

Skills Development Scotland

Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 year olds in Scotland 2026

The 12th annual statistical publication reporting on the learning, training and work activity of 16–19 year olds in Scotland

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Skills Development Scotland

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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 2026.

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)

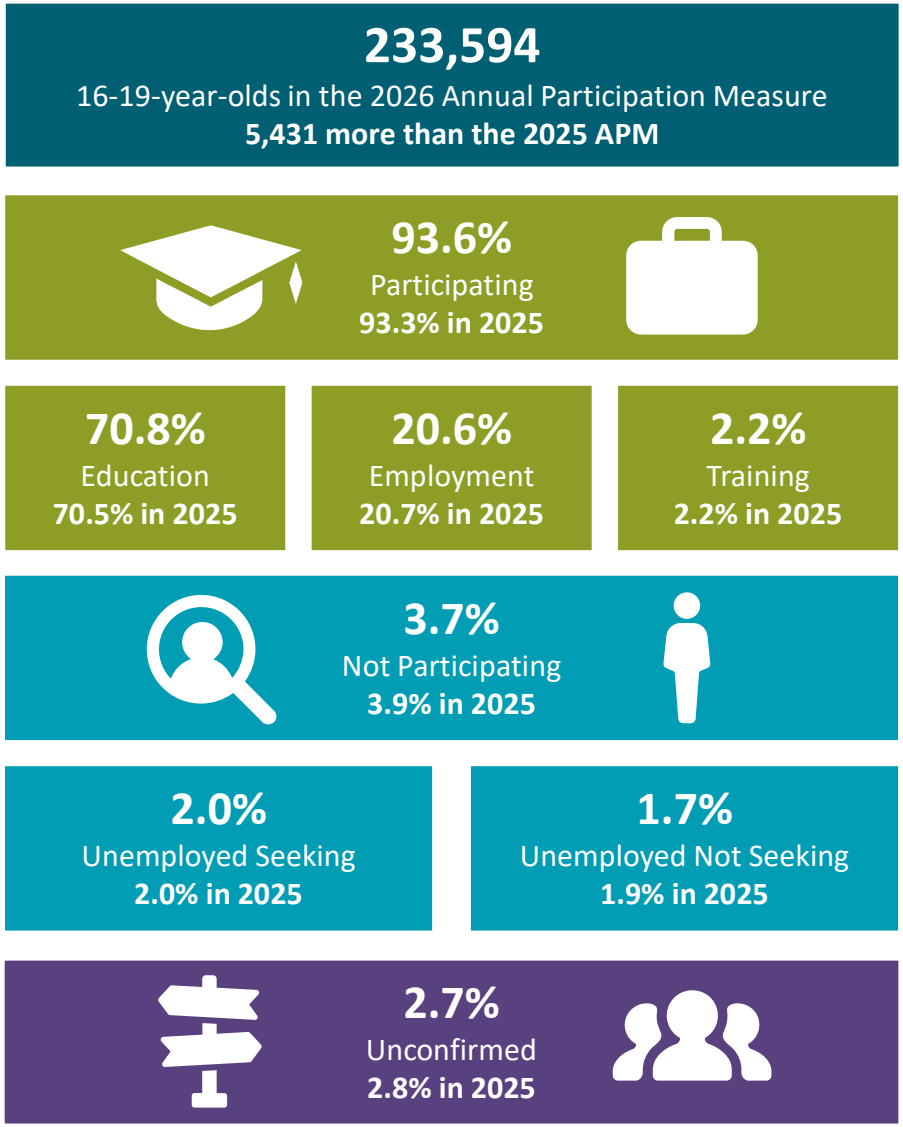
The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports on the education and employment activity of 16- to 19-year-olds in Scotland and is the source of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework indicator ***"Young People's Participation"***.

In 2026, this national indicator stood at 93.6% compared to 93.3% in 2025.

The APM is based on a dataset managed by SDS that combines data from Scotland's thirty-two local authorities, Scottish colleges, the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and the Scottish Funding Council. The dataset is held within SDS's Customer Support System (CSS), which is used by SDS advisers to deliver careers information, advice and guidance services and is shared with partner organisations through the 16+ Participation Portal.

In 2026, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) provided SDS with employment records for statistical purposes, covering 16- to 19-year-olds resident in Scotland at the end of the tax year. These records were merged with the CSS dataset to produce the final APM 2026 dataset. HMRC data are now available for both 2025 and 2026.

The methodological change introduced through the use of HMRC data has improved data quality by reducing the number of young people with an unconfirmed status. The inclusion of HMRC data is likely to have increased the number of 16- to 19-year-olds recorded as participating in employment and, consequently, the overall participation rate. Comparisons with years prior to 2025 should therefore be interpreted with caution, as observed differences may reflect the change in methodology as well as underlying changes in participation.



Participation by Age

In 2026, participation was highest amongst 16-year-olds (99.2%) and lowest amongst 19-year-olds (88.1%). This pattern is consistent with previous years.

16 Year Olds	99.2% participation rate in 2026 compared to 99.0% in 2025.
17 Year Olds	95.3% participation rate in 2026 compared to 95.3% in 2025.
18 Year Olds	91.6% participation rate in 2026 compared to 91.0% in 2025.
19 Year Olds	88.1% participation rate in 2026 compared to 87.4% in 2025.

Geography

In 2026, East Renfrewshire had the highest participation rate at 97.1%, and Clackmannanshire had the lowest participation rate at 90.9%.

In 2026, nineteen local authorities had a participation rate at or above the Scottish average, while the remaining thirteen were below.

In 2026, the proportion of 16- to 19-year-olds from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland who were participating was 89.1% compared to 97.5% for those from the 20% least deprived areas. The participation gap was 8.3 percentage points compared to 8.4 percentage points in 2025.

Equality Characteristics

Females (94.3%) were more likely to participate than males (93.0%), resulting in a participation gap of 1.3 percentage points. In 2025 the gap was 1.1 percentage points.

The difference in participation was primarily driven by a higher rate of female participation in education (76.2% vs. 65.7%).

