

Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2019

The 5th 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
24/10/2019	Within Table 7 of the report the incorrect percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in 2018 was published. The report was originally published using the 2017 percentage (91.1%) instead of the correct 2018 percentage (91.8%). This table has been updated.

Note to Readers:

Percentages within this report may not sum to 100%. In addition, we refer to a percentage point (pp) increase or decrease, which refers to the absolute change between two percentages. Similarly, when calculating percentage point differences from the data presented in graphs and tables may differ slightly from figures cited in the text. This is also due to rounding.

Executive Summary

This report marks the fifth release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level and the fourth using the Annual Participation Measure (APM) reporting methodology. The annual methodology takes account of all statuses for 16-19 year olds in Scotland over one calendar year (1st April – 31st March). For each of the 207,133 individuals included within the 2019 cohort¹, the headline participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification within which each individual spent the greatest number of days.

Since August 2017, the Annual Participation Measure has been the source of the [National Performance Framework](#) indicator, “**Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment**”.

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. At present, SDS does not receive data from DWP on Universal Credit (UC) claimants, which means it is not possible to comprehensively identify people who are unemployed and seeking work. 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 when this data becomes available ([See Annex 1 for full details](#)).

The headline results of the 2019 Annual Participation Measure are as follows:

- The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating[#] in education, training or employment between April 1st 2018 and 31st March 2019 (the 2019 APM figure) was 91.6%. This represents a decrease of 0.2 pp compared to the equivalent 2018 APM figure (91.8%). However, participation in the 2019 APM remains higher than in 2017 (91.1%) and 2016 (90.4%).
- The proportion of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed[#] status was 5.3%, an increase of 0.6 pp since 2018. As was the case in 2018, the majority of those reported as unconfirmed (57.3%) were 19 year olds.
- The number of individuals reported within the 2019 APM cohort was 4,122 less than the 2018 measure. This change is in line with National Records of Scotland population estimates².

¹ To be included in the APM 2019 cohort an individual must be aged 16 to 19 on the 31st March 2019 and have a customer record on the Opportunities for All shared data set, held on the SDS Customer Support System (CSS),
[#] [See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

² The National Records of Scotland (NRS) 2016 based population projections estimated that the number of people aged 16-19 years old was expected to decrease by 5,050 between 2018 and 2019. The 2019 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 2018 cohort.



207,133 individuals

The Participation Measure covers the 16-19 year old cohort

4,122

individuals less than 2018 APM

91.6%

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

A decrease of **0.2 percentage points** from 91.8% in 2018.

3.1%

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 3.4% in 2018.

5.3%

with an **unconfirmed**[#] status. With 57% 19 years old (57%).

An increase of **0.6 percentage points** from 4.7% in 2018.

71.4%

in Education
71.3% in 2018

18.2%

in Employment
18.7% in 2018

2.0%

in Training & Personal Development
1.9% in 2018

1.5%

Unemployed Seeking
1.7% in 2018

1.6%

Unemployed Not Seeking
1.7% in 2018



The annual participation measure takes account of the status for all 16-19 year olds from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. 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. [\(See Annex 1 for full details\)](#)

Annual Participation Measure by Age

Annual Participation[#] rate for:

- ↑ 16 year olds was 99.0%, **an increase of 0.1 pp** (98.9% in 2018).
- ↑ 17 year olds was 94.8%, **an increase of 0.2 pp** (94.6% in 2018).
- ↓ 18 year olds was 89.1%, **a decrease of 0.8 pp** (89.9% in 2018).
- ↓ 19 year olds was 83.9%, **a decrease of 0.6 pp** (84.5% in 2018).

Non - Participation[#] rate for:

- ↓ 16 year olds was 0.8%, **a decrease of 0.1 pp** (0.9% in 2018).
- ↓ 17 year olds was 2.8%, **a decrease of 0.8 pp** (3.6% in 2018).
- ↓ 18 year olds was 4.4%, **a decrease of 0.5 pp** (4.9% in 2018).
- ↑ 19 year olds was 4.3%, **an increase of 0.1 pp** (4.2% in 2018).

Unconfirmed[#] rate for:

- ↑ 16 year olds was 0.3%, **an increase of 0.1 pp** (0.2% in 2018).
- ↑ 17 year olds was 2.4%, **an increase of 0.6 pp** (1.8% in 2018).
- ↑ 18 year olds was 6.5%, **an increase of 1.4 pp** (5.1% in 2018).
- ↑ 19 year olds was 11.8%, **an increase of 0.5 pp** (11.3% in 2018).

Participation by Geography

Eighteen local authorities had an annual participation[#] rate above the national rate, fourteen were below this rate. **The variation between the highest and the lowest annual participation rate within local authorities has remained at 8.8 pp within both the 2019 and 2018 Annual Participation Measures.**

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 10.5 pp in 2019 (compared to 12.9 pp in 2016, 11.5 pp in 2017 and 10.8 pp in 2018).

[#] [See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

1. Introduction

The [Scottish Government's Opportunities for All](#) 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 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). 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](#).

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 Annex 1 for full details).

Report background

This report marks the fifth release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level and the fourth using the Annual Participation Measure (APM) reporting methodology. The APM methodology takes account of all statuses for individuals over the course of the year. The participation classification of each customer is calculated by combining the number of days spent in each status between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019. The overall participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification which accounts for the greatest number of days.

[See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

This report contains analysis of the 2019 outcomes and, where possible, compares these to 2018, 2017 and 2016, including:

- Participation by status and age
- Participation by equality characteristics including gender, ethnicity and disability
- Participation by geography including local authority and SIMD (2016)

Caution is required when making year on year comparisons of unemployed seeking figures, due to the introduction of Universal Credit. SDS do not currently receive any data from DWP on UC claimants, and therefore are not able to comprehensively identify or report on people who are unemployed and claiming out of work benefits.

[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.

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 Headline Statistics

The headline participation statistics for 2019 are:

- The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating[#] in education, training or employment between April 1st 2018 and 31st March 2019 (the 2019 APM figure) was 91.6%. This represents a decrease of 0.2 pp compared to the equivalent 2018 APM figure (91.8%). However, participation[#] in the 2019 APM remains higher than in 2017 (91.1%) and 2016 (90.4%).
- The proportion of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed[#] status was 5.3%, an increase of 0.6 pp since 2018. As was the case in 2018, the majority of those reported as unconfirmed[#] (57.3%) were 19 year olds.
- The number of individuals reported within the 2019 APM cohort was 4,122 less than the 2018 measure. This change is in line with National Records of Scotland population estimates¹.

The recent increase in unconfirmed may be driven by a lack of access to data on Universal Credit for those claiming out of work benefits. SDS continues to work to reduce the proportion of young people with an unconfirmed status. This includes ongoing discussions with HMRC to explore whether accessing tax data could enhance the coverage of young people who are in employment.

Table 1: 2019 Annual Participation Measure (%)

APM Headline	Age				
	16	17	18	19	16 to 19
Count of 16-19 Year old Participating [#]	49,997	48,277	46,513	44,874	189,661
% 16-19 Participating	99.0%	94.8%	89.1%	83.9%	91.6%
Count of 16-19 Not Participating [#]	396	1,443	2,312	2,305	6,456
% 16-19 Not Participating	0.8%	2.8%	4.4%	4.3%	3.1%
Count of 16-19 with Unconfirmed Status [#]	127	1,204	3,368	6,317	11,016
% Status Unconfirmed	0.3%	2.4%	6.5%	11.8%	5.3%
Count of 16-19 Cohort	50,520	50,924	52,193	53,496	207,133

[#] [See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

¹ The National Records of Scotland (NRS) 2016 based population projections estimated that the number of people aged 16-19 years old was expected to decrease by 5,050 between 2018 and 2019. The 2019 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 2018 cohort.

