

Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2020

The 6th annual statistical publication reporting on learning, training and work activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland

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Table of Revisions

Revision Date	Revision Details

Note to Readers:

Percentages within this report may not sum to 100%, due to rounding. In addition, we refer to a percentage point (pp) increase or decrease, which refers to the change between two percentages. When presenting percentage point differences in text, graphs and tables these may differ due to rounding.

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the 2020 Annual Participation Measure. The measure is used to inform policy, planning and service delivery, and to assess progress in the delivery of the Scottish Government's commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old in Scotland not in employment, education or training. It is also included in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF) as the source of the indicator, **"Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment"**

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) uses the shared data set to report on the economic and employment activity of the wider 16-19 year old cohort, including those at school. This data set is managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and held on the agency's Customer Support System (CSS). A range of partners contribute to the shared dataset, including Local Authorities (schools), colleges, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and SAAS.

A summary of the results is presented below, with further detail provided throughout this report. There are two key points that readers should be aware of when reading this document.

Firstly, SDS does not currently receive any data from Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) about Universal Credit (UC) claimants, and therefore is not able to comprehensively identify or report on people who are unemployed and seeking work (hereinafter referred to as 'unemployed seeking'). Therefore, the unemployed seeking and related status results presented in this report should be treated with a degree of caution, as they may be subject to revision should this data become available (See Appendix 2 for full details).

Secondly, the effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated lockdown measures have been impacting Scotland and our economy since March 2020. The effective closure of the economy is likely to have impacted on young people's participation (particularly in employment) in the first quarter of 2020-21. However, as the statistics presented in this report cover the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, they are unlikely to have been affected materially by the pandemic. We would anticipate, the impact will be much more significant in the year ahead.

The headline results of the 2020 Annual Participation Measure – based on a cohort of almost 206,000¹ young people - are as follows:

- The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating[#] in education, training or employment between April 1st 2019 and 31st March 2020 (the 2020 APM figure) was 92.1%. This represents an increase of 0.5 percentage points (pp) compared to the equivalent 2019 APM figure (91.6%). This is the highest participation rate recorded since the inception of the participation measure.
- In 2020, the percentage of 16-19 years olds not participating was 2.8%, a 0.3 pp decrease compared to 2019 (3.1%).
- Compared to 2019, there was a 0.2 pp decrease in the percentage of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status[#] to 5.1%. The majority of those with an unconfirmed status in 2020 were aged 19 (60%).

Participation by Age

- In 2020, participation[#] was highest amongst 16 year olds (99%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (84.1%).
- The participation[#] rate in 2020 remained the same for 16 year olds, and increased for 17, 18 and 19 year olds by, 0.2 pp, 1.3 pp and 0.2 pp respectively.

Equality Characteristics

- Females (92.9%) were slightly more likely to participate[#] than males (91.4%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation by females in education (77.1% versus 67.2%). This was offset, to a large extent, by greater participation in employment by males than females (22.1% versus 14.2%).
- The participation[#] rate amongst Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups (95.2%) was higher than that for those from a white ethnic group (92.0%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation in education (87.5% versus 71%).
- The participation[#] rate amongst those identified as disabled (89.0%) was lower than that for those from those not identified as disabled (92.3%). This difference was primarily driven by a lower rate in employment (18.6% versus 11.0%) and a higher rate of unemployed not seeking (4.3% versus 1.5%).

¹ The National Records of Scotland (NRS) 2018 based population projections estimated that the number of people aged 16-19 years old was expected to decrease by 1,646 between 2019 and 2020. The 2020 annual participation measure cohort coverage has remained at 93% of the NRS projected population for 16 to 19 years olds, which is the same as the 2019 cohort.

[#] See [Appendix 2](#), treat with a degree of caution

Geography

- Between 2019 and 2020 the participation[#] rate rose in 20 of the 32 local authorities. Although substantial variation remains in the participation rate by local authority, the gap between the highest and lowest participation rates reduced from 9.3 pp in 2017 to 7.5 pp in 2020.
- The participation[#] gap between those who lived in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas continued to narrow with a gap of 9.9 pp in 2020 (compared to 12.9 pp in 2016, 11.5 pp in 2017, 10.8 pp in 2018 and 10.5 pp in 2019).

Non - Participation

- Most of those unemployed seeking[#] were 18 years old (34.4%), followed by 17 year olds (32%). 19 year olds were less likely (27.3%) to be classed as unemployed seeking. Almost two thirds (64.4%) of those unemployed seeking[#] were male, and just over half (51.3%) of those unemployed not seeking employment were female.
- The majority of those unemployed and not seeking employment were 19 years old (42.5%). 18 and 19 years old comprised three quarters (75.7%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort
- Those who were unemployed seeking[#] and unemployed not seeking were more likely to live in areas of higher deprivation (45.4% and 41.3% respectively lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).

[#] [See Appendix 2](#), treat with a degree of caution



205,981 individuals

The Participation Measure covers the 16-19 year old cohort

1,152

individuals less than 2019 APM

92.1%

of 16-19 year olds were **participating[#]** in education, training or employment.

An increase of **0.5 percentage points** from 91.6% in 2019.

2.8%

were **not participating[#]**; those unemployed seeking[#] employment and others unemployed and not seeking e.g. economically inactive.

A decrease of **0.3 percentage points** from 3.1% in 2019.

5.1%

with an **unconfirmed[#]** status. With 60% 19 years old.

A decrease of **0.2 percentage points** from 5.3% in 2019.

72.0%

in Education
71.4% in 2019

18.3%

in Employment
18.2% in 2019

1.8%

in Training & Personal Development
2.0% in 2019

1.1%

Unemployed Seeking
1.5% in 2019

1.7%

Unemployed Not Seeking
1.6% in 2019



The Annual Participation Measure takes account of the status for all 16-19 year olds from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. All statuses are combined to calculate the participation headline classification and the status grouping displayed.

(Percentages may not total due to rounding)

[#] SDS does not currently receive any data from Department of Work and Pensions about Universal Credit claimants, and therefore is not able to comprehensively identify or report on people who are unemployed seeking. DWP is currently unable to provide data on UC claimants who are out of work but is working to develop this capability to ensure that SDS receives this information in the future. Therefore, treat unemployed seeking and related statuses with a degree of caution. [\(See Annex 1 for full details\)](#)

1. Introduction

The [Scottish Government's Opportunities for All](#) (OfA) policy makes an explicit commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old in Scotland not in employment, education or training. To deliver this commitment, the Government asked organisations involved in supporting young people to share their information relating to individuals to create a single shared data set. The Annual Participation Measure (APM) uses a shared data set to report on the economic and employment activity of the wider 16-19 year old cohort, including those at school. This data set is managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and held on the agency's Customer Support System (CSS). Central to the maintenance of the shared data set is the sharing of information between partners to identify what young people are doing in 'real time' between the ages of 16-19. It also allows SDS and partners to improve service delivery and provide a more tailored offer, helping to identify the right time to engage with customers.

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) is used to inform policy, planning and service delivery and to determine the impact of the OfA commitment. Since August 2017, the APM has been incorporated into the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework from August 2017 as the source of the indicator, **"Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment"** #, replacing the school leaver destination follow-up. The measure is published alongside other national indicators [here](#).

This report marks the sixth release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level and the fifth using the Annual Participation Measure (APM) reporting methodology. The APM methodology takes account of all statuses for individuals over the course of the year¹. The participation classification of each customer is calculated by combining the number of days spent in each status between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020. The overall participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification which accounts for the greatest number of days.

This report contains analysis of the 2020 outcomes and, where possible, compares these to previous years, including:

- Participation by status and age.
- Participation by equality characteristics: gender, ethnicity and disability.
- Participation by geography including local authority and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) (2020).

Appendix One outlines notes to readers. This includes definitions and the background to the methodology used to populate the annual measure. In addition, Supplementary Statistics Tables and an interactive resource are available in excel format on the SDS website.

[See Appendix 2](#), treat with a degree of caution

¹ To be included in the APM 2020 cohort an individual must be aged 16 to 19 on the 31st March 2020 and have a customer record on the Opportunities for All shared data set, held on the SDS Customer Support System (CSS).

As noted earlier, the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Scotland and its economy have been felt since March 2020. On the 20th March, as part of the COVID-19 response the UK Government announced measures to assist businesses and employees through the COVID-19 crisis, including a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Subsequently, the UK-wide lockdown began on 23rd March and this included the closure of all non-essential shops, businesses and venues. As these statistics cover the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, the economic impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the 16-19 year old age group is unlikely to be reflected within these statistics. However, we anticipate that the impact of the pandemic will be evident in the next and subsequent releases of the Annual Participation Measure.

Beyond this, a specific limitation in the data at the present time is that SDS does not currently receive any data from Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) about Universal Credit (UC) claimants, and therefore is not able to comprehensively identify or report on people who are unemployed seeking. DWP is currently unable to provide data on UC claimants who are out of work but is working to develop this capability to ensure that SDS receives this information in the future. Therefore, the unemployed seeking and related status results presented in this report should be treated with a degree of caution, as they may be subject to revision should this data become available (See Appendix 2 for full details).

In addition to the summary in this report, [Supplementary Statistics Tables and an Interactive Resource](#) are available in excel format on the SDS website.

Any comments or suggestions regarding the content of this report are welcome and can be emailed to user_feedback@sds.co.uk.

2. Annual Participation Measure by Age and Status

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the APM by age and shows that the participation[#] rate decreases with age, with the percentage not participating or with an unconfirmed status higher in the older age groups:

Table 1: Annual Participation Measure (%) by age.