Males had a higher employment participation rate than females (24.7% vs. 16.3%).

Participation among minority ethnic groups (96.0%) remained higher than among those from White ethnic groups (93.4%). The difference was largely attributable to higher rates of participation in education, at 86.6% and 69.0% respectively.

Participation was lower among those identified as disabled (88.8%) than among those not identified as disabled (93.9%). As in previous years, disabled individuals were less likely to participate in both employment and higher education. The gap was greatest in higher education, at 10.8 percentage points (9.3% versus 20.1%), compared with 6.6 percentage points in employment (14.3% versus 21.0%).

Non-Participation

The majority of those unemployed and seeking employment were aged 19 (45.3%), followed by those aged 18 (32.3%). A similar pattern was observed among those unemployed and not seeking employment, with 19-year-olds accounting for 40.8% and 18-year-olds accounting for 32.4%.

Unconfirmed

The proportion of 16- to 19-year-olds with an unconfirmed status decreased by 0.1 percentage points. Compared with 2025, the largest decrease was among 19-year-olds, whose rate fell by 0.3 percentage points.

Introduction

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) reports on the education and employment activity of 16- to 19-year-olds in Scotland. It is the source of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework indicator ***"Young People's Participation"***.

Following the latest statutory review of the National Outcomes, and the subsequent Scottish Parliament inquiry, the Scottish Government has committed to a period of reform of the National Performance Framework. The current 11 National Outcomes are still in operation as is the duty (Community Empowerment Act) on public bodies 'to have regard' to them. The National Outcomes and Indicators will not be updated until the reform project has concluded.

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

The annual methodology takes account of all statuses for 16- to 19-year-olds in Scotland over one year. For each of the 233,594 young people in the 2026 cohort (covering 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026)[1], the headline participation classification (participating, not participating or unconfirmed) is determined by the status in which the individual spent the greatest number of days during the year.

This report covers approximately 96.1% of the National Records of Scotland's 2025 mid-year population estimate. The shared dataset does not hold complete information for individuals educated at independent schools or at home, nor for those who moved to Scotland but had not yet engaged with SDS services. Where a record was available, individuals educated at independent schools were excluded from the cohort. As a result, while coverage is substantial, the dataset does not represent the entire population of 16- to 19-year-olds in Scotland.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) began sharing data with SDS for statistical purposes in January 2025. This included employment records for 16–19-year-olds in Scotland. For the 2026 measure, HMRC supplied a bespoke extract of 16- to 19-year-olds who were resident in Scotland on 31 March 2026, together with their employment records covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

These records were merged with the CSS dataset to produce the final APM 2026 dataset. As HMRC employment data are included in both the 2025 and 2026 APM, comparisons between 2025 and 2026 can therefore be made on a like-for-like basis. However, HMRC data were not available for APM years prior to 2025, and comparisons with earlier years should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Prior to 2022, SDS did not receive Universal Credit data from DWP, limiting the ability to fully identify individuals out of work during those years. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic may have influenced the choices and opportunities available to young adults, affecting participation in 2021 and 2022.

When interpreting year-on-year changes, consideration should be given to the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the inclusion of Universal Credit data from 2022, and the introduction of HMRC employment data from 2025.

[1] To be included in the APM 2026 cohort an individual must be aged 16 to 19 on the 31st of March 2026 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 233,594 young people aged 16-19 within the 2026 APM cohort, which was 5,431 more than the 2025 measure. Based on the National Records of Scotland 2025 mid-year population estimate, this report covers approximately 96.1% of the estimated population.

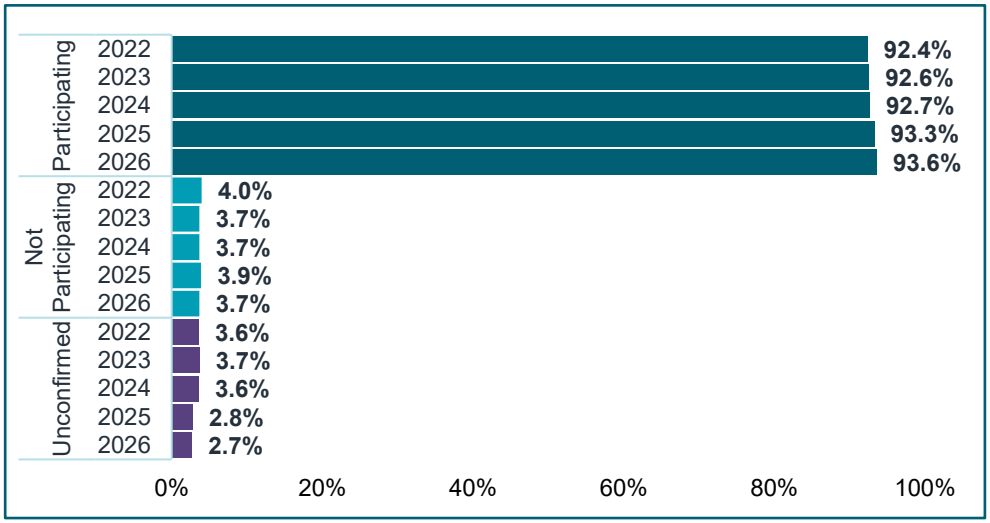
Chart 1 shows the headline participation percentages between 2022 and 2026. The results show:

Participation in education, training or employment was 93.6% in 2026, which is the highest participation rate ever reported. It is important to consider that the 2022 results may have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, while the 2026 results include HMRC employment data that were not available prior to 2025.

The proportion of 16- to 19-year-olds classified as not participating was 3.7% in 2026 and has remained below 4.0% since 2023. Between 2025 and 2026, the proportion unemployed and seeking work remained stable at 2.0%. Over the same period, the proportion unemployed and not seeking work decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 1.7%, with the largest decrease observed among 18-year-olds (0.5 percentage points).

