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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.

Executive Summary

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 2022, this national indicator stood at 92.4%, the highest percentage ever reported. This was a slight increase of 0.2 percentage points (pp) compared to 2021 (92.2%).

Since late summer 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions has shared Universal Credit (UC) data with SDS. This provides information about individuals both in and out of work, in receipt of Universal Credit. This has led to improved data quality as highlighted by the decrease in the percentage of unconfirmed statuses and increase in those unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking.

Between 2021 and 2022 there has been an increase in the percentage of 16-19 year olds in employment. This could be attributed to increased employer demand for workers and young adults choosing to enter employment in preference to continuing in education, specifically further education which has decreased from 11.5% in 2021 to 9.7% in 2022.

Participation by Age

- In 2022, participation was highest amongst 16 year olds (99.3%) and lowest amongst 19 year olds (84.2%).
- The participation rate in 2022 increased for 16, 17 and 18 year olds by 0.1 pp, 1.4 pp and 0.4 pp respectively but decreased for 19 year olds by 1.3 pp.



209,984

16-19 year olds in the 2022 Annual **Participation measure**

This is 2,455 individuals more than the 2021 APM

92.4%

of 16-19 year olds were participating in education, employment, or training

92.2% in 2021

An increase of **0.2 percentage points**

Education

Employment

Training & **Development**



73.1%





74.8% in 2021

15.5% in 2021

1.8% in 2021



4.0%

were **not participating**: those unemployed seeking or not seeking

3.2% in 2021

An increase of **0.8 percentage points**

Unemployed Seeking

2.0%



2.0%

1.3% in 2021

1.9% in 2021



3.6%

with an **unconfirmed** status. With 52.2% aged 19 years old

4.6% in 2021

A decrease of 1.0 percentage points

• The percentage of young adults participating in employment increased by 2.0 pp and increased in each age category with 17 year olds experiencing the largest rise at 3.6 pp.

Geography

- Between 2021 and 2022 the participation rate rose in 20 of Scotland's 32 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 2021 to 7.7 pp in 2022. Other than a slight increase between 2020 and 2021, the gap has been decreasing each year from 10.6 pp in 2016.
- The participation gap between those who lived in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas was 9.3 pp, the same as 2021 (compared to 9.9 pp in 2020 and 12.9 pp in 2016).
- Those with an unconfirmed status were more likely to be in areas
 of higher deprivation: while just over 22% of the APM cohort lived
 in the 20% most deprived areas, these areas accounted 31% of
 those with an unconfirmed status.

Equality Characteristics

• Females (93.2%) were more likely to participate than males (91.6%). This difference was primarily driven by a higher rate of female participation in education (78.3% versus 68.2%). This was offset, to a large extent, by greater participation in employment by males than females (21.3% versus 13.5%).

- The participation rate amongst Minority Ethnic groups (95.5%)
 remained higher than for those from a White ethnic group (92.2%).
 This difference was mainly driven by a higher rate of participation
 in education (87.9% versus 72.0%).
- The participation rate amongst those identified as disabled (88.7%) was lower than for those not identified as disabled (92.5%). This was because disabled young people were more likely to fall into the 'unemployed not seeking' status (5.2% versus 1.9%).

Non-Participation

- Most of those unemployed seeking were 19 years old (52.4%), followed by 18 year olds (29.0%).
- The majority of those unemployed and not seeking employment were 19 years old (43.5%), 18 and 19 years old comprised over three quarters (78.6%) of this group.
- Those in both unemployed seeking and not seeking groups were more likely to live in areas of higher deprivation. (44.9% and 39.2% respectively lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland).

Unconfirmed

• Compared to 2021, there was a 1.0 pp decrease in the percentage of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status to 3.6%. As has been the case for each year of the APM, the majority of those with an unconfirmed status were aged 19 (52.2%), compared to 56% in 2021.

1. 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 eighth release of statistics on the participation of 16-19 year olds at a national and local authority level and the seventh 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 of Work and Pensions (DWP) and SAAS, to identify what young adults are doing in 'real time' between the ages of 16-19.

