



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 2019 to September 2020 dataset, 16 December 2020

About this publication

This publication contains the latest estimated 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 2019 to September 2020. Data are sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS) dataset publicly 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 2009 – September 2010 to October 2019 – September 2020 and intervening years from the October to September dataset. Comparisons are made between the current year October 2019 – September 2020 and the comparable dataset 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 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. The next release of Annual Population Survey estimates will be for January to December 2020 and will be published on 24 March 2021.

For information, Annex A contains the most recent employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds from the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) dataset, August – October 2020 (at the time of this publication). These are published as Official Statistics.

Note: Government policies introduced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented during the last six months of the period the latest estimates cover and some impact will be shown in the estimates. LFS estimates in Annex A include 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 are furloughed will be classified as employed, but temporarily away from work.



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Key Results

Employment

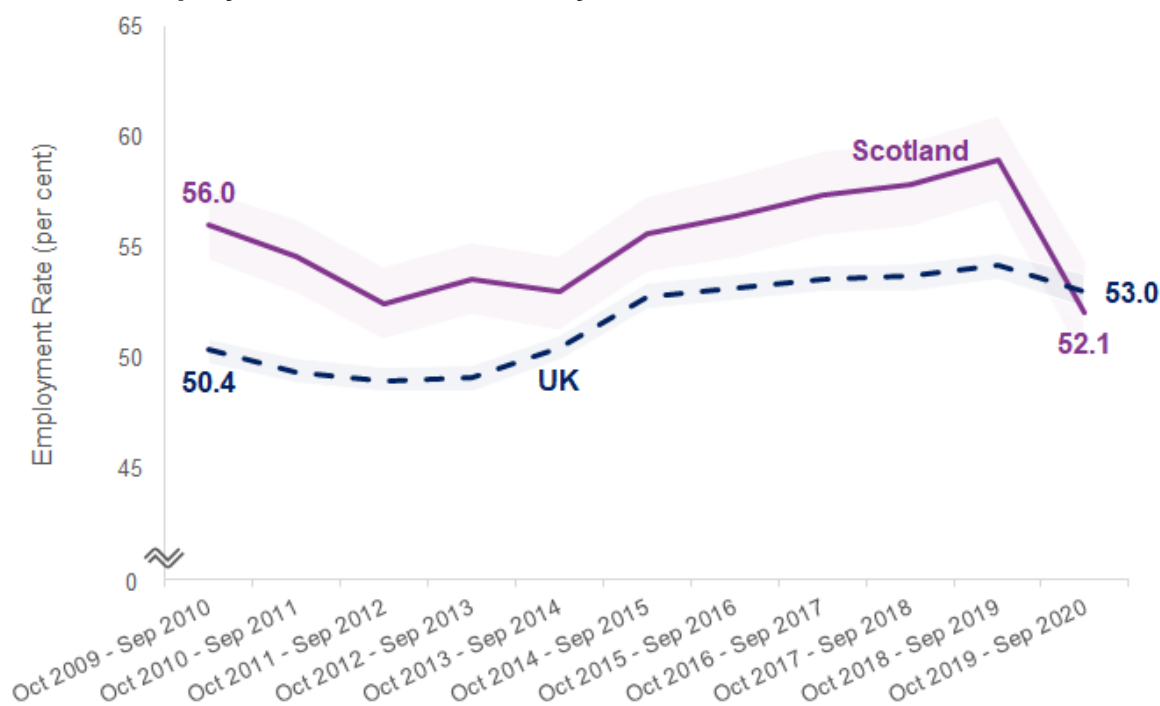
In October 2019 – September 2020, 291,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years were in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 52.1 per cent, 7.0 percentage points* lower than a year ago (59.0 per cent), which represents a statistically significant change. The employment rate had increased from a low of 52.5 per cent in October 2011 – September 2012 until October 2018 – September 2019 but has now decreased to a rate lower than that seen in October 2011 – September 2012.

For the UK as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was 53.0 per cent, 1.2 percentage points lower than a year ago (54.2 per cent)

Chart 1 shows the long-term trend in the employment rate for 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

* All calculations throughout the document are based on unrounded data.