3. Annual Participation Measure by Age and Status

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the APM by age. The results show that the participation[#] rate decreases with age, while the percentage not participating[#] or with an unconfirmed[#] status was higher in the older age groups. Notably:

- Participation[#] was highest amongst 16 year olds (99.0%) with the majority of 16 year olds at school (91.2%).
- The lowest rate of participation[#] was amongst 19 year olds (83.9%). This was 0.6 pp lower than in 2018 (84.5%). 19 year olds were most likely to be participating in higher education (41.6%).
- 3.1% of 16-19 year olds were counted as not participating[#]. This group included those who were unemployed and seeking employment[#] (1.5%), as well as those who were economically inactive and others not seeking employment[#] (1.6%).
- 71.4% of 16-19 year olds were in secondary or tertiary education, an increase of 0.1 pp on 2018:
 - 41.0% were in school (an increase of 0.5 pp on 2018)
 - 19.9% were in higher education (an increase of 0.1 pp on 2018)
 - 10.6% were in further education (a decrease of 0.4 pp on 2018)
- 18.2% 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, 52.4% were in full-time employment and a further 32.7% were undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship.
- 2.0% of 16-19 year olds were in the training and other development status. Of these 31.4% had an Activity Agreement¹ status and the next largest (26.6%) were accessing support from the Employability Fund².

[#] [See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

¹ Activity Agreements help school leavers to gain skills and confidence by offering access to a personal programme of learning and activity.

² 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: 2019 Annual Participation Measure by age (%)

Status Group	Status	Age				16-19 year old Total
		16	17	18	19	
Participating[#]						
Education	School Pupil	91.2%	64.6%	10.9%	0.3%	41.0%
	Higher Education	0.0%	2.8%	33.6%	41.6%	19.9%
	Further Education	4.2%	12.2%	16.2%	9.5%	10.6%
	Number in Education	48,245	40,536	31,706	27,507	147,994
	% Participating in Education	95.5%	79.6%	60.7%	51.4%	71.4%
Employment[#]	Modern Apprenticeship	1.0%	5.1%	8.9%	8.5%	5.9%
	Full-Time Employment [#]	1.0%	5.8%	12.9%	17.8%	9.5%
	Part-Time Employment [#]	*	*	3.9%	4.6%	2.6%
	Self-Employed [#]	*	*	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
	Number in Employment[#]	1,154	6,357	13,464	16,624	37,599
	% Participating in Employment[#]	2.3%	12.5%	25.8%	31.1%	18.2%
Training and Other Personal Development	Employability Fund Stages 2 – 4	0.4%	1.0%	0.6%	0.1%	0.5%
	Activity Agreement	0.5%	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	0.6%
	Other Formal Training	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
	Personal/ Skills Development	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
	Voluntary Work	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%
	Number in Training & Other Development	598	1,384	1,343	743	4,068
	% Training & Other Development	1.2%	2.7%	2.6%	1.4%	2.0%
Not Participating[#]						
Unemployed Seeking[#]	Number Unemployed Seeking[#]	254	888	1,134	855	3,131
	% Unemployed Seeking[#]	0.5%	1.7%	2.2%	1.6%	1.5%
Unemployed not seeking	Economically Inactive	0.2%	0.7%	1.4%	1.8%	1.0%
	Unavailable - Ill Health	*	*	0.8%	0.8%	0.5%
	Custody	*	*	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
	Number unemployed not seeking	142	555	1,178	1,450	3,325
	% Unemployed Not Seeking	0.3%	1.1%	2.3%	2.7%	1.6%

[See note \(k\) in “Appendix 1 - Notes for Readers”](#) for information about comparison to other published statistics.

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

* Withheld due to disclosure control

[#] [See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

4. Annual Participation Measure Time Series

As detailed in Table 3, the 2019 figures show that despite an overall decrease in participation[#], the 16 and 17 year old age groups had an increase in participation between 2018 and 2019. Points of note between APM 2018 and 2019 include:

- Participation[#] increased amongst 16 and 17 year olds (0.1 pp and 0.2 pp respectively). Conversely Participation[#] decreased amongst 18 and 19 year olds (0.8 pp and 0.6 pp respectively); the main driver for this was an increase in unconfirmed for both age groups.
- The rate of employment amongst 16-19 year olds decreased by 0.5 pp between 2018 and 2019. The 2019 percentage participating in employment[#] remains above the 2017 percentage participating in employment (18.1%) by 0.1 pp.
- The proportion of those classed as not participating[#] decreased by 0.3 pp between 2018 and 2019. This included a reduction, when compared with the 2018 figures, in both those who were unemployed seeking[#] (decreased by 0.2 pp) and those who were unemployed and not seeking[#] (decreased by 0.1 pp).
- The proportion of young people with an unconfirmed[#] status decreased steadily over the three-year period between 2016 and 2018 from 5.6% to 4.7%. The 2019 APM was the first year that the percentage of unconfirmed[#] (5.3%) increased from the previous year. The largest increase was among 18 year olds – up 1.4 pp since 2018, followed by 17 year olds with a 0.6 pp increase within the same time period.

Analysis of the data for 16-19 year olds with a post-school status shows that:

- The participation[#] rate for 16-19 year olds with a post-school status was 85.7% in 2019. This was a decrease of 0.4 pp on the 2018 figure, but 0.8% higher than the 2017 figure. A breakdown of the 2019 post-school participation[#] rate by age shows that it was:
 - highest amongst 16 year olds (88.2%)
 - lowest amongst 19 year olds (83.8%)
 - The only increase from 2018 to 2019 was amongst 17 year olds (0.5 pp), all other age groups had a decrease in post school participation[#] between 2018 and 2019.