The annual methodology takes account of all statuses for 16-19 year olds in Scotland over one calendar year. For each of the 209,984 individuals included within the 2022 cohort (covering 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022)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.

The effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated lockdown measures will have impacted on young adults' participation in 2021. The effective closure of the economy was likely to have affected the opportunities available to young adults and the choices

they made e.g., a decline in employment opportunities or choosing to remain in education. However, as the economy re-opened and business demand for workers increased, the increase in opportunities may have also influenced the choices made by young adults across the period covered by the 2022 statistics.

In addition, for most of the period covered by the 2022 statistics we received data from DWP about Universal Credit claimants. This enabled us to identify claimants who were both out of work (unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking) and in work (employed and self-employed). However, for previous years, SDS did not receive this data from DWP which means we were unable to comprehensively identify those out of work.

The impacts of the pandemic and the absence of Universal Credit data in prior years should be kept in mind when making comparisons between 2022 and 2021, and when comparing 2022 data with earlier years.

Accompanying Resources

Background data tables are available in excel format within the APM <u>supplementary tables</u> on the SDS website.

SDS has created an <u>interactive Power BI report</u> to complement this publication using APM data from 2016 to 2022.

Background notes that provide an overview of the Annual Participation Measure methodology and data are available on the APM webpage

Further Information / Requests



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

¹ To be included in the APM 2022 cohort an individual must be aged 16 to 19 on the 31st March 2022 and have a customer record on the Opportunities for All shared data set, held on the SDS Customer Support System (CSS),

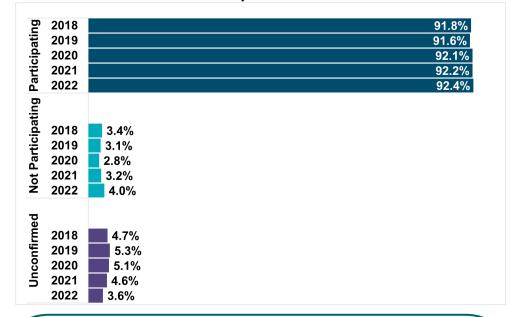
2. Annual Participation Measure Trends

There were 209,984 individuals aged 16-19 within the 2022 APM cohort, which was 2,455 more than the 2021 measure. Against the National Records of Scotland 2021 mid-year population estimate of 225,838 for 16-19 year olds, this report covers approximately 93% of that estimated population.

Chart 1 shows the headline participation percentages between 2018 and 2022. The results show the proportion of 16-19 year olds:

- Participation in education, training or employment has increased every year between 2018 and 2022 except for 2019. As a result, the rate of participation has increased by 0.5 pp from 91.8% in 2018 to 92.4% in 2022. Over the period, this improvement has mainly been driven by increased participation in education, as between 2018 and 2022 this increased by 1.8 pp, from 71.3% to 73.1%.
- Not participating decreased every year from 2017 to 2020 but has been increasing since 2021. Between 2021 and 2022 there was an increase by 0.7 pp in unemployed seeking and an increase by 0.1 pp unemployed not seeking. This increase was mainly among 19 year olds. The rise in non-participation in 2022 can be attributed to improved data quality achieved by the inclusion of Universal Credit data.
- Unconfirmed statuses have decreased every year since 2019.
 In the 2022 APM this decrease was balanced with a similar increase in not participating. In line with previous years, the majority of those reported as unconfirmed (52.2%) were 19 year olds.

Chart 1: Annual Participation Headlines 2018 - 2022



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 UC claimants, data for previous years remains unchanged. The impact of the absence of UC data should be kept in mind when making comparisons between 2022 and previous years.

SDS continues to work to reduce the proportion of young adults with an unconfirmed status. This includes ongoing discussions with HMRC to obtain access to Pay as You Earn Real Time Information for statistical purposes which would enhance the coverage of young adults who are in employment.