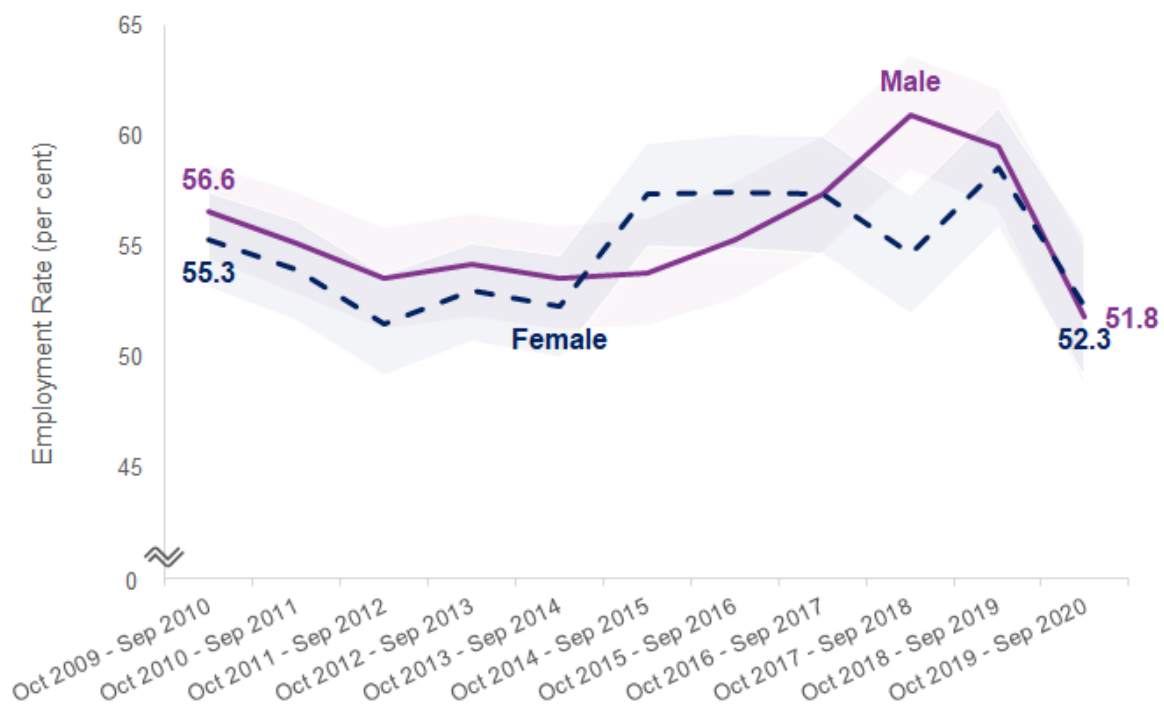
In October 2019 – September 2020, 146,000 men and 145,000 women aged 16 to 24 were in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 51.8 per cent, 7.7 percentage points lower than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

The employment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 52.3 per cent, 6.3 percentage points lower than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

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

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



Source: Annual Population Survey, Oct-Sep datasets, ONS
Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Unemployment

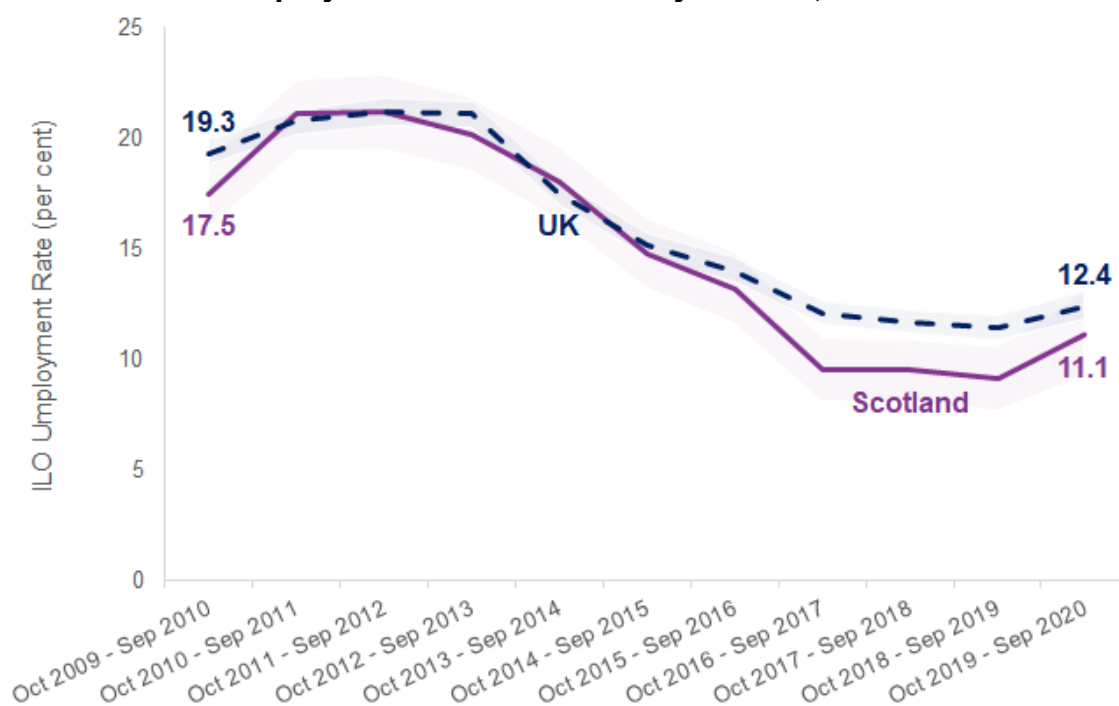
In October 2019 – September 2020, 36,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed in Scotland, 3,000 more than in October 2018 – September 2019 when 34,000 young people were unemployed.

