



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING - HORIZON SCANNING REVIEW



CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS



CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING - HORIZON SCANNING REVIEW

Children and Families Analysis

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	3
Findings	3
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Methods	4
1.2 Structure of the report	4
2. Demography	5
2.1 Current population trends	5
2.2 Future population growth	5
2.3 Key points	9
3. Labour Market	10
3.1 Demographic composition of the workforce	10
3.2 Future labour market projections	11
3.3 Key points	13
4. Economic Inclusion	14
4.1 Poverty trends affecting children	14
4.2 Current housing trends	15
4.3 Projections for temporary housing and homelessness	16
4.4 Key points	17
5. Education	18
5.1 Current trends in Scottish education	18
5.2 Future trends in digitally-delivered education	20
5.3 Key points	21
6. Technology	22
6.1 Internet access trends	22
6.2 Trends in social media use	23
6.3 Automation projections	23
6.4 Key points	24
7. Future social patterns	25
7.1 Social attitudes	25
7.2 Voting	25
7.3 Community engagement	25
7.4 Risk behaviour and crime	25
7.5 Key points	26

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report summarises the predicted societal trends and shifts that will likely shape the lives of children and young people in Scotland over the next decade, and will provide the context in which any future policy planning will be situated. The report is based on conclusions from a number of UK horizon scanning documents, supplemented by data on current trends and projections.

Findings

Key societal shifts are expected in demography, the labour market, economic inclusion, education, technology and social patterns in the next decade. These are likely to affect children and young people's health and wellbeing in a variety of ways.

Scotland's population is ageing and this is expected to stretch resources and increase pressure across services, particularly in health and social care. This is likely to have a knock on effect for children and young people's services, which could in turn impact the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.

There is potential for an unstable labour market in the years to come, with fewer good quality, permanent and full time work opportunities for young people. Additional factors such as rising housing costs and employers' requirements for a higher level of qualifications leading to a longer time spent in education are likely to lead to extended paths to financial security and independent household formation for a large proportion of young people.

Young people's future working lives will increasingly be influenced by automation and robotic technology. Automation is likely to replace people in low skill, routine or dangerous work. At the same time, robot technology may lead to the creation of new higher skill jobs, although adapting the work force may take considerable time.

Furthermore, young people's use of social media is more frequent and more diverse in nature than in previous generations. There is the potential for a range of negative impacts, such as cyber-bullying and/or sexualisation of young people.

1. Introduction

Improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people is one of the key commitments of the Scottish Government. This report sets out the predicted societal trends and shifts that will shape the lives of children and young people in Scotland over the next decade. These trends will provide the context in which any policy activity occurs and therefore understanding them is crucial to successful planning policy activity around child health and wellbeing.

This report discusses relevant findings from the UK horizon scanning literature, focusing on expected trends and shifts in demography, the labour market, economic inclusion, education, technology and social patterns.

1.1 Methods

This report focuses on areas where expert predictions were made in existing key horizon scanning documents produced by the UK government. Horizon scanning is a technique for detecting early signs of potentially important developments through a systematic examination of potential threats and opportunities, with emphasis on new technology and its effects on the issue at hand. The method calls for determining what is constant, what changes, and what constantly changes. It explores novel and unexpected issues as well as persistent problems and trends, including matters at the margins of current thinking that challenge past assumptions.¹ From a government perspective, horizon scanning is used to help governments adopt more long term approaches and make policy more resilient to future societal shifts.

Predictions from the UK are presented alongside relevant trend data and projections from other sources, but no attempt is made to review all factors that may influence children and young people's health and wellbeing. A comprehensive review of the current evidence base on this is available elsewhere.²

1.2 Structure of the report

The topics identified and discussed in this report are demography, the labour market, economic inclusion, education, technology and societal patterns. Each section in this report describes the current trends, sets out future projections and provides a summary of key points.

¹ OECD, Futures thinking overview of methodologies

<http://www.oecd.org/site/schoolingfortomorrowknowledgebase/futuresthinking/overviewofmethodologies.htm>

² Child and adolescent health and wellbeing 2018 [online] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-adolescent-health-wellbeing-scotland-evidence-review/>

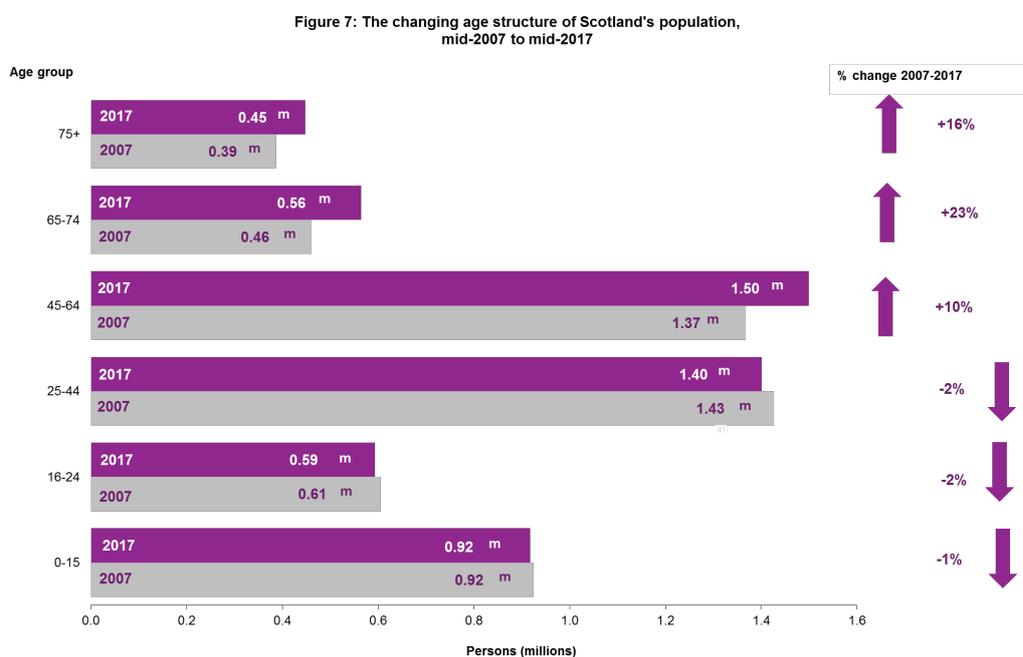
2. Demography

This section describes current population trends and future population projections.

2.1 Current population trends

Scotland's population profile is progressively shifting towards the older age groups, with children and young people making up an increasingly smaller proportion of the overall population. As Figure 1 illustrates, the number of people in all age groups under 45 has decreased slightly over the last ten years, while the number in all older age groups has increased substantially.³

Figure 1. The changing structure of Scotland's population, 2007-2017



Source: National Records of Scotland 2017

2.2 Future population growth

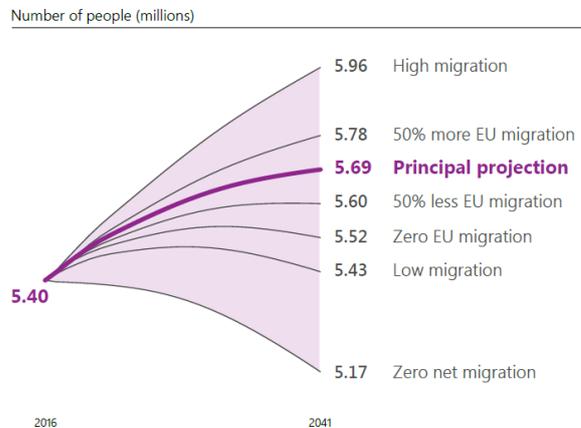
Scotland's population is projected to grow to 5.69 million in 2041 (see Figure 2).⁴ These estimates have the potential to fluctuate significantly due to the uncertainty surrounding future immigration regulations and the attractiveness of the UK/Scotland as an immigration destination after leaving the EU.