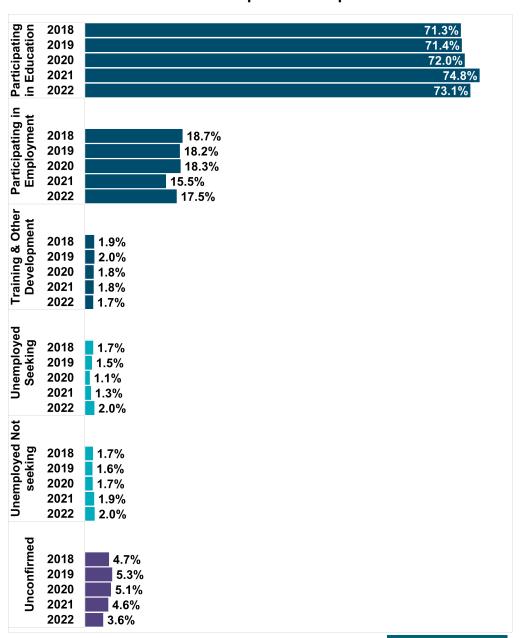


3. Annual Participation Measure by Status Grouping

Chart 2 provides a breakdown of the APM by status grouping. In 2022:

- 73.1% 16-19 year olds were in secondary or tertiary education, a decrease of 1.7 pp compared to 2021. This was due to a decrease of 1.8 pp in those participating in Further Education.
- 17.5% 16-19 year olds were in employment. This was a 2.0 pp increase compared to 2021. The lower rate in 2021 is likely to have been a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on available opportunities.
- 2.0% of 16-19 year olds were unemployed seeking employment and 2.0% were unemployed not seeking, an increase of 0.7 pp and 0.1 pp respectively compared to 2021. The rise in non-participation in 2022 can be attributed to improved data quality achieved by the inclusion of Universal Credit data.
- 95.6% of 16 year olds were in education compared to 96.6% in 2021, with the majority (91.5%) in a school pupil status.
- 80.7% of 17 year olds were in education compared to 82.7% in 2021, with the majority (66.6%) in a school pupil status.
- 51.5% of 18 year olds were reported in Higher or Further Education, with the next highest proportion in employment (24.5%).
- 51.6% of 19 year olds were reported in Higher or Further Education, with the next highest proportion in employment (31.3%) and 7.9% were unconfirmed.

Chart 2: Annual Participation Groups 2018 - 2022



4. 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 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 will be one of the sources of data 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.

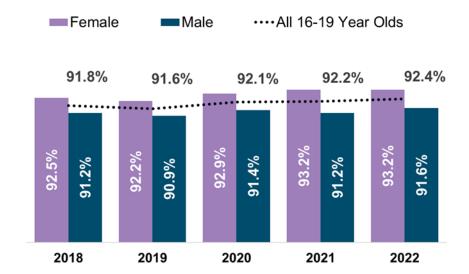
Care experience is not a protected characteristic. As a corporate parent, SDS is committed to treating care experience in the same way as others with protected characteristics. However, in the absence of reliable data, we are currently unable to include care experience in our analysis.

Gender

Chart 3 shows participation by gender. The results show:

- The participation rate for females remained the same while the participation rate for males increased by 0.4 pp over the last year.
- Females (93.2%) were more likely than males (91.6%) to be participating in education, training, or employment. This has been the case for all years 2018 to 2022.
- The gender participation gap is now 1.6 pp, a decrease of 0.4 pp between 2021 and 2022.
- Females were more likely than males to be participating in education (78.3% v 68.2%) and males were more likely to participate in employment (21.3% v 13.5%).

Chart 3: Participation by Gender, 2018 - 2022



2022 Annual Participation Measure for 16 - 19 year olds in Scotland

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

Ethnicity

Chart 4 shows participation by ethnicity. The results show:



- The participation rate between 2021 and 2022 increased for those from minority ethnic groups by 0.1 pp and increased by 0.2 pp for those identified as white.
- The participation rate of those from minority ethnic groups was 3.3 pp higher than those identified as white, a decrease 0.1 pp between 2021 and 2022.
- Those from minority ethnic groups were more likely to be in education (87.9%) than those identified as white (72.0%).