The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) in Scotland was 11.1 per cent (in October 2019 – September 2020), 2.0 percentage point higher than the year before (9.1 per cent), which is not a statistically significant change. The unemployment rate reached 21.2 per cent in October 2011 – September 2012 but had fallen to a low of 9.1 per cent in October 2018 – September 2019.

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) was 12.4 per cent, which represents a 1.0 percentage point increase from the year before (11.4 per cent).

Chart 3 shows the long-term trend in the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24) for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 3: ILO 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

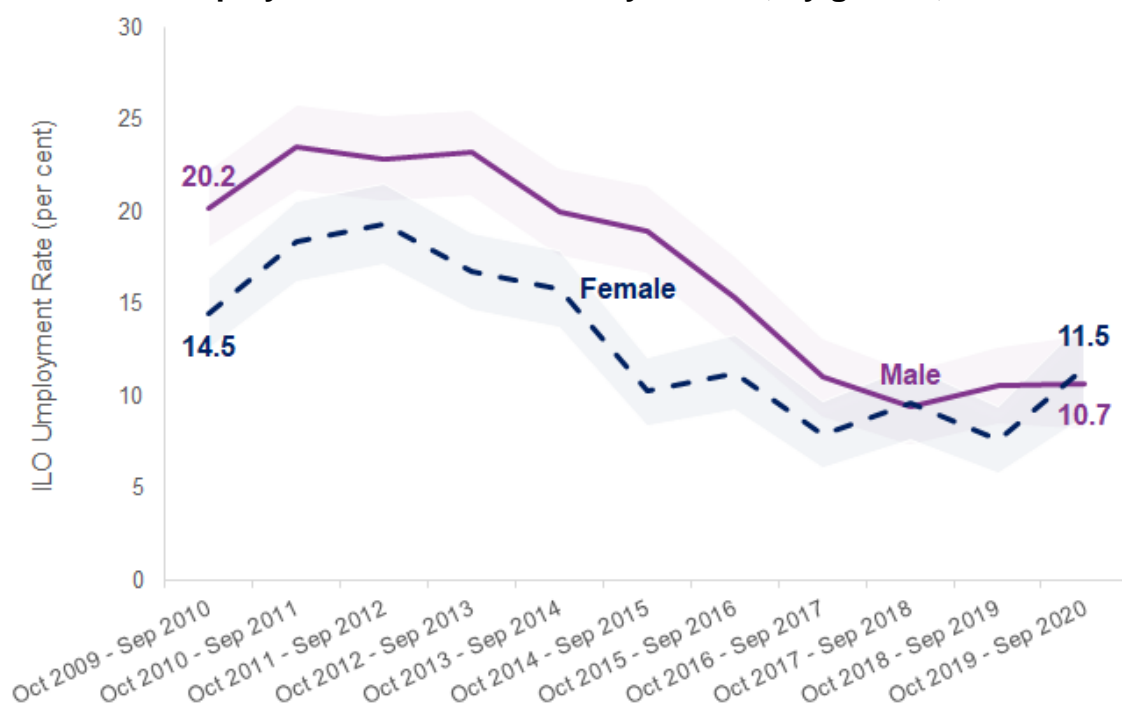
In October 2019 – September 2020, 18,000 men and 19,000 women aged 16 to 24 were unemployed in Scotland.

