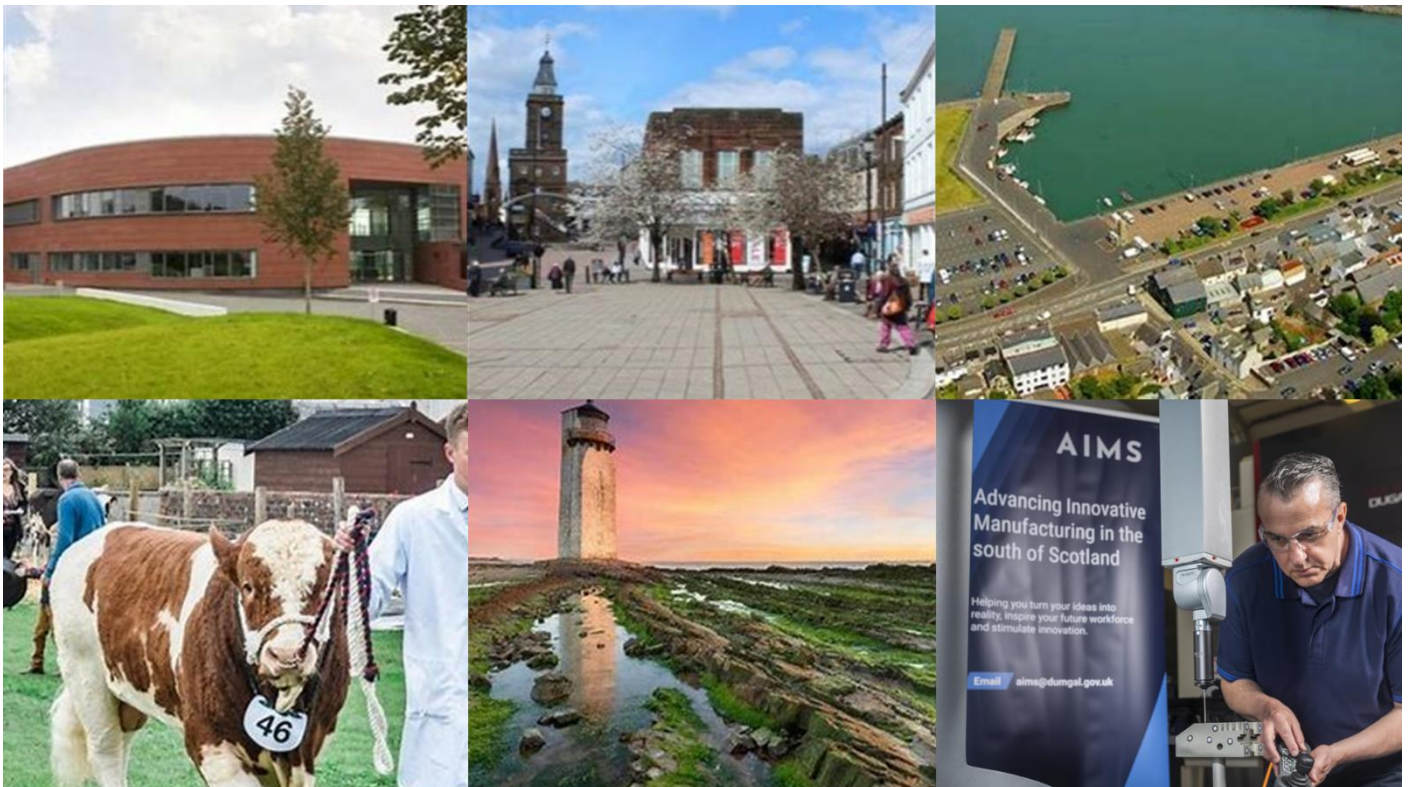




## Dumfries and Galloway Local Employability & Skills Partnership

Delivery Plan Briefing Update: April 2024





## Headline Summary April 2024:

- The UK economy entered recession in Q4 2023 following a 0.3% contraction in Gross Domestic Product between October and December. There are early indications that unemployment has increased and a slackening labour market, with declining demand for labour.<sup>1</sup>
- Business confidence in the South of Scotland remains very low, with high levels of skills shortage, challenges in operating businesses and rising costs all effecting demand and survivability. 3.0% of business in the South of Scotland were very confident in Scotland's economic outlook over the next 12 months in December 2023, compared to 6.0% in July 2023.<sup>2</sup>
- The number of payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 was 59,265, 0.7% higher than 58,869 in February 2023. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 was £2,115, 9.7% lower than median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Scotland at £2,341.<sup>3</sup>
- The employment rate for those aged 16 to 64 for those living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 was 68.4%, compared to 75.2% in Scotland. The employment rate in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 was the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest employment rate of 32 Scottish local authority areas in the same period. The employment rate for people living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 remains significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels, with the employment rate for people living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to December 2019 at 75.1%.<sup>4</sup>
- Economic inactivity has fallen slightly in 2023 yet remains at historically high levels. There are still significant numbers of people aged 16 to 64 in Dumfries and Galloway who are economically inactive due to temporary and long-term sickness. 26.1% of those aged 16 to 64 living in Dumfries and Galloway were economically inactive (aged 16 to 64, neither employed nor unemployed) in the 12 months to September 2023, slightly lower than 28.0% in the 12 months to September 2022, yet significantly higher than 22.6% in the 12 months to December 2019. An estimated 8,600 working aged people living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 were economically inactive due to long-term illness, compared to 6,200 people in the 12 months to December 2019. Dumfries and Galloway had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest level of working aged people who were economically inactive of all Scottish local authority areas in the 12 months to September 2023.<sup>5</sup>
- Inflation has been persistently high, putting pressures on people in work as pay increases have been eroded by high level of inflation. Low pay remains a persistent issue in the local economy. Gross median weekly employee pay for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway was £598.20, 14.8% lower than £702.40 for Scotland in 2023 and the lowest gross median weekly pay for full-time employees of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023. Real gross median weekly pay for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway declined by 5.3% between April 2022 and April 2023, compared to a 1.6% increase in real-term for Scotland within the same period.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics. GDP quarterly national accounts, UK: October to December 2023. Access: [GDP quarterly national accounts, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/gdp/quarterly-national-accounts). The Scottish Government.