APM Headline	Age				
	16	17	18	19	16 to 19
Count of 16-19 Year old Participating	51,845	48,059	46,000	43,871	189,775
% 16-19 Participating[#]	99.0%	95.0%	90.4%	84.1%	92.1%
Count of 16-19 Not Participating	383	1,391	1,909	1,989	5,672
% 16-19 Not Participating[#]	0.7%	2.8%	3.8%	3.8%	2.8%
Count of 16-19 Unconfirmed	116	1,115	2,978	6,325	10,534
% 16-19 Unconfirmed[#]	0.2%	2.2%	5.9%	12.1%	5.1%
Count of 16-19 Cohort	52,344	50,565	50,887	52,185	205,981

Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the APM by age and status, notably:

- Participation[#] was highest amongst 16 year olds (99.0%) with the majority of 16 year olds at school (91.0%).
- The lowest rate of participation[#] was amongst 19 year olds (84.1%). This was 0.2 pp higher than in 2019 (83.9%). 19 year olds were most likely to be participating in higher education (41.1%).
- 2.8% of 16-19 year olds were counted as not participating[#]. This group included those who were unemployed and seeking employment (1.1%), as well as those who were economically inactive and others not seeking employment (1.7%).
- 72.0% of 16-19 year olds were in secondary or tertiary education, an increase of 0.6 pp on 2019:
 - 41.4% were in school (an increase of 0.4 pp on 2019);
 - 19.6% were in higher education (a decrease of 0.3 pp on 2019);
 - 11.0% were in further education (an increase of 0.4 pp on 2019).
- 18.3% were reported as being in employment[#]. This included those undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship and individuals employed on a full-time, part-time or self-employed basis. Of those in employment, 52.8% were in full-time employment and a further 33.2% were undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship.
- 1.8% of 16-19 year olds were in the training and other development status. Of these 46.2% were in other formal training status and the next largest (26.1%) were accessing support from the Employability Fund¹.

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

¹ The Employability Fund is designed to support individuals to develop the skills needed to secure a job or progress to more advanced forms of training. Further details are available at www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/employability-skills/employability-fund/

Table 2: 2020 Annual Participation Measure by age and status (%)

Status Group	Status	Cohort	Age				Total
			16	17	18	19	16-19
			52,344	50,565	50,887	52,185	205,981
Participating[#]			51,845	48,059	46,000	43,871	189,775
% Participating[#]			99.0%	95.0%	90.4%	84.1%	92.1%%
Education	School Pupil		91.0%	63.7%	10.5%	0.2%	41.4%
	Higher Education		0.1%	3.1%	34.0%	41.1%	19.6%
	Further Education		4.6%	12.6%	16.7%	10.4%	11.0%
	Number in Education		50,076	40,169	31,179	26,931	148,355
	% Participating in Education		95.7%	79.4%	61.3%	51.6%	72.0%
Employment[#]	Modern Apprenticeship		0.9%	5.0%	9.2%	9.1%	6.1%
	Full-Time Employment [#]		1.0%	6.3%	13.7%	17.6%	9.6%
	Part-Time Employment [#]		0.3%	1.6%	3.7%	4.3%	2.4%
	Self-Employed [#]		0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
	Number in Employment[#]		1,185	6,537	13,613	16,275	37,610
	% Participating in Employment[#]		2.3%	12.9%	26.8%	31.2%	18.3%
Training and Other Personal Development	Employability Fund		0.4%	0.9%	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%
	Other Formal Training		0.6%	1.3%	1.0%	0.5%	0.9%
	Personal/ Skills Development		0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
	Voluntary Work		0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%
	Number in Training & Other Development		584	1,353	1,208	665	3,810
	% Training & Other Development		1.1%	2.7%	2.4%	1.3%	1.8%
Not Participating[#]			383	1,391	1,909	1,989	5,672
% Not Participating[#]			0.7%	2.8%	3.8%	3.8%	2.8%
Unemployed Seeking[#]	Number Unemployed Seeking[#]		224	718	772	533	2,247
	% Unemployed Seeking[#]		0.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.0%	1.1%
Unemployed not seeking	Economically Inactive		0.2%	0.9%	1.6%	1.7%	1.1%
	Unavailable - Ill Health		*	*	0.6%	1.0%	0.5%
	Custody		*	*	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
	Number unemployed NOT seeking		159	673	1,137	1,456	3,425
	% Unemployed Not Seeking		0.3%	1.3%	2.2%	2.8%	1.7%
* Withheld due to disclosure control							
Unconfirmed[#]			116	1,115	2,978	6,325	10,534
% Unconfirmed[#]			0.2%	2.2%	5.9%	12.1%	5.1%

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

3. Annual Participation Measure Time Series

As detailed in Table 3, the 2020 figures show an overall increase in participation[#](with the exception of 16 year olds where participation remains static at 99%). Points of note between APM 2019 and 2020 include:

- Participation[#] increased the most in the 18 year old age group (1.3 pp); the main drivers for this was a decrease in the unconfirmed and an increase in employment.
- The rate of education amongst 16-19 year olds increased by 0.6 pp. The percentage participating in training and other development decreased by 0.2 pp.
- The proportion of those classed as not participating[#] decreased by 0.3 pp between 2019 and 2020. This included a reduction, when compared with the 2019 figures, in those who were unemployed seeking[#] (decreased by 0.4 pp) combined with an increase in those who were unemployed and not seeking[#] (increased by 0.1 pp).
- The proportion of young people with an unconfirmed[#] status decreased to 5.1% in 2020 from 5.3% in 2019. The largest decrease was within the 18 year old age group. The 19 year old age group has increased for a 3rd consecutive year and is currently 12.1%.

Analysis of the data for 16-19 year olds with a post-school status (i.e. those who have left school) shows that:

- The participation[#] rate for 16-19 year olds with a post-school status was 86.6% in 2020. This was an increase of 0.9 pp on the 2019 figure. A breakdown of the 2020 post-school participation[#] rate by age shows that it was:
 - highest amongst 16 year olds (89.4%);
 - lowest amongst 19 year olds (84.0%);
 - All age groups had an increase from 2019, the greatest increase being 1.5 pp increase for 18 year olds.

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

Table 3: Annual Participation Measure comparison between 2018, 2019 and 2020

Status Grouping	2018 Annual Participation Measure	2019 Annual Participation Measure	2020 Annual Participation Measure	Percentage Point Change 2020 on 2019	Percentage Point Change 2020 on 2018
Total 16-19 Cohort	211,255	207,133	205,981		
Participating[#]	91.8%	91.6%	92.1%	0.5	0.3
16 year olds	98.9%	99.0%	99.0%	0.0	0.1
17 year olds	94.6%	94.8%	95.0%	0.2	0.4
18 year olds	89.9%	89.1%	90.4%	1.3	0.5
19 year olds	84.5%	83.9%	84.1%	0.2	-0.4
% Participating in Education	71.3%	71.4%	72.0%	0.6	0.7
16 year olds	95.4%	95.5%	95.7%	0.2	0.3
17 year olds	79.7%	79.6%	79.4%	-0.2	-0.3
18 year olds	61.1%	60.7%	61.3%	0.6	0.2
19 year olds	51.0%	51.4%	51.6%	0.2	0.6
% Participating in Employment[#]	18.7%	18.2%	18.3%	0.1	-0.4
16 year olds	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0	-0.2
17 year olds	12.1%	12.5%	12.9%	0.4	0.8
18 year olds	26.4%	25.8%	26.8%	1.0	0.4
19 year olds	32.2%	31.1%	31.2%	0.1	-1.0
% Training & Other Development	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%	-0.2	-0.1
16 year olds	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	-0.1	0.0
17 year olds	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%	0.0	-0.1
18 year olds	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%	-0.2	0.0
19 year olds	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%	-0.1	0.0
Not Participating[#]	3.4%	3.1%	2.8%	-0.3	-0.6
16 year olds	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	-0.1	-0.2
17 year olds	3.6%	2.8%	2.8%	0.0	-0.8
18 year olds	4.9%	4.4%	3.8%	-0.6	-1.1
19 year olds	4.2%	4.3%	3.8%	-0.5	-0.4
% Unemployed Seeking[#]	1.7%	1.5%	1.1%	-0.4	-0.6
16 year olds	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	-0.1	-0.2
17 year olds	2.3%	1.7%	1.4%	-0.3	-0.9
18 year olds	2.6%	2.2%	1.5%	-0.7	-1.1
19 year olds	1.4%	1.6%	1.0%	-0.6	-0.4
% Unemployed Not seeking	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	0.1	0.0
16 year olds	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0	0.1
17 year olds	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%	0.2	0.0
18 year olds	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	-0.1	-0.1
19 year olds	2.8%	2.7%	2.8%	0.1	0.0
Status Unconfirmed[#]	4.7%	5.3%	5.1%	-0.2	0.4
16 year olds	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	-0.1	0.0
17 year olds	1.8%	2.4%	2.2%	-0.2	0.4
18 year olds	5.1%	6.5%	5.9%	-0.6	0.8
19 year olds	11.3%	11.8%	12.1%	0.3	0.8

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

4. Equalities

SDS has a legal duty, under the Equality Act 2010¹, to ensure that services are inclusive and accessible to a diverse range of customers. To support this, equality data is collected to enable uptake of SDS services to be monitored and any barriers faced by groups to be identified and addressed.

SDS' revised Equality Outcomes for 2017 – 2021 included the outcome *Increased participation in education, training or employment amongst young people who are disabled, from a minority ethnic group, or are care experienced*. It was agreed that the 2016 APM would form the baseline for reporting against this outcome.

The section that follows provides analysis of participation by:

- Gender,
- Ethnicity; and
- Disability.

The equalities data within the shared data set is sourced from school management information systems. Customer records can subsequently be updated by SDS advisers after receipt of information from the individual or their representative.