Disability

Chart 5 shows participation by disability. The results show:



- The participation rate amongst those identified as disabled increased by 0.5 pp between 2021 and 2022 from 88.3% to 88.7%. This was mainly driven by increased participation in employment which reached its highest level since the APM was introduced in 2016 (11.9%). However, this was still lower compared to those not identified as disabled (17.8%).
- The participation gap between those identified as disabled and not disabled has narrowed to 3.8 pp, a decrease of 0.3 pp from 2021.

Chart 4: Participation by Ethnicity, 2018 - 2022

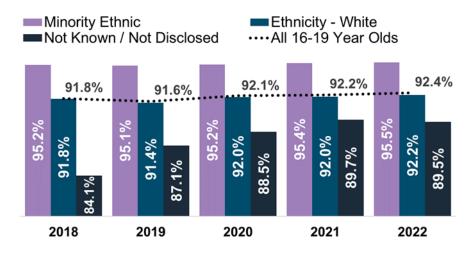
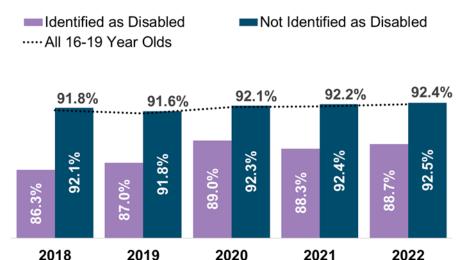


Chart 5: Participation by Disability, 2018 - 2022



5. Participation Rates Across Scotland

Local Authority

Chart 6 provides a breakdown of the 2022 APM headline results by Local Authority. In summary:

- Nineteen local authorities have a participation rate on or above the Scottish average (the remaining thirteen were below).
- The variation between the highest and lowest participation rate was 7.7 pp, down from 7.8 pp in 2021. Apart from a slight increase in 2021, the variation had decreased each year from 10.6 pp in 2016.
- The highest participation rate was in East Renfrewshire (97.0%) which decreased by 0.2 pp from 2021 (97.2%). East Renfrewshire also had the highest participation rate in 2021.
- The lowest participation rate was in Dundee City at 89.4%, which fell from 89.9% in 2021. By comparison, Aberdeen City which had the lowest rate in 2021 (89.4%) increased to 91.2%.
- The highest non-participation rate was in Dundee City at 7.2%, an increase of 1.8 pp compared to 2021. Dundee City also had the highest rate in 2021 (5.5%).
- The highest unconfirmed rate was in Moray at 5.3%, a decrease of 0.4 pp compared to 2021. North Ayrshire had the highest rate in 2021 (6.6%).

Chart 6: 2022 Participation Headlines by Local Authority

8	5%	% 90%		95%			100%	
East Renfrewshire	97.0%					1.6%	6 1.3%	o O
East Dunbartonshire	96.8%			1.0	0%		2.2%	
Eilean Siar	96.2%				1.6	%	2.2%	
Shetland Islands	96.0%				2.49	%	1.6%	
Orkney Islands	93.9%			3.5%			2.6%	
Stirling	93.9%			3.3%			2.8%	
Argyll & Bute	93.9%			3.8%			2.3%	Ī
Inverclyde	93.8%			3.8%			2.3%	
South Ayrshire	93.7%			3.0%			3.4%	
Perth & Kinross	93.7%			3.5%			2.8%	
West Lothian	93.4%			4.8%			1.8%	
Scottish Borders	93.4%			3.3%			3.4%	
Midlothian	93.4%			3.7%			3.0%	
Dumfries & Galloway	93.3%			3.7%			3.0%	
East Lothian	93.3%		2	2.8%			3.9%	
Renfrewshire	93.3%		(3.2%			3.6%	
Angus	93.2%		4	.7%			2.1%	
Aberdeenshire	93.1%		2	.7%			4.2%	
Highland	92.7%		3.3				4.0%	
South Lanarkshire	92.3%		3.4%	Ó			4.3%	
Edinburgh City	92.0%		3.7%				4.3%	
East Ayrshire	91.9%		5.1%				3.0%	
Moray	91.6%		3.1%				5.3%	
Falkirk	91.5%		4.2%				4.3%	
Aberdeen City	91.2%	4	.9%				3.9%	
Glasgow City	91.2%		.9%				3.9%	
Fife	91.2%	4	.9%				3.9%	
North Ayrshire	90.8%	4.8	3%				4.4%	
Clackmannanshire	90.7%	5.6	%				3.7%	
North Lanarkshire	90.2%	4.6%					5.2%	
West Dunbartonshire	90.1%	6.2%					3.7%	_
Dundee City	89.4%	7.2%					3.4%	
■ % Participating ■ % Not Participating ■ % Unconfirmed Status								

