

Scotland's People Annual Report

Key findings | 2017

A National Statistics publication for Scotland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Acknowledgements

The Scottish Government acknowledges and thanks the 10,680 people across Scotland who gave their time to take part in the Scottish Household Survey 2017.

This report was produced by the Scottish Household Survey Project Team at the Scottish Government.

We would also like to thank all the Scottish Government lead analysts who contributed to the project.

Finally, special thanks to Ipsos MORI and their interviewers for continuous and relentless efforts during the fieldwork.



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National indicators in SHS



- Satisfaction with housing
- Perceptions of local area
- Access to green and blue space
- Places to interact (available in 2018)
- Social capital (available in 2018)
- Loneliness (available in 2018)
- Journeys by active travel
- Visits to the outdoors
- Attendance at cultural events or places of culture
- Participation in a cultural activity
- Public services treat people with dignity and respect
- Quality of public services
- Influence over local decisions

Introduction



What is the Scottish Household Survey?

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a continuous survey based on a random sample of the general population in private residences in Scotland. Questions are asked face-to-face by an interviewer in homes all over Scotland. Participation is voluntary, but it is important in helping us make representative estimates for Scotland.

The survey started in 1999 and is essentially three surveys in one; Transport and Travel in Scotland survey, the Scottish House Condition Survey as well as the SHS. It covers a wide range of topics to allow links to be made between different policy areas.

What is involved for those who take part?

Each home selected to take part receives an advance letter and leaflet in the post explaining that an interviewer from Ipsos MORI will call.

About a third of households are randomly selected to take part in Scottish House Condition Survey, which normally takes place shortly after the interview, at a convenient time selected by the householder. This non-intrusive survey is completed by a qualified surveyor who will assess the condition and energy efficiency of the selected homes.

Why is it important?

It is a unique chance for people in Scotland to tell about their views and experiences on a range of issues and to shape each local area and Scotland as a whole. Since its beginning in 1999, it has helped shape various public services over that time.

At national and local level, analysis of SHS data is also used to identify which people or areas need funding most, including in transport and housing. For example, Scottish Government analysis of SHS data identified lower internet access by those living in social housing. Up until then it had been thought that access to the internet was lowest by those that rented from private landlords. Knowing the facts meant that funding could be correctly targeted at social housing tenants in order to provide affordable broadband access and training. So far there has been a 19% increase in the number of social housing tenants online.

Confidentiality

The Scottish Household Survey report is produced under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics are produced free of political interference, to agreed standards, and undergo regular quality assurance reviews.

For more information, visit <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/code-of-practice/>



What does it provide?

The survey provides robust evidence on the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of private households and individuals as well as evidence on the physical condition of Scotland's homes.

The current scale of the SHS enables all users to obtain a robust deeper understanding of issues and performance, by being able to analyse across key demographic household characteristics such as deprivation, age, income, gender, rurality, ethnicity and other equalities. This is crucial to informing the Fairer Scotland agenda.

What is the SHS used for?

Scotland's largest random pre-selected survey is at the centre of Scotland's evidence approach to policy-making. This is some of the ways in which the evidence it provides is used:

- Housing data is used to determine the size of the Private Rented Sector in Scotland and is a crucial element of National Records of Scotland (NRS) Household Projections, which Local Authorities use at the core of their Housing Plans. Affordable Housing Funding is allocated using these projections.
- Much of data is used for key performance monitoring frameworks, including: 13 out of 80 of Scotland Performs indicators, half of the Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicators, over half of Active Scotland Outcome Indicators, and over a quarter of the Child Poverty Measurement Framework Indicators.

- It is the only source of Fuel Poverty evidence and the only nationally representative source of data on energy efficiency, house conditions and quality. This evidence is used extensively in the design, targeting and funding allocations for SG energy efficiency programmes (SEEP).
- The Travel Diary component of the SHS is a unique data source on personal travel patterns, which underpins analysis of future transport needs and economic business cases for national and local transport infrastructure investment projects.
- Transport and Housing Energy Efficiency data are crucial for monitoring carbon emissions, informing Climate Change policies and progress.
- All Local Authorities in Scotland use the data in their Single Outcome Agreements; the Improvement Service use data for the Local Government Benchmarking Framework; Community Planning Partnerships to understand and improve local needs and circumstances.
- There is particular interest in SHS local data on communities, local services, neighbourhoods, volunteering, recycling and access to outdoors and greenspace.

The SHS collects and publishes a wide array of information, a list of key resources can be found on p28.

Survey Design

The survey uses a fully un-clustered core and modular structure; some questions are asked of the full sample and others of a one-third sub-sample, the visual representation of this structure is provided below. This includes a “core” set of 20 questions – the SHS is pooled together with the Scottish Health and Crime and Justice surveys to create a large Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) sample.

The overall sample size is nearly 11,000 households, with local authority estimates available on an annual basis.

The social questionnaire is in two parts:

- Household – completed by the highest income householder or their partner
- Random Adult (including ‘Travel Diary’) – completed by one of the adults in the household, selected randomly by a computer.

The full list of topics covered in both sections can be viewed on [our website](#).

Further information on the questionnaire structure and the sample design can be found in the [Technical report](#) and the full SHS [Questionnaire](#).

Representation of multi-year core and modular design

Module	Frequency	2014	2015	2016	2017
Core	Annual				
Full	Annual				
Full	Biennial				
1/3	Annual	  	  	  	  
1/3	Biennial	  	  	  	  
Physical	Annual				

2,330,000 households and
4,290,000 adults across **Scotland**
were **eligible** to take part in the **survey**



Around **18,000** households
were **randomly** selected

10,680
households
9,810
adults
participated

Overall
response
rate was
64%

For further technical information,
including how response rate is
calculated, see the [Technical report](#)

Composition of households

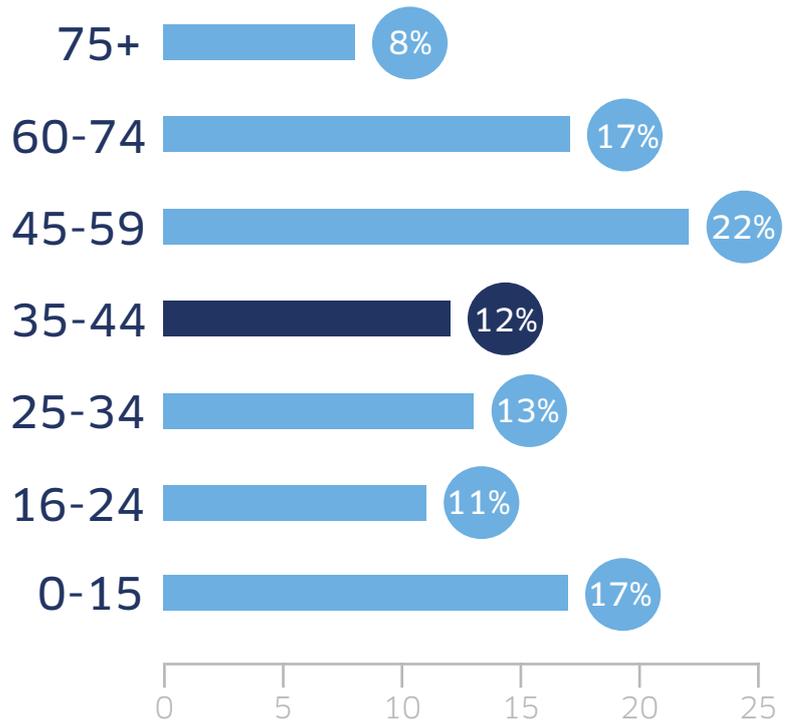
Characteristics of adults

Almost half (46%) were aged 45 years or more.

There were more women (51%) than men (49%).

Nearly three in ten adults reported having a long-term physical or mental health condition.

