



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Labour Market Statistics for young people (16 to 24 year olds): Scotland and UK

Statistics from the Annual Population Survey,
July 2019 to June 2020 dataset, 16 September 2020

About this publication

This publication contains the latest estimated level and rate of employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK for July 2019 to June 2020. Data are sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS) dataset publically released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). While the focus of this publication is on estimates for Scotland, key UK estimates are also provided for comparison.

Estimates are presented for the period July 2009 – June 2010 to July 2019 – June 2020 and intervening years from the July to June dataset. Comparisons are made between the current year July 2019 – June 2020 and the comparable dataset in earlier years.

The APS combines the results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts to provide a larger annual sample of households in Scotland and the UK. Compared with the main quarterly LFS, these annual datasets provide more statistically robust labour market estimates for local areas and smaller groups of the population (including those aged 16 to 24 years).

The Annual Population Survey is the National Statistics source for labour market indicators by region and age. The next release of Annual Population Survey estimates will be for October 2019 to September 2020 and will be published on 16 December 2020.

For information, Annex A contains the most recent employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds from the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) dataset, May 2020 – Jul 2020 (at the time of this publication). These are published as Official Statistics.

Note: Government policies introduced in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented in the last three months of the period the latest estimates cover and therefore some limited impact will be shown in the estimates. LFS estimates in Annex A include the period since policies were introduced; however, smaller sample sizes may result in less reliable estimates. Consistent with labour market definitions outlined by [ONS](#), employees who are furloughed will be classified as employed, but temporarily away from work.



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Key Results

Youth Employment

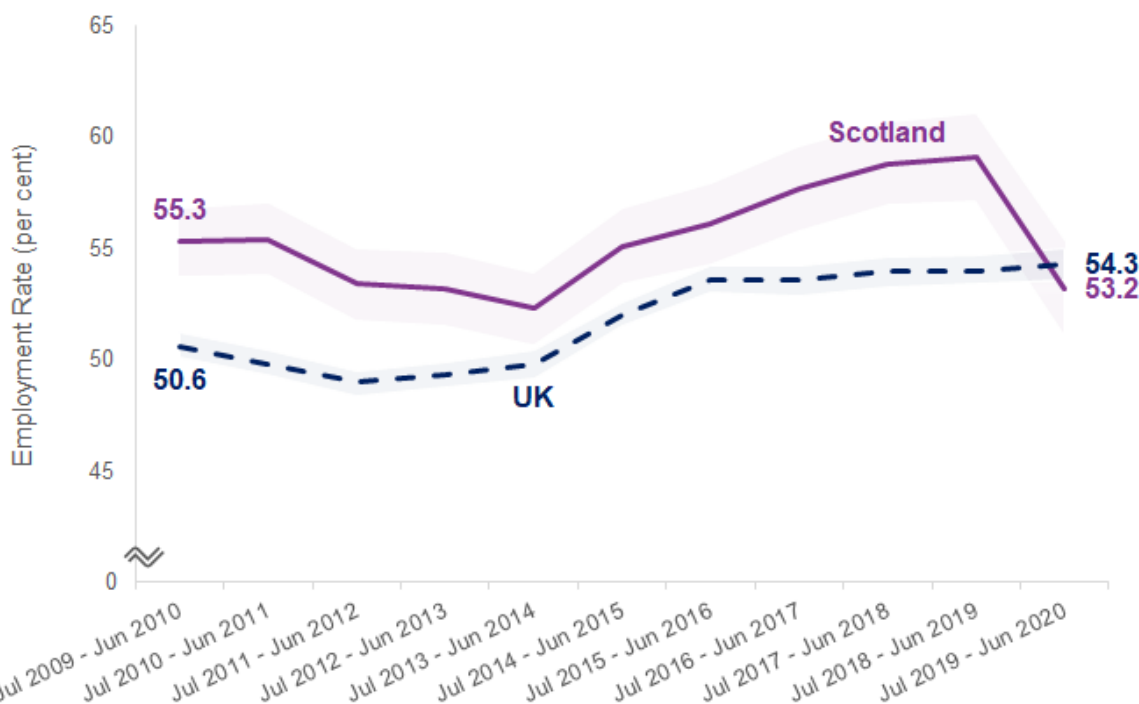
In July 2019 – June 2020, 299,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years were in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 53.2 per cent, 5.9 percentage points* lower than a year ago (59.1 per cent), which represents a statistically significant change. This has increased from a low of 52.3 per cent in July 2013 – June 2014 but also decreased from a high of 59.1 per cent in July 2018 - June 2019.