³ National Records of Scotland 2017 [online] <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2017/list-of-figures>

⁴ National Records of Scotland 2018 [online] <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland>

Figure 2. Scotland's Population Projections 2016-2041

Scotland's projected population varies under different assumptions of future migration



Source: National Records of Scotland 2018

Future population structure

The population profile in Scotland, as well as the UK as a whole, is expected to continue to shift towards older age groups over the next 10 years. The number of people aged 75 or over is projected to increase by 27% between 2017 and 2026, and by 79% in 2041. The proportion of young people aged 15 and under is expected to decline by 2% to 2041. The proportion aged 16-24 is projected to decrease by 8% by 2041. This is illustrated in Figure 3.⁵

Healthy life expectancy

An ageing population is associated with higher levels of ill health, including chronic and multiple longstanding conditions. The increase in life expectancy, or the number of years a new born baby is expected to live, over the last decade has not been matched by an increase in healthy life expectancy, or the number of years a new born baby is expected to live in 'good health'. This means that which will result in additional pressures being placed on existing health care services. This added pressure will likely have an indirect effect on children's health services unless extra resources are provided to support health services.

Future household family demographic

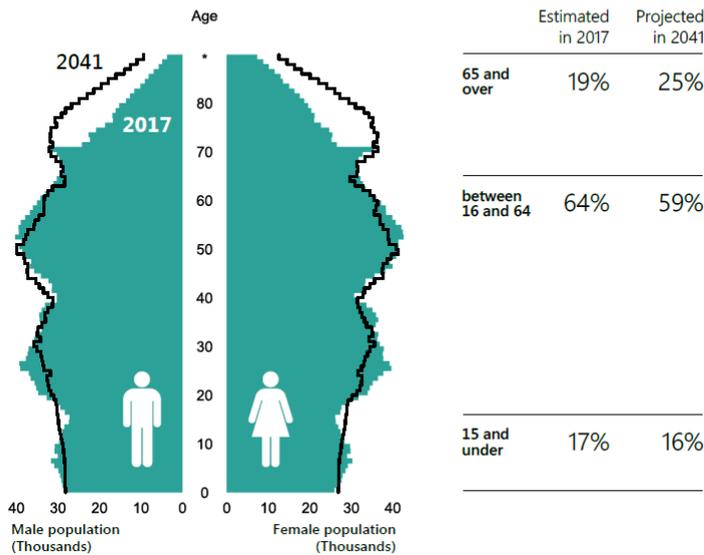
The number of households in Scotland is projected to increase to 2.76 million by 2041, an average annual increase of approximately 12,700 households. This is partly because Scotland's population is ageing, as older people are more likely to

⁵ National Records of Scotland 2018 [online] <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland>

live alone or in smaller households.⁶ Households containing just one adult with children are projected to increase by 22%, from 159,200 to 194,400 households. The proportion of households of this type remains roughly constant.

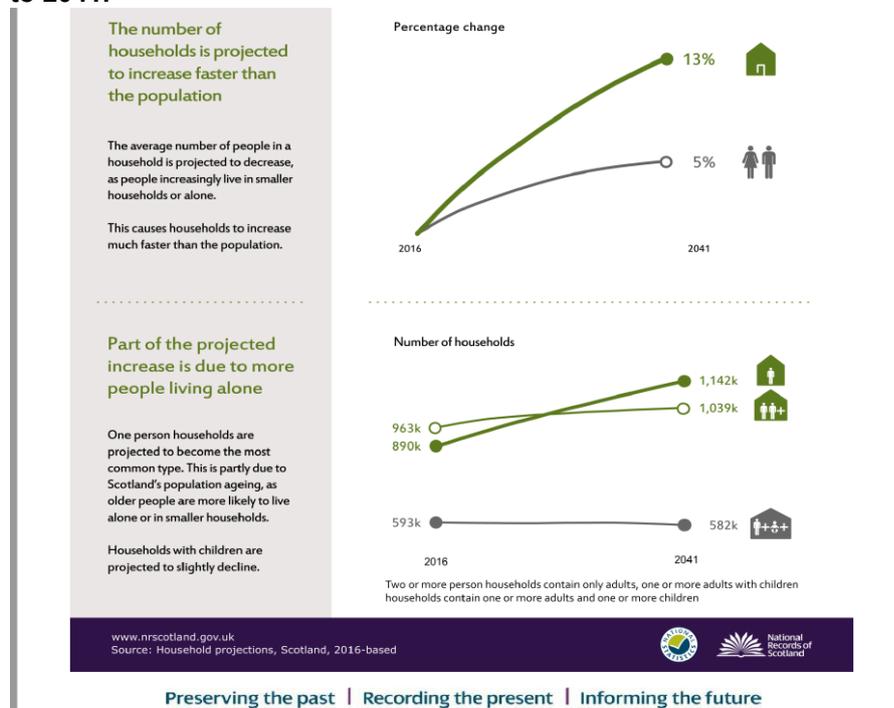
Figure 3. Scotland's projected population structure, 2017 compared to 2041.

Scotland's population structure is changing



Source: National Records of Scotland 2018

Figure 4. Scotland's projected number of households by family demographic, 2017 compared to 2041.



Source: National Records Scotland 2018

⁶ National Records of Scotland 2018 [online] <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland>

In 2016, 18% of all households in Scotland contained two or more adults with children. This is projected to fall to 14% by 2041, a reduction of 11% in household numbers. There are projected reductions in the numbers headed by someone under 45, but increases in all older age groups. Figure 4 illustrates the number of households by family demographic.

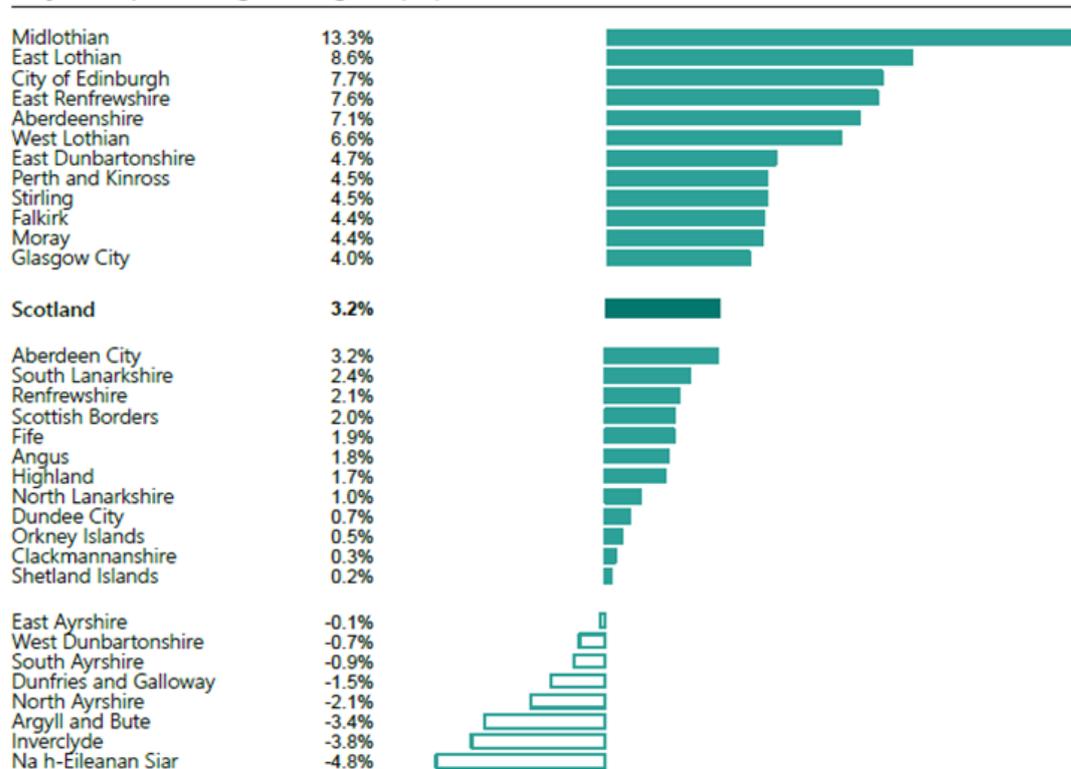
Future urbanisation

Scotland’s projected population growth shows a general shift towards urban living, with most councils projecting a population decrease in rural areas. A large proportion of the population growth is in eastern urban areas of Scotland (see Figure 5).⁷ Continued internal migration for education and work may negatively impact young people’s feelings of connectedness to community.

