



Skills
Development
Scotland

Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 year olds in Scotland 2024

The 10th annual statistical publication reporting on learning, training, and work activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland

Contacts: Conor McGarvey

Email: conor.mcgarvey@sds.co.uk

Kaden McGuire

kaden.mcguire@sds.co.uk

Published on 27 August 2024

Contents

Executive Summary (including headline statistics)	1
Introduction	3
1. Annual Participation Measure Trends	4
2. Annual Participation Measure by Status Grouping	5
3. Equalities	6
4. Participation Rates Across Scotland	8
5. Analysis of those Not Participating	11
6. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status	13
7. Further Resources	14
Appendix 1: Impact of Universal Credit data	15

Table of Revisions

Revision Date	Revision Details

Calculations:

This report refers 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 within this report may not sum to 100%, due to rounding.

Accompanying Resources

Background data tables are available in excel format within the APM [supplementary tables](#) on the SDS website.

SDS has created an [interactive Power BI report](#) to complement this publication using APM data from 2016 to 2024.

Background notes that provide an overview of the Annual Participation Measure methodology and data are available on the [APM webpage](#).

Executive Summary (including headline statistics)

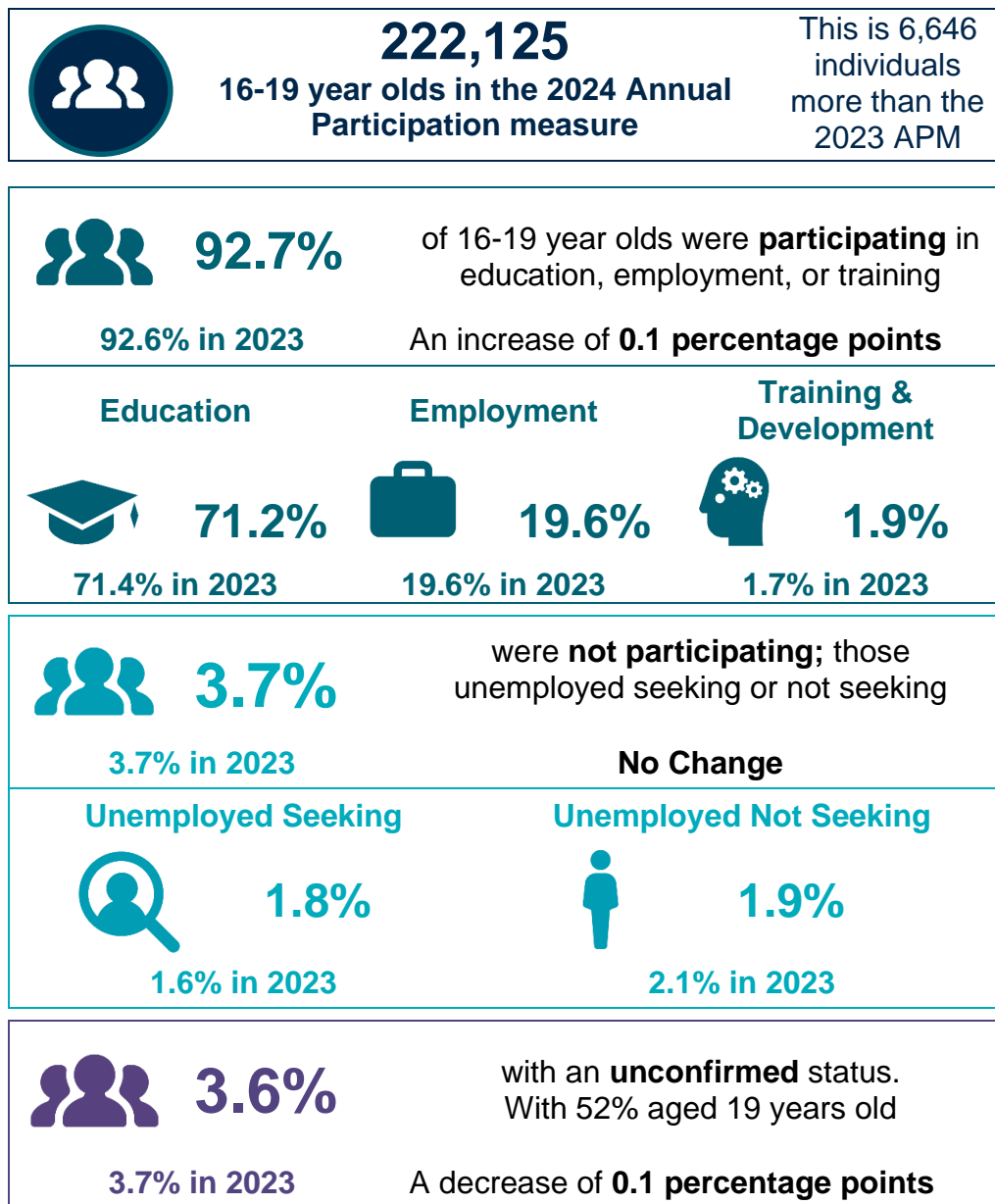
The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports on the education and employment activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland and is the source of the Scottish Government's National Performance indicator ***"Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training, or employment"***.

In 2024, this national indicator stood at 92.7%, the highest percentage using the current methodology. This is an increase of 0.1 percentage points (pp) compared to 2023 (92.6%).

The data set used to produce the APM is managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and combines data from a range of data sharing partners including local authorities, colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and SAAS, to help identify what young adults between the ages of 16-19 are 'participating' in during the reporting period. In 2023, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) data was included within the APM statistical data set for the first time and contributed to improved data quality.

SDS and the Scottish Government continue to work with HMRC to explore methodologies to further improve the quality of the participation measure data, including options for onward sharing with other partners to better target support services for young people. Whilst this work is ongoing, SDS and the Scottish Government have agreed with HMRC to pause the current data sharing. Therefore, HMRC data has not been included in the 2024 APM data set and to ensure comparability across publications we have revised the 2023 data set by removing updates resulting from HMRC data.

Since late summer 2021, DWP has shared Universal Credit (UC) data with SDS. This has improved data quality from the 2022 APM onwards by decreasing the percentage of unconfirmed statuses and increasing those unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking.



