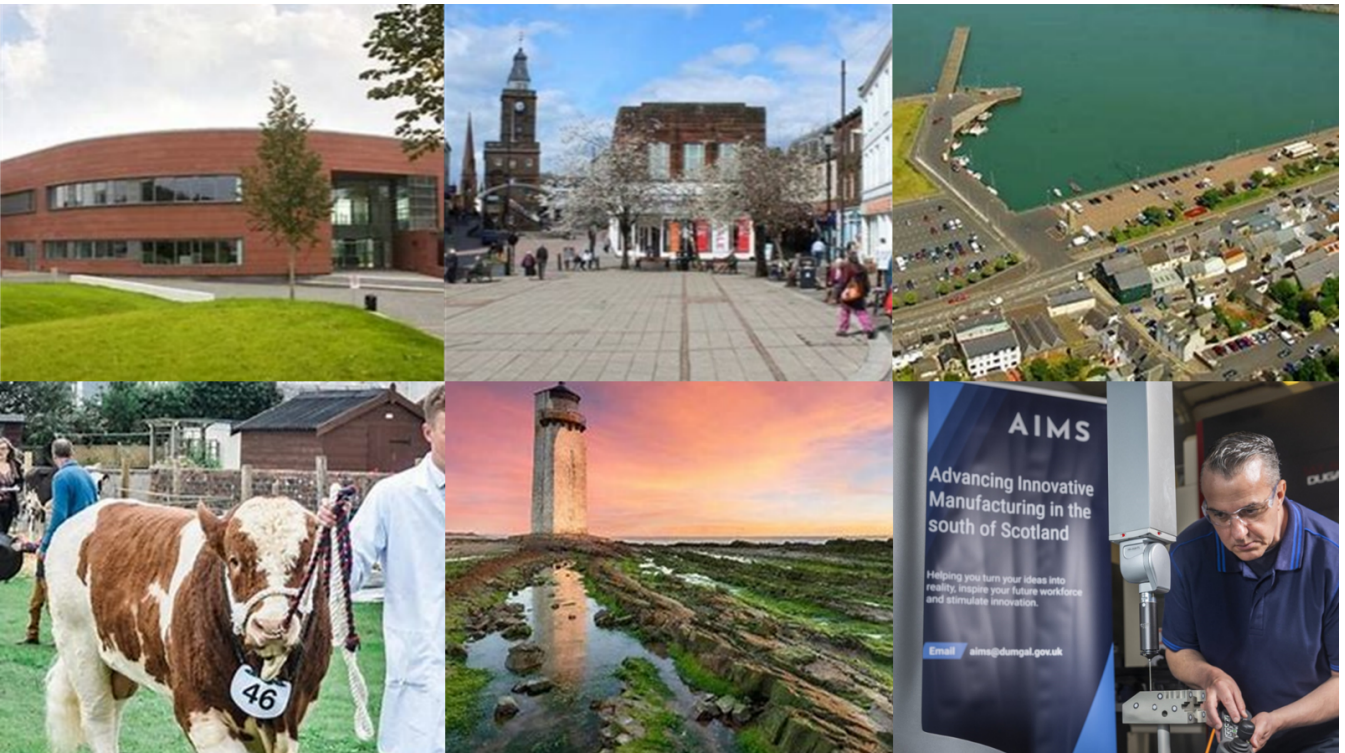




Dumfries and Galloway Local Employability and Skills Partnership










Delivery Plan Briefing Update
April 2025



Executive Summary:

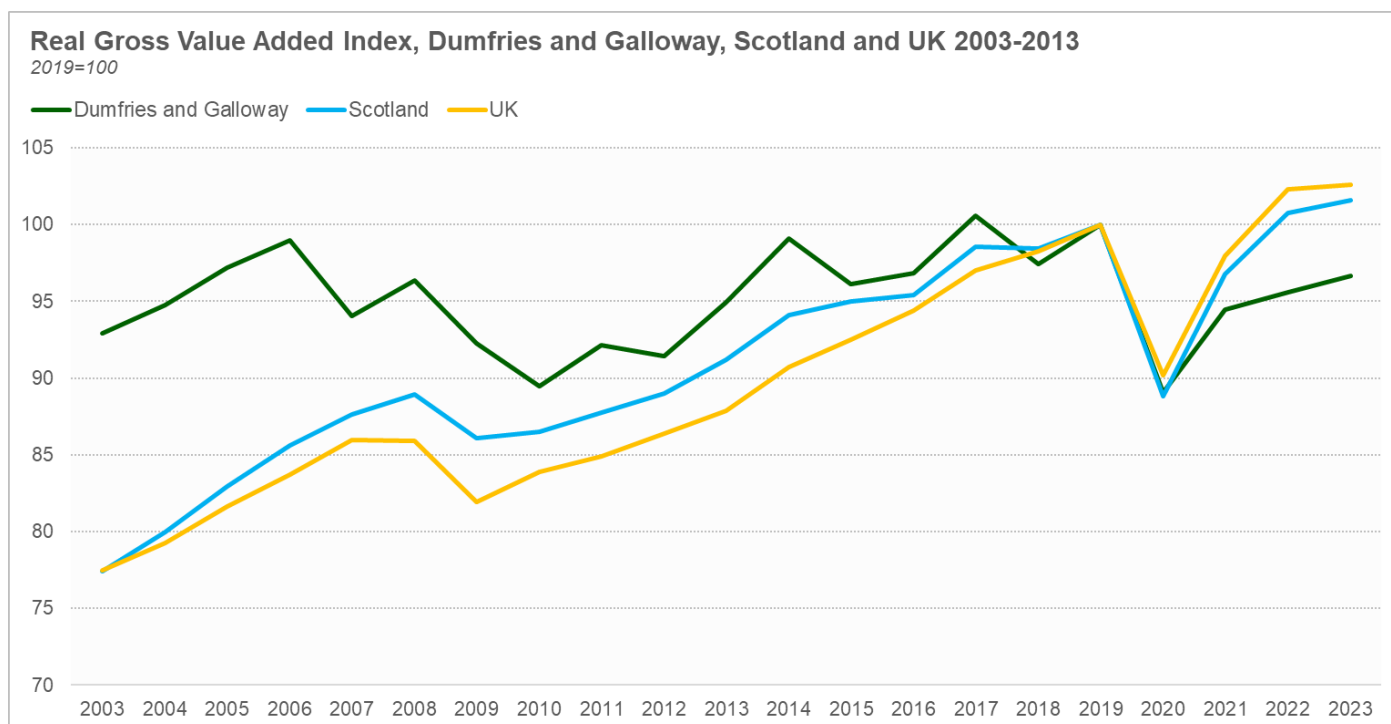
- Real Gross Value Added in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £4,150 million, 1.1% higher in real terms compared to 2022. GVA in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 3.4% lower in real terms than in 2019, compared to 1.6% higher for Scotland and 2.6% higher for the UK within the same period.
- There were 58,964 payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 0.1% lower than 59,029 in February 2024, with the number of payrolled employees in Scotland 0.1% lower in the 12 months to February 2025.
- Median monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was £2,260, 8.4% lower than £2,466 for Scotland within the same period. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 remained the lowest of all Scottish NUTS3 areas in February 2025
- The employment rate for those aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2022 and September 2024 (survey average) was 72.3%, compared to 74.6% for Scotland. The economic inactivity rate aged 16 to 64 years for people living in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2022 and September 2024 was 23.9%, compared to 22.7% for Scotland. 9.7% of those aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2022 and September 2024 who were inactive due to temporary/long-term sickness, compared to 7.9% of working aged people in Scotland.
- GVA per hour worked in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was £54,991, 6.5% lower than in Scotland at £58,796. GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was 2.0% lower in 2022 compared to 2019 in real terms, compared to 1.1% lower for Scotland and 1.4% higher for the UK.
- Gross median weekly pay for full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was £676.308, 8.6% lower than in Scotland and the 6th lowest workplace-based gross median pay for full-time employees of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2024.
- The gender pay gap for full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was 5.4%, compared 9.4% for Scotland.
- There were 7,175 private sector businesses in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024, 1.6% lower than in 2019, compared to 3.1% lower for Scotland within the same period.
- 2,420 people and 2.9% of the working aged population of Dumfries and Galloway were claimant count unemployed in February 2025, 3.0% higher than 2,350 and 2.8% in February 2024.
- 15,667 working aged people aged 16 to 64 years and 18.8% of working aged people living in Dumfries and Galloway were on Universal Credit in February 2025, compared to 16.9% of working aged people in Scotland. 1,556 people aged 16 to 24 and 13.2% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Dumfries and Galloway were on Universal Credit in February 2025, compared to 10.1% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Scotland on Universal Credit within the same period.
- There were 1,435 jobs advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 23.7% higher than 1,160 in February 2024. Monthly job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway were 83.1% in February 2025 than compared to 2019 monthly averages, compared to 40.5% higher for Scotland.
- 94.4% of those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway were participating in employment, education or training in 2023/24, the highest rate on record and compared to 92.7% of those aged 16 to 19 years in Scotland.
- The disability employment gap in Dumfries and Galloway in between 2023 and 2024 was 42.2 percentage points (p.p.), 11.4 p.p. higher than Scotland at 30.7 p.p. and the 3rd highest disability employment gap of 32 Scottish local authority areas between 2023 and 2024.
- The participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years for those who are disabled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 was 88.4, 6.2 percentage points lower than 94.7% for those who are not disabled.
- 6,841 children and 26.9% of children in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022/23 were in poverty families, up from 6,751 and 26.0% in 2021/22 and compared to 24.0% of children in Scotland in 2022/23.
- 4,194 children aged 0 to 15 years and 19.2% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 were living in relative low-income families, compared to 16.3% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland. 3,396 children aged 0 to 15 years and 15.5% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 were living in absolute low-income families compared to 13.2% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland.

Dumfries and Galloway Employability Priority Dashboard, April 2025:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>94.4% Scotland: 92.7%</p> <p>- 94.4% of those aged 16 to 19 were participating in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 (Scotland: 92.7%) - highest rate on record since 2016.</p> <p>2.5% Scotland: 1.2%</p> <p>- Payroll employee pay increased by 2.5% in real-terms in the year to January 2025 (Scotland: 1.2%), the highest increase of all Scottish areas.</p> <p>19.0% 2023: 20.3%</p> <p>- 19.0% of those aged 0-15 in Dumfries and Galloway lived in relative low income families in 2024 (Scotland: 16.3%), -1.3 p.p. than 20.3% in 2023</p> <p>59,166 Jan 2024: 59,048</p> <p>Payrolled employment in Dumfries and Galloway in Jan 2025 grew 0.2% y-o-y (Scotland: -0.1%), yet to declined in many Scottish areas.</p> <p>76.2% Scotland: 76.0%</p> <p>- 76.2% of Modern Apprenticeship leavers in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 had achievements (Scotland: 76.0%), +5.3 p.p. y-o-y.</p> <p>- Local industry strengths include Agriculture, Forestry, Manufacturing, Food & Drink, Tourism, Natural Capital, Place, Culture, Art an Education.</p>	<p>18.5% Scotland: 16.9%</p> <p>- 18.5% of working aged people in Dumfries and Galloway were on Universal Credit in Jan 2025 (Scotland: 16.9%) , +2.9 p.p. from Jan 2024.</p> <p>1,150 Annual %: 1.8%</p> <p>- There were 1,150 job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in Jan 2005 (Scotland: -6.6%), +1.8% y-o-y indicating persistent skills shortages.</p> <p>£682.20 Scotland: £740.00</p> <p>- Weekly pay for full-time employees in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was £629.80, 14.9% lower than Scotland and 4th lowest of all Scottish LA's.</p> <p>£54,991 Scotland: £58,796</p> <p>- Low productivity - Gross Value Added Per Job Filled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was £54,991, 6.5% lower than Scotland.</p> <p>42.2 Scotland: 30.7</p> <p>- Disability employment gap in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was 42.2 p.p., 11.4 p.p. higher than Scotland and 4th highest gap of all Scottish LA's.</p> <p>87.1% D&G: 94.4%</p> <p>- 5-year average participation rates 16-19 in Summerville, Annan West, Stranraer West, Dumfries Central and Lochside and Lincluden below 90%.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p> - Funding streams available to support regeneration and skills (ScotGov, UK Levelling Up Funding, £20 million for Dumfries town projects)</p> <p> - Strong natural capital and natural assets (land, forestry, marine, energy), make region ideally located for green investment and green economy.</p> <p> - Emerging opportunities from UK Industrial Strategy i.e. Advanced manufacturing, Clean energy, Defence, Digital, Culture.</p> <p> - Strong links with partners and support available via multiple agencies and projects (Business, SOSE, SDS, NHS, DWP, Third Sector)</p> <p> - Place-based approach to target priority areas i.e. Stranraer, Kirkconnel and Kelloholm, Lochside and Lincluden, Dumfries Central.</p> <p> - Local initiatives to alleviate child poverty, disability employment gap i.e. Service Design approach, 100 parents project , local skills/industry hubs.</p> <p> - Local strengths and projects i.e. AIMS, Borderlands Digital, Place Programs, Community Wealth Building, Stranraer Waterfront.</p>	<p>0.1% Target: 0.7%</p> <p>- Weak Economic Performance. UK Quarterly GDP was 0.1% in Q4 2024, following 0/0% growth in Q3 2024, with annual GDP at 1.1%.</p> <p>3.7% Target: 0.2%</p> <p>- Cost of living pressures. UK inflation (CPIH) rose by 3.7% in the 12 months to February 2025, with further cost pressures arriving in April 2024.</p> <p>-4.9 Target: 5.0</p> <p>- Scottish consumer sentiment remains low, with sentiment in Q4 2024 at -4.9, with sentiment around the economy at -1.1 in the same period.</p> <p> - Weak forecast growth. OBR revised down 2025 growth forecast to 1.0%, with Fraser of Allander Institute revising Scottish growth to 0.9% in 2025.</p> <p>-13.3% Neutral: 0.0%</p> <p>- Population: Dumfries and Galloway working age population is projected to decline by 10.3% in ten years to 2035 and aged 65+ increasing 12.3%.</p> <p>59,700 Target: 61,150</p> <p>- Forecast employment growth in Dumfries and Galloway in the ten years to 2034 is 0.7% (Scotland: 3.1%), requiring +1,850 jobs to match trend.</p> <p> - Challenging macro-economic situation: Economic outlook, Trade tariffs, Security, Recession likeliness, AI, Strategic realignment and uncertainty.</p>

Economy, Labour Market and People:

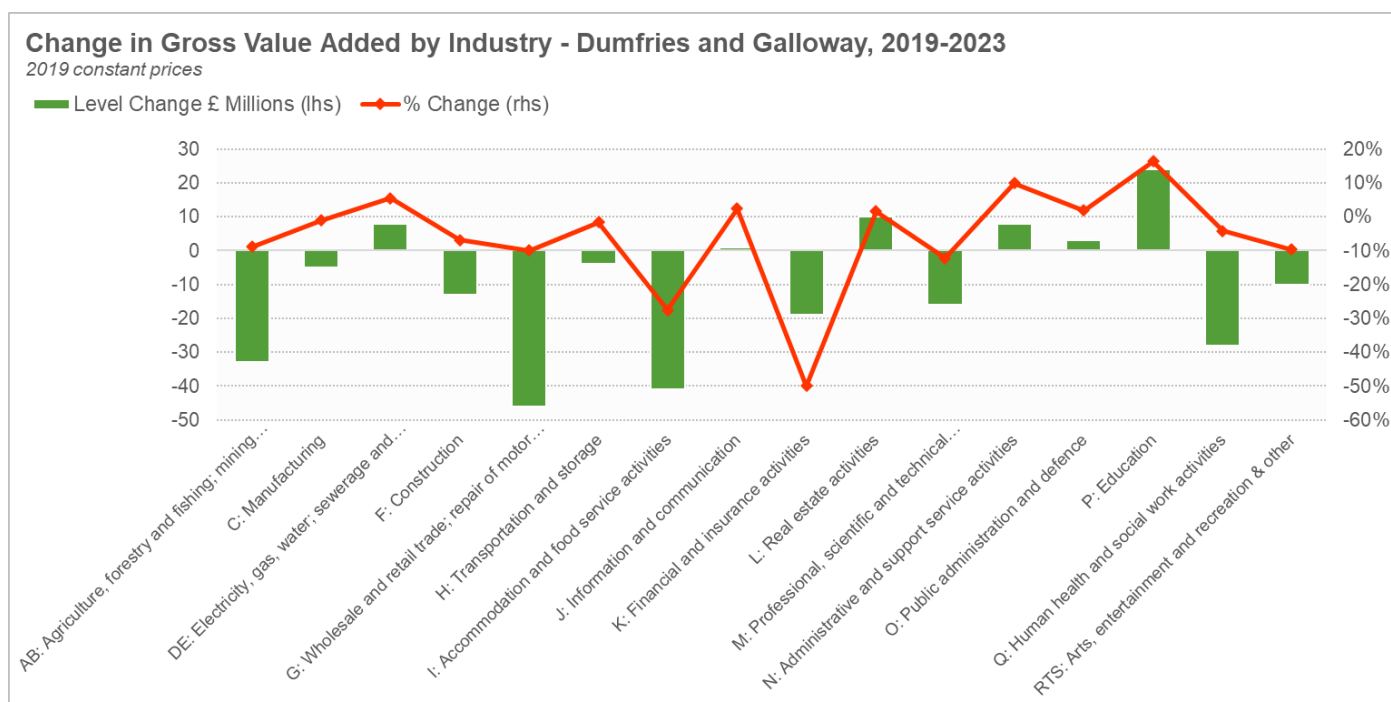
1. Dumfries and Galloway's economy has had lower growth in the post-pandemic era and in the past 20 years compared to Scotland and the UK. Gross value added is an economic output metric that measures the value of goods and services produced by an industry, region or economy. Gross value added (GVA) is the value generated by any unit engaged in production and the contributions of individual sectors or industries to gross domestic product. GVA is similar to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but removes intermediate consumption effects, such as subsidies, taxes or tariffs. Real Gross Value Added (chained volume measure, adjusted for inflation) in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £4,150 million, 1.1% higher in real terms compared to 2022. Real GVA in Scotland in 2023 was £188,471 million, 0.9% higher in real terms compared to 2022, with real GVA in the UK 0.3% higher in 2023 compared to 2022. GVA in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 3.4% lower in real terms than compared to 2019, compared to 1.6% higher for Scotland and 2.6% higher for the UK within the same period. GVA in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 1.8% higher in real terms in 2023 compared to 2013, with real GVA in Scotland 11.4% higher and in the UK 16.8% higher in 2023 compared to 2013.¹



Source: Office for National Statistics. Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2023.

¹ Office for National Statistics. Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2023. Access: [Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2023 - Office for National Statistics](#)

2. The industry in Dumfries and Galloway with the largest upward contribution to GVA in Dumfries and Galloway between 2022 and 2023 was Human health and social work activities with GVA in 2023 of £645 million, accounting for 16.8% of total GVA in 2023. GVA in Human health and social work activities increased by £39 million and by 6.4% in real terms between 2022 and 2023 and was 17.7% higher in 2023 than in 2013. GVA within Public administration and defence industries in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £167 million, accounting for 4.3% of total GVA, having increased by £20 million and by 13.6% from 2022, yet has declined by 14.8% since 2013. GVA from Electricity, gas, water; sewerage and waste management industries in 2023 was £153 million, accounting for 4.0% of total GVA, having increased by £17 million and by 12.5% from 2022 and by 17.7% from 2013. The industry sector with the largest downward contribution to GVA in Dumfries and Galloway between 2022 and 2023 was within Manufacturing industries, with GVA of £447 million in 2023 and accounting for 11.6% of total GVA, with GVA from Manufacturing industries having fallen by £30 million and by 6.3% in real terms between 2022 and 2023. GVA from Agriculture, forestry and fishing; mining and quarrying industries in 2023 was £337 million, accounting for 8.8% of total GVA. GVA from these industries declined by £22 million and by 6.1% between 2022 and 2023 and was 8.9% lower in real terms in 2023 compared to 2013. GVA from Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles in 2023 was £416 million, accounting for 10.8% of total GVA, with GVA in these industries declining by £20 million and by 4.6% in real terms between 2022 and 2023 and was 5.7% lower than in 2013.²

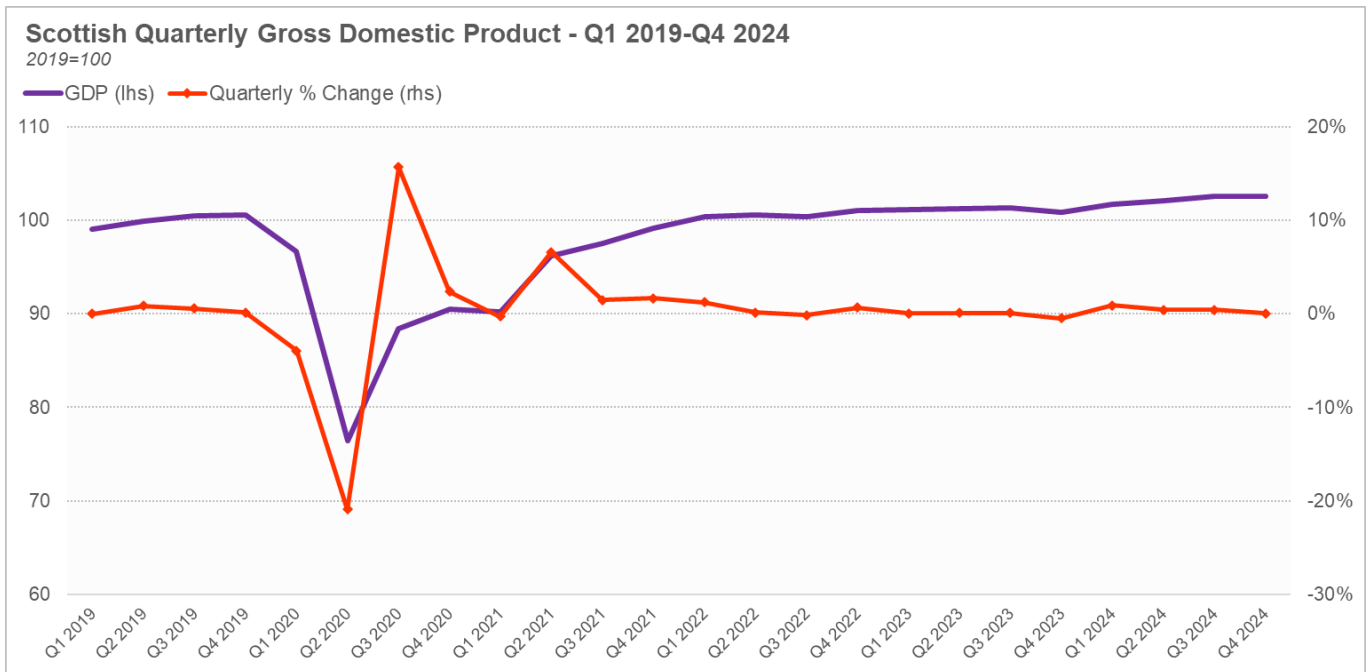


Source: Office for National Statistics. Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2023.

3. Scottish quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) was flat in Q4 2024 in real terms at 0.0%, compared to 0.4% growth in Q3 2024. UK GDP was 0.1% in Q4 2024, after flat growth of 0.0% in Q3 2024. Output from Scottish Agriculture, forestry and fishing industries was 0.0% in Q4 2024 compared to -0.1% in Q3 2024. Output from Scottish Construction industries in Q4 2024 was 0.5%, compared to 0.7% in Q3 2024. Output from Scottish Production industries in Q4 2024 was -1.1%, compared to 0.0% in Q3 2024. Output from Scottish Services industries, which accounts for 77% of total Scottish onshore GDP in Q4 2024 0.2%, compared to 0.5% in Q3 2024.³

² ONS. Regional economic activity by gross domestic product.