Figure 5. Scotland’s projected population change by council area, between 2016 and 2026

Projected population change varies by council area in Scotland, with some areas projected to face depopulation

Projected percentage change in population between 2016 and 2026



Source: National Records Scotland 2018

⁷ National Records Scotland 2018 [online] <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-projections/sub-national-pp-16/pop-proj-principal-2016-tab-publication.pdf>

2.3 Key points

- Population ageing is expected to continue and this will lead to increasing pressure on health and social care services, which is likely to indirectly affect the health and wellbeing of children in the future.
- The number of households in Scotland is expected to increase over the next 20 years, with the most significant rise being in households with a single adult living alone, including single occupancy older adult households, and single parent households.
- Urbanised living will continue to increase in Scotland which may impact young people's feelings of connectedness to community.

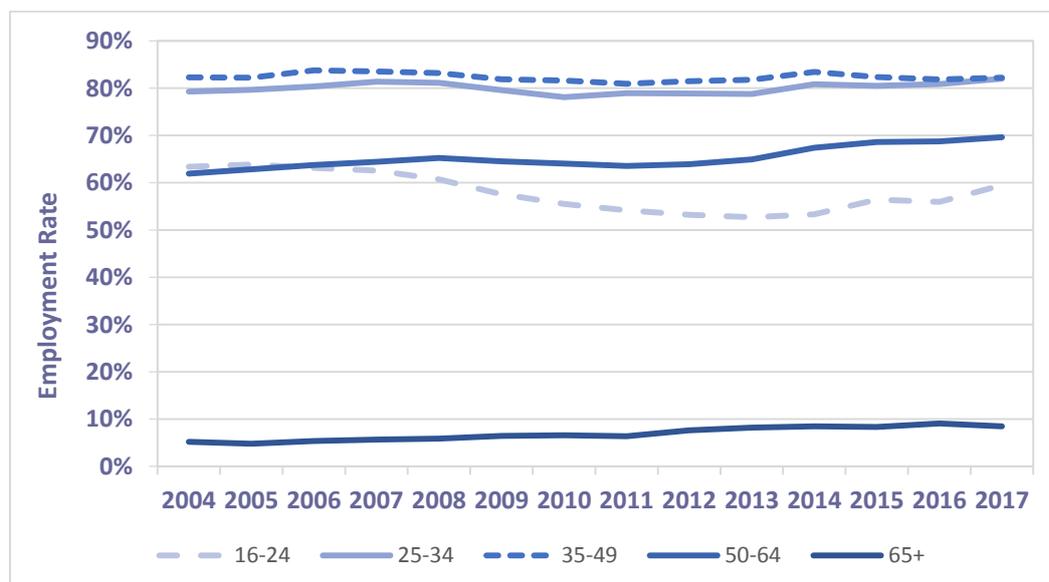
3. Labour Market

This section discusses trends in the demographic composition of the workforce, followed by a description of data related to future projections of occupational change; the age of the working population; the effect of withdrawal from the EU on the labour market; the effects of growing up in a negative labour market (recession and austerity); and the potential effects of this on young people.

3.1 Demographic composition of the workforce

The last decade has seen substantial change in the demographic composition of the workforce, with higher numbers of both older people and women in employment. Figure 6 shows that employment rates for 16-24 year olds decreased between Jan-Dec 2007 and Jan-Dec 2017, while the employment rate for 50-64 year olds increased from 64.4% to 69.6%.⁸

Figure 6. Employment Rate by Age Group, 2004 to 2017, Scotland



Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2004 to 2017

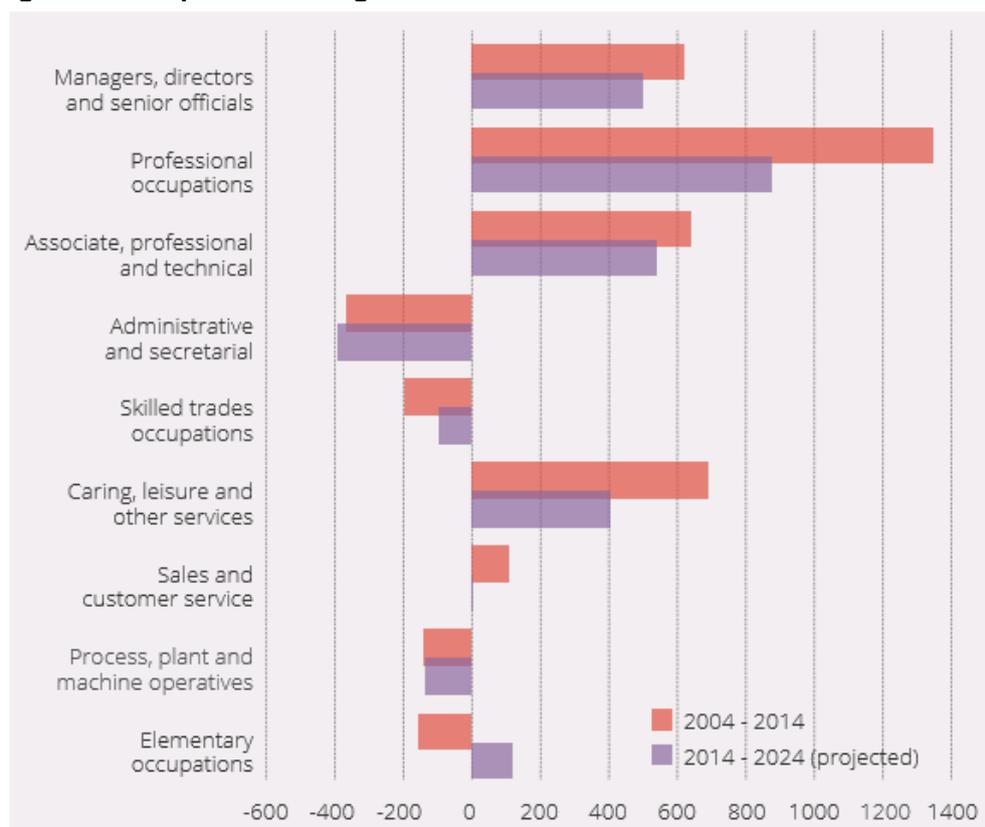
⁸ Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2004 to 2017, Office for National Statistics

3.2 Future labour market projections

Occupational employment projections

The occupational employment structure of the UK is predicted to shift towards higher numbers in higher level managerial and professional occupations and service occupations, such as caring and leisure service occupations (see Figure 7).⁹ Numbers are expected to decline in administrative and secretarial occupations, skilled trade occupations, and process, plant and machine operatives.¹⁰

Figure 7. Occupational change 2004-2024



Source: UK commission for employment and skills

The qualification profile of employment is expected to see a continued shift toward the workforce holding higher level qualifications (see Figure 8). By 2024 around 54% of people in employment in Scotland are expected to be qualified at RQF level 4, SCQF level 7 equivalent or above. The supply of skills is expected to continue to grow, with young people continuing to increase their level of qualification. A sharp reduction of 41% in employment in occupations requiring no or lower level

