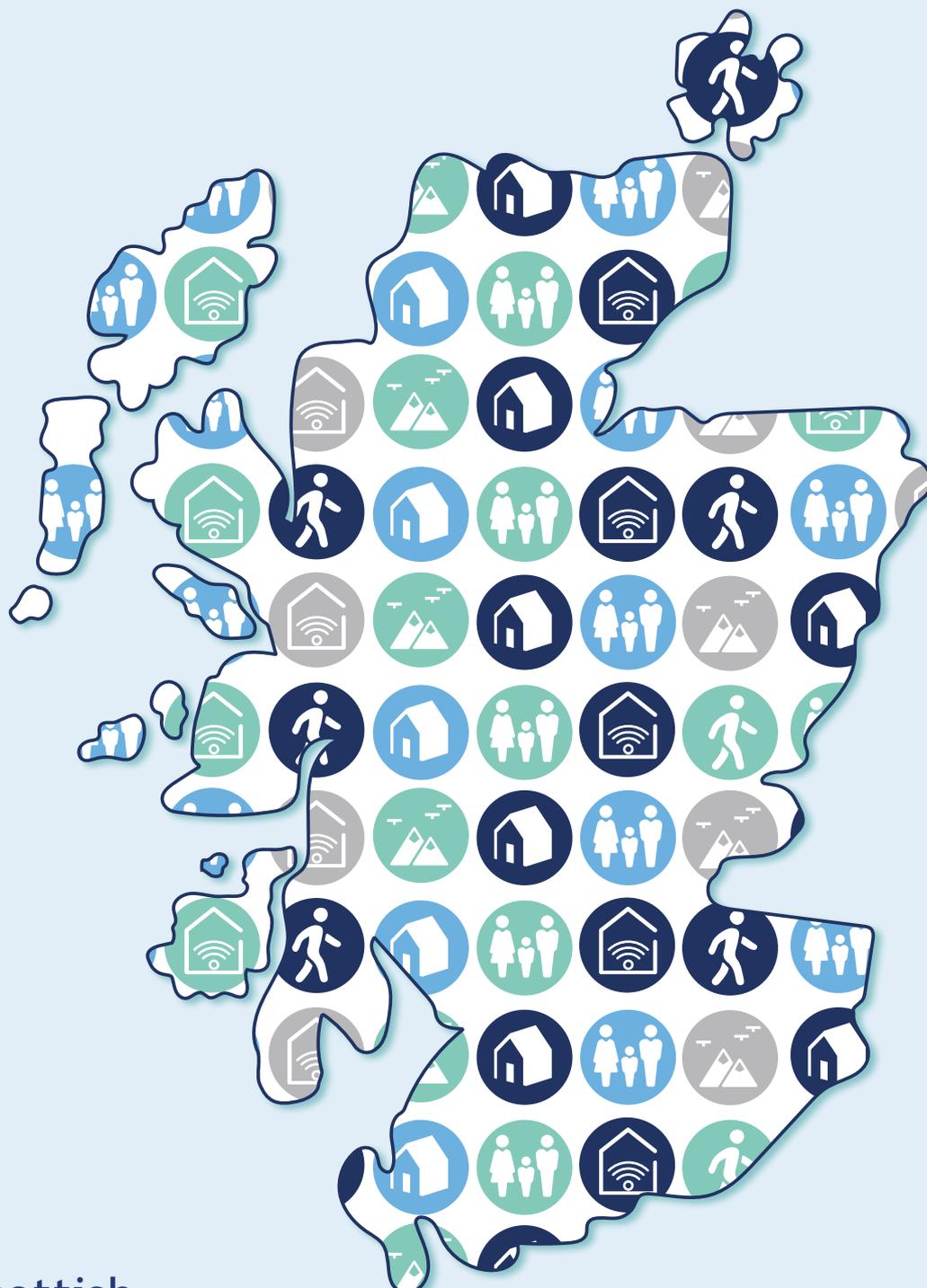


Scottish Household Survey 2019

Twenty Years of Scotland's People: Summary Report

A National Statistics publication for Scotland



Scottish
Household
Survey
Help Shape Scotland



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Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Acknowledgements

Primarily, thank you to the more than 400,000 individuals who agreed to fully participate in the survey since 1999. Without your goodwill and support the survey would not be possible. We would also like to express our thanks for the commitment of the fieldwork team who collect the data.

Thank you to all the people involved in the development, implementation and reporting of the Scottish Household Survey results.