Care experience is not a protected characteristic. SDS is a corporate parent and we have a commitment to treat care experience in the same way we treat groups with protected characteristics. Reliable data on care experience is not currently available to SDS. Until reliable data is available to SDS we are unable to include care experience in our analysis.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

4.1 Gender

Table 4 provides a breakdown of participation status by gender. The results show:

- Females (92.9%) were more likely than males (91.4%) to be participating[#] in education, training or employment.
- The percentage of both females and males participating[#] increased between 2019 and 2020 but the gap has widened to 1.5 pp in 2020 compared to 1.3pp in 2019.
- Females (77.1%) were more likely to be participating in education than males (67.2%), and 7.4 pp more likely than males to be participating in higher education.
- Males (22.1%) were more likely than females (14.2%) to be participating in employment[#], a 7.9 pp difference.
- Almost two thirds (64.5%) of all unemployed seeking[#] customers were male.
- Males remain more likely to have an unconfirmed[#] status than females. The percentage reported as unconfirmed[#], between 2019 and 2020, has decreased for both groups by 0.2 pp.

Table 4: Participation statuses broken down by gender

	Female			Male			All 16-19 year olds		
2020: 16-19 Cohort (count)	100,341			105,580			205,981		
% of 2020 Cohort	48.7%			51.3%					
Status Grouping / Year	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Participating[#]	92.5%	92.2%	92.9%	91.2%	90.9%	91.4%	91.8%	91.6%	92.1%
% Participating in Education	76.0%	76.5%	77.1%	66.7%	66.7%	67.2%	71.3%	71.4%	72.0%
% Participating in Employment	14.9%	14.1%	14.2%	22.3%	22.0%	22.1%	18.7%	18.2%	18.3%
% Training & Other Development	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%
Not Participating[#]	3.3%	2.9%	2.5%	3.6%	3.3%	2.9%	3.4%	3.1%	2.8%
% Unemployed Seeking	1.3%	1.1%	0.8%	2.1%	1.9%	1.4%	1.7%	1.5%	1.1%
% Unemployed Not seeking	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Status Unconfirmed[#]	4.2%	4.8%	4.6%	5.2%	5.8%	5.6%	4.7%	5.3%	5.1%

Note: There were 60 individuals who indicated they would not wish to disclose their gender. These individuals have been excluded from the above gender analysis. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

4.2 Ethnicity

Table 5 provides a summary of participation rates by ethnicity. The results show:

- The participation[#] rate of those from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups (95.2%) was 3.2 pp higher than for those identified as White.
- While participation[#] rates increased across both groups, the participation 'gap' decreased by 0.5 pp between 2019 and 2020.
- The percentage of young people from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups participating in education was 87.5%, 16.5 pp higher than the national average.

The dominance of education as a post 16+ choice for those from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups resulted in lower representation in other statuses, meaning they were:

- less likely to be in employment[#];
- less likely to be unemployed seeking[#];
- less likely to have an unconfirmed[#] status.

Table 5: Participation statuses broken down by ethnicity

	Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups			White ¹			Not Known / Not Disclosed		
2020 16-19 Cohort (count)	12,297			191,224			2,460		
% of 2020 Cohort	6.0%			92.8%			1.2%		
Status Grouping / Year	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Participating[#]	95.2%	95.1%	95.2%	91.8%	91.4%	92.0%	84.1%	87.1%	88.5%
% Participating in Education	87.1%	87.3%	87.5%	70.6%	70.5%	71.0%	62.1%	69.3%	72.2%
% Participating in Employment	7.0%	6.7%	6.8%	19.3%	18.9%	19.0%	19.7%	15.2%	14.2%
% Training & Other Development	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.9%	2.2%	2.6%	2.2%
Not Participating[#]	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	3.5%	3.2%	2.8%	5.4%	4.5%	3.7%
% Unemployed Seeking	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%	1.8%	1.5%	1.1%	2.6%	2.1%	1.2%
% Unemployed Not seeking	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	2.8%	2.4%	2.4%
Status Unconfirmed[#]	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	4.7%	5.4%	5.2%	10.5%	8.4%	7.8%

¹Note: The White ethnicity group includes young people from the following ethnicity categories: White – Scottish, White – Other British, White – Irish, White – Polish, Gypsy/Traveller and White – Other

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

4.3 Disability

Table 6 provides a breakdown of the 16-19 year old Annual Participation Measure (APM) cohort by disability. The results show:

- Participation[#] amongst those identified as disabled has increased year on year between 2016 and 2020 and now stands at 89.0%. However, this remains 3.1 pp lower than the national average for all 16-19 year olds and 3.3 pp lower than those identified as not disabled.
- This was the second consecutive year that the participation[#] gap between those identified as disabled and those not identified as disabled has narrowed. In 2019 the gap was 4.8 pp and in 2020 this was 3.3 pp. The drivers of this were participation in education amongst those identified as disabled increasing at a faster rate than those not identified as disabled, and a decrease in those with an unconfirmed status.
- The majority of those identified as disabled were participating in education, with this rate increasing by 2.2 pp between 2019 and 2020. Although, the percentage in employment[#] has risen by 0.1 pp to 11% it remains markedly lower than those not identified as disabled (18.6%).
- Of those identified as disabled and **not** participating[#] three quarters were unemployed not seeking[#].

Table 6: Participation statuses broken down by disability

	Identified as Disabled			Not Identified as Disabled			All 16-19 year olds		
2020: 16-19 Cohort (count)	8,918			197,063			205,981		
% of 2020 Cohort	4.3%			95.7%					
Status Grouping / Year	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Participating	86.3%	87.0%	89.0%	92.1%	91.8%	92.3%	91.1%	91.6%	92.1%
% Participating in Education	69.2%	69.9%	72.1%	71.3%	71.5%	72.0%	71.3%	71.4%	72.0%
% Participating in Employment	10.8%	10.9%	11.0%	19.0%	18.5%	18.6%	18.7%	18.2%	18.3%
% Training & Other Development	6.4%	6.1%	5.9%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%
Not Participating	8.1%	6.8%	5.7%	3.2%	3.0%	2.6%	3.7%	3.1%	2.8%
% Unemployed Seeking	3.0%	2.2%	1.4%	1.7%	1.5%	1.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.1%
% Unemployed Not seeking	5.1%	4.6%	4.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Status Unconfirmed	5.6%	6.2%	5.3%	4.7%	5.3%	5.1%	4.7%	5.3%	5.1%

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

5. Participation Rates Across Scotland

This section presents an analysis of participation rates amongst 16-19 year olds by:

- Local authority; and
- Deprivation (as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020).

5.1 Local Authority

Table 7 provides a breakdown of the APM results by local authority for 2018, 2019 and 2020. This is followed by Graph A which shows the percentage point change between 2019 and 2020 by local authority. In summary, the results show that:

- Between 2019 and 2020 the participation[#] rate had risen in 20 of the 32 local authorities.
- Nineteen local authorities had a participation[#] rate above the Scottish average (the remaining thirteen were below).
- The variation between the highest and lowest participation[#] rate was 7.5 pp. The highest participation[#] rate was in the Shetland Islands (96.8%) although this was a decrease of 0.2 pp compared to 2019. The lowest participation[#] rate was in Clackmannanshire at 89.3%, a decrease of 0.8 pp on 2019.
- In comparison to 2019, the non-participation[#] rate fell in 23 authorities and the rate of unconfirmed[#] statuses fell in 16 local authorities.

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

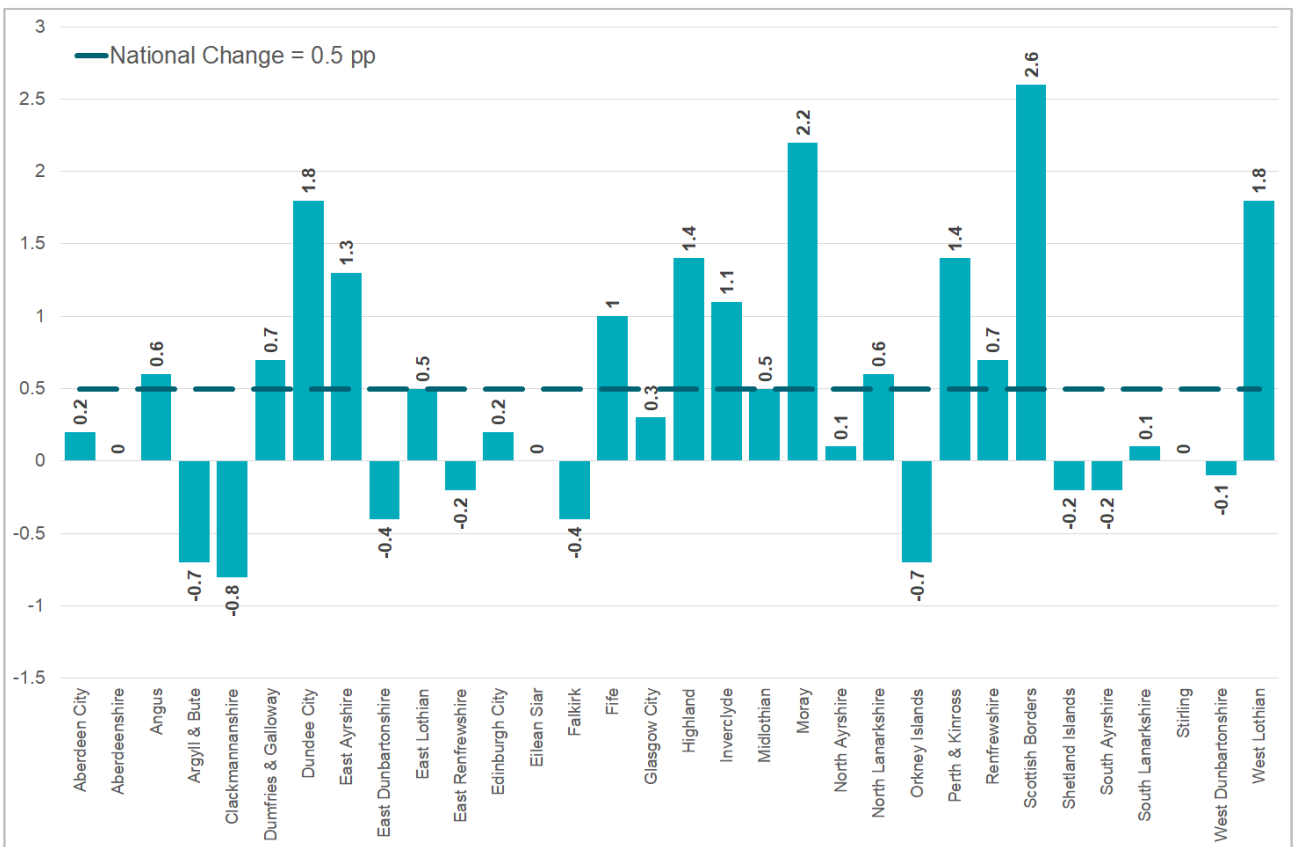
Table 7: Participation Cohort by Local Authority