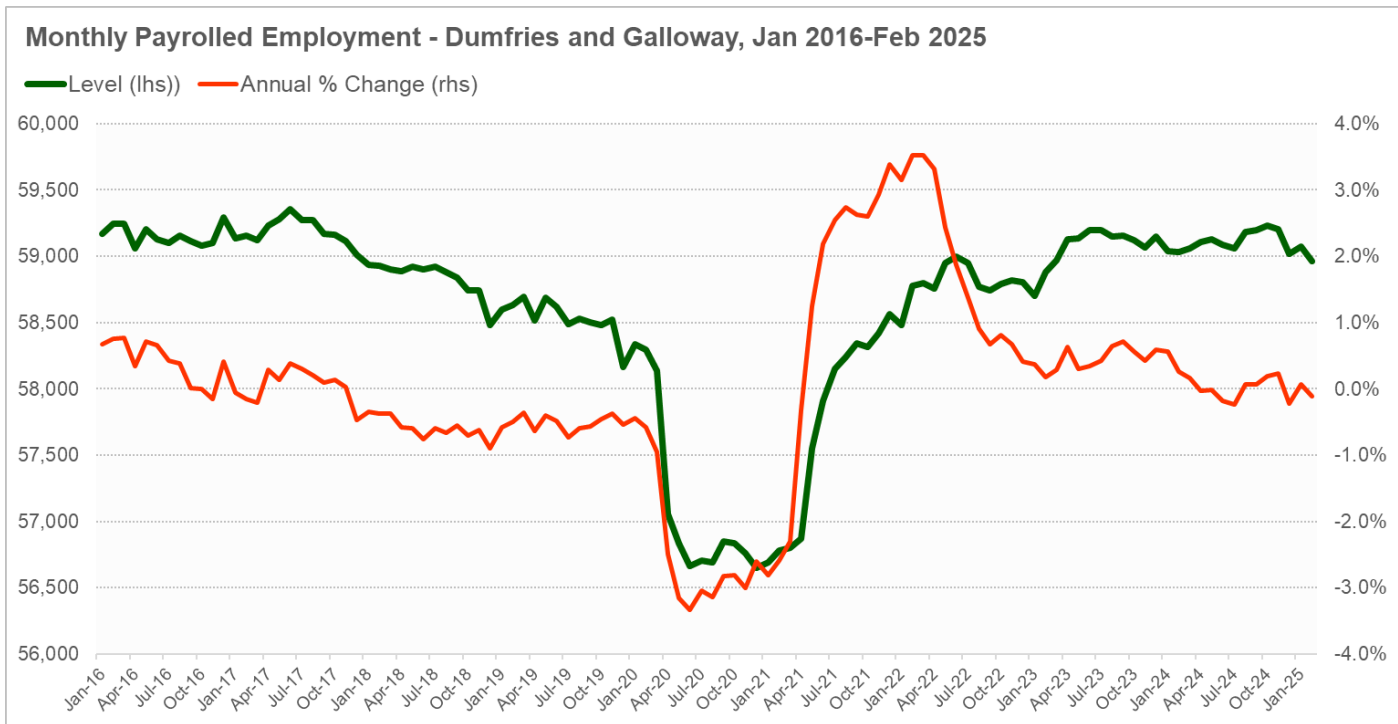
³ The Scottish Government. GDP First Quarterly Estimate 2024 Q4 (October to December). Access: [Supporting documents - GDP First Quarterly Estimate 2024 Q4 \(October to December\) - gov.scot](#)



Source: The Scottish Government. GDP First Quarterly Estimate 2024 Q4 (October to December).

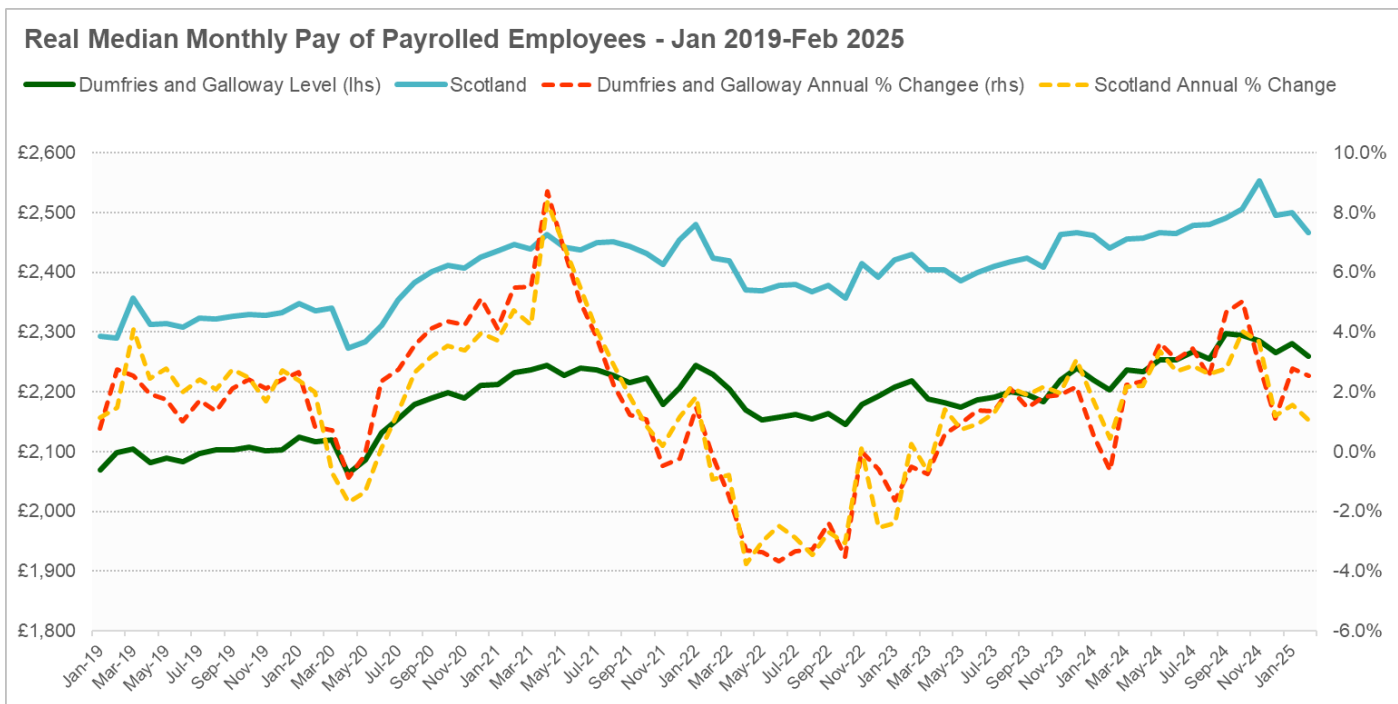
1. Payrolled employment is the number of employees working in an area who are registered for VAT or Pay-as-you-earn schemes, which includes self-employees who are registered for these schemes, with payrolled employment covering approximately 80% of total employment in Dumfries and Galloway. Payrolled employment in Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland has been largely flat in the 12 months to February 2025. There were 58,964 payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 0.1% lower than 59,029 in February 2025, with the number of payrolled employees in Scotland 0.1% lower in the 12 months to February 2025. Payrolled employment in the UK increased by 0.2% in the 12 months to February 2025. Growth in payrolled employment in Dumfries and Galloway in the last 5 years has been lower than in Scotland and the UK. The number of payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 was 0.7% higher than compared to 2019 monthly average, compared to 3.2% higher for Scotland and 5.3% higher for the UK within the same period. Dumfries and Galloway ranked 12th of 23 Scottish NUTS3 (Nomenclature Units for Territorial Statistics) in terms of changes in payrolled employee growth in the 12 months to February 2025.⁴

⁴ Office for National Statistics. Earnings and employment from Pay as You Earn Real Time Information, UK: March 2025. Access: [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)



Source: Office for National Statistics. Earnings and employment from Pay as You Earn Real Time Information, UK: March 2025.

2. Growth in payrolled employment in Scotland and the UK in the 12 months to January 2025 has been higher in non-market sector industries (characterised by providing goods and services without economically significant prices, such as the public sector). The industry sectors in Scotland with the highest growth in payrolled employees in the 12 months to January 2025 were within Public Administration, Defence and Social Security which increased by 2,708 employees and by 2.2%, Health and Social Work which increased by 2,621 and by 0.7% and Finance and Insurance which increased by 1,596 and by 1.7%. The industry sectors in Scotland with the highest declines in payrolled employees in the 12 months to January 2025 were Accommodation and Food Services Activities which declined by 4,836 and 2.5%, Wholesale and Retail and Repair of Motor Vehicles which declined by 2,246 and by 0.7% and Education which declined by 1,953 and by 0.6%.⁵



Source: Office for National Statistics. Earnings and employment from Pay as You Earn Real Time Information, UK: March 2025.

⁵ ONS. Payrolled Employment.

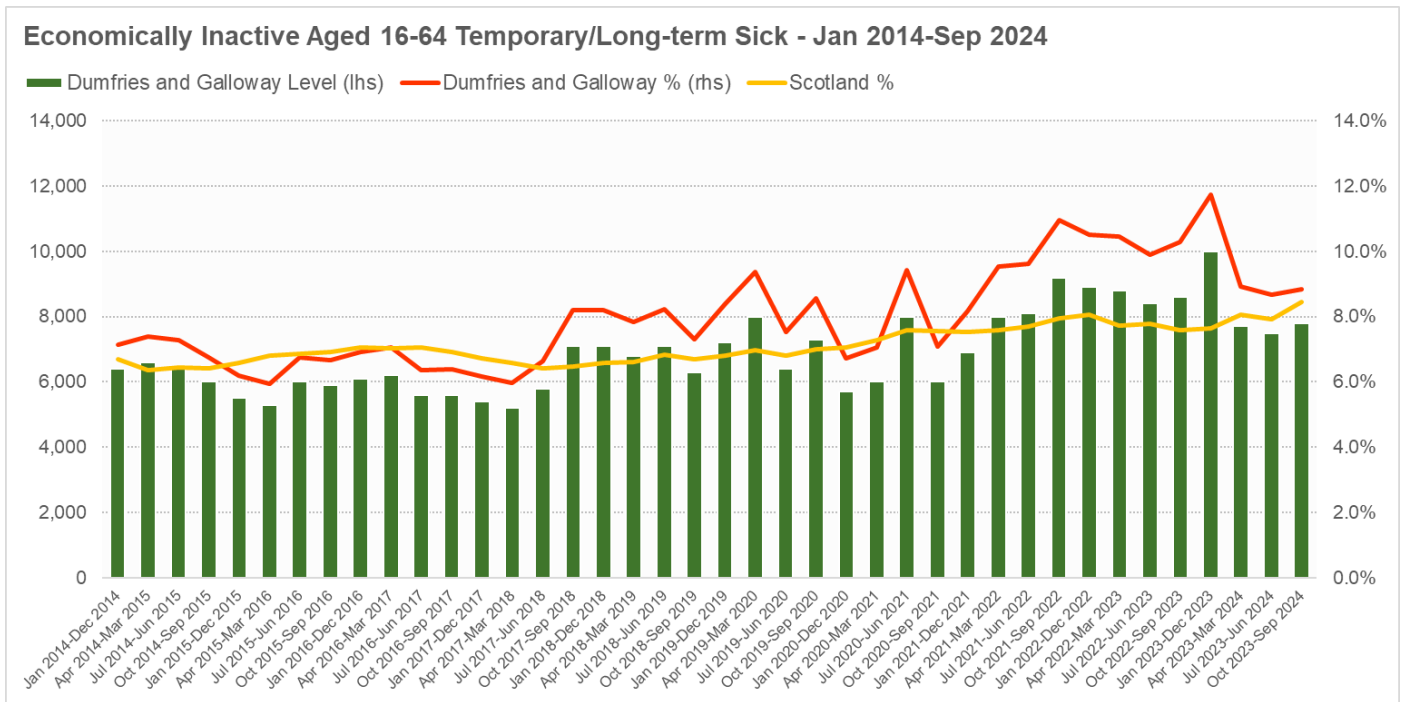
3. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway increased at a higher rate than both Scotland and the UK in the 12 months to February 2025. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was £2,260, having increased by 6.3% in nominal terms (unadjusted for inflation) from February 2024. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Scotland in February 2025 was £2,466, having increased by 4.8% in nominal terms from the previous year, with median monthly pay for payrolled employees in the UK 5.0% higher compared to the previous years. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Dumfries and Galloway increased by 2.5% in real-terms (adjusted for inflation) in the 12 months to February 2025, compared to a 1.0% real-terms increase for Scotland and a 1.3% real-terms increase for the UK within the same period.⁶
4. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 was 8.4% lower than in Scotland, compared to 9.7% lower than Scotland in February 2024. Dumfries and Galloway had the second highest increase in real median monthly pay for payrolled employees of 23 Scottish NUTS3 areas in the 12 months to February 2025. Despite this, median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 remained the lowest of all Scottish NUTS3 areas in February 2025.⁷
5. The industry sectors in Scotland with the highest growth in real median employee pay in the 12 months to January 2025 were Accommodation and Food Services with median pay at £1,342 and having increased by 4.4%, Other Service activities at £1,798 and having increased by 4.2% and Wholesale, Retail Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles at £1,844 having increased by 3.7%. The industry sectors in Scotland with the largest decreases in real median pay for payrolled employees in the 12 months to January 2025 were Mining and Quarrying with pay at £5,706 and having decreased by 5.2%, Public Administration, Defence and Social Security with pay at £3,238 and a 3.6% decrease and Education with median pay at £2,606 having decreased by 2.4% in real-terms in the 12 months to January 2025.⁸
6. Lower employment rates and higher proportions of working aged people who are economically inactive are prevalent in Dumfries and Galloway compared to Scotland. The employment rate for those aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2022 and September 2024 (annual survey rates smoothed to reduce volatility) was 72.3%, compared to 74.6% for Scotland within the same period. The economic inactivity rate aged 16 to 64 years for people living in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2022 and September 2024 was 23.9%, compared to 22.7% for Scotland with the same period.⁹

⁶ ONS. Payrolled Employment; Office for National Statistics. Consumer price inflation, UK: February 2025. Access: [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁷ ONS. Payrolled Employment.

⁸ ONS. Payrolled Employment; CPI.

⁹ Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey. Access: [Nomis - Query Tool - annual population survey](#)

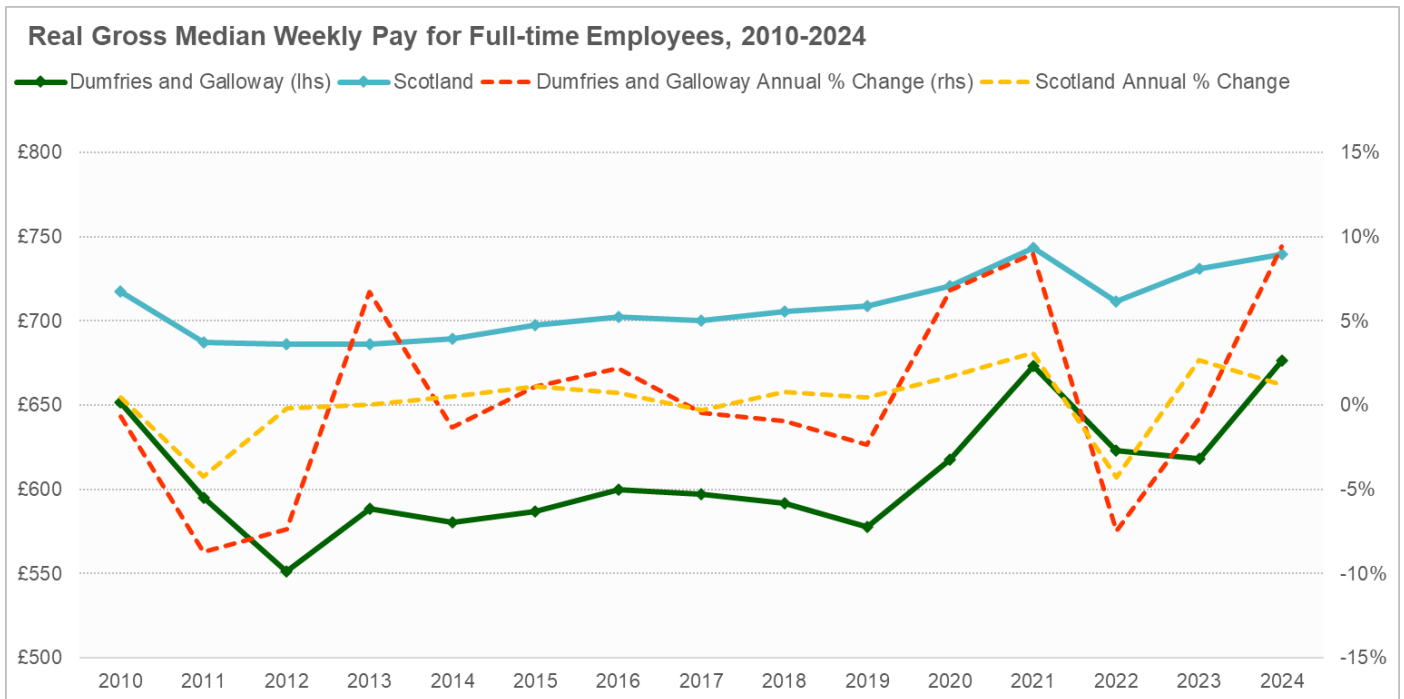


Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

7. Economic inactivity for those of working age and temporary/long-term sick is higher in Dumfries and Galloway than in Scotland and has been significantly higher in all months in the last five-year period. There were an estimated 8,300 working aged people and 9.7% of those aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2022 and September 2024 who were economically inactive due to temporary/long-term sickness, compared to 7.9% of working aged people in Scotland who were temporary/long-term sick within the same period.¹⁰
1. Gross median weekly pay for full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was £676.30, 9.4% higher in real-terms than £618.14 in 2023 and was 16.5% higher in real-term compared to 2014 (2024 constant prices). Gross median weekly pay for full-time employees in Scotland in 2024 was £739.70, 1.2% higher in real terms compared to 2023 and 7.3% higher compared to 2014. Gross mediana weekly pay for full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was 8.6% lower than in Scotland, compared to 15.4% lower in 2023 and 15.8% lower in 2014. Dumfries and Galloway had the 6th lowest workplace-based gross median pay for full-time employees of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2024, compared to the 2nd lowest in 2023.¹¹

¹⁰ ONS. APS.

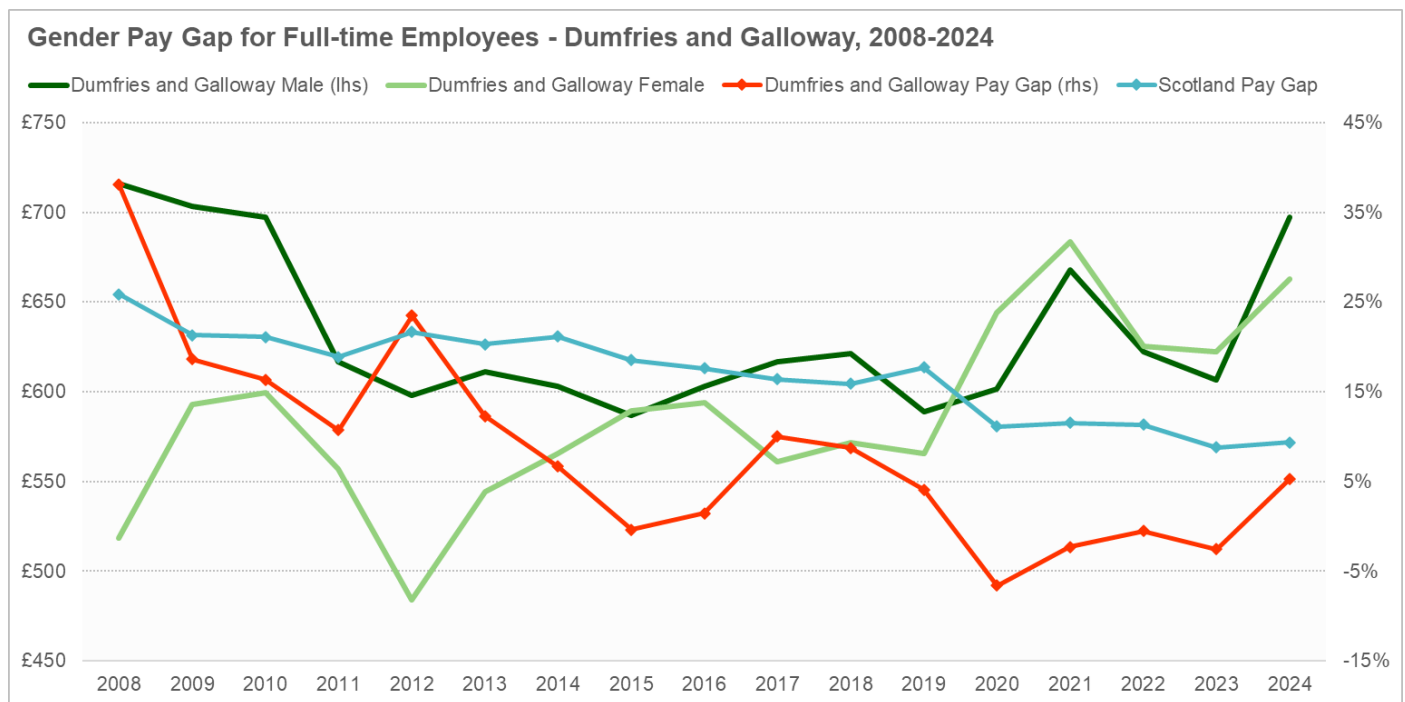
¹¹ Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Access: [Nomis - Query Tool - annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis](#)



Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

2. Median gross weekly pay for male full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was £697.50, 15.0% higher in real terms than £606.39 in 2023 (2024 constant prices). Median gross weekly pay for male full-time employees in Scotland in 2024 was £766.60, 0.6% higher in real terms compared to 2023. Real gross median weekly pay for male full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was 9.0% lower than in Scotland in 2024, compared to 20.2% lower in 2023. Median gross weekly pay for female full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was £662.80, 6.5% higher in real terms than £622.80 in 2023. Median gross weekly pay for female full-time employees in Scotland in 2024 was £701.00, 0.3% higher in real terms compared to 2023. Real gross median weekly pay for female full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was 5.4% lower than in Scotland in 2024, compared to 10.9% lower in 2023.

3. Gross median weekly pay for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was £682.20, 9.4% higher in real-terms compared to 2023 at £623.39 and 12.3% higher in real-terms compared to 2014 at £607.38 (2024 constant prices). Residence-based median gross weekly-pay for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was 7.8% lower than Scotland in 2024, compared to 14.7% lower in 2023, with employees living in Dumfries and Galloway having the 4th lowest median gross weekly pay for full-time employees of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2024.¹²
4. The gender pay gap is the difference in weekly pay for male and female employees expressed as a percentage gap for female earnings against male earnings. The gender pay gap for full-time employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024 was 5.4%, compared to -2.6% in 2023. The gender pay gap for full-time employees in Scotland in 2024 was 9.4%, compared to 8.8% in 2023.¹³



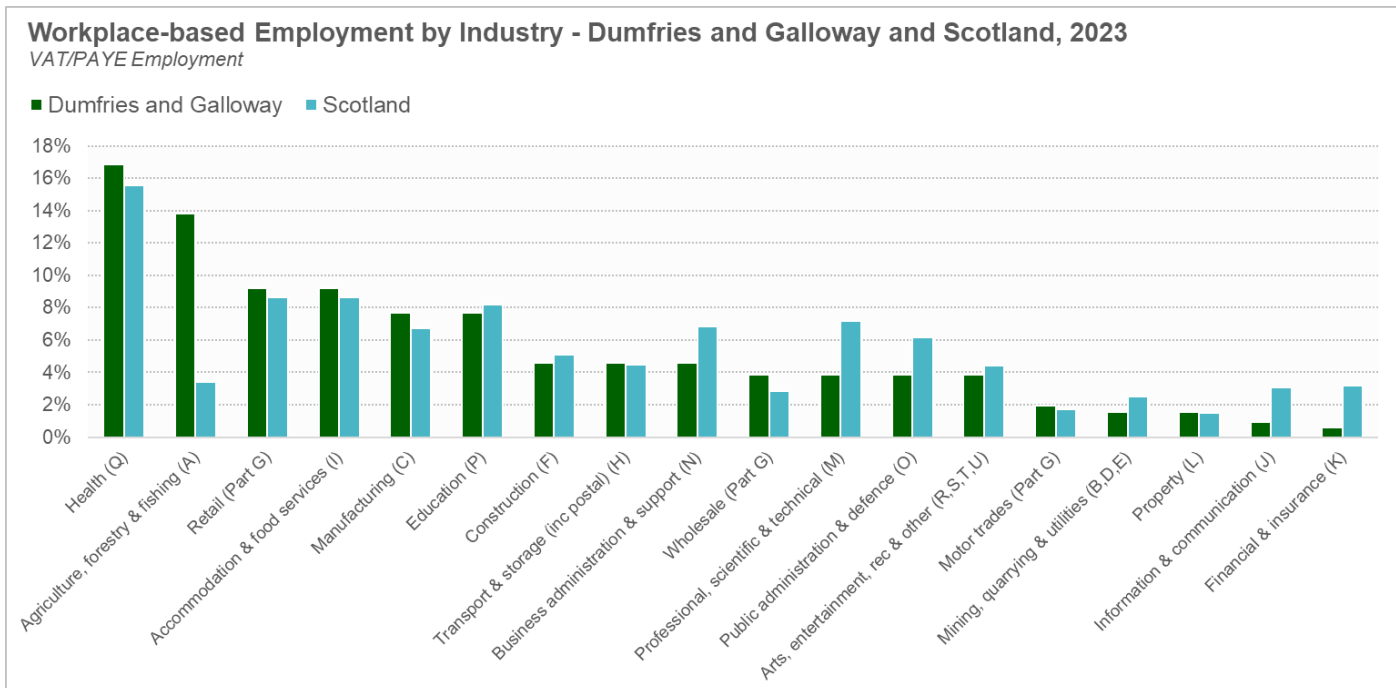
Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

1. The largest industry sector in terms of employment (VAT/PAYE) in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was Health industries, with employment at 11,000 and 16.9% of employment, compared to 15.6% of Scottish employment within these industries in 2023. Employment within Agriculture, forestry & fishing industries in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 9,000 people and 13.8% of total employment, compared to 3.4% of Scottish employment within these industries, with Dumfries and Galloway accounted for 9.9% of Scottish employment within Agriculture, forestry & fishing industries in 2023. 6,000 people and 9.2% of employment in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was within Retail industries, compared to 8.7% of employment in Scotland. 6,000 people and 9.2% of employment in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was within Accommodation and food service industries, compared to 8.6% of employment in Scotland.¹⁴

¹² ONS. ASHE.