Participation by Age

- In 2024, participation was highest amongst 16 year olds (99.1%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (85.3%). This mirrors all previous years.
- In 2024, participation increased for 19 year olds by 0.7 percentage points (pp) but decreased for both 17 and 18 year olds by 0.3 pp. There was no change in the participation rate of 16 year olds.
- The percentage of 19 year olds participating in employment increased by 0.7 pp. The employment rates for 16 and 18 year olds both increased by 0.1 pp but the employment rate for 17 year olds decreased by 0.3 pp.
- The percentage of young adults participating in education fell by 0.2 pp overall and in each age category with 18 year olds experiencing the largest decrease at 0.7 pp. A reduction in higher education was offset by a rise in the proportion in further education. Those identified as school pupils decreased by 0.2 pp.

Geography

- Between 2023 and 2024 the participation rate rose in twelve of Scotland's thirty-two local authorities. Although substantial variation remains in the participation rate by local authority, the gap between the highest and lowest participation rates decreased from 7.8 pp in 2023 to 7.7 pp in 2024.
- Between 2023 and 2024, the participation rate increased by 0.8 pp for those living in the 20% most deprived areas. This was the only SIMD quintile where the participation rate increased and as a result the participation gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and the 20% least deprived areas narrowed to 8.2 pp, the narrowest gap on record.

Equality Characteristics

- Females (93.2%) were more likely to participate than males (92.3%), a participation gap of 0.9 pp compared to 1.2 pp in 2023. The difference in participation was primarily driven by a higher rate of female participation in education (76.5% versus 66.3%). This was offset by greater participation in employment by males than females (23.8% versus 15.1%)
- The participation rate amongst Minority Ethnic groups (96.1%) remained higher than for those from a White ethnic group (92.5%). This difference was driven by a higher rate of participation in education (87.5% versus 69.9%).
- Those identified as disabled were less likely to participate (89.1%) than those not identified as disabled (92.9%). Disabled young people were more likely to be unemployed not seeking (4.4% versus 1.8%), the same trend as observed in 2023. Individuals identified as disabled had significantly lower rates of employment (13.1%) and higher education (8.0%) than those not identified as disabled (19.9% and 20.3% respectively). However, the further education rate for individuals identified as disabled was 7.6 pp higher than those not identified as disabled (17.7% versus 10.0%).

Non-Participation

- Most of those unemployed seeking were 19 years old (46.7%), followed by 18 year olds (31.0%). The majority of those unemployed and not seeking employment were 19 years old (44.3%), again followed by 18 year olds (32.2%).

Unconfirmed

- In 2024, the percentage of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status was 3.6% compared to 3.7% in 2023.

Introduction

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports on the education and employment activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland. It 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”***. This report marks the tenth release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level and the ninth using the Annual Participation Measure reporting methodology.

The data set used to produce the APM is managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and combines data from a range of data sharing partners including local authorities, colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and SAAS, to enable more targeted and effective local support to be delivered.

The annual methodology takes account of all statuses for 16-19 year olds in Scotland over one calendar year. For each of the 222,125 individuals included within the 2024 cohort (covering 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024)¹, the headline participation classification (participating, not participating and unconfirmed) is based on the classification within which an individual spent the greatest number of days within the year.

For the periods covered by the 2022, 2023 and 2024 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.

The effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated lockdown measures will have impacted on young adults' participation in 2021. However, as the economy re-opened and business demand for workers increased, the increase in opportunities may have influenced the choices made by young adults across the period covered by the 2022 statistics. The impacts of the pandemic and the absence of both Universal Credit in prior years should be kept in mind when comparing 2024 data with earlier years.

¹ To be included in the APM 2024 cohort an individual must be aged 16 to 19 on the 31st March 2024 and have a customer record on the Opportunities for All shared data set, held on the SDS Customer Support System (CSS),

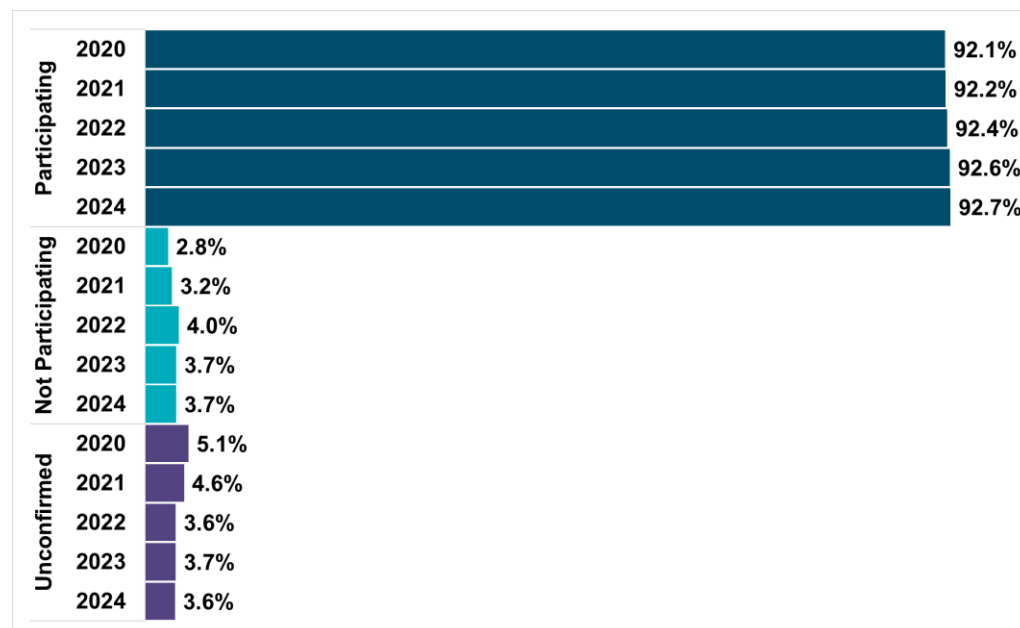
1. Annual Participation Measure Trends

There were 222,125 individuals aged 16-19 within the 2024 APM cohort, which was 6,646 more than the 2023 measure. Against the National Records of Scotland 2022 mid-year population estimate of 239,490 for 16-19 year olds, this report covers approximately 93% of that estimated population.

