

## **ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET**

# **Statistics from the Annual Population Survey: Results for year to 31 December 2019**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# About this publication

The latest APS data covers the year from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

The APS combines results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts and provides rolling four-quarter labour market information for UK countries, regions and local areas. It is the primary source for information on local labour markets providing headline estimates on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity. The APS is the largest annual household survey in Scotland and provides a wealth of information about individuals' personal circumstances and their work.

As well as providing updated estimates for January-December 2019, this publication includes trends over time and gives some indication of the variation across the 32 local authority areas within Scotland.

Comparisons are made with the year before or 10 years before. Statistical significance is based on 95 per cent confidence intervals. Changes in rate over the year and since 2019 are reported in percentage points (pp).

## Access the data in this publication

Supporting data for headline employment, youth employment, female employment, male employment and headline economic inactivity levels and rates at local authority level are available in the publication [web-tables](#)

Data is also being made available on the Scottish Government Open Data Platform <http://statistics.gov.scot/home>

Results are provided for January-December 2004 to January-December 2019, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 18 March 2020.

ONS also release rolling quarterly 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 or associated tables. The data for these are available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

### Notes:

1. All statistics, charts and tables presented in this publication are sourced from the Annual Population Survey, January to December datasets produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

**Next Update:** June 2020

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# Employment (16-64) Rates

There is considerable variation in employment rates for those aged 16-64 across Scotland's local authorities.

## In January-December 2019:

- the highest employment rates were seen in **Orkney Islands** (87.1 per cent), **Perth & Kinross** (83.4 per cent) and **Na h-Eileanan Siar** (82.3 per cent).
- the lowest employment rates were seen in **Glasgow City** (67.3 per cent), **Inverclyde** (68.3 per cent) and **Dundee City** (68.6 per cent).

## Changes since 2018:

The employment rate in Scotland increased over the year from 74.1 per cent to 74.8 per cent, while the UK rate increased over the same period from 75.0 per cent to 75.6 per cent.

Over the year, 18 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in their employment rates, while 14 saw a decrease. A statistically significant increase over the year was seen for: **Perth & Kinross** (up 5.5 pp to 83.4 per cent), **East Ayrshire** (up 5.5 pp to 74.3 per cent) and **Aberdeen City** (up 5.1 pp to 79.1 per cent).

## Changes since 2009:

The employment rate for Scotland, as reported by the Annual Population Survey (74.8 per cent), is higher than it was ten years ago (72.0 per cent). This increase is statistically significant.

28 local authorities in Scotland have higher employment rates than ten years ago, while 4 showed a decrease. Statistically significant increases were seen over this period in; **Na h-Eileanan Siar** (up 11.0pp to 82.3 per cent), **Perth & Kinross** (up 8.0pp to 83.4 per cent), **East Ayrshire** (up 7.1pp to 74.3 per cent), **West Dunbartonshire** (up 6.2pp to 73.9 per cent), **North Ayrshire** (up 5.5pp to 70.5 per cent), **Glasgow City** (up 5.5pp to 67.3 per cent), **West Lothian** (up 5.1pp to 77.8 per cent), **Renfrewshire** (up 5.0pp to 76.9 per cent) and **South Lanarkshire** (up 4.9pp to 76.6 per cent).

Chart 1: Change in Employment Rates between 2009 and 2019 (percentage points)



\* statistically significant change

# Youth (16-24) Employment Rates

## In January-December 2019:

- the highest employment rates for young people were seen in **Aberdeen City** (73.0 per cent) **Perth & Kinross** (72.3 per cent) and **Aberdeenshire** (69.2 per cent).
- the lowest employment rates for young people were seen in **East Renfrewshire** (38.5 per cent), **Glasgow City** (47.5 per cent) and **Inverclyde** (49.8 per cent).

## Changes since 2018:

The employment rate for young people in Scotland increased over the year from 57.2 per cent to 57.9 per cent, while the UK rate increased over the same period from 53.7 per cent to 54.1 per cent.

Over the year, 16 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in their youth employment rates, while 12 saw a decrease. Statistically significant changes were seen over the year in **East Ayrshire** (up 19.2 pp to 66.3 per cent) and **Aberdeen City** (up 16.2 pp to 73.0 per cent) .