The proportion of 16- to 19-year-olds with an unconfirmed status decreased from 3.6% to 2.7% between 2022 and 2026. This reduction is likely to reflect improvements in data quality, including the introduction of HMRC employment data from 2025 onwards. The introduction of HMRC data therefore represents a break in the time series, and comparisons with the years before 2025 should be considered in this context.

Chart 1: Annual Participation Headlines 2022 – 2026



Note to Readers

SDS continues its efforts to reduce the proportion of young people with an unconfirmed status. SDS has received employment data from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) for statistical purposes since 2025. These data cover APM reporting periods from 2025 onwards but were not available for earlier years. The data have improved the identification of individuals in employment and those who have subsequently left employment, where a matching employment record was available. Some of the differences observed between 2025 onwards and earlier years may reflect the availability of HMRC employment data, in addition to underlying changes in participation.

Since late summer 2021, SDS has received monthly data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on Universal Credit (UC) claimants, both in and out of work. These data have been included in the APM dataset since 2022. Similarly, comparisons with years prior to 2022 should take account of the absence of UC data in earlier datasets.

2. Annual Participation Measure by Status Grouping

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

In 2026:

Overall, 70.8% of 16- to 19-year-olds were participating in secondary or tertiary education, up from 70.5% in 2025. This reflected increases in both higher education (19.3% to 19.5%) and further education (10.3% to 10.6%), while the proportion of school pupils remained broadly stable at 40.7% (40.8% in 2025).

Employment among 16- to 19-year-olds remained broadly stable at 20.6% in 2026, compared with 20.7% in 2025, while participation in training and other development was unchanged at 2.2%.

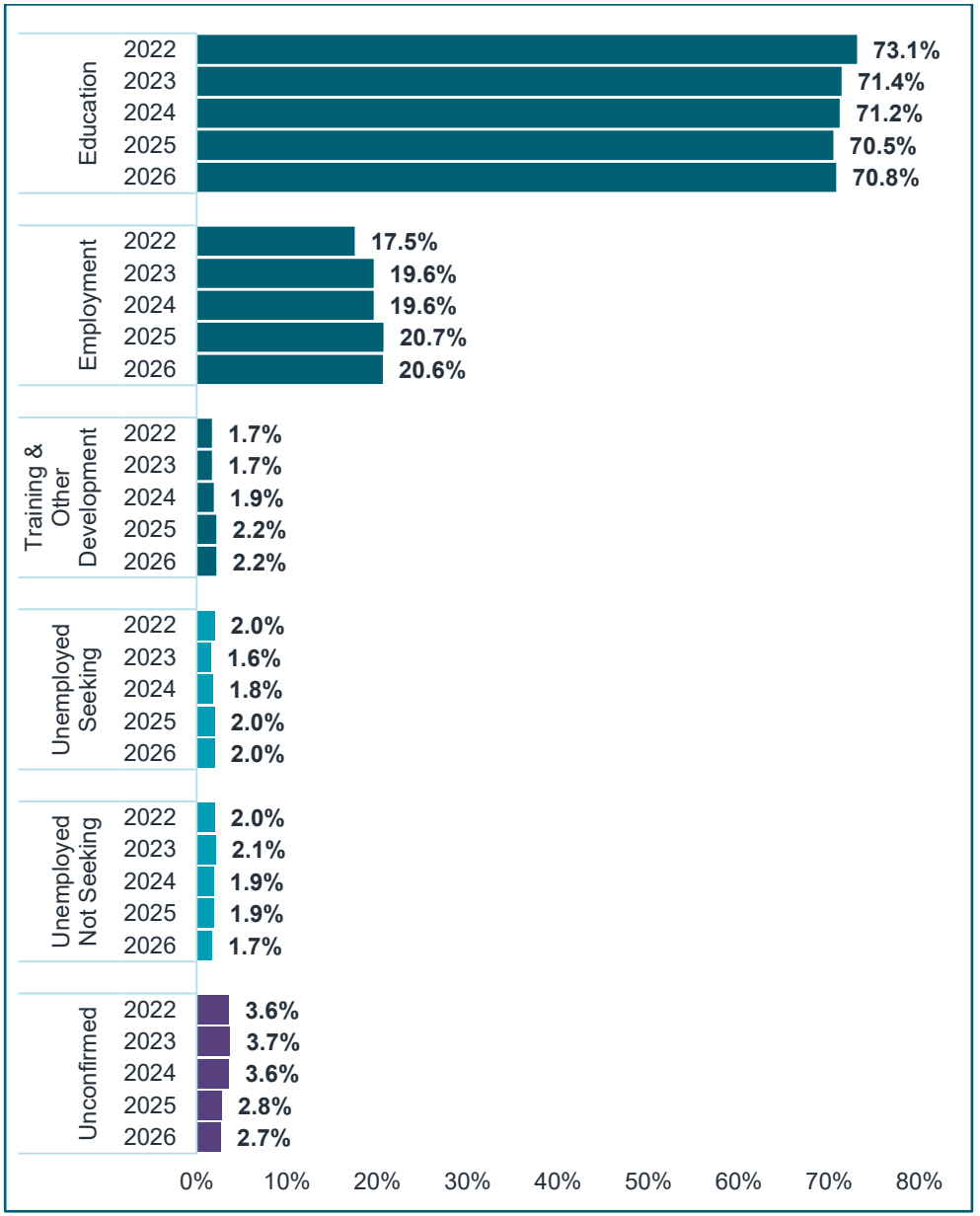
Among 16-year-olds, 95.0% were in education, up from 94.7% in 2025, with the majority (89.6%) recorded as school pupils.

Among 17-year-olds, participation in education increased to 78.6% from 77.1%, with the proportion recorded as school pupils rising to 61.5%, up from 60.7% in 2025.

Among 18-year-olds, participation in higher or further education increased to 50.1%, up from 49.1%, while employment decreased to 28.9%, down from 29.5% in 2025.

Among 19-year-olds, participation in higher or further education decreased slightly to 48.5%, down from 49.0%, while employment increased to 37.9%, up from 36.7% in 2025.