For the UK as a whole, the employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was 54.3 per cent, 0.3 percentage points higher than a year ago (54.0 per cent)

Chart 1 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16 to 24 year olds) employment rate for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 1: Employment rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS
Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

* All calculations throughout the document are based on unrounded data.

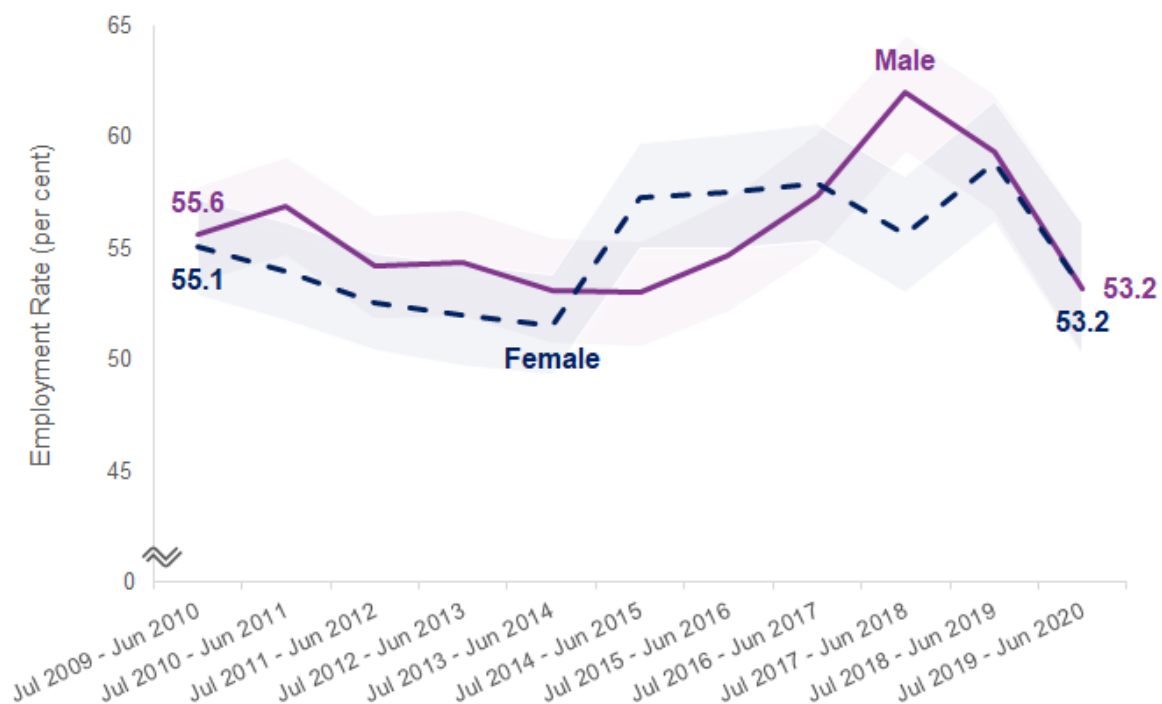
In July 2019 – June 2020, 150,000 men and 148,000 women aged 16 to 24 were in employment in Scotland.