Age of adults

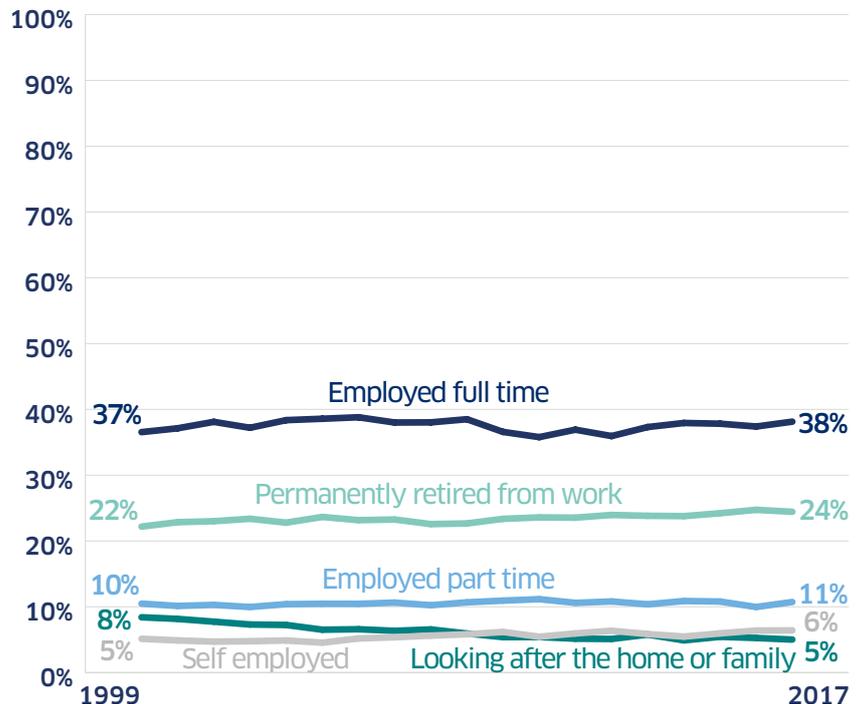


Economic status

The proportion of adults who were employed full time has been roughly stable since 1999.

The proportion of people who were permanently retired from work increased to 24%.

The proportion of those looking after the home or family decreased to 5%.



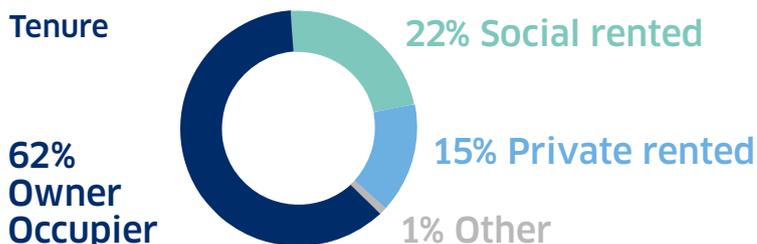


Characteristics of households



84% of people in Scotland live in urban areas, while only 16% live in rural areas.

Over six in ten (62%) households are owner occupied. Over one in five (22%) are social rented.



Household type*



More than a third of adults live alone (35%):

- 20% as single adult
- 14% as single older households.

Only 5% are large families consisting of 2 adults and 3 or more children, or 3 or more adults with 1 or more children.

* For full definition on household type please see Glossary.

Figures might not add up to 100% due to rounding.

= proportion of all households this type makes up

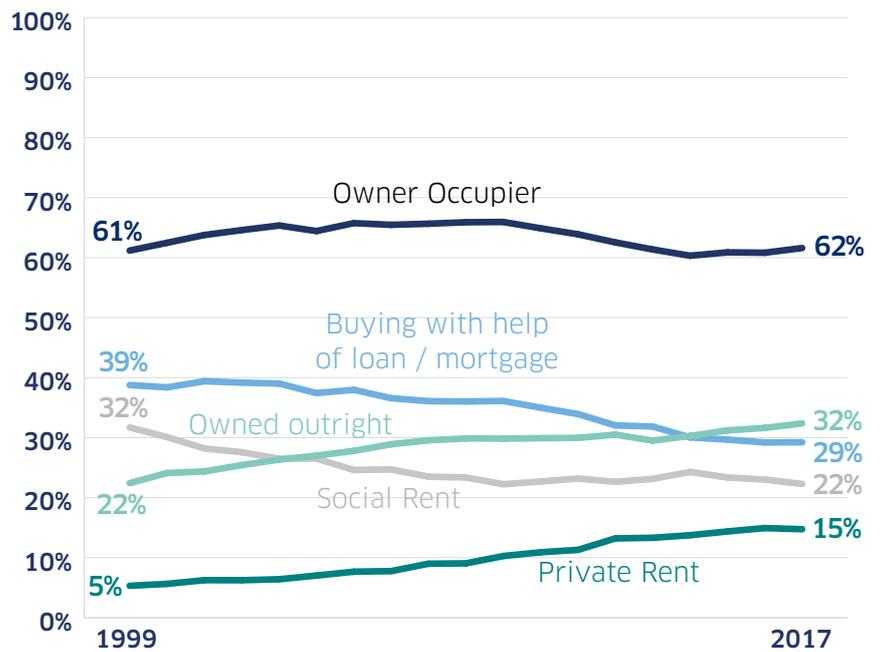
Housing

Tenure over time

The private rented sector grew steadily from 5% in 1999 to 15% in 2016, although the proportion has remained similar at 15% in the latest year 2017.

The social rented sector declined from 32% in 1999 to 23% in 2007, and has remained around this level since then.

Whilst the proportion of owner occupied homes in 2017 is at a similar level to 1999, there has been an increase in those owning outright and a decrease in those buying with a mortgage throughout this time period.

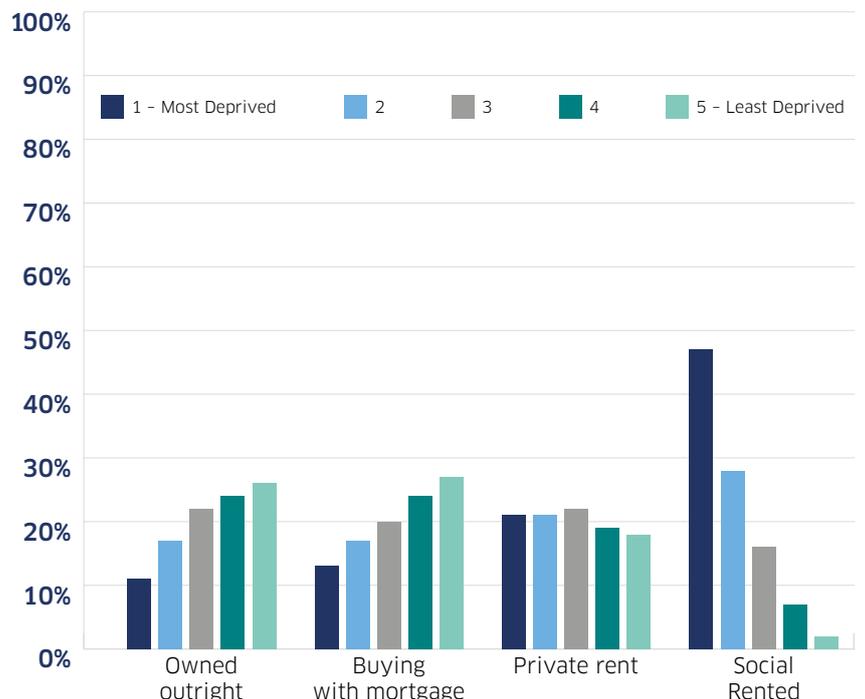


Deprivation

In 2017, half of owner occupier properties (owned outright and buying with a mortgage) are located in the 40% least deprived areas of Scotland, whilst only 12% are in the 20% most deprived areas. Private rented properties are located fairly evenly across deprivation areas.

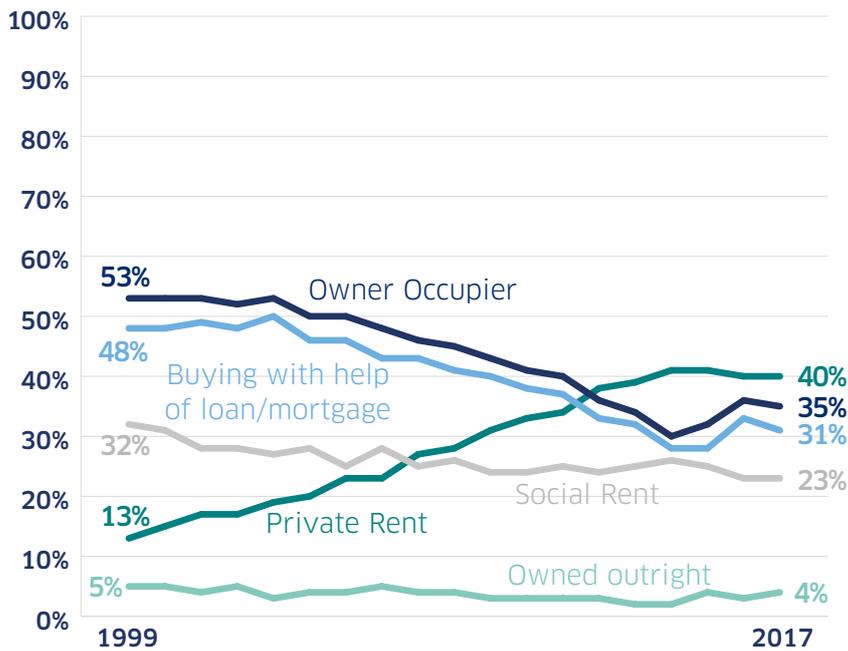
For social rented properties, three-quarters (75%) are located in the 40% most deprived areas, with only 2% in the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland.