<sup>2</sup> South of Scotland Enterprise. Business Panel Survey. November/December 2023. Access: [PowerPoint Presentation \(southofscotlandenterprise.com\)](https://southofscotlandenterprise.com/powerpoint-presentation)

<sup>3</sup> Office for National Statistics. Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real-time Information, UK: March 2024. Access: [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/earnings-and-employment-from-pay-as-you-earn-real-time-information). Office for National Statistics. Consumer price inflation, UK: February 2024. Access: [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](https://ons.gov.uk/consumer-price-inflation)

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey. Access: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics)

<sup>5</sup> ONS. APS

<sup>6</sup> Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. 2023. Access: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/nomis-official-census-and-labour-market-statistics). Office for National Statistics. Consumer price inflation, UK: February 2024. Access: [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](https://ons.gov.uk/consumer-price-inflation)

- There has been a decline in demand for labour in region, with there being 545 online jobs advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024, 27.4% lower than 751 in March 2023, with job advertisements in Scotland declining 29.9% within the same period.<sup>7</sup>
- Levels of child poverty have increased in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023. 4,488 children and 19.6% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway were living in absolute low-income households, compared to 17.1% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland. Child poverty varies significantly across the region, with 635 children and 25.3% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Stranraer and the Rhins electoral ward who were in absolute low-income households in 2022/23.<sup>8</sup>
- Claimant count unemployment remains at historically low levels in Dumfries and Galloway whilst almost every other area in Scotland has seen an increase in claimants between January and February 2024. 2.7% of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway were claimant count unemployed in February 2023, compared to 3.1% in Scotland.<sup>9</sup>
- The disability employment gap in Dumfries and Galloway in the year ending September 2023 was 42.9 percentage points, significantly higher than 28.4 percentage points for Scotland within the same period. Dumfries and Galloway had the second highest disability employment gap and the lowest employment rate for disabled people of 32 local authority areas in Scotland in the year ending September 2023.<sup>10</sup>
- GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2021 was £53,490, 2.3% lower than GVA per job filled in Scotland in 2021. Dumfries and Galloway had the 11th highest GVA per job filled of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2021.<sup>11</sup>
- The cost-of-living crises has seen increases in hardship, high levels of food bank usage and people falling into financial vulnerability. Persistent deprivation in the region remains a significant problem. Priority neighbourhoods in terms of unemployment, out-of-work benefits prevalence and deprivation remain Lochside and Lincluden, Stranraer West, Stranraer East, Dumfries Central, Summerville and Upper Nithsdale.

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<sup>7</sup> Adzuna. Labour Market Intelligence.

<sup>8</sup> End Child Poverty. Child poverty in your area. Access: [Child Poverty Statistics - End Child Poverty](#)


<sup>9</sup> Office for National Statistics. Claimant Count. Access: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> ONS. APS.