The employment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 53.2 per cent, 6.0 percentage points lower than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

The employment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 53.2 per cent, 5.7 percentage points lower than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 2 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16 to 24 year olds) employment rate for men and women from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 2: Employment Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Youth Unemployment

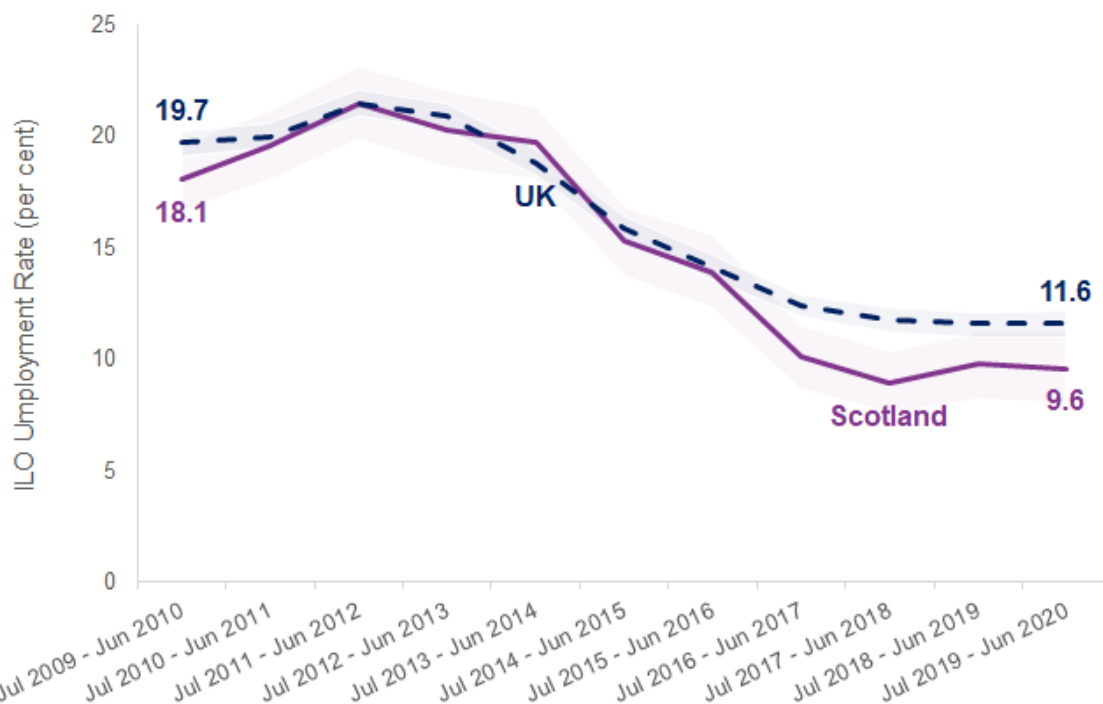
In July 2019 – June 2020, 32,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed in Scotland, 5,000 less than in July 2018 – June 2019 when 37,000 young people were unemployed.

The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) in Scotland was 9.6 per cent (in July 2019 – June 2020), 0.1 percentage point lower than the year before (9.8 per cent), which is not a statistically significant change. Unemployment reached 21.5 per cent in July 2011 – June 2012 but had fallen to a low of 8.9 per cent in July 2017 – June 2018.

For the UK, the unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) was 11.6 per cent, which represents no change from the year before (11.6 per cent).

Chart 3 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16 to 24) unemployment rate for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 3: ILO unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