Chart 2: Annual Participation Groups 2022 – 2026



3. Equalities

SDS has a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that services are inclusive and accessible. Equalities data are collected to support monitoring of service uptake and to identify and address barriers experienced by different groups.

Equalities information within the shared dataset is primarily obtained from school management information systems when records are created on the Customer Support System (CSS).

CSS mandatory fields include date of birth, gender, ethnicity, and disability. Most records on CSS are created through data shared from the annual school pupil census which populates these fields using date of birth, sex, ethnicity and disability, supplied by the local authority. Subsequent annual census data can update the disability field on customer records. We also receive monthly uploads of data from local authorities and customer characteristics fields are limited to date of birth and sex. During the delivery of CIAG services, staff may create additional customer records and confirm existing characteristics directly with customers and update the relevant fields in CSS, as appropriate.

The sex attribute within the Annual Participation Measure uses data held within a CSS field labelled as gender, which primarily reflects sex recorded from the school pupil census. We are currently undertaking system changes within CSS to bring recording in line with the UK-wide harmonised standard on the collection of data on sex for future reporting.

As a corporate parent, SDS is committed to considering care experience alongside protected characteristics in its equality monitoring and analysis. However, reliable care experience data are not currently available and, as a result, this publication does not include analysis by care experience.

Sex

Chart 3 shows participation by sex. The results show:



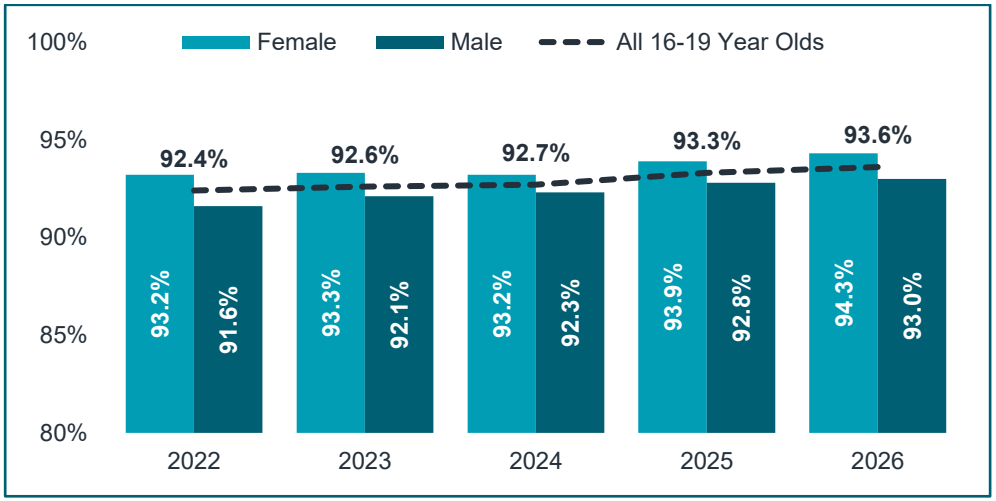
The participation rate for females was 94.3% in 2026 compared to 93.9% in 2025, and the participation rate for males was 93% in 2026 and 92.8% in 2025.

This trend of the participation rate being higher for females than for males has been the case for each year of the annual participation measure.

The participation gap is now 1.3 percentage points (1.1 pp in 2025).

In 2026, females were more likely than males to be participating in education (76.2% vs. 65.7%), while males were more likely to be in employment (24.7% vs. 16.3%). Males also had a higher rate of being unemployed and seeking work (2.3% vs. 1.6%), whereas females had a slightly higher rate of unemployed and not seeking work (1.8% vs. 1.6%).

Chart 3: Participation by Sex, 2022 – 2026



Ethnicity

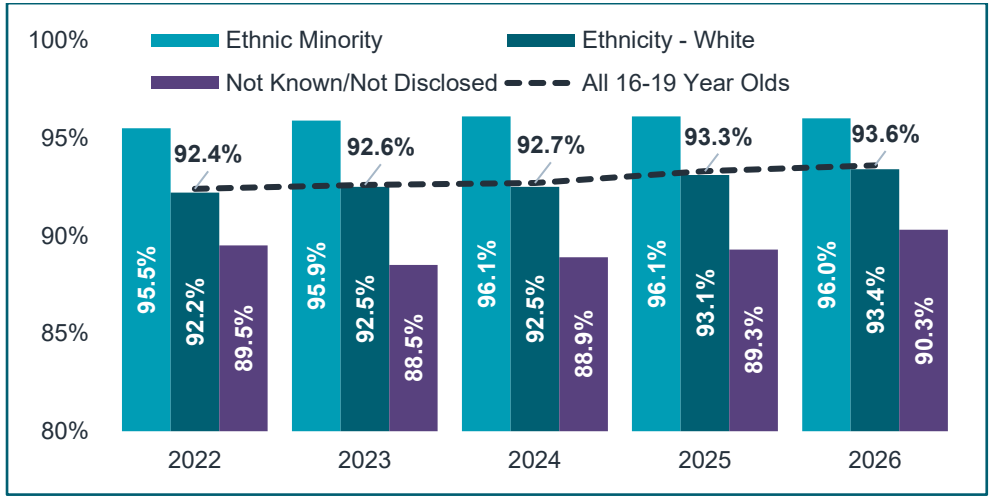
Chart 4 shows participation by ethnicity. The results show:

In 2026, the participation rate among those from minority ethnic groups was 96.0%, compared with 96.1% in 2025. The participation rate among those identified as White increased from 93.1% in 2025 to 93.4% in 2026.

The participation rate among those from minority ethnic groups was 2.5 percentage points higher than the rate among those identified as White. The equivalent gap was 3.0 percentage points in 2025.

In 2026, individuals from minority ethnic groups were more likely to be in education (86.6%) compared to those identified as white (69%). Conversely, employment rates were higher among those identified as white (22.1%) than among minority ethnic groups (8%).