<sup>11</sup> Office for National Statistics. Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district. Access: [Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

## Dumfries and Galloway Local Employability Partnership Priorities Dashboard - April 2024:

### Strengths

- 94.9%**  
2021/22: 93.3%  
- 94.9% of 16 to 19 years old's were participating in work, education or training in 2023 - highest level on record (94.3% for Scotland).
- 2,330**  
Jan 2023: 2,500  
- 2,330 people and 2.7% of those aged 16-64 were Claimant Count unemployed in Jan 2024 - lowest since Dec 2018 (-6.8% y-o-y).
- 59,350**  
Jan 2023: 58,857  
- There were 59,350 payrolled employees in Dumfries and Galloway in Jan 2024 - 0.8% higher y-o-y and highest level on record.
- 0.8%**  
2020: -1.7%  
- Real monthly pay for payrolled employees has been positive since April 2023, 0.8% in Jan 2024 y-o-y, compared to -1.7% Jan 2023.
- 6,232**  
Jan 2023: 6,374  
- The number of active (unemployed, working) Universal Credit recipients fell 2.2% to 6,232 in Jan 2024 compared to Jan 2023,
-  - Local strengths include Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Drink, Manufacturing, Tourism, Natural Capital, Place, Culture, Art and Education.

### Opportunities



- Funding streams available to support regeneration and skills (UK Levelling Up Funding, £20 million for Dumfries town projects)



- Strong natural capital and natural assets (forestry, marine), make region ideally located for green investment and green economy.



- Regional projects (Stranraer Water Front, Chappelcross, Borderlands Place Programme) coming online can offer local opportunities and value.



- UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation of £6.7 million 2022-2025 available for Community, Place, Business Support, People and Skills.



- Emerging opportunities i.e Community Wealth Building, Local Place Plans, Skills Academies, Place-based approach (Kirkconnel/Kelloholm).



- Strong links with partners and support available via multiple agencies and projects (Business, SOSE, SDS, NHS, DWP, Third Sector)