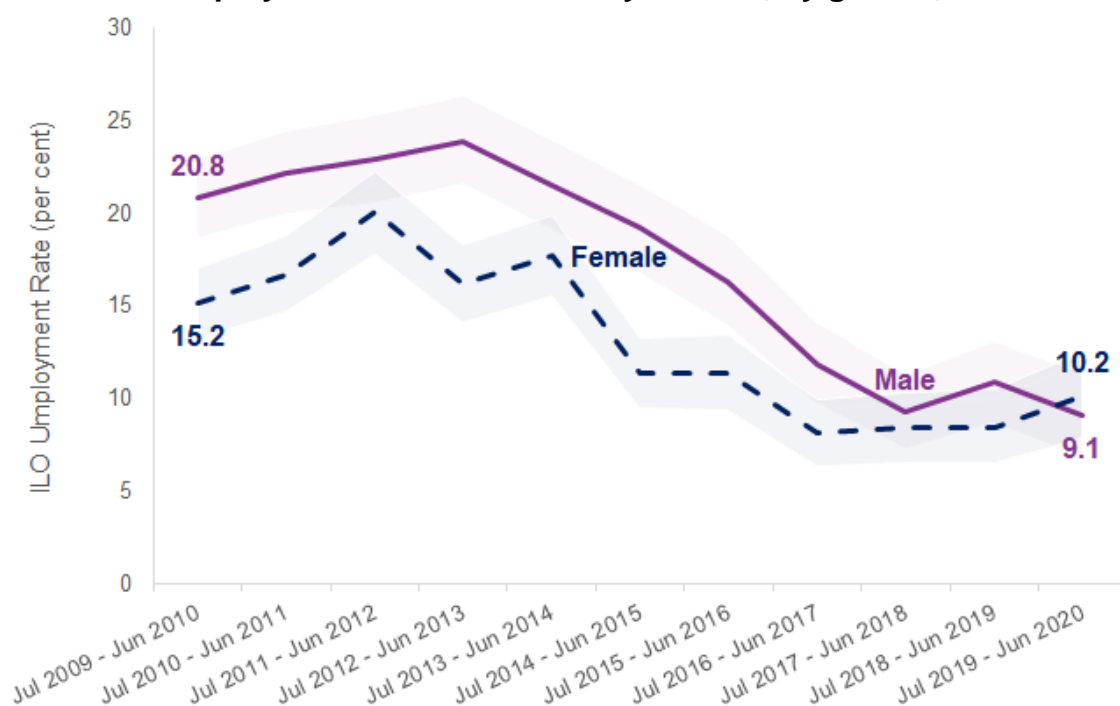
In July 2019 – June 2020, 15,000 men and 17,000 women aged 16 to 24 were unemployed in Scotland.

The unemployment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 9.1 per cent, 1.8 percentage points lower than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

The unemployment rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 10.2 per cent, 1.6 percentage points higher than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 4 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16 to 24 year olds) unemployment rate for men and women from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 4: Unemployment Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Youth Inactivity

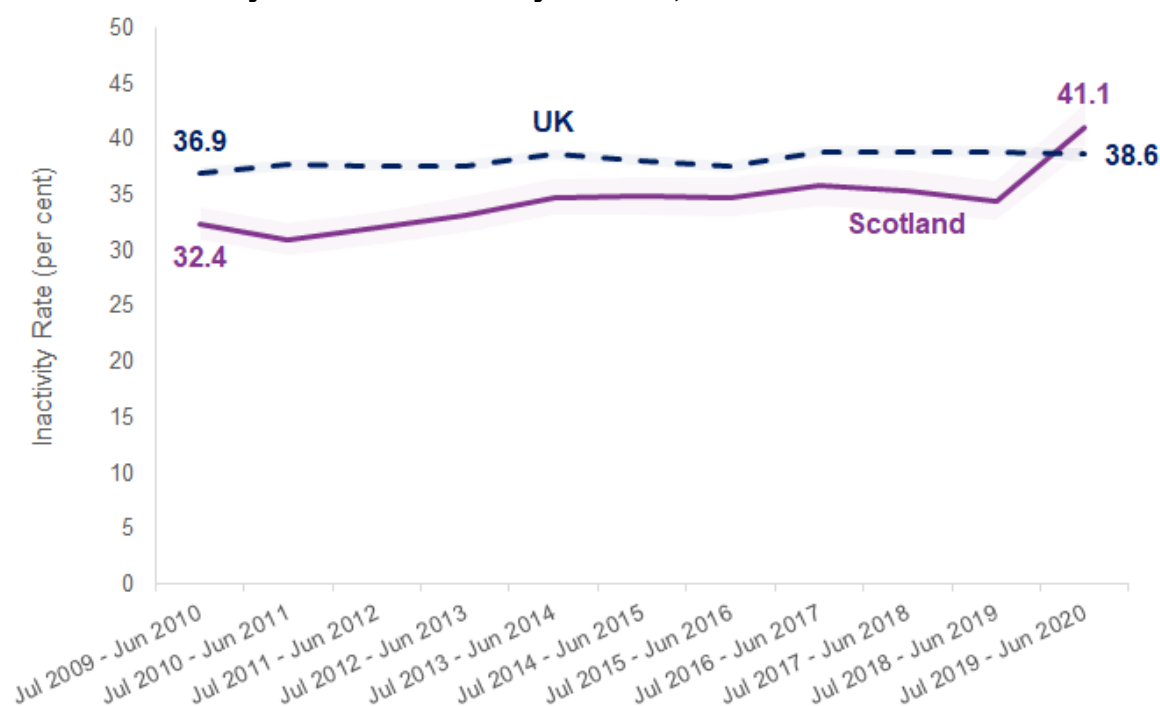
In July 2019 – June 2020, 231,000 young people aged 16 to 24 were economically inactive in Scotland, 34,000 more than a year ago when 197,000 were economically inactive.

