

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

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

Summary

This analytical paper publishes data to report performance against the overarching target of the Education Working For All! - Developing Scotland's Young Workforce programme¹; to reduce the level of youth unemployment (excluding those in full-time education) by 40 per cent by 2021.

This note focusses on information from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for Jan-Dec each year. 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. Annex A also provides information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), currently the main source for this indicator.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/young-people-training-employment/>

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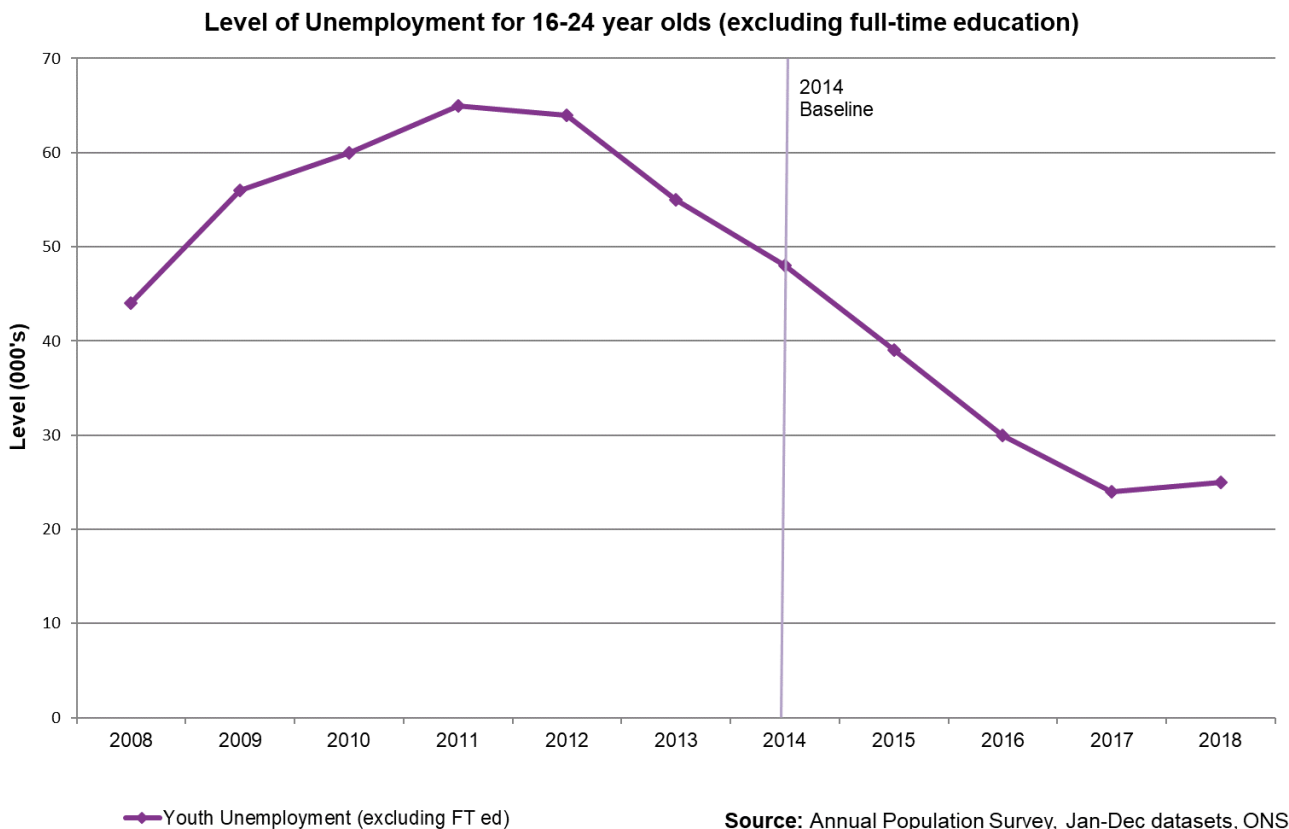
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Key Results

The level of youth unemployment (excluding those in full-time education) has reduced from 48,000 in 2014 to 25,000 in 2018, a decrease of 23,000 (47.4 per cent) since 2014.