Special thanks go to Ipsos MORI for their continued support and advice across all aspects of the survey management and equally to CA Design Services who organise the physical fieldwork and manage the telephone helpline and BRE who conduct modelling with SHS data.

Thanks also the Office of Chief Statistician team, Scottish Government, all of the lead analysts in the Scottish Government for their contributions.



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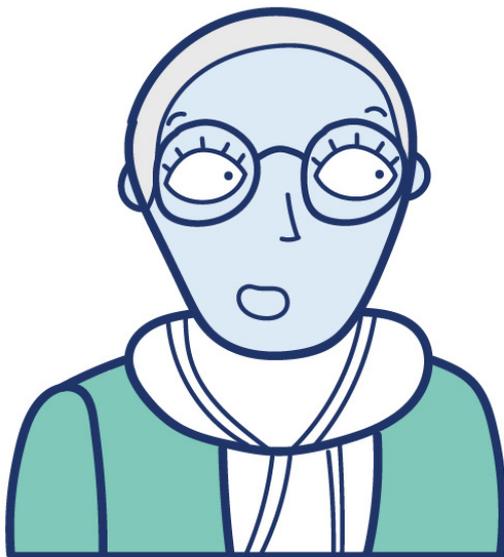


These topics can all be explored further in our online Data Explorer – or by reading the Annual Key Findings Report!

Introduction: Scotland has changed a lot in 20 years



The Scottish Household Survey began collecting data in 1999. In 2019, it celebrated its 20-year anniversary. This publication synthesises 20 years of change in Scottish society as measured by Scottish Household Survey data.



This report highlights the different experiences and views of diverse household types in Scotland between 1999 and 2019 with a focus on housing, neighbourhood rating, economic activity and how households are managing financially.

It has a particular emphasis on single parent households, older people (aged 60 or over), younger people (aged 16 to 24), women in the workforce and inequality.

This publication accompanies the Scottish Household Survey Data Comic: Twenty Years of Scotland's People and an Excel Spreadsheet containing detailed tables on 20 year change.

The SHS gives an insight into changes in inequality in Scotland

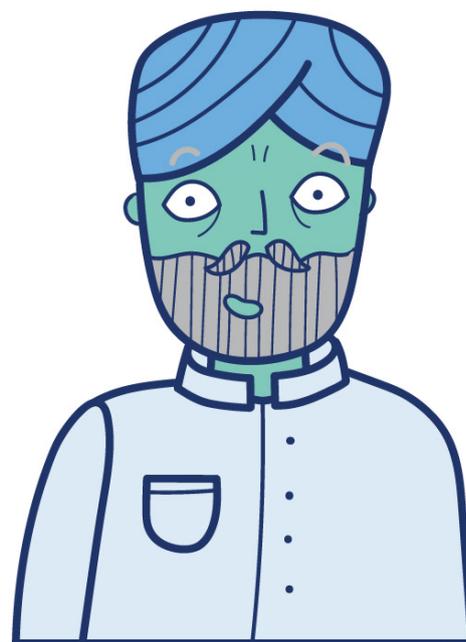


The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) was introduced in 2004. This greatly helped in looking at inequalities across Scotland, but we want to go further back than that.

To measure how inequality has changed between 1999 and 2019, the methodology of the comparison of the 20% lowest income household and the 20% highest income households was adopted.

This publication will give a brief overview of the increasing and decreasing trends over the 20 years for each topic then a more in-depth breakdown of each significant change.

SHS data and analysis has shaped policy across Scotland – but it is not only used by the government! It is also used by charities and academics. Anyone can access and use the survey data online in our new Data Explorer.



Many people have chosen to take part in the survey



Over

270,000

households have participated in the household section of the interview

Over

400,000

adults have participated in the random adult section of the interview

The Scottish Household Survey has given people in Scotland the chance to share their views and experiences on a range of issues and help shape public services locally and in Scotland as a whole.

Every year, the SHS asks a set of questions to a sample of the population living in Scotland – they are selected randomly and can therefore represent the people of Scotland.

These questions cover a great range of topics. Not every adult is asked every question, and not every question is asked every year. This means that SHS data is at its best when looking at changes over longer periods of time.