In July 2019 – June 2020, the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland was 41.1 per cent, 6.6 percentage points higher than the year before (34.5 per cent), which represents a statistically significant change. Inactivity has risen since July 2010 – June 2011 to a high of 41.1 per cent in July 2019 – June 2020. Nearly three quarters (74.0 per cent) of young people (16 to 24 year olds) who are economically inactive are in full-time education.

For the UK, the inactivity rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) was 38.6 per cent, 0.3 percentage points lower than the year before (38.9 per cent).

Chart 5 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16 to 24 year olds) inactivity rate for Scotland and the UK from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 5: Inactivity Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland and the UK



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

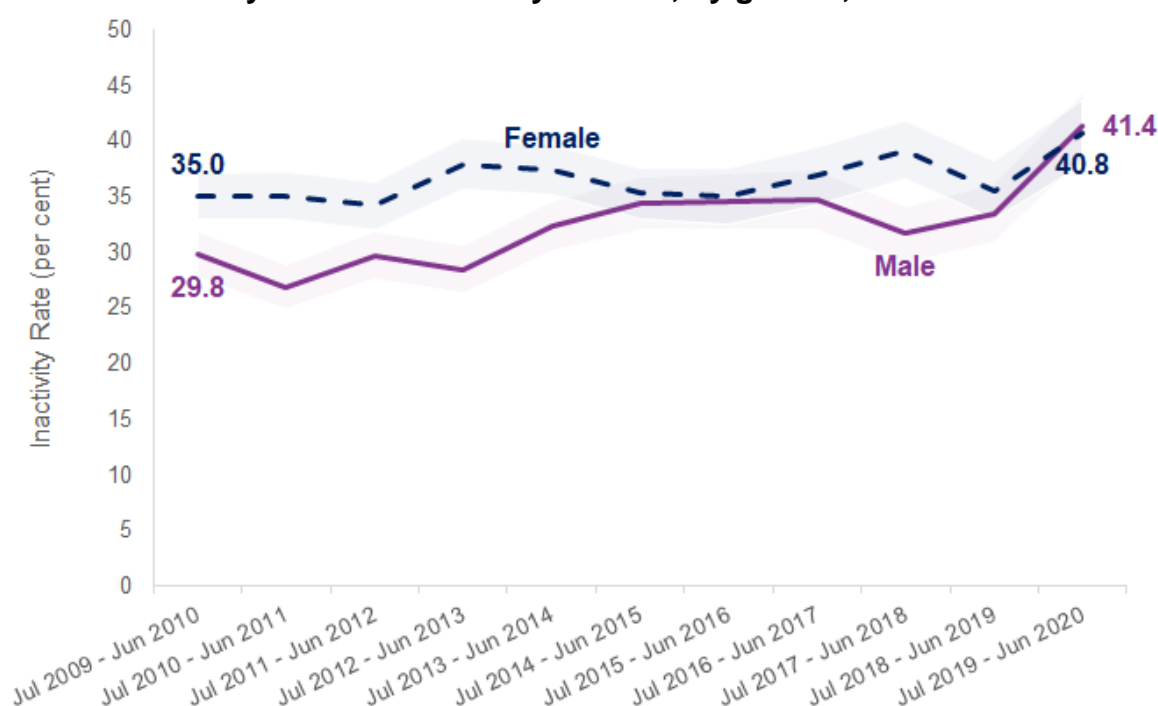
In July 2019 – June 2020, 117,000 men and 114,000 women aged 16 to 24 were economically inactive in Scotland.