Chart 7 shows the percentage point change in participation between 2021 and 2022 by local authority.

In summary, the results show that between 2021 and 2022 the participation rate had:

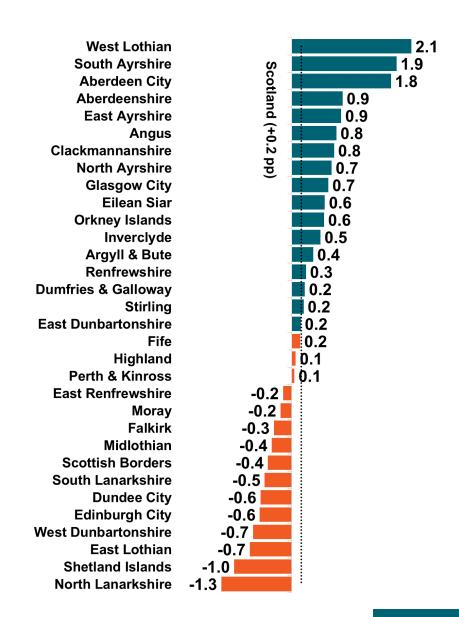
- increased in 20 of the 32 Local Authorities: and
- decreased in 12 of the 32 Local Authorities.

The greatest increase in participation between 2021 and 2022 was in West Lothian (+2.1 pp) and the greatest decrease was in North Lanarkshire (-1.3 pp).

The <u>supplementary tables</u> provide Local Authority information for participation, non-participation, and unconfirmed statuses for all APM publications. In comparison to 2021:

- Most local authorities had an increase in non-participation compared to 2021. The increases can be explained by the introduction of Universal Credit data which led to improvements in data quality.
 - Eilean Siar had the largest decrease in non-participation of
 -0.7 pp, decreasing from 2.3% in 2021 to 1.6% in 2022.
 - East Ayrshire had the largest increase in non-participation of 1.9 pp, increasing from 3.2% in 2021 to 5.1% in 2022.
- There were reductions in the unconfirmed rate in 26 local authorities and increases in 6.
 - South Ayrshire had the largest decrease in unconfirmed of 3.1 pp, decreasing from 6.5% in 2021 to 3.4% in 2022.
 - Shetland Islands had the largest increase in unconfirmed of 1.0 pp, increasing from 0.6% in 2021 to 1.6% in 2022.

Chart 7: Percentage point change in participation rate between 2021 and 2022, by Local Authority



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020)

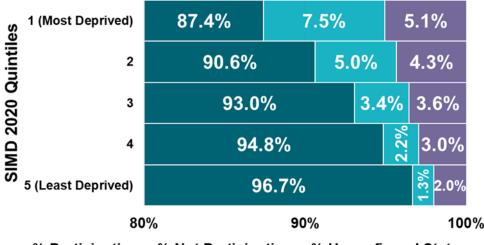
Chart 8 provides an overview of 16-19 year old participation by SIMD (2020) quintiles. It shows that:

- Those who lived in more deprived areas remained less likely to be participating within the 2022 annual measure than those from the less deprived areas.
- There was a 0.3 pp increase in participation between 2021 and 2022 for those living in Quintile 1 (the 20% most deprived areas).
- Participation within the less deprived areas (quintiles 4 and 5) increased between 2021 and 2022 by 0.2 pp and 0.3 pp respectively.