¹³ ONS. ASHE.

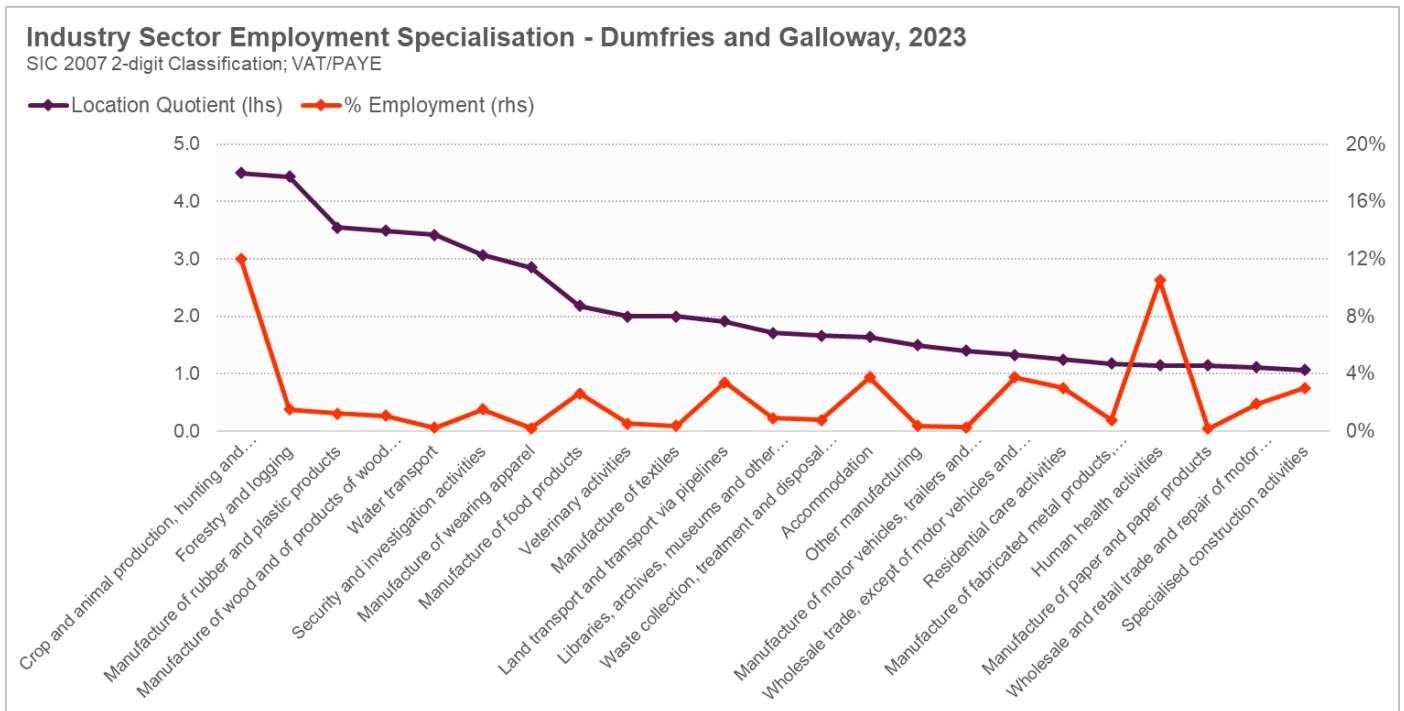
¹⁴ Office for National Statistics. Business Register and Employment Survey. Access: [Nomis - Query Tool - Business Register and Employment Survey : open access](#)



Source: Office for National Statistics. Business Register and Employment Survey.

1. Location quotients are statistical measures that measure the concentration of specific industries in comparison to another region. A location quotient of 1.0 indicates there is the same proportion of employment in one area compared to another, with a quotient above 1.0 indicating higher concentrations and below 1.0 indicating a lower concentration. The location quotient used here is for Scotland. The largest employing industries by 2-digit classification (SIC 2007, VAT/PAYE) in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities employing 8,000 people and with a location quotient of 4.5, Human health activities industries with employment of 7,000 and a location quotient of 1.1, Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles industries employing 6,000 people and with a location quotient of 1.0, Education industries with employment of 5,000 and a location quotient of 0.9 and Food and beverage service activities with employment at 4,000 and location quotient of 0.9. The industries (2-digit) in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest local concentrations of employment relative to Scotland in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities with employment at 8,000 and with a location quotient of 4.5, Forestry and logging industries with employment at 1,000 and with a location quotient at 4.4, Manufacture of rubber and plastic products industries with employment at 800 and a location quotient at 3.5, Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork industries with employment at 700 and a location quotient of 3.5, Water transport industries with employment at 150 and with a location quotient at 3.4 and Security and investigation activities with employment at 1,000 and a location quotient of 3.1.¹⁵

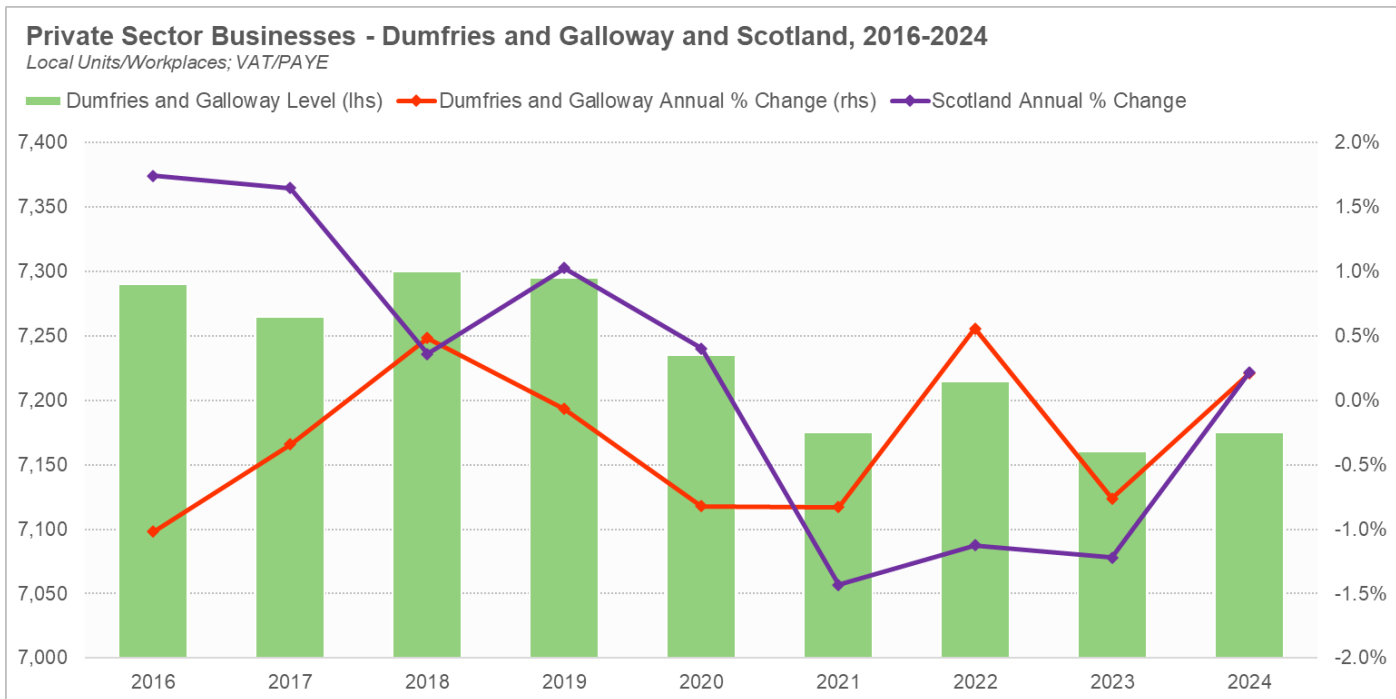
¹⁵ ONS. BRES.



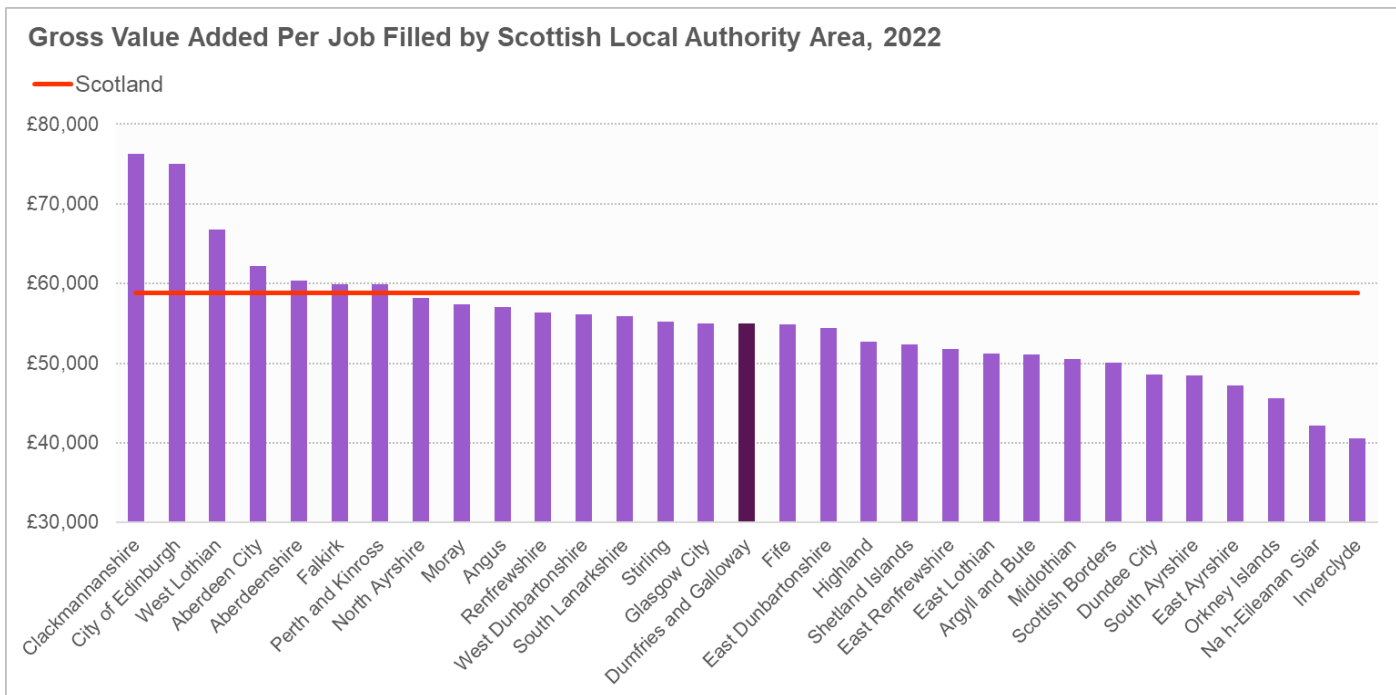
Source: Office for National Statistics. Business Register and Employment Survey.

2. There were 7,175 private sector businesses (VAT/PAYE; local units/workplaces) in Dumfries and Galloway in 2024, 0.2% higher than 7,160 in 2023 and 1.6% lower than 7,295 in 2019. There were 205,660 private sector businesses in Scotland in 2024, 0.2% higher than in 2023 and 3.1% lower than 212,315 in 2019. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the largest level increases between 2019 and 2024 were within Construction industries with 730 businesses in 2024 and 5.8% higher than 690 in 2019, Transport & storage industries with 285 businesses in 2024 and 11.8% higher than 255 businesses in 2019 and Information & communication industries with 120 businesses in 2024 and 14.3% higher than 110 businesses in 2019. The industry sectors in Dumfries and Galloway with the largest level decreases in 2024 compared to 2019 were Retail industries with 655 businesses in 2024 and 7.1% lower than 705 businesses in 2019, Professional, scientific & technical industries with 500 business in 2024 and 7.4% lower than 540 businesses in 2019 and Agriculture, forestry & fishing industries with 2,015 businesses in 2024 and 1.9% lower than 2,055 businesses in 2019.¹⁶

¹⁶ Office for National Statistics. UK business; activity, size and location: 2024. Access: [UK business; activity, size and location - Office for National Statistics](#)



Source: Office for National Statistics. UK business; activity, size and location: 2024.

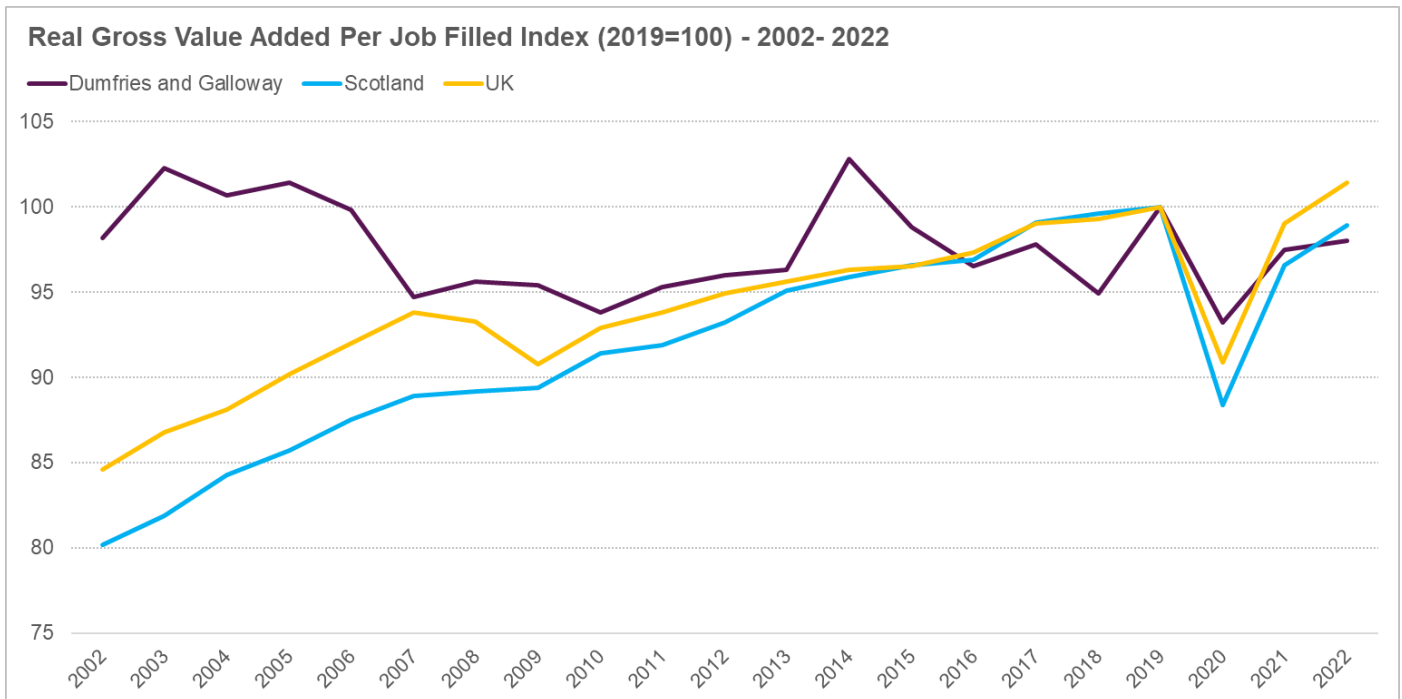


Source: Office for National Statistics. Subregional productivity in the UK: June 2023.

- Productivity is slightly lower in Dumfries and Galloway compared to Scotland. GVA per hour worked in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was £54,991, 6.5% lower than in Scotland at £58,796. Dumfries and Galloway had the 16th highest GVA per job filled of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2022.¹⁷ Productivity in Dumfries and Galloway has grown at a lower rate than Scotland and the UK. GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was 2.0% lower in 2022 compared to 2019 in real terms, compared to 1.1% lower for Scotland and 1.4% higher for the UK within the same period. GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was 2.1% higher in real terms compared to 2012, with GVA per job filled in Scotland 6.1% higher and in the UK was 6.8% higher in 2022 compared to 2012.¹⁸

¹⁷ Office for National Statistics. Subregional productivity in the UK: June 2023. Access: [Subregional productivity in the UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

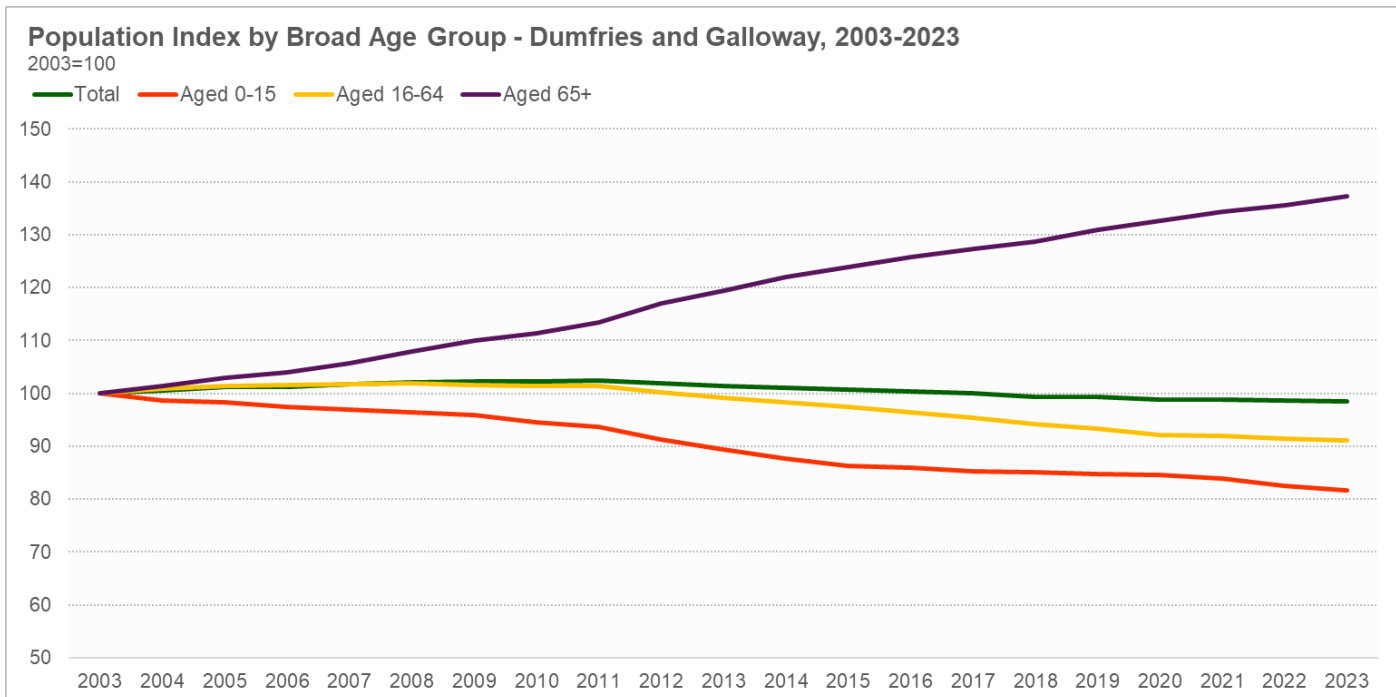
¹⁸ ONS. Subregional productivity.



Source: Office for National Statistics. Subregional productivity in the UK: June 2023.

1. The population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 145,670, having declined by 0.1% from 145,770 in 2022, with the population 2.9% lower in 2023 compared to 149,960 in 2013. The population of Scotland in 2023 was 5,490,100, having increased by 0.8% from 2022 and increased by 14.9% from 2013. The population aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 21,855, 1.1% lower than 22,096 in 2022 and 8.6% lower than 26,774 in 2013. The population aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland increased by 0.3% between 2022 and 2023 and was 1.4% lower in 2023 compared to 2013. The working aged population aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 83,536, having declined by 0.4% from 83,896 in 2022 and having declined by 8.2% from 90,992 in 2013. The working aged population of Scotland increased by 0.6% between 2022 and 2023 and was 0.6% higher in 2023 compared to 2013. The population aged 65 plus in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 40,279, having increased by 1.3% from 39,778 in 2022 and increased by 14.9% from 29,354 in 2013. The population aged 65 in Scotland increased by 1.7% between 2022 and 2023 and increased by 17.8% from 2013. The population aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway was at its lowest recorded level and the population aged 65 plus was at its highest recorded level on record since comparable records were available in 1991.¹⁹

¹⁹ National Records of Scotland. Mid-2023 population estimates. Access: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

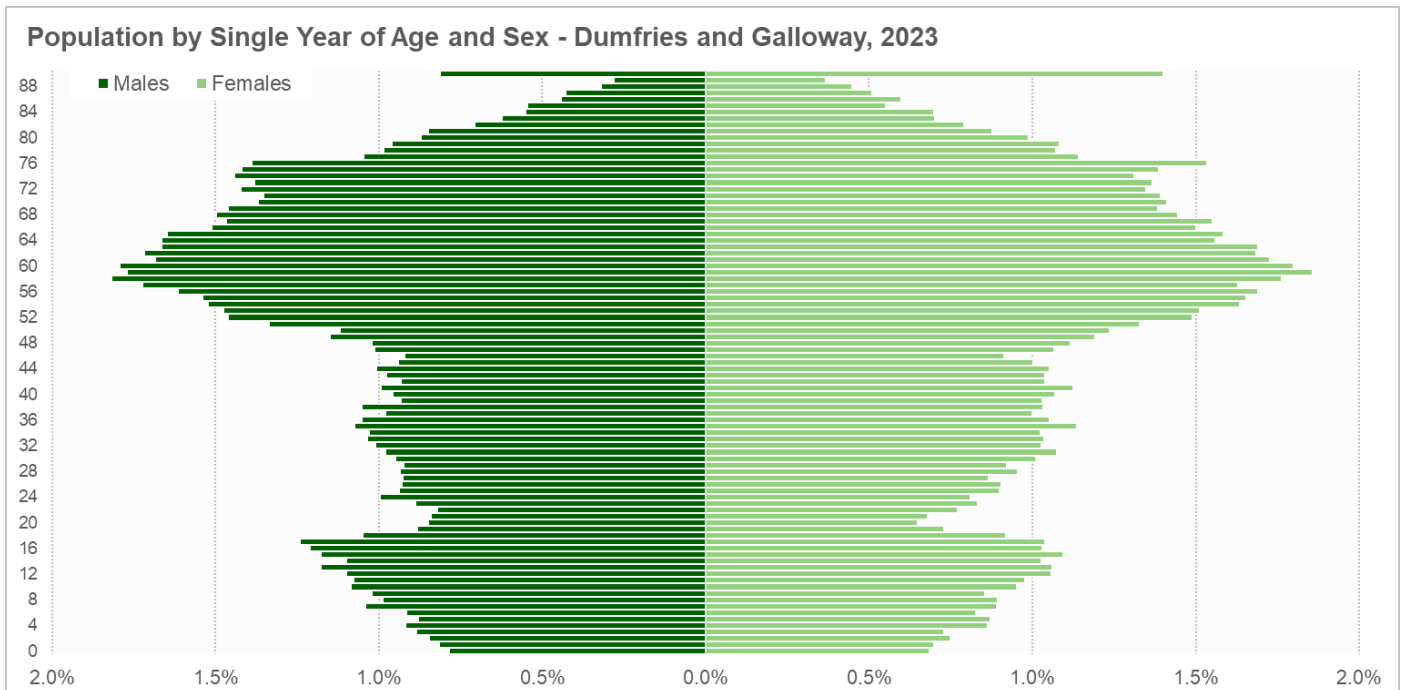


Source: National Records of Scotland. Mid-2023 population estimates.