Tenure by area deprivation





Tenure of households with highest income householder (HIH) aged 16-34

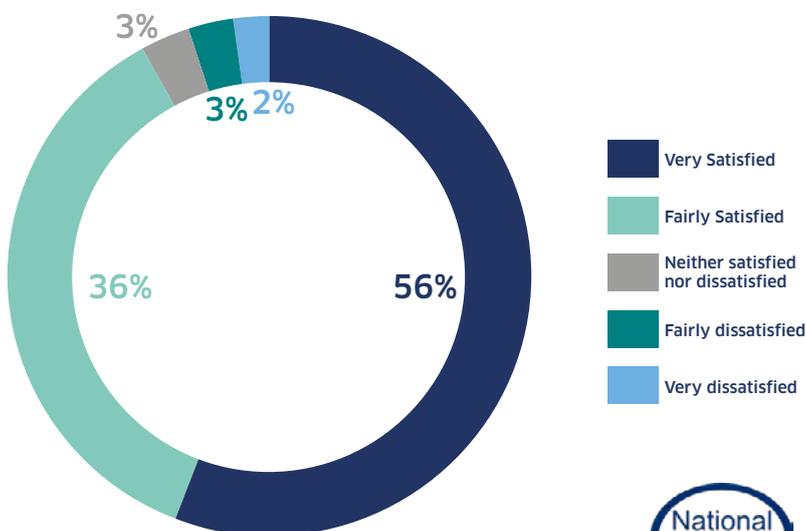


Households where the HIH was aged 16-34

During 2017, the proportion of households with a highest income householder aged between 16 and 34 years living in the private rented sector increased substantially from 13% in 1999 to 41% in 2015, but has remained at a similar level of around 40% since then.

Satisfaction with housing

In 2017, over nine in ten households (92%) reported that they were very or fairly satisfied with their housing, with 56% being very satisfied and 36% being fairly satisfied.



Neighbourhoods

Rating of neighbourhoods

Ratings of neighbourhoods have been consistently high with over nine in ten adults viewing their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live since 1999.

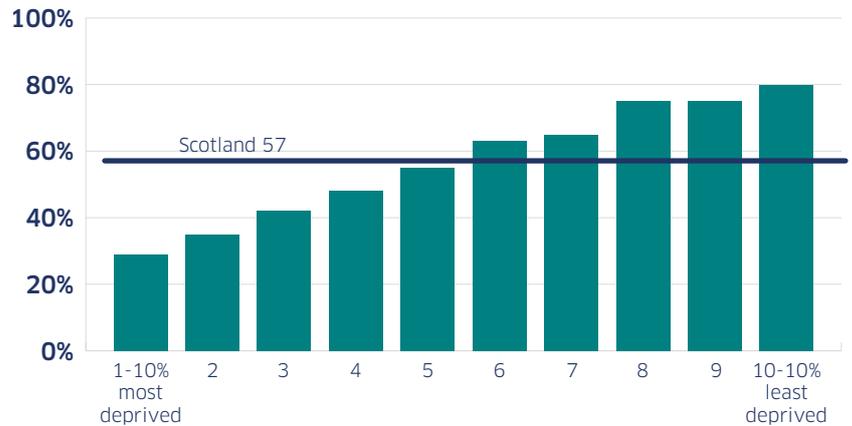
Nearly all (95%) adults rate their area as (very or fairly) good place to live.

In 2017 majority of adults (57%) rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live.



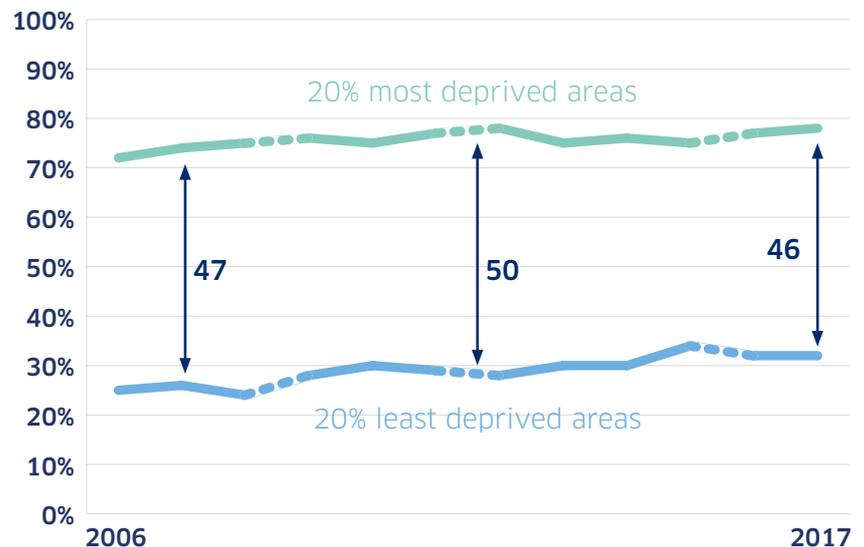
But this rating varies by area deprivation

However, this rating increases as area deprivation decreases. Only 29% of adults in the 10% most deprived areas rate it as very good place to live, compared to 80% in the 10% least deprived areas. Although a further 53% of adults in the 10% most deprived area rated it as a fairly good place to live, compared to 19% of adults in the 10% least deprived area.



The gap between the 20% most and 20% least deprived areas has been similar between 2007 and 2017

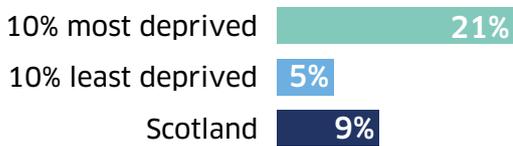
Adults in less deprived areas are more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. This has been a consistent finding in recent years. Whilst the proportion of people living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas who rate their neighbourhood as very good has increased over the last decade, the gap between the most and least deprived areas in 2017 was broadly a similar size as in 2007 when we look at those describing their neighbourhood as very good.





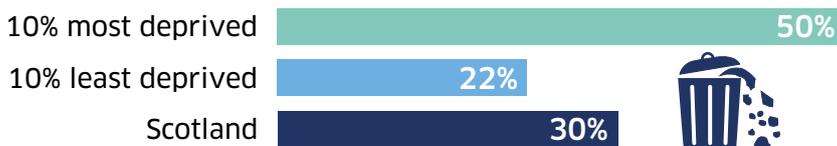
Perception of neighbourhood problems

Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property



Most potential neighbourhood problems are not considered to be particularly common. The most common issue in 2017 was animal nuisance, reported as being very or fairly common by 32%.

Rubbish or litter lying around



Experience of neighbourhood problems

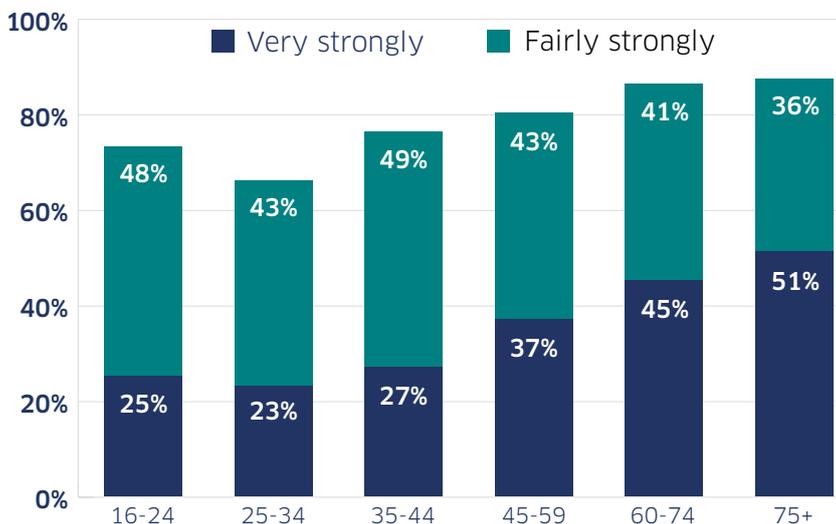
Although 43% of all adults reported that they did not experience any neighbourhood problems in 2017, the proportion has decreased in recent years. Those living in the 20% most deprived areas were most likely to experience neighbourhood problems.

Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling



Community engagement

Almost eight in ten (78%) adults had a strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2017 but this varied by age, ethnicity and deprivation.