Data within the <u>supplementary tables</u> provides further information regarding participation amongst SIMD quintiles. In 2022:

- 16-19 year olds from the least deprived areas are more likely to be in education. 83.5% from the least deprived areas (quintile 5) were reported as participating in education compared to 66.0% for those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1), a difference of 17.5 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, 4.0% of those from quintile 1 were unemployed seeking compared to 0.5% from quintile 5.

Chart 8: 2022 Participation Headline by SIMD (2020) Quintiles



■ % Participating ■ % Not Participating ■ % Unconfirmed Status

Note to Readers



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

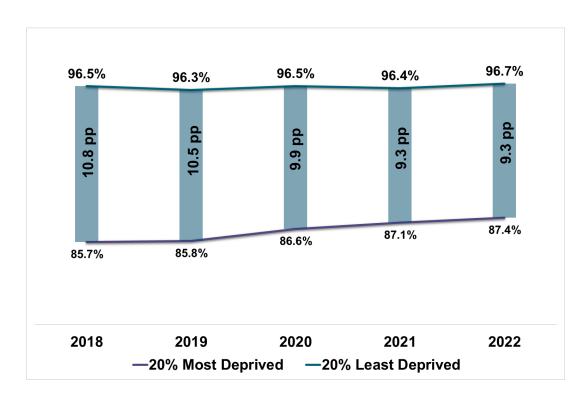
Chart 9 shows that the participation gap between those living in the 20% most deprived areas and those in the 20% least deprived areas continued to narrow between 2018 and 2022.

In 2022 there was a 9.3 pp gap between participation by 16-19 year olds living in the 20% most and least deprived areas.

Despite the participation rate increasing in every quintile except quintile 3, the size of the participation gap between most deprived areas and least deprived areas has not changed between 2021 and 2022.

- Participation in the 20% most deprived areas has increased by 1.7 pp between 2018 and 2022.
- Participation in the 20% least deprived areas has increased very slightly by 0.1 pp between 2018 and 2022.

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



6. 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 (44.9%) 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 more likely to live in an urban area. Most of both unemployed seeking (77.7%) and unemployed not seeking (74.5%) lived in urban areas³ By comparison, those living in urban areas accounted for 69.2% of the overall APM cohort.

Local Authorities



Collectively, Glasgow City, Fife and North Lanarkshire accounted 25.1% of the 16-19 population.⁴ However, almost a third (31.6%) of the national total of unemployed seeking lived in these council areas. The proportion of unemployed not seeking (26.9%) was broadly in line with 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 (64.8%) of those unemployed seeking were male.

There was no gender bias within those 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.

³ Background to Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification.

⁴ https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2021

Chart 10 shows that between 2021 and 2022, there was a decrease in the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds that were unemployed seeking. On the other hand, there were increases among both 18 year olds (+0.1 pp) and 19 year olds (+3.2 pp). For all 16-19 year olds this resulted in an overall increase of 0.7 pp.

• The age group with the largest proportion of 'unemployed seeking' was 19 year olds (52.4%). When combined with 18 year olds, these two age groups accounted for just over four fifths (81.4%) of those reported as unemployed seeking.

Chart 11 shows that between 2021 and 2022, while the proportion that were unemployed not seeking in each year group varied, for all 16-19 year olds there was only a slight increase of 0.1 pp.

- The largest increase was in the 19 year old age group, increasing by 0.7 pp.
- 19 year olds accounted for the highest proportion of those who were unemployed not seeking employment. Together with 18 year olds, these made up just over three quarters (78.6%) of the unemployed not seeking cohort.

