

Comparability with Other Sources

In some cases the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is not the official source of statistics on a particular topic, such as income, employment or housing.

The survey collects information on these topics to select the data of particular groups for further analysis or for use as background variables when analysing other topics.

The Scottish Government conducts several major population surveys that are used to inform the policy debate in Scotland and in some instances, the surveys can be complementary. The Long-term Survey Strategy 2018-2022¹, of which the SHS is a central element, is designed to improve the way population surveys are run and to increase the availability and use of survey data, both at a national and local level. A guide is available providing more information on Scotland's surveys².

There are also a number of Great British (GB) or UK surveys that include a Scottish dimension i.e. the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS), which provide statistics for Scotland on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity. The results from both surveys are available from the Labour Market pages³ of the SG website.

Table 1: Overview of the preferred sources

Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ)	Demographic data (e.g. age, gender, religion, ethnicity or tenure) Economic activity & qualifications Disability/long term health condition
Scottish Health Survey (SHeS)	Smoking Health information
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)	Fear and Perceptions of crime Confidence in the police
Transport and Travel in Scotland (TATIS)	All transport information, including the Travel Diary results
Family Resources Survey (FRS)	Scotland level household income estimates

¹ <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533188.pdf>

² <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/scotlandsurveys>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/labour-market-statistics/>

The SHS will continue to gather information on a range of topics to contribute to the **Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) pooled sample**. Pooling samples across the SHS, SHeS and SCJS **enables detailed and reliable analysis of national estimates** by ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, education level and a wide range of other characteristics and estimates for low levels of geography, including local authorities.

The latest estimates for the SSCQ 2018 were published in June 2020⁴, the 2019 dataset is expected to be published in 2021. The SG recommends that users refer to the SSCQ publication as the preferred source of local authority data for these questions.

Table 2: Topics covered in the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ)

The Scottish Surveys Core Questions in 2018 covered:	
disability and long-term conditions	housing tenure
smoking	car access
provision of unpaid care	ethnic group
household type	religion
perception of local crime rate	marital status
highest qualification held	sexual orientation
economic activity	gender
local government satisfaction	self-assessed general health
country of birth	age

There are some key demographic and contextual SSCQs where data continues to be published in outputs from the SHS at national and local authority⁵ level. This includes gender, age, ethnicity, religion, economic activity and qualifications, disability/long term health condition, and tenure. **Due to its higher combined sample size, the SSCQ data on these questions will offer a higher level of precision for users seeking standalone estimates for these variables.**

Due to methodological difficulties, banded household income is not currently reported in the SSCQ and will continue to be published in outputs from the SHS as another key contextual variable. However, it should be noted that the FRS⁶ is the preferred source for Scotland level household income estimates.

⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-surveys-core-questions-2018-analytical-tables/>

⁵ <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-resources-survey--2>