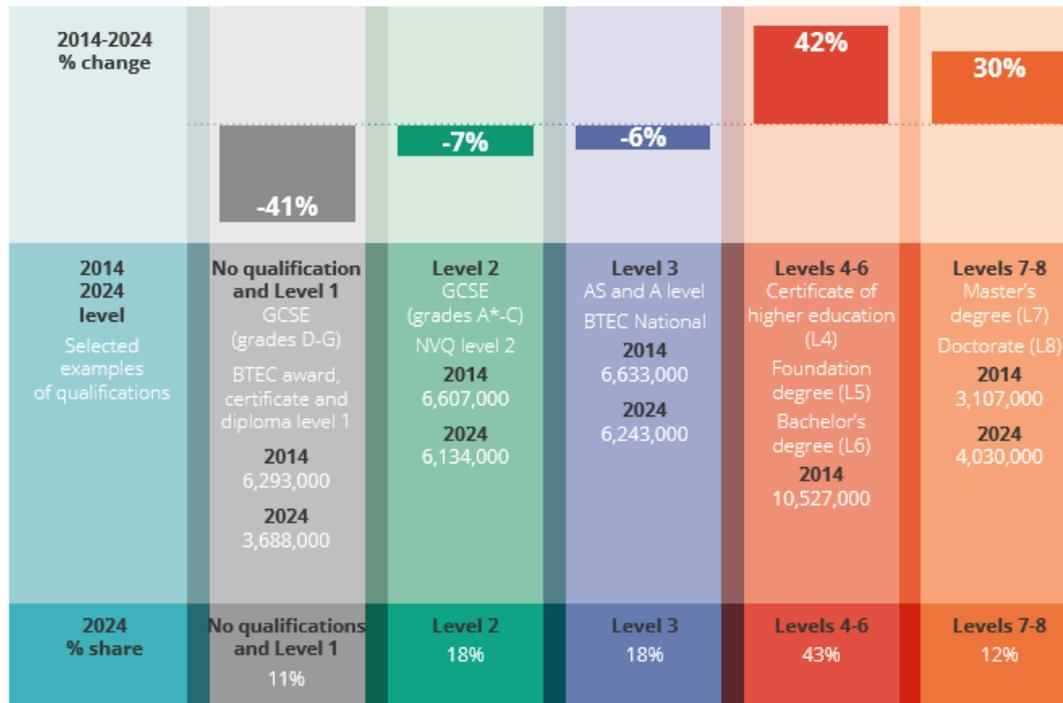
⁹ UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) Working Futures labour market projections for the period 2014 to 2024: Headline report. [Online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514285/Working_Futures_H_eadline_Report_final_for_web_PG.pdf

¹⁰ UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) Working Futures labour market projections for the period 2014 to 2024: Headline report. [Online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514285/Working_Futures_H_eadline_Report_final_for_web_PG.pdf

qualifications is projected; as are small reductions in occupations requiring RQF level 2 (SCQF level 5) and RQF level 3 (SCQF level 6).^{11 12}

There is some evidence that higher expectations and requirements from employers for more advanced qualifications may be driving the increase in young people educated to degree level. The percentage of Higher Education leavers who reported that their qualification was a formal requirement of their current post increased from 42% in 2011/12 to 54% in 2016/17.¹³

Figure 8. Changing profile of employment by qualification level



Source: UK commission of employment and skills

Withdrawal from the EU - Effects associated with negative labour market impacts

There is a large amount of uncertainty about the precise effect Brexit will have on the UK labour market, but it is expected to be negative. Evidence from previous recessions has identified long lasting impacts associated with growing up in negative labour market conditions including depression, stress, anxiety, lack of confidence and associated health issues. It may therefore become increasingly important to

¹¹ UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) Working Futures labour market projections for the period 2014 to 2024: Headline report. [Online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514285/Working_Futures_Headline_Report_final_for_web_PG.pdf

¹² UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) Working Futures Labour market projections for the period 2014 to 2024. Headline presentation. [Online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543301/WF_Headline_Presentation_v3.pdf

¹³ HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Data, SG analysis. Available [Online]. <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/>

consider the labour market conditions when understanding the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.^{14 15 16}

Potential effects of the future labour market on young people

An unstable labour market and the potential for fewer work opportunities is likely to lead to increasing intergenerational inequalities in income and wealth. An unstable labour market could create an uncertain and frustrating working life for some younger people, who may lack financial stability. Today's young people are the first generation where the majority do not believe that they will have had a better life than that of their parents.¹⁷

'Emerging adulthood' is a life course stage that describes young adults who do not have children, do not live in their own homes, and do not have sufficient income to become fully independent from their parents. It is a stage of life that is likely to be prolonged in the future with rising housing costs, longer time spent in education and a longer time taken to find stable and good quality employment.¹⁸

3.3 Key points

- Current employment trends are projected to continue, with continued growth of highly skilled work and service occupations, and decreases in all other low skilled work.
- An unstable labour market, with the potential for fewer good quality, permanent and full time work opportunities, could create an uncertain and frustrating working life for some younger people.
- Additional factors such as rising housing costs and employers' requirements for a higher level of qualifications leading to a longer time spent in education are likely to lead to extended paths to financial security and independent household formation for a large proportion of young people.

¹⁴ UK unemployment in the Great Recession. National Institute Economic Review 214, R3-R25

¹⁵ Growing up in a recession: beliefs and the macro-economy. IZA Discussion Paper No. 4365

¹⁶ The long-term labour market consequences of graduating from college in a bad economy. Labour Economics 17, p303–16. Kahn, L.B. 2010.

¹⁷ Social Attitudes of Young People, Horizon scanning research paper. Social Attitudes of Young people community of Interest. HM Government Horizon Scanning Program. 2014. [Online]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389086/Horizon_Scanning_-_Social_Attitudes_of_Young_People_report.pdf

¹⁸ Social Attitudes of Young People, Horizon scanning research paper. Social Attitudes of Young people community of Interest. HM Government Horizon Scanning Program. 2014. [Online]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389086/Horizon_Scanning_-_Social_Attitudes_of_Young_People_report.pdf

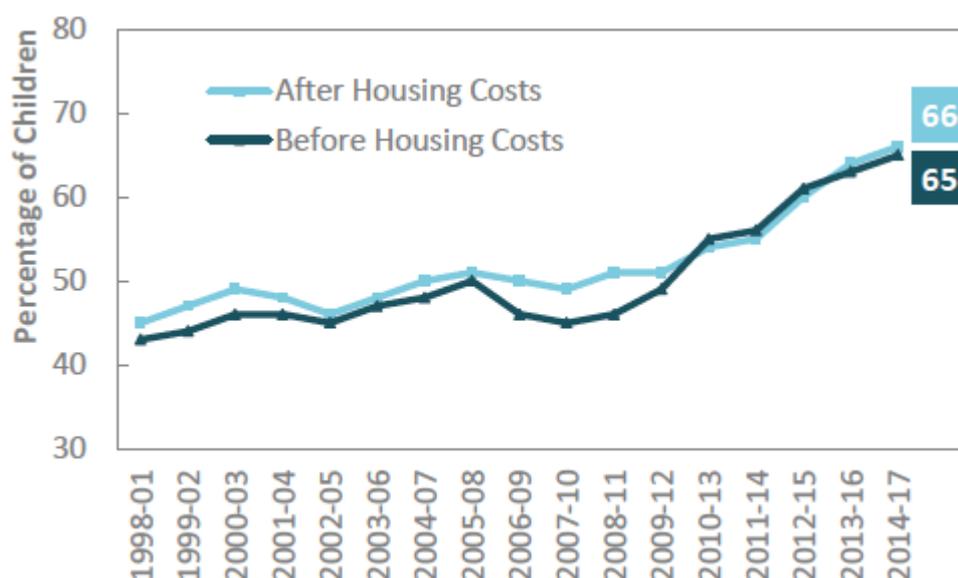
4. Economic Inclusion

This section discusses trends and projections in poverty and housing.