**Note:** Data for Highland, Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney and Shetland are not available as they are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

## Changes since 2009:

The employment rate for young people in Scotland, as reported by the Annual Population Survey (57.9 per cent), is higher than it was ten years ago (57.6 per cent). Over the same period, the employment rate for young people in the UK has increased from 52.3 per cent to 54.1 per cent.

There are 18 local authorities in Scotland which have higher youth employment rates compared with ten years ago, while 9 showed a decrease over this period. None of these changes are statistically significant .

**Note:** Data for Clackmannanshire, Highland, Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney and Shetland are not available as they are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

Chart 2: Change in Youth Employment Rates between 2009 and 2019 (percentage points)



# Employment (16-64) Rates for Women

## In January-December 2019:

- the highest employment rates for women were seen in **Na h-Eileanan Siar** (85.4 per cent), **Orkney Islands** (81.1 per cent) and **Midlothian** (79.1 per cent)
- the lowest employment rates for women were seen in **North Ayrshire** (65.5 per cent), **Glasgow City, Moray** and **Dundee City** (all 66.9 per cent)

## Changes since 2018:

The employment rate for women in Scotland increased over the year from 70.3 per cent to 71.7 per cent. This increase is statistically significant. While the UK rate increased over the same period from 70.5 per cent to 71.6 per cent.

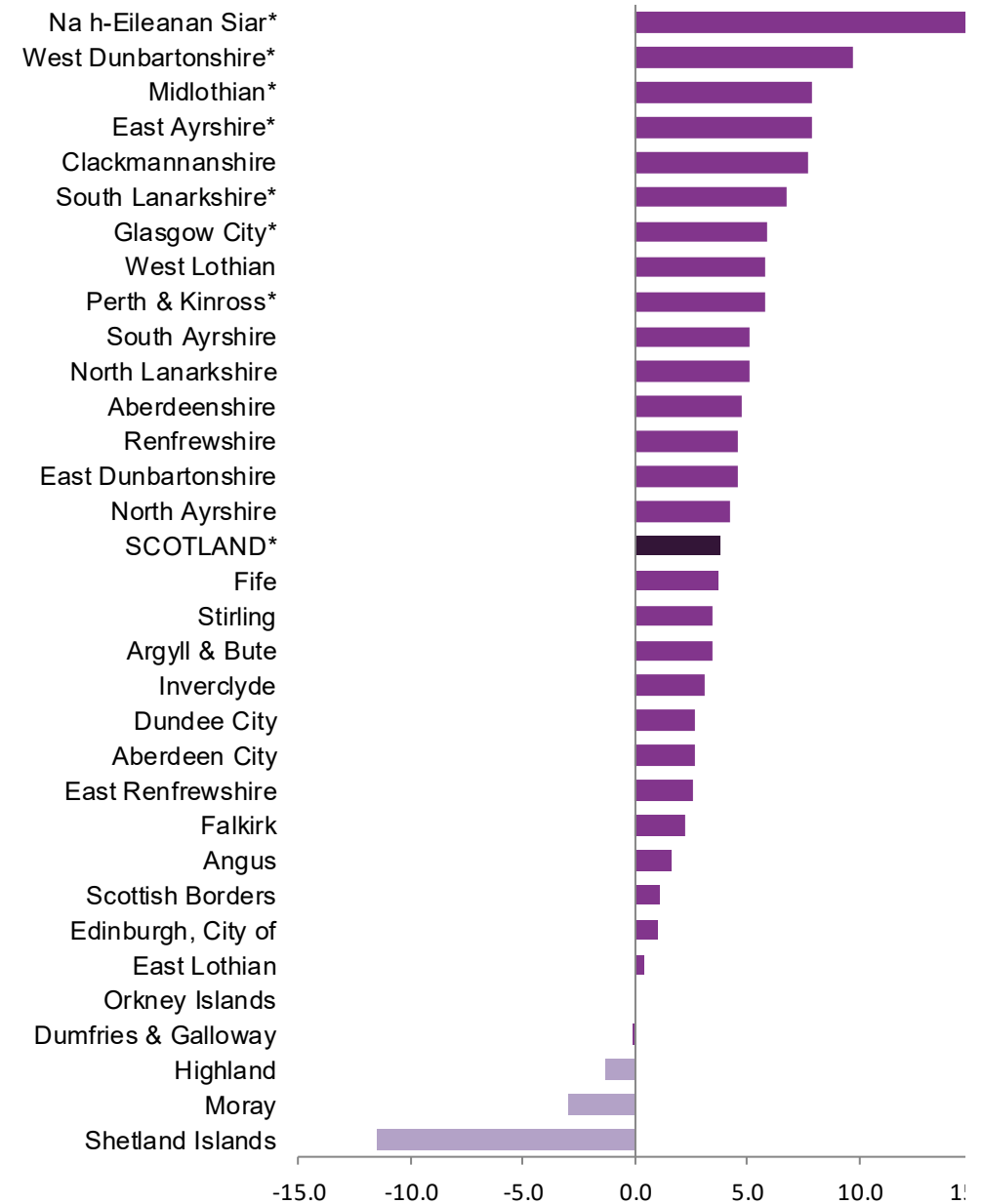
Over the year, 20 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in their employment rates for women, while 12 saw a decrease. Statistically significant changes were seen in **Glasgow City** (up by 7.5pp to 66.9 per cent) and in **Highland** (down by 7.9pp to 74.8 per cent).