Chart 4: Participation by Ethnicity, 2022 – 2026



Disability

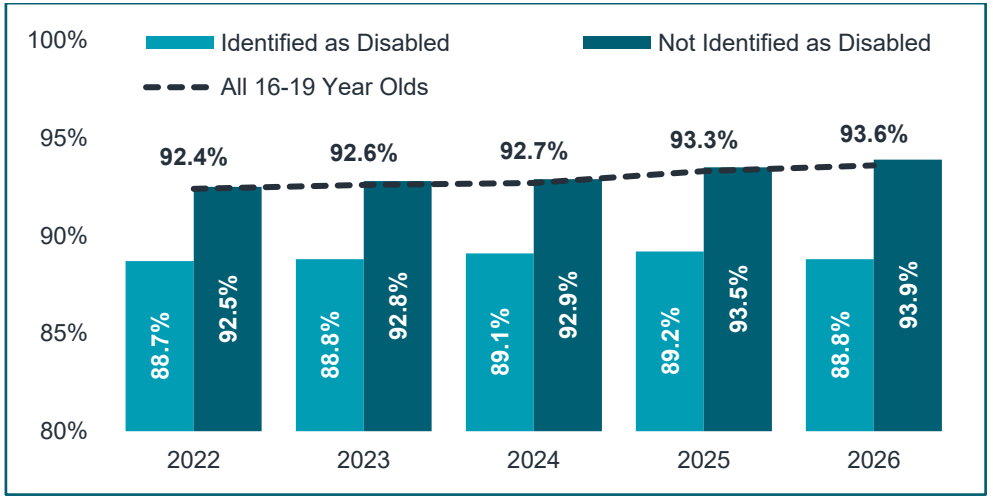
Chart 5 shows participation by disability. The results show:

In 2026, the participation rate was 88.8% among young people identified as disabled, down from 89.2% in 2025. Among those not identified as disabled, it was 93.9%, up from 93.5% in 2025.

The participation gap was therefore 5.1 percentage points, compared to 4.4 percentage points in 2025.

Consistent with previous years, in 2026 individuals identified as disabled were less likely to be in employment or higher education compared to those not identified as disabled, with a gap of 10.8 percentage points (9.3% vs. 20.1%) in higher education, and a gap of 6.6 percentage points (14.3% vs. 21%) in employment.

Chart 5: Participation by Disability, 2022 – 2026



4. Participation Rates Across Scotland

Local Authority

Chart 6 shows the 2026 APM headline results by Local Authority.

In 2026, 19 local authorities had participation rates at or above the Scottish average, while the remaining 13 were below it.

The gap between the highest and lowest local authority participation rates was 6.2 percentage points, unchanged from 2025.

East Renfrewshire recorded the highest participation rate at 97.1%, compared with 97.2% in 2025. The Shetland Islands had the second-highest rate at 96.8%, down from 97.5% in 2025.

As in 2025, the Shetland Islands had the lowest proportion of young people with an unconfirmed status, decreasing from 0.6% to 0.2%.

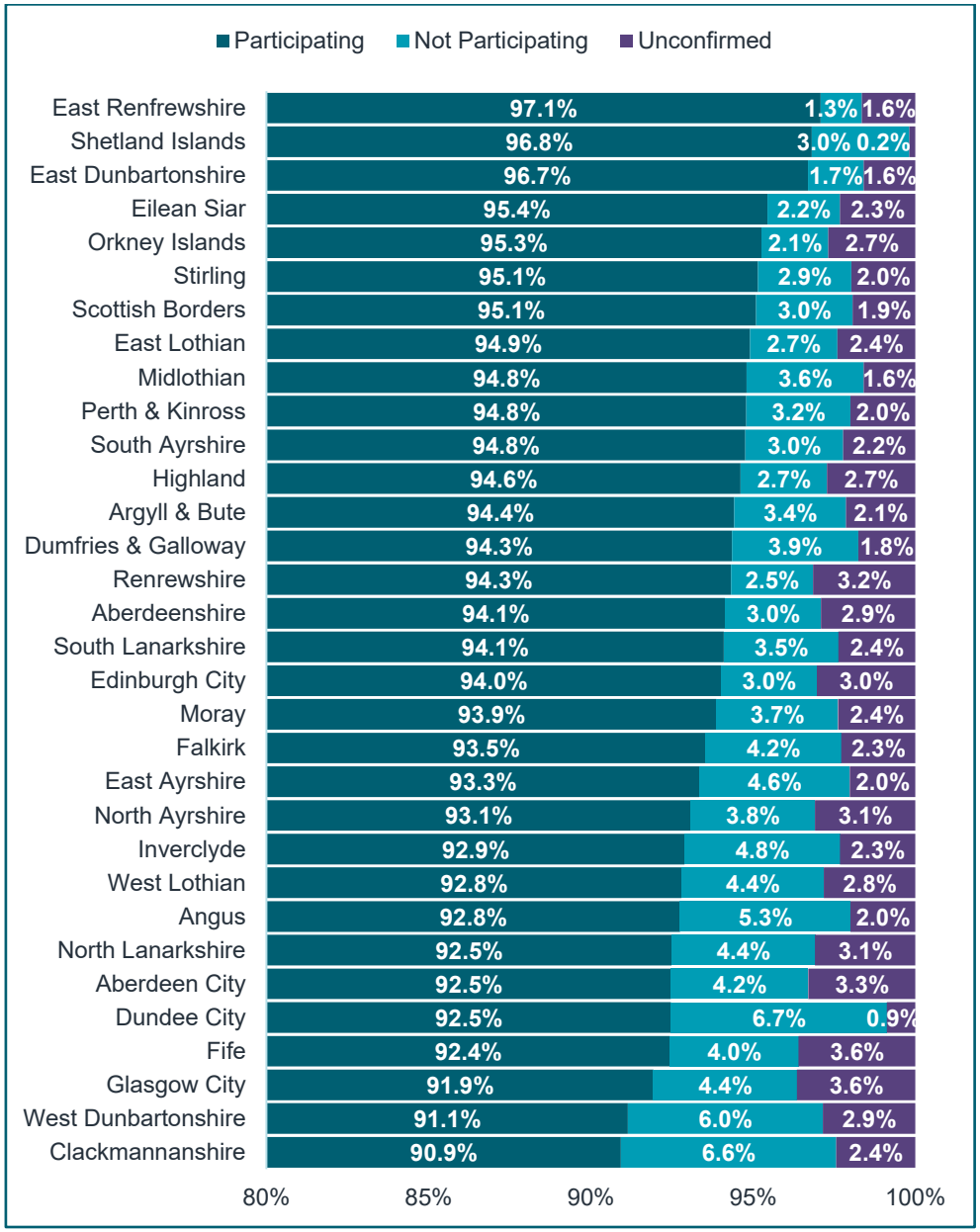
Clackmannanshire recorded the lowest participation rate at 90.9%, compared with 92.0% in 2025. Dundee City, which had the lowest participation rate in 2025, increased from 91.3% to 92.5% in 2026.