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

Table 3: Annual Participation Measure comparison between 2017, 2018 and 2019

Status Grouping	2017 Annual Participation Measure	2018 Annual Participation Measure	2019 Annual Participation Measure	Percentage Point Change 2019 on 2018	Percentage Point Change 2019 on 2017
Total 16-19 Cohort	217,490	211,255	207,133		
Participating[#]	91.1%	91.8%	91.6%	-0.2%	0.5%
16 year olds	98.8%	98.9%	99.0%	0.1%	0.2%
17 year olds	94.0%	94.6%	94.8%	0.2%	0.8%
18 year olds	88.9%	89.9%	89.1%	-0.8%	0.2%
19 year olds	83.4%	84.5%	83.9%	-0.6%	0.5%
% Participating in Education	71.1%	71.3%	71.4%	0.1%	0.3%
16 year olds	95.7%	95.4%	95.5%	0.1%	-0.2%
17 year olds	79.7%	79.7%	79.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%
18 year olds	60.8%	61.1%	60.7%	-0.4%	-0.1%
19 year olds	50.7%	51.0%	51.4%	0.4%	0.7%
% Participating in Employment[#]	18.1%	18.7%	18.2%	-0.5%	0.1%
16 year olds	2.0%	2.5%	2.3%	-0.2%	0.3%
17 year olds	11.7%	12.1%	12.5%	0.4%	0.8%
18 year olds	25.6%	26.4%	25.8%	-0.6%	0.2%
19 year olds	31.5%	32.2%	31.1%	-1.1%	-0.4%
% Training & Other Development	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	0.1%	0.2%
16 year olds	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	0.1%	0.0%
17 year olds	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	-0.1%	0.1%
18 year olds	2.5%	2.4%	2.6%	0.2%	0.1%
19 year olds	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	0.1%	0.2%
Not Participating[#]	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%	-0.3%	-0.6%
16 year olds	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	-0.1%	-0.2%
17 year olds	3.9%	3.6%	2.8%	-0.8%	-1.1%
18 year olds	5.1%	4.9%	4.4%	-0.5%	-0.7%
19 year olds	4.5%	4.2%	4.3%	0.1%	-0.2%
% Unemployed Seeking[#]	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	-0.2%	-0.6%
16 year olds	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	-0.1%	-0.3%
17 year olds	2.8%	2.3%	1.7%	-0.6%	-1.1%
18 year olds	2.9%	2.6%	2.2%	-0.4%	-0.7%
19 year olds	1.9%	1.4%	1.6%	0.2%	-0.3%
% Unemployed Not seeking	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	-0.1%	0.0%
16 year olds	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
17 year olds	1.1%	1.3%	1.1%	-0.2%	0.0%
18 year olds	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%	0.1%
19 year olds	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	-0.1%	0.1%
Status Unconfirmed[#]	5.3%	4.7%	5.3%	0.6%	0.0%
16 year olds	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
17 year olds	2.1%	1.8%	2.4%	0.6%	0.3%
18 year olds	6.1%	5.1%	6.5%	1.4%	0.4%
19 year olds	12.0%	11.3%	11.8%	0.5%	-0.2%

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

5. 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 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 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>

5.1 Gender

Table 5 provides a breakdown of participation status by gender. The results show:

- Females (92.2%) were more likely than males (90.9%) to be participating[#] in education, training or employment
- The percentage of both females and males participating[#] decreased between 2018 and 2019. The participation[#] rate remained higher for females than males although the gap has remained at 1.3 pp in both 2018 and 2019.
- Females (76.5%) were more likely to be participating in education than males (66.7%), and 7.2 pp more likely than males to be participating in higher education.
- Males (22%) were more likely than females (14.1%) to be participating in employment[#], a 7.9 pp difference.
- Almost two thirds (63.4%) of all unemployed seeking[#] customers were male.
- Males remain more likely to have an unconfirmed[#] status than females. The percentage reported as unconfirmed[#], between 2018 and 2019, has risen for both groups by 0.6 pp.

Table 5: Participation statuses broken down by gender

	Female			Male			All 16-19 year olds		
2019: 16-19 Cohort (count)	101,045			106,045			207,133		
% of 2019 Cohort	48.7%			51.3%					
Status Grouping / Year	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Participating[#]	91.6%	92.5%	92.2%	90.5%	91.2%	90.9%	91.1%	91.8%	91.6%
% Participating in Education	75.6%	76.0%	76.5%	66.9%	66.7%	66.7%	71.1%	71.3%	71.5%
% Participating in Employment [#]	14.5%	14.9%	14.1%	21.5%	22.3%	22.0%	18.1%	18.7%	18.2%
% Training & Other Development	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%
Not Participating[#]	3.6%	3.3%	2.9%	3.7%	3.6%	3.3%	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%
% Unemployed Seeking [#]	1.7%	1.3%	1.1%	2.5%	2.1%	1.9%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%
% Unemployed Not seeking	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Status Unconfirmed[#]	4.7%	4.2%	4.8%	5.7%	5.2%	5.8%	5.3%	4.7%	5.3%

Note: There were 43 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 Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

5.2 Ethnicity

Table 6 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 (95.1%) was 3.7 pp higher than for those identified as White.
- While participation[#] rates decreased across both groups, the participation ‘gap’ increased by 0.3 pp between 2018 and 2019.
- The percentage of young people from Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups participating in education was 87.3%, 15.9 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 6: Participation statuses broken down by ethnicity

	Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups			White ¹			Not Known / Not Disclosed		
2019 16-19 Cohort (count)	11,731			193,031			2,371		
% of 2019 Cohort	5.7%			93.2%			1.1%		
Status Grouping / Year	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Participating[#]	94.3%	95.2%	95.1%	91.0%	91.8%	91.4%	85.4%	84.1%	87.1%
% Participating in Education	85.8%	87.1%	87.3%	70.5%	70.6%	70.5%	64.2%	62.1%	69.3%
% Participating in Employment [#]	7.2%	7.0%	6.7%	18.6%	19.3%	18.9%	18.4%	19.7%	15.2%
% Training & Other Development	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.8%	2.2%	2.6%
Not Participating[#]	2.0%	1.6%	1.6%	3.7%	3.5%	3.2%	5.7%	5.4%	4.5%
% Unemployed Seeking [#]	1.3%	0.9%	0.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.5%	3.1%	2.6%	2.1%
% Unemployed Not seeking	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.4%
Status Unconfirmed[#]	3.7%	3.2%	3.2%	5.3%	4.7%	5.4%	8.9%	10.5%	8.4%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

5.3 Disability

Table 7 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 2017 and 2019 and now stands at 87.0%. However, this remains 4.6 pp lower than the national average and 4.8 pp lower than those identified as not disabled.
- This was the first year that the participation[#] gap between those identified as disabled and those not identified as disabled has narrowed. In 2018 the gap was 5.8 pp but by 2019 this was 4.8 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 participation in employment[#] remaining relatively static amongst those identified as disabled whilst decreasing amongst those not identified as disabled.
- The majority of those identified as disabled were participating in education, with this rate increasing by 0.7 pp between 2018 and 2019.
- For those identified as disabled participation in employment[#] increased by 0.8 pp from 2017 to 10.9% in 2019. However, this was 7.6 pp lower than those identified as not disabled.
- Of those identified as disabled and **not** participating[#] over two thirds were unemployed not seeking.

Table 7: Participation statuses broken down by disability

	Identified as Disabled			Not Identified as Disabled			All 16-19 year olds		
2019: 16-19 Cohort (count)	8,410			198,723			2017,133		
% of 2019 Cohort	4.1%			95.9%					
Status Grouping / Year	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Participating[#]	86.2%	86.3%	87.0%	91.3%	92.1%	91.8%	91.1%	91.8%	91.6%
% Participating in Education	70.1%	69.2%	69.9%	71.2%	71.3%	71.5%	71.1%	71.3%	71.5%
% Participating in Employment [#]	10.1%	10.8%	10.9%	18.4%	19.0%	18.5%	18.1%	18.7%	18.2%
% Training & Other Development	6.0%	6.4%	6.1%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%
Not Participating[#]	8.7%	8.1%	6.8%	3.5%	3.2%	3.0%	3.7%	3.7%	3.1%
% Unemployed Seeking [#]	3.5%	3.0%	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%
% Unemployed Not seeking	5.1%	5.1%	4.6%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Status Unconfirmed[#]	5.2%	5.6%	6.2%	5.3%	4.7%	5.3%	5.3%	4.7%	5.3%

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

6. 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 2016)

6.1 Local Authority

Table 8 provides a breakdown of the APM results by local authority for 2017, 2018 and 2019. This is followed by Graph A which shows the percentage point change between 2018 and 2019 by local authority. In summary, the results show that:

- Between 2018 and 2019 the participation[#] rate had risen in 15 of the 32 local authorities.
- Eighteen local authorities had a participation[#] rate above the Scottish average (the remaining fourteen were below).
- The variation between the highest and lowest participation[#] rate was 8.8 pp, the same as in 2018. The highest participation[#] rate was in the Shetland Islands (97.0%) a rise of 1.1 pp on 2018. The lowest participation[#] rate was in Dundee City at 88.2%, a decrease of 0.5 pp on 2018.
- In comparison to 2018, there were reductions in the non-participation[#] rate for 26 authorities and reductions in the rate of unconfirmed[#] statuses for 9 local authorities.

