

Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2023

The 9th annual statistical publication reporting on learning, training, and work activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland

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Revised on 27 August 2024

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Revision Note

| Revision Date | Revision Details |
|---------------|---|
| 27/08/2024 | <p>HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) data was included within the APM statistical data set for the first time in 2023. Scottish Government, SDS and HMRC have agreed to pause the inclusion of this data. This means that HMRC data has not been included in the 2024 APM data set. To ensure comparability across all APM publications since 2016, the 2023 data set has been revised by removing updates resulting from HMRC data. This revision allows for comparisons between different years to be made on a like for like basis, as the datasets were prepared using the same methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This revised 2023 publication only includes key points at a national level. Additional breakdowns of the revised 2023 data are available the APM supplementary tables. These provide a breakdown of the Annual Participation Measure by different characteristics including age, gender, ethnicity and disability and by different geographies including local authority and SIMD. • An interactive PowerBI report has been created to complement this publication. This provides similar breakdowns to the revised supplementary tables in a visual format. • Background notes outlining the annual participation methodology and the sources of data are available on the APM webpage. <p>For the period covered by the 2022 and 2023 statistics we received data from DWP about Universal Credit (UC) claimants. However, for the years prior to 2022, SDS did not receive this data from DWP which means we were unable to comprehensively identify those out of work.</p> |

Calculations:

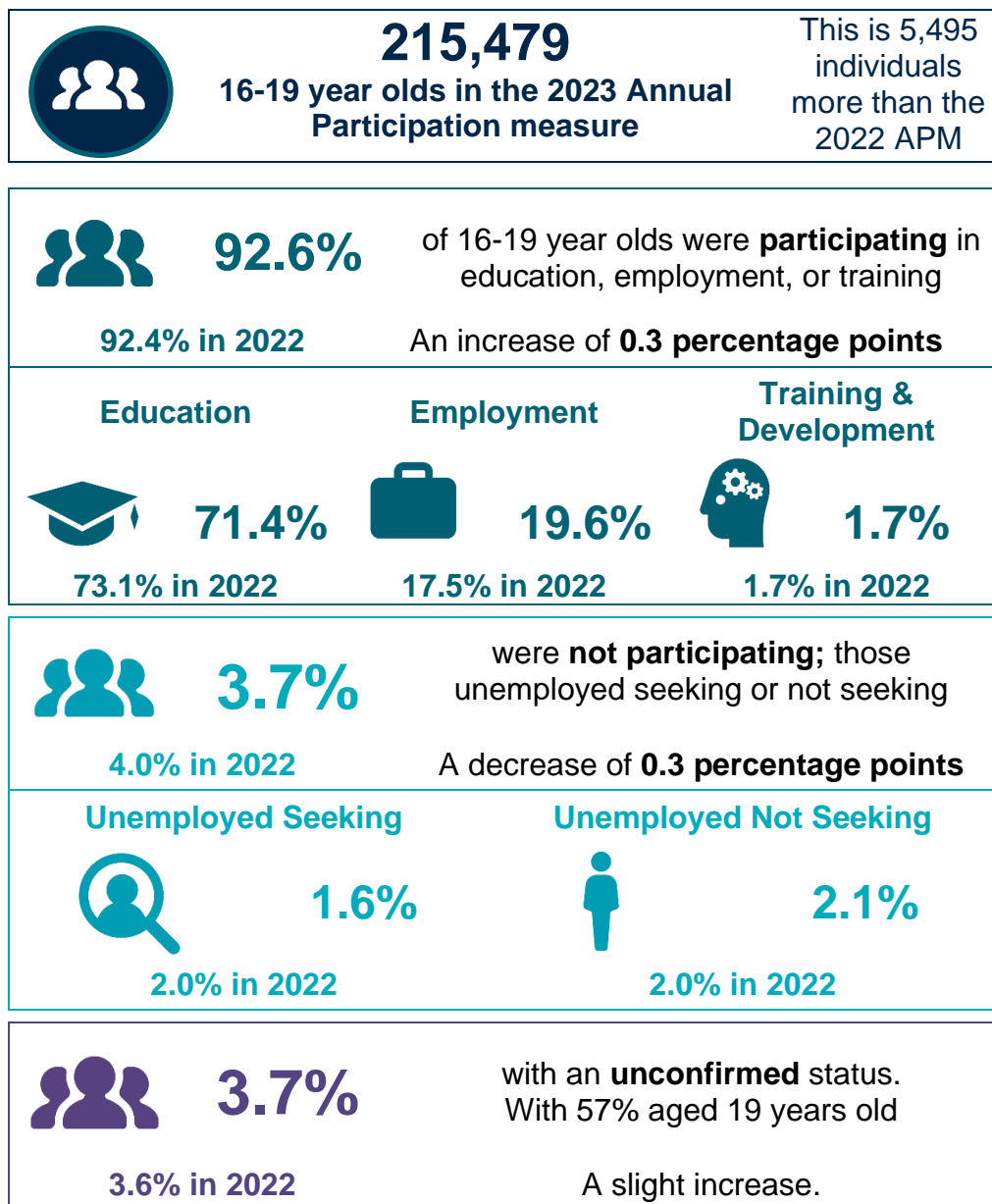
Text may refer to a percentage point (pp) increase or decrease, which means the absolute change between two percentages e.g., the proportion of 16-19 year olds participating increased by x pp. Calculating percentage point differences from the data presented in the report may differ slightly from figures cited in the text, due to rounding. Similarly, percentages may not sum to 100%, due to rounding.