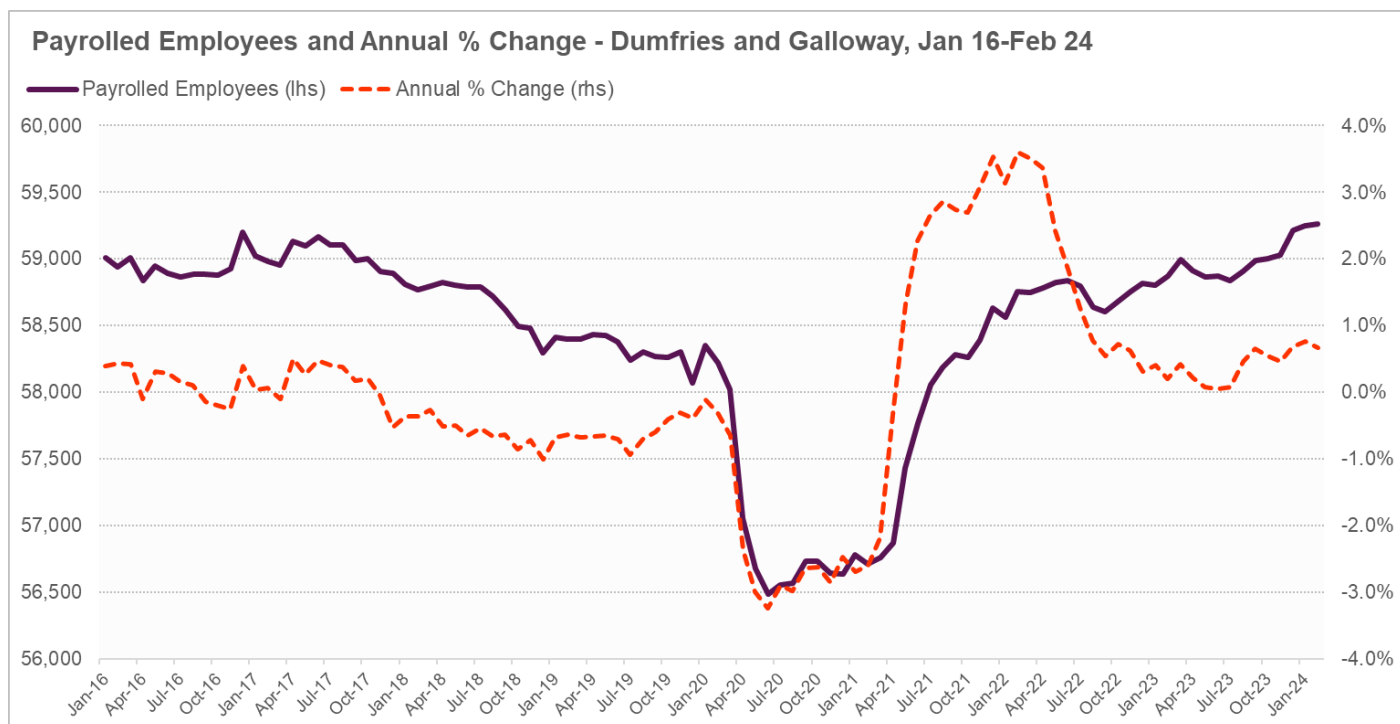
### Weaknesses

- 42.9**  
Scotland: 28.4  
- Disability Employment Gap: 38.5% disabled people in employment: lowest in Scotland and 42.9 p.p. gap - 2nd highest gap in Scotland.
- 413**  
Feb 2023: 760  
- Weak job demand - Jobs openings have declined significantly in 2024 - 413 job openings in Feb 2024, -45.7% than 760 openings in Feb 2023.
- 26.1%**  
Jan-Mar 19: 22.6%  
- Economic inactivity remains high - 26.1% aged 16-64 Oct 22-Sep 23 - long-term illness +38.7% vs 2019; 7th highest LA in Scotland for inactivity.
- £598.20**  
Scotland: £702.40  
- Low wages - Weekly pay for full-time employees was £598.20, 14.8% lower than Scotland in 2023 and the lowest of all local authority areas.
- £53,490**  
Scotland: £55,325  
- Low productivity - GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway is £53,490, 3.3% lower than the Scottish average and 8.3% below UK average.
- 26.0%**  
Scotland: 24.5%  
- Child Poverty - 26.0% of children in Dumfries and Galloway live in poverty, compared to 24.6% in Scotland and 9th highest rate in Scotland in 2022.

### Threats

- 3.0%**  
Oct/Nov 21: 8.5%  
- Business confidence in the South of Scotland remains very low - 3.0% very confident in economic outlook Dec 23 vs 6.0% in Jul 2023.
- 0.3%**  
Q4 2019: 0.2%  
- The UK Economy fell into technical recession in Q4 2023, with quarterly output in GDP falling by 0.3% in Q4 following a 0.1% fall in Q3.
- 2,054**  
Sep 2022: 2,163  
- Cost-of-living crises causing hardship on communities, with the Trussell Trust delivering 2,054 food parcels between Apr-Sep 2023.
-   
- Economic growth forecasts consistently revised down; OBR 0.7% UK growth 2024, Scottish Fiscal Commission 0.2% growth in Scotland 2024.
- 5.25**  
Dec 2022: 3.50  
- Household finances remain vulnerable, with the UK Bank Rate at 5.25% in Dec 2023 and high inflation with CPI at 3.8% in Feb 2023.
- 145,900**  
2011-2022: -3.6%  
- De-population, decline and dependency - Population fell -3.6% 2011-22, 27.1% Aged 65+ 2022 (21.8% 2022); lowest WA population in Scotland.

## Labour Market Overview:



Source: Office for National Statistics. Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: March 2024.

The number of payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 was 59,265, 0.7% higher than 58,869 in February 2023. The number of payrolled employees in Scotland increased by 1.0% between February 2023 and 2024. The number of payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway was at its highest level on record in February 2024 since comparable records were available in 2014. Annual percentage growth in payrolled employees has been positive between April 2023 and January 2024, yet annual percentage growth for real median monthly pay for payrolled employees fell into the negative in February 2024, declining by 0.6%.<sup>12</sup>