Chart 1 shows the headline participation percentages between 2020 and 2024. The results show the proportion of 16-19 year olds:

- Participation in education, training or employment has increased each year between 2020 and 2024. As a result, the rate of participation has increased by 0.6 pp from 92.1% in 2020 to 92.7% in 2024. Over the period, this improvement has been driven by increased participation in employment, as between 2020 and 2024 this increased by 1.3 pp, from 18.3% to 19.6%.
- Between 2023 and 2024 there was an increase of 0.2 pp in those unemployed seeking and a decrease of 0.2 pp in those unemployed not seeking. Both changes were among 19 year olds followed by 18 year olds.
- Between 2020 and 2022 unconfirmed statuses decreased from 5.1% to 3.6% and have remained consistently low since then. This decrease can be attributed to improved data quality by the inclusion of Universal Credit data from 2022 onwards.

Chart 1: Annual Participation Headlines 2020 - 2024



Note to Readers:

SDS worked very closely with DWP to establish regular data sharing about Universal Credit (UC) claimants, both in and out of work. This process commenced in late Summer 2021 and led to improved data quality for those 'unemployed seeking', 'unemployed not seeking' and those in work claiming universal credit. A new status within the employment category (Data Import – Employed) was introduced as the number of hours worked was not available within the UC data.

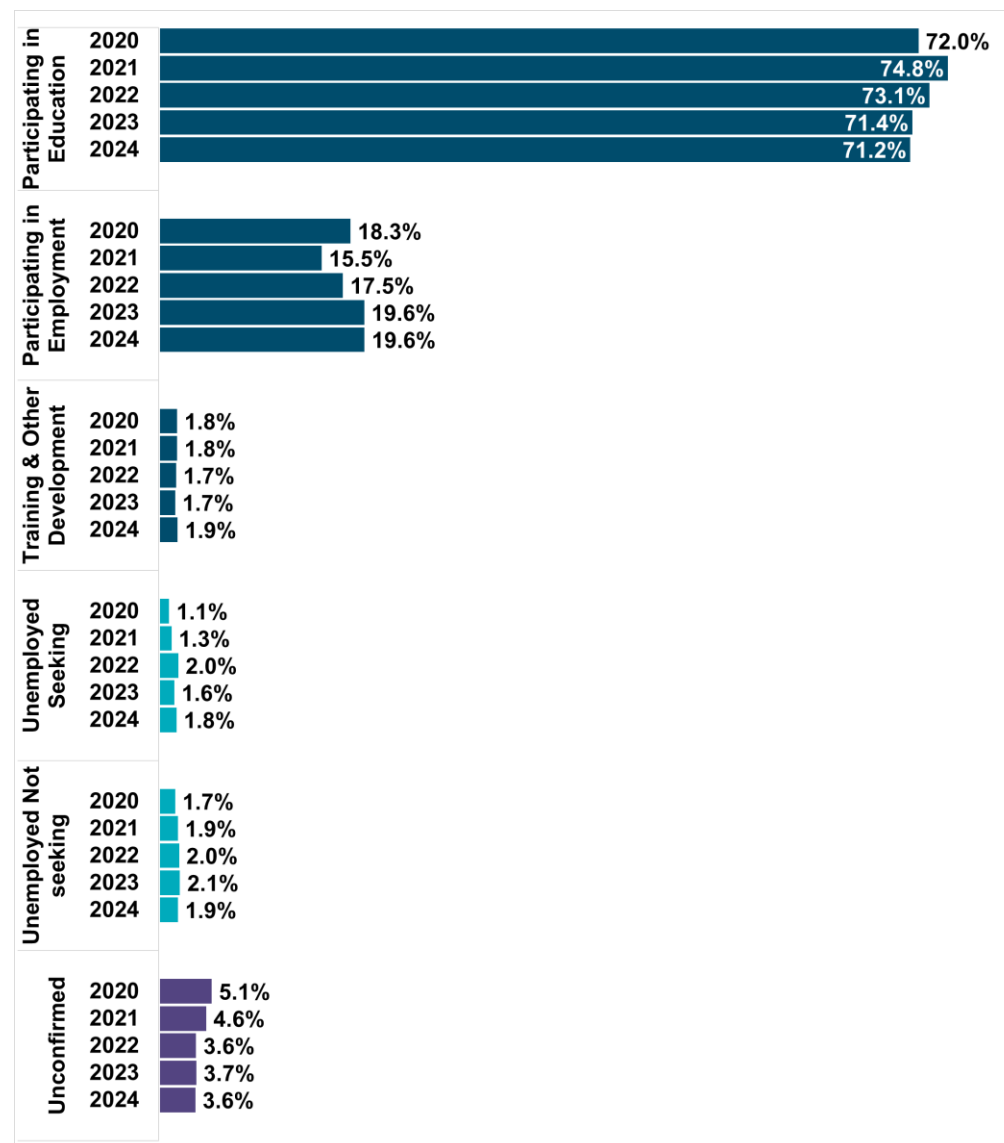
As it was not possible for DWP to supply historic data about Universal Credit claimants, data for previous years remains unchanged. The impact of the absence of UC data should be kept in mind when making comparisons between recent years and the years prior to 2022.

2. Annual Participation Measure by Status Grouping

Chart 2 provides a breakdown of the APM by status grouping. In 2023:

- 71.2% of 16-19 year olds were in secondary or tertiary education, a decrease of 0.2 pp compared to 2023.
- 19.6% of 16-19 year olds were in employment, the same as 2023.
- 1.8% of 16-19 year olds were unemployed seeking employment and 1.9% were unemployed not seeking, an increase of 0.2 pp and a decrease of 0.2 pp respectively compared to 2023.
- 94.7% of 16 year olds were in education compared to 94.9% in 2023, with the majority (89.1%) in a school pupil status (89.9% in 2023).
- 77.6% of 17 year olds were in education compared to 77.9% in 2023, with the majority (60.7%) in a school pupil status (61.6% in 2023).
- 49.7% of 18 year olds were reported in higher or further education, with the next highest proportion in employment (28.3%). This compares to 49.9% and 28.2% in 2023.
- 50.8% of 19 year olds were reported in higher or further education, with the next highest proportion in employment (32.8%). This compares to 51.1% and 32.1% in 2023. The increase in participation for 19-year-olds was driven by higher levels of participation in employment, which rose by 0.7 pp between 2023 and 2024.

Chart 2: Annual Participation Groups 2020 - 2024



3. Equalities

SDS has a legal duty, under the Equality Act 2010², to ensure that services are inclusive and accessible to a diverse range of customers. Equalities data is collected to enable uptake of services to be monitored and any barriers faced by groups to be identified and addressed.