2. The population dependency ratio is a population measure of the number of people aged 0 to 15 years plus the number of people aged 65 plus, divided by the number of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years, expressed as a ratio. The population dependency ratio in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was 0.74, compared to 0.65 in 2013. The population dependency ratio for Scotland in 2023 was 0.58, compared to 0.54 in 2013. 5.0% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were aged 0 to 15 years, compared to 16.3% of the population of Scotland. 57.3% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were working aged people aged 16 to 64 years, compared to 63.4% of the Scottish population within this age group, with Dumfries and Galloway having the lowest proportional working aged population of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023. 27.7% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway were aged 65 plus, compared to 20.3% of the Scotland within this aged group, with Dumfries and Galloway having the highest proportional population aged 65 plus of all Scottish local authority areas in 2023.²⁰ The population of Dumfries and Galloway in projected to fall by 3.4% in the 10 years to 2033 from 2023 and to fall by 7.2% in the 20 years to 2043. The population aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in projected to decline by 13.3% in the 10 years to 2033 from 2023 and decline by 17.8% in the 20 years to 2043. The working aged population aged 16 to 64 years of Dumfries and Galloway in projected to decline by 9.8% in the 10 years to 2033 from 2023 and projected to decline by 14.6% in the 20 years to 2043. The population aged 65 plus in Dumfries and Galloway in projected to increase by 15.4% in the 10 years to 2033 from 2023 and increase by 14.1% in the 20 years to 2043.²¹

²⁰ NRS. Mid-year Population Estimates.

²¹ National Records of Scotland. Population Projections for Scottish Areas 2018-based. Access: [Population Projections for Scottish Areas 2018-based - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)



Source: National Records of Scotland. Mid-2023 population estimates.

Unemployment and Benefit Recipients:

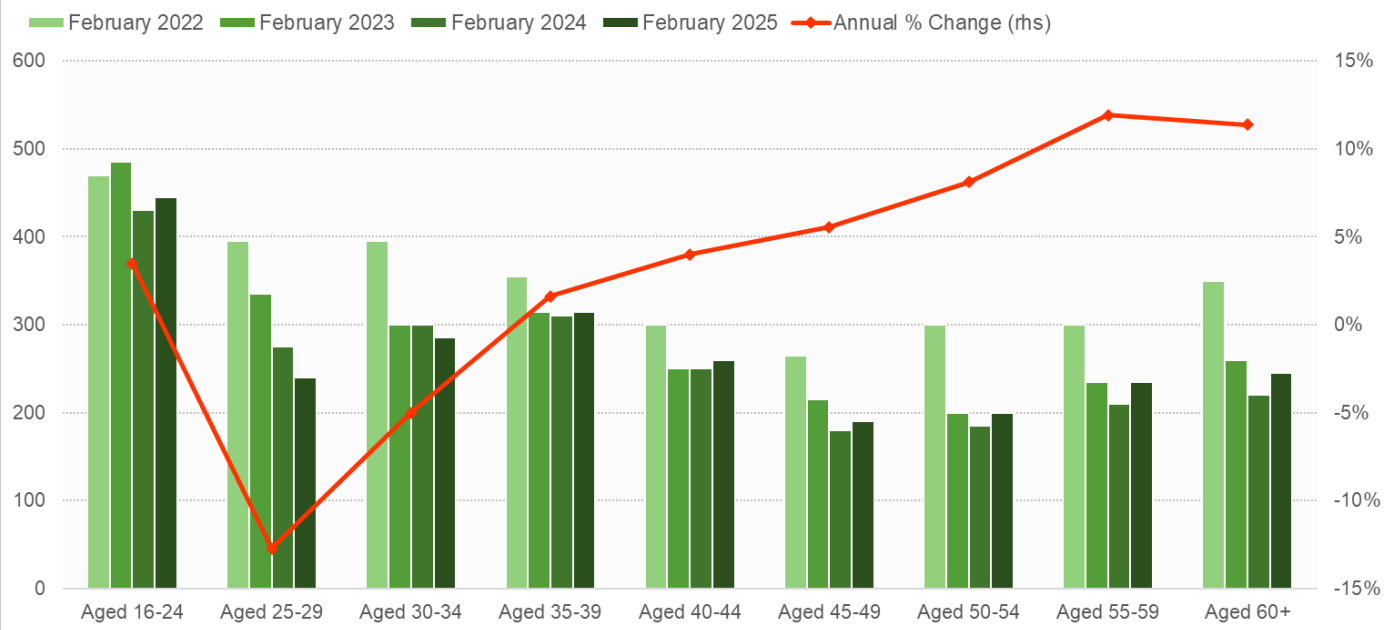
1. 2,420 working aged people and 2.9% of the working aged population of Dumfries and Galloway were claimant count unemployed in February 2025, 3.0% higher than 2,350 and 2.8% in February 2024. 112,265 people and 3.2% of working aged people in Scotland were claimant count unemployed in February 2025, 4.4% higher than 107,495 and 3.1% in February 2025.²² Dumfries and Galloway had the 14th highest claimant count unemployment rate of 32 Scottish local authority areas in February 2025, with the 15th highest proportional increase in claimant count unemployment in the 12 months to February 2025.²³
2. There has been a higher proportional increase of people in Dumfries and Galloway who are claimant count unemployed in older age groups in the 12 months to February 2025. 235 people aged 55 to 59 years in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were claimant count unemployed, 11.9% higher than 210 in February 2024. 245 people aged 60 plus years in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were claimant count unemployed, 11.4% higher than 220 in February 2024. 200 people aged 50 to 54 years in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were claimant count unemployed, 8.1% higher than 185 in February 2024. 240 people aged 25 to 29 years in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were claimant count unemployed, 12.7% lower than 275 in February 2024.²⁴

²² Office for National Statistics. Claimant Count. Access: [Nomis - Query Tool - Claimant count by sex and age](#)

²³ ONS. Claimant Count.

²⁴ ONS. Claimant Count.

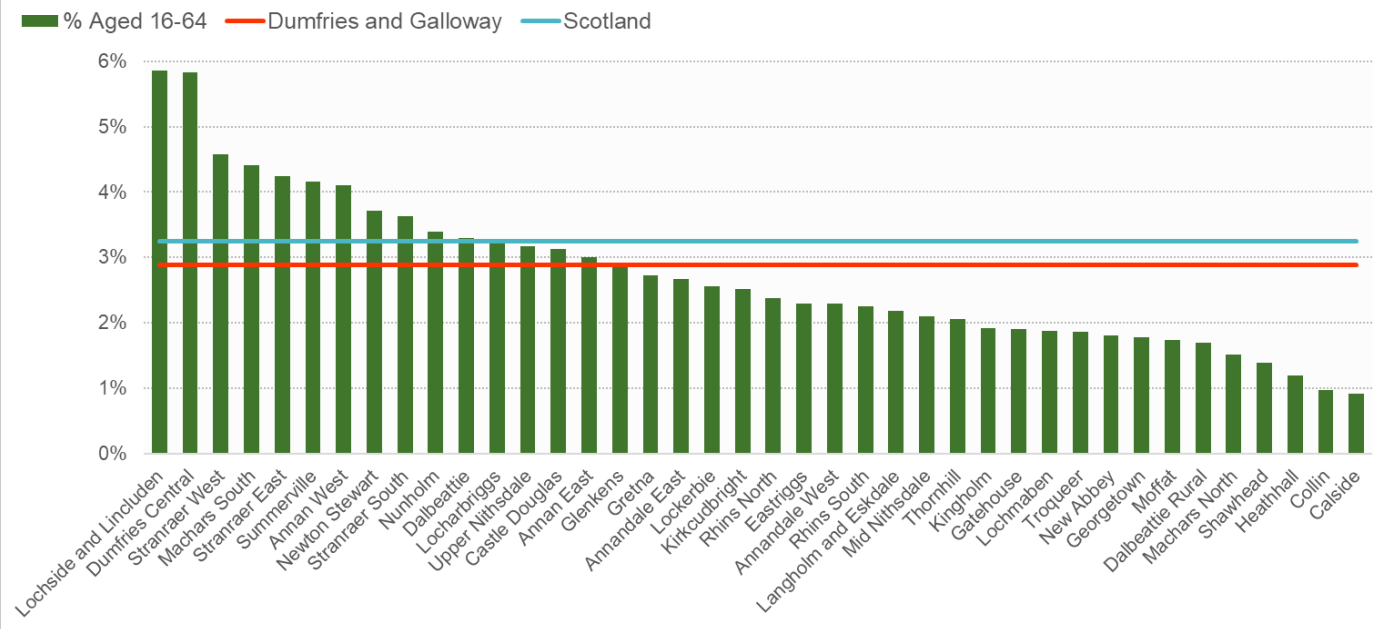
Claimant Count by Age Group - Dumfries and Galloway, Feb 2022-Feb 2025



Source: Office for National Statistics. Claimant Count.

3. The neighbourhood's in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of claimant count unemployment in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were Lochside and Lincluden at 199 people and 5.9% of working aged people, Dumfries Central at 135 people and 5.8%, Stranraer West at 91 people and 4.6%, Machars South at 113 people and 4.4%, Stranraer East at 61 people and 4.2%, Summerville at 121 people and 4.2% and Annan West at 77 people and 4.1%.²⁵

Claimant Count Unemployment by Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, Feb 2025



Source: Office for National Statistics. Claimant Count.

4. 1,214 working aged people and 1.4% of working aged people in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 were long-term claimant count unemployed (12 months plus duration), compared to 1.6% of working aged people in Scotland who were long-term claimant count unemployed in February 2025. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of working aged people who were long-term claimant count unemployed in February 2025 were Dumfries Central at 72 people and 3.1% of working aged people, Lochside and Lincluden at 104 people and 3.1%, Machars South at

²⁵ ONS Claimant Count.

63 people and 2.5%, Stranraer West at 47 people and 2.4%, Summerville at 68 people and 2.3%, Stranraer South at 44 people and 2.3% and Stranraer East at 32 people and 2.2% of working aged people who were long-term claimant count unemployed in February 2025.²⁶

Claimant Count Unemployment by Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, February 2025:								
Neighbourhood:	Aged 16-24	Aged 16-64	Claimant Count Aged 16-64	Claimant Count % Aged 16-64	Long-term Claimant Count	Long-term Claimant Count % Aged 16-64	Claimant Count Aged 16-24	Claimant Count % Aged 16-24
Annan East	529	3,233	97	3.0%	50	1.5%	30	5.7%
Annan West	282	1,876	77	4.1%	35	1.9%	15	5.3%
Annandale East	285	2,169	58	2.7%	26	1.2%	5	1.8%
Annandale West	172	1,399	32	2.3%	18	1.3%	7	4.1%
Calside	210	1,628	15	0.9%	8	0.5%	..	..
Castle Douglas	392	2,649	83	3.1%	43	1.6%	16	4.1%
Collin	259	2,586	25	1.0%	8	0.3%	5	1.9%
Dalbeattie	332	2,275	75	3.3%	40	1.8%	10	3.0%
Dalbeattie Rural	137	1,235	21	1.7%	10	0.8%	..	..
Dumfries Central	422	2,314	135	5.8%	72	3.1%	27	6.4%
Eastriggs	230	1,613	37	2.3%	19	1.2%	13	5.7%
Gatehouse	223	1,895	36	1.9%	15	0.8%	..	..
Georgetown	212	1,573	28	1.8%	15	1.0%	6	2.8%
Glenkens	230	2,018	58	2.9%	30	1.5%	8	3.5%
Gretna	323	2,234	61	2.7%	34	1.5%	8	2.5%
Heathhall	211	1,684	20	1.2%	8	0.5%	..	..
Kingholm	239	1,726	33	1.9%	15	0.9%	8	3.3%
Kirkcudbright	351	2,627	66	2.5%	32	1.2%	12	3.4%
Langholm and Eskdale	240	1,970	43	2.2%	17	0.9%	7	2.9%
Locharbriggs	212	1,617	52	3.2%	22	1.4%	10	4.7%
Lochmaben	263	1,815	34	1.9%	20	1.1%	5	1.9%
Lochside and Lincluden	573	3,394	199	5.9%	104	3.1%	44	7.7%
Lockerbie	463	2,889	74	2.6%	36	1.2%	11	2.4%
Machars North	166	1,322	20	1.5%	13	1.0%	..	..
Machars South	299	2,561	113	4.4%	63	2.5%	12	4.0%
Mid Nithsdale	293	2,524	53	2.1%	21	0.8%	11	3.8%
Moffat	269	2,074	36	1.7%	17	0.8%	8	3.0%
New Abbey	268	1,883	34	1.8%	8	0.4%	6	2.2%

²⁶ Department for Work and Pensions. People in Universal Credit. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View](#)

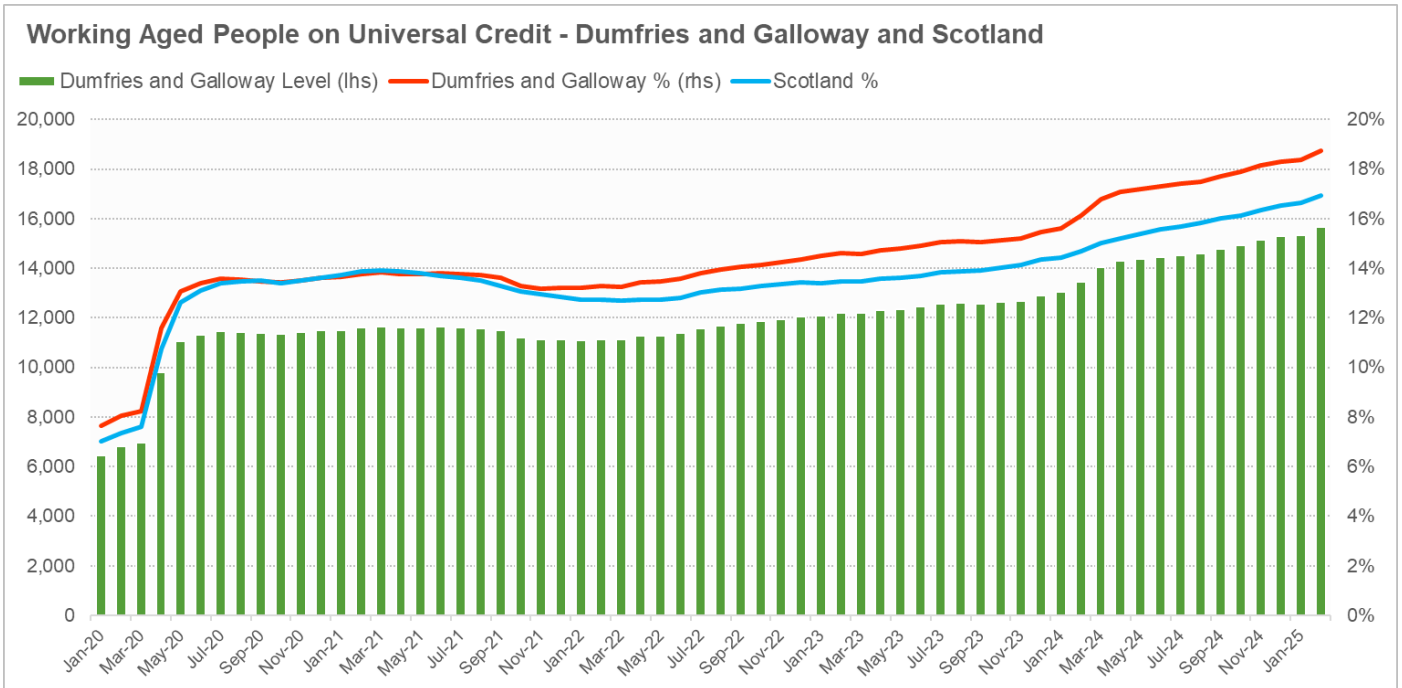
Newton Stewart	416	2,983	111	3.7%	58	1.9%	16	3.8%
Nunholm	289	2,002	68	3.4%	30	1.5%	11	3.8%
Rhins North	227	1,848	44	2.4%	27	1.5%	6	2.6%
Rhins South	158	1,151	26	2.3%	13	1.1%	5	3.2%
Shawhead	275	2,090	29	1.4%	14	0.7%	9	3.3%
Stranraer East	237	1,439	61	4.2%	32	2.2%	16	6.8%
Stranraer South	304	1,927	70	3.6%	44	2.3%	15	4.9%
Stranraer West	323	1,989	91	4.6%	47	2.4%	29	9.0%
Summerville	410	2,908	121	4.2%	68	2.3%	14	3.4%
Thornhill	253	2,138	44	2.1%	26	1.2%	..	..
Troqueer	310	1,990	37	1.9%	19	1.0%	11	3.5%
Upper Nithsdale	449	2,648	84	3.2%	42	1.6%	21	4.7%
Dumfries and Galloway	11,736	83,896	2,416	2.9%	1,214	1.4%	437	3.7%
Scotland	580,861	3,458,413	112,268	3.2%	56,041	1.6%	19,658	3.4%

Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. *Values represented by '..' represent values of less than but may not represent true 0's.

- 437 people aged 16 to 24 years and 3.7% of those aged 16 to 24 years living in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were claimant count unemployed, compared to 3.4% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Scotland in February 2024. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of those aged 16 to 24 years who were claimant count unemployed in February 2025 were Stranraer West at 29 people aged 16 to 24 years and 9.0% of those aged 16 to 24 years, Lochside and Lincuden at 44 people and 7.7%, Stranraer East at 16 people and 6.8%, Dumfries Central at 27 people and 6.4%, Annan East at 30 people and 5.7%, Eastriggs at 13 people and 5.7% and Annan West at 15 people and 5.3% of those aged 16 to 24 years who were claimant count unemployed in February 2025.²⁷
- 15,667 working aged people aged 16 to 64 years and 18.8% of working aged people living in Dumfries and Galloway were on Universal Credit in February 2025, 16.3% higher than 13,467 working aged people and 16.1% of working aged people on Universal Credit in February 2024. 589,498 people and 16.9% of working aged people in Scotland were on Universal Credit in February 2025, 15.4% higher than 5120,884 and 14.7% in February 2024. Dumfries and Galloway had the 11th highest proportion of working aged people on Universal Credit of 32 Scottish local authority areas in February 2025.²⁸

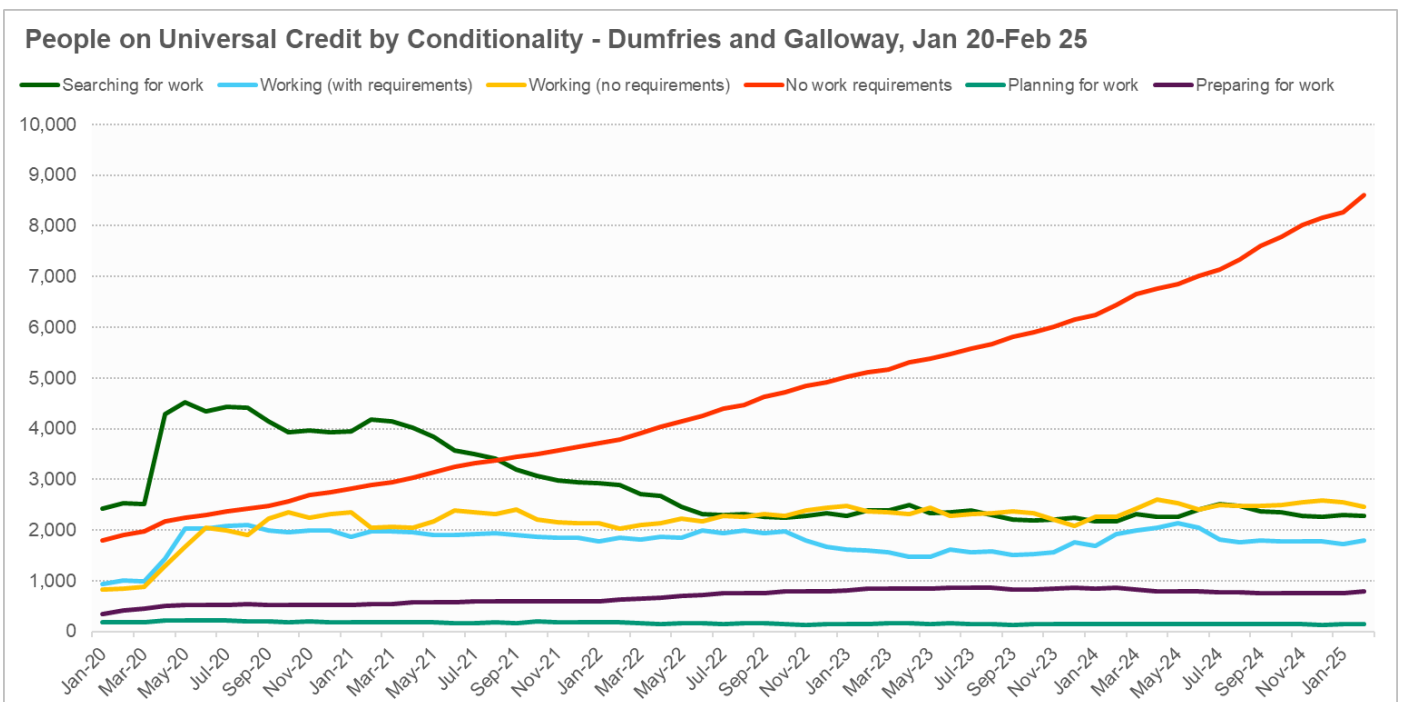
²⁷ DWP. People on Universal Credit.

²⁸ Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View](#)



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

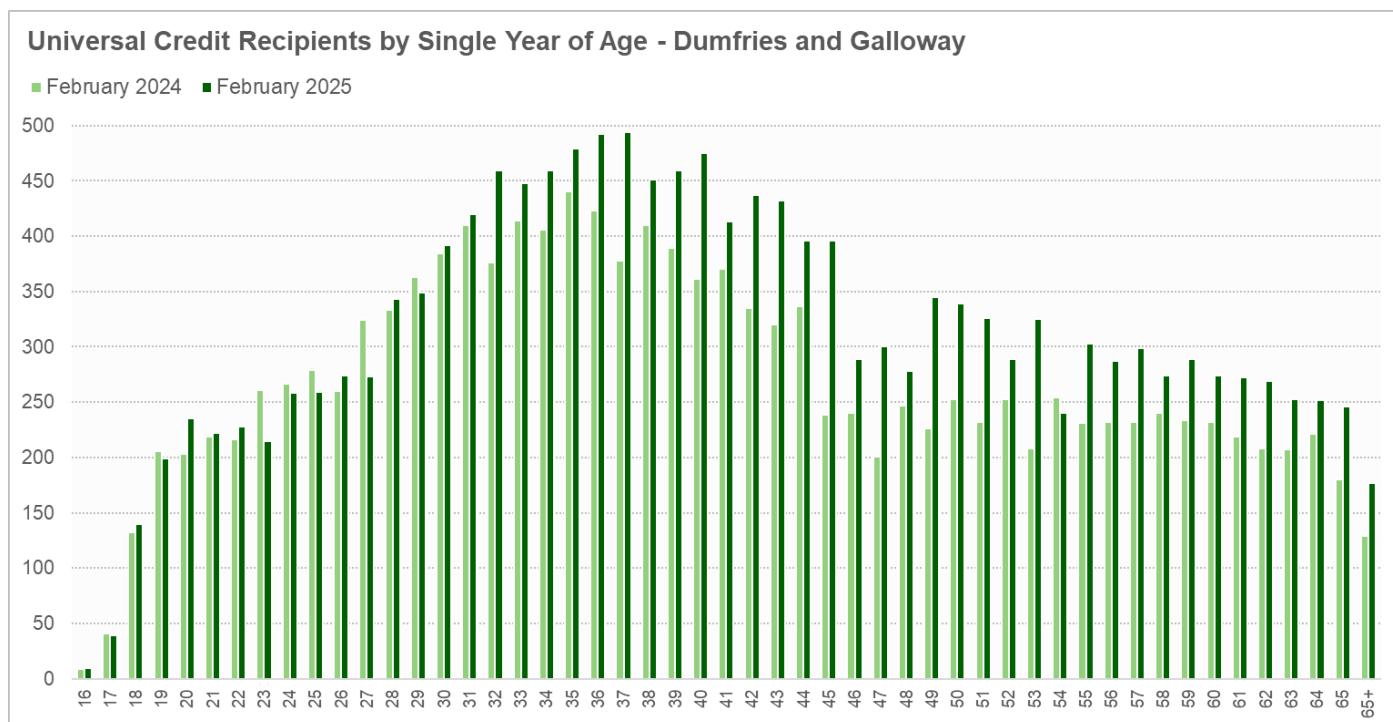
2. The number of people on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway who were searching for work in February 2025 was 2,275 people, 4.5% higher than 2,178 in February 2024. The number of people on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 who were in work was 4,260 people, 2.2% higher than 4,169 in February 2024. There were 1,795 people on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway who were working with requirements in February 2025, 6.2% lower than in February 2024 and there were 2,465 on Universal Credit who were working with no requirements in February 2025, 9.3% higher than in February 2024. There were 942 people on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 who were either planning for or preparing for work, 5.9% lower 1,001 in February 2024. There were 8,604 people in Dumfries and Galloway on Universal Credit with no work requirements in February 2025, 33.8% higher than 6,430 in February 2024, accounting for 53.5% of all Universal Credit recipients in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025.²⁹



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

²⁹ DWP. Universal Credit. Details on Universal Credit conditionality regimes can be found at the end of the document in appendix 1.

