



## ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

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

**Statistics from the Annual Population Survey, October 2018 to September 2019  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

### 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 October 2018 to September 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 October 2007 to September 2008 to October 2018 to September 2019 and intervening years from the October to September data set. Comparisons are made between the current year (October 2018 to September 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 January 2019 to December 2019 and will be published on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 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, Aug-Oct 2019 (at the time of this publication). These are published as Official Statistics.



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# Key Results

## Youth Employment

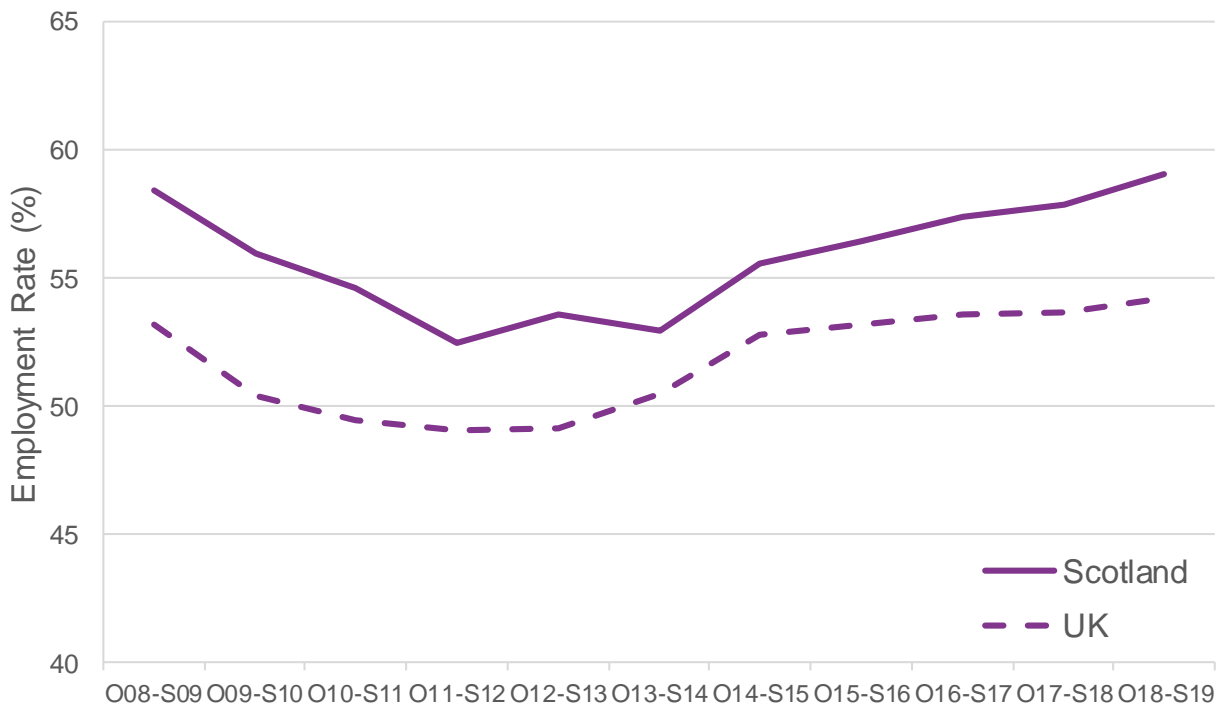
In October 2018-September 2019, 336,000 young people aged 16-24 years were in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young people (16-24 years) in Scotland in October 2018-September 2019 was 59.0 per cent, 1.2 percentage points higher than a year ago (57.9 per cent).

For the UK, as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16-24 years) was 54.2 per cent, 0.5 percentage points higher than a year ago (53.7 per cent).