The equalities data within the shared data set is mainly 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.

The APM is one of the sources of data used to report against the following SDS' Equality Outcome for 2021 - 2025:

People with lived experience of poverty, and from protected characteristic groups known to face inequality, have increased participation and improved progression in learning and employment.

Care experience is not a protected characteristic. As a corporate parent, SDS is committed to treating care experience in the same way as others with protected characteristics. However, in the absence of reliable data, we are currently unable to include care experience in our analysis.

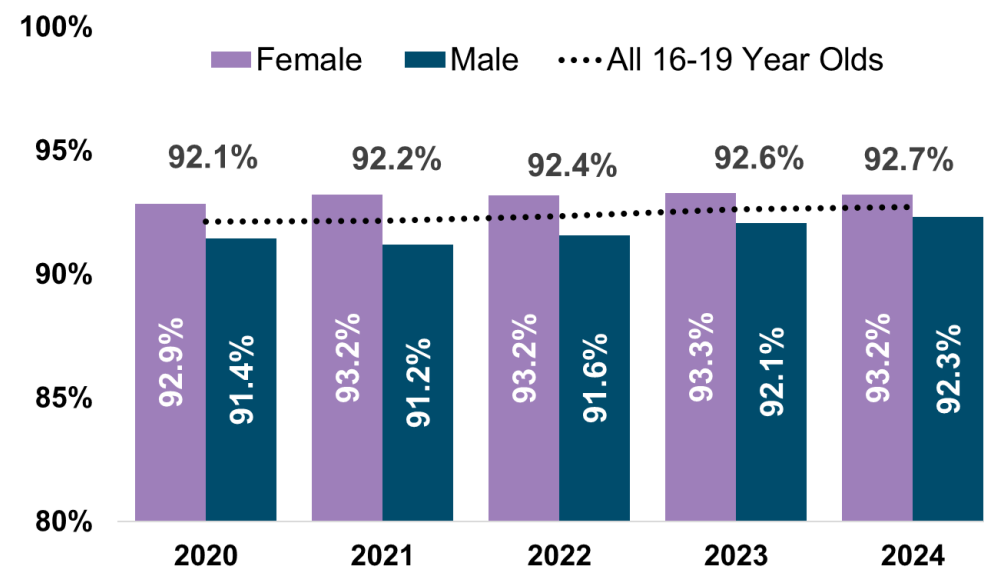
Gender

Chart 3 shows participation by gender. The results show:

- From 2023 to 2024, the participation rate for males increased by 0.2 pp and the participation rate for females decreased by 0.1 pp.
- The participation rate for females continues to be higher than that for males, 93.2% and 92.3%, respectively. This has been the case for each year of annual participation measure.
- However, the gender participation gap is now 0.9 pp, a decrease of 0.3 pp between 2023 and 2024.
- Females were more likely than males to be participating in education (76.5% v 66.3%) and males were more likely to participate in employment (23.8% v 15.1%).



Chart 3: Participation by Gender, 2020 – 2024



² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Ethnicity

Chart 4 shows participation by ethnicity. The results show:



- The participation rate between 2023 and 2024 increased for those from minority ethnic groups by 0.1 pp and remained consistent for those identified as white.
- Participation by those from minority ethnic groups was 3.6 pp higher than those identified as white, an increase of 0.1 pp between 2023 and 2024.
- Those from minority ethnic groups were more likely to be in education (87.5%) than those identified as white (69.9%).

Disability

Chart 5 shows participation by disability. The results show:



- Participation amongst those identified as disabled increased by 0.3 pp between 2023 and 2024 from 88.8% to 89.1%. This is the highest participation rate for those identified as disabled since the APM was introduced in 2016 but is still lower than those not identified as disabled.
- The participation gap between those identified as disabled and not disabled was 3.8 pp, down from 4.0 pp in 2023.
- Where participating, those identified as disabled were more likely to be in further education or training & other development and less likely to be in employment or higher education than those not identified as disabled.

Chart 4: Participation by Ethnicity, 2020 - 2024

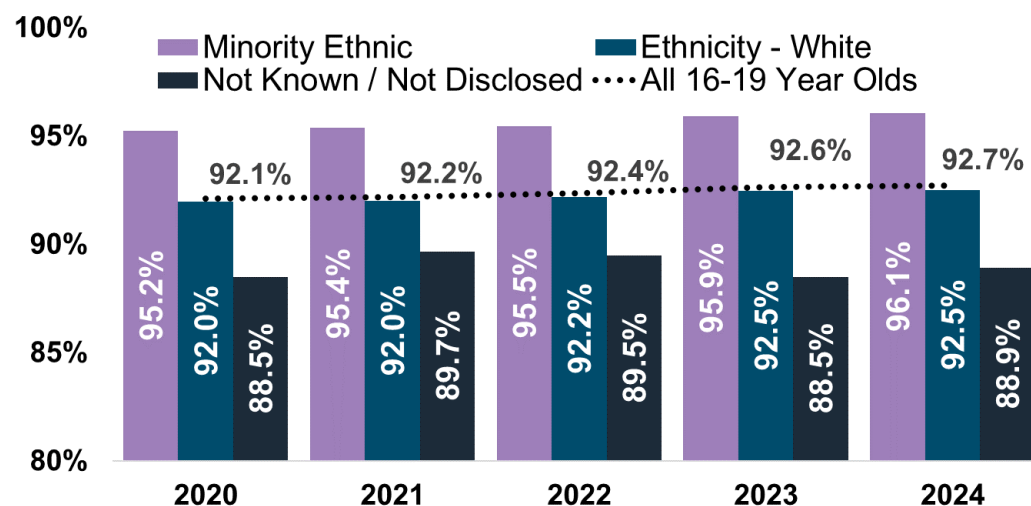
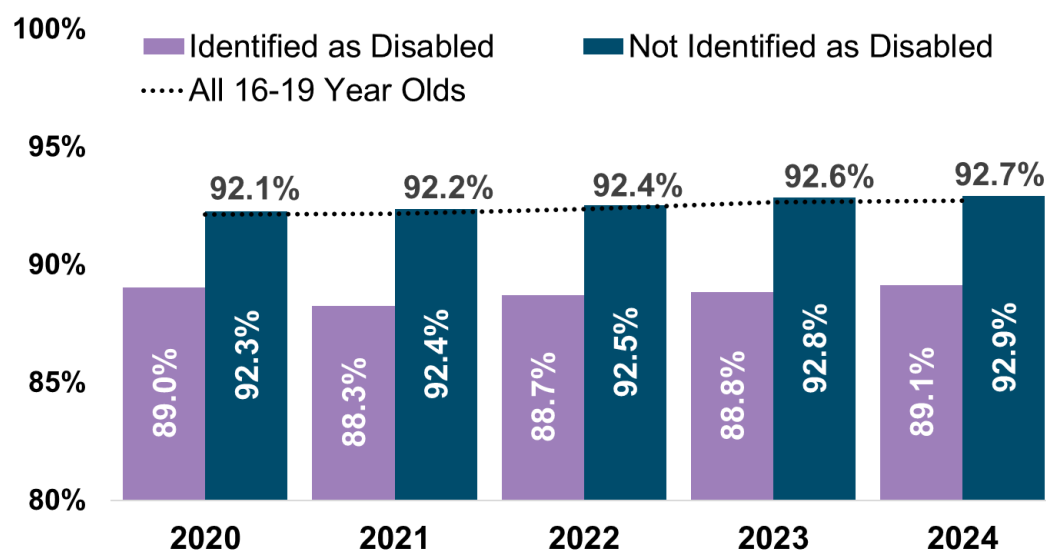