3. There were 1,522 people aged 16 to 24 years on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, compared to 1,553 in February 2024. There were 3,664 people aged 25 to 24 years on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 3.3% higher than 3,547 in February 2024. There were 3,135 people aged 45 to 54 years on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 33.0% higher than 2,358 in February 2024. There were 3,194 people aged 55 plus on Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 24.7% higher than 2,562 in February 2024. 6,894 Universal Credit recipient and 42.9% were male and 9,194 recipients and 57.1% of recipients were female in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025. 2,604 people 61.2% of in work Universal Credit recipients in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025 were female, with 1,654 and 38.8% of in work recipients were male. 5,093 recipients and 59.3% of Universal Credit recipients in Dumfries and Galloway with no work requirements were females, with 3,513 and 40.8% of recipients with no work requirements were male.³⁰

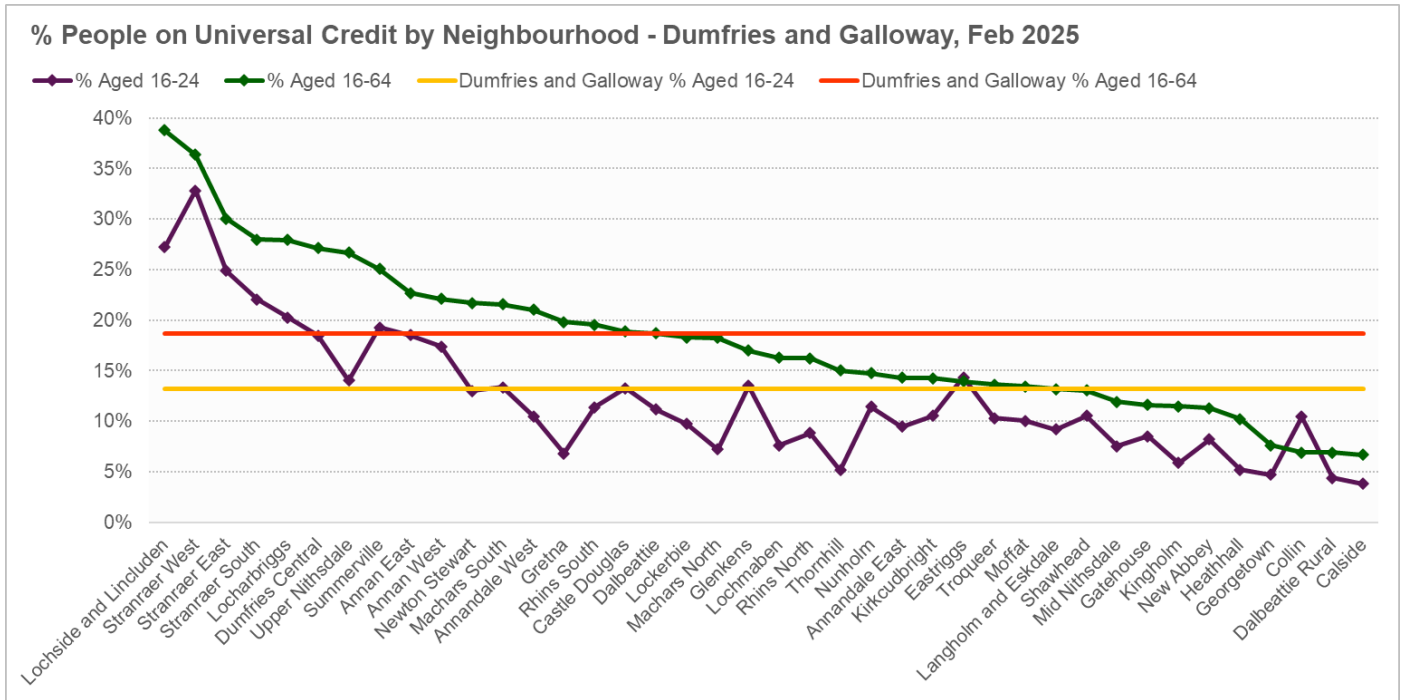


Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

4. The neighbourhood's in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years on Universal Credit in February 2025 were Lochside and Lincluden with 1,316 people and 38.8% of working aged people, Stranraer West at 723 and 36.3%, Stranraer East at 432 and 30.0%, Stranraer South at 539 and 28.0%, Locharbriggs at 452 and 38.0%, Dumfries Central at 628 and 27.1% and Upper Nithsdale at 706 and 26.7% of working aged people on Universal Credit in February 2025.³¹

³⁰ DWP. Universal Credit.

³¹ DWP. Universal Credit.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

5. 1,556 people aged 16 to 24 and 13.2% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Dumfries and Galloway were on Universal Credit in February 2025, compared to 10.1% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Scotland on Universal Credit within the same period. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of people aged 16 to 24 years on Universal Credit in February 2025 were Stranraer West with 106 people aged 16 to 24 and 32.8%, Lochside and Lincluden at 156 and 27.2%, Stranraer East at 59 and 24.9%, Stranraer South at 67 and 22.0%, Locharbriggs at 43 and 20.3%, Summerville at 98 and 19.3%, Annan East at 98 and 18.5% and Dumfries Central at 78 and 18.5% of those aged 16 to 24 years on Universal Credit in February 2025.³²

People on Universal Credit by Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, February 2025

	Aged 16-24	Aged 16-64	% Aged 16-24	% Aged 16-64	Searchi ng for work	Workin g (with require ments)	Workin g (no require ments)	No work require ments	Plannin g for work	Prepari ng for work
Annan East	98	733	18.5%	22.7%	89	86	134	382	8	40
Annan West	49	415	17.4%	22.1%	67	52	53	223	6	25
Annandale East	27	310	9.5%	14.3%	52	37	55	157	8	14
Annandale West	18	294	10.5%	21.0%	32	40	45	165	..	15
Calside	8	109	3.8%	6.7%	12	16	26	49	..	6
Castle Douglas	52	500	13.3%	18.9%	83	67	99	244	..	28
Collin	27	178	10.4%	6.9%	22	20	35	93	..	9
Dalbeattie	37	425	11.1%	18.7%	68	67	58	227	..	21
Dalbeattie Rural	6	85	4.4%	6.9%	17	7	19	38	..	..
Dumfries Central	78	628	18.5%	27.1%	127	75	75	320	5	39
Eastriggs	33	225	14.3%	13.9%	34	22	46	120	..	20
Gatehouse	19	220	8.5%	11.6%	36	37	28	108	..	10
Georgetown	10	120	4.7%	7.6%	23	16	33	47	..	6
Glenkens	31	343	13.5%	17.0%	57	44	51	172	6	17
Gretna	22	443	6.8%	19.8%	58	57	61	246	..	30
Heathhall	11	172	5.2%	10.2%	18	17	52	85	..	8
Kingholm	14	198	5.9%	11.5%	35	11	30	115	..	7
Kirkcudbright	37	375	10.5%	14.3%	61	36	66	204	6	23
Langholm and Eskdale	22	260	9.2%	13.2%	39	38	46	136	..	13
Locharbriggs	43	452	20.3%	28.0%	45	44	90	263	10	10
Lochmaben	20	295	7.6%	16.3%	32	27	42	180	5	10
Lochside and Lincluden	156	1316	27.2%	38.8%	190	151	182	720	9	85
Lockerbie	45	529	9.7%	18.3%	73	58	87	290	8	33
Machars North	12	241	7.2%	18.2%	22	24	27	167	5	10
Machars South	40	552	13.4%	21.6%	114	49	67	317	6	18
Mid Nithsdale	22	301	7.5%	11.9%	56	34	54	166	..	11

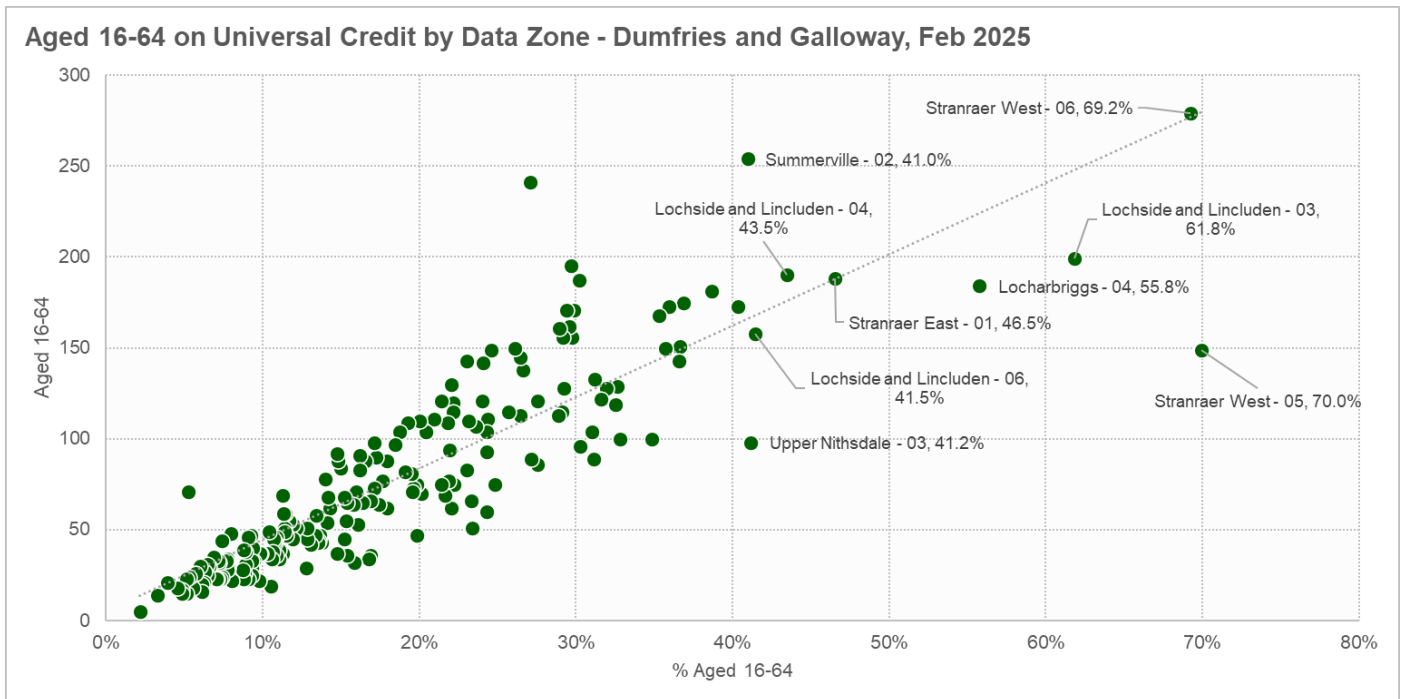
³² DWP. Universal Credit.

Moffat	27	279	10.0%	13.5%	32	32	54	150	5	17
New Abbey	22	213	8.2%	11.3%	32	20	41	124	6	5
Newton Stewart	54	647	13.0%	21.7%	110	84	111	322	8	29
Nunholm	33	295	11.4%	14.7%	63	25	48	156	..	11
Rhins North	20	300	8.8%	16.2%	40	26	46	184	..	16
Rhins South	18	225	11.4%	19.5%	28	26	29	138	..	13
Shawhead	29	273	10.5%	13.1%	29	33	59	138	6	14
Stranraer East	59	432	24.9%	30.0%	54	54	52	256	..	23
Stranraer South	67	539	22.0%	28.0%	62	71	95	309	7	13
Stranraer West	106	723	32.8%	36.3%	86	59	90	452	8	36
Summerville	79	729	19.3%	25.1%	112	96	91	394	7	50
Thornhill	13	321	5.1%	15.0%	40	34	50	187	..	17
Troqueer	32	271	10.3%	13.6%	36	35	49	149	7	9
Upper Nithsdale	63	706	14.0%	26.7%	79	76	99	433	7	28
Dumfries and Galloway	1,552	15,667	13.2%	18.7%	2275	1795	2465	8604	142	800

Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. *Cells with a value of '..' denote a value of less than 5 and disclosure has been applied.

6. Data zones are small statistical output areas of around 500-1,000 people and are generally the smallest areas used and can be grouped into neighbourhoods. The data zones in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of working aged people on Universal Credit in February 2025 were Stranraer West 05 ([statistics.gov.scot | Stranraer West - 05](https://statistics.gov.scot/Stranraer-West-05)) with 149 people and 70.0% of working aged people, Stranraer West 06 ([statistics.gov.scot](https://statistics.gov.scot/Stranraer-West-06)) at 279 and 69.2%, Lochside and Lincluden 03 ([statistics.gov.scot](https://statistics.gov.scot/Lochside-and-Lincluden-03)) at 199 and 61.8%, Lochside and Lincluden 04 ([statistics.gov.scot | Lochside and Lincluden - 04](https://statistics.gov.scot/Lochside-and-Lincluden-04)) at 184 and 55.8%, Stranraer East 01 ([statistics.gov.scot | Stranraer East - 01](https://statistics.gov.scot/Stranraer-East-01)) at 188 and 46.5%, Lochside and Lincluden 04 ([statistics.gov.scot | Lochside and Lincluden - 04](https://statistics.gov.scot/Lochside-and-Lincluden-04)) at 190 and 43.5%, Lochside and Lincluden 06 ([statistics.gov.scot | Lochside and Lincluden - 06](https://statistics.gov.scot/Lochside-and-Lincluden-06)) at 158 and 41.5%, Upper Nithsdale 03 ([statistics.gov.scot | Upper Nithsdale - 03](https://statistics.gov.scot/Upper-Nithsdale-03)) at 98 and 41.2%, Summerville 02 ([statistics.gov.scot | Summerville - 02](https://statistics.gov.scot/Summerville-02)) at 254 and 41.0% and Lochside and Lincluden 02 ([statistics.gov.scot | Lochside and Lincluden - 02](https://statistics.gov.scot/Lochside-and-Lincluden-02)) at 173 and 40.3% of working aged people on Universal Credit in February 2025.³³

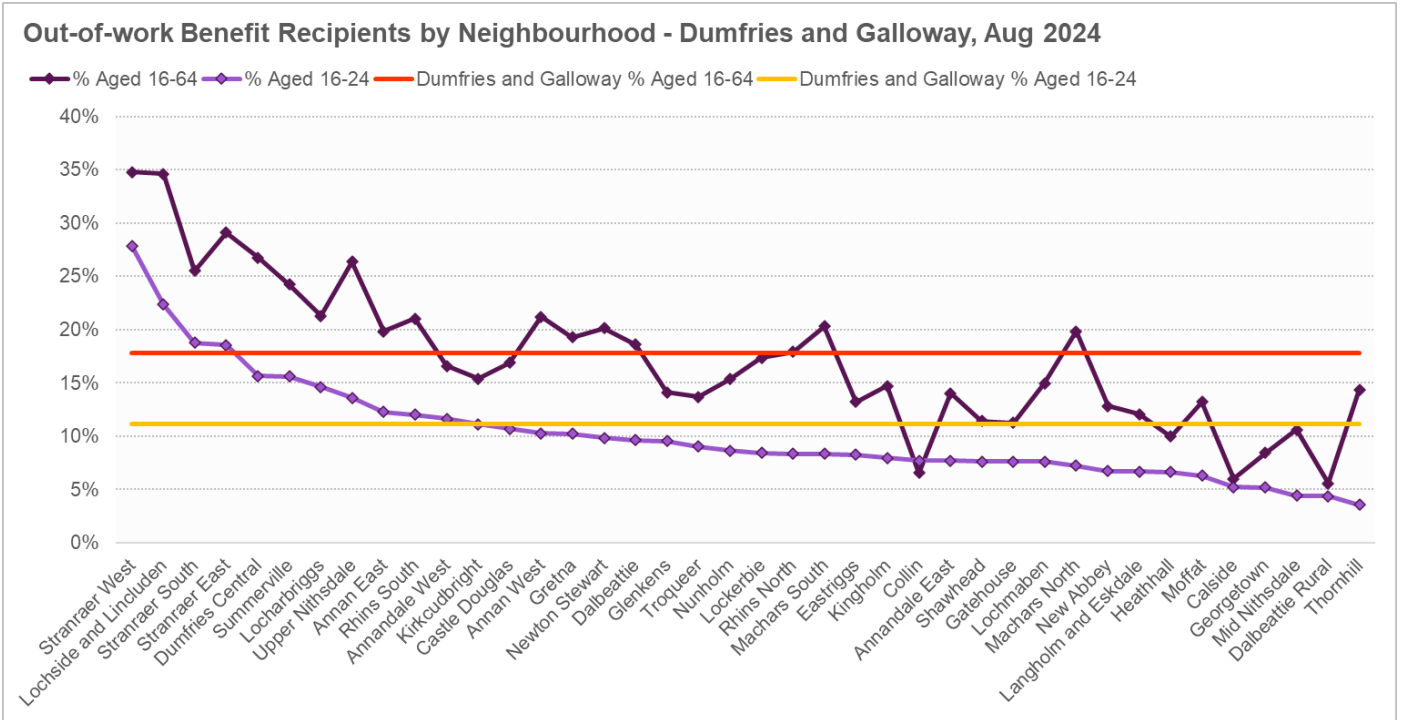
³³ DWP. Universal Credit



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

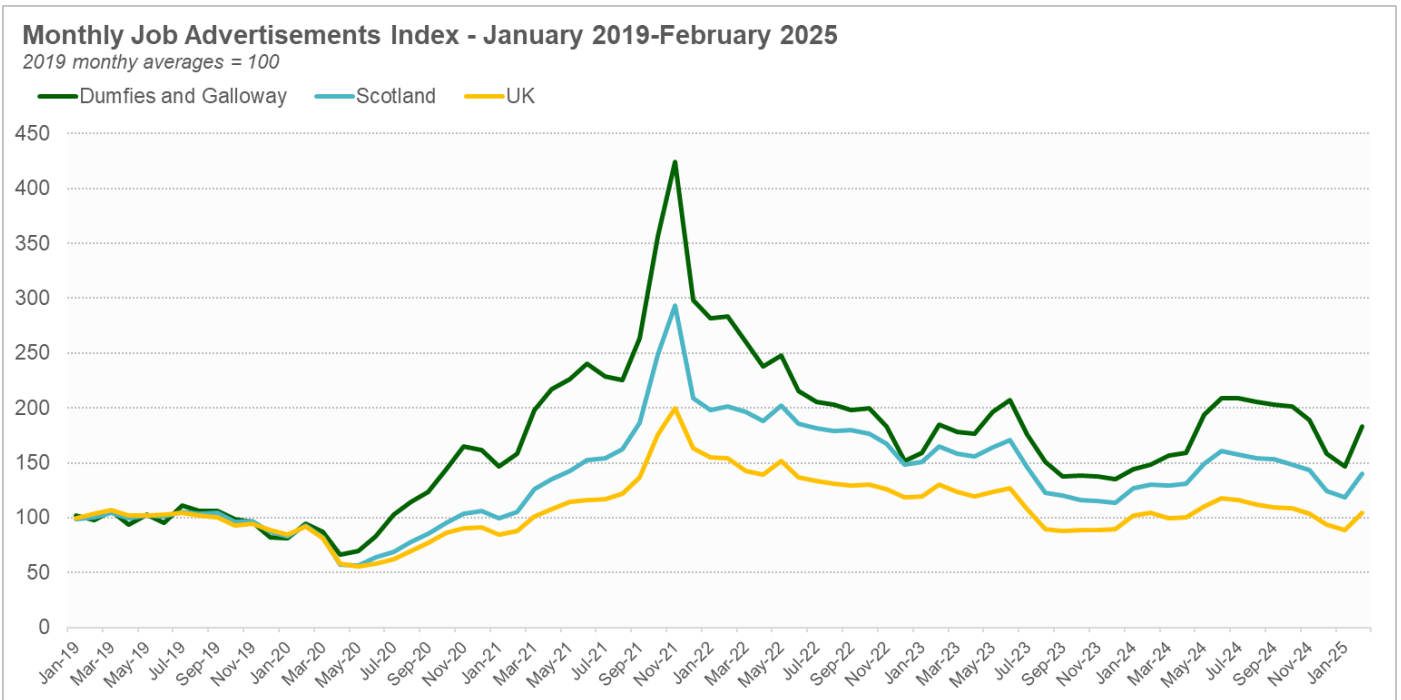
- 14,977 working aged people and 17.9% of working aged people in Dumfries and Galloway were on an out-of-work benefit of some combination in August 2024. The neighbourhoods with the highest proportions of people aged 16 to 64 years on out-of-work benefits in Dumfries and Galloway in August 2024 were Stranraer West at 692 people and 34.8% of those aged 16 to 64 years, Lochside and Lincluden at 1,175 and 34.6%, Stranraer East at 44 and 29.1%, Dumfries Central at 619 and 26.8%, Upper Nithsdale at 698 and 26.4%, Stranraer South at 492 and 25.5% and Summerville at 705 and 24.2%. 1,306 people aged 16 to 24 years and 11.6% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Dumfries and Galloway in August 2024 were in receipt of out-of-work benefits of some combination. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years on an out-of-work benefit in August 2024 were Stranraer West at 90 people and 27.9%, Lochside and Lincluden at 128 and 22.3%, Stranraer South at 57 and 18.8%, Stranraer East at 44 and 18.6%, Dumfries Central at 66 and 15.6% and Summerville at 64 people and 15.6% of those aged 16 to 24 years on an out-of-work benefit of some combination in August 2024.³⁴

³⁴ Department for Work and Pensions. Benefit Combinations for Scotland - Data from May 2019. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View](#)



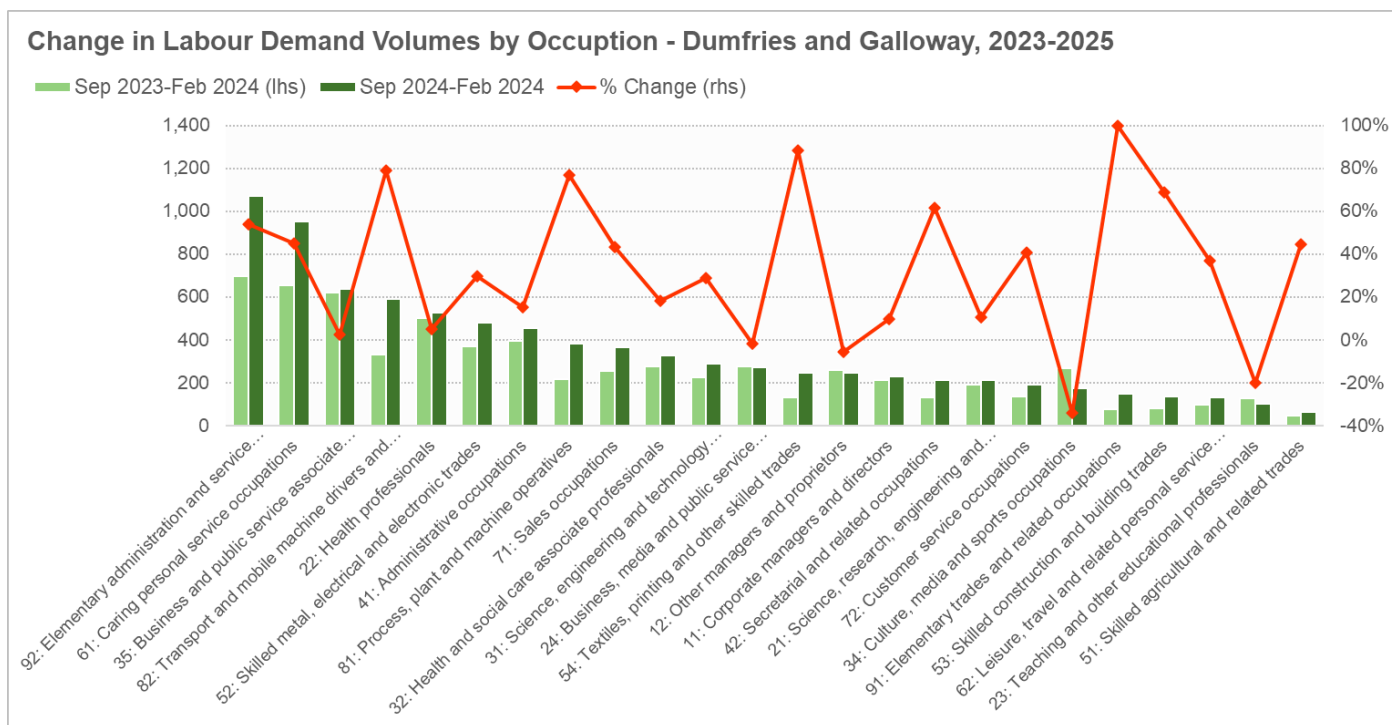
Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Benefit Combinations for Scotland - Data from May 2019.