Glossary

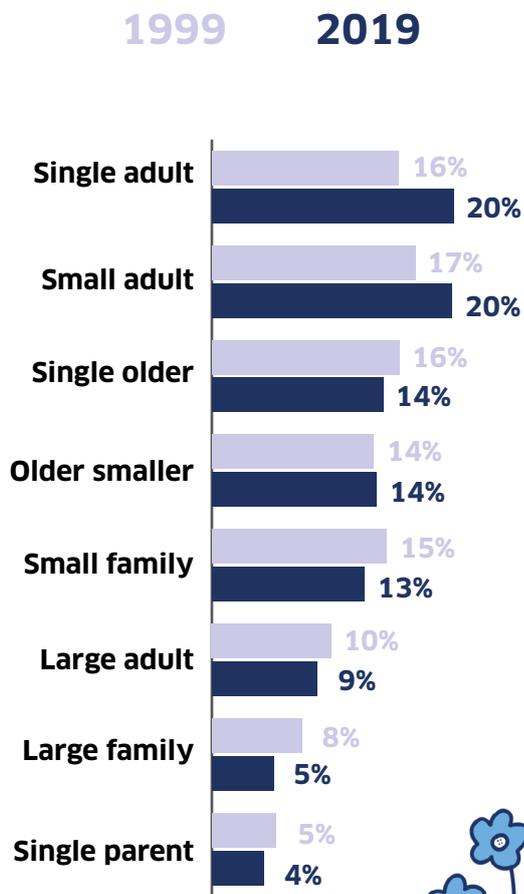
The SHS uses eight household types defined as follows:

- A **single adult** household contains one adult aged 16 to 64 and no children.
- A **single parent** household contains one adult of any age and one or more children. This definition does not make any distinction between situations where a child has regular contact and/or partly resides with their other parent and a child who solely resides with and is cared for by one parent.
- A **single older** household contains one adult of pensionable age and no children. Pensionable age is 65 and over for both women and men.
- A **small family** household contains two adults of any age and one or two children.
- An **older smaller** household contains one adult aged 16 to 64 and one of pensionable age and no children, or two adults of pensionable age and no children.
- A **large adult** household contains three or more adults and no children.
- A **small adult** household contains two adults aged 16 to 64 and no children.
- A **large family** household contains two adults of any age and three or more children, or three or more adults of any age and one or more children.

The terms lowest and highest income households refer to the 20% of households with the lowest income in Scotland and the 20% highest income households, respectively



Households in Scotland are changing



The number of households in Scotland increased from approximately 2.2 to 2.5 million, but they were getting smaller – single adult and small adults families were the most common in 2019.

There has been an increase of adults under 65 living alone, from 16% in 1999 to 20% in 2019. However, single older households decreased from 16% in 1999 to 14% in 2019.

Among the lowest income households the proportion of single older households decreased from 43% in 1999 to 32% in 2019, while the proportion of single and small adult households both increased.

In the highest income groups, the most notable change was a decrease in large family households, from 15% in 1999 to 11% in 2019.

3 or 32% of adults in the lowest income group were single adult households in 2019, an increase from 25% in 1999

Common Types of Tenure are Shifting

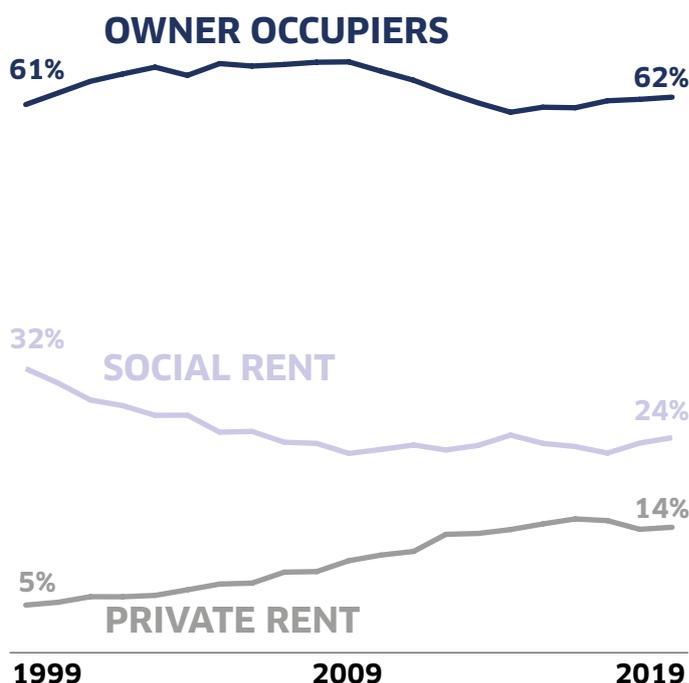


Large shifts in household tenure have occurred since 1999, but home ownership remained the most common form of tenure in Scotland.

