	614	311	74	52	316	211	224	49
Jan-Mar 2015	610	332	58	41	361	260	191	31
Jan-Mar 2016	600	339	62	42	329	237	210	60
Jan-Mar 2017	586	304	36	27	344	248	207	30
<b>Change over year (Jan-Mar 2016 to Jan-Mar 2017)</b>	-14	-35	-26	-16	15	11	-3	-31
<b>% change</b>	-2.4	-10.3	-42.3	-37.0	4.6	4.8	-1.5	-50.7
<b>Change over year (Jan-Mar 2014 to Jan-Mar 2017)</b>	-28	-7	-38	-25	27	37	-17	-19
<b>% change</b>	-4.6	-2.1	-51.9	-48.3	8.7	17.7	-7.7	-38.8

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

Notes: 1. Levels rounded to nearest thousand, 2. Estimates exclude those whose education status was unknown and 3. Totals for all 16-24 year olds include those whose education status was unknown.

**Table 2: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Rates (All and excluding full-time education), 16-24 year olds, Scotland**

	Unemployment Rate		Employment Rate		Inactivity Rate	
	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)
Jan-Mar 2008	13.4	14.2	59.0	73.9	31.8	13.9
Jan-Mar 2009	15.0	16.1	57.5	74.3	32.4	11.4
Jan-Mar 2010	17.0	19.0	52.7	66.6	36.6	17.7
Jan-Mar 2011	18.9	19.0	53.4	69.7	34.2	13.9
Jan-Mar 2012	22.9	23.7	52.1	66.1	32.5	13.4
Jan-Mar 2013	16.5	16.3	56.5	74.3	32.4	11.3
Jan-Mar 2014	19.0	19.7	51.5	67.7	36.4	15.7
Jan-Mar 2015	13.8	13.7	59.2	78.3	31.3	9.2
Jan-Mar 2016	15.8	15.2	54.8	69.7	34.9	17.8
Jan-Mar 2017	9.4	9.7	58.7	81.4	35.2	9.8
<b>Change over year (Jan-Mar 2016 to Jan-Mar 2017)</b>						
<i>Percentage point</i>	-6.4	-5.5	3.9	11.7	0.3	-8.0
<b>Change over year (Jan-Mar 2014 to Jan-Mar 2017)</b>						
<i>Percentage point</i>	-9.6	-10.0	7.2	13.7	-1.2	-5.9

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

Notes: 1. Rates are based on unrounded figures, 2. Estimates exclude those whose education status was unknown and 3. Totals for all 16-24 year olds include those whose education status was unknown.

# About this Publication

## The Wood Commission

The independent Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, chaired by Sir Ian Wood, published *Education Working for All!* in June 2014. The report set out a series of recommendations to help Scotland produce better qualified, work ready young people with skills relevant to modern employment opportunities.

The Scottish Government welcomed their report, accepted their recommendations and published *Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) – Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy* in December 2014. This included implementation plans and a performance assessment framework agreed and jointly led with local government. A programme board and National Advisory Group, with members from across the education system and business, provide oversight, challenge and support to this process.<sup>2</sup>

The headline target for the DYW programme is to reduce the level of youth unemployment (excluding those in full-time education) by 40 per cent by 2021. Progress against the programme is assessed via the headline target and a further 11 Key Performance Indicators. This paper focusses on progress against the overarching target based on data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## Data sources used in this publication

The Labour Force Survey, ONS is a quarterly survey of households in the UK. Labour Force Survey data are used, as headline labour market indicators, by ONS in their Regional Labour Market Statistics.

Information from the Annual Population Survey for April 2016 - March 2017 is presented in Annex A. The sample size in this data set is around 17,000 households in Scotland. The Scottish Government funds the boost to the LFS sample in Scotland.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/developingtheyoungworkforce/annualreport>

# Annex A

## Annual Population Survey (APS)

Tables A1 and A2 provide the employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for all 16-24 year olds and 16-24 year olds excluding those in full-time education based on results from the Annual Population Survey, ONS for 2008/09 to 2016/17. This is the most recent Annual Population Survey data available at this time.