Chart 5: Participation by Disability, 2020 – 2024



4. Participation Rates Across Scotland

Local Authority

Chart 6 provides a breakdown of the 2024 APM headline results by Local Authority. In summary:

- Seventeen local authorities had a participation rate at or above the Scottish average (the remaining fifteen were below).
- The variation between the highest and lowest participation rate was 7.7pp, down from 7.8 pp in 2023.
- The highest participation rate was in Shetland Islands (97.8%) which increased by 0.6 pp from 2023 (97.2%). Shetland Islands had the highest rate of participation in employment of all local authorities, 1.6 pp above the next highest (Eilean Siar) and 22.2 pp above the lowest (East Renfrewshire, which had the highest rate of participation in education at 86.8%).
- The lowest participation rate was in Aberdeen City. Between 2023 and 2024 this decreased by 0.1 pp to 90.1%.
- The highest non-participation rate was in Clackmannanshire at 7.5% an increase of 0.9 pp compared to 2023. Dundee City had the next highest rate at 5.4% followed closely by West Dunbartonshire (also 5.4%).
- The highest unconfirmed rates were in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, both at 5.4%.



Chart 6: 2024 Participation Headlines by Local Authority

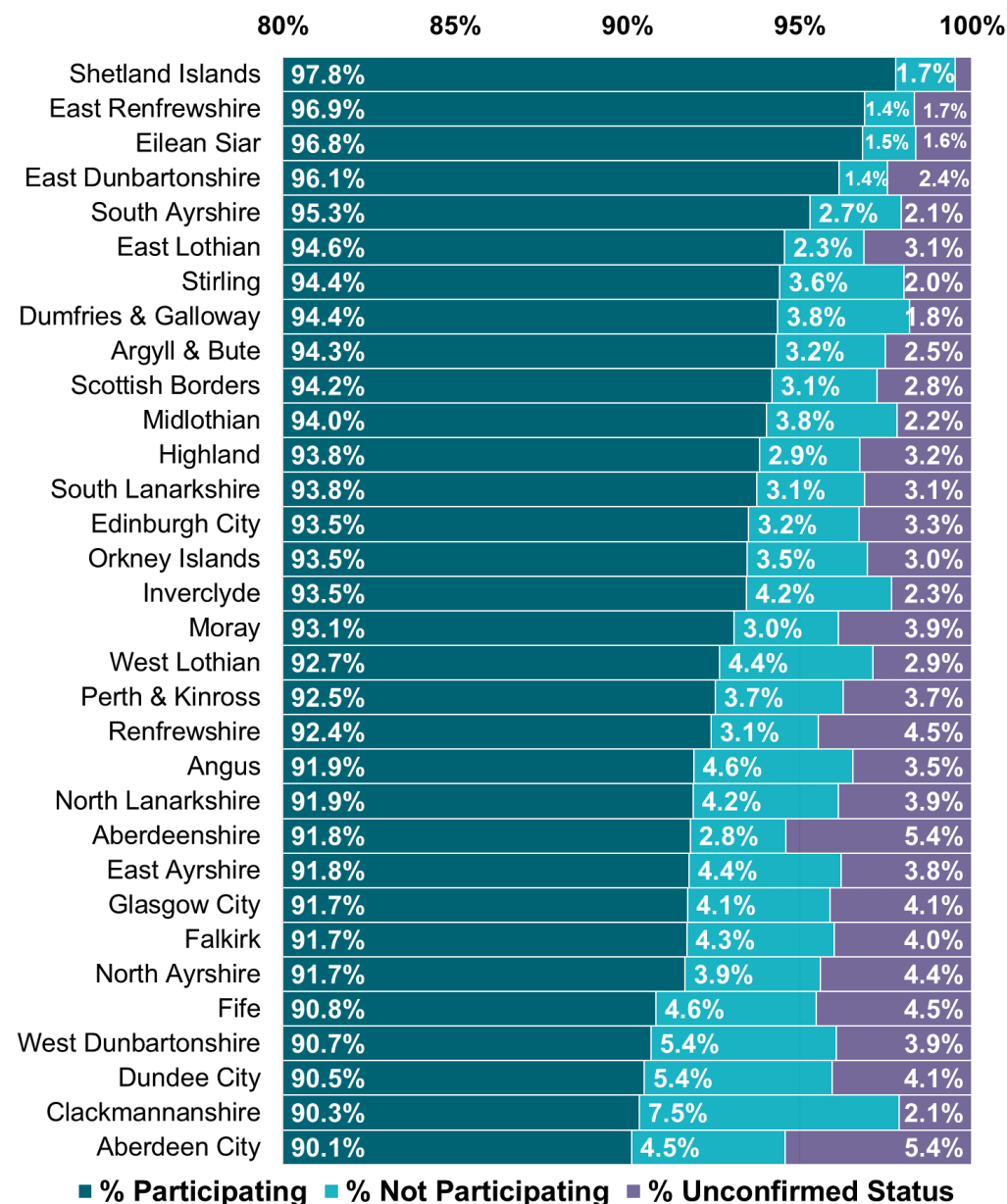


Chart 7 shows the percentage point change in participation between 2023 and 2024 by local authority. In summary, the results show that between 2023 and 2024 the participation rate had:

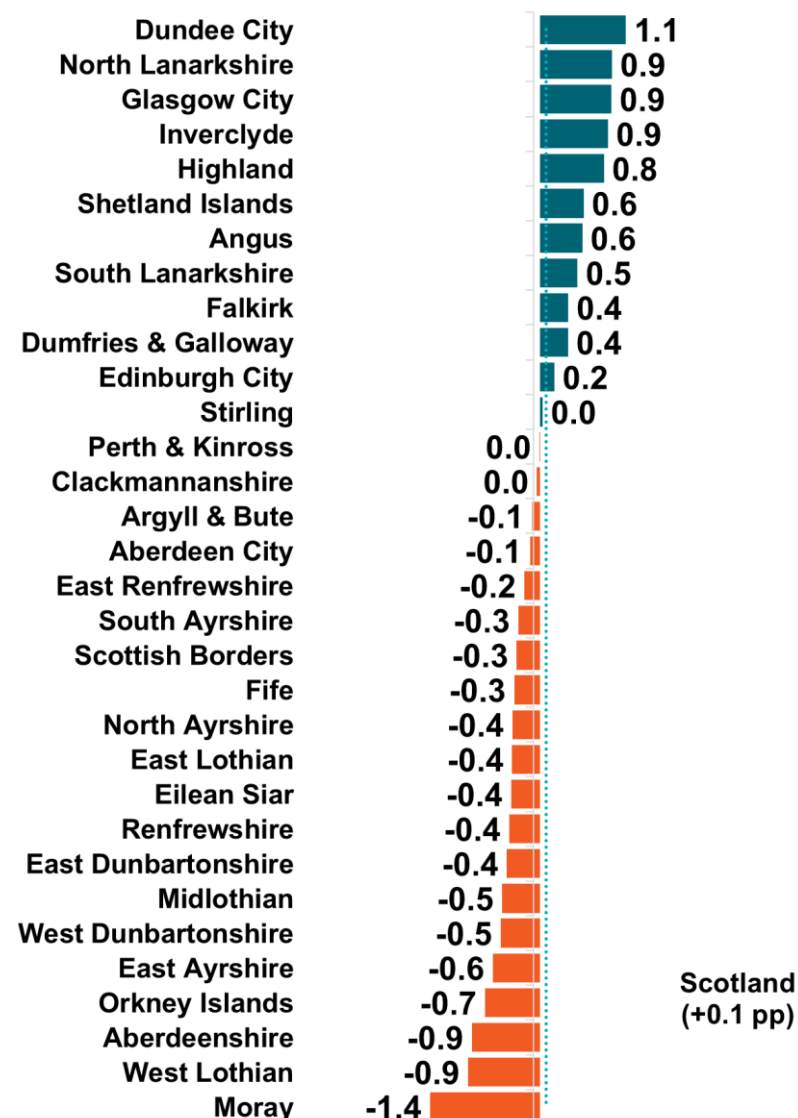
- increased in twelve of the thirty-two Local Authorities: and
- decreased in twenty of the thirty-two Local Authorities.

The greatest increase in participation between 2023 and 2024 was in Dundee City (+1.1 pp to 90.5%) and the greatest decrease was in Moray (-1.4 pp to 93.1%).

The [supplementary tables](#) provide Local Authority information for participation, non-participation, and unconfirmed statuses for all APM publications. In comparison to 2023:

- Eighteen local authorities had an increase in non-participation compared to 2023.
 - Orkney Islands had the largest increase in non-participation of 1.2 pp, increasing from 2.2% in 2023 to 3.5% in 2024. Unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking each increased by 0.6 pp.
 - Dundee City had the largest decrease in non-participation of 0.8 pp, decreasing from 6.3% in 2023 to 5.4% in 2024.
- There were reductions in the unconfirmed rate in fifteen of the thirty-two local authorities.
 - Clackmannanshire had the largest decrease in unconfirmed of 0.9 pp, decreasing from 3.0% in 2023 to 2.1% in 2024.
 - Moray had the largest increase in unconfirmed of 1.4 pp, increasing from 2.4% in 2023 to 3.9% in 2024 but this rate is still lower than all the years prior to 2023.

Chart 7: Percentage point change in participation rate between 2023 and 2024, by Local Authority



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020)

Chart 8 provides an overview of 16-19 year old participation by SIMD (2020) quintiles. **Chart 9** shows that the participation gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas has continued to narrow.

- In 2024 there was an 8.2 pp gap between participation by 16-19 year olds living in the 20% most deprived and 20% least deprived areas, the narrowest gap on record.
- There was a 0.8 pp increase in participation between 2023 and 2024 for those living in Quintile 1 (the 20% most deprived areas). All other SIMD quintiles saw decreased participation rates compared to 2023, with the largest decrease in Quintile 5 (the 20% least deprived areas). Despite this, those who lived in more deprived areas remained less likely to be participating than those from the less deprived areas.
- 16-19 year olds from the least deprived areas (quintile 5) are more likely to be in education (81.6%) compared to 65.0% for those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1), a difference of 16.6 pp. This is down from 17.9 pp in 2023.
- Individuals near the middle of the SIMD scale have higher rates of participation in employment than those from either the most deprived or the least deprived areas. In 2024, 22.4% of individuals from Quintile 3 were in employment, compared to 20.1% in Quintile 1 and 14.1% in Quintile 5.

Data within the [supplementary tables](#) provides further information regarding participation amongst SIMD quintiles.