Chart 10: Percentage Unemployed Seeking Employment or Training by Age, 2018 - 2022

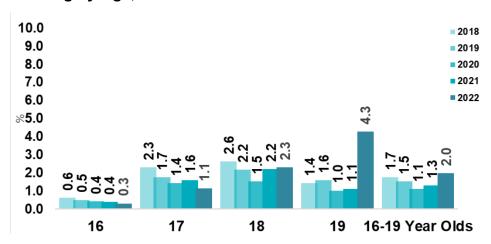
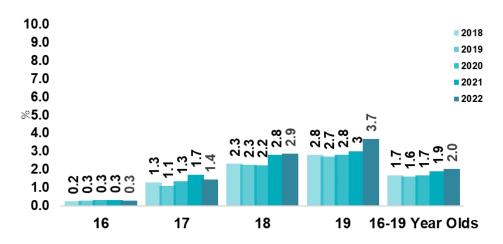


Chart 11: Percentage Unemployed Not Seeking Employment or Training by Age, 2018 - 2022



7. Analysis of those with an Unconfirmed Status

The number of individuals in 2022 with an unconfirmed status was 7,651 (3.6%). **Chart 12** shows how the percentage of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status varied between 2018 to 2022. The inclusion of Universal Credit data in 2022 has led to reduction in the level of unconfirmed.

- The percentage of 16 to 19 year olds with an unconfirmed status fell by 1.0 pp from 4.6% in 2021 to 3.6% in 2022.
- The proportion of unconfirmed statuses fell across all age groups. The largest decreases in unconfirmed statues were in the 19 and 17 year old age groups. These fell by 2.6 pp and 0.7 pp respectively. This is primarily because of the inclusion of Universal Credit data in 2022.
- The majority of those with an unconfirmed status were aged 19 (52.2%). In each year of the Annual Participation measure, the majority of those unconfirmed have been aged 19.

Further information regarding those with an unconfirmed status can be found in the <u>supplementary tables</u>.

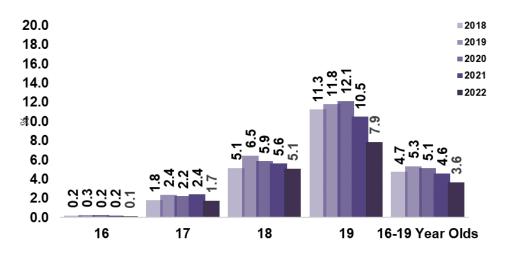


An unconfirmed status was more common amongst males than females.

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. Just under a third (31.1%) of 16-19 year olds with an unconfirmed status lived in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland, compared to just over 22.3% of the overall cohort.

Chart 12: Percentage with an Unconfirmed Status by age, 2018 - 2022



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.

It may be that some of these individuals had taken up employment, but it has not been possible to confirm this as SDS does not currently have a full administrative data feed of employment information. In 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)

8. Further Resources

Further resources are available on the Annual Participation Measure webpage:

- The publication's <u>supplementary tables</u> 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 <u>interactive PowerBl report</u> 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:

1

The next Annual Participation Measure will be published in August 2023.

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Appendix 1: Impact of Universal Credit

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 18 and over in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support. These benefits were replaced by Universal Credit (UC). Although the rollout of UC commenced in March 2016 and was completed in December 2018, 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 economically inactive). 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.

However, it should be noted that through the delivery of our 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 $18\frac{1}{2}$ 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.
- In the absence of HMRC data, DWP data was used to identify when 18 to 19 year olds had left employment.
- DWP data was used to update individuals from unconfirmed to unemployed seeking.

As the results in this 2022 report 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.

Discussions with HMRC to obtain access Pay as You Earn Real Time Information are ongoing. Positive progress has been made in obtaining this information for statistical purposes only. This would further improve the data quality within the APM statistics. However, further work will be required to gain access to this data to allow it to be integrated into the shared dataset to improve the tracking of young adults by SDS and its partners.