4.1 Poverty trends affecting children

Over the second half of the last decade, in-work poverty has increased in Scotland, in a context of falling poverty rates overall, suggesting that the link between paid employment and adequate income is weakening. This change was even more pronounced for child poverty. In 2014-17, two thirds (66%) of households with children in relative poverty after housing costs had at least one person working, an increase from just under 50% in 2006-09 (see Figure 9).¹⁹

Figure 9. In-work poverty for children



Source: Poverty and income inequality in Scotland: 2014-2017

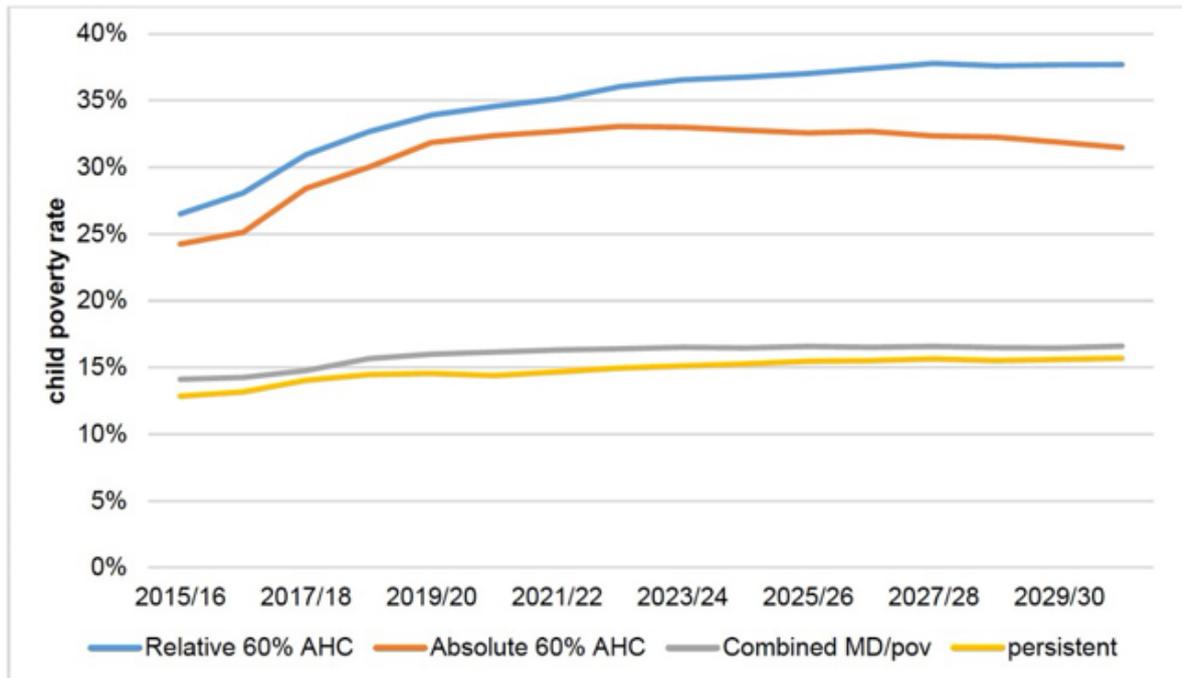
Child poverty projections

Figure 10 shows that the relative child poverty rate is forecast to rise sharply between 2019 and 2020/21, to 34.5%. The 2020s are expected to see relative child poverty continue to increase, but at a slower rate, before levelling out at just under 38% from 2027/28 onwards. A key driver of the sharp increase is the reduction in the real terms value of social security as a result of planned reforms by the UK government.²⁰

¹⁹ Poverty and income inequality in Scotland: 2014-2017. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2014-17/pages/4/>

²⁰ Tackling child poverty delivery plan: forecasting child poverty in Scotland. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-forecasting-child-poverty-scotland/pages/4/>

Figure 10. Headline child poverty rate forecasts, Scotland, scenario (c), 2015/16 to 2030/31

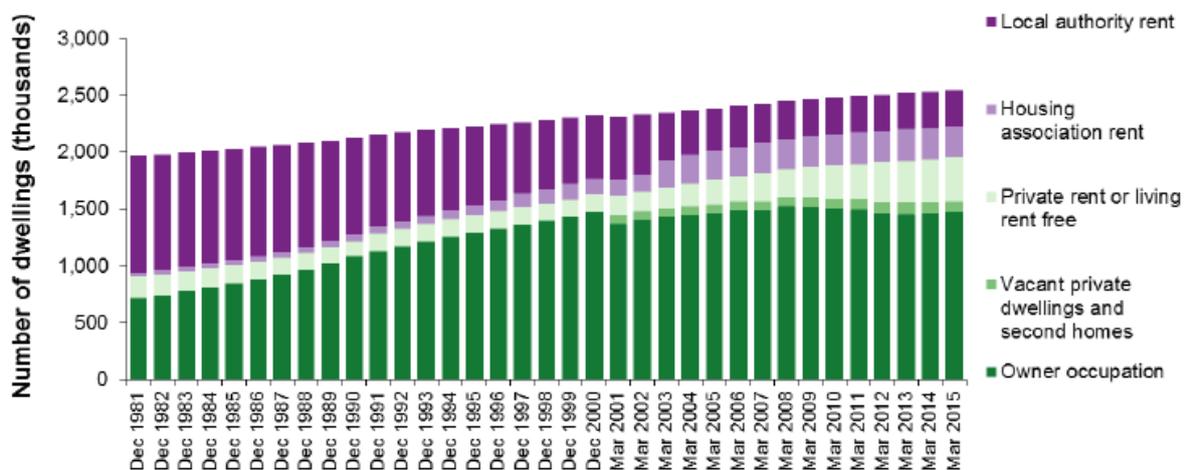


Source: Scottish Government Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, 2018

4.2 Current housing trends

There has been a change in housing tenure away from local authority housing towards the private rented sector, with stabilising levels of owner occupied housing, despite an overall increase in housing stock (see Figure 11).²¹

Figure 11. Estimated stock of dwellings by tenure, 1981 to 2015

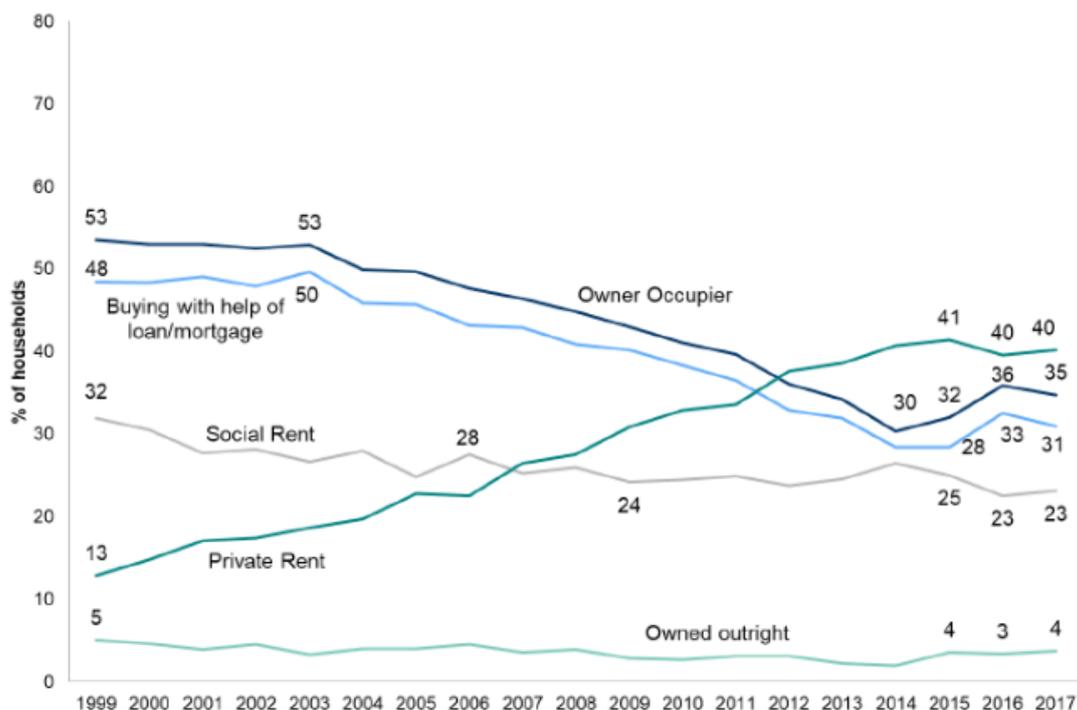


Source: Housing statistics for Scotland 2017

²¹ Housing statistics for Scotland 2017: key trends summary. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-statistics-scotland-2017-key-trends-summary/pages/6/>

The proportion of households in the private rented sector has grown steadily from 5% in 1999 to 15% in 2017. Social renting fell from 32% to 22% over the same period. This change is most marked for the younger (16-34) age group. Among households within this age group, private renting increased from 13% in 1999 to 41% in 2015. Owner occupation reduced from 53% to 35% over the same period (see Figure 12).²²

Figure 12. Tenure of households by year 1999-2017 (HIH aged 16 to 34)



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2017

The average household size continued to decrease slightly between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, following a more marked decline in the four decades before that. In the most recent census, the majority of households were single person (34.7%).²³ This has increased the overall number of households, putting further pressure on current housing stock.