The unemployment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 10.7 per cent, 0.2 percentage points higher than a year ago, which is not a statistically significant change.

The unemployment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 11.5 per cent, 3.9 percentage points higher than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 4 shows the long-term trend in the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for men and women from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 4: Unemployment Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland



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

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Inactivity

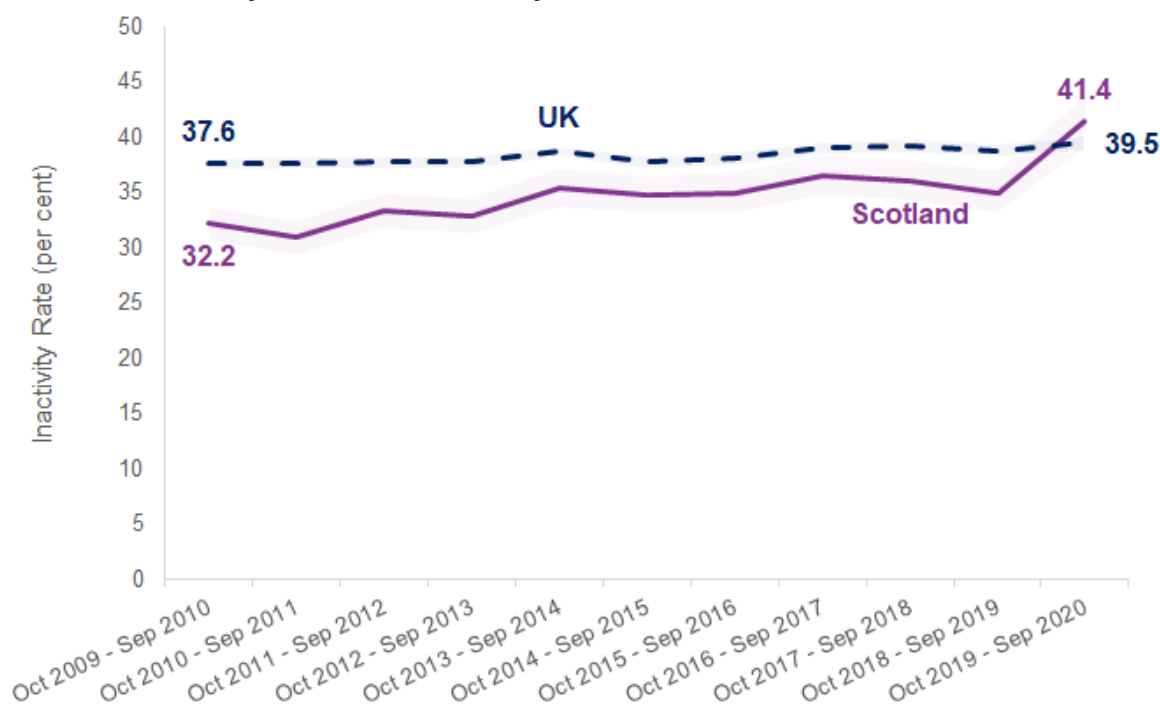
In October 2019 – September 2020, 232,000 young people aged 16 to 24 were economically inactive in Scotland, 33,000 more than a year ago when 199,000 were economically inactive.

In October 2019 – September 2020, the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was 41.4 per cent, 6.4 percentage points higher than the year before (35.0 per cent), which represents a statistically significant change. During the last ten years, the inactivity rate has risen from 30.9 per cent in October 2010 – September 2011 to a high of 41.4 per cent in October 2019 – September 2020. Over three quarters (75.3 per cent) of young people (16 to 24 year olds) in October 2019 – September 2020 who were economically inactive were in full-time education.

For the UK, the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was 39.5 per cent, 0.7 percentage points higher than the year before (38.8 per cent).

Chart 5 shows the long-term trend in the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 5: 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