Local Authority	2020 Annual Participation Measure			Percentage point change between 2020 and 2019			Percentage point change between 2020 and 2018		
	% Participation #	% Non-participation #	% Unconfirmed #	% Participation #	% Non-participation #	% Unconfirmed #	Participation #	Non-participation #	Unconfirmed #
Scotland	92.1%	2.8%	5.1%	0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.6	0.4
Aberdeen City	89.9%	3.3%	6.8%	0.2	-1.4	1.2	0.1	-0.9	0.7
Aberdeenshire	92.3%	1.6%	6.2%	0	-0.3	0.4	-1.1	-0.6	1.8
Angus	91.4%	2.7%	5.9%	0.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.9	1.6
Argyll & Bute	94.1%	2.4%	3.5%	-0.7	0.2	0.5	-0.1	-0.3	0.4
Clackmannanshire	89.3%	5.2%	5.5%	-0.8	-0.1	0.9	0	-1.6	1.6
Dumfries & Galloway	91.9%	2.6%	5.5%	0.7	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.8	1.1
Dundee City	90.0%	4.5%	5.5%	1.8	-0.2	-1.6	1.3	-1.1	-0.2
East Ayrshire	90.0%	2.3%	7.7%	1.3	-0.3	-1	0.7	-0.9	0.2
East Dunbartonshire	96.1%	0.9%	3.0%	-0.4	-0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.2
East Lothian	94.5%	2.2%	3.3%	0.5	0.1	-0.6	-0.2	-0.3	0.5
East Renfrewshire	96.7%	1.3%	2.0%	-0.2	-0.3	0.5	-0.1	-0.5	0.6
Edinburgh City	92.4%	2.9%	4.7%	0.2	-0.7	0.6	0.3	-0.8	0.5
Eilean Siar	95.5%	1.1%	3.4%	0	-0.1	0	-2.1	0.1	2
Falkirk	91.9%	2.7%	5.4%	-0.4	-0.7	1.1	-0.3	-1.5	1.8
Fife	91.7%	3.4%	4.9%	1	-0.6	-0.4	1.6	-0.9	-0.7
Glasgow City	89.5%	4.0%	6.5%	0.3	-0.6	0.3	0.7	-0.7	0
Highland	93.6%	1.5%	4.9%	1.4	0	-1.4	-0.2	-0.2	0.4
Inverclyde	92.9%	3.6%	3.5%	1.1	-1	-0.1	1.3	-0.6	-0.7
Midlothian	93.4%	3.4%	3.3%	0.5	0.6	-1	-0.9	0.3	0.7
Moray	93.5%	2.6%	4.0%	2.2	-0.3	-1.8	2.3	-1	-1.2
North Ayrshire	90.6%	2.3%	7.2%	0.1	-0.2	0.3	-0.5	-0.7	1.3
North Lanarkshire	90.7%	2.9%	6.4%	0.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.2	-1.1	0.9
Orkney Islands	94.7%	2.3%	3.0%	-0.7	0.7	0	-0.6	0.3	0.3
Perth & Kinross	94.8%	2.8%	2.5%	1.4	-0.2	-1.2	0.8	-0.3	-0.4
Renfrewshire	92.4%	2.7%	5.0%	0.7	-0.6	0	0.8	-0.6	-0.1
Scottish Borders	94.5%	1.9%	3.5%	2.6	-0.1	-2.5	1.7	-0.3	-1.5
Shetland Islands	96.8%	1.4%	1.7%	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.9	0.1	-1.1
South Ayrshire	91.4%	2.6%	6.0%	-0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.5
South Lanarkshire	92.7%	2.1%	5.2%	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.7	0.5
Stirling	94.4%	2.6%	3.0%	0	0.8	-0.9	0	-0.1	0
West Dunbartonshire	90.2%	4.3%	5.5%	-0.1	-0.6	0.7	0.1	-1	0.9
West Lothian	92.4%	3.4%	4.2%	1.8	0	-1.8	0.3	-0.1	-0.2

Note: proportionately some LAs may be affected by small numbers e.g. Eilean Siar

See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

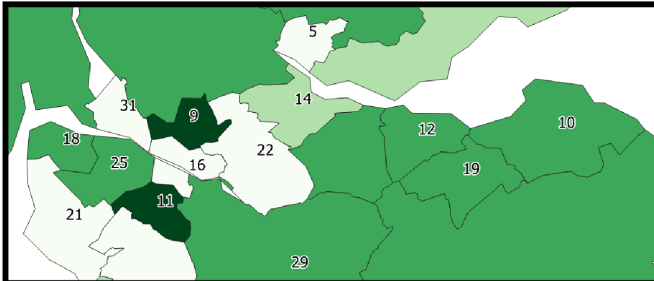
Graph A: Percentage point change in the participation# rate between 2019 and 2020, by Local Authority



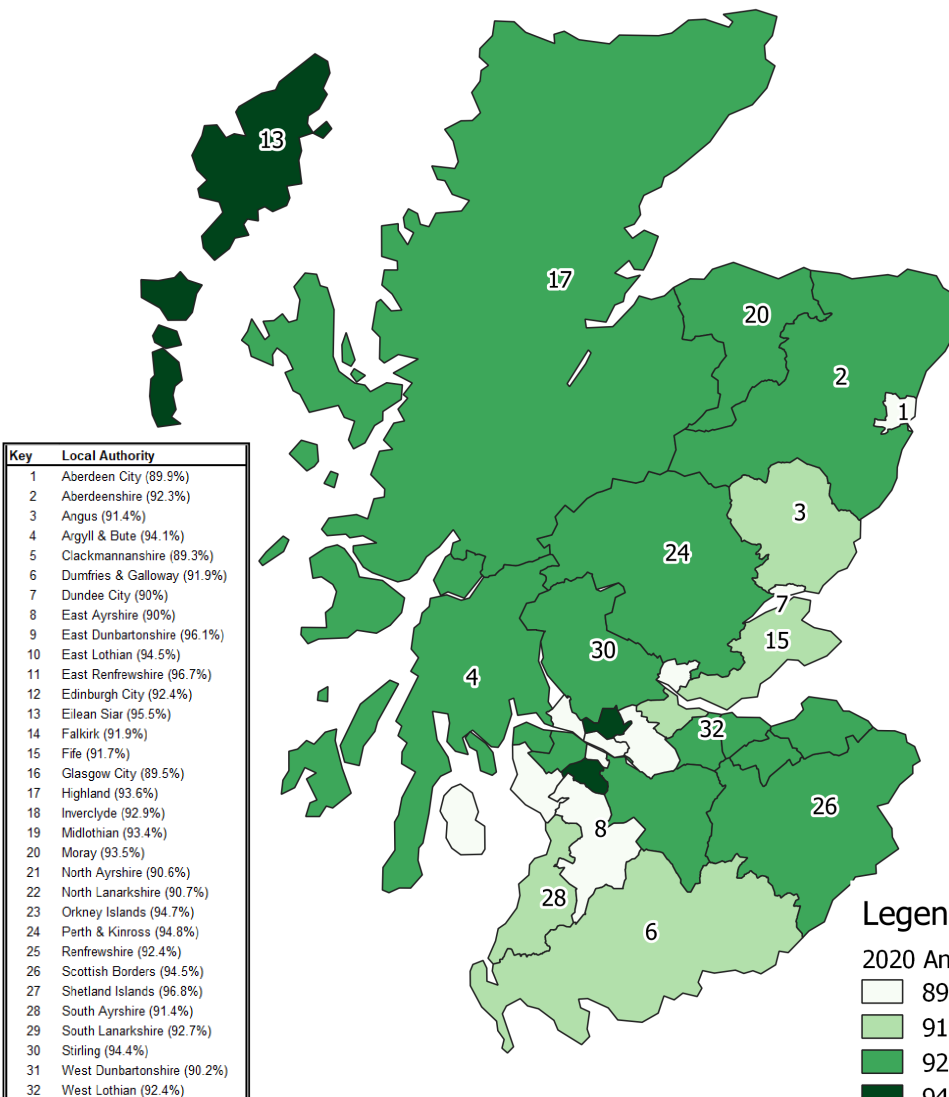
See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

Map A: Percentage Participation# at a Local Authority Level

**2020 Annual Participation Measure
% of 16-19 Year Olds Participating
1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020
Scottish Local Authorities**



Scotland: 92.1%



Key	Local Authority
1	Aberdeen City (89.5%)
2	Aberdeenshire (92.3%)
3	Angus (91.4%)
4	Argyll & Bute (94.1%)
5	Clackmannanshire (89.3%)
6	Dumfries & Galloway (91.9%)
7	Dundee City (90%)
8	East Ayrshire (90%)
9	East Dunbartonshire (96.1%)
10	East Lothian (94.5%)
11	East Renfrewshire (96.7%)
12	Edinburgh City (92.4%)
13	Eilean Siar (95.5%)
14	Falkirk (91.9%)
15	Fife (91.7%)
16	Glasgow City (89.5%)
17	Highland (93.6%)
18	Inverclyde (92.9%)
19	Midlothian (93.4%)
20	Moray (93.5%)
21	North Ayrshire (90.6%)
22	North Lanarkshire (90.7%)
23	Orkney Islands (94.7%)
24	Perth & Kinross (94.8%)
25	Renfrewshire (92.4%)
26	Scottish Borders (94.5%)
27	Shetland Islands (96.8%)
28	South Ayrshire (91.4%)
29	South Lanarkshire (92.7%)
30	Stirling (94.4%)
31	West Dunbartonshire (90.2%)
32	West Lothian (92.4%)