## Changes since 2009:

The employment rate for women in Scotland, as reported by the Annual Population Survey (71.7 per cent), is higher than it was ten years ago (68.0 per cent). This increase is statistically significant.

27 local authorities in Scotland have higher employment rates for women than ten years ago, while 4 showed a decrease and 1 remained unchanged. Statistically significant changes were seen over this period in **Na h-Eileanan Siar** (up by 16.8pp to 85.4 per cent), **West Dunbartonshire** (up by 9.7pp to 74.4 per cent), **Midlothian** (up by 7.9pp to 79.1 per cent), **East Ayrshire** (up by 7.9pp to 71.5 per cent), **South Lanarkshire** (up by 6.8pp to 73.9 per cent), **Glasgow City** (up by 5.9pp to 66.9 per cent) and **Perth & Kinross** (up by 5.8pp to 78.0 per cent).

Chart 3: Change in Employment Rates for women between 2009 and 2019 (percentage points)



\* statistically significant change

# Employment (16-64) Rates for Men

## In January-December 2019:

- the highest employment rates for men were seen in **Orkney Islands** (92.8 per cent), **Perth & Kinross** (88.9 per cent) and **Aberdeenshire** (85.2 per cent).
- the lowest employment rates for men were seen in **Glasgow City** (67.8 per cent), **Inverclyde** (68.8 per cent) and **Dundee City** (70.3 per cent).

## Changes since 2018:

The employment rate for men in Scotland remained unchanged over the year at 78.0 per cent, while the UK rate increased from 79.6 per cent to 79.7 per cent.