[#] [See Annex 1](#), treat with a degree of caution

Table 8: Participation Cohort by Local Authority

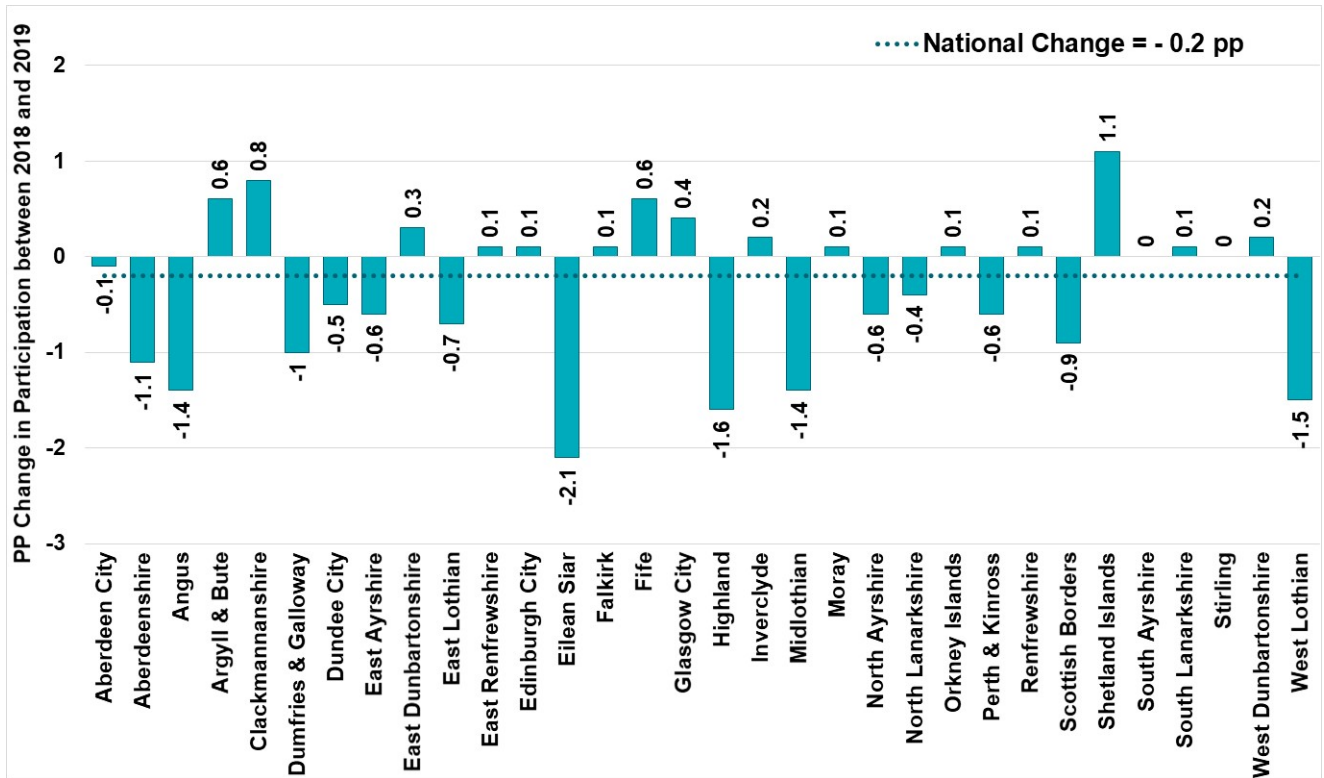
Local Authority	2019 Annual Participation Measure			Percentage point change between 2019 and 2018			Percentage point change between 2019 and 2017		
	% Participation #	% Non-participation #	% Unconfirmed #	% Participation #	% Non-participation #	% Unconfirmed #	Participation #	Non-participation #	Unconfirmed #
Scotland	91.6%	3.1%	5.3%	-0.2	-0.3	0.6	0.5	-0.6	0.0
Aberdeen City	89.7%	4.7%	5.6%	-0.1	0.5	-0.5	0.3	0.8	-1.1
Aberdeenshire	92.3%	1.9%	5.8%	-1.1	-0.3	1.4	-1.2	-0.6	1.8
Angus	90.8%	2.8%	6.4%	-1.4	-0.8	2.1	-1.1	-0.9	2.1
Argyll & Bute	94.8%	2.2%	3.0%	0.6	-0.5	-0.1	1.8	-0.6	-1.2
Clackmannanshire	90.1%	5.3%	4.6%	0.8	-1.5	0.7	0.4	-2.2	1.8
Dumfries & Galloway	91.2%	3.0%	5.8%	-1.0	-0.4	1.4	-1.3	-0.4	1.7
Dundee City	88.2%	4.7%	7.1%	-0.5	-0.9	1.4	0.6	-2.2	1.6
East Ayrshire	88.7%	2.6%	8.7%	-0.6	-0.6	1.2	0.6	-1.2	0.5
East Dunbartonshire	96.5%	1.0%	2.5%	0.3	0.0	-0.3	0.5	-0.3	-0.3
East Lothian	94.0%	2.1%	3.9%	-0.7	-0.4	1.1	0.9	-1.1	0.1
East Renfrewshire	96.9%	1.6%	1.5%	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.7	-0.2	-0.4
Edinburgh City	92.2%	3.6%	4.1%	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	-0.3	-1.2
Eilean Siar	95.5%	1.2%	3.4%	-2.1	0.2	2.0	-1.4	0.1	1.4
Falkirk	92.3%	3.4%	4.3%	0.1	-0.8	0.7	1.2	-1.1	0.0
Fife	90.7%	4.0%	5.3%	0.6	-0.3	-0.3	2.0	-0.8	-1.2
Glasgow City	89.2%	4.6%	6.2%	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	1.0	-0.3	-0.7
Highland	92.2%	1.5%	6.3%	-1.6	-0.2	1.8	-0.8	-0.7	1.5
Inverclyde	91.8%	4.6%	3.6%	0.2	0.4	-0.6	-0.1	0.7	-0.5
Midlothian	92.9%	2.8%	4.3%	-1.4	-0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.1	0.8
Moray	91.3%	2.9%	5.8%	0.1	-0.7	0.6	1.5	-0.6	-1.0
North Ayrshire	90.5%	2.5%	6.9%	-0.6	-0.5	1.0	0.2	-0.5	0.2
North Lanarkshire	90.1%	3.4%	6.5%	-0.4	-0.6	1.0	-0.1	-0.6	0.6
Orkney Islands	95.4%	1.6%	3.0%	0.1	-0.4	0.3	1.6	-0.7	-0.9
Perth & Kinross	93.4%	3.0%	3.7%	-0.6	-0.1	0.8	0.3	0.5	-0.7
Renfrewshire	91.7%	3.3%	5.0%	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.4
Scottish Borders	91.9%	2.0%	6.0%	-0.9	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	-1.0	1.5
Shetland Islands	97.0%	1.3%	1.8%	1.1	0.0	-1.0	0.9	0.0	-0.8
South Ayrshire	91.6%	2.5%	5.9%	0.0	-0.4	0.4	0.5	-0.4	0.0
South Lanarkshire	92.6%	2.3%	5.1%	0.1	-0.5	0.4	1.4	-1.0	-0.5
Stirling	94.4%	1.8%	3.9%	0.0	-0.9	0.9	0.1	-0.9	0.9
West Dunbartonshire	90.3%	4.9%	4.8%	0.2	-0.4	0.2	2.0	-0.6	-1.4
West Lothian	90.6%	3.4%	6.0%	-1.5	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	-0.5	0.7