Legend

2020 Annual Participation Rate	
Lightest Green	89.3 - 91.2
Light Green	91.2 - 92.1
Medium Green	92.1 - 94.9
Dark Green	94.9 - 96.8

See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

5.2 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020)

Graph B and Table 8 provide an overview of 16-19 year old activity broken down by SIMD (2020) deciles. The results show that:

- All deciles had an increase in participation[#] between 2019 and 2020, with decile 1¹ having the highest increase of 0.9 pp.
- Those living in more deprived areas remain less likely to be reported as participating[#] within the 2020 annual measure than those from the less deprived areas.
- The participation[#] gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas continued to narrow. The gap narrowed to 9.9 pp in 2020. This is a reduction from 12.9 pp in 2016, 11.5 pp in 2017, 10.8 pp in 2018 and 10.5 pp in 2019.
- Those from the less deprived areas were more likely to remain in education compared to those from more deprived areas. The proportion of 16-19 year olds reported as participating in education from the least deprived areas (decile 10) was 84.6% compared to 63.8% for those from the most deprived areas (decile 1), a difference of 20.8 pp.
- A higher proportion of 16-19 year olds from more deprived areas were unemployed seeking[#] compared to those from less deprived areas. For example, 2.5% of those from decile 1 were unemployed seeking[#] compared to 0.3% from decile 10.

¹ We have used SIMD 2020 for the APM 2020. SIMD Decile 1 is more deprived than SIMD 10. SDS uses the postcode look up file available from National Records of Scotland to identify the 2011 data zones and SIMD Decile based on an individual's postcode. We have used the last known postcode for the individual recorded within the shared dataset.

Graph B: Participation# Gap Between 20% Most Deprived Areas and 20% Least Deprived Areas

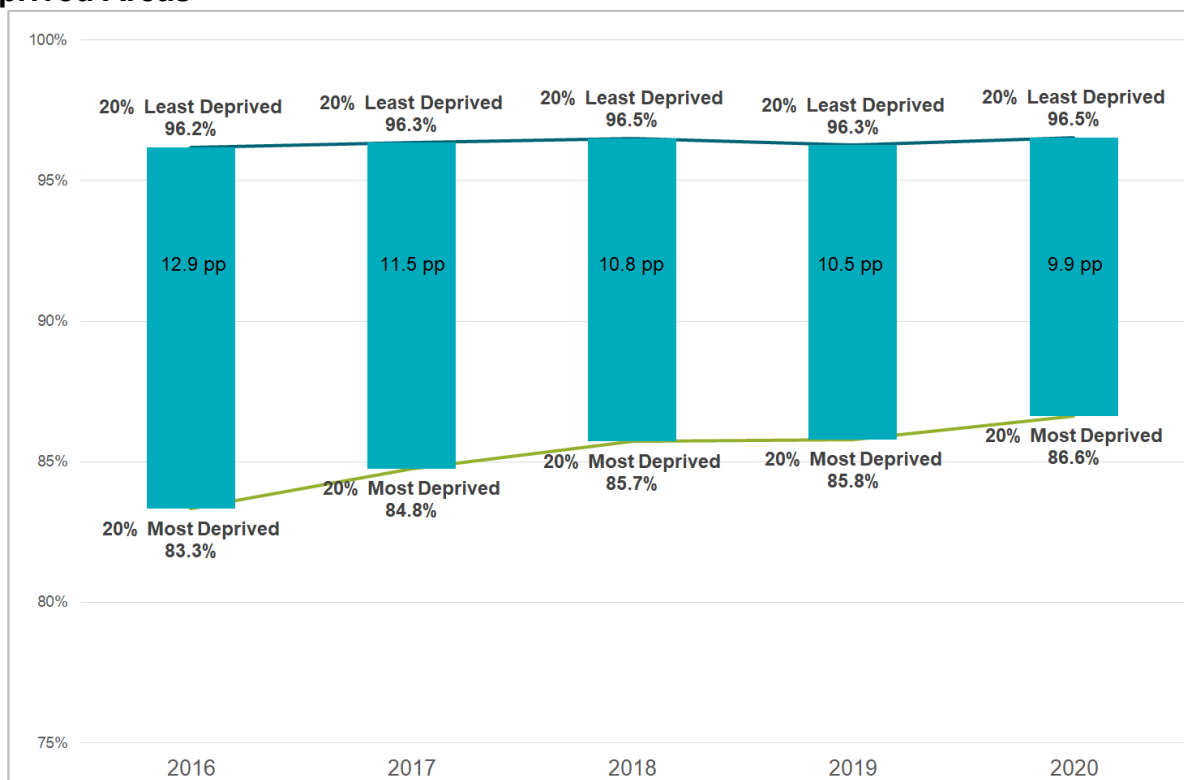


Table 8: 2020 Participation statuses by SIMD Deciles (2020)¹

SIMD Decile	% Split	Percentage of cohort							
		Participating#	Within Education	Within Employment#	TOPD ²	Not Participating#	Unemployed Seeking#	Unemployed Not seeking	Status Unconfirmed#
Most Deprived ↑	1	85.6%	63.8%	18.4%	3.4%	5.8%	2.5%	3.3%	8.6%
	2	87.7%	65.5%	19.3%	2.9%	4.8%	2.0%	2.8%	7.5%
	3	89.6%	66.3%	20.9%	2.4%	3.8%	1.5%	2.4%	6.6%
	4	90.9%	67.8%	21.1%	2.0%	3.2%	1.3%	1.9%	5.9%
	5	92.5%	71.3%	19.7%	1.5%	2.3%	0.9%	1.4%	5.1%
Least Deprived ↓	6	93.9%	71.7%	20.5%	1.6%	1.9%	0.7%	1.2%	4.2%
	7	94.6%	74.5%	18.8%	1.3%	1.7%	0.5%	1.2%	3.7%
	8	95.5%	76.9%	17.4%	1.1%	1.2%	0.4%	0.8%	3.3%
	9	96.2%	80.8%	14.4%	1.0%	1.1%	0.4%	0.6%	2.7%
	10	96.9%	84.6%	11.5%	0.9%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	2.3%

See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

¹ More information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation can be found at: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

² Note: (TOPD). This is the status grouping Training and Other Personal Development

6. Analysis of those Not Participating

Those identified as not participating include those who are unemployed (both *unemployed seeking*[#] and *unemployed not seeking*). The unemployed and seeking group are those who are known to SDS to be actively seeking employment, education or training. These may include individuals who are not accessing Department for Work and Pensions services or benefits (e.g. 16 and 17 year olds can only claim UC in specific circumstances). The figures for unemployed young people aged 18 or 19 in this report should be treated with a degree of caution and are likely to be subject to revision once information on UC claimants (unemployed) is available.

Analysis of those unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking revealed the following characteristics:

- Those 16 to 19 year olds who were unemployed seeking[#] or unemployed not seeking were concentrated in the most deprived areas - just under half of both unemployed seeking[#] (45.4%) and unemployed not seeking (41.3%) lived in areas ranked within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. This holds true for both males and females.
- 16 to 19 year olds who were not participating[#] were more likely to live in an urban area. Most of both unemployed seeking[#] (80.3%) and unemployed not seeking (76.8%) lived in urban areas¹. This holds true for both males and females.
- There were twelve local authorities with an unemployed seeking rate above the national average and the highest rate was in Clackmannanshire (2.7%). The unemployed seeking rate in most local authorities fell between 2019 and 2020.
- The gender composition of the non-participation[#] statuses differed. Almost two thirds (64.4%) of those unemployed seeking[#] were male; conversely the majority (51.3%) of those unemployed not seeking were female.
- All age groups have shown a decrease in the proportion that were unemployed seeking[#]. The 2020 figure is 0.4 pp lower than in 2019, and 0.6 pp lower than 2018.
- Most of the unemployed[#] seeking were 18 year olds. When combined with 17 year olds, these two age groups accounted for two thirds (66.4 %) of those reported as unemployed seeking[#].
- 19 years olds account for highest proportion of those who were unemployed not seeking employment. Together with 18 year olds, these made up three quarters (75.7%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort.

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

¹ Large Urban Areas or Other Urban areas as per: <https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification>
2020 Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland

- Between 2019 and 2020 the largest decrease in the unemployed seeking[#] status was amongst the 18 and 19 age groups, which saw a 0.7 pp and 0.6 pp reduction respectively. The largest reduction between the two year period of 2018 and 2020 was amongst 18 year olds, where there was a reduction of 1.1 pp

Table 9: 2020 Unemployed seeking[#] employment or training by age, comparison between 2018 and 2019

Age	2020 Annual Participation Measure			% of age group pp Change 2020 on 2019	% of age group pp Change 2020 on 2018
	16-19 Cohort	Count / % split within U/E seeking [#]	% of age group who are U/E seeking		
16	52,344	224 (10.0%)	0.4%	-0.1	-0.2
17	50,565	718 (32.0%)	1.4%	-0.3	-0.9
18	50,887	772 (34.4%)	1.5%	-0.7	-1.1
19	52,185	533 (23.7%)	1.0%	-0.6	-0.4
16-19	205,981	2,247 (100%)	1.1%	-0.4	-0.6

The percentage of 16-19 year olds unemployed not seeking employment[#] or training has remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2020, the largest increase was in the 17 year old age group by 0.2 pp.