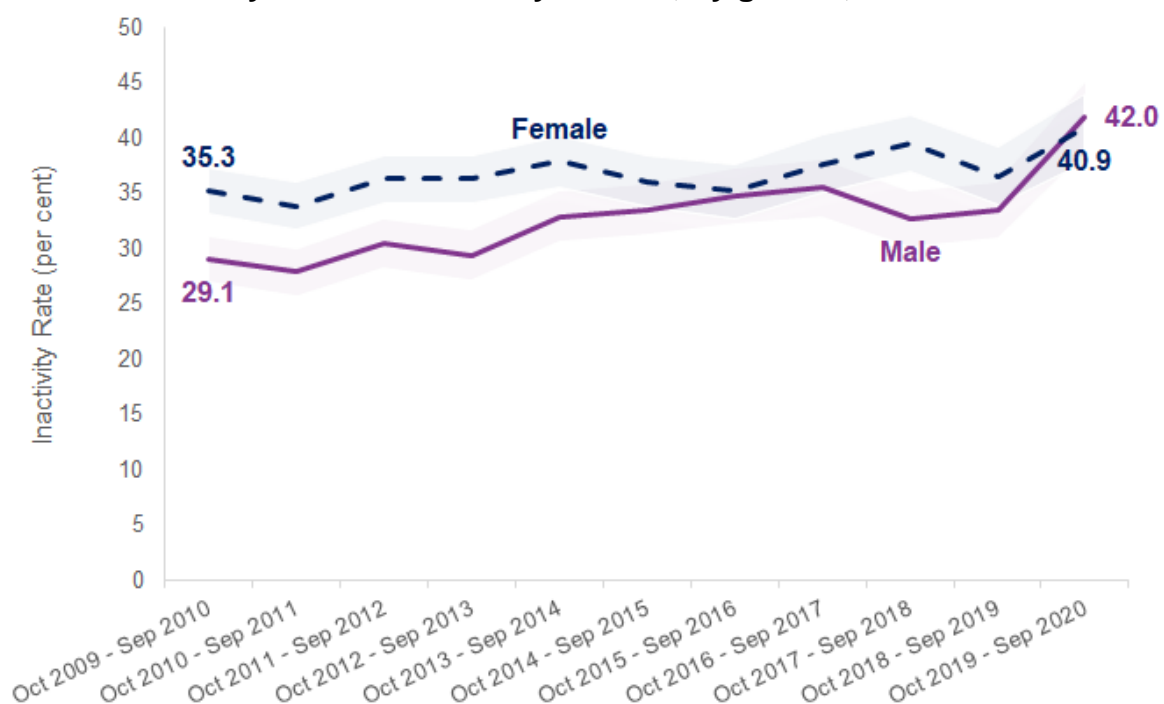
In October 2019 – September 2020, 118,000 men and 114,000 women aged 16 to 24 were economically inactive in Scotland.

The inactivity rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 42.0 per cent, 8.4 percentage points higher than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

The inactivity rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in October 2019 – September 2020 was 40.9 per cent, 4.3 percentage points higher than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 6 shows the long-term trend in the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for men and women from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 6: Inactivity Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, 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

	Total (16 to 24 years)				Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence
	Thousands	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit
Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	617	345	56.0	± 1.5	73	17.5	± 1.4	198	32.2	± 1.4			
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	624	340	54.6	± 1.6	91	21.1	± 1.6	192	30.9	± 1.5			
Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	624	327	52.5	± 1.6	88	21.2	± 1.6	208	33.4	± 1.5			
Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	619	332	53.6	± 1.6	84	20.2	± 1.6	203	32.9	± 1.5			
Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	614	325	53.0	± 1.6	71	18.0	± 1.6	217	35.4	± 1.6			
Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	610	339	55.6	± 1.7	59	14.8	± 1.5	212	34.8	± 1.6			
Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	603	340	56.4	± 1.8	52	13.2	± 1.6	211	35.0	± 1.8			
Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	591	339	57.4	± 1.9	36	9.5	± 1.4	216	36.6	± 1.8			
Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	580	335	57.9	± 1.8	35	9.5	± 1.4	209	36.1	± 1.8			
Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	569	336	59.0	± 1.9	34	9.1	± 1.4	199	35.0	± 1.8			
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020	559	291	52.1	± 2.2	36	11.1	± 1.8	232	41.4	± 2.2			
Change since Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	-9	-45	-7.0		3	2.0		33	6.4				
Change since Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	-57	-54	-3.9		-37	-6.3		33	9.3				

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

Notes:

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 are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.
7. Confidence limits are calculated for the 95th percentile.