Note 1: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

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

See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

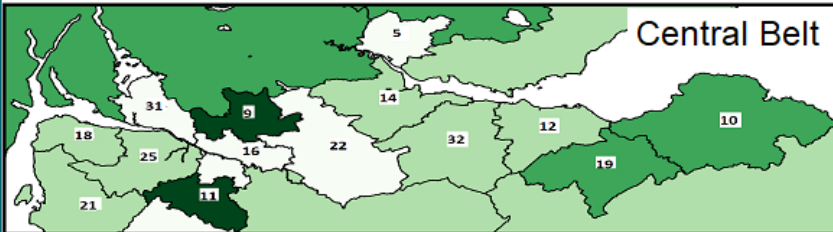
Graph A: Percentage point change in the participation# rate between 2018 and 2019, by Local Authority



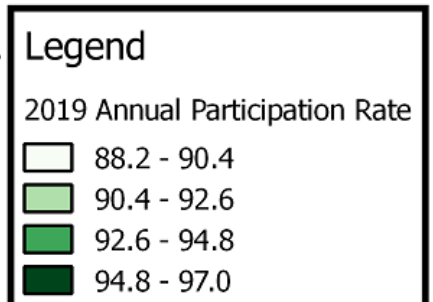
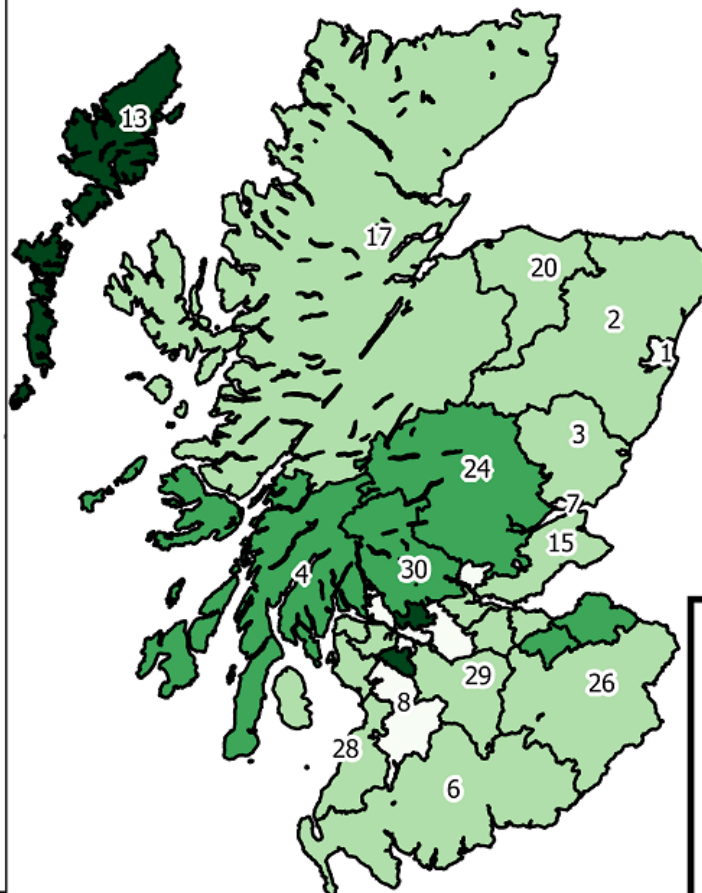
See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

Map A: Percentage Participation# at a Local Authority Level

2019 Annual Participation Measure % of 16-19 Year Olds Participating 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 Scottish Local Authorities



Code	LA	Participation Rate (%)
1	Aberdeen City	89.7%
2	Aberdeenshire	92.3%
3	Angus	90.8%
4	Argyll & Bute	94.8%
5	Clackmannanshire	90.1%
6	Dumfries & Galloway	91.2%
7	Dundee City	88.2%
8	East Ayrshire	88.7%
9	East Dunbartonshire	96.5%
10	East Lothian	94%
11	East Renfrewshire	96.9%
12	Edinburgh City	92.2%
13	Eilean Siar	95.5%
14	Falkirk	92.3%
15	Fife	90.7%
16	Glasgow City	89.2%
17	Highland	92.2%
18	Inverclyde	91.8%
19	Midlothian	92.9%
20	Moray	91.3%
21	North Ayrshire	90.5%
22	North Lanarkshire	90.1%
23	Orkney Islands	95.4%
24	Perth & Kinross	93.4%
25	Renfrewshire	91.7%
26	Scottish Borders	91.9%
27	Shetland Islands	97%
28	South Ayrshire	91.6%
29	South Lanarkshire	92.6%
30	Stirling	94.4%
31	West Dunbartonshire	90.3%
32	West Lothian	90.6%



See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

6.2 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2016)

Graph B and Table 9 provide an overview of 16-19 year old activity broken down by SIMD (2016) deciles. The results show that:

- Decile 1 (the most deprived) was the only decile to have an increase in participation[#] between 2018 and 2019, all other deciles had a decrease (in line with the decrease nationally).
- Those who lived in more deprived areas remain less likely to be reported as participating[#] within the 2019 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 10.5 pp in 2019. This is a reduction from 12.9 pp in 2016, 11.5 pp in 2017 and 10.8 pp in 2018. This change has been driven by a slight increase in the rate of participation[#] amongst those within the most deprived areas compared to a slight decrease amongst those in the least deprived areas.
- 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 83.8% compared to 62.8% for those from the most deprived areas (decile 1), a difference of 21 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, 3.5% of those from decile 1 were unemployed seeking[#] compared to 0.5% from decile 10.