Table 10: 2020 Unemployed Not seeking employment or training by age, comparison between 2018 and 2019

Age	2020 Annual Participation Measure			% of age group pp Change 2020 on 2019	% of age group pp Change 2020 on 2018
	16-19 Cohort	Count / % split within U/E Not seeking	% of age group who are U/E Not seeking		
16	52,344	159 (4.6%)	0.3%	0.0	0.1
17	50,565	673 (19.6%)	1.3%	0.2	0.1
18	50,887	1,137 (33.2%)	2.2%	0.0	-0.1
19	52,185	1,456 (42.5%)	2.8%	0.1	0.0
16-19	205,981	3,425 (100%)	1.7%	0.1	0.0

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

7. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status

The percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed[#] status has decreased between 2019 and 2020. This definition applies to individuals, within the shared data set, whose predominant status is 'unconfirmed' within that year. This means, that despite multi-partner data sharing and tracking of individuals (as part of SDS service delivery) it has not been possible to identify full status information. The majority of those with an unconfirmed status[#] were aged 19 (60.0%) and this has been the case for each year of the APM. It may be that many of these individuals had taken up employment, but it has not been possible to confirm this as SDS does not currently have any regular administrative data feed of employment information. SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to make progress in obtaining employment related data. It is believed this key development in information sharing will help improve service delivery and further enhance the annual participation measure. In addition, the roll out of UC may have also had an impact on the percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed status. SDS continues to receive Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support data from DWP but SDS does not currently receive any information regarding UC claimants.

Table 11 below provides a breakdown, by age, of those whose status was reported as unconfirmed. Points of note include:

- The percentage of individuals in 2020 with an unconfirmed[#] status was 5.1% (10,534) compared to 5.3% in 2019 and 4.7% in 2018.
- 18 and 19 year olds are markedly more likely to have an unconfirmed status compared to the 16 and 17 year old groups.
- An unconfirmed[#] status was more common amongst males than females; the gender split for those with an unconfirmed status was 44% female and 56% male.
- Those with an unconfirmed[#] status were also more likely to be in areas of higher deprivation (over a third lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).
- Compared to 2019, there was a decrease in unconfirmed[#] statuses amongst the 16, 17 and 18 age groups and an increase in the 19 year olds.

Table 11: Status unconfirmed by Age

Age	2020 Annual Participation Measure			% of age group pp Change 2020 on 2019	% of age group pp Change 2020 on 2018
	16-19 Cohort	Count & % split of Unconfirmed Status [#]	% of age group		
16	52,344	116 (1.1%)	0.2%	-0.1	0.0
17	50,565	1,115 (10.6%)	2.2%	-0.2	0.4
18	50,887	2,978 (28.3%)	5.9%	-0.6	0.8
19	52,185	6,325 (60.0%)	12.1%	0.3	0.8
16-19	205,981	10,534 (100%)	5.1%	-0.2%	0.4

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

Appendix 1: Notes to Readers

A joint work stream between the Scottish Government and SDS oversaw the development work to define the annual participation measure and agree its content. As this is now being used within the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, these notes have been prepared to support users by outlining the reporting methodology used.

The measure is drawn from the shared dataset which is managed by SDS and incorporates data on individuals' statuses from key delivery partners, including local authorities, colleges, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and SAAS.

a) Identification of the Annual Participation Measure cohort

The participation measure cohort is based entirely on records held on the SDS customer support system (CSS). This is a shared data set to which partners contribute through data sharing arrangements. The following rules apply:

- i. **Age:** To be included in the annual measure the age of the individual on the last day of the period of interest must be between 16 and 19. The age used within the measure is the age of the customer on the last day of the period of interest i.e. 31st March.
- ii. **Primary Status Coverage:** to be included in the annual participation measure an individual must have status data covering the whole period of interest 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020. Therefore, records created mid-year without a full status history for the year have been excluded from the measure.
- iii. **Excluded Statuses:** individuals who meet the above criteria but have a moved out with Scotland or deceased status within the shared data set are excluded from the measure.

b) Annual Participation Measure Calculation Methodology

- i. **Headline Classification:** The method used to calculate the annual participation measure is to assign each individual in the cohort with a headline classification of **participating, not participating or unconfirmed**. Each individual status available on the shared data set has been allocated to a headline classification, as outlined in (d) below. The annual headline classification for each person has been calculated by adding up all the days an individual spends in each status and the classification with the largest number of days has been assigned to the individual. Each individual's headline classification has then been used to calculate the proportion of individuals participating, not participating and unconfirmed.

- ii. **Status Grouping:** Once the annual headline classification has been calculated for each individual, the same methodology is used to calculate the status grouping. The status grouping for each person has been calculated by adding up all the days an individual spends in each status within the annual headline classification and the status grouping with the largest number of days has been assigned to the individual.
- iii. **Status:** The status for each person has been calculated by adding up all the days an individual spends in each status within the assigned status grouping and the status with the largest number of days has been assigned to the individual.

c) Handling the scenario when no largest number of days exists

There were a small number of instances where the highest sum of days could not be used as the sum of days was equal. The following rules used to identify the participation headline, group and status:

i. **Headline Classification:**

Where the highest sum of days between participating and unconfirmed was equal, the headline classification was recorded as unconfirmed.

Where the highest sum of days between not participating and unconfirmed was equal, the headline classification was recorded as not participating.

Where the highest sum of days was equal between participating and not participating, and the not participating sum was higher than unconfirmed then the headline classification was not participating else the headline classification was recorded as unconfirmed.

ii. **Status Grouping:**

Participating: where the highest sum of days was equal between two or more of the status groups, their final status grouping would be recorded using a hierarchy (1) Employment, (2) Education and (3) Training & Other Development.

Not participating: where the highest sum of days was equal between the status groups, their final status grouping would be recorded using the hierarchy (1) Unemployed Seeking then (2) Unemployed not Seeking.

iii. **Status:**

Where more than one status had the same number of days within the same status grouping the most recent status was identified from the status records and this status would be reported.

d) Handling Summer Transitions for those leaving school

The period between 1st May and the first Monday in October was identified as a period of transition from school. Where an individual left school within this period and they transitioned from a school status to a participating status, the period between the date left school to the start of the new status was filled with a transition status. When calculating participation classification and other subcategories these transition statuses are counted within the category being transitioned into.

e) Handling individuals with gaps in their status history

Where an individual had one or more statuses covering the whole year, then the sum of all the days should total 365 days. Where gaps existed in an individual's status history the deficit of days were counted as unconfirmed days until each individual had a total of 365 days.

f) Allocation of a local authority within the annual measure

Several options were considered to report participation at a local authority level and following consultation with the National Reference Group, whose members have responsibility to provide oversight for data governance of the shared data set, it was agreed to adopt the following reporting methodology.

For school pupils, we will report the local authority of the school for publicly funded secondary and special schools. For individuals attending residential schools the local authority of their home area is used.

For those who have left school we would continue to report the individual against the local authority of their school of leaving for a fixed period and thereafter the individual would be reported against the local authority linked to their postcode. If no postcode was available for mapping to a local authority, the SDS centre attached to the customer record would be used. All SDS centres are linked to local authority areas.

It was agreed that the link to the school of leaving would be retained for one year based on fixed points in the year. The change from reporting the local authority of the school to an individual's postcode would happen, as follows:

School Leaving Date between:	Fixed Cohort Leave Date	Date Local Authority link changes from School to Postcode
School census day to the 28 th February (Spring Term)	1st January (Prior to the start of the Spring Term)	1st January (12 months after the fixed leave date)
1st March (Spring Term) to the day before the census day	1st June (Within the Summer Term)	1st June (12 months after the fixed leave date)

g) Participation Measure Status Definitions

Participating Classification

i. Education Group

School Pupil

Relates to individuals reported on the roll of a local authority or grant-aided secondary or special school. It also includes young people who are receiving education through local authority purchased places at specialist provision, residential schools, those attending college or other providers but are on a school roll. In line with “Getting it Right for Every Child” (GIRFEC), the local authority should ensure each school maintains an accurate pupil roll. They should ensure their management information system is updated with information related to when a young person is planning to or has left school, and this will be notified to SDS through regular data sharing.

Higher Education

Relates to individuals enrolled at a University, Higher Education Institution or College to follow a course of study at SCQF level 7 or above. This includes degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers, higher level courses for professional qualification and Higher National Certificate / Diploma or equivalent. The individual could be enrolled on a Full-Time, Part-Time or distance learning basis.

Further Education

Those enrolled at college or other provider and studying below SCQF level 7, e.g. National Qualifications, Access courses, portfolio courses, portfolio preparation, pre-vocational courses and special programmes. The individual could be enrolled on a Full-Time, Part-Time or distance learning basis. Where an individual is attending college, but they remain on the roll of a school, they will be recorded within the school pupil status.

ii. Employment Group

Employment (full-time & part-time) and Self-Employment

Covers all individuals who consider themselves to be employed through undertaking paid work. This is based on self-classification adopted by the Labour Force Survey. Individuals will be considered to be working full-time if they undertake paid work 16 hours or more per week and part-time for under 16 hours per week. Full-time employment also includes individuals undertaking a Graduate Apprenticeship.

Self Employed is defined as an individual who is earning a living by working independently of an employer, either freelance or by running their own business including anyone working as a professional athlete.

Included in the employment group are those who are undertaking an internship, where a young person has completed an agreed course and is working for a set period in an organisation to enhance their skills and knowledge through practical work experience and for which the young person should be paid.

Modern Apprenticeship

Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) provide individuals with the opportunity to secure industry-recognised qualifications at a range of Vocational Qualification (VQ) levels while earning a wage. It relates to individuals undertaking a modern apprenticeship where there is a public funding contribution administered by SDS on behalf of the Scottish Government.

iii. Training and Other Development Group

Employability Fund

The Employability Fund aims to support activity that will help people to develop the skills needed to secure a job or progress to more advanced forms of training. The Employability Fund supports participants and activity that map to stages 2 to 4 of the Strategic Skills and employability pipeline (SSP).