The inactivity rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 41.4 per cent, 8.0 percentage points higher than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

The inactivity rate for young women (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 40.8 per cent, 5.2 percentage points higher than a year ago, which represents a statistically significant change.

Chart 6 shows the long-term trend in the youth (16 to 24 year olds) inactivity rate for men and women from the Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Chart 6: Inactivity Rate for 16 to 24 year olds, by gender, Scotland



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Note: Shaded area represent 95 per cent confidence interval

Table 1: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds, Scotland

	Total (16 to 24 years)				Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence
	Thousands	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit
Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	615	340	55.3	± 1.5	75	18.1	± 1.4	200	32.4	± 1.4			
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	622	345	55.4	± 1.6	84	19.6	± 1.5	193	31.0	± 1.5			
Jul 2011 - Jun 2012	624	333	53.4	± 1.6	91	21.5	± 1.6	199	32.0	± 1.5			
Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	621	330	53.2	± 1.6	84	20.3	± 1.6	206	33.2	± 1.5			
Jul 2013 - Jun 2014	615	322	52.3	± 1.6	79	19.7	± 1.6	214	34.8	± 1.5			
Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	611	337	55.1	± 1.7	61	15.3	± 1.5	213	34.9	± 1.6			
Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	605	340	56.1	± 1.8	55	13.9	± 1.5	211	34.8	± 1.7			
Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	595	343	57.7	± 1.9	39	10.1	± 1.4	213	35.8	± 1.8			
Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	582	343	58.8	± 1.8	34	8.9	± 1.3	206	35.4	± 1.8			
Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	572	338	59.1	± 1.9	37	9.8	± 1.4	197	34.5	± 1.8			
Jul 2019 - Jun 2020	562	299	53.2	± 2.1	32	9.6	± 1.6	231	41.1	± 2.0			
Change since Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	-10	-39	-5.9		-5	-0.1		34	6.6				
Change since Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	-54	-42	-2.1		-43	-8.5		31	8.7				

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16 to 24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Rates are based on unrounded figures.
4. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.
7. Confidence limits are calculated for the 95th percentile.

Table 2: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity levels and rates for 16 to 24 year olds, UK

	Total (16 to 24 years)				Employment			Unemployment			Inactivity		
	Level	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence	Level	Rate	Confidence
	Thousands	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit	Thousands	per cent	Limit
Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	7,282	3,688	50.6	± 0.5	904	19.7	± 0.5	2,690	36.9	± 0.5			
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	7,342	3,659	49.8	± 0.6	916	20.0	± 0.6	2,767	37.7	± 0.5			
Jul 2011 - Jun 2012	7,364	3,605	49.0	± 0.6	988	21.5	± 0.6	2,771	37.6	± 0.5			
Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	7,334	3,617	49.3	± 0.6	957	20.9	± 0.6	2,759	37.6	± 0.6			
Jul 2013 - Jun 2014	7,300	3,634	49.8	± 0.6	840	18.8	± 0.6	2,825	38.7	± 0.5			
Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	7,273	3,784	52.0	± 0.6	714	15.9	± 0.5	2,774	38.1	± 0.6			
Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	7,225	3,874	53.6	± 0.6	638	14.1	± 0.5	2,713	37.5	± 0.6			
Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	7,138	3,822	53.6	± 0.6	541	12.4	± 0.5	2,774	38.9	± 0.6			
Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	7,039	3,800	54.0	± 0.6	507	11.8	± 0.5	2,733	38.8	± 0.6			
Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	6,950	3,756	54.0	± 0.6	492	11.6	± 0.5	2,702	38.9	± 0.6			
Jul 2019 - Jun 2020	6,885	3,739	54.3	± 0.7	490	11.6	± 0.6	2,657	38.6	± 0.7			
Change since Jul 2018 - Jun 2019	-65	-17	0.3		-1	0.0		-46	-0.3				
Change since Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	-397	50	3.6		-413	-8.1		-33	1.6				

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16 to 24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Rates are based on unrounded figures.
4. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.
7. Confidence limits are calculated for the 95th percentile.