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

**Chart 1: Youth (16-24) Employment Rate, Oct 2008-Sep 2009 to Oct 2018-Sep 2019, Scotland and the UK**



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

## Youth Unemployment

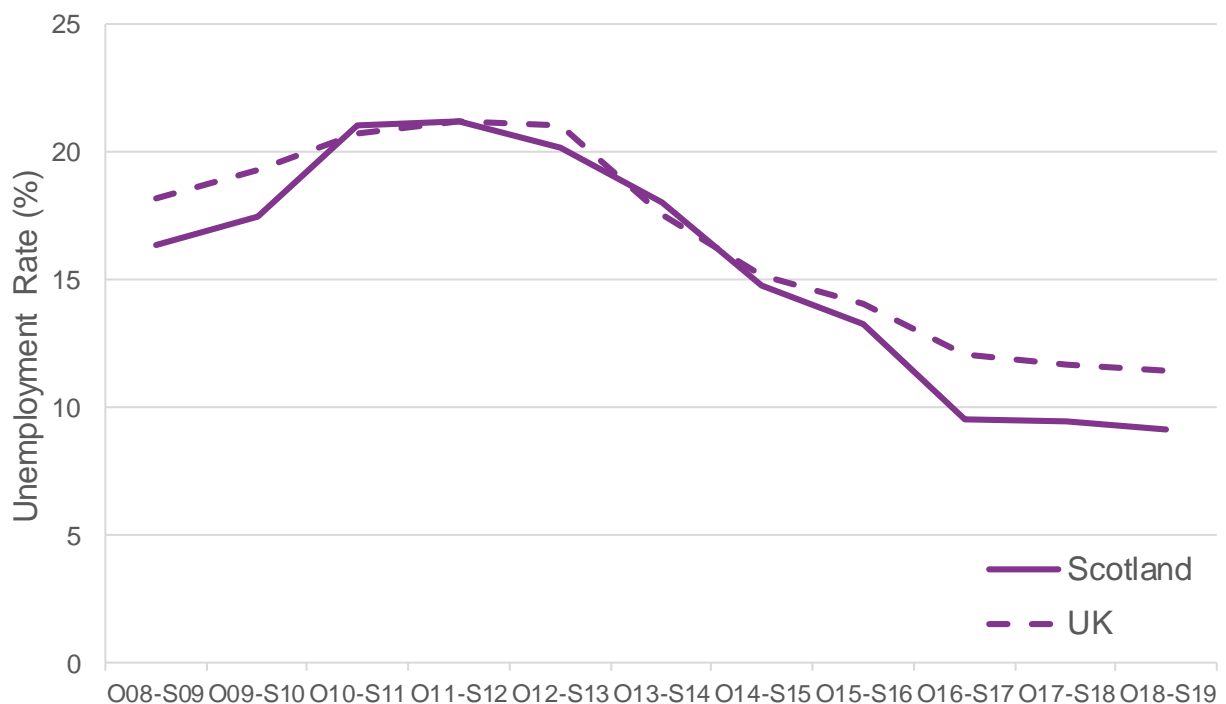
In October 2018-September 2019, 34,000 young people aged 16-24 years were unemployed in Scotland, 1,000 less than in October 2017-September 2018 when 35,000 young people were unemployed.

The unemployment rate for young people (16-24 years) in Scotland was 9.1 per cent in October 2018-September 2019, 0.3 percentage points lower than the year before (9.5 per cent).

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16-24 years) was 11.4 per cent, 0.2 percentage points lower than the year before (11.7 per cent).

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

**Chart 2: Youth (16-24) Unemployment Rate, Oct 2008-Sep 2009 to Oct 2018-Sep 2019, Scotland and the UK**



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

## Youth Inactivity

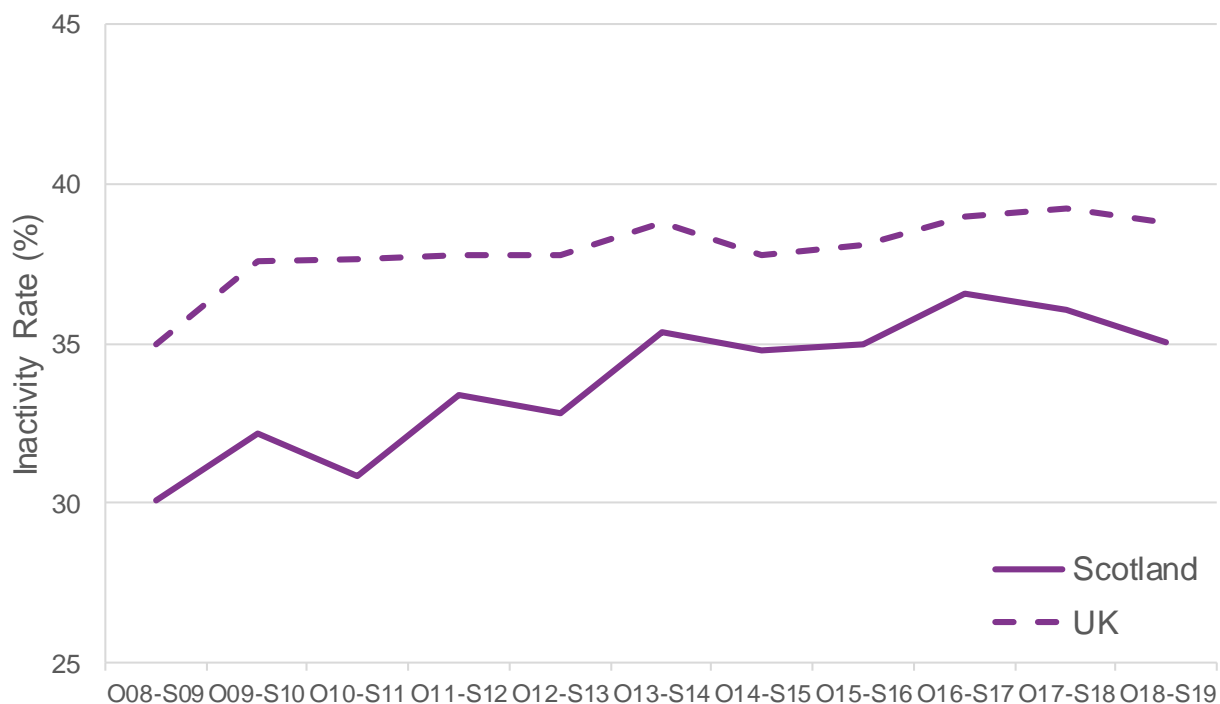
In October 2018-September 2019, 199,000 young people aged 16-24 years were economically inactive in Scotland, 10,000 less than a year ago when 209,000 were economically inactive.