The proportion of owner-occupier increased from 61% in 1999 to 66% in 2009, after which it dropped to 62% in 2019.

The proportion of households in social renting declined significantly from 32% in 1999 to 22% in 2009. In 2019 it had stabilised at 24% of all households.

The proportion of households in the private rented sector had increased since 1999, from 5% to 15% of all households in 2016, after which it fell slightly to 14% in 2019.



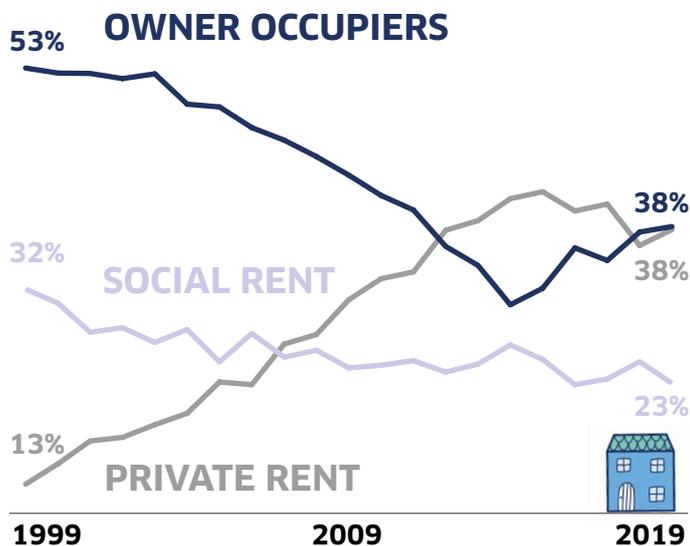
Households renting socially in urban areas decreased from 34% in 1999 to 25% in 2019

The equivalent change in rural areas was from 19% to 15%

Tenure Among Younger Households



The proportion of young households (where the highest earner was aged 16 to 34) in the private rented sector has increased substantially, from 13% in 1999 to 38% in 2019.



The proportion of these household that rent socially has decreased from 32% in 1999 to 23% in 2019.

For this age group, the proportion of households that owned their house decreased from 53% in 1999 to 38% in 2019. However, there was a slight increase between 2016 and 2019.

Making up a significant part of owner-occupiers, the proportion of young households that bought their home with the help of a loan or mortgage decreased from 48% in 1999 to 35% in 2019.

In households where the highest earner is aged 16 to 24, the proportion in the private rented sector has increased from 30% in 1999 to 56% in 2019

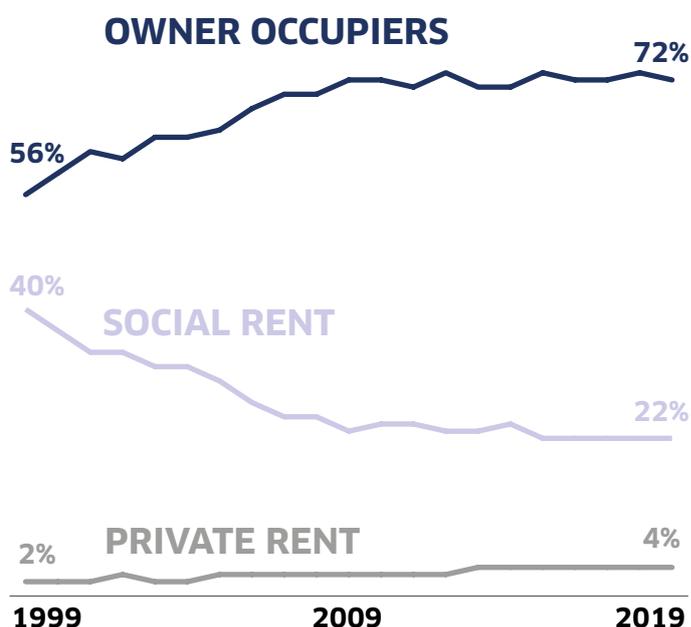
Tenure Among Older Households



In older households, where the highest earner is aged 60 or over, the proportion of households renting socially declined from 39% in 1999 to 22% in 2019.