4.3 Projections for temporary housing and homelessness

In Scotland, the number of children in temporary accommodation increased by 557 (9%) to 6,615 in 2018 compared to the previous year, the fourth consecutive annual increase.²⁴ The most acute forms of homelessness are also likely to keep rising, with overall numbers estimated to increase by more than a quarter in the coming decade

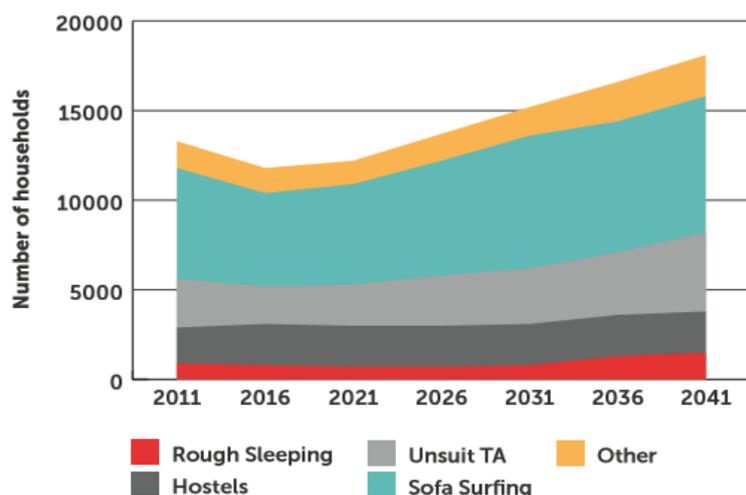
²² Scottish household survey 2017: annual report. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2017-scottish-household-survey/pages/4/>

²³ Household composition for specific groups of people in Scotland [Online]. Available from: http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/analytical_reports/HH%20report.pdf

²⁴ Homelessness and Housing Options Statistics Published [Online]. Available from: <https://news.gov.scot/news/homelessness-and-housing-options-statistics-published-4>

and households in unsuitable temporary accommodation set to nearly double (Figure 13).²⁵

Figure 13. Baseline forecast for core homelessness in Scotland by component.



Category	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Rough Sleeping	900	800	700	700	800	1,300	1,500
Hostels	2,000	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Unsuitable temporary accommodation	2,700	2,100	2,300	2,800	3,100	3,500	4,400
Sofa Surfing	6,200	5,200	5,600	6,400	7,400	7,300	7,600
Other	1,600	1,400	1,300	1,500	1,600	2,200	2,300
Total	13,400	11,800	12,200	13,700	15,200	16,600	18,100

Source: Crisis Homelessness projections 2017

4.4 Key points

- The number of households with children in relative poverty has increased.
- If current policies continue unchanged, relative child poverty is expected to continue to increase over the next 10 years.
- There has been a shift away from social renting and owner occupation towards private sector renting, particularly among the younger age groups
- The number of children in temporary accommodation in Scotland has increased.

²⁵ Homelessness projections: Core homelessness in Great Britain. 2017 [Online]. Available from: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237582/crisis_homelessness_projections_2017.pdf

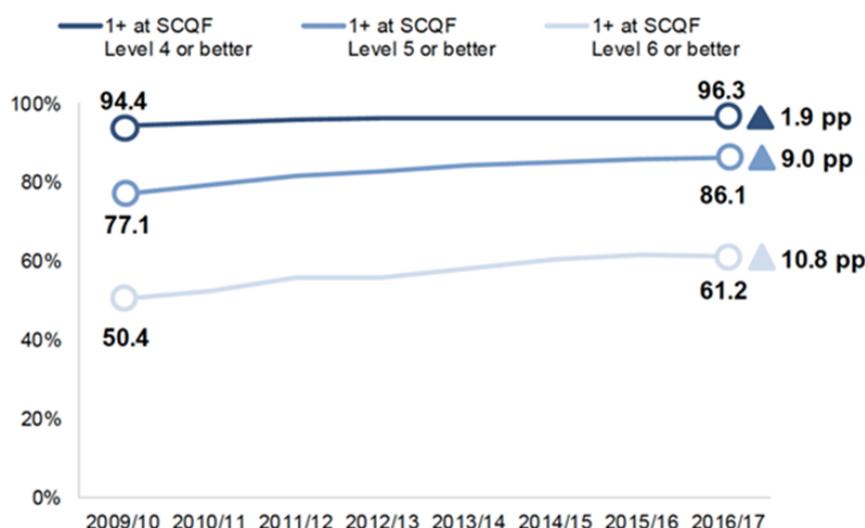
5. Education

This section describes current trends in education in Scotland, as well as global future trends. The current trends section highlights attainment changes, while the future trends section highlights how digital technology and the labour market are expected to influence a variety of aspects of education.

5.1 Current trends in Scottish education

The percentage of Secondary 4 pupils staying on to Secondary 6 in publicly-funded secondary schools in Scotland increased from 46% in 2001 to 59% in 2013. Attainment of qualifications also increased across SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 from 2009/2010 to 2016/2017 (Figure 14).²⁶ However, a gap remains in attainment of SCQF level's 4, 5 and 6 based on SIMD. The largest gap exists between pupils achieving one or more SCQF level 6 qualification, with the most deprived achieving this at a rate of 43.0% compared to 80.6% for the least deprived (Figure 15).²⁷

Figure 14. Attainment of qualifications across SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 from 2009/2010 to 2016/2017

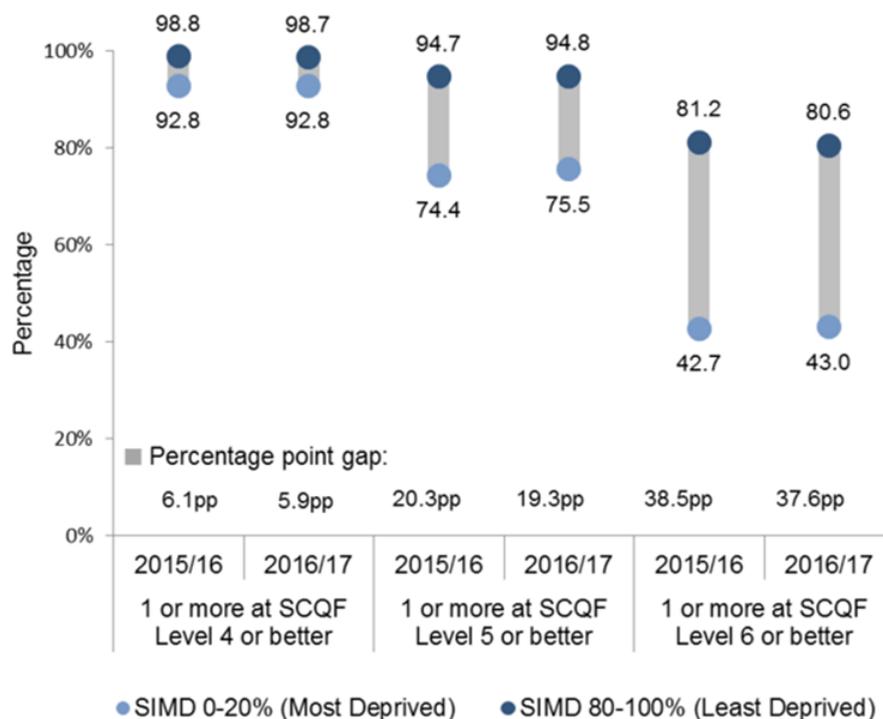


Source: Attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living 2018

²⁶ Attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living: summary statistics [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-attainment-leaver-destinations-healthy-living-8-2018-edition/pages/4/>

²⁷ Attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living: summary statistics [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-attainment-leaver-destinations-healthy-living-8-2018-edition/pages/4/>

Figure 15. Percentage of attainment of SCQF level 4-6 by SIMD 2015/16 and 2016/17.