Economic activity

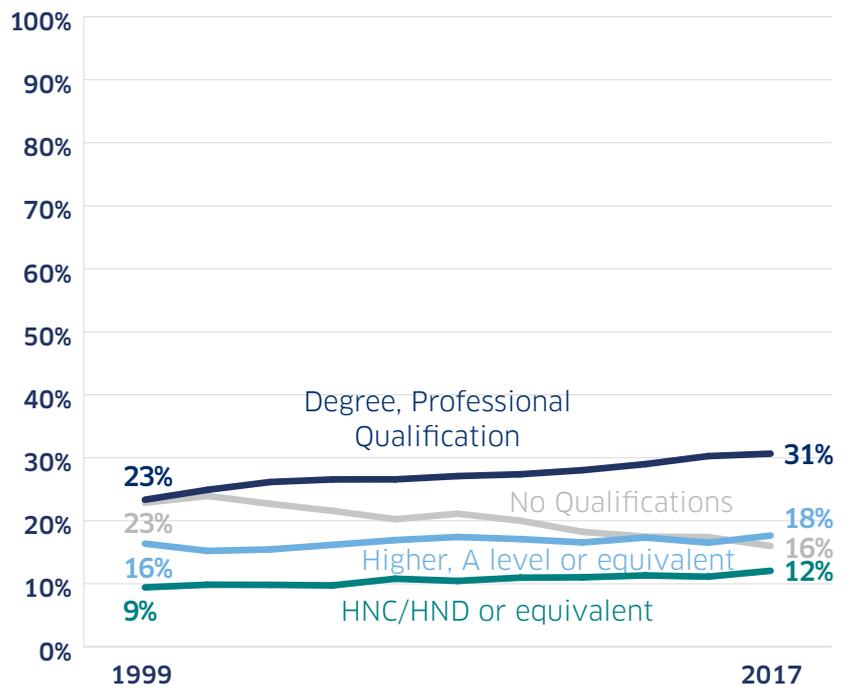


Highest level of qualification

83% of adults held some kind of qualifications as compared to 77% of adults in 2007.

This increase is mainly due to an increase in people having a degree or professional qualification.

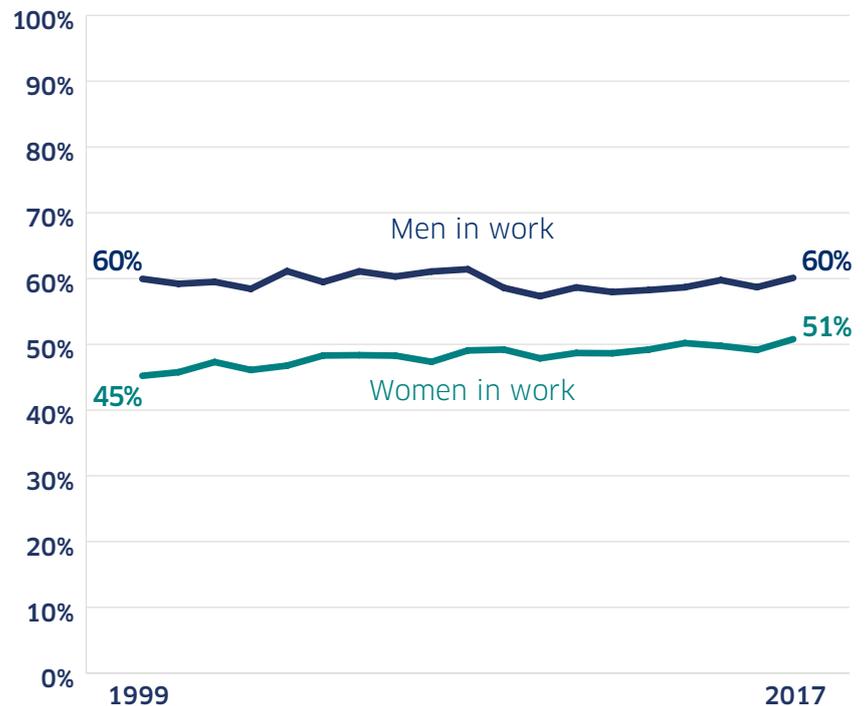
Qualifications



Proportion of men and women in work*

The proportion of women in work has increased since 1999, narrowing the gap between the number of men and women currently in work.

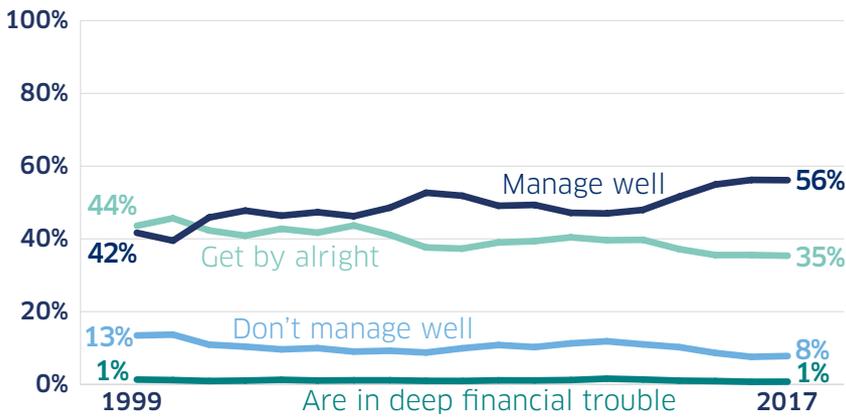
*In work includes full and part-time employment and the self-employed. Based on adults aged 16+



Household Finances



How households have been managing financially



More households report they are managing well financially.

Over half of households (56%) reported they managed well or very well financially in 2017, an increase of 14 percentage points since 1999.

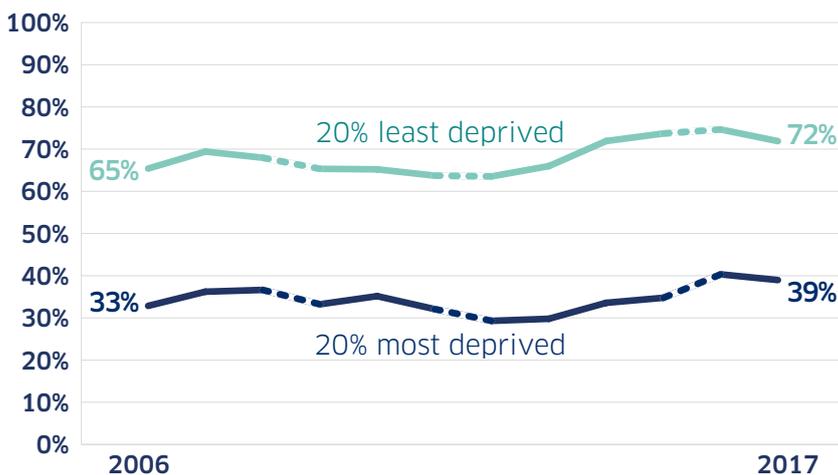
During the same period, the proportion of households who didn't manage well fell by 6 percentage points.

Households who didn't manage well



Single parent and single adult households were most likely to report they were not managing well financially.

Households who manage well by area deprivation



Households in more deprived areas are much less likely to say they are managing well financially, and the gap between the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas has not changed much over time.

Internet

Home internet access in Scotland is high and continuing to increase.

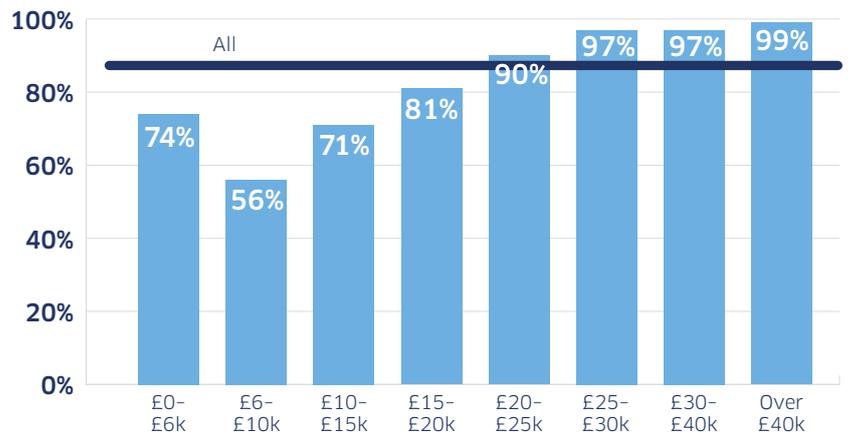
85% of Scottish households reported having internet access at home in 2017, an increase from 42% in 2003.

In 2017 most of homes (85%) had access to the internet.