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

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

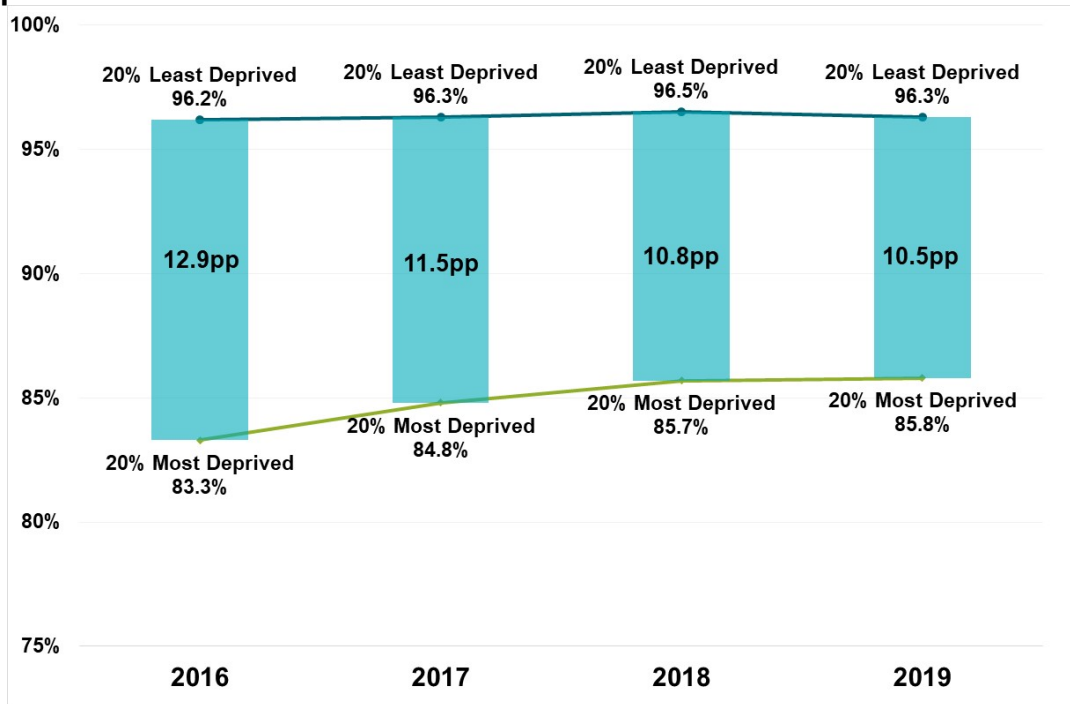


Table 9: 2019 Participation statuses by SIMD Deciles (2016)¹

SIMD 2016 Decile	% Split	Percentage of cohort							
		Participating [#]	Within Education	Within Employment [#]	TOPD ²	Not Participating [#]	Unemployed Seeking [#]	Unemployed Not seeking	Status Unconfirmed [#]
Most Deprived ↑ 1 2 3 4	11%	84.7%	62.8%	18.1%	3.8%	6.9%	3.5%	3.4%	8.4%
	11%	86.9%	64.7%	19.4%	2.8%	5.4%	2.7%	2.7%	7.7%
	10%	88.9%	65.7%	20.6%	2.6%	4.4%	2.2%	2.2%	6.7%
	10%	90.5%	67.6%	20.7%	2.1%	3.5%	1.6%	1.9%	6.0%
	10%	91.9%	70.2%	19.8%	1.9%	2.7%	1.3%	1.5%	5.4%
↓ 6 7 8 9 Least Deprived 10	10%	93.1%	71.5%	20.1%	1.6%	2.0%	0.9%	1.1%	4.9%
	10%	94.2%	73.5%	19.3%	1.4%	1.6%	0.7%	0.9%	4.2%
	10%	95.0%	77.0%	16.9%	1.2%	1.5%	0.7%	0.8%	3.4%
	10%	95.9%	80.8%	14.3%	0.7%	1.1%	0.5%	0.6%	3.0%
	9%	96.7%	83.8%	11.9%	1.0%	0.9%	0.5%	0.5%	2.4%

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

[#] See Annex 1, 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

7. 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. for example 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 (46.0%) and unemployed not seeking (42.6%) 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[#] (83.0%) and unemployed not seeking (76.4%) lived in urban areas¹. This holds true for both males and females.
- Glasgow City, Fife and North Lanarkshire accounted for a third (34.8%) of the national total of unemployed seeking[#] and over a quarter (28.3%) of the national total of unemployed not seeking. Collectively these three Local Authorities account for 25.3% of the 16-19 population² but 34.8% of the unemployed Seeking[#].
- The gender composition of the non-participation[#] statuses differed. Almost two thirds (63.4%) of those unemployed seeking[#] were male; conversely the majority (55.0%) of those unemployed not seeking were female.
- The age groups of 16, 17 and 18 have all shown a decrease, and those aged 19 an increase, in the proportion that were unemployed seeking[#]. The 2019 figure is 0.2 pp lower than in 2018, and 0.6 pp lower than 2017.
- The age group with the largest proportion of 'unemployed seeking[#]' was 18 year olds. When combined with 17 year olds, these two age groups accounted for almost two thirds (64.6 %) 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 just under four fifths (79.0%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort.

[#] See Annex 1, 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>

² <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2018>

- Between 2018 and 2019 the largest decrease in the unemployed seeking[#] status was amongst the 17 and 18 age groups, which saw a 0.5 pp and 0.4 pp reduction respectively. The largest reduction between the two year period of 2017 and 2019 was amongst 17 year olds, where there was a reduction of 1 pp.

Table 10: 2019 Unemployed seeking[#] employment or training by age, comparison between 2017 and 2018

Age	2019 Annual Participation Measure			% of age group pp Change 2019 on 2018	% of age group pp Change 2019 on 2017
	16-19 Cohort	Count / % split within U/E seeking [#]	% of age group who are U/E seeking		
16	50,520	254 (8.1%)	0.5%	-0.1%	-0.3%
17	50,924	888 (28.4%)	1.7%	-0.5%	-1.0%
18	52,193	1,134 (36.2%)	2.2%	-0.4%	-0.7%
19	53,496	855 (27.3%)	1.6%	0.2%	-0.3%
16-19	207,133	3,131 (100%)	1.5%	-0.2%	-0.6%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

The percentage of 16-19 year olds unemployed not seeking employment or training has remained relatively stable between 2018 and 2019, the largest decrease was in the 17 year old age group by 0.2 pp.

Table 11: 2019 Unemployed Not seeking employment or training by age, comparison between 2017 and 2018

Age	2019 Annual Participation Measure			% of age group pp Change 2018 on 2017	% of age group pp Change 2018 on 2016
	16-19 Cohort	Count / % split within U/E Not seeking	% of age group who are U/E Not seeking		
16	50,520	142 (4.3%)	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
17	50,924	555 (16.7%)	1.1%	-0.2%	0.0%
18	52,193	1,178 (35.4%)	2.3%	0.0%	0.1%
19	53,496	1,450 (43.6%)	2.7%	-0.1%	0.1%
16-19	207,133	3,325 (100%)	1.6%	-0.1%	0.0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

8. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status

The percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed[#] status has increased between 2018 and 2019 and has returned to levels reported in 2017. 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 service delivery, it has not been possible to identify full status information. The majority of those with an unconfirmed status[#] were aged 19 (57.3%). 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. The roll out of UC therefore may have had an impact on the increase in the percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed status. In previous years SDS received JSA and ESA data from DWP. SDS does not currently receive any information regarding UC claimants.

Table 12 below provides a breakdown, by age, of those whose status was reported as unconfirmed. Points of note include:

- The number of individuals in 2019 with an unconfirmed[#] status was 11,016 (5.3%).
- 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).
- There was an increase in unconfirmed[#] statuses amongst all age groups. The largest increase was amongst the 18 year old group with a 1.4 pp increase between 2018 and 2019.