Chart 8: 2024 Participation Headline by SIMD (2020) Quintiles

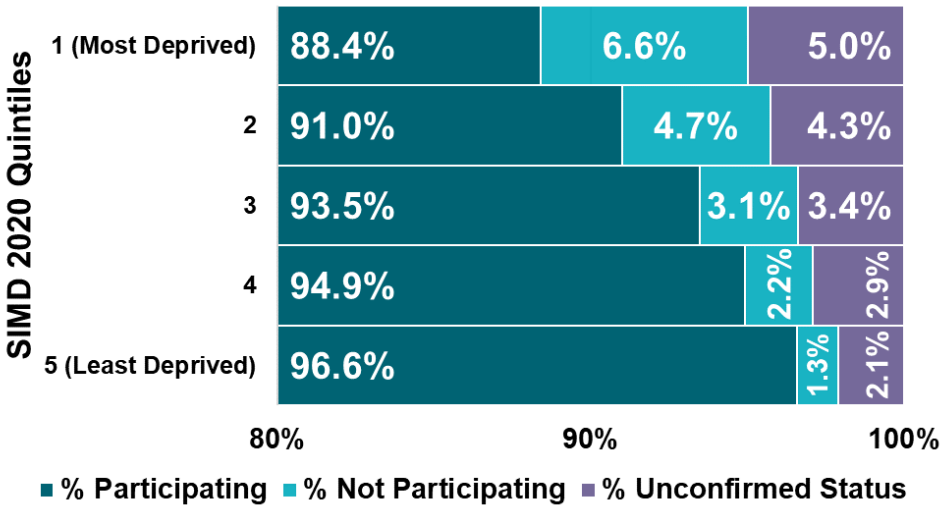
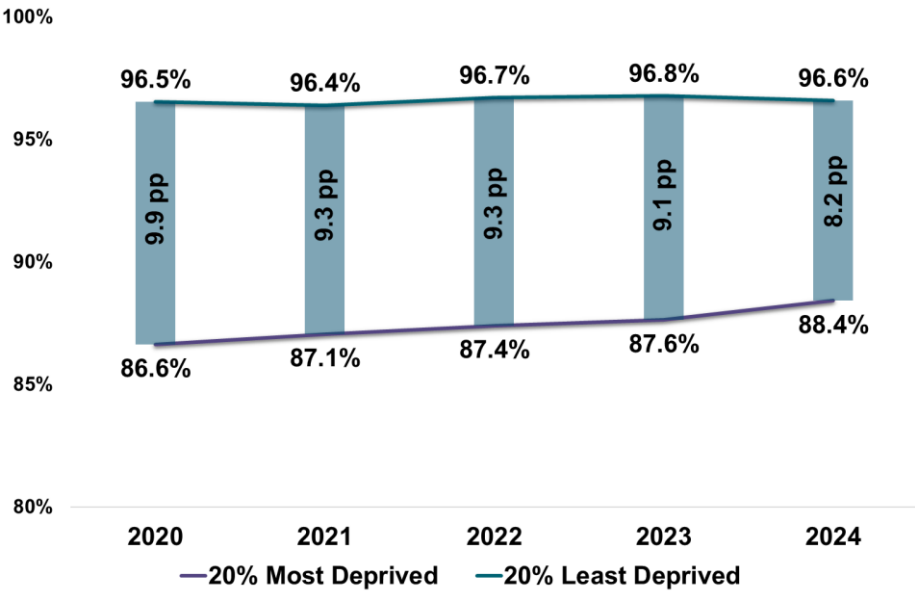


Chart 9: Participation Gap Between 20% Most Deprived Areas and 20% Least Deprived Areas (Percentages)



5. Analysis of those Not Participating

Those identified as not participating are unemployed (either unemployed seeking or 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).

Deprivation



Those 16 to 19 year olds who were unemployed seeking or unemployed not seeking were concentrated in the most deprived areas – around two fifths of both unemployed seeking (41.2%) and unemployed not seeking (39.2%) lived in areas ranked within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.

Urban / Rural



16 to 19 year olds who were not participating were disproportionately living in urban areas. Although those living in urban areas accounted for 70.7% of the overall APM cohort, 77.4% of those unemployed seeking and 74.3% of those unemployed not seeking lived in urban areas.³ This is consistent with previous years.

³ [Background to Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification.](#)

Local Authorities



Collectively, Glasgow City, Fife and North Lanarkshire accounted for 26.2% of the 16-19 population.⁴ By contrast, 30.2% of the national total of unemployed seeking lived in these council areas, remaining disproportionately high but down from 31.5% in 2023. The proportion of unemployed not seeking (26.4%) was also slightly higher than the population.

Gender



The gender composition of the unemployed seeking cohort differed.

Males accounted for 51.4% of the overall APM cohort, however, almost two thirds (62.7%) of those unemployed seeking were male. This split is consistent with previous years.

There was no real gender bias within those unemployed not seeking, although females were more likely to be unemployed not seeking.

Note to Readers

From late summer 2021, SDS began to receive individual level data about people claiming Universal Credit. This has improved data quality for those out of work. The figures for unemployed seeking young people aged 18 or 19 for the years prior to 2022 should be treated with a degree of caution.

[See Appendix 1.](#)

⁴ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2022>

Chart 10 shows that between 2023 and 2024, the proportion of individuals who were unemployed and seeking employment increased for each age group. For 16 and 17 year olds this increase was negligible, but the rate increased by 0.3 pp for 18 year olds and increased by 0.6 pp for 19 year olds. For all 16-19 year olds this resulted in an overall increase of 0.2 pp.

- The age group making up the largest proportion of ‘unemployed seeking’ was 19 year olds (46.7%). When combined with 18 year olds, these two age groups accounted for over three quarters (77.7%) of those reported as unemployed seeking.

Chart 11 shows that between 2023 and 2024, the proportion of 16-19 year olds not seeking employment decreased by 0.2 pp.

- The largest decrease was in the 19 year old age group, decreasing by 0.4 pp.
- 19 year olds accounted for the highest proportion of those who were unemployed not seeking employment (44.3%). Together with 18 year olds, these also made up over three quarters (76.4%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort.