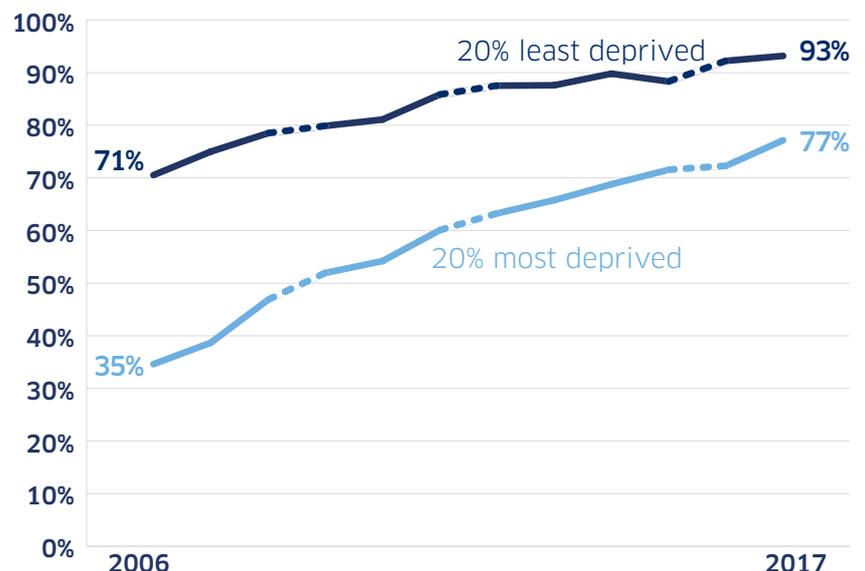
Internet access varied by income

Home internet access varied with income, with those on the lowest incomes being less likely to have home internet access.



Internet access by area deprivation

Households in Scotland's most deprived areas continue to be less likely to have home internet access than those in less deprived areas, but the gap has narrowed in recent years.





Internet Use

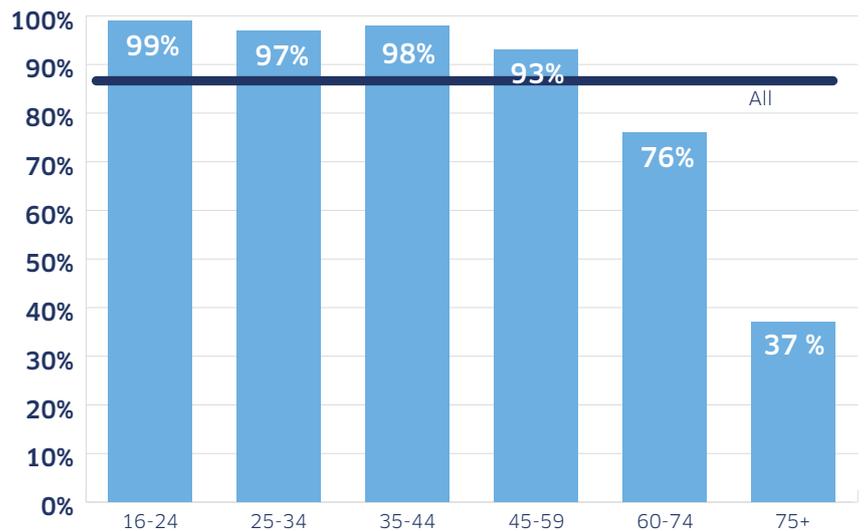
Only one in seven adults did not use the internet in 2017, compared to one in six in 2016.

In 2017, one in seven (14%) adults did not use the internet.



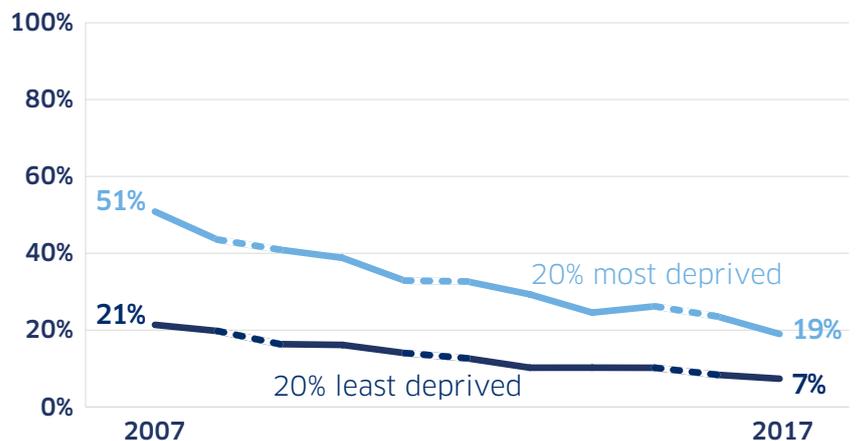
Percentage of adults who used the internet varied by age

Internet usage varied with Age, with older adults continuing to be less likely to use the internet.

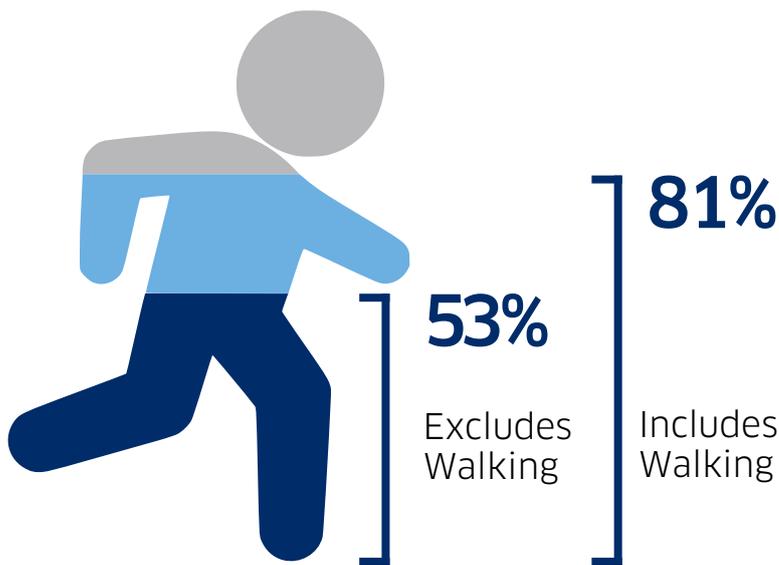


Percentage of adults who did not use the internet varied by area deprivation

As with home internet access, internet use also varied by area deprivation although the gap has narrowed in recent years. In the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland 19% of adults reported not using the internet in 2017, compared with 7% in the 20% least deprived areas.



Sport and Physical Activity



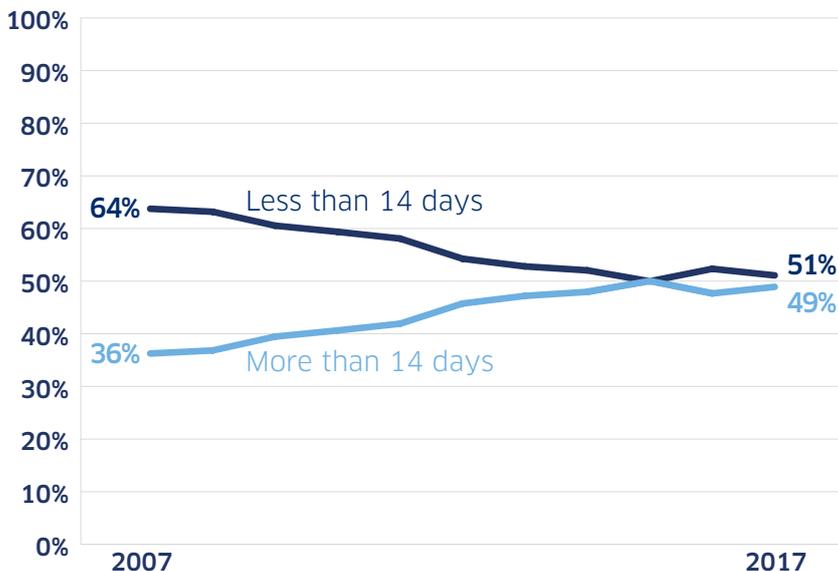
Participation in sport & exercise in past month

In 2017 the vast majority of adults (81%) had taken part in physical activity and sport in the previous four weeks.

Participation in all physical activity and sport remained relatively constant between 2007 and 2010 (around 72%).

Since then people have become more active (rising to 75 per cent in 2011 and again to 81 per cent in 2017). The rise in physical activity is driven by the rise in recreational walking.