The Annual Population Survey results have been provided for reference as the APS has a larger sample size than the LFS and is therefore provides more robust information for smaller group. However, the results from both the APS and LFS show similar trends in the youth unemployment levels, excluding those in full-time education.

The Annual Population Survey, Apr 2016 to March 2017, shows that 43% of all 592,000 16-24 years olds are in full-time education.

The level of unemployment for those not in full-time education has shown a downward trend in each year since Apr 2011-Mar 2012 and most steeply in the last year, following a similar trend to the unemployment level for 16-24 year olds overall.

**Table A1: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Levels (All and excluding full-time education), 16-24 year olds, Scotland**

	Totals		Unemployment Level		Employment Level		Inactivity Level	
	All 16-24 year olds	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)
Apr 2008 - Mar 2009	608	373	57	45	369	276	181	53
Apr 2009 - Mar 2010	614	360	70	56	344	247	200	58
Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	620	368	85	64	346	247	188	57
Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	625	352	92	65	331	237	202	50
Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	622	344	86	63	338	241	197	40
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	617	344	79	51	322	238	216	54
Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	612	335	65	46	333	238	214	51
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	606	339	60	41	339	245	208	53
Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	592	335	38	26	340	252	215	58
<b>Change over year (Apr 2015 - Mar 2016 to April 2016 - Mar 2017)</b>	-14	-3	-22	-15	1	7	7	5
<b>% change</b>	-2.3	-1.0	-37	-37.0	0.3	2.8	3.5	9.1
<b>Change over year (Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 to April 2016 - Mar 2017)</b>	-25	-8	-41	-26	18	14	-2	4
<b>% change</b>	-4.0	-2.4	-52.4	-49.9	5.6	5.8	-0.7	6.5

**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

Notes: 1. Levels rounded to nearest thousand, 2. Estimates exclude those whose education status was unknown and 3. Totals for all 16-24 year olds include those whose education status was unknown.

**Table A2: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Rates (All and excluding full-time education), 16-24 year olds, Scotland**

	Unemployment Rate		Employment Rate		Inactivity Rate	
	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)	All 16-24	(excl. FT Ed.)
<b>Apr 2008 - Mar 2009</b>	13.4	14.0	60.8	73.9	29.8	14.1
<b>Apr 2009 - Mar 2010</b>	16.9	18.4	56.0	68.5	32.6	16.0
<b>Apr 2010 - Mar 2011</b>	19.7	20.5	55.9	67.3	30.4	15.4
<b>Apr 2011 - Mar 2012</b>	21.9	21.6	52.9	67.3	32.3	14.2
<b>Apr 2012 - Mar 2013</b>	20.3	20.7	54.4	70.1	31.7	11.6
<b>Apr 2013 - Mar 2014</b>	19.7	17.8	52.1	69.2	35.1	15.8
<b>Apr 2014 - Mar 2015</b>	16.4	16.3	54.4	70.9	34.9	15.4
<b>Apr 2015 - Mar 2016</b>	15.0	14.3	55.9	72.3	34.3	15.7
<b>Apr 2016 - Mar 2017</b>	9.9	9.3	57.4	75.0	36.3	17.3
<b>Change over year (Apr 2015 - Mar 2016 to April 2016 - Mar 2017)</b>	-5.0	-5.0	1.5	2.8	2.0	1.6
<i>Percentage point</i>						
<b>Change over year (Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 to April 2016 - Mar 2017)</b>	-9.7	-8.5	5.2	5.8	1.2	1.4
<i>Percentage point</i>						

**Source:** Annual Population Survey, Apr-Mar datasets, ONS

Notes: 1. Rates are based on unrounded figures, 2. Estimates exclude those whose education status was unknown and 3. Totals for all 16-24 year olds include those whose education status was unknown.