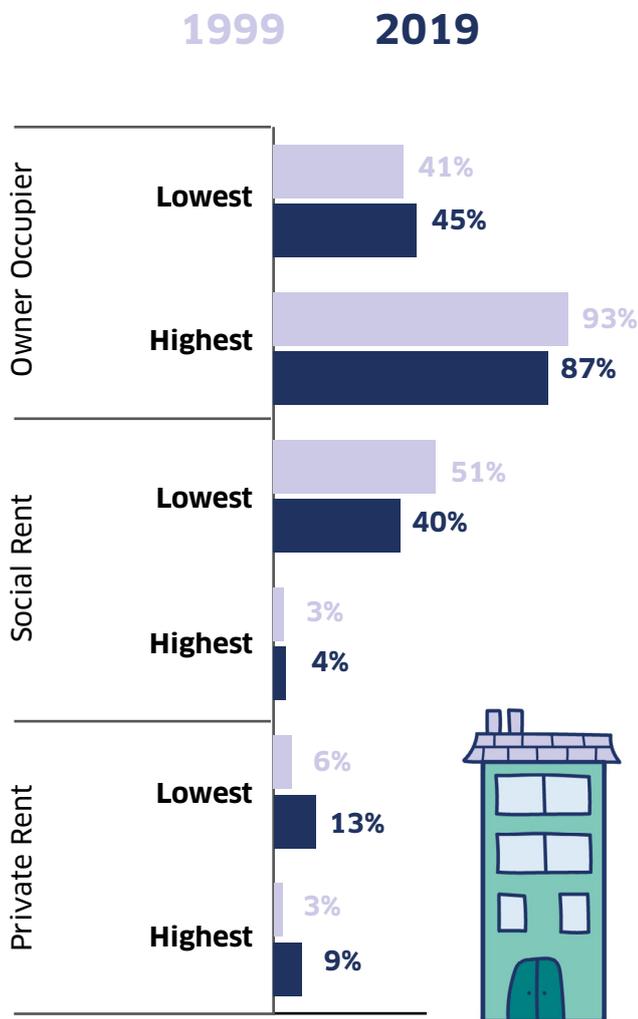
At the same time, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of owner occupiers among older households, from 56% in 1999 to 72% in 2019.

The proportion of older households that bought their home with the help of a loan or mortgage dropped from 10% to 6%.



Making up a big proportion of owner-occupiers, older households who owned their home outright rose from 46% in 1999 to 66% in 2019

Tenure Trends Differed by Income Group



Tenure trends differed depending on the income level of the household, but in both the lowest and highest income group more households now live in the private rented sector.

In 1999, 41% of households in the lowest income group were owner occupiers, and this increased to 45% in 2019. In the highest income group the proportion of owner-occupier households decreased from 93% to 87%.

The proportion of households in the lowest income group renting privately increased from 6% in 1999 to 13% in 2019. In the highest income group, this number increased from 3% in 1999 to 9% in 2019.

The proportion of single parent households renting socially decreased from 69% in 1999 to 51% in 2019.

There was a significant decrease in the proportion of social renters in the lowest income group, from 51% in 1999 to 40% in 2019

Neighbourhood satisfaction is increasing



In 2019, the majority of adults in Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to stay.

This increased from 49% in 1999 to 57% in 2019.

In 1999, 58% of adults in the highest income group rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. This increased to 66 % in 2019.

For adults in the lowest income group, 46% rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 1999 and this rose to 53% in 2019.

People rating their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live



Adults from rural areas were consistently more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live compared to adults in urban areas



Economic Activities Are Consistent

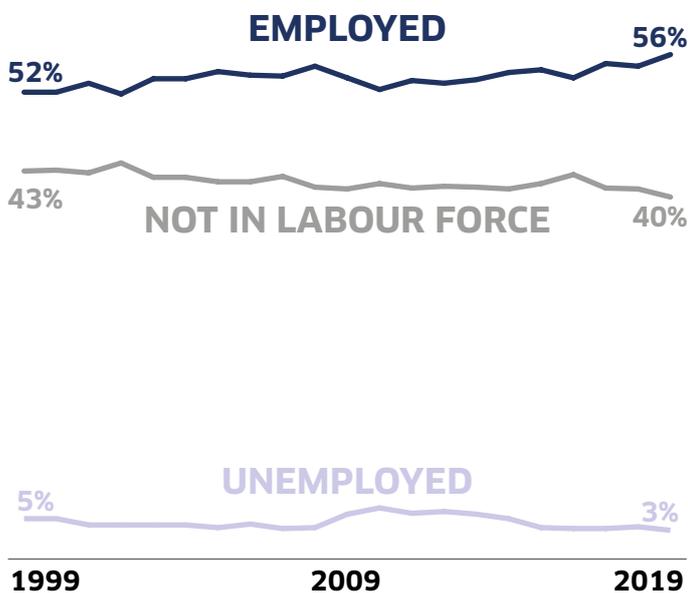


The economic status of adults in Scotland has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years.