Frequency of participation



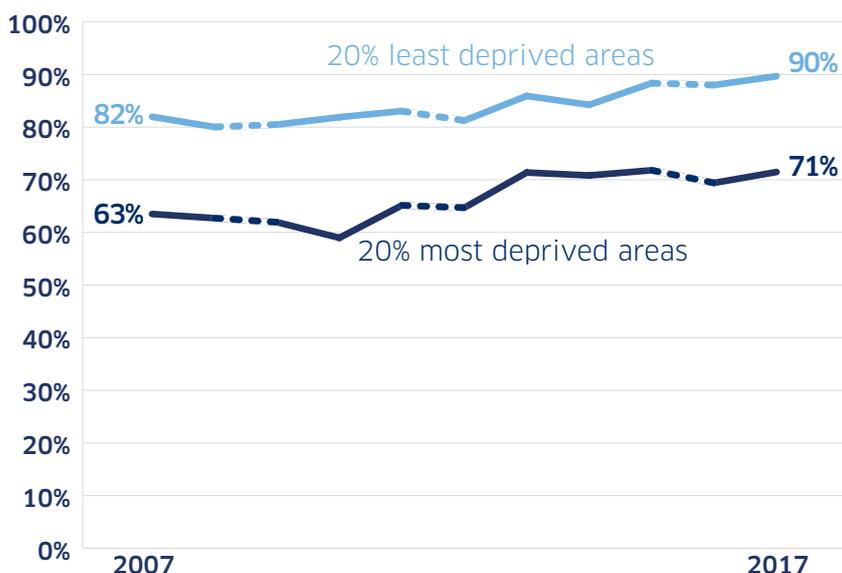
The frequency of participation in physical activity and sport among participants has increased since 2007.

The proportion of those who participated frequently (14+ days in the past 4 weeks) increased from just over a third (36 per cent) in 2007, to almost a half (49 per cent) in 2017.

It would appear this increase in frequency of participation is due to individuals who are already active becoming more active.



Participation in sport & exercise by SIMD



The gap between participation in sport and physical activity in the most and least deprived areas has been consistent over time.

In 2017, participation in physical activity and sport (including recreational walking) is lower for those living in the most deprived areas (71 per cent) compared to those living in the least deprived areas (90 per cent).

The most popular types of physical activity or sport

-  **70% Walking (at least 30 minutes)**
-  **18% Swimming**
-  **15% Keep Fit/Aerobics**
-  **15% Multigym/Weight Training**
-  **14% Running/Jogging**
-  **12% Cycling (at least 30 minutes)**
-  **7% Dancing**
-  **7% Football**
-  **6% Snooker/Billiards/Pool**
-  **5% Golf**

The most common activity in 2017 was walking for at least 30 minutes (for recreational purposes), reported by 70 per cent of adults.

Excluding recreational walking, the most popular physical activities and sports were swimming, keep fit/aerobics, multigym/weight training and running/jogging.

Local Services

Satisfaction with local services

In 2017, 52 % of adults were satisfied with three public services: local health services, schools and public transport.

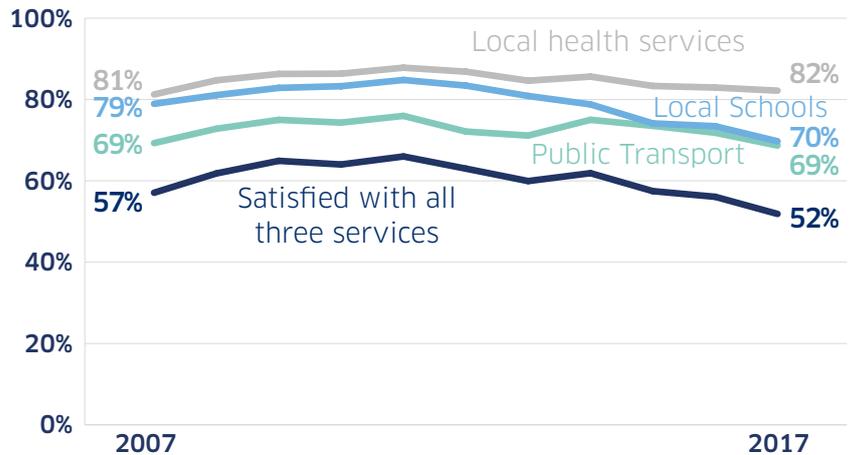
Satisfaction with local services has fallen in recent years



Satisfaction with local services over time

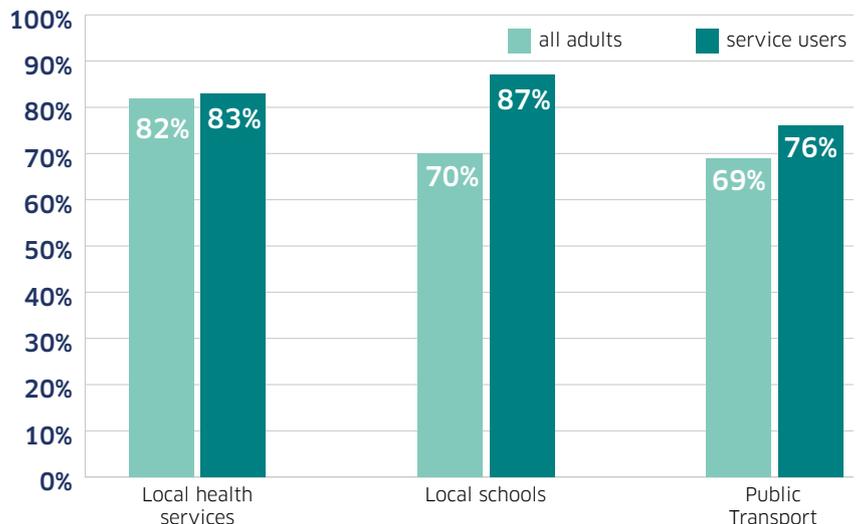
Satisfaction with the three public services was at its lowest level since first measured in 2007, and down from a peak of 66% in 2011.

Adults living in urban areas were more satisfied with the quality of the three public services than those in small towns and rural areas – mainly due to greater satisfaction with public transport.



Satisfaction with local services by service users (whole adult population and services users only)

Satisfaction with the three public services among service users is generally higher than that of the whole adult population, and is more stable over time.





In 2017 just under a quarter of adults agreed that they can influence local decision-making.

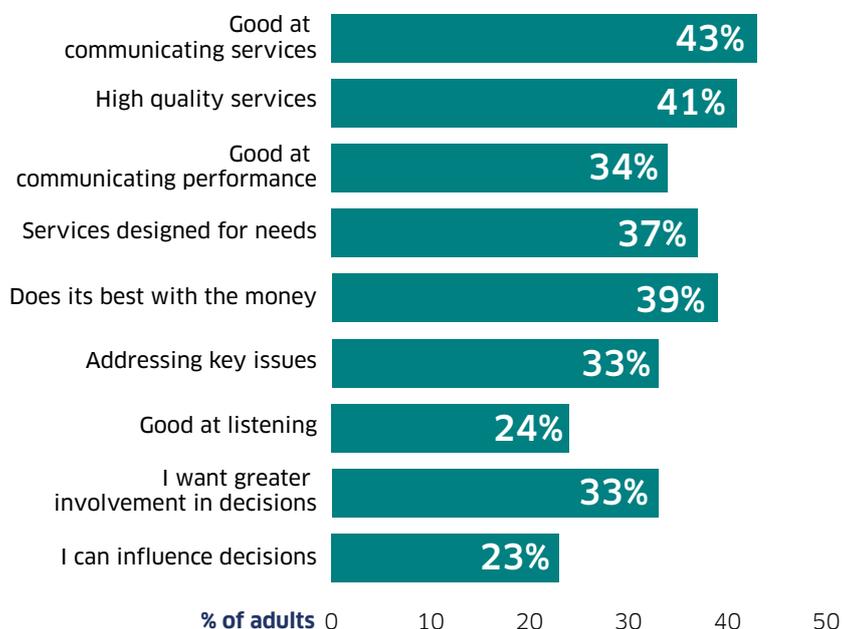


Influence over local decision making

In 2017, just under a quarter of adults (23%) agreed that they can influence decisions affecting their local area, an increase from 20% in 2007.

In 2017, a third (33%) of adults said they would like to be more involved in the decisions their council makes, a decrease from 38% in 2007.

Percentage of adults agreeing with the following statements on local authority performance



Generally, older adults were more likely than younger adults to say they were satisfied with local government performance and less likely to want to be more involved in making decisions.

Environment

Climate change

An increasing proportion of adults in Scotland believe that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem.

Six in ten adults (61%) viewed climate change as an immediate and urgent problem, a 6 percentage point increase since 2016.