In October 2018-September 2019, the inactivity rate for young people (16-24 years) in Scotland was 35.0 per cent, lower than the year before (36.1 per cent).

For the UK, the inactivity rate for young people (16-24 years) was 38.8 per cent, 0.4 percentage points lower than the year before (39.2 per cent).

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

**Chart 3: Youth (16-24) Inactivity Rate, Oct 2008-Sep 2009 to Oct 2018-Sep 2019, Scotland and the UK**



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

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 (%)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	
Oct 2008 - Sep 2009	611	357	58.4	70	16.4	184	30.1	
Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	617	345	56.0	73	17.5	198	32.2	
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	624	340	54.6	91	21.1	192	30.9	
Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	624	327	52.5	88	21.2	208	33.4	
Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	619	332	53.6	84	20.2	203	32.9	
Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	614	325	53.0	71	18.0	217	35.4	
Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	610	339	55.6	59	14.8	212	34.8	
Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	603	340	56.4	52	13.2	211	35.0	
Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	591	339	57.4	36	9.5	216	36.6	
Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	580	335	57.9	35	9.5	209	36.1	
Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	569	336	59.0	34	9.1	199	35.0	
Change since Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	-11	0	1.2	-1	-0.3	-10	-1.0	
Change since Oct 2008 - Sep 2009	-42	-21	0.6	-36	-7.3	16	5.0	

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

Notes:

1. Levels 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.

**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 (%)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	
Oct 2008 - Sep 2009	7,247	3,857	53.2	857	18.2	2,534	35.0	
Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	7,297	3,676	50.4	880	19.3	2,741	37.6	
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	7,357	3,636	49.4	953	20.8	2,768	37.6	
Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	7,359	3,608	49.0	971	21.2	2,780	37.8	
Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	7,323	3,597	49.1	960	21.1	2,766	37.8	
Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	7,293	3,681	50.5	783	17.5	2,829	38.8	
Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	7,267	3,838	52.8	685	15.2	2,743	37.8	
Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	7,207	3,835	53.2	626	14.0	2,746	38.1	
Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	7,111	3,813	53.6	525	12.1	2,773	39.0	
Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	7,016	3,766	53.7	499	11.7	2,751	39.2	
Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	6,928	3,755	54.2	486	11.4	2,688	38.8	
Change since Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	-88	-11	0.5	-13	-0.2	-63	-0.4	
Change since Oct 2008 - Sep 2009	-319	-101	1.0	-372	-6.7	154	3.8	

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

Notes:

1. Levels 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.

# Further Information

## Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for October 2008-September 2009 to October 2018-September 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 and greater precision for headline estimates of Labour Market indicators by age for Scotland.

## Access the data in this publication

Results are provided for October 2008-September 2009 to October 2018-September 2019, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 18 December 2019.

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 are available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

## 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 Aug-Oct 2009 to Aug-Oct 2019.

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 (16-24 years) Level (000's)	Employment Level (000's)	Rate (%)	Unemployment Level (000's)	Rate (%)	Inactivity Level (000's)	Rate (%)
Aug-Oct 2009	614	355	57.9	73	17.0	186	30.2
Aug-Oct 2010	620	361	58.2	90	20.0	169	27.2
Aug-Oct 2011	625	341	54.6	117	25.5	167	26.7
Aug-Oct 2012	622	340	54.7	90	21.0	191	30.8
Aug-Oct 2013	617	338	54.8	90	21.0	189	30.6
Aug-Oct 2014	612	350	57.2	66	15.9	196	32.0
Aug-Oct 2015	607	373	61.3	62	14.3	173	28.4
Aug-Oct 2016	598	346	57.9	49	12.4	203	33.9
Aug-Oct 2017	585	350	59.8	38	9.7	198	33.8
Aug-Oct 2018	574	338	58.9	38	10.1	198	34.5
Aug-Oct 2019	564	318	56.4	30	8.6	216	38.3
Change since Aug-Oct 2018	-11	-20	-2.5	-8	-1.5	18	3.8
Change since Aug-Oct 2009	-50	-37	-1.5	-43	-8.4	30	8.0

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

Notes:

1. Levels 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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 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: 0131 244 6773,

e-mail: [LMStats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Complaints and suggestions**

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**Contact:** [lmstats@gov.scot](mailto:lmstats@gov.scot) ; Telephone: 0131 244 6773

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