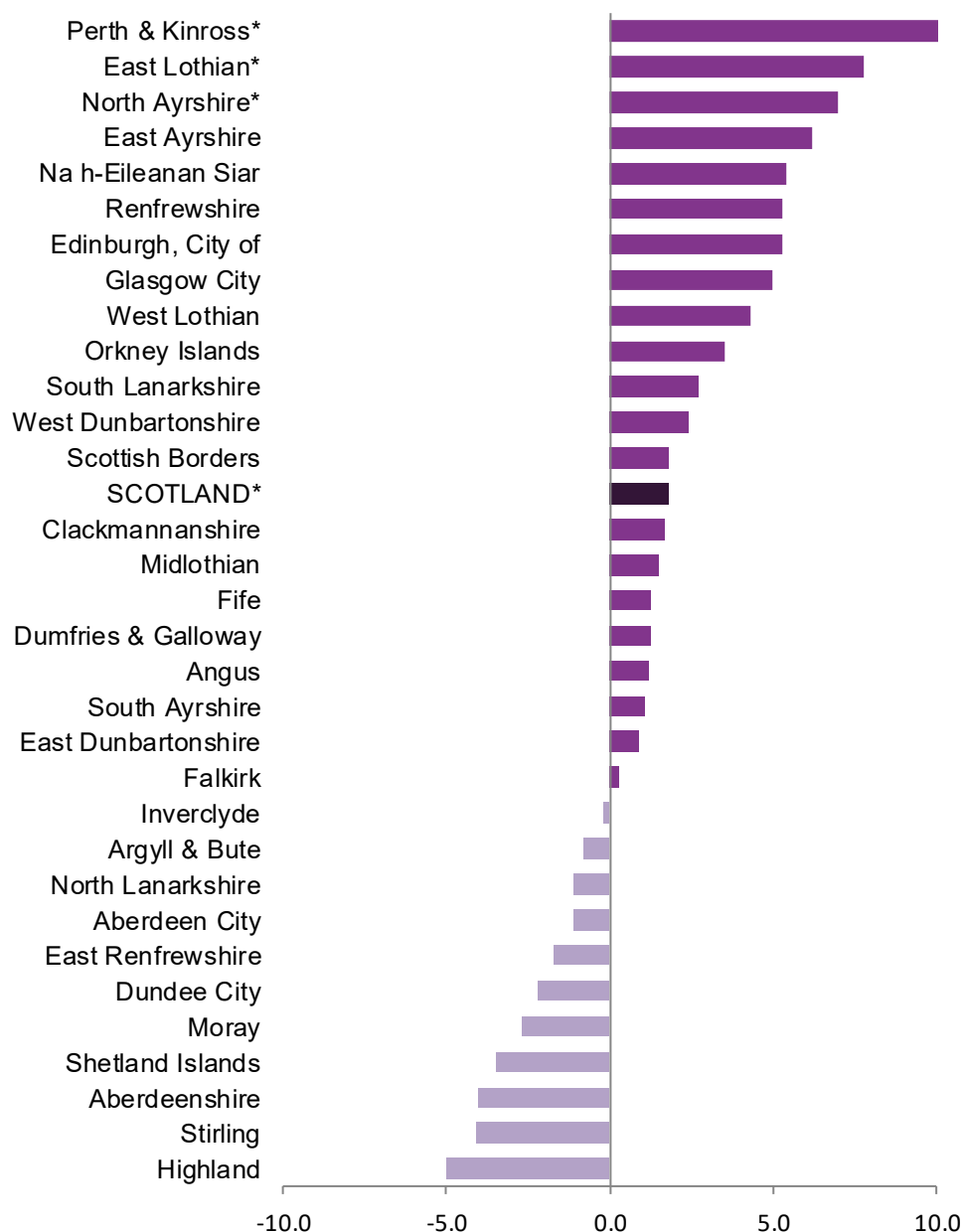
Over the year, 14 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in their employment rates for men, 17 saw a decrease and 1 remained unchanged. A statistically significant change was seen in **Perth & Kinross** (up by 7.5pp to 88.9 per cent).

## Changes since 2009:

The employment rate for men in Scotland, as reported by the Annual Population Survey (78.0 per cent), is higher than it was ten years ago (76.2 per cent). This increase is statistically significant.

21 local authorities in Scotland have higher employment rates for men than ten years ago, while 11 showed a decrease. Statistically significant changes were seen over this period in **Perth & Kinross** (up by 10.3pp to 88.9 per cent), **East Lothian** (up by 7.8pp to 84.5 per cent) and **North Ayrshire** (up by 7.0pp to 75.9 per cent).

Chart 4: Change in Employment Rates for men between 2009 and 2019 (percentage points)



\* statistically significant change

# Concepts and Definitions

**Economic inactivity rate:** The number of economically inactive people 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. It can be useful for some purposes to consider only those who are both economically inactive and not of state pension age.

**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) convention.

**Employment rate:** The number of people in employment 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 working age 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.

**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.

**Working age:** Note that due to changes in the state pension age, (specifically the current female state pension age which is changing dynamically to match the male state pension age) ONS no longer publish rates using a Working age definition in its statistical bulletins, but instead report rates for all people aged 16 to 64.