Concern about climate change has increased in particular among the 16-24 age group, and was lowest among the 75+ age group.

61% of adults in 2017 thought that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem



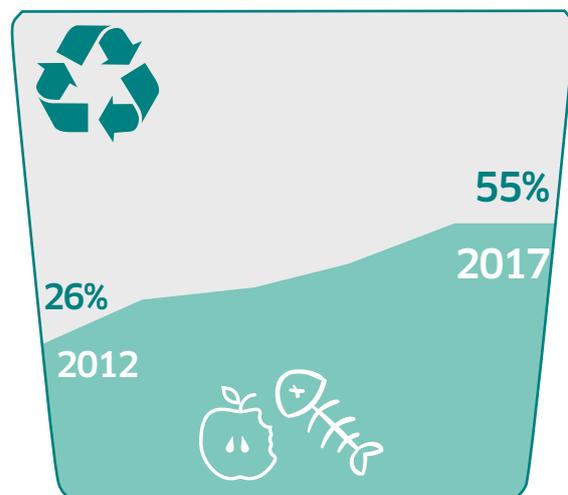
Recycling

More households are now disposing of their food waste in local authority-provided food caddies (55% in 2017 compared with 26% in 2012).

While more people in houses than flats use food waste recycling caddies, the proportion of use in flats is increasing.

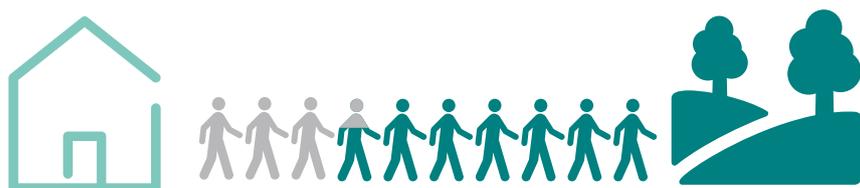
The rate of food waste composting and disposal of food waste with general rubbish is higher in rural areas compared to urban areas.

Use of food waste caddies





Access to greenspace



 **5 Min**

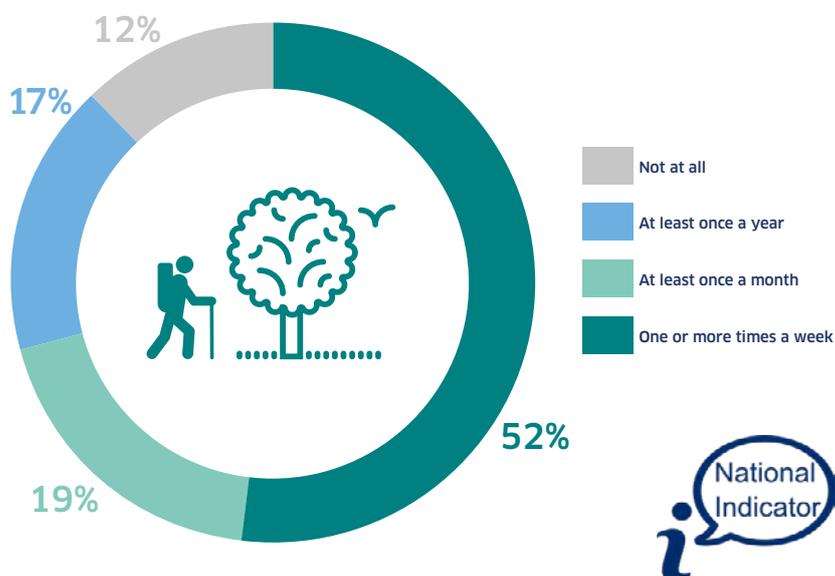


Those living closer to their nearest greenspace were more likely to use it more frequently.

Most adults (65 per cent) lived within a five minute walk of their nearest area of greenspace, a similar proportion to 2016.

More than a third of adults (37 per cent) visited their nearest area of greenspace at least once a week, which was around the same proportion since 2013, when comparable figures were first collected.

Visits to outdoors



Over a half of adults (52%) visited the outdoors at least once a week in the last year, an increase from 48% in 2016.

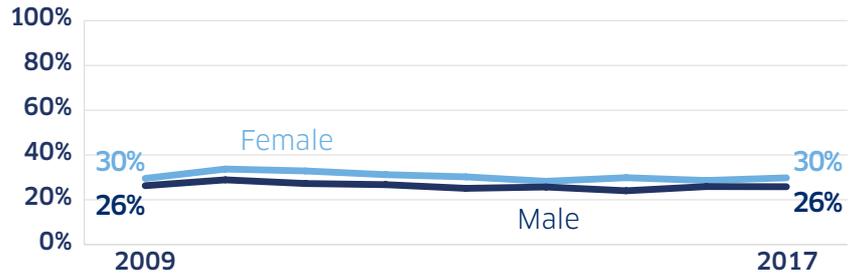
Adults living in the most deprived areas were more likely not to have made any visits to the outdoors in the past twelve months (20%) compared to those in the least deprived areas (6%).

Volunteering

Levels of volunteering

Levels of volunteering have remained relatively stable over the last 9 years, with almost three in ten adults (28%) providing unpaid help to organisations or groups.

Levels of volunteering have been stable since 2009



Profile of volunteers

Overall, in 2017 as in every other year, more women (30%) than men (26%) volunteered in the last 12 months.

The profile of volunteers has also remained relatively stable over time.

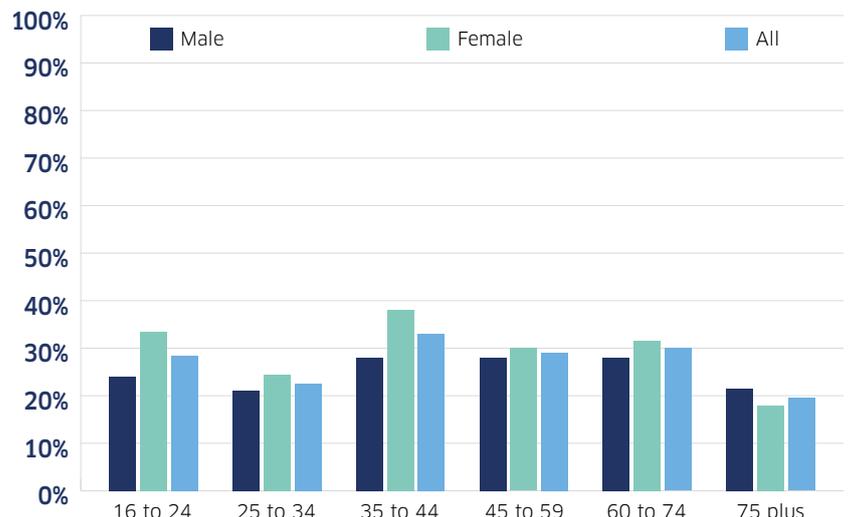
Volunteers are more likely to be:

- women
- from higher socio-economic and income groups
- from rural areas
- from less deprived areas
- employed or in full-time education
- Have a degree or professional qualification.



Percentage of adults who volunteer by age

Volunteering varied by age. The largest difference in male and female volunteers was in 35-44 age group, closely followed by 16-24 age group. The lowest level of volunteering was among men aged 25 to 34 compared to all of the other age groups under 75.





Top 10 types of organisations for which adults provided help

21% Children’s activities associated with schools

20% Youth/Children

19% Local community/neighbourhood groups

17% Sport/exercise (coaching or organising)

17% Hobbies/recreation/arts/social clubs

16% Health, disability and social welfare

15% Religious groups

11% The elderly

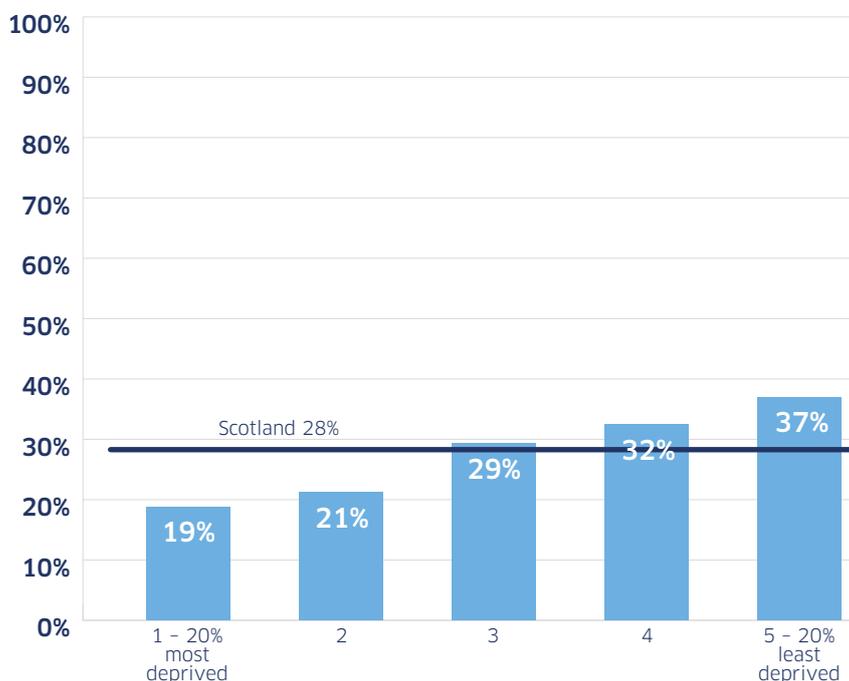
7% Environmental protection

6% Education for adults

Types of organisations

The type of organisations most commonly volunteered for were ‘children’s activities associated with schools’, ‘youth or children’ organisations, and ‘local community or neighbourhood groups’.