Dundee City recorded the highest non-participation rate at 6.7%, up from 6.2% in 2025. Clackmannanshire had the second-highest rate at 6.6%, compared with 5.6% in 2025.

In 2026, the highest unconfirmed rates were in Glasgow City at 3.6% compared to 3.3% in 2025, and Fife at 3.6% compared to 3.8% in 2025.

The unconfirmed rate decreased in 19 local authorities between 2025 and 2026. The largest decrease was in Dundee City, down 1.6 percentage points, while the largest increase was in Eilean Siar, up 0.7 percentage points.

Chart 6: 2026 Participation Headlines by Local Authority



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020)

Chart 7 provides an overview of participation among 16- to 19-year-olds by SIMD (2020) quintile. **Chart 8** shows that the participation gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and those living in the 20% least deprived areas was 8.3 percentage points in 2026.

The participation rate among those from the 20% most deprived areas was 89.1% in 2026, compared with 88.8% in 2025 and 87.4% in 2022. The participation rate among those from the 20% most deprived areas was 89.1% in 2026, compared with 88.8% in 2025 and 87.4% in 2022.

The participation gap between those from the 20% most deprived and 20% least deprived areas was 8.3 percentage points in 2026. The gap between these groups was 8.4 percentage points in 2025 and 9.3 percentage points in 2022.

Young people from the least deprived areas (quintile 5) were more likely to participate in education (81.5%) than those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1) (65.0%), a difference of 16.5 percentage points. This compares with an education participation gap of 16.8 percentage points in 2025.

Employment participation was highest among those in the middle of the SIMD distribution. In 2026, 23.7% of young people from quintile 3 were in employment, compared with 20.4% of those from quintile 1 and 15.0% of those from quintile 5.

Data within the **supplementary tables** provides further information regarding participation amongst SIMD quintiles.

Chart 7: 2026 Participation Headline by SIMD (2020) Quintiles

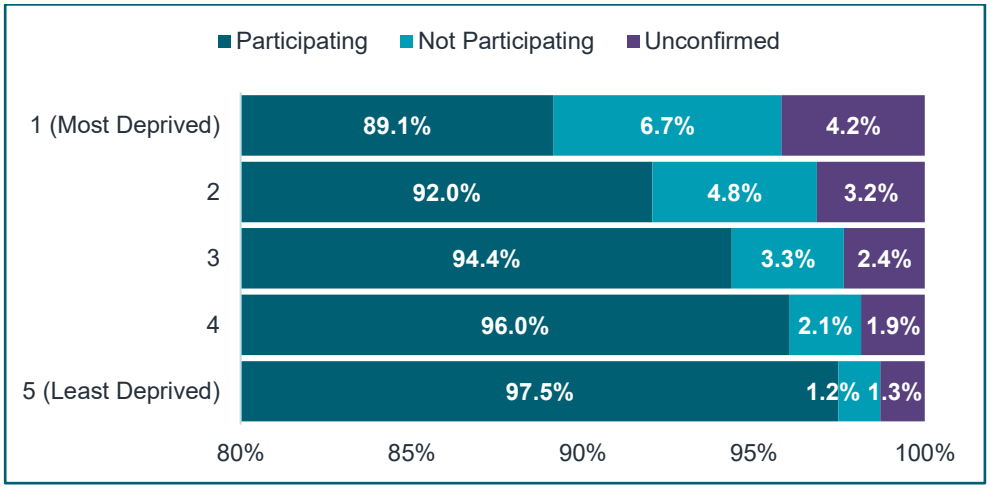
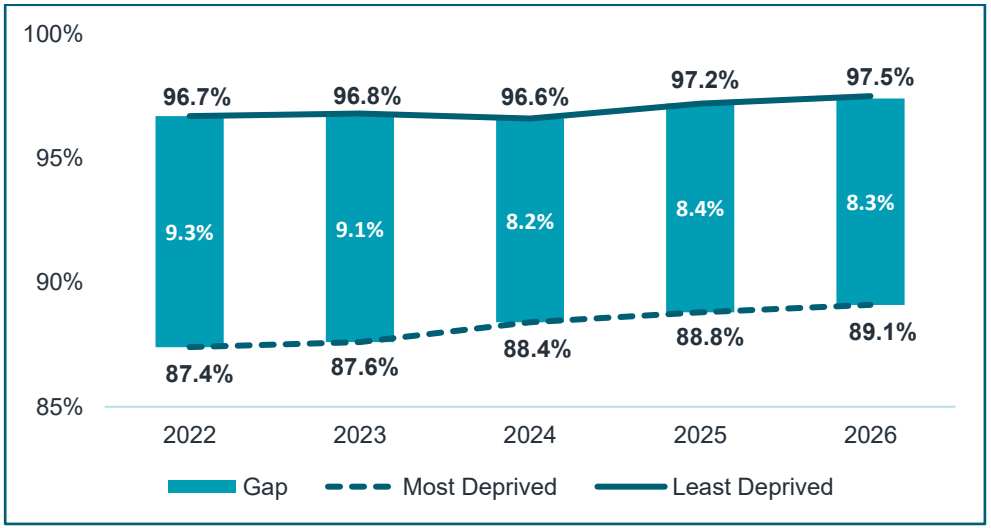


Chart 8: Participation Gap Between 20% Most Deprived Areas and 20% Least Deprived Areas (Percentages)



5. Analysis of those Not Participating

Those identified as not participating are classified as either unemployed and seeking or unemployed and not seeking. Individuals in the unemployed and seeking category are known to SDS to be actively seeking employment, education or training. This group may include young people who are not in receipt of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) support or benefits, as eligibility for Universal Credit (UC) among 16- and 17-year-olds is restricted to specific circumstances.