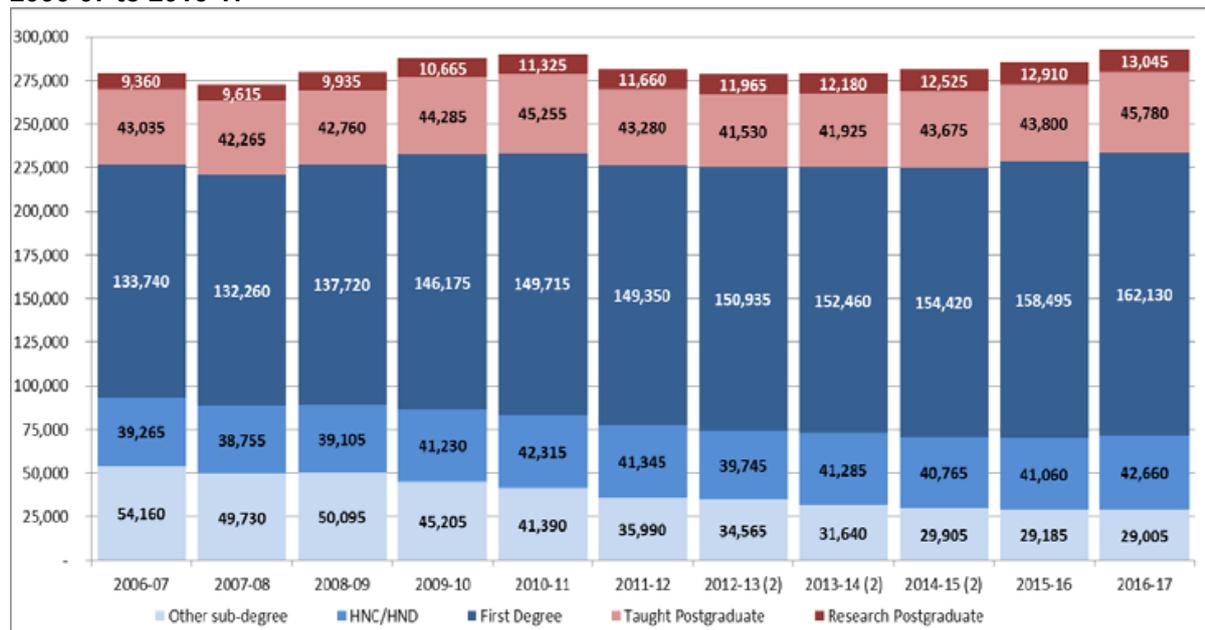
Source: Attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living 2018

Higher education

The number of students in Higher Education Institutions and colleges has increased over the last decade (see Figure 16). There were increases in both first and postgraduate degrees, and also in HNC/HNDs, with a small drop in sub-degree qualifications.²⁸

²⁸ Attainment and Leavers Destinations Data 2016/17 [Online]. Available from: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/leavedestla/follleavedestat/AttainmentLeavers1617>

Figure 16. Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17



Source: Attainment and Leavers Destinations Data 2016/17

The percentage of school leavers in Higher Education 9 months after leaving school has also increased over the last decade, from 34.2% in 2009/10 to 38.3% in 2016/17. Figures prior to 2009/10 are not directly comparable due to a change in methodology.²⁹

As noted in Chapter 3, there is some evidence that the increase in young people educated to degree level may be accompanied by increased requirements from employers for such qualifications.

5.2 Future trends in digitally-delivered education

Digitally-delivered education is likely to provide an increased degree of personalisation, with students able to customise when, where and how they learn. Education courses, particularly at tertiary level, will likely depend increasingly on the internet, with some delivered exclusively or almost exclusively online. As data science advances, developing data analysis and computing skills will likely become central to our education system. As school teaching increasingly moves online and software-based in nature, existing educational inequalities could be exacerbated, as not everyone will have the same level of digital access. However, it is likely that online learning will continue to make education more accessible, particularly for people in remote rural areas.³⁰

²⁹ Attainment and Leavers Destinations Data 2016/17 [Online]. Available from:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/leavedestla/follleavedestat/AttainmentLeavers1617>

³⁰ Global strategic trends- Out to 2045. Strategic Trends Programme. Fifth Edition. Ministry of Defence 2014. [Online]. Available from:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348164/20140821_DCDC_GST_5_Web_Secured.pdf

5.3 Key points

- More pupils in Scotland are staying in education for longer and are gaining more qualifications as a result.
- There remains a large gap in attainment between pupils from the most and the least deprived areas.
- A higher percentage of young people are enrolling in higher education in Scotland.
- Digitally-delivered education is likely to provide increased levels of personalisation, with students able to customise when, where and how they learn.
- As data science advances, developing data analysis and computing skills will likely become central to our education system.

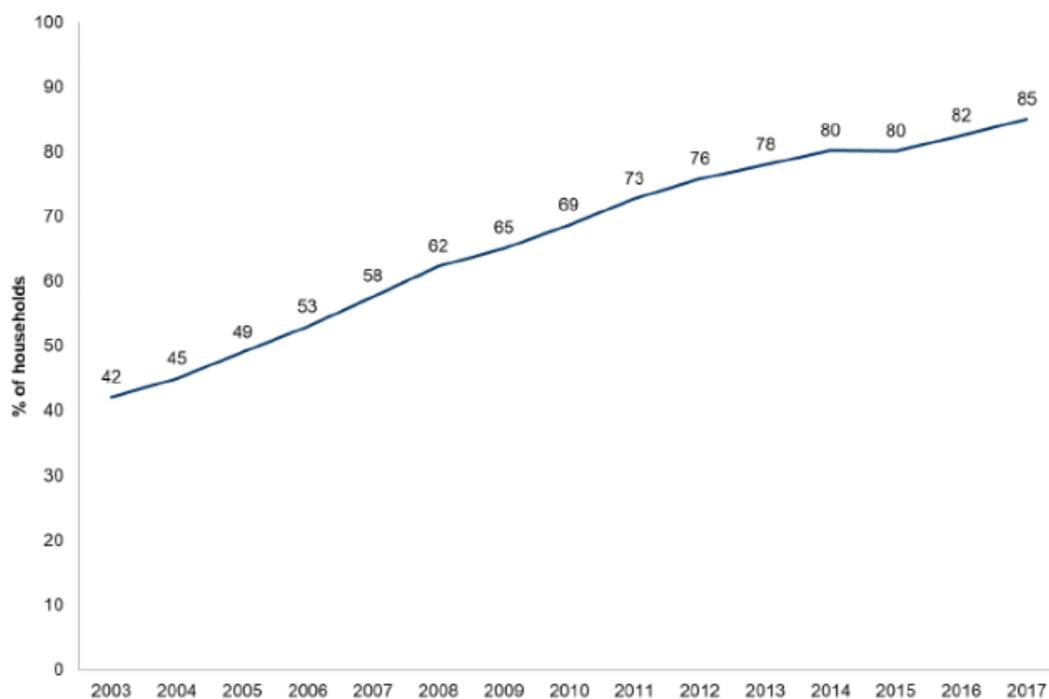
6. Technology

This section discusses current and future technology trends in relation to their impact on the labour market and impact on social connection.