Summary Statistics

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports on the education and employment activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland and is the source of the Scottish Government's National Performance indicator "**Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training, or employment**".

In 2023, this national indicator stood at 92.6%, the highest percentage using the methodology introduced in 2016. This was a 0.3 percentage point increase compared to 2022 (92.4%).

- In 2023, participation was highest amongst 16 year olds (99.1%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (84.6%). This mirrors all previous years. The participation rate in 2023 increased for 18 and 19 year olds by 1.0 pp and 0.4 pp respectively, remained static for 17 year olds but decreased for 16 year olds by 0.2 pp.
- The participation gap between those who lived in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas was 9.1 pp, compared to 9.3 pp in 2022 and 12.9 pp in 2016. This is narrowest gap on record
- Females (93.3%) were more likely to participate than males (92.1%).
- The participation rate amongst Minority Ethnic groups (95.9%) remained higher than for those from a White ethnic group (92.5%).
- The participation rate amongst those identified as disabled (88.8%) remained lower than for those not identified as disabled (92.8%).
- Substantial variation remains in the participation rate by local authority, the gap between the highest and lowest participation rates increased from 7.7 pp in 2022 to 7.8 pp in 2023.



Impact of Universal Credit data

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is one of the key partners who share data with SDS. Since 2014, SDS received data for those aged eighteen and over in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support. These benefits were replaced by Universal Credit (UC) with the rollout completed by December 2018, however, SDS did not receive UC data until late summer 2021.

The inclusion of UC data for individuals aged 16-19 has led to improvements in data quality and means the measure can now comprehensively report on those who are out of work (unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking). In addition, the UC data has also been used to identify individuals who are employed and in receipt of universal credit. Unfortunately, DWP was unable to supply historic universal credit data meaning figures and percentages for previous years remain unchanged. Within previous reports we noted that we were unable to reliably quantify the impact the lack of UC data had on the APM. However, we believed we were unable to comprehensively identify or report on young adults who were unemployed and claiming out of work benefits.

Through the delivery of post school services and transition support from school, SDS track and engage with unemployed young adults. 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 for previous years will have accurately reported on unemployment where SDS had delivered support to individuals. Although available to all, SDS support is mainly delivered between the ages of 16 and 18½ years old. This approach will have to some extent mitigated the absence of UC data in prior years.

The figures and percentages impacted by the lack of UC data included the categories of **unemployed seeking, unemployed not seeking, employment** and **unconfirmed**. This meant the headline classifications of **participation, non-participation** and **unconfirmed** will have been directly impacted. Examples of how the absence of UC data will have had an impact include: DWP data was used to create unemployed seeking statuses and the number of 18 and 19 year olds reported within an unemployed seeking status gradually reduced since 2016. Also, DWP data was used to update individuals from unconfirmed or participating to unemployed seeking.

As the results of the 2022 and 2023 reports demonstrate, the inclusion of UC data has improved the quality of the shared data, particularly in relation to unemployed and unconfirmed statuses and, within these, the 18 & 19 year old age groups.