The proportion of adults in paid employment increased from 52% in 1999 to 56% in 2019, including those in full and part-time employment and self-employed adults.

The proportion of adults that were not in the labour force decreased in this period, from 43% to 40%.

Additionally, the proportion of adults who were unemployed and looking for work decreased from 5% to 3%.



The proportion of adults caring for their home and family decreased from 8% of adults in 1999 to 4% in 2019

This represents the whole population and does not indicate unemployment rate.

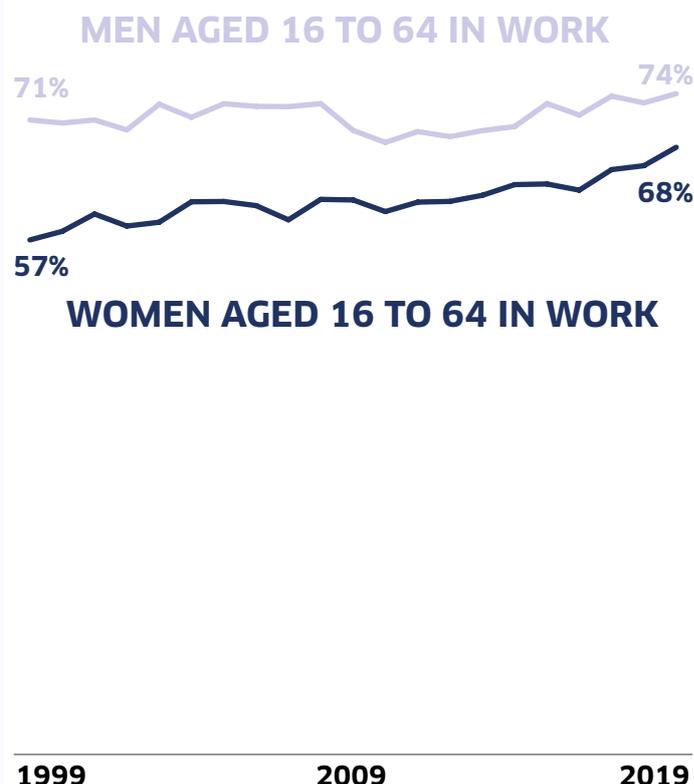
More Women are in Paid Work



The proportion of both men and women aged 16 to 64 who were in paid work had increased between 1999 and 2019.

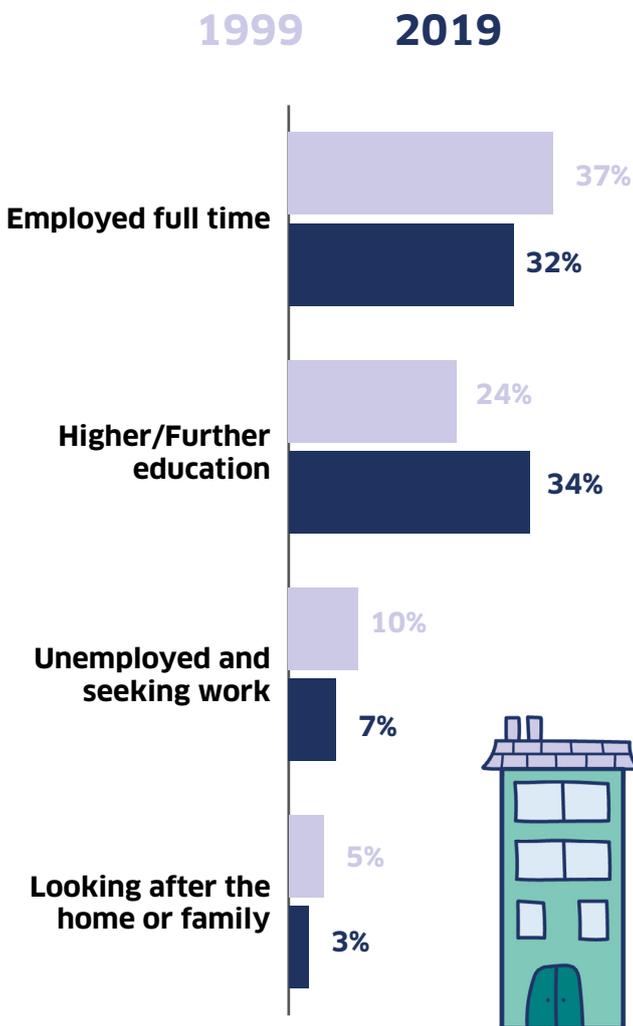
Over the last 20 years there are declining trends in men reporting to be employed full-time, unemployed and permanently sick or disabled. Increasing trends over the 20 years are evident in men reporting to be employed part-time and permanently retired.