Table 3: Employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity for 16 to 24 year olds by gender, Jul 2019 - Jun 2020, Scotland and UK

Scotland										
	Level	Level (Thousands)				Rate (per cent)	Rate			
		Change since Jul 2018 - Jun 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Jul 2009 - Jun 2010 (percentage points)			Change since Jul 2018 - Jun 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Jul 2009 - Jun 2010 (percentage points)	
Employment*										
Male	150	-20	↓	-20	↓	53.2	-6.0	↓	-2.4	↓
Female	148	-19	↓	-22	↓	53.2	-5.7	↓	-1.9	↓
ILO unemployment										
Male	15	-6	↓	-30	↓	9.1	-1.8	↓	-11.7	↓
Female	17	1	↑	-14	↓	10.2	1.6	↑	-5.0	↓
Inactivity										
Male	117	21	↑	26	↑	41.4	8.0	↑	11.6	↑
Female	114	13	↑	6	↑	40.8	5.2	↑	5.8	↑
UK										
	Level	Level (Thousands)				Rate (per cent)	Rate			
		Change since Jul 2018 - Jun 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Jul 2009 - Jun 2010 (percentage points)			Change since Jul 2018 - Jun 2019 (percentage points)		Change since Jul 2009 - Jun 2010 (percentage points)	
Employment										
Male	1,903	-8	↓	60	↑	54.1	0.3	↑	3.6	↑
Female	1,835	-9	↓	-10	↓	54.5	0.2	↑	3.7	↑
ILO unemployment										
Male	276	-14	↓	-264	↓	12.7	-0.5	↓	-10.0	↓
Female	214	12	↑	-149	↓	10.4	0.6	↑	-6.0	↓
Inactivity										
Male	1,339	-11	↓	72	↑	38.0	0.0	-	3.3	↑
Female	1,318	-34	↓	-105	↓	39.1	-0.7	↓	-0.1	↓

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jul-Jun datasets, ONS

Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16 to 24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Rates are based on unrounded figures.
4. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.

Further Information

Reliability of estimates

Information from the Annual Population Survey for July 2009 – June 2010 to July 2019 – June 2020 is presented. The sample size in this dataset is around 17,000 households in Scotland.

As the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) are sample surveys, these estimates are subject to an associated sampling error that decreases as the sample size increases. It is the nature of sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise the estimate is. ONS have published a detailed guidance note on [this](#). Shading is one method used by ONS to indicate where estimates should be used with caution. However, the National Statistics marking for the Annual Population Survey reflects the larger sample size for headline estimates of Labour Market indicators by age for Scotland.

Access the data in this publication

Results are provided for July 2009 – June 2010 to July 2019 – June 2020, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 16 September 2020.

The tables and the charts contained in this publication are also available in excel format web tables.

Annual Population Survey data for employment and economic inactivity by age for Scotland, alongside a range of other labour market indicators, are also made available on the Scottish Government Open Data Platform:

<http://statistics.gov.scot/home>

ONS also release rolling quarterly Annual Population Survey datasets covering the periods January – December, April – March, and October – September. The data for these time periods have not been used or presented within this publication. The data for these are available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Confidence Intervals

Confidence limits can be used to assess the range of values that the true value lies between. 95 per cent confidence intervals are included in Table 1 and 2 and shown in charts 1 to 6.

What does the 95 per cent confidence limit mean?

If, for example, we have an APS estimate and confidence limit of 63 per cent ± 0.27 per cent, this means that 19 times out of 20 we would expect the true rate to lie between 62.73 per cent and 63.27 per cent. Only in exceptional circumstances (1 in 20 times) would we expect the true rate to be outside the confidence interval around the APS estimate. Thus the smaller the confidence limits, the more reliable the estimate.

The confidence limits use a design factor of 1, which may not be likely in some cases but given the lack of further information an average design factor of 1 is assumed to

be reasonable. Further information on estimating confidence intervals can be found in the [LFS user guidance](#).