Activity Agreements

“No One Left Behind: Next Steps for Employability Support in Scotland”, outlined the Scottish Government’s plan to deliver more effective and joined-up employability support across Scotland. The Scottish Government carried out a review of employability programmes they funded directly, and from April 2019, a new local employability delivery model managed collaboratively between Scottish Government and Local Government was introduced. The integration of funding streams, as part of the ongoing implementation of No One Left Behind, means that although local authorities will provide the same type of support and opportunities for young people, this activity will no longer be funded under the banner of ‘Activity Agreements’. It means from 2019-20 onwards this category will no longer be reported, and all activity funded via No One Left Behind will be included in the Other Formal Training category.

Other Formal Training

The integration of funding streams, as part of the ongoing implementation of No One Left Behind (NOLB), means that all young people supported by local authorities who are undertaking a learning agreement/action plan are recorded within this category. It also includes young people on third sector funded training programme that have a formal attendance arrangement and trainees will be in receipt of a training allowance or grant. In addition, those receiving a scholarship or sponsorship to concentrate on vocational/sporting activity will be included here. This status would only include individuals who have a non-employed status, but the individual is receiving external funding to participate in the activity. Community Jobs Scotland, an employability programme delivered by SCVO which

works with voluntary sector employers to create job opportunities for unemployed people aged 16 to 29 is also included within the category.

Personal/Skills Development

This status is split into two different categories – PSD (Employability) and PSD (Social & Health):

PSD (Employability)

Those who participate in activities with the aim of improving their employability. These formal programmes will often be delivered by community learning and development or third sector organisation. The courses will have a structured attendance pattern.

PSD (Social & Health)

Some young people may not be ready to enter the labour market and will require access to support from support services to make transitions into learning/ work or adulthood. This status relates to individuals who are undertaking structured opportunities appropriate to their long-term needs or to address their barriers to participation. It includes those whose entry to opportunities will have been planned through the transition planning process and take account of the strengths, abilities, wishes and needs of the young person as well as identification of relevant support strategies which may be required. In addition, it includes individuals who are facing barriers to participation and are participating in “structured” support for the removal of barriers prior to concentrating on employability.

Voluntary Work

Undertaking voluntary work/volunteering, this will involve a young person giving of his/her time and energy through a third party. It will benefit both the young person and others, including individuals, groups and organisations, communities, the environment and society at large. Some volunteering may include a financial allowance. Work experience that is not organised via a formal training programme and un-paid work would also be recorded here.

Not Participating Classification

iv. Unemployed and seeking employment or training[#]:

This refers to young people who SDS is aware of who are actively seeking employment/training. This includes those receiving support from SDS, DWP and other OfA partners. It is based on regular contact between the supporting organisation and the individual. If there has been no contact between the individual and SDS within an 8-week period or if SDS has been unable to confirm with the OfA partner that the individual is still being supported, their status will be updated to “status unconfirmed”. Those customers identified as being in receipt of benefit via DWP data sharing are excluded from this update.

[#] See Appendix 2, treat with a degree of caution

v. **Unemployed and not seeking employment or training**

Includes individuals who are **not seeking employment or training** for a range of reasons. This is split into three main headings:

Economically Inactive – the primary reason for an individual not being in a position to participate includes young people with caring responsibilities, pregnancy, those with a short-term illness, those who are choosing not to participate, those who due to their complex needs or personal circumstances are not able to participate and those who are taking time out to travel.

Unavailable - ill health – those young people who are unavailable to participate due to a longer-term illness.

Custody - Young people on remand or in custodial care.

Unconfirmed Classification

Individuals with an unconfirmed status refers to those 16-19 year olds who have an individual record within the participation measure but despite multi partner data sharing and attempted tracking by SDS and their partners, it was not possible to identify an up to date status for reporting.

SDS has developed revised procedures for following up customers as part of their service delivery. These procedures will include attempted contact with those 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status.

SDS continues to work with partners to further enhance service delivery through multi-partner data sharing and it is anticipated this work will also help to decrease the number of customers with an unconfirmed status.

Furthermore, SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to make progress in obtaining employment related data made possible by provisions in the Digital Economy (Act) 2017. This key development in information sharing will help improve service delivery and further enhance the annual participation measure.

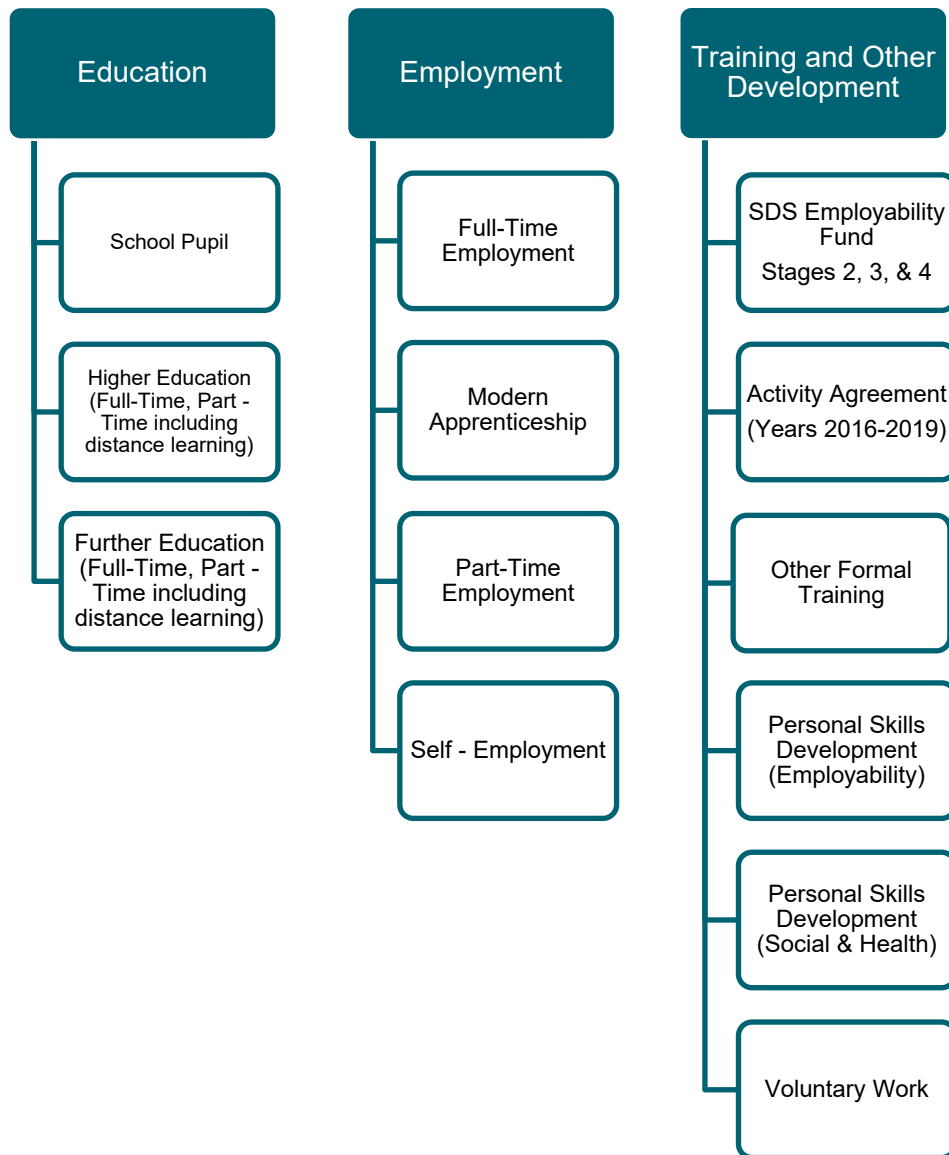
CSS Statuses excluded from the measure

Moved out with Scotland

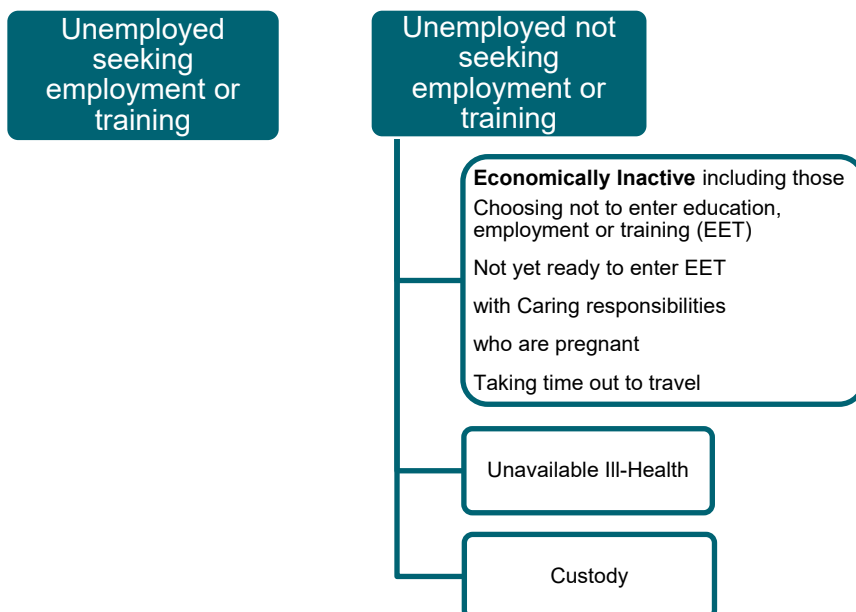
Where SDS has been notified the young person has left Scotland on a permanent basis. However, those who are ordinarily resident in Scotland and are supported by SAAS to study out with Scotland will be recorded within Higher Education.

Deceased: Where SDS has been notified the young person has passed away.