Levels of volunteering by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation



The levels of volunteering increased as area deprivation decreased, 19% of adults in the 20% most deprived areas volunteered in 2017 compared to 37% of adults in the 20% least deprived areas.

Culture

Cultural engagement

Over nine in ten (93%) adults were culturally engaged in 2017, either by attending or visiting a cultural event or place or by participating in a cultural activity.

The level of cultural engagement has increased by around 6 percentage points since first recorded in 2007.

In 2017 almost all adults (93%) engaged in culture, either attending a cultural place or participating in a cultural activity.



Deprivation

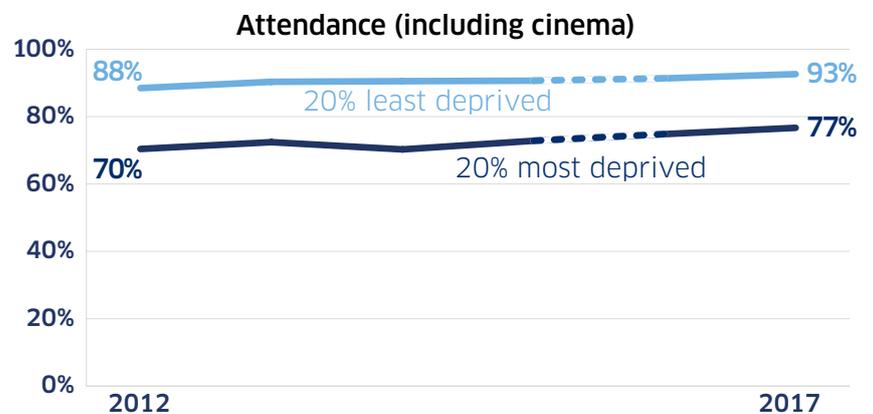
However, the levels of cultural attendance and participation vary with area deprivation, as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

In 2017 there was a 16 percentage point difference in cultural attendance (including cinema) between the 20% most and 20% least deprived areas (77% compared with 93%).

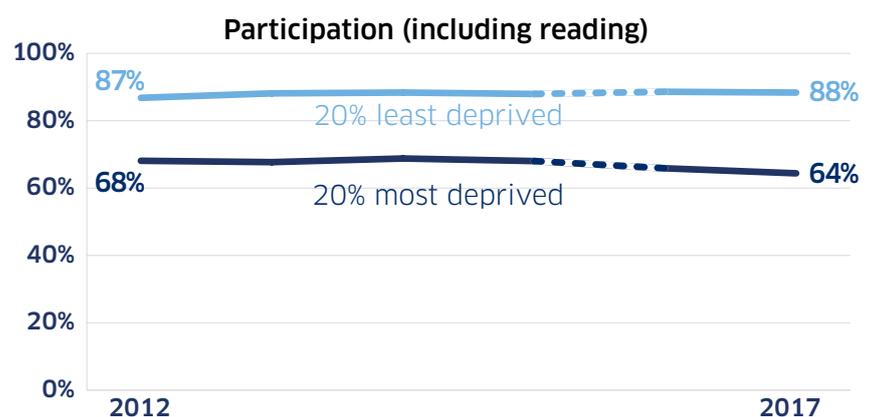
This gap has narrowed since 2014 when the gap was 20 percentage points.

There is a gap between the most and least deprived areas also when examining cultural participation. However, the gap in participation when reading is included increased since 2012.

Cultural attendance (including cinema) by area deprivation



Cultural participation (including reading) by area deprivation





Change in cultural attendance since 2012



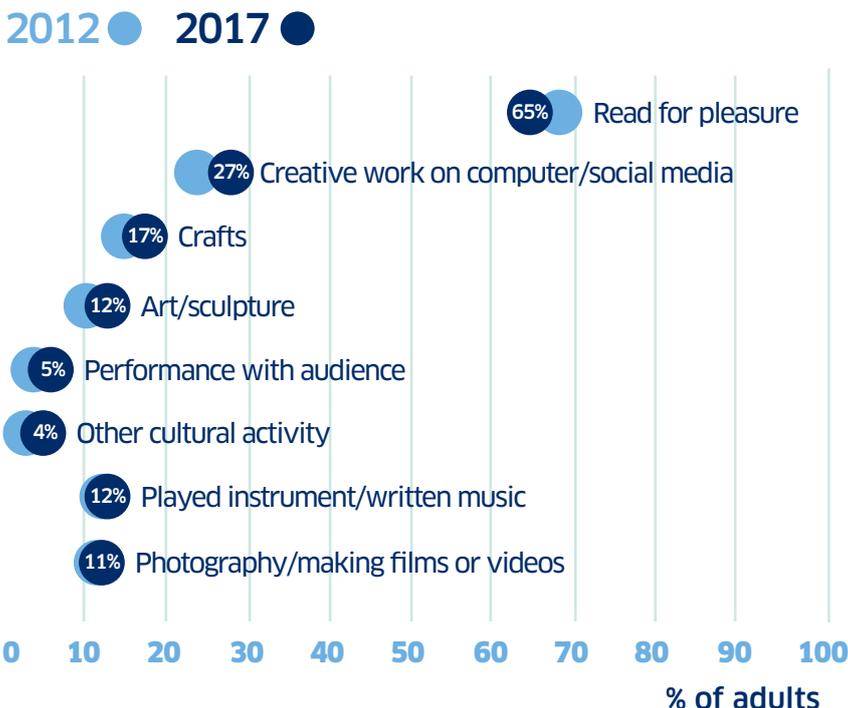
Cinemas, museums, historical places, street arts and cultural festivals were visited by more people in 2017 compared to 2012, an increase in each of these by around 5%.

Libraries were visited by fewer adults; 29% in 2017 compared to 30% in 2012.

Overall, the proportion of those who reported they didn't visit any cultural place or event decreased from 22% in 2012 to 16% in 2017.



Change in cultural participation since 2012



Similar to cultural attendance, there are increased levels of cultural participation across a number of different cultural activities.

Participation in creative work, crafts, art/sculpture increased. However, participation in reading for pleasure decreased from 69% in 2012 to 65% in 2017.



Key resources



Additional titles in the Scottish Household Survey Reporting series

Scottish Household Survey Annual Report:

- Scotland's People series since 1999
- Annual local authority level results

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationAnnual>



Annual Scottish House Condition Survey Key Findings report

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/Downloads>



Annual Transport and Travel in Scotland report Transport and Travel in Scotland (TATIS)

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/transport-and-travel-in-scotland-2015-27-september-2016/>



The [Scottish Surveys Core Questions \(SSCQ\)](#) is an annual Official Statistics publication. SSCQ is a result of a harmonised design across the three major Scottish Government household surveys, envisaged in the [Long Term Survey Strategy](#).



Related Links

- [Major Statistical Surveys](#)
- [Scottish House Condition Survey](#)
- [Scottish Surveys Core Questions \(SSCQ\)](#)
- [Centre of Housing Market Analysis](#)
- [Housing, Regeneration and Planning Research](#)
- [Housing and Regeneration Statistics](#)
- [Social and Welfare Statistics](#)
- [Planning Statistics](#)

Contact details

 **Webpage:** <http://www.gov.scot/SHS>

 **Email:** shs@gov.scot

 **Tel:** 0131 244 1685

 **SHS Project Team**
Area 1-F (Dockside)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

 **Twitter**
ScotStat (@ScotStat) | Twitter <https://twitter.com/ScotStat>

Mailing list

If you wish to be added to the e-mail mailing list to be kept informed of details of SHS developments, you should register your interest in 'Population and Household Surveys' and/or the Scottish Household Survey' sub-topic on the ScotStat Register
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat/Intro>



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