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.

Deprivation



Young people identified as unemployed, whether seeking or not, were concentrated in Scotland's most deprived areas. In 2026, around two-fifths of those unemployed and seeking employment (40.5%) and those unemployed and not seeking employment (39.8%) lived in the 20% most deprived areas.

Sex



Males accounted for 51.3% of the overall APM cohort in 2026, however, three out of five of those unemployed seeking were male (60%). This split is consistent with previous years.

Females were more likely to be unemployed not seeking, accounting for 51.7% of those in these statuses but 48.6% of the overall APM cohort.

Urban/Rural



16- to 19-year-olds who were not participating were disproportionately likely to live in urban areas. Although those living in urban areas accounted for 71.0% of the overall APM cohort in 2026, 77.9% of those unemployed and seeking employment and 73.1% of those unemployed and not seeking employment lived in urban areas.[2] While those not participating continued to be overrepresented in urban areas, the extent of this overrepresentation was lower than in 2025.

Disability



Young people identified as disabled represented 5.8% of the overall APM cohort in 2026, but 11.7% of those not participating. The proportion not participating among those identified as disabled was 7.5%, 4 percentage points higher than those not identified as disabled.

The proportion unemployed seeking was higher among individuals identified as disabled (3.4%) than those not identified as disabled (1.9%), as was unemployed not seeking (4.1% vs 1.6%).

[2] Background to Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification.

Chart 9 shows little overall change in the proportion of 16- to 19-year-olds who were unemployed and seeking employment between 2025 and 2026.

While rates increased slightly among 17- and 18-year-olds (both by 0.1 percentage points), they decreased by 0.2 percentage points among 19-year-olds, resulting in no overall change across all 16- to 19-year-olds.

Despite this stability, 19-year-olds continued to make up the largest proportion of those unemployed and seeking employment (45.3%). Combined with 18-year-olds, they accounted for 77.7% of the group.

Chart 10 shows that the proportion of 16- to 19-year-olds who were unemployed and not seeking employment decreased by 0.2 percentage points between 2025 and 2026.

The largest decrease was among 18-year-olds, where the rate fell by 0.4 percentage points.

Despite this decline, 19-year-olds continued to account for the largest share of those who were unemployed and not seeking employment (40.8%). Together, 18- and 19-year-olds accounted for 73.2% of all young people in this category.

Chart 9: Percentage Unemployed Seeking Employment or Training by Age, 2022 – 2026

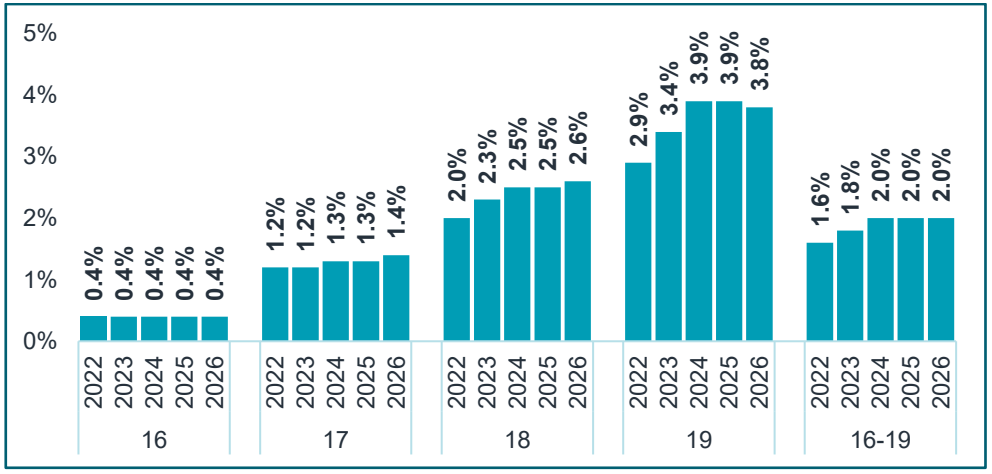
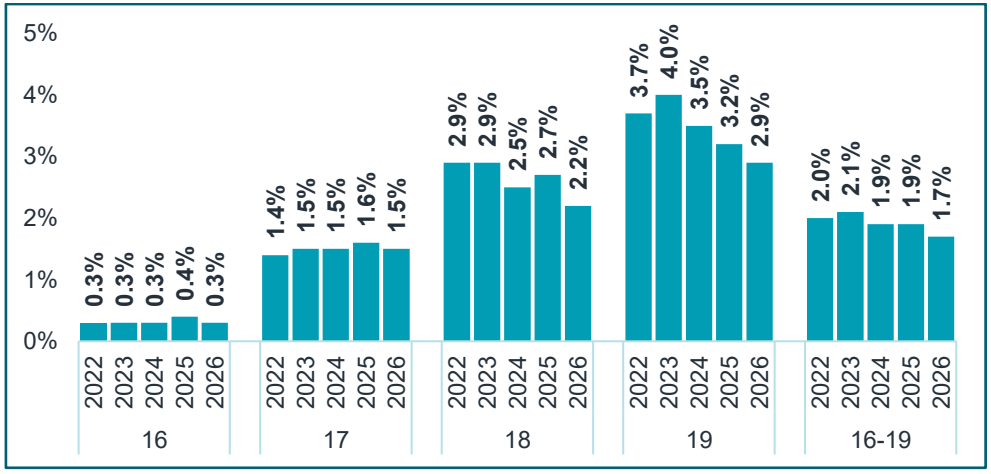


Chart 10: Percentage Unemployed NOT Seeking Employment or Training by Age, 2022 – 2026



6. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status

In 2026, 6,221 young people (2.7%) had an unconfirmed status, compared with 6,368 (2.8%) in 2025.