Labour Supply, Demand and Participation:



Source: Office for National Statistics. Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification (SOC 2020).

1. Labour demand in the region remains high. There were 1,435 jobs advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, 23.7% higher than 1,160 in February 2024. The number of job advertisements in Scotland was 7.8% higher in the UK was 0.1% higher in February 2025 compared to February 2024. Dumfries and Galloway had the 3rd highest annual increase in job advertisements of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 12 months to February 2025. Monthly job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway were 83.1% in February 2025 than compared to 2019 monthly averages, compared to 40.5% higher for Scotland and 4.1% higher for the UK. Labour demand is tighter in Dumfries and Galloway than in Scotland and the UK. There were 1.69 unemployed claimants per job advertised in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, compared to 2.03 in February 2024. There were 1.46 claimants per jobs in Scotland and 1.38 claimants per job in the UK in February 2025. There were 171.0 jobs per 10,000 adults in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2025, compared to 219.0 in Scotland.³⁵



Source: Office for National Statistics. Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification (SOC 2020).

³⁵ Office for National Statistics. Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification (SOC 2020), UK. Access: [Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification \(SOC 2020\), UK - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employment-and-labour-markets/employment-and-labour-demand/employment-and-labour-demand-volumes-by-standard-occupation-classification-soc-2020-uk)

2. The most in demand occupation for jobs advertised in Dumfries and Galloway in the 6 months to February 2025 was for Elementary administration and service occupations, accounting for 1,070 jobs and 12.6% of total job postings, compared to 9.2% for Scotland. There were 950 job postings for Caring personal service occupations in Dumfries and Galloway in the 6 months to February 2025, accounting for 11.2% of job postings, compared to 6.2% for Scotland. There were 635 jobs postings in Dumfries and Galloway in the 6 months to February 2025 within Business and public service associate professionals' occupations, accounting for 7.5% of job postings, compared to 10.2% for Scotland. The occupations with the highest location quotients for job postings in Dumfries and Galloway compared to Scotland in the 6 months to February 2025 were Caring personal service occupations at 1.81, Secretarial and related occupations 1.69 and Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives at 1.57. The occupations with the highest level increases in demand in the 6 months to February 2025 compared to the 6 months to February 2024 were for Elementary administration and service occupations at +375 jobs and by 54.0%, Caring personal service occupations at +295 jobs and by 45.0% and for Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives at +260 jobs and by 78.8%. The occupations with the highest proportional increases in job advertisements in the 6 months to February 2025 compared to the same period in 2024 were for Elementary trades and related occupations with +75 jobs and by 100.0%, Textiles, printing and other skilled trades at +115 jobs and by 88.5% and for Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives at +260 jobs and by 78.8%.³⁶

Job Advertisements by Occupation (SOC 2020 2-digit) - Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, Sep 2024-Feb 2025:

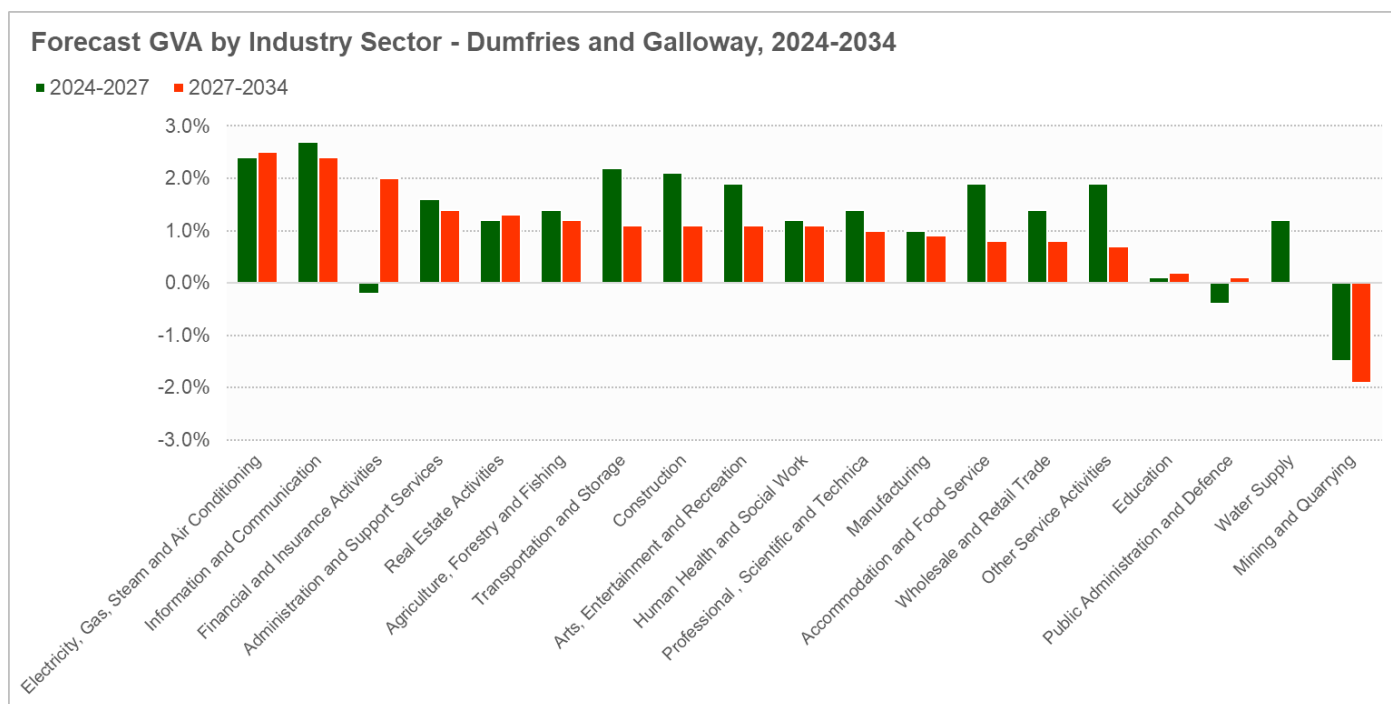
Occupation:	Dumfries and Galloway Level	Scotland Level	Dumfries and Galloway %	Scotland %	Location Quotient
92: Elementary administration and service occupations	1,070	41,030	12.6%	9.2%	1.37
61: Caring personal service occupations	950	27,660	11.2%	6.2%	1.81
35: Business and public service associate professionals	635	45,255	7.5%	10.2%	0.74
82: Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives	590	19,775	7.0%	4.4%	1.57
22: Health professionals	525	18,630	6.2%	4.2%	1.48
52: Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades	480	30,525	5.7%	6.8%	0.83
41: Administrative occupations	455	35,065	5.4%	7.9%	0.68
81: Process, plant and machine operatives	380	15,725	4.5%	3.5%	1.27
71: Sales occupations	365	14,660	4.3%	3.3%	1.31
32: Health and social care associate professionals	325	11,260	3.8%	2.5%	1.52
31: Science, engineering and technology associate professionals	290	19,795	3.4%	4.4%	0.77
24: Business, media and public service professionals	270	36,210	3.2%	8.1%	0.39
12: Other managers and proprietors	245	11,160	2.9%	2.5%	1.16
54: Textiles, printing and other skilled trades	245	12,895	2.9%	2.9%	1.00
11: Corporate managers and directors	230	17,060	2.7%	3.8%	0.71
21: Science, research, engineering and technology professionals	210	36,085	2.5%	8.1%	0.31
42: Secretarial and related occupations	210	6,525	2.5%	1.5%	1.69
72: Customer service occupations	190	9,425	2.2%	2.1%	1.06
34: Culture, media and sports occupations	175	6,840	2.1%	1.5%	1.35

³⁶ ONS. Labour Demand Volumes. *Location quotients indicates if there is higher or low demand for an occupation in an area compared to another area. A quotient above 1.0 represents higher proportional demand, with a quotient below 1.0 equalling lower demand. Location quotient above ids Dumfries and Galloway compared to Scotland.

91: Elementary trades and related occupations	150	6,580	1.8%	1.5%	1.20
53: Skilled construction and building trades	135	7,695	1.6%	1.7%	0.92
62: Leisure, travel and related personal service occupations	130	7,140	1.5%	1.6%	0.96
23: Teaching and other educational professionals	100	5,655	1.2%	1.3%	0.93
51: Skilled agricultural and related trades	65	1,185	0.8%	0.3%	2.89
63: Community and civil enforcement occupations	35	170	0.4%	0.0%	10.84
33: Protective service occupations	10	1,370	0.1%	0.3%	0.38

Source: Office for National Statistics. Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification (SOC 2020).

3. The most in demand job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in Q4 2024 (SOC 4-digit classification) were for Delivery drivers and couriers with 75 jobs and 4.6% of jobs, Care workers and home carers with 70 jobs and 4.3% of jobs, Nursing auxiliaries and assistants with 50 jobs and 3.1% of jobs, Cleaners and domestics with 50 jobs and 3.1% of jobs, Sales and retail assistants with 45 jobs and 2.8% of jobs, Metal working production and maintenance fitters with 35 jobs and 2.2% of jobs, Warehouse operatives with 35 jobs and 2.2% of jobs and Warehouse operatives with 35 jobs and 2.2% of jobs.³⁷
1. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest forecast proportional increases in gross value added in the three years to 2027 were Information and Communication industries at 2.7%, Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning industries at 2.4% and Transportation and Storage industries with a forecast increase in GVA in the three years to 2027. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the lowest proportional increases in GVA in the three years to 2027 were Mining and Quarrying at -1.5%, Public Administration and Defence industries at -0.4% and Financial and Insurance Activities industries with GVA forecast at -0.2% in the three years to 2027. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest forecast proportional increases in gross value added between 2027 and 2034 were Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning industries at 2.5%, Information and Communication industries at 2.4% and Financial and Insurance Activities industries with forecast GVA to increase by 2.0% between 2027 and 2034. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the lowest forecast proportional increases in gross value added between 2027 and 2034 are Mining and Quarrying at -1.9%, Water Supply at 0.0% and Public Administration and Defence industries with a 0.1% forecast GVA increase between 2027 and 2034.³⁸

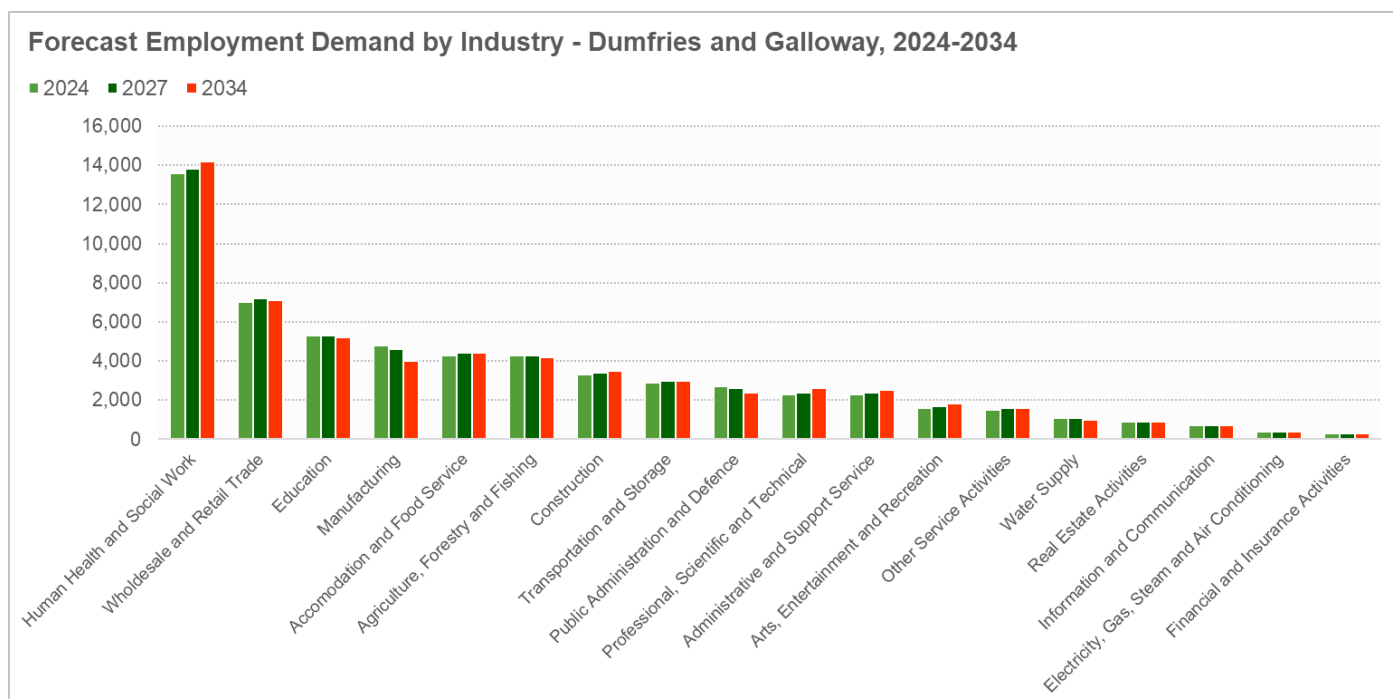


Source: Skills Development Scotland/Oxford Economics. Regional Skills Assessment – Dumfries and Galloway, October 2024.

³⁷ ONS. Labour Demand Volumes.

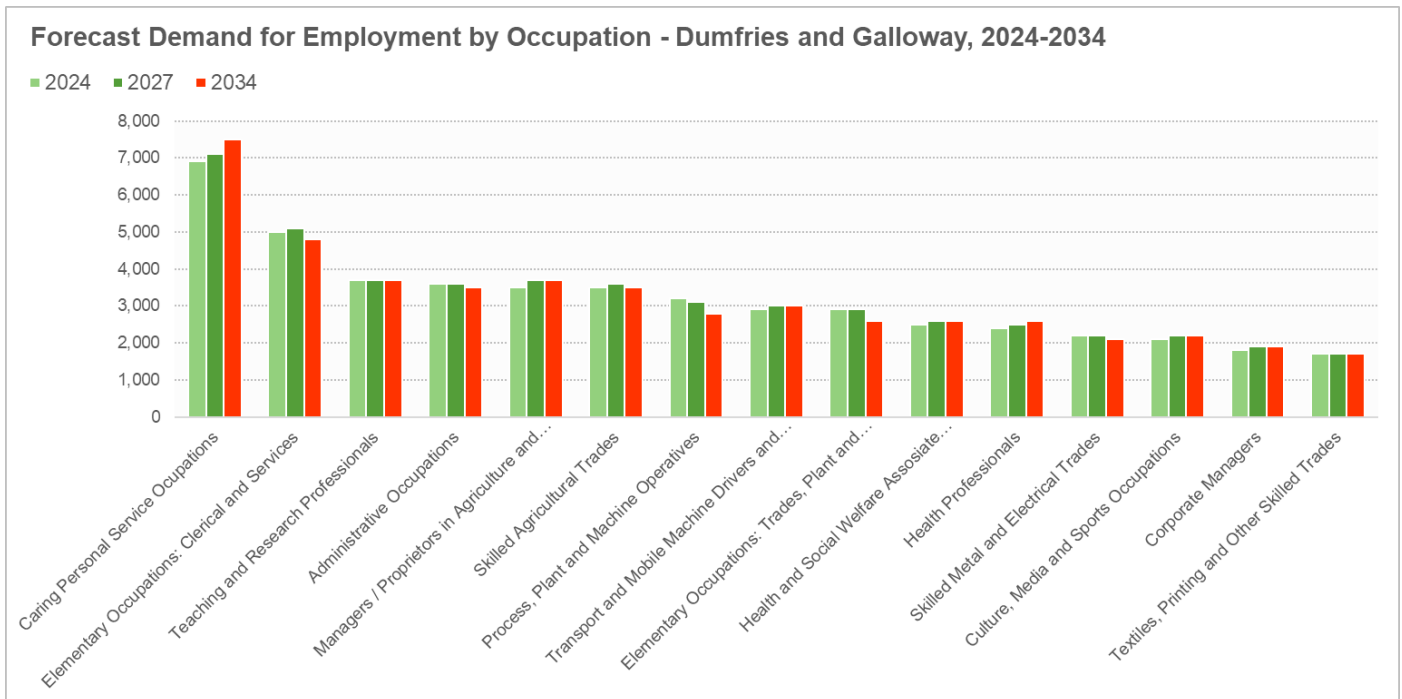
³⁸ Skills Development Scotland/Oxford Economics. Regional Skills Assessment – Dumfries and Galloway, October 2024. Access: [Regional Skills Assessment Dumfries and Galloway 2024](#)

2. Forecast demand for employment in Dumfries and Galloway is for an additional 800 employees in the three years to 2027 and by an additional 500 employees between 2027 and 2034 from 2024 levels. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest forecast level increases in employment in the three years to 2027 were Human Health and Social Work Activities industries with employment forecast to increase by 200 and by 1.5% and Wholesale and Retail Trade industries at 200 employees and by 2.9%. The industries with the lowest level increases in forecast demand for employment in the three years to 2027 in Dumfries and Galloway are Manufacturing industries at -100 employees and by -4.2% and Public Administration and Defence industries by -100 employees and by -3.7%. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest forecast level increases in employment between 2027 and 2034 were Human Health and Social Work Activities industry with forecast demand of 600 more employees and by 4.4%, Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities industries at 300 and 13.0%, Construction industries at 300 and 6.1% and Administrative and Support Service Activities with forecast demand for employment at an additional 200 employees and by 6.1% between 2027 and 2034. The industries in Dumfries and Galloway with the lowest forecast demand for employment between 2027 and 2034 were Manufacturing at -800 employees and by -16.7%, Public Administration and Defence at -300 and by -11.1%, Water Supply industries at -100 and by -9.1%, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing at -100 and by -2.3% and Education industries with forecast demand for employment between 2027 and 22034 at -100 and by 1.9%.³⁹



Source: Skills Development Scotland/Oxford Economics. Regional Skills Assessment – Dumfries and Galloway, October 2024.

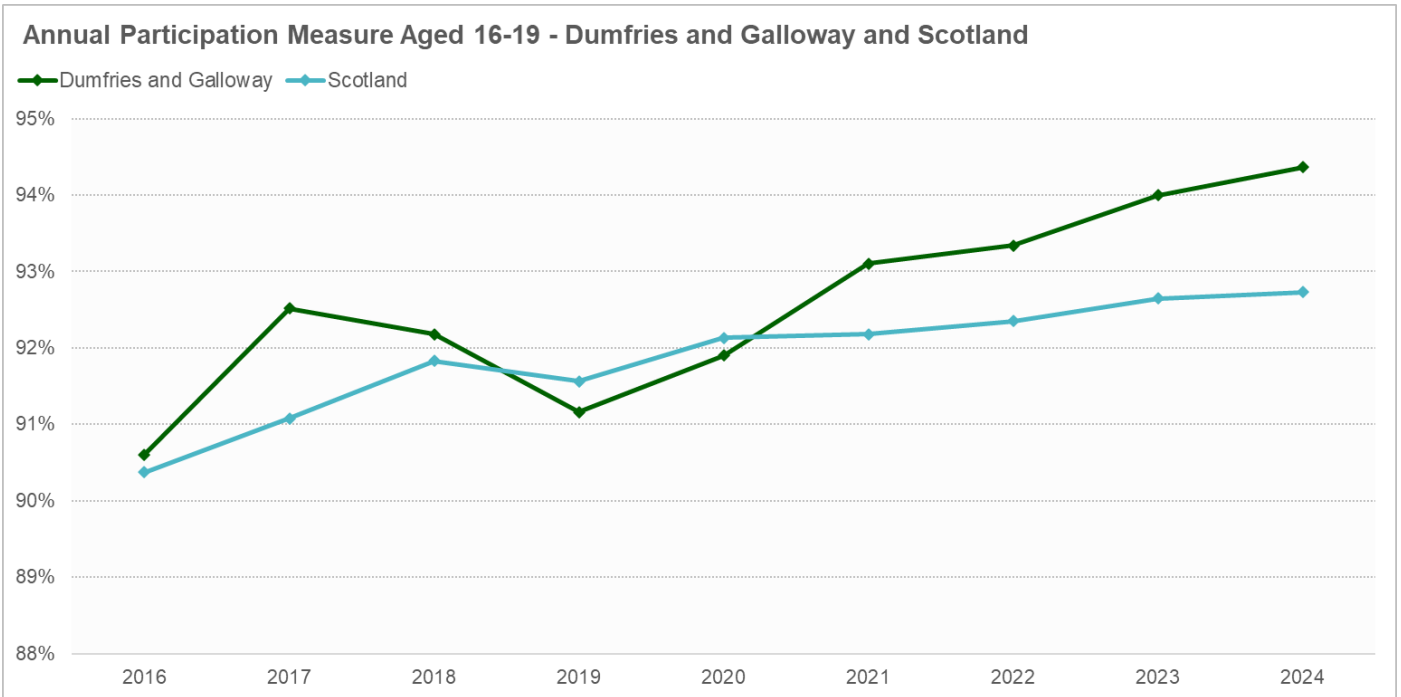
³⁹ SDS. RSA.



Source: Skills Development Scotland/Oxford Economics. Regional Skills Assessment – Dumfries and Galloway, October 2024.

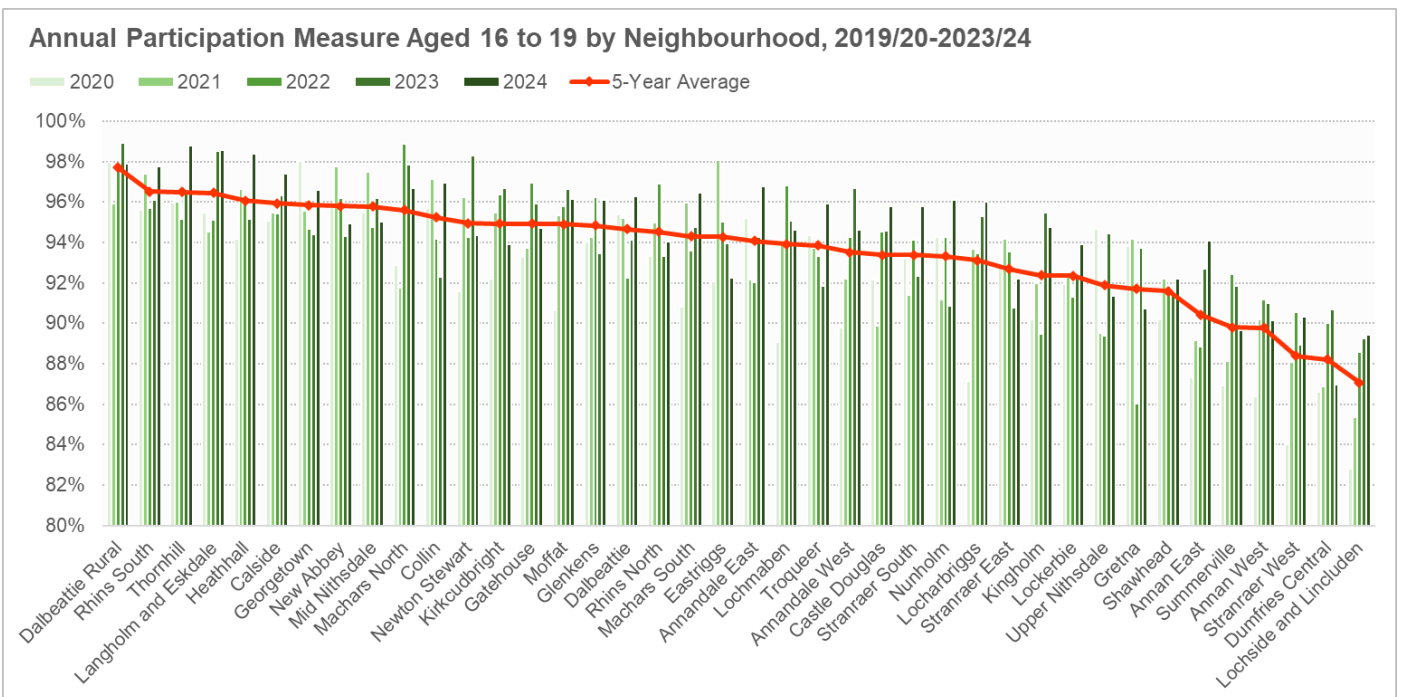
3. Forecast demand for skills in Dumfries and Galloway by occupation in the three years to 2027 is for additional 1,000 employees and for 300 additional employees between 2027 and 2034 from 2024 levels. The occupations with the highest-level increases in demand in Dumfries and Galloway in the three years to 2027 were Caring Personal Service Occupation's at 200 additional employees and an increase of 2.9% and Managers / Proprietors in Agriculture and Services with an additional 200 employees and by 2.9%. The occupation with the lowest forecast increases in employment in the three years to 2027 was Process, Plant and Machine Operatives at -100 employees and by 3.1%. The occupations with the highest-level increases in forecast employment demand between 2027 and 2034 were Caring Personal Service Occupations with an additional 600 employees and by 8.7%, Managers / Proprietors in Agriculture and Services at 200 and by 5.7% and Health Professionals at 200 and by 8.9%. The occupations in Dumfries and Galloway with the lowest forecast demand for employment between 2027 and 2034 were Process, Plant and Machine Operatives at -400 employees and by -12.5%, Elementary Occupations: Trades, Plant and Storage by -300 employees and by -10.3% and Elementary Occupations: Clerical and Services at -200 and by -4.0% between 2027 and 2034.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ SDS. RSA.