For the economic activity of women, there was an increase in the proportions of those in self-employment and working full-time, and a decrease in women looking after the family or home.



The proportion of women aged 16 to 64 with children in the household working full-time increased from 22% in 1999 and 30% in 2019

More Young Adults are in Higher Education



The past 20 years saw an increase in the proportion of young adults, aged 16 to 24, in higher or further education. This increased from 24% of young adults in 1999 to 34% in 2019.

In 1999, 37% of young adults were employed full-time. In 2019 this decreased to 32%. The proportion of young adults that were unemployed and seeking work remained stable, from 10% in 1999 to 7% in 2019.

The number of young adults that looked after the home or family also remained stable, from 5% of all young adults in 1999 to 3% in 2019.

The proportion of adults aged 60 or over reporting to be permanently retired from work decreased from 80% in 1999 to 77% in 2019

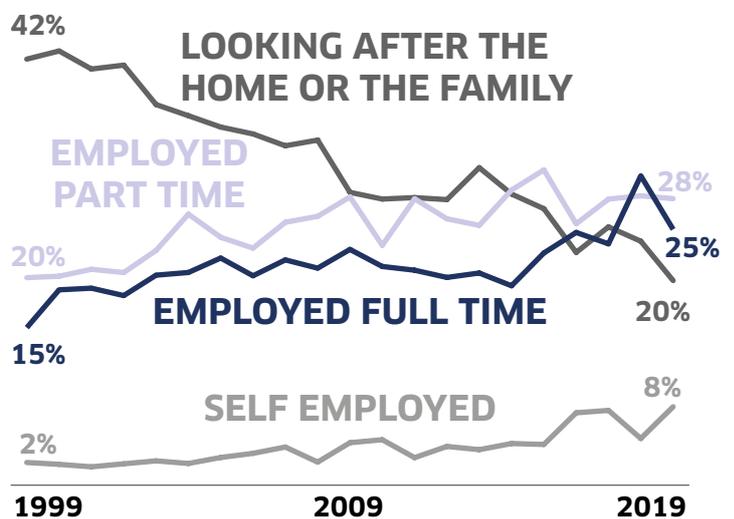
More Single Parents are in Paid Employment in 2019



The proportion of single parents at home looking after the home or the family has decreased from 42% of all single parents in 1999 to 20% in 2019.

At the same time, the proportion of single parents that were employed full-time increased from 15% in 1999 to 25% in 2019. The proportion who were employed part-time increased from 20% in 1999 to 28% in 2019.

In 2019, 8% of single parent households reported to be self-employed, increasing from 2% in 1999.



The proportion of single parents in paid employment increased from 38% in 1999 to 61% in 2019

Households are Managing Better



The proportion of households reporting that they managed well financially had increased from 42% in 1999 to 56% in 2019.



The 2019 levels suggest a period of recovery following a dip between 2007 and 2012, which may be explained in part by the economic downturn during that period.

The proportion of households that did not manage well had decreased since 1999, from 13% to 8% in 2019, of all households.

The proportion of single parent households not managing well decreased from 34% in 1999 to 19% in 2019

There is Still a Gap in Managing Well Financially Between Income Groups

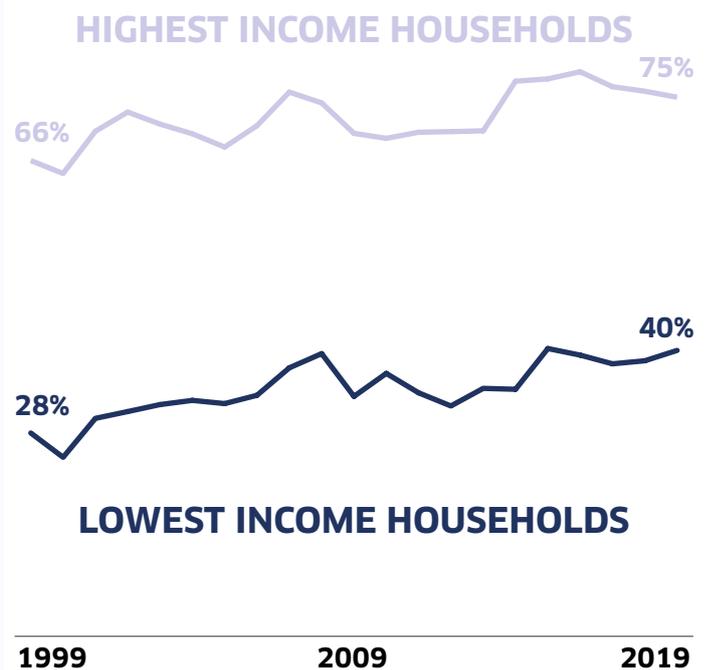


More households both in the lowest and highest income groups were reporting to manage well financially in 2019 than in 1999.