The inclusion of HMRC employment data reduced the number of individuals with an unconfirmed status within the 2026 dataset by 3,720. This represented a 37.4% reduction compared with the position prior to incorporating HMRC data.

Chart 11 shows how the percentage of 16- to 19-year-olds with an unconfirmed status varied between 2022 to 2026.

The proportion decreased slightly from 2.8% in 2025 to 2.7% in 2026.

The proportion of young people with an unconfirmed status decreased among 16-, 18- and 19-year-olds. The largest decrease was among 19-year-olds, where the rate fell by 0.3 percentage points.

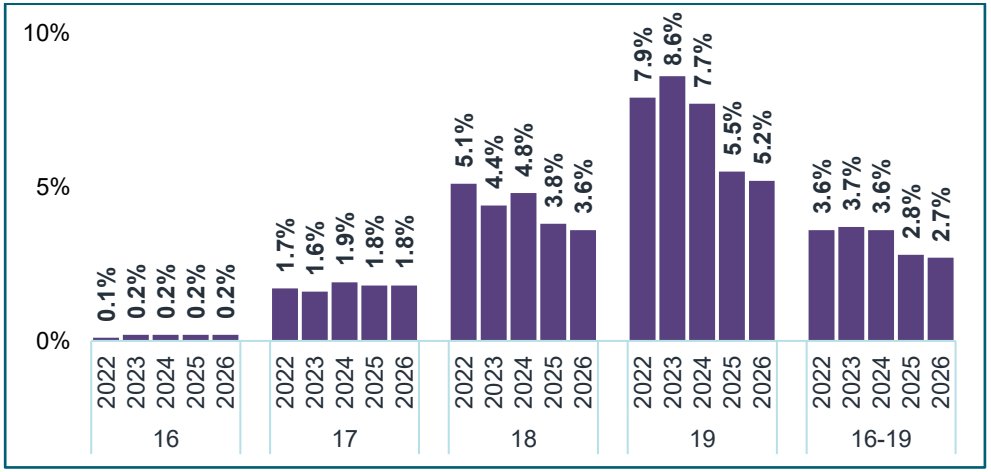
Nineteen-year-olds accounted for the largest share of all individuals with an unconfirmed status (47.2%), a pattern that has remained consistent throughout the Annual Participation Measure.

As in previous years, males were more likely than females to have an unconfirmed status.

Individuals with an unconfirmed status were disproportionately concentrated in areas of higher deprivation. While in 2026 22.5% of the overall APM cohort lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland, this figure was 35.4% among those with an unconfirmed status.

Further information regarding those with an unconfirmed status can be found in the **supplementary tables**.

Chart 11: Percentage with an Unconfirmed Status by Age, 2022 – 2026



Note to Readers

Individuals with an unconfirmed status are those for whom a confirmed status cannot be determined, despite multi-partner data sharing and tracking through service delivery activities.

Since January 2025, SDS has received HMRC data for statistical purposes only, which has reduced the number of 16–19-year-olds in an unconfirmed status within the APM in 2025 and 2026.

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)

SDS undertakes regular data quality activities within the Customer Support System (CSS) to maintain the accuracy of status information. These activities, including customer follow up, may result in changes to an individual's recorded status, including movement into or out of the unconfirmed category.

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, sex, 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 2027.



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Appendix 1

Universal Credit Data

Since 2014, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has been a key data-sharing partner of Skills Development Scotland (SDS), providing information on individuals aged 18 and over who were in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance, and Income Support. These benefits were gradually replaced by Universal Credit (UC), with the rollout completed by December 2018. However, SDS did not begin receiving UC data until late summer 2021.

Since the inclusion of UC data in 2022, the quality of shared data has improved, particularly in relation to unemployed and unconfirmed statuses among 18- and 19-year-olds. UC data provide a more comprehensive picture of young adults who are out of work, including both those actively seeking employment and those not seeking employment. In addition, UC data have improved the identification of individuals who are in employment while also receiving Universal Credit.

Prior to 2022, the absence of UC data may have affected several status categories, including unemployed and seeking employment, unemployed and not seeking employment, employment, and unconfirmed. As a result, the headline classifications of participation, non-participation and unconfirmed status were also affected.

SDS works collaboratively with DWP and other partners to provide support to unemployed young people and to maintain accurate information on their circumstances. Although SDS support is available to all young people, services have historically been focused on those aged 16 to 18 and those requiring additional support. This engagement helped to mitigate some of the impact of missing UC data prior to 2022.

Use of HMRC Data

From January 2025, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has shared data with SDS for statistical purposes, including employment records for 16- to 19-year-olds in Scotland. This data, sourced from HMRC's Real Time Information (RTI) system, is submitted by employers each time they pay an employee and includes details such as payment amounts, deductions, and employment dates.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) received a limited dataset from HMRC, including individual identifiers (name, date of birth, sex, and postcode), employment episode records with start and end dates, and—where available—an indication of working hours. The start date was based on either the employer-supplied start date or, if unavailable, the date of the first payment in the tax year. For the 2026 measure, HMRC supplied a bespoke extract of 16- to 19-year-olds who were resident in Scotland on 31 March 2026, together with their employment records covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

This HMRC data was merged with the shared dataset used for the Annual Participation Measure (APM), which includes status information from key delivery partners such as local authorities, colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS). The integration was carried out specifically to create a bespoke APM 2026 dataset.

Each status line within the dataset was reviewed and updated to incorporate HMRC employment data. This included aligning start and end dates with HMRC records and updating participation statuses accordingly. Approximately 2.8% of records within the APM cohort were revised based on HMRC data. In cases where HMRC confirmed that employment had ended and no other status update existed on CSS, then status days were updated to "unconfirmed."