Source: Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure.

1. 94.4% of those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway were participating in employment, education or training in 2023/2024, compared to 92.7% of those aged 16 to 19 years in Scotland. The participation rate for 16- to 19-year-olds in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 was at its highest rate since records were available since 2015/16. Dumfries and Galloway had the 8th highest participation rate of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023/24.⁴¹



Source: Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure.

⁴¹ Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure. Access: [Annual Participation Measure - Skills Development Scotland](#)

2. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 were Thornhill at 98.8%, Langholm and Eskdale at 98.6%, Heathhall at 98.4%, Dalbeattie Rural at 97.9% and Rhins South at 97.8%. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the lowest participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 years in 2023/24 were Dumfries Central at 87.0%, Lochside and Lincluden at 89.4%, Summerville at 89.7%, Annan West at 90.2% and Stranraer West at 90.3%. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with an average participation rate of below 90% in the previous 5 years were Lochside and Lincluden at 87.1%, Dumfries Central at 88.2%, Stranraer West at 88.4%, Annan West at 89.8% and Summerville at 89.8%. Lochside and Lincluden has been within the 5 lowest performing neighbourhoods in terms of participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years every year for the past 5 years, Dumfries Central for 4 of the last 5 years, Stranraer West for 4 of the last 5 years and Summerville for 3 of the past 5 years have been with the 5 lowest performing neighbourhoods in terms of participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years.⁴²

School Leavers Destination by Participation Status and High School - Dumfries and Galloway, 2023/24											
	% Employment	% Further Education	% Higher Education	% Personal/ Skills Development	% Training	% Voluntary Work	% Inactive	% Unemployed	% Unknown	Participating	Not Participating
Sanquhar Academy	38.3%	25.5%	17.0%	0.0%	6.4%	0.0%	4.3%	8.5%	0.0%	87.2%	12.8%
Kirkcudbright Academy	31.7%	19.0%	36.5%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	0.0%	90.5%	9.5%
Northwest Community Campus	27.7%	41.5%	12.3%	0.0%	6.2%	3.1%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	90.8%	9.2%
Lockerbie Academy	31.2%	29.9%	29.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	0.6%	4.5%	0.6%	94.2%	5.8%
Wallace Hall Academy	20.4%	21.4%	46.9%	0.0%	3.1%	2.0%	2.0%	4.1%	0.0%	93.9%	6.1%
Douglas Ewart High School	34.8%	23.2%	33.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%	94.6%	5.4%
St Joseph's College	15.1%	36.1%	44.6%	0.0%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	1.8%	0.0%	97.6%	2.4%
Dumfries High School	18.2%	33.9%	45.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.7%	0.0%	97.5%	2.5%
Annan Academy	28.3%	38.0%	28.3%	0.0%	0.5%	1.1%	2.7%	1.1%	0.0%	96.2%	3.8%
Dumfries Academy	29.1%	29.1%	31.3%	0.7%	6.0%	0.7%	1.5%	0.7%	0.7%	97.0%	3.0%
Stranraer Academy	31.1%	30.5%	31.1%	0.6%	3.0%	0.6%	2.4%	0.6%	0.0%	97.0%	3.0%
Moffat Academy	20.8%	18.8%	58.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	97.9%	2.1%
Dalbeattie High School	25.4%	22.5%	46.5%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	95.8%	4.2%
Castle Douglas High School	28.0%	29.0%	34.4%	0.0%	3.2%	2.2%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	96.8%	3.2%
Langholm Academy	46.8%	25.5%	21.3%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	97.9%	2.1%

Source: Skills Development Scotland. 16+ Data Hub – School Leavers Destinations.

3. The high schools in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest participation rates for school leavers in 2023/24 were Moffat Academy at 97.9%, Langholm Academy at 97.9% and St Joseph's College at 97.6%. The high schools in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of school leavers not participating in 2023/24 were Sanquhar Academy at 12.8%, Kirkcudbright Academy at 9.5% and North West Community campus at 9.2%. 58.3% of school leavers from Moffat Academy, 46.9% from Wallace Academy and 46.5% from Dalbeattie Academy went into higher education in 2023/24, compared to 12.3% from North West Community Campus, 17.0% from Sanquhar Academy and 21.3% from Langholm Academy. 0.0% of school leavers from Langholm Academy, Castle Douglas High School, Dalbeattie High School and Moffat Academy were unemployed in 2023/24, compared to 8.5% for Sanquhar Academy, 4.8% for Kirkcudbright Academy and 4.6% for North West Community campus. 58.3% of those aged 16 to 19 from Moffat Academy, 46.9% from Wallace Hall Academy and 46.5%

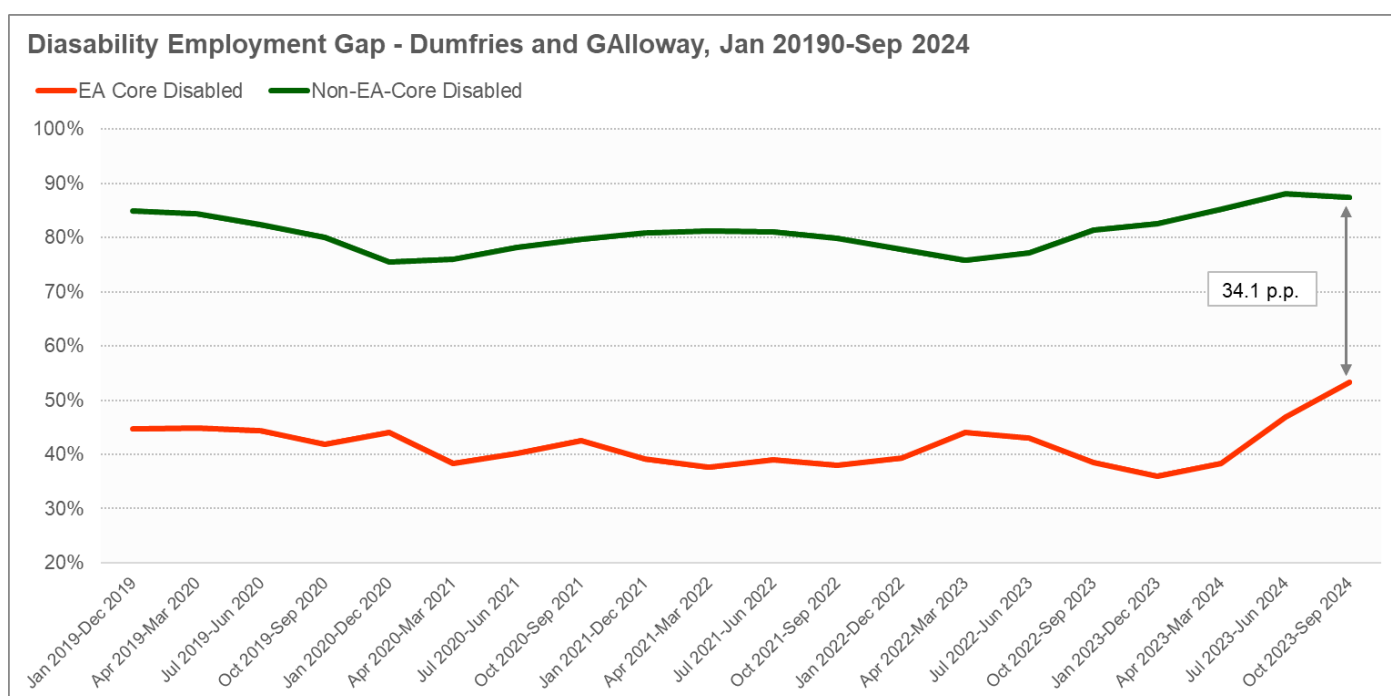
⁴² SDS. APM.

from Dalbeattie Academy were participating in further education in 2024, compared to 12.3% from North West Community Campus and 17.0% of those aged 16 to 19 from Sanquhar Academy.⁴³

⁴³ Skills Development Scotland. 16+ Data Hub – School Leavers Destinations.

Disability Employment Gap:

1. The disability employment gap is a measure of the difference in employment rates aged 16 to 64 years for those who are Equality Act Core Disabled versus those who are Equality Act Non-Core Disabled. Disability is defined as an individual as being disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to do normal day-to-day activities, which includes physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more and the conditions or illnesses reduces the individual's ability to carry-out day-to-day activities.⁴⁴ The gap is measured in percentage points (p.p.), which is the arithmetic difference between two percentages.
2. Dumfries and Galloway has a persistent disability employment gap and is amongst the highest disability employment gap in all of Scotland. The latest estimate for the disability employment gap for Dumfries and Galloway between October 2023 and September 2024 was at 31.4 percentage points, with the employment rate for EA Core Disabled people aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway at 53.3%, compared to employment rate for non-EA Core Disabled people aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway at 87.4%.



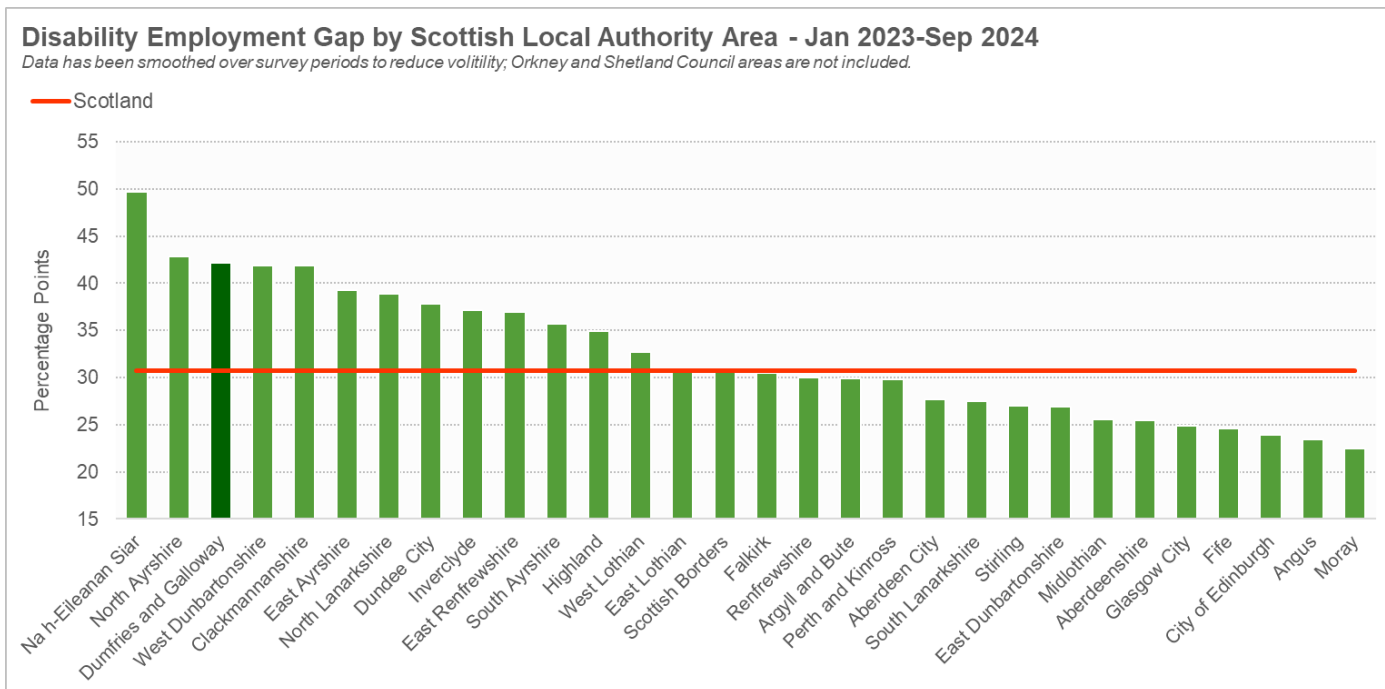
Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

3. Levels of inactivity for those who are disabled are significantly higher than for those who are not. Almost 64% of those who were economically inactive aged 16 to 64 in Dumfries and Galloway identify as EA Core disabled. An estimated 43.7% of those aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway between October 2023 and September 2024 were economically inactive, compared to 11.3% for those who were Non-EA Core disabled.⁴⁵
4. The disability employment gap is measured from the Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey data. The survey data is subject to volatility and estimates should be interpreted with caution. Preference is given to trends, rather than singular results. Averages of the survey results over consecutive periods can be used to reduce volatility of singular results. When considering the disability employment gap over four consecutive survey period (January 2023-September 2024), the disability employment gap in Dumfries and Galloway in between 2023 and 2024 was 42.2 p.p., 11.4 p.p. higher

⁴⁴ Government Analysis Function. Measuring disability for the Equality Act 2010 harmonisation guidance. Access: [Measuring disability for the Equality Act 2010 harmonisation guidance – Government Analysis Function](#)

⁴⁵ ONS. APS.

than Scotland at 30.7 p.p. and 3rd highest disability employment gap of 32 Scottish local authority areas.⁴⁶

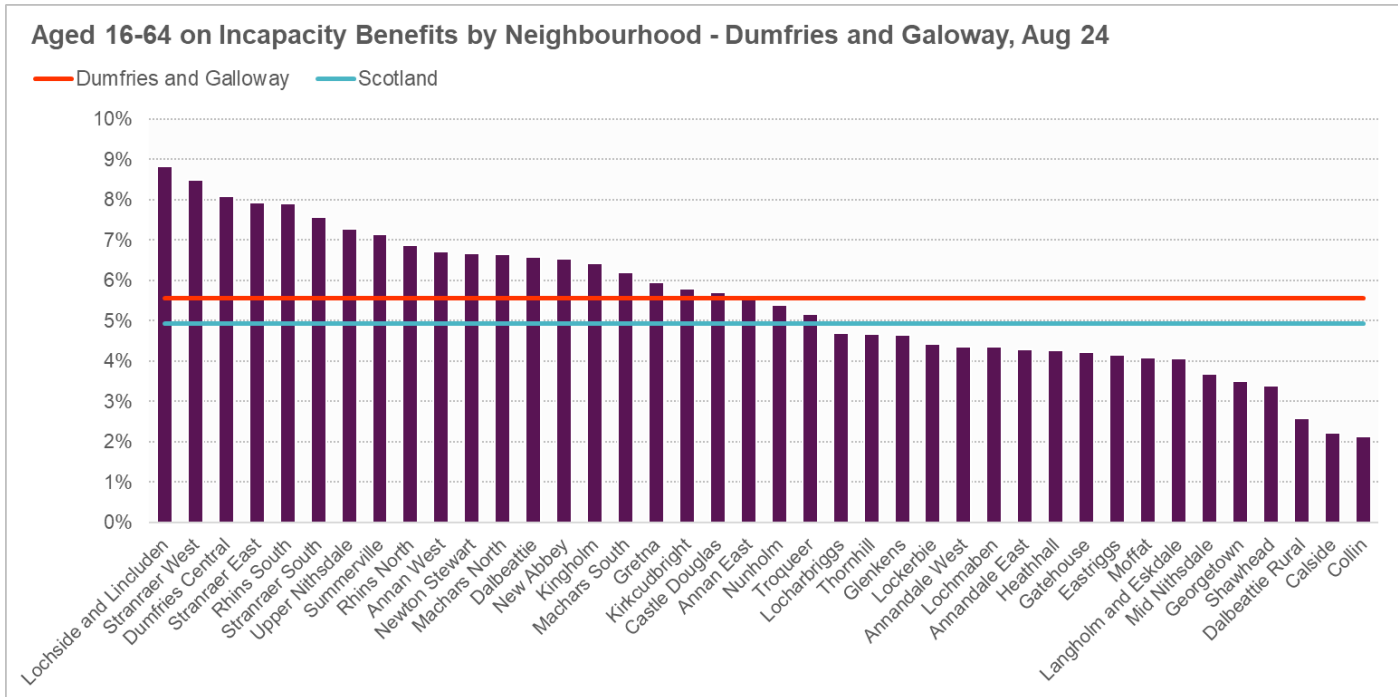


Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

- 4,669 working aged people and 5.6% of people aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway in August 2024 were in-receipt of an out-of-work benefit due to incapacity (some combination of Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Income Support on the basis of incapacity), compared to 4.9% of working aged people in Scotland. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years in-receipt of out-of-work benefits due to incapacity in August 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden at 300 people and 8.8% of working aged people, Stranraer West at 169 and 8.5%, Dumfries Central at 187 and 9.1%, Stranraer East at 114 and 7.9%, Rhins South at 91 and 7.9%, Stranraer South at 146 and 7.6%, Upper Nithsdale at 193 and 7.3% and Summerville at 208 and 7.2% of working aged people who were in-receipt of an out-of-work benefit due to incapacity in August 2024.⁴⁷

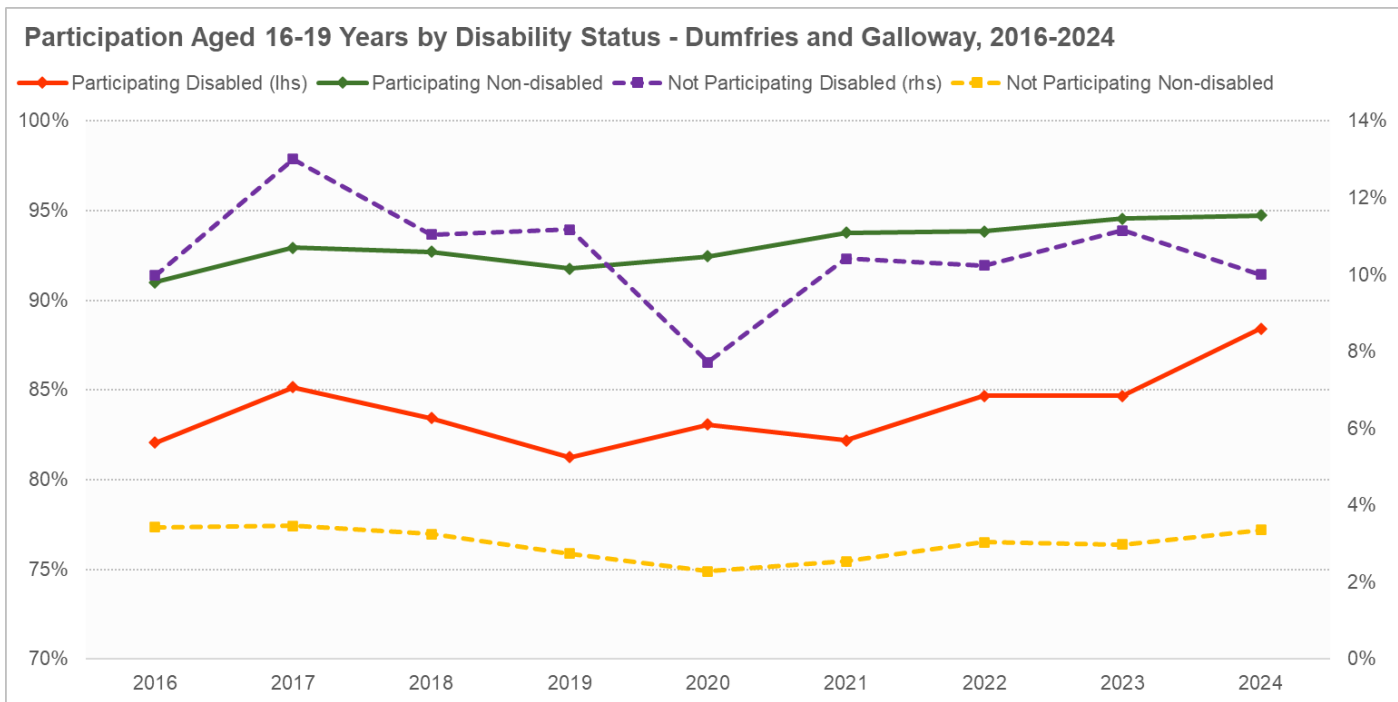
⁴⁶ ONS. APS.

⁴⁷ DWP. Benefit Combinations.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Benefit Combinations for Scotland - Data from May 2019.

6. Disabled people aged 16 to 19 years living in Dumfries and Galloway have persistently lower participation and higher non-participation rates compared to those aged 16 to 19 years who are non-disabled. The participation gap for those aged 16 to 19 years who are disabled verses those who are non-disabled has narrowed in recent years, yet the number of those aged 16 to 19 years who are not participating remains significantly higher than for those who are non-disabled. The participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years for those who are disabled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 was 88.4%, 6.2 percentage points lower than 94.7% for those who are non-disabled. The non-participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 was 10.0%, 6.5 percentage points higher than 3.4% for those who are not disabled. The participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway was 0.7 percentage points lower than in Scotland in 2023/24 at 89.1%.⁴⁸

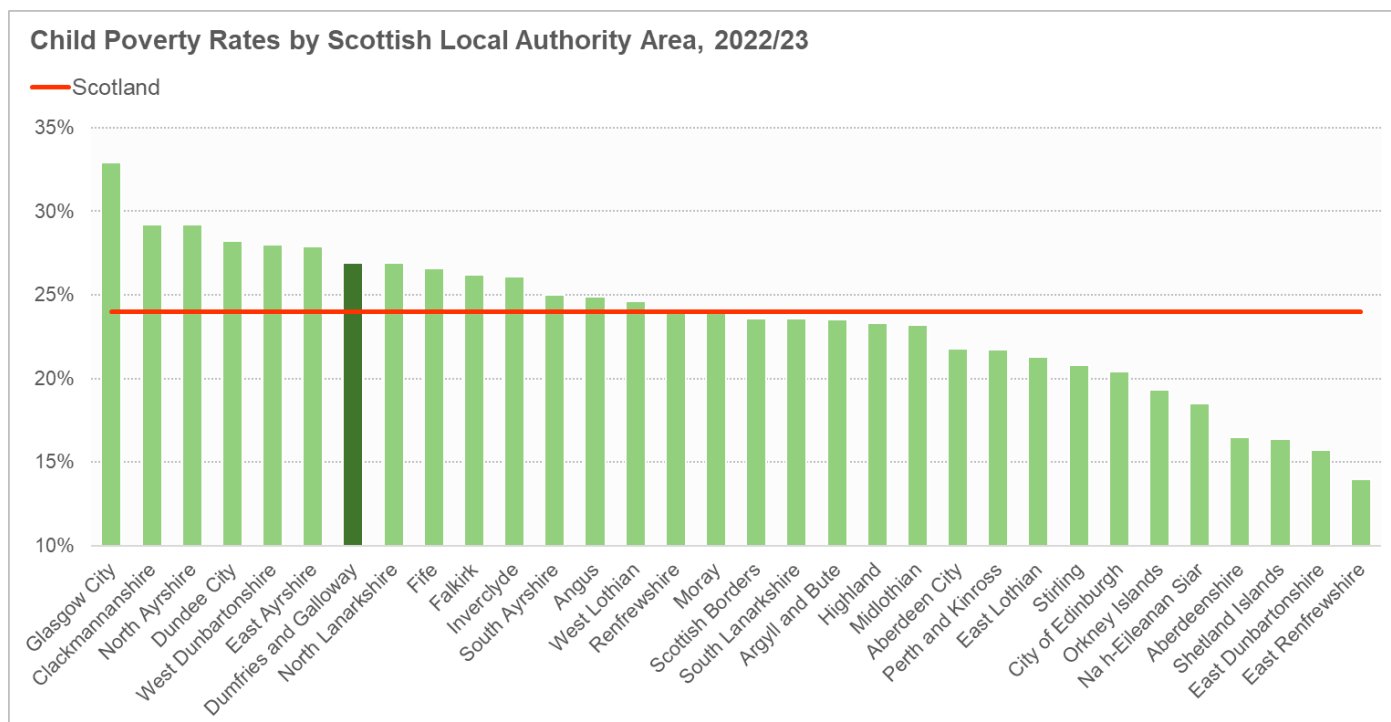


Source: Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure.