Statuses allocated to the “Participating” Classification and Status Grouping



Statuses allocated to the “Not Participating” Classification and Status Grouping



h) Coverage of the annual participation measure

The [National Records of Scotland](#) estimate the population of 16-19 year olds in Scotland, at the 2019 mid-point, was 226,266. This population estimate, published on 30th April 2020, is based on the 2011 Census being updated annually by 'ageing on' the population and applying information on births, deaths and migration.

There are 205,981 individuals reported within the participation measure. This represents approximately 91% of the 16-19 year old population having a record within the shared data set. Hence the measure does not report on the entire population because the shared data set does not hold records of those:

- Attending independent schools or being home schooled
- Self-funding at University
- Living in Scotland but with no record of publicly funded schooling or post school education in Scotland and not registered with SDS.

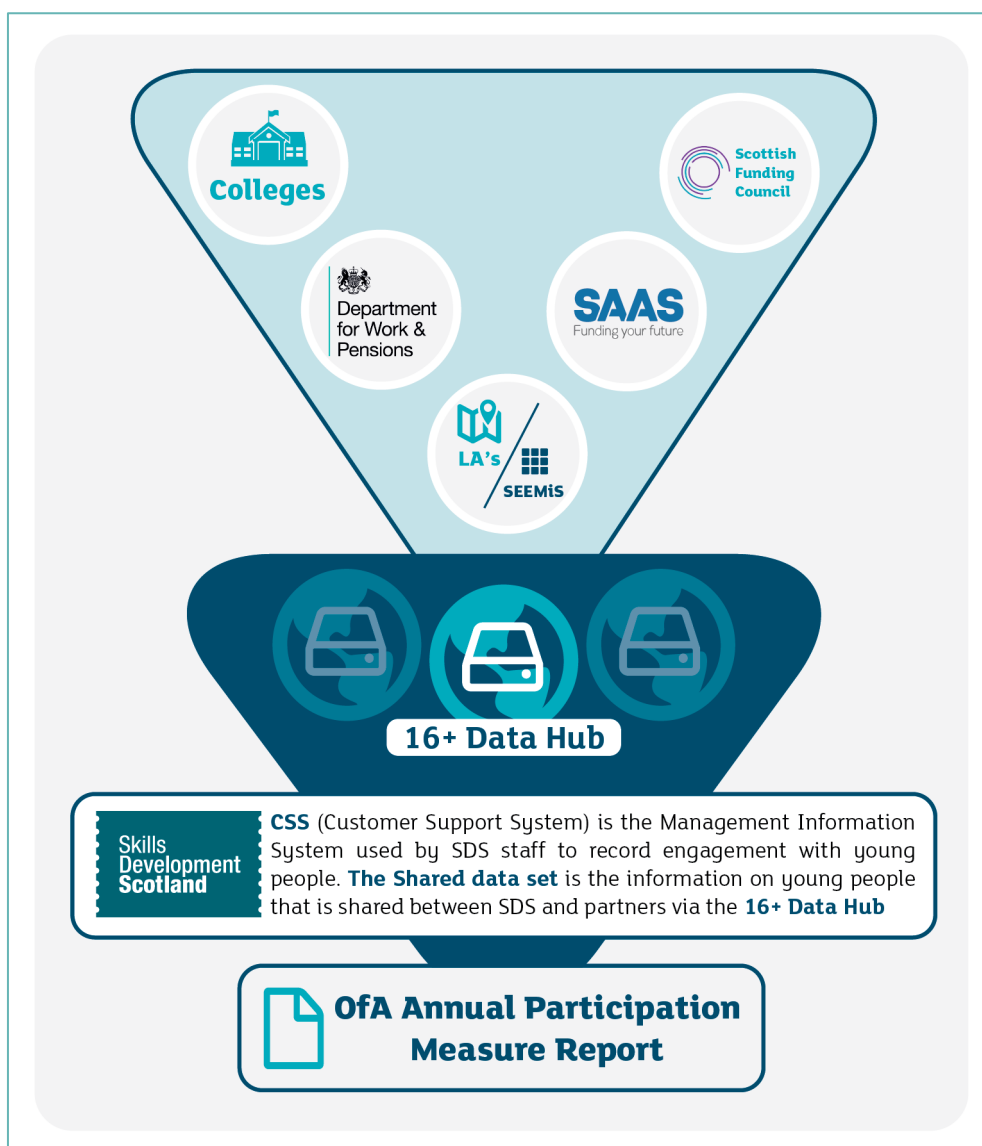
i) Record creation on CSS

The primary source of information to create individual records on CSS is local authority education (schools) data. This is received as part of the annual school pupil census for publicly funded schools and through ongoing sharing of local authority data. In addition, new records will be created by SDS staff as a result of direct contact with individuals or their representatives. For example, an individual who moved to Scotland following compulsory schooling elsewhere and have received careers information, advice and guidance support from SDS.

j) Recording and updating statuses on CSS

The participation measure is based on a shared data set which is updated through multi partner data sharing and direct data input by SDS staff, as a result of contact with individuals, their parents/representatives or organisations an individual is engaging with. Each organisation that shares data is responsible for the quality of the data held in their system. However, SDS also uses an additional set of validation and business rules to govern the creation of new statuses from partner data.

The table that follows outlines the current sources of data that contribute to the shared data source and what statuses are created:



Data Supplier	Primary or secondary statuses which could be created on CSS
Local Authority	<p>a) Creation and update of school pupil statuses for those at publicly funded schools based on the annual school pupil census returns prepared by each local authority.</p> <p>b) Ongoing update and creation of school pupil and post school statuses created by school staff.</p>
Scottish Colleges	<p>a) A student enrolment at Scotland's Colleges creates or updates Further Education (FE) or Higher Education (HE) statuses.</p> <p>b) Withdrawals from FE and HE courses creates an unconfirmed status (unknown)</p>
Student Awards Agency Scotland	<p>a) A student enrolment via SAAS creates or updates Higher Education statuses.</p> <p>b) Withdrawals from HE courses creates an unconfirmed status (unknown)</p>

Department for Work and Pensions	Unemployed Seeking statuses created for those in the 18/19 year old age group - JSA, ESA. No current information shared regarding UC claimants.
SDS Corporate Funding Information & Processing System (FIPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants on Employability Fund Stage 2, 3 or 4 • Participants on Modern Apprenticeships • Participants on other specific programmes • National Training Programme leaver information used to update post programme statuses.
Scottish Funding Council (College Leaver Survey)	Variety of statuses created for college leavers as a result of data gathered through the annual SFC college destination survey.

In addition to the above organisations, SDS also receives data from other partners, e.g. Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

In addition to the electronic data sharing processes between partners, there is sharing of information at an operational level as part of working practice within local Opportunities for All partnerships.

SDS does not yet have a complete set of shared data from all desired partners and therefore the combined data set held on CSS is incomplete. To key areas are:

1. Individual level data on young adults who are in employment. SDS continues to work with the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to make progress in obtaining employment related data.
2. Individual level data on young adults in receipt of Universal Credit (those in receipt of UC and unemployed seeking).

k) **Comparability to other published statistics**

The detail outlined in note (e) provides the background to statuses recorded in the shared data set. Caution should be exercised when making comparison to published data on specific topics such as Higher Education participation, the Modern Apprenticeship programme or unemployment rates. Other published statistics may use differing methodologies and timings and are therefore not directly comparable. SDS statistics on the Modern Apprenticeship programme can be viewed at <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/modern-apprenticeships> and SDS statistics on the Employability Fund can be viewed at <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/employability-fund/>

Appendix 2: Impact of Universal Credit

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is one of the key partners who share data, specifically to enable SDS to engage young people aged 18 and over who are unemployed. Since 2014, SDS has received data for those aged 18 and over in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support. JSA data was used to update the status of individuals to unemployed seeking. When SDS was notified by DWP that an individual was no longer claiming, their status was updated to the destination status recorded by DWP or to unconfirmed, if destination information was not known.

These benefits have been replaced by Universal Credit (UC). The rollout of UC commenced in March 2016 and completed in December 2018. As a result, since 2016 progressively more young people claiming out of work benefits have been receiving UC rather than legacy benefits (e.g. JSA). SDS does not currently receive any data from DWP on UC claimants, and therefore is not able to comprehensively identify or report on people who are unemployed and claiming out of work benefits. DWP is currently unable to provide data on Universal Credit claimants who are out of work. DWP is working to develop this capability and to ensure that SDS receives this information in the future.

Universal Credit was phased in from March 2016 to December 2018 for new claimants. As a result, the impact on the APM of not receiving this data increased progressively during this time. SDS has undertaken exploratory analysis using other official data sources to quantify the impact on the APM of the lack of UC source data. However, it has not been possible to reliably quantify the impact. Until SDS has access to UC source data SDS cannot be certain and the figures will remain subject to revision in line with our obligation as a producer of Official Statistics. Should DWP be able to provide SDS with the required data this APM and previous years will be subject to revision.

The figures and percentages in this report that will have been impacted by the lack of Universal Credit data are those relating to **unemployed seeking, employment and unconfirmed**. As result the headline classifications of **participation, non-participation and unconfirmed** will have been directly impacted.

Examples of how the absence of UC data has impacted on the figures and percentages in this report are:

- DWP benefit data was used to create unemployed seeking statuses and the number of 18 and 19 year olds reported within an unemployed seeking status has gradually reduced since 2016.
- In the absence of HMRC data, DWP data was used to identify when 18 to 19 year olds had left employment. This control is no longer available.
- DWP data was used to update individuals from unconfirmed to unemployed seeking when identified as claiming JSA.

It should be noted that through the delivery of our post school services and transition support from school, SDS continues to track and engage with unemployed young people. In local areas, SDS works with DWP to offer support to young unemployed people thus maintaining an accurate record of their circumstances. As a result, the APM can accurately report on unemployment where SDS has delivered support to individuals. Although available to all, SDS support is mainly delivered between the ages of 16 and 18½ years old.