Table 12: Status unconfirmed by Age

Age	2019 Annual Participation Measure			% of age group pp Change 2019 on 2018	% of age group pp Change 2019 on 2017
	16-19 Cohort	Count & % split of Unconfirmed Status [#]	% of age group		
16	50,520	127 (1.2%)	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
17	50,924	1,204 (10.9%)	2.4%	0.6%	0.3%
18	52,193	3,368 (30.6%)	6.5%	1.4%	0.4%
19	53,496	6,317 (57.3%)	11.8%	0.5%	-0.2%
16-19	207,133	11,016	5.32%	0.6%	0.0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

9. Summary

This report has set out the key results of the fourth Annual Participation Measure. As the source of the National Performance Framework indicator “**Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment**”, the measure will be published on National Performance Framework in September 2019.

The statistics presented in this report show a slight decrease in participation[#] rates amongst 16-19 year olds in Scotland. This follows two years of consecutive increases. The 2019 figures are based on a cohort of 207,133 individuals. This is 4,122 less than the 2018 population, a reduction that is broadly in line with national population projections¹.

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. Therefore, the figures in this report for unemployed 18 and 19 year olds should be treated with a degree of caution and are likely to be subject to revision at a future date.

The 2019 results show:

Participation by Age

- The proportion of 16-19 year olds participating[#] in education, training or employment in 2019 was 91.6%. This was a decrease of 0.2 pp on the 2018 figure, and an increase of 0.5 pp on the 2017 figure.
- In 2019, participation[#] was highest amongst 16 year olds (99%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (83.9%).
- The participation[#] rate in 2019 increased for 16 and 17 year olds, 0.1 pp and 0.2 pp respectively, and decreased for 18 and 19 year olds by 0.8 pp and 0.6 respectively.

Equality Characteristics

- Females (92.2%) were slightly more likely to participate[#] than males (90.9%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation by females in education (76.5% versus 66.7%). This was offset, to a large extent, by greater participation in employment[#] by males than females (22% versus 14.1%).
- The participation[#] rate amongst Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic groups (95.1%) was higher than that for those from a white ethnic group (91.4%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of participation in education (87.3% versus 70.5%).

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

¹ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland/2016-based/list-of-tables>

- The participation[#] rate amongst those identified as disabled (87.0%) was lower than that for those from those not identified as disabled (91.8%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of non-participation statuses of unemployed seeking[#] (2.2% versus 1.5%) and unemployed not seeking (4.6% versus 1.5%).

Geography

- Between 2018 and 2019 the participation rate[#] rose in 15 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 8.8 pp in 2018 which it has remained in 2019.
- 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 10.5 pp in 2019 (compared to 12.9 pp in 2016, 11.5 pp in 2017 and 10.8 pp in 2018).
- Those with an unconfirmed[#] status were more likely to be in areas of higher deprivation (over a third lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).

Non - Participation

- Most of those unemployed seeking[#] were 18 years old (36.2%), followed by 17 year olds (28.4%). 19 year olds were less likely (27.3%) to be classed as unemployed seeking[#].
- The majority of those unemployed and not seeking employment were 19 years old (43.6%). 18 and 19 years old comprised just under four fifths (79.0%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort
- Almost two thirds (63.4%) of those unemployed seeking[#] were male, conversely the majority (55%) of those unemployed not seeking employment were female.
- Those who were unemployed seeking[#] and unemployed not seeking were more likely to live in areas of higher deprivation (46.0% and 42.6% respectively lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).
- Individuals who were unemployed seeking[#] or unemployed not seeking were not distributed evenly amongst Scottish Local Authorities. Glasgow City, Fife and North Lanarkshire were over represented accounting for almost third (34.8%) of the national total of unemployed seeking[#] and over a quarter (28.3%) of the national total of unemployed not seeking (while accounting for 25.3% of the national 16-19 year old population).

Unconfirmed

- Despite the progress achieved in reducing the proportion of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed[#] status between 2016 and 2018, this rose in 2019 by 0.6 pp to 5.3% which equalled the level reported in 2017. The majority (87.9%) of those with an unconfirmed status in 2019 were aged 18 (30.6%) or 19 (57.3%). The lack of Universal Credit information may have been a driver for the increase in unconfirmed.

[#] See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

Should DWP be able to provide SDS with the required data this APM and previous years will be subject to revision.

The next statistics for the APM will be published in August 2020.

Appendix One provides background notes to the publication which outlines the definitions and the methodology used.

In addition, [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.

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.

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 2016 – 31st March 2018. 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 actually 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

An Activity Agreement is an agreement between a young person and an advisor that the young person will take part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them to become ready for formal learning or employment. Activity Agreements provide individual learning provision in a community or third-sector setting for those young people who are not ready or able to access formal learning post-16.

An Activity Agreement status will only be recorded when a young person has agreed either verbally or in writing to the offer of an Activity Agreement. This is recorded by local authorities as “signed up”. Young people who are only at the referral stage should not be reported as participating in an Activity Agreement.

“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. This will lead to a change to status categories but for the period covered by this report Activity Agreements were still being delivered.

Other Formal Training

This includes those on a local authority or 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 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. Also included is the Work Programme via DWP. 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

See Annex 1, treat with a degree of caution

“status unconfirmed”. Those customers identified as being in receipt of benefit via DWP data sharing are excluded from this update.

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.