⁴⁸ SDS. APM.

Child and Parental Poverty

1. Child poverty is defined as if a child lives in a family that has household income is 60% below median income after housing costs, equivalised for household type and including all children aged 0 to 15 years and those aged 16 to 19 years who are still in full-time education. 6,841 children and 26.9% of children in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022/23 were in poverty families, up from 6,751 and 26.0% in 2021/22 and compared to 24.0% of children in Scotland in 2022/23. Dumfries and Galloway had the 7th highest rate of child poverty of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2022/23, with the highest rate of children poverty of rural Scottish local authority areas in 2022/23 (8-fold urban-rural classification). 31.0% of children in Dumfries and Galloway parliamentary constituency and 26.1% of children in Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale parliamentary constituency were living in poverty families in 2022/23 with 9.6% of children in Dumfries and Galloway parliamentary constituency and 8.4% of children in Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale affected by the two child benefit cap limit in 2022/23.⁴⁹



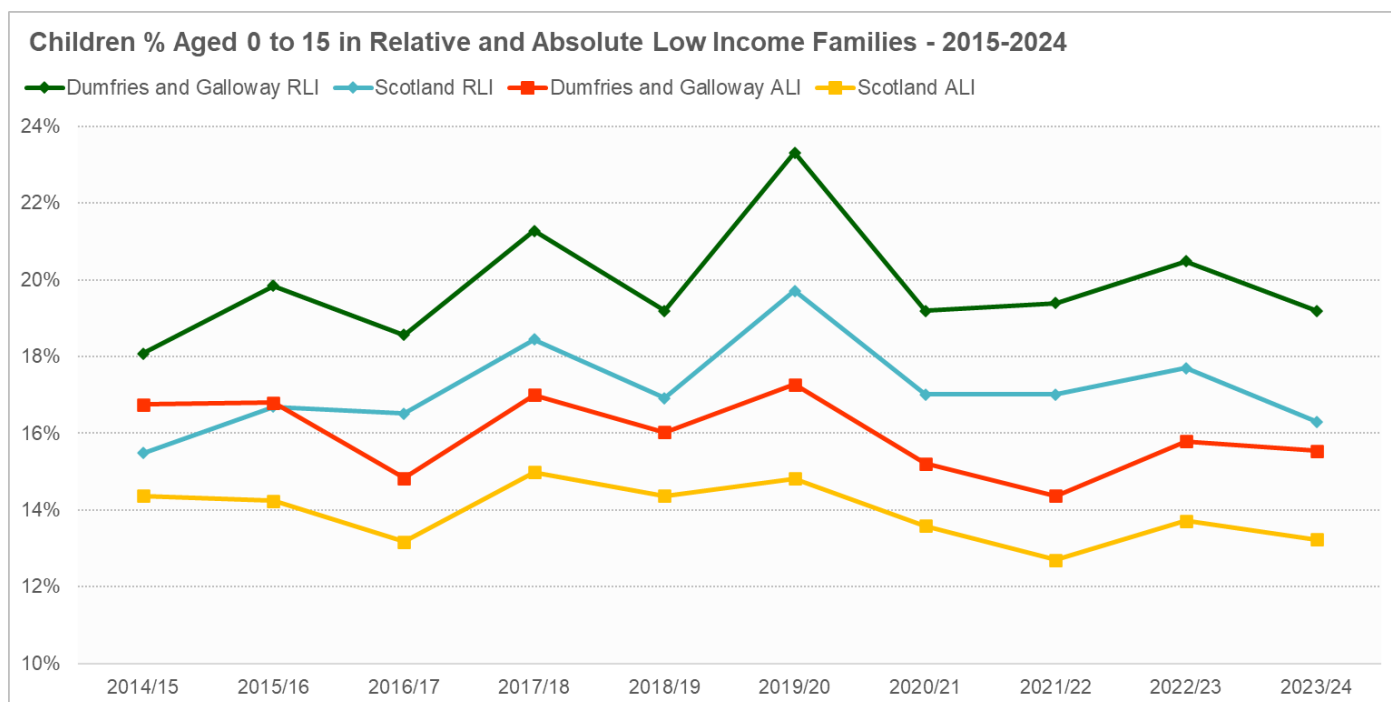
Source: End Child Poverty. Local Child Poverty Statistics 2024.

2. Children in relative low families is defined as a family in low income before housing costs which have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as in relative low income. These figures represent relative low-income families before the effects of housing costs, thresholds and equivalisation (households weighted by composition) have been applied and are therefore lower than headline child poverty rates. 4,194 children aged 0 to 15 years and 19.2% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24 were living in relative low-income families, down from 4,475 and 20.5% in the previous years. 16.3% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland in 2023/24 were living in relative low-income families, down from 17.7% in the previous year. The average 3-year rate for children aged 0 to 15 years living in relative low-income families in Dumfries and Galloway in the year ending 2022 to 2024 was 19.7% compared to 17.0% for Scotland within the same period. Dumfries and Galloway had the 5th highest rate of children aged 0 to 15 years living in relative low-income families of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023/24.⁵⁰
3. Children in absolute low-income families is defined as living in a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation and is a gross income measure before housing costs and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. Absolute low-income figures are before housing cost measures and therefore lower than headline rates. 3,396 children aged 0 to 15 years and 15.5% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in

⁴⁹ End Child Poverty. Local Child Poverty Statistics 2024. Access: [Child Poverty Statistics 2024 - End Child Poverty](#)

⁵⁰ Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families – Relative Low Income. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View](#)

2023/24 were living in absolute low-income families, compared to 3,451 and 15.8% in 2022/23. 13.2% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland were living in absolute low-income families in 2023/24, compared to 13.7% in 2022/23. The three-year average rate for children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in the year ending 2022 to 2024 was 15.2%, compared to 13.2% for Scotland. Dumfries and Galloway had the 5th highest proportion of those aged 0 to 15 years living in absolute low-income families of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023/24.⁵¹

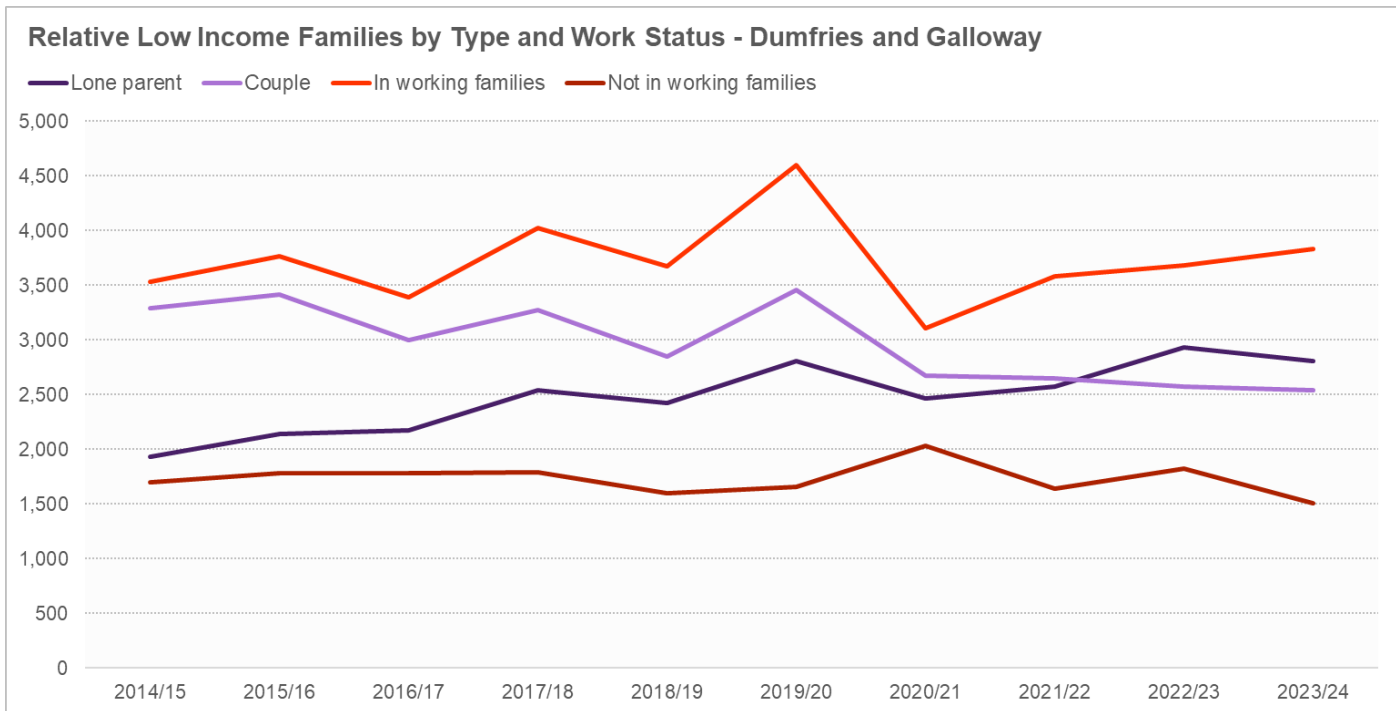


Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families.

4. There were 5,339 relative low-income families in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24, compared to 5,509 in 2022/23 and 1.1% higher than 5,279 in 2018/2019. There were 2,538 relative low-income families who were couples in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24, compared to 2,577 in 2022/23 and 11.0% lower than 2,852 in 2018/19. There were 2,805 relative low-income families who were lone parent families in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24, compared to 2,932 in 2022/23 and 15.7% higher than 2,425 in 2018/19. There were 3,831 relative low-income families who were in working families in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24, compared to 3,683 in 202/23 and 4.2% higher than 3,678 in 2018/19. There were 1,511 relative low-income families who were in not working families in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023/24, compared to 1,823 in 202/23 and 5.6% lower than 1,600 in 2018/19.⁵²

⁵¹ Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families – Absolute Low Income. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View](#)

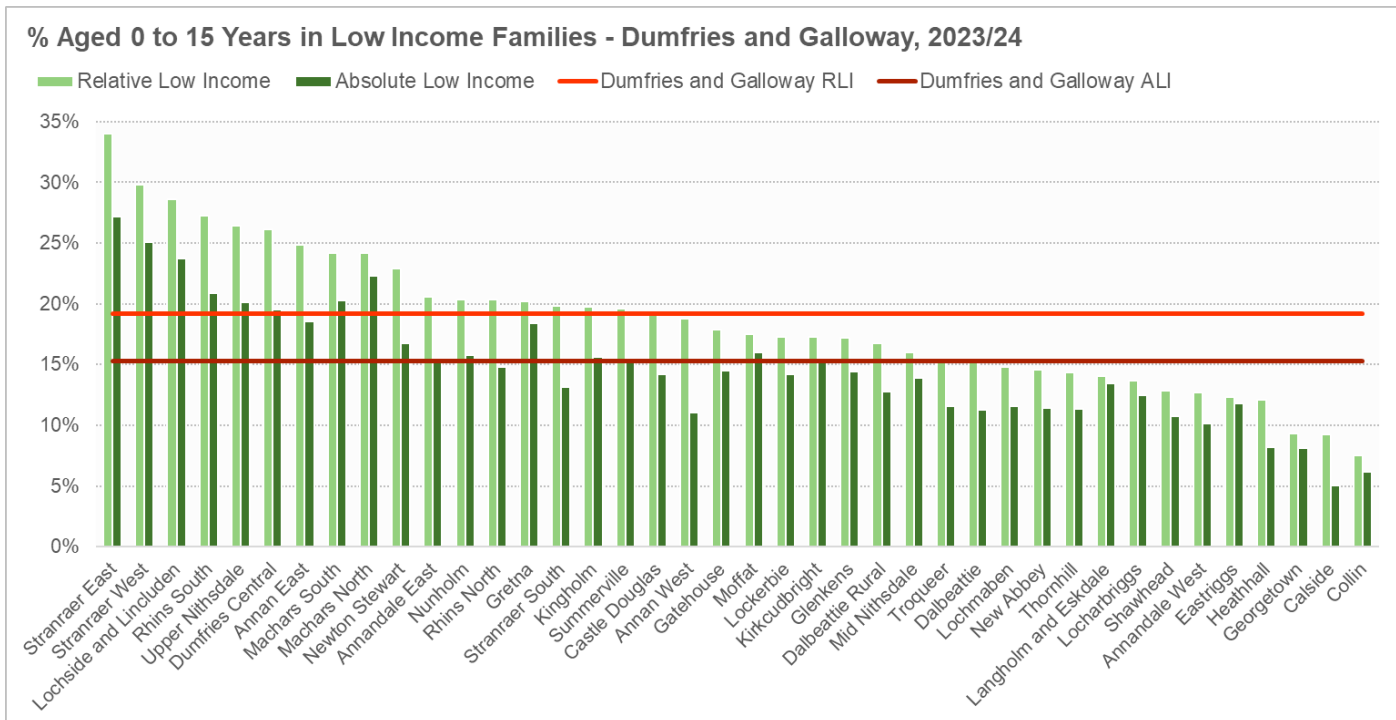
⁵² DWP. CILIF.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families.

5. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of children aged 0 to 15 years in relative low income families in 2023/24 were Stranraer East with 121 children and 34.0% of those aged 0 to 15, Stranraer West at 187 and 29.8%, Lochside and Lincluden at 293 and 28.6%, Rhins South at 70 and 27.2%, Upper Nithsdale at 208 and 26.5%, Dumfries Central at 139 and 26.1% and Annan East at 245 and 24.8%. The neighbourhoods with the highest proportional increases in those aged 0 to 15 years in relative low-income families between 2021/22 and 2023/24 were Kingholm at plus 7.0 percentage points (p.p.), Nunholm at 6.4 p.p. and Annan West at 6.3 p.p. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of children aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low income families in 2023/24 were Stranraer East with 92 children and 25.8% of those aged 0 to 15, Stranraer West at 152 and 24.2%, Rhins South at 61 and 23.7%, Machars North at 61 and 22.7%, Machars South at 142 and 22.6%, Lochside and Lincluden at 223 and 21.8%, Annan East at 205 and 20.8%, Upper Nithsdale at 163 and 20.7% and Dumfries Central at 108 and 20.3%. The neighbourhoods with the highest increases in the proportion of children aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low-income families in the three years to 2023/24 were Nunholm at 7.5 p.p., Annan West at 5.6 p.p. and Kingholm at 5.1 p.p.⁵³

⁵³ DWP. CILIF.

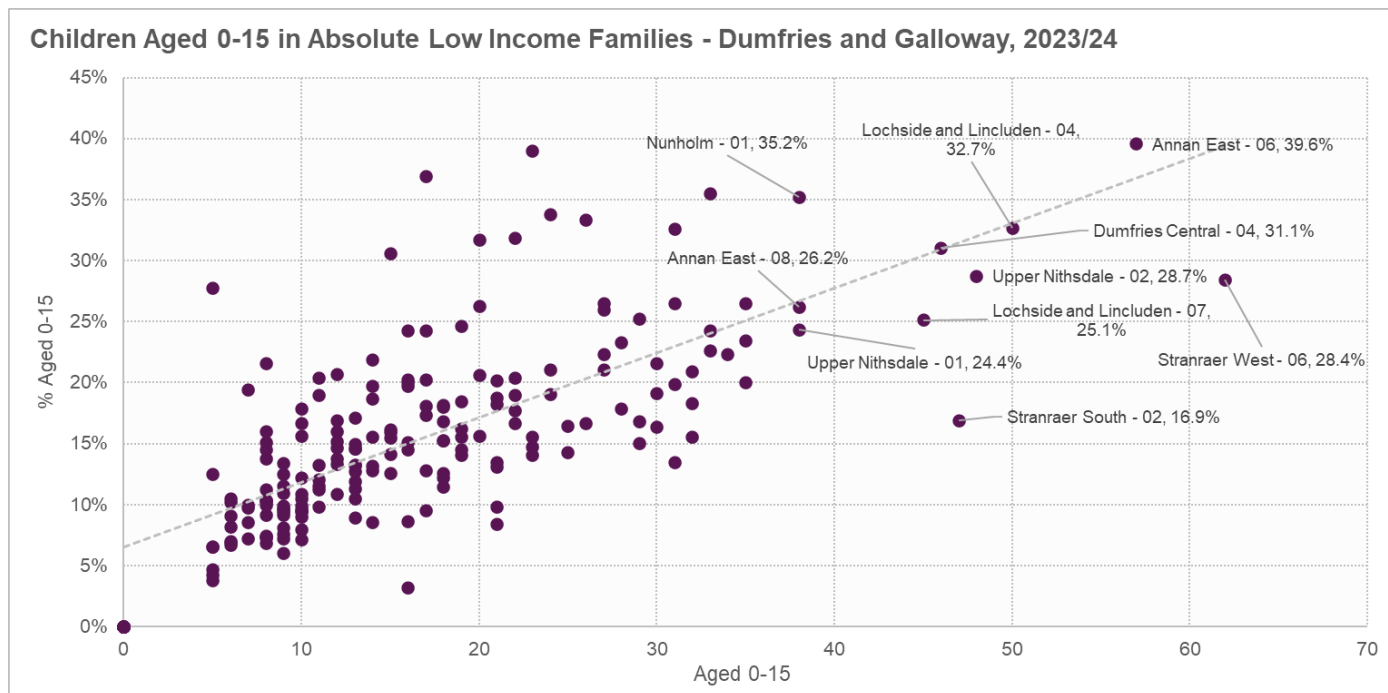


Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families.

6. The data zones in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of children living in relative low income families in 2023/24 were Stranraer East 01 ([statistics.gov.scot | Stranraer East - 01](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 53.7% of children in relative low income families, Annan East 06 ([statistics.gov.scot | Annan East - 06](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 45.8%, Lochside and Lincluden 04 ([statistics.gov.scot | Lochside and Lincluden - 04](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 44.4%, Nunholm 01 ([statistics.gov.scot | Nunholm - 01](https://statistics.gov.scot)) 42.6% and Machars North 03 ([statistics.gov.scot | Machars North - 03](https://statistics.gov.scot)) and 39.0%. The data zones in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest levels of children aged 0 to 15 years in relative low income families in 2023/24 were Stranraer West 06 ([statistics.gov.scot | Stranraer West - 06](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 79 children aged 0 to 15 years, Lochside and Lincluden 04 at 68 children, Annan East 06 at 66 children, Stranraer South 02 ([statistics.gov.scot | Stranraer South - 02](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 60 children, Upper Nithsdale 02 ([statistics.gov.scot | Upper Nithsdale - 02](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 54 children and Upper Nithsdale 01 ([statistics.gov.scot | Upper Nithsdale - 01](https://statistics.gov.scot)) at 54 children.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ DWP. CILIF.

7. The data zones in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of children aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low income families in 2023/24 were Annan East 06 at 39.6%, Machars North 03 at 39.0%, Machars North 04 ([statistics.gov.scot | Machars North - 04](https://statistics.gov.scot/Machars-North-04)) at 37.0%, Machars South 06 ([statistics.gov.scot | Machars South - 06](https://statistics.gov.scot/Machars-South-06)) at 35.5% and Nunholm 01 at 35.2%. The data zones in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest levels of children aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low income families in 2023/2024 were Stranraer West 06 at 62 children, Annan East 06 at 57, Lochside and Lincluden 04 at 50, Upper Nithsdale 02 at 48, Stranraer South 02 at 47, Dumfries Central 04 ([statistics.gov.scot | Dumfries Central - 04](https://statistics.gov.scot/Dumfries-Central-04)) at 46 and Lochside and Lincluden 07 ([statistics.gov.scot | Lochside and Lincluden - 07](https://statistics.gov.scot/Lochside-and-Lincluden-07)) at 45 children aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low income families in 2023/24.⁵⁵



Source: Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Families.

Appendix 1: Universal Credit Conditionality Regimes:

Universal Credit Conditionality Regimes:	
Conditionality Regime:	Description:
Searching for work	Not working, or with very low earnings. Claimant is required to take action to secure work - or more / better paid work. The Work Coach supports them to plan their work search and preparation activity. Typical examples of people in this regime include jobseekers and gainfully self-employed in start-up period. Claimants are only in this regime if they do not fit into one of the other regimes.
Working - requirements	In work but could earn more, or not working but has a partner with low earnings
No work requirements	Not expected to work at present. Health or caring responsibility prevents claimant from working or preparing for work. Examples of people in this regime include those in full time education, over state pension age, have a child under 1 years old and those with no prospect to work.
Working - no requirements	Individual or household earnings over the level at which conditionality applies. Required to inform DWP of changes of circumstances, particularly if at risk of decreasing earnings or job loss.
Planning for work	Expected to work in the future. Lone parent / lead carer of child aged 1. Claimant required to attend periodic interviews to plan for their return to work.

⁵⁵ DWP. CILIF.

Preparing for work	Expected to start preparing for future even with limited capability for work at the present time or a child aged 2, the claimant is expected to take reasonable steps to prepare for work including Work Focused Interview.
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Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

Appendix 2: Child Poverty Demographic Groups by Neighbourhood – Dumfries and Galloway, 2025:

Population by Child Poverty Demographic Groups and Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, 2025:								
Category Name:	Stretched Society	Stretched Society	Stretched Society	Stretched Society	Low Income Living	Low Income Living	Child Poverty Demographic Groups	
Groups Description:	Q: Limited Budgets	Q: Limited Budgets	R: Hard-Up Households	R: Hard-Up Households	S: Cash-Strapped Families	S: Cash-Strapped Families		
Type Description:	Routine occupations, socially renting families	Socially renting single adult households	Single-parent families in terraced houses	Socially renting families in terraces	Young families in socially rented semis	Families in low-value terraced housing	Total	% Population
Stranraer West	272	32	0	24	375	266	969	26.3%
Stranraer East	0	0	0	0	17	285	302	12.2%
Stranraer South	810	0	0	0	339	234	1,383	42.1%
Rhins North	7	0	0	0	151	59	217	6.1%
Rhins South	76	0	0	0	92	42	210	9.7%
Machars North	5	0	0	0	134	8	147	6.0%
Machars South	0	0	0	0	450	347	797	16.3%
Newton Stewart	369	0	11	0	91	217	688	12.7%
Gatehouse	96	0	0	0	55	0	151	4.3%
Kirkcudbright	0	194	27	0	56	88	365	7.1%
Castle Douglas	0	0	0	0	228	28	256	5.5%
Dalbeattie	0	0	0	0	94	467	561	13.6%
Dalbeattie Rural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Glenkens	0	0	0	0	57	0	57	1.5%
Upper Nithsdale	123	0	0	0	1,033	573	1,729	38.4%
Thornhill	80	0	0	0	149	46	275	6.8%
Mid Nithsdale	0	0	0	0	0	54	54	1.2%
Shawhead	258	0	0	0	161	0	419	12.1%
Lochside and Northdean	211	3	0	0	378	2,112	2,704	50.4%
Summerville	159	58	20	0	345	395	977	21.7%
Troqueer	19	0	8	0	171	11	209	6.1%
New Abbey	135	0	0	0	60	20	215	6.4%
Kingholm	0	37	0	0	17	0	54	1.8%
Calside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Georgetown	26	0	0	0	0	0	26	1.0%
Dumfries Central	49	0	207	0	0	12	268	8.1%
Nunholm	12	0	47	0	0	0	59	1.8%
Locharbriggs	0	0	0	0	0	422	422	14.7%
Heathhall	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.2%
Collin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

Population by Child Poverty Demographic Groups and Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, 2025:

Category Name:	Stretched Society	Stretched Society	Stretched Society	Stretched Society	Low Income Living	Low Income Living	Child Poverty Demographic Groups	
Groups Description:	Q: Limited Budgets	Q: Limited Budgets	R: Hard-Up Households	R: Hard-Up Households	S: Cash-Strapped Families	S: Cash-Strapped Families		
Type Description:	Routine occupations, socially renting families	Socially renting single adult households	Single-parent families in terraced houses	Socially renting families in terraces	Young families in socially rented semis	Families in low-value terraced housing	Total	% Population
Lochmaben	0	0	0	0	36	132	168	5.1%
Lockerbie	8	0	0	0	22	441	471	9.8%
Moffat	130	16	0	0	118	62	326	8.7%
Langholm and Fochabers	0	0	0	0	0	207	207	5.6%
Annandale East	0	0	0	0	128	172	300	7.6%
Annandale West	0	0	0	0	8	154	162	6.6%
Annan West	0	0	0	0	8	467	475	15.3%
Annan East	194	0	0	0	245	891	1,330	24.7%
Eastriggs	0	0	0	0	0	206	206	7.3%
Gretna	13	0	0	0	53	516	582	14.0%
Dumfries and Galloway	3,058	340	320	24	5,071	8,934	17,747	12.1%

Source: CACI. COSLA - Scotland Acorn Population Directory - February 2025.



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