Table 2: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds, UK

	Total (16 to 24 years)				Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence
	Thousands	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit
Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	7,297	3,676	50.4	± 0.5	880	19.3	± 0.5	2,741	37.6	± 0.5			
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	7,357	3,636	49.4	± 0.6	953	20.8	± 0.6	2,768	37.6	± 0.5			
Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	7,359	3,608	49.0	± 0.6	971	21.2	± 0.6	2,780	37.8	± 0.5			
Oct 2012 - Sep 2013	7,323	3,597	49.1	± 0.6	960	21.1	± 0.6	2,766	37.8	± 0.6			
Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	7,293	3,681	50.5	± 0.6	783	17.5	± 0.6	2,829	38.8	± 0.6			
Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	7,267	3,838	52.8	± 0.6	685	15.2	± 0.5	2,743	37.8	± 0.6			
Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	7,207	3,835	53.2	± 0.6	626	14.0	± 0.6	2,746	38.1	± 0.6			
Oct 2016 - Sep 2017	7,111	3,813	53.6	± 0.6	525	12.1	± 0.5	2,773	39.0	± 0.6			
Oct 2017 - Sep 2018	7,016	3,766	53.7	± 0.6	499	11.7	± 0.5	2,751	39.2	± 0.6			
Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	6,928	3,755	54.2	± 0.6	486	11.4	± 0.5	2,688	38.8	± 0.6			
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020	6,875	3,644	53.0	± 0.7	517	12.4	± 0.6	2,714	39.5	± 0.7			
Change since Oct 2018 - Sep 2019	-54	-111	-1.2		31	1.0		26	0.7				
Change since Oct 2009 - Sep 2010	-422	-32	2.6		-363	-6.9		-27	1.9				

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

Notes:

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 are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.
7. Confidence limits are calculated for the 95th percentile.

Table 3: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds by gender, Scotland and UK

Scotland										
Level	Level (Thousands)				Rate (per cent)	Rate				
	Level	Change since Oct 2018 - Sep 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Oct 2009 - Sep 2010 (percentage points)		Change since Oct 2018 - Sep 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Oct 2009 - Sep 2010 (percentage points)		
Employment*										
Male	146	-24	↓	-28	↓	51.8	-7.7	↓	-4.8	↓
Female	145	-20	↓	-26	↓	52.3	-6.3	↓	-3.0	↓
ILO unemployment										
Male	18	-3	↓	-26	↓	10.7	0.2	↑	-9.4	↓
Female	19	5	↑	-10	↓	11.5	3.9	↑	-3.0	↓
Inactivity										
Male	118	22	↑	29	↑	42.0	8.4	↑	12.9	↑
Female	114	10	↑	5	↑	40.9	4.3	↑	5.6	↑
UK										
Level	Level (Thousands)				Rate (per cent)	Rate				
	Level	Change since Oct 2018 - Sep 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Oct 2009 - Sep 2010 (percentage points)		Change since Oct 2018 - Sep 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Oct 2009 - Sep 2010 (percentage points)		
Employment										
Male	1,855	-46	↓	-7	↓	52.8	-0.9	↓	2.0	↑
Female	1,789	-65	↓	-25	↓	53.2	-1.5	↓	3.3	↑
ILO unemployment										
Male	292	-2	↓	-230	↓	13.6	0.2	↑	-8.3	↓
Female	225	33	↑	-133	↓	11.2	1.8	↑	-5.3	↓
Inactivity										
Male	1,365	20	↑	88	↑	38.9	0.9	↑	4.0	↑
Female	1,348	6	↑	-115	↓	40.1	0.5	↑	-0.1	↓

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

Notes:

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 are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.

Further Information

Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for October 2009 – September 2010 to October 2019 – September 2020 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. 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 2009 – September 2010 to October 2019 – September 2020, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 16 December 2020.

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/>

Confidence Intervals

Confidence limits can be used to assess the range of values that the true value lies between. 95 per cent confidence intervals are included in Tables 1 and 2 and shown in charts 1 to 6.

What does the 95 per cent confidence limit mean?

If, for example, we have an APS estimate and confidence limit of 63 per cent ± 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 samples.

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 for Aug-Oct 2010 to Aug-Oct 2020.

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

	Total (16-24 years)		Employment		Unemployment		Inactivity	
	Level (thousands)	Level (thousands)	Rate (per cent)	Level (thousands)	Rate (per cent)	Level (thousands)	Rate (per cent)	
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	
Aug-Oct 2020	555	321	57.8	36	10.0	199	35.8	
Change since Aug-Oct 2019	-8	3	1.4	6	1.4	-17	-2.5	
Change since Aug-Oct 2010	-65	-40	-0.4	-55	-10.1	30	8.5	

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 are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.

These estimates were published on 15 December 2020 by ONS as part of the [Labour Market Statistics in the Regions of the UK](#) monthly publication as Official Statistics.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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