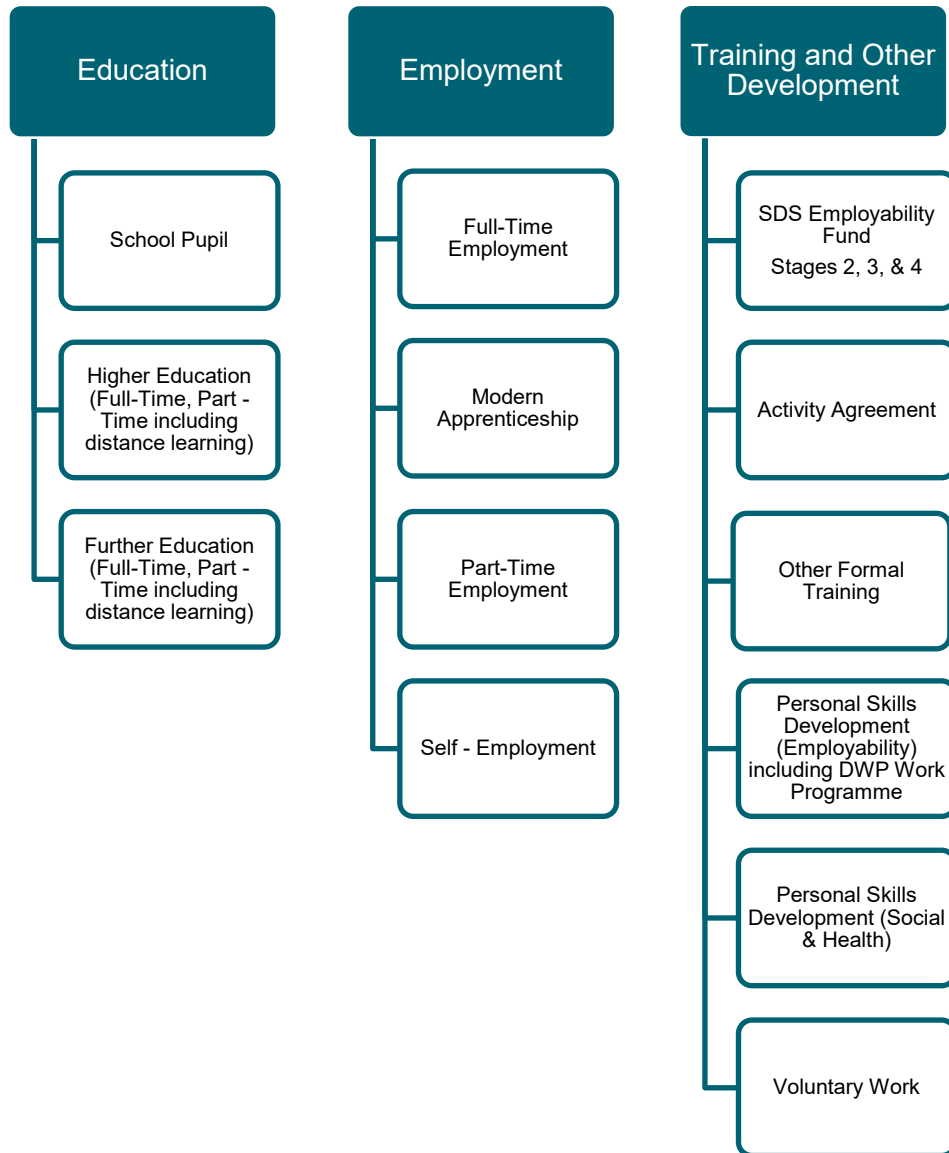
CSS Statuses excluded from the measure

Moved out with Scotland

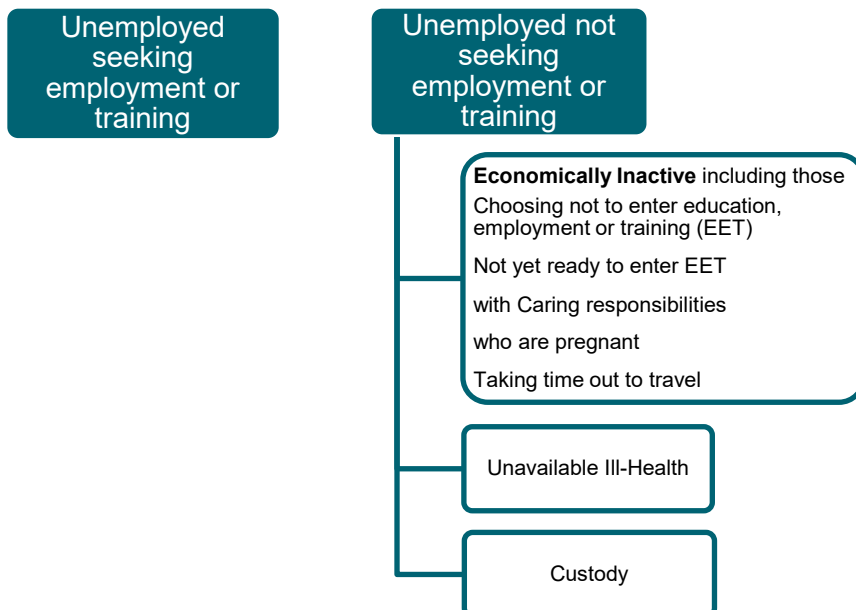
Where SDS has been notified the young person has left Scotland on a permanent basis. However, those who are ordinarily resident in Scotland and are supported by SAAS to study out with Scotland will be recorded within Higher Education.

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 2018 mid-point, was 230,803. This population estimate, published on 25th April 2019, is based on the 2011 Census being updated annually by 'ageing on' the population and applying information on births, deaths and migration.

There are 207,133 individuals reported within the participation measure. This represents approximately 90% 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.

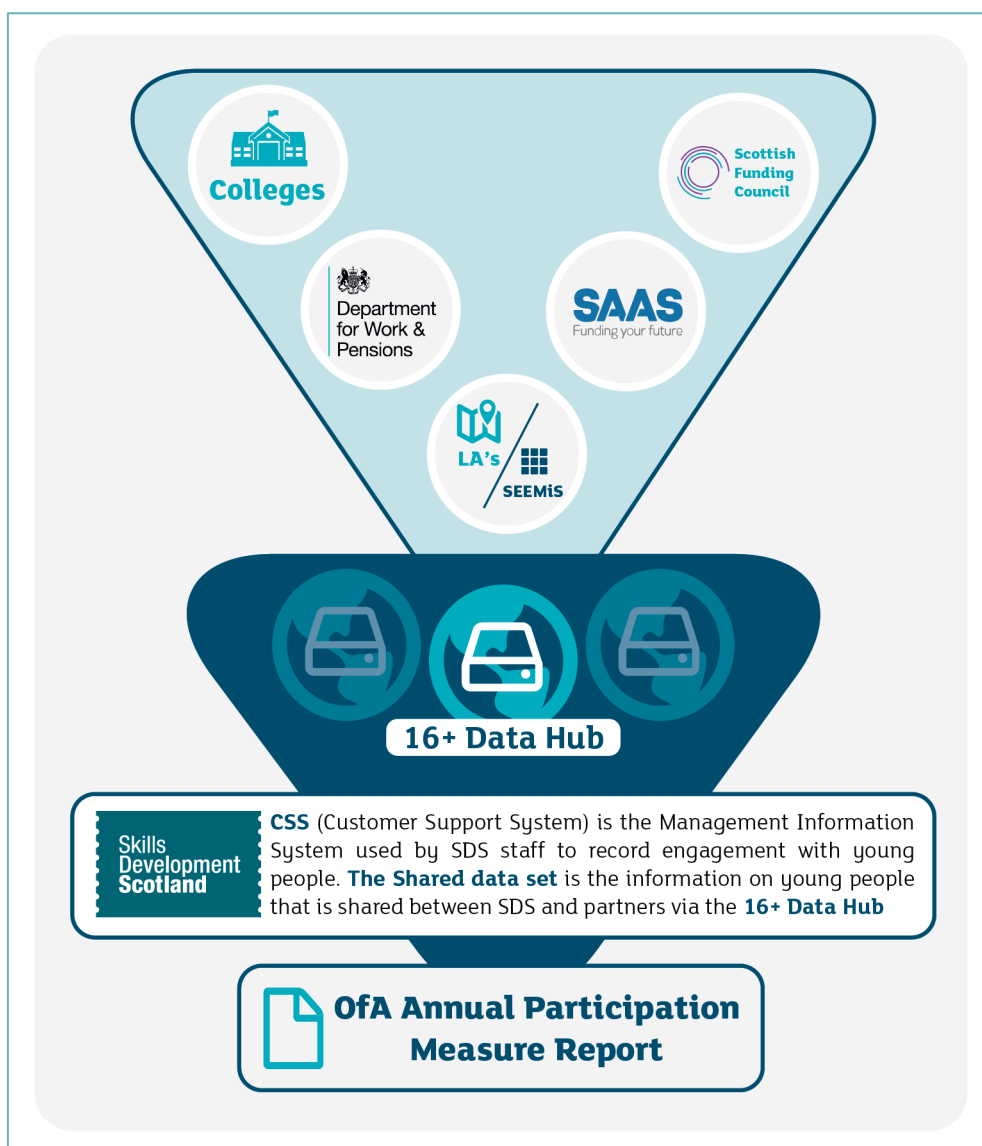
i) Record creation on CSS

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 Training System (CTS) and 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 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. An example is that the local authority is responsible for sharing information locally about young people commencing and leaving Activity Agreements.

One of the key issues identified during the work of the joint work stream was CSS 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. The most important missing individual level data feed is on young people 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.

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/>

Annex 1: 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.