6.1 Internet access trends

The number of households with access to the internet has increased substantially over the last decade, from 53% in 2006 to 85% in 2017 (see Figure 17).³¹ The ways in which people access the internet are also diversifying as new technologies become available. Notably, 78% of people in the UK now access the internet via a smart phone, compared to just 34% in 2011.³²

Figure 17. Households with home internet access by year



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2017

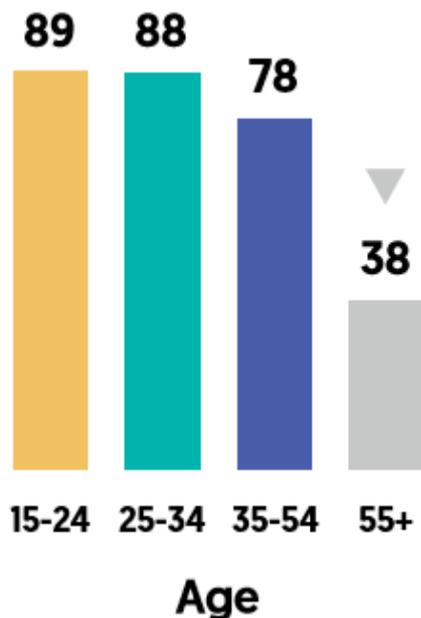
³¹ Scottish Household Survey 2017: Annual Report. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2017-scottish-household-survey/pages/8/>

³² Technology Tracker. Q2. Ipsos MORI 2018. [Online]. Available from: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2018-07/tech_tracker_q2_2018_final_0.pdf

6.2 Trends in social media use

There has been a marked increase in social media use in the UK over the last decade. Highest use is among 15-24 year olds (89%) and 25-34 year olds (88%) (Figure 18). Young people also engage more often with specific platforms which older groups do not engage with.³³

Figure 18. Social media use by age



Source: Ipsos MORI 2018

Increased use of social media by children has been linked to cyber-bullying and online abuse, exposure to negative forms of user-generated content and converging of offline and online networks. Additionally, there is evidence to suggest that the extent of risk depends upon the development stage and social circumstances of the child, with girls and lower socio-economic groups being most at risk of cyber-bullying and online abuse, and girls from lower income groups being at increased risk of sexualisation from social media use.^{34 35}

6.3 Automation projections

Workplace robots are projected to continue replacing workers in low-skill, routine or dangerous work, while advances in robotics may also lead to the creation of new fields/roles that have not yet been envisaged (the role of the web designer did

³³ Willoughby, M. (2018). A review of the risks associated with children and young people's social media use and the implications for social work practice. *Journal of Social Work Practice*, 1-14

³⁴ Current Trends in Health, Wellbeing and Risky Behaviours Amongst Children and Young People: A Synthesis of Recent Evidence: A briefing by PSHE association. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/recent-trends-young-peoples-health-and-risky>

³⁵ Blake, K. R., Bastian, B., Denson, T. F., Grosjean, P., & Brooks, R. C. (2018). Income inequality not gender inequality positively covaries with female sexualization on social media. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 201717959.

not exist, nor was imagined prior to 1990). Adapting workers to these new kinds of roles could, however, take considerable time.³⁶

It is possible that legislation will be introduced to try to prevent or limit the use of robots in some areas, in order to safeguard human jobs, although it is not clear how effective this would be in the face of market forces. It is also unclear whether new jobs will be created at a rate sufficient to replace those that are lost as some automated processes become cheaper than even the lowest-paid human workers.³⁷

6.4 Key points

- Young people's use of social media is more frequent and more diverse in nature than in other generations. If used heavily, there could be a range of impacts, such as cyber-bullying and/or sexualisation.
- Young people's future working lives will increasingly be influenced by automation and robotic technology: automation is increasingly likely to replace people in low skilled, routine or dangerous work. Advances in robotic technology may lead to the creation of new higher-skilled jobs, but adapting the current and future work force may take considerable time.

³⁶ Global strategic trends- Out to 2045. Strategic Trends Programme. Fifth Edition. Ministry of Defence 2014. [Online]. Available from:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348164/20140821_DCDC_GST_5_Web_Secured.pdf

³⁷ Global strategic trends- Out to 2045. Strategic Trends Programme. Fifth Edition. Ministry of Defence 2014. [Online]. Available from:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348164/20140821_DCDC_GST_5_Web_Secured.pdf

7. Future social patterns

This section presents key future changes in social patterns and behaviours.

7.1 Social attitudes

Increasingly diverse peer groups and high levels of participation in higher education, reinforced by increased urban living and mobility, are likely to result in younger generations continuing the gradual shift towards more liberal/permissive social attitudes about gender equality, sexuality, race, ethnicity and immigration.³⁸

7.2 Voting

There is evidence that voting is habitual. Therefore, if today's young people do not get into the habit of voting when they are young, then they will be less likely to vote as they get older. However, the continued strength of support for democratic values amongst young people may mean that there is potential for young people to re-connect with mainstream politics. We should therefore not assume that current trends towards low engagement are certain to continue.³⁹

7.3 Community engagement

While young people are less likely to participate in the community in the traditional sense of voting in elections and influencing decisions through their elected representatives, evidence suggests that young people are as interested in engaging with the community as previous generations. This could lead to the emergence of new forms of community that combine virtual and local communities as well as new forms of community engagement.⁴⁰

7.4 Risk behaviour and crime

Although risk behaviours and crime figures continue to decline, the trend towards 'emerging adulthood' could mean that people engage in risk behaviours for longer. While risk behaviour (e.g. smoking and drug use) generally declines with age, becoming a parent and moving in with a partner are both associated with a reduction in risk behaviours over and above that associated with age alone. Given the many complex explanatory factors associated with participating in risk behaviours, we cannot be certain that the trends towards declining risk behaviours will continue over the next 10 years.⁴¹

³⁸ Social Attitudes of Young People, Horizon scanning research paper. Social Attitudes of Young people community of Interest. HM Government Horizon Scanning Program. 2014. [Online]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389086/Horizon_Scanning_-_Social_Attitudes_of_Young_People_report.pdf

³⁹ Eichhorn, J., 2018. Mobilisation through early activation and school engagement—the story from Scotland. *Journal of Youth Studies*, pp.1-16.

⁴⁰ Eichhorn, J., 2018. Mobilisation through early activation and school engagement—the story from Scotland. *Journal of Youth Studies*, pp.1-16.

⁴¹ Eichhorn, J., 2018. Mobilisation through early activation and school engagement—the story from Scotland. *Journal of Youth Studies*, pp.1-16. Eichhorn, J., 2018. Mobilisation through early activation and school engagement—the story from Scotland. *Journal of Youth Studies*, pp.1-16.

7.5 Key points

- Increasingly diverse peer groups and high levels of participation in higher education, reinforced by increased urban living and mobility, are likely to mean that younger generations will continue to gradually shift towards increasingly liberal/permissive social attitudes about gender equality, sexuality, race, ethnicity and immigration.
- There has been a decline in voting among young people in Scotland but there appears to be continued interest in democratic values and community engagement. This could lead to a the emergence of new forms of community that combine virtual and local communities, and the trend towards declining voter participation may be reversed.
- Although risk behaviours and crime figures continue to decline, the trend towards 'emerging adulthood' could mean that people engage in risk behaviours for longer.



© Crown copyright 2019

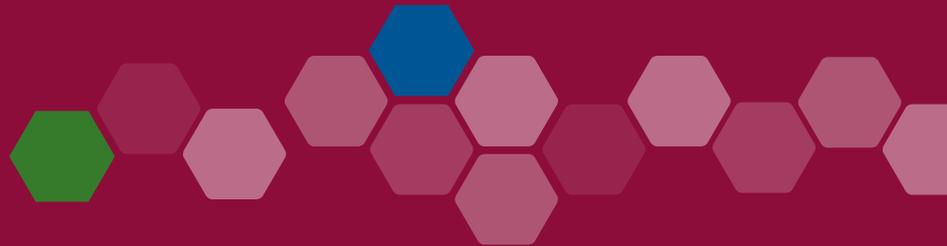
You may re-use this information (excluding logos and images) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

The views expressed in this report are those of the researcher and do not necessarily represent those of the Scottish Government or Scottish Ministers.

This document is also available from our website at www.gov.scot.
ISBN: 978-1-78781-664-0

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Produced for
the Scottish Government
by APS Group Scotland
PPDAS555410 (03/19)
Published by
the Scottish Government,
March 2019



Social Research series
ISSN 2045-6964
ISBN 978-1-78781-664-0

Web and Print Publication
www.gov.scot/socialresearch

PPDAS555410 (03/19)