Statistical Significance

Statistical significance is based on 95 per cent confidence Intervals. Statistical significance means that the change was large enough that it is unlikely to have resulted only from the variable nature of samples.

Concepts and Definitions

Employment: There are two main ways of looking at employment: the number of people with jobs or the number of jobs. These two concepts represent different things as one person can have more than one job. People aged 16 or over are classed as in employment (as an employee or self-employed) by the Labour Force Survey (LFS), if they have done at least one hour of paid work in the week prior to their LFS interview or if they have a job that they are temporarily away from. People who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported training and employment programs are also included according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition.

Employment rate: The number of people in employment expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.

Economically inactive: Economically inactive people are not in employment, but do not satisfy all the criteria for unemployment. This group is comprised of those who want a job but who have not been seeking work in the last four weeks, those who want a job and are seeking work but not available to start and those who do not want a job. For example, students not working or seeking work and those in retirement are classed as economically inactive.

Economic inactivity rate: The number of economically inactive people expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.

Unemployment: The ILO definition of unemployment covers people who are: not in employment, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight, or, out of work and have accepted a job which they are waiting to start in the next fortnight.

Unemployment rate: The number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the relevant economically active population.

Rates: Rates represent the proportion of the population or subgroup of the population with a certain characteristic. They allow changes in the labour market to be interpreted in a wider context, allowing for changes in the overall population or the number of people who are economically active. Rates can be calculated for different age groups. For employment, economic activity and economic inactivity, the most widely quoted rates are those for the 16 to 64 population. For unemployment, headline rates are expressed as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. Those over retirement age who continue to be economically active will therefore be included in the base while those who are economically inactive will not.

Annex A

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table A1 provides the employment, unemployment and inactivity levels and rates for all 16 to 24 year olds based on results from the most recently available Labour Force Survey, ONS for May-Jul 2010 to May-Jul 2020.

The Annual Population Survey (APS) has a larger sample size than the LFS and therefore provides more robust information for smaller groups. However, the results from both the APS and LFS show broadly similar long-term trends in labour market statistics for those aged 16 to 24 in Scotland.

Table A1: Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity Levels and Rates for 16-24 year olds, Scotland

	Total (16-24 years)		Employment		Unemployment		Inactivity	
	Level (thousands)	Level (thousands)	Rate (per cent)	Level (thousands)	Rate (per cent)	Level (thousands)	Rate (per cent)	
May-Jul 2010	618	336	54.3	109	24.5	174	28.1	
May-Jul 2011	625	335	53.6	92	21.5	198	31.7	
May-Jul 2012	623	342	54.9	109	24.1	172	27.7	
May-Jul 2013	618	355	57.4	98	21.6	166	26.8	
May-Jul 2014	613	344	56.2	75	17.8	194	31.7	
May-Jul 2015	609	371	60.9	67	15.3	171	28.1	
May-Jul 2016	602	352	58.6	50	12.4	199	33.1	
May-Jul 2017	588	362	61.5	38	9.5	188	32.0	
May-Jul 2018	577	325	56.3	39	10.8	213	36.9	
May-Jul 2019	566	331	58.4	37	10.1	198	35.0	
May-Jul 2020	557	301	54.0	51	14.5	205	36.8	
Change since May-Jul 2019	-8	-30	-4.4	14	4.5	7	1.8	
Change since May-Jul 2010	-61	-35	-0.3	-58	-9.9	32	8.7	

Source: Labour Force Survey, May-Jul datasets, not seasonally adjusted, ONS

Notes:

1. Levels and rates are based on those aged 16 to 24.
2. Levels rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Rates are based on unrounded figures.
4. Employment and Inactivity rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all persons aged 16 to 24.
5. Unemployment rates are based on those aged 16 to 24. Denominator is all those aged 16 to 24 who are economically active (employed and unemployed).
6. Changes over time are based on unrounded figures.

These estimates were published on 15 September 2020 by ONS as part of the [Labour Market Statistics in the Regions of the UK](#) monthly publication as Official Statistics.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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