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

Chart 1: Unemployment Level for 16-24 year olds (excluding those in full-time education), 2008 to 2018



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec datasets, ONS

Table 1 provides 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 Annual Population Survey, ONS for 2008 to 2018 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

(Levels in 000's)

	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.)
2008	606	371	58	44	368	273	180	55
2009	612	364	70	56	352	256	190	53
2010	618	369	78	60	343	249	197	59
2011	625	354	95	65	339	241	192	48
2012	623	339	86	64	331	236	206	40
2013	618	346	84	55	326	237	209	54
2014	612	342	67	48	326	237	219	56
2015	609	333	58	39	344	246	208	48
2016	602	344	45	30	336	250	220	64
2017	588	336	35	24	348	261	204	51
2018	577	335	35	25	330	253	212	56
Change over year (2017 to 2018)	-11	-1	0	1	-18	-8	8	5
% change	-1.8	-0.4	-0.7	6.2	-5.2	-3.0	3.8	10.2
Change since 2014 (2014 to 2018)	-35	-7	-32	-23	4	16	-7	0
% change	-5.8	-2.0	-47.8	-47.4	1.1	6.8	-3.1	-0.4

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec datasets, not seasonally adjusted, ONS

Notes: 1. Levels rounded to nearest thousand, 2. Estimates exclude those whose education status was unknown, 3. Totals for all 16-24 year olds include those whose education status was unknown and 4. The Annual Population Survey, January to December 2018, shows that 42 per cent of all 577,000 16-24 years olds are in full-time education.

**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.)
2008	13.6	13.8	60.7	73.5	29.8	14.7
2009	16.6	17.9	57.6	70.2	31.0	14.5
2010	18.5	19.5	55.5	67.5	31.9	16.1
2011	21.8	21.2	54.2	68.0	30.7	13.7
2012	20.5	21.3	53.2	69.4	33.0	11.9
2013	20.5	18.7	52.7	68.6	33.7	15.6
2014	17.1	17.0	53.3	69.4	35.7	16.5
2015	14.4	13.8	56.4	73.8	34.1	14.4
2016	11.8	10.7	55.9	72.6	36.6	18.7
2017	9.2	8.4	59.3	77.7	34.7	15.1
2018	9.6	9.1	57.2	75.6	36.7	16.7
Change over year (2017 to 2018)	0.4	0.7	-2.1	-2.1	2.0	1.6
<i>Percentage point</i>						
Change since 2014 (2014 to 2018)	-7.5	-7.8	3.9	6.3	1.0	0.3
<i>Percentage point</i>						

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 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.²

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 Annual Population Survey (APS) and 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 January to December 2018 is presented. The sample size in this dataset is around 17,000 households in Scotland. It combines results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts. The boost increases the sample size in Scotland, which means the APS can provide more robust labour market estimates for local areas and small groups compared to the main LFS. The Scottish Government funds the boost to the LFS sample in Scotland.

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

Annex A

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 Labour Force Survey, ONS for Jan-Mar 2008 to Jan-Mar 2019.

The Labour Force Survey results have been provided for reference as these estimates are currently the main source for the DYW indicator. Due to the substantial decrease in the unemployment level and rate (excluding those in full-time education) for 16-24 year olds over recent years, the sample size for the LFS estimates are too small to provide reliable estimates therefore, the APS estimates have been used in the main body of this report to monitor progress. 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 similar trends in the youth unemployment levels, excluding those in full-time education.

The level of unemployment for those not in full-time education has shown a downward trend since Jan-Mar 2012. A similar trend is seen for 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

	(Levels in 000's)							
	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	202	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	604	341	62	43	331	238	211	61
Jan-Mar 2017	592	307	36	27	347	250	209	30
Jan-Mar 2018	581	334	38	28	323	249	220	58
Jan-Mar 2019	570	320	24	x	338	257	208	43
Change over year (Jan-Mar 2018 to Jan-Mar 2019)	-11	-15	-14	:	15	9	-12	-15
% change	-1.9	-4.4	-37.2	:	4.6	3.4	-5.4	-25.5
Change since 2014 (Jan-Mar 2014 to Jan-Mar 2019)	-45	9	-50	:	21	47	-16	-6
% change	-7.3	2.8	-67.9	:	6.7	22.2	-7.0	-11.6

Source: Labour Force Survey, Jan-Mar datasets, ONS

x – estimate is not reliable and should not be used for practical purposes, : – not applicable

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.)
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	32.4	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	54.7	69.7	35.0	17.8
Jan-Mar 2017	9.4	9.7	58.6	81.4	35.3	9.8
Jan-Mar 2018	10.5	10.2	55.6	74.3	37.9	17.3
Jan-Mar 2019	6.6	x	59.3	80.5	36.5	13.5
Change over year (Jan-Mar 2018 to Jan-Mar 2019)	-3.9	:	3.7	6.1	-1.3	-3.8
<i>Percentage point</i>						
Change since 2014 (Jan-Mar 2014 to Jan-Mar 2019)	-12.4	:	7.8	12.7	0.1	-2.2
<i>Percentage point</i>						

Source: Labour Force Survey, Jan-Mar datasets, ONS

x – estimate is not reliable and should not be used for practical purposes, : – not applicable

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.