Chart 10: Percentage Unemployed Seeking Employment or Training by Age, 2020- 2024

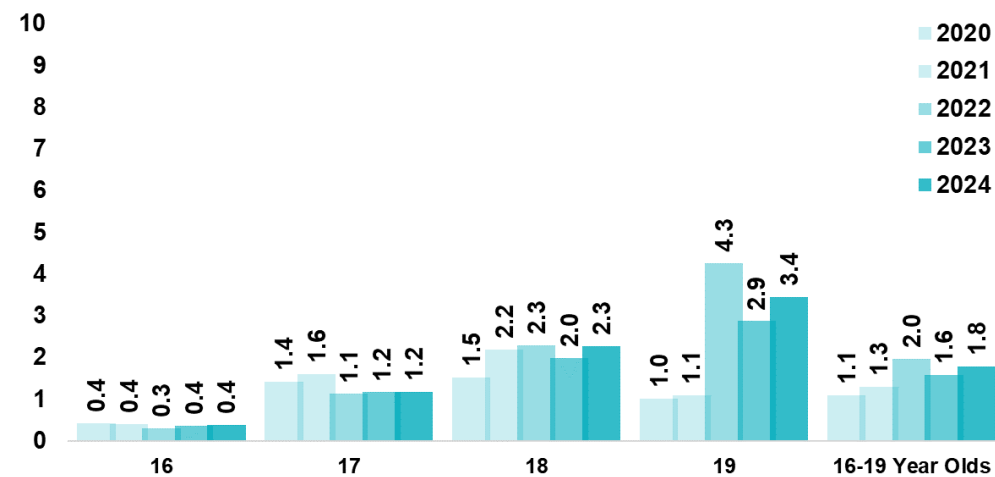
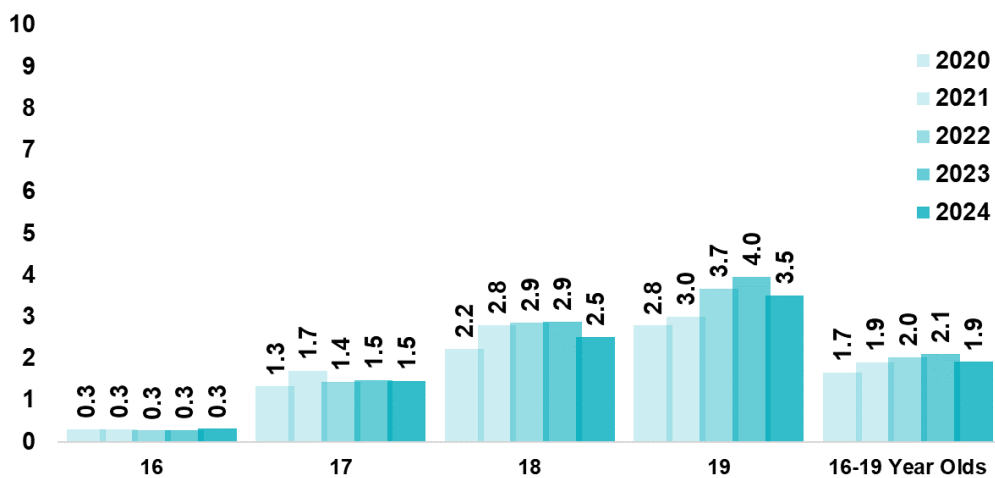


Chart 11: Percentage Unemployed NOT Seeking Employment or Training by Age, 2020 - 2024



6. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status

The number of individuals in 2024 with an unconfirmed status was 7,924 (3.6%) and by comparison in 2023 this was 7,872 (3.7%).

Chart 12 shows how the percentage of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status varied between 2020 to 2024.

- The percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed status fell by 0.1 pp from 2023 to 2024 to 3.6%. This is the lowest unconfirmed rate achieved to date using the current methodology.
- The proportion of unconfirmed statuses fell within both 16 and 19 year old age groups. The largest decrease in unconfirmed statuses was in the 19 year old age group (0.8 pp).
- The majority of those with an unconfirmed status were aged 19 (52.4%). In each year of the Annual Participation measure, the majority of those unconfirmed have been aged nineteen.

Further information regarding those with an unconfirmed status can be found in the [supplementary tables](#).

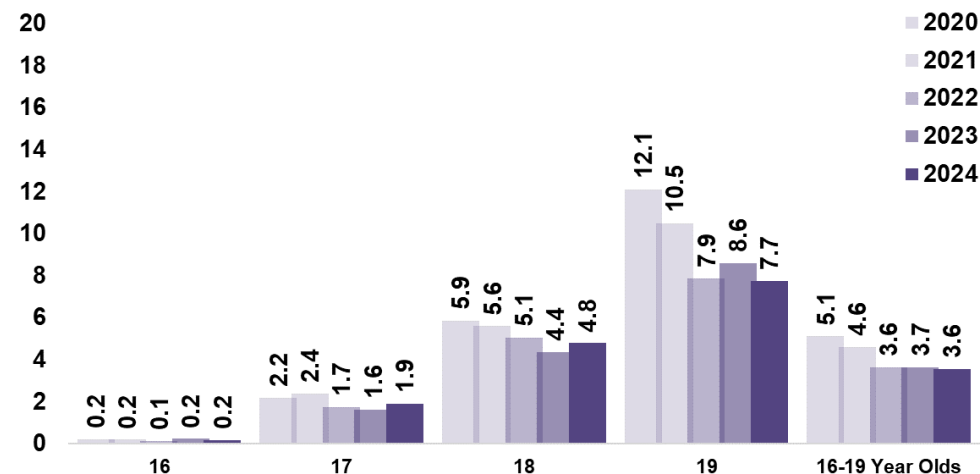


As in previous year, an unconfirmed status was more common amongst males than females.

The gender split for those with an unconfirmed status was 45.9% female and 53.9% male.

Those with an unconfirmed status were also more likely to be in areas of higher deprivation. Almost a third (31.3%) of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland, compared to just over 22.5% of the overall cohort.

Chart 12: Percentage with an Unconfirmed Status by age, 2020 - 2024



Note to Readers



Individuals within the shared dataset whose predominant status is 'unconfirmed' within each year, 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.

Both SDS and SG remain firmly committed to the merits of receiving access to HMRC employment data for Scottish young people to improve our education and employability support services. This data share will have a positive impact on the shared dataset by reducing the numbers of individuals in an unconfirmed status.

In the years prior to 2022, the absence of Universal Credit data may also have had an impact on those with an unconfirmed status. **(See Appendix 1)**

7. Further Resources

Further resources are available on the Annual Participation Measure [webpage](#):

- The publication’s [supplementary tables](#) 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 supplementary tables in a visual format.
- Background notes outlining the annual participation methodology and the sources of data are available on the APM [webpage](#).

Next Publication:



The next Annual Participation Measure will be published in August 2025

Annual Participation Measure Contacts



Contact:	Conor McGarvey
Job Title:	Performance Analyst Team Leader
Email:	conor.mcgarvey@sds.co.uk
Contact:	Kaden McGuire
Job Title:	Performance Analyst
Email:	kaden.mcguire@sds.co.uk

Appendix 1: Impact of Universal Credit data

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 reports from 2022 onwards 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.