The proportion of households reporting to manage well financially in the highest income group increased from 66% in 1999 to 75% in 2019.

In the lowest income group, the proportion of households reporting to manage well financially increased from 28% in 1999 to 40% in 2019.

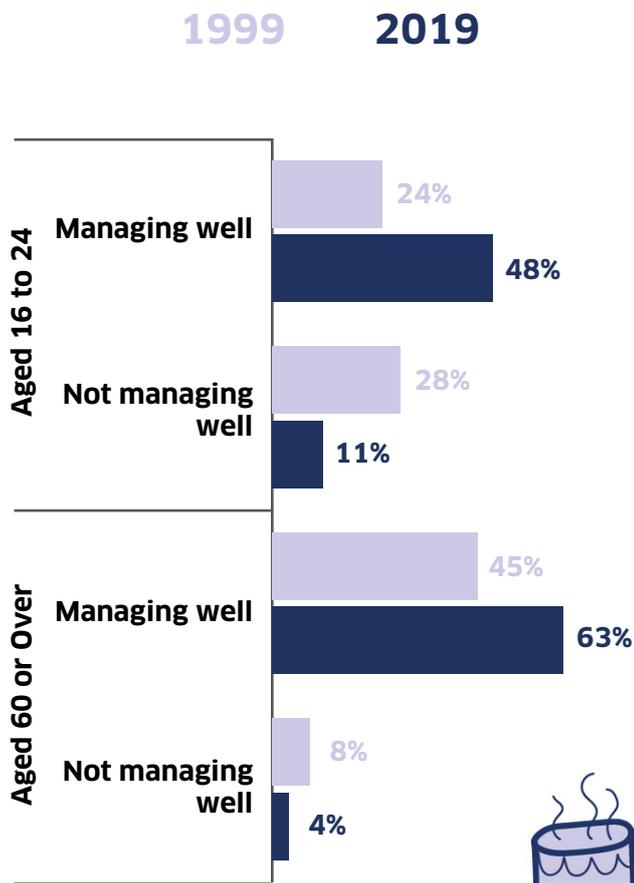
Over the last 20 years, the lowest income households were more likely to report that they got by alright financially, or that they did not manage very well and were having financial difficulties, when compared to the highest income households.



Higher income households are more likely to manage well financially



Managing Well Financially Still Differs by Age



The proportion of households managing well financially increased both for younger and older households, but older households were still more likely to report that they are managing well in 2019.

The proportion of young households, where the highest earner was aged 16 to 24, who manage well financially increased from 22% in 1999 to 50% in 2019. The proportion who did not manage well decreased from 31% to 11%.

The proportion of older households, where the highest earner was aged 60 or over, managing well financially increased from 45% in 1999 to 63% in 2019.

Half of young households (48%) reported that they managed well financially in 2019

Key resources



Scottish Household Survey 2019 Reports:

- [Scottish household survey 2019: key findings](#)
- [Data Explorer](#)
- [Scottish Household survey 2019: annual report](#)
- [Topic report on Culture and Heritage](#)
- [Topic report on Childcare](#)
- [2019 Scottish Household Survey Questionnaire](#)



20 years of Scotland's People: Scottish Household Survey:

- [20 years of Scotland's People comic story](#)
- [20 years of Scotland's People: excel file](#)
- [20 years of Scotland's People: commentary report](#)

Related Scottish Household Survey publications:

- [Scottish Household Survey: methodology and fieldwork outcomes](#)
- [Scottish Household Survey Publication Archive](#)
- [Scottish Household Survey Animation](#)



[Scottish House Condition Survey Reports](#)



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[Transport and Travel in Scotland \(TATIS\)](#)



[The Scottish Surveys Core Questions \(SSCQ\)](#)

You can find out more information:

<http://www.scottishhouseholdsurvey.com/>
<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-household-survey-publications/>



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