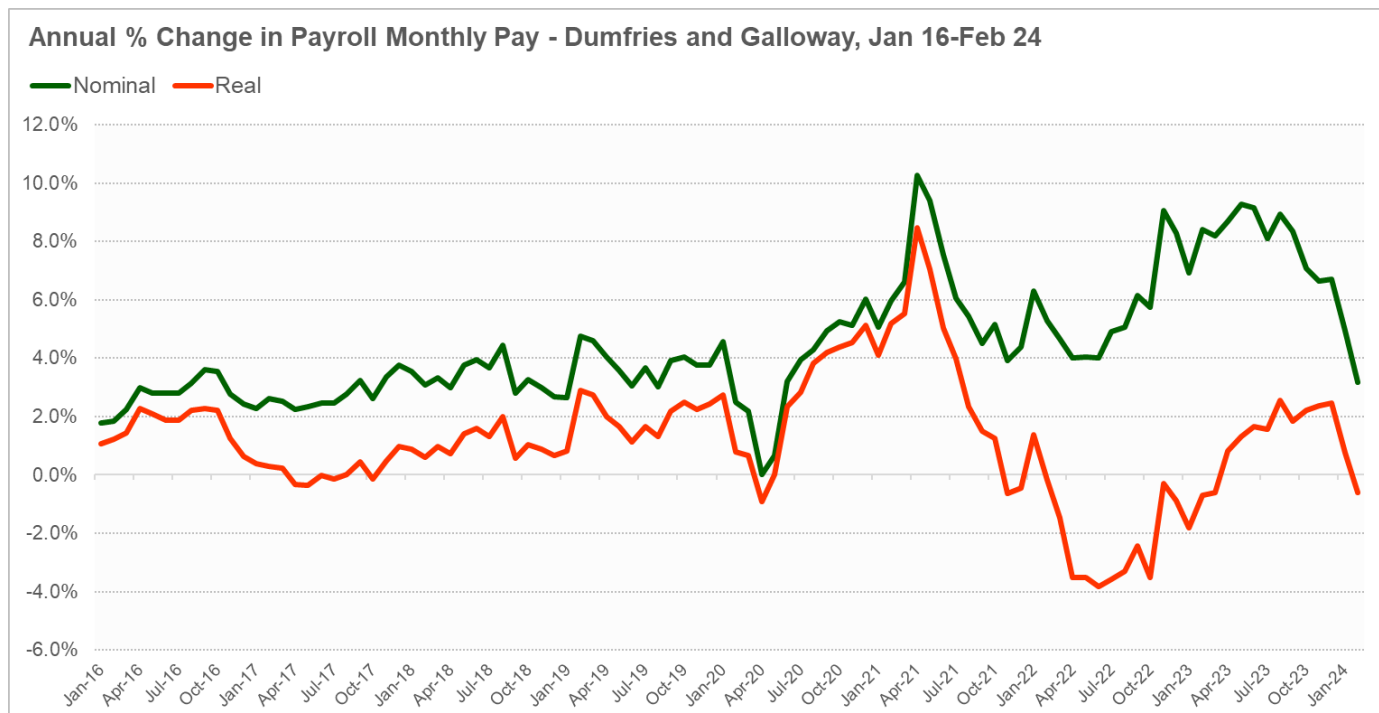
Monthly pay for payrolled employees (*chart overleaf*) working in Dumfries and Galloway remains lower than in Scotland and has increased at a slower rate than pay for Scottish employees between February 2023 and 2024. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 was £2,115, 9.7% lower than median monthly pay for payrolled employees in Scotland at £2,341. Median monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway increased by 3.2% in nominal terms (unadjusted for inflation) between February 2023 and 2024, compared to a 3.6% increase in nominal pay for payrolled employees in Scotland within the same period.

The annual rate of consumer price inflation including owner-occupier housing costs (CPIH) in the UK increased by 3.8% between February 2023 and 2024. Real monthly pay for payrolled employees (adjusted for inflation) working in Dumfries and Galloway fell by 0.6% between February 2023 and 2024, compared to a 0.3% decline in pay for payrolled employees in Scotland within the same period.

Despite falling rates of inflation throughout the second half of 2023, February 2024 represents the first month since March 2023 where real monthly pay for payrolled employees working in Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland fell into the negative.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> ONS. Earnings and employment RTI.

<sup>13</sup> ONS. Earnings and employment RTI. ONS. Consumer Price Inflation.



Source: Office for National Statistics. Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: March 2024.

The employment rate for working aged people aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway remains lower than in the pre-pandemic period, with higher levels of those who are economically inactive (Aged 16 to 64 years, neither employed or unemployed). The employment rate for those aged 16 to 64 living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to December 2023 was 68.4%, with an estimated 57,100 people employed. This is significantly lower than in the 12 months to September 2019 in which the employment rate for those aged 16 to 64 was 74.5% and an estimated 64,100 people in employment. 26.1% of those aged 16 to 64 and 21,800 people living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 were economically inactive, compared to 23.4% and 20,100 people in the 12 months to September 2019. The number of working aged people aged 16 to 64 living in Dumfries and Galloway is estimated to have fallen from 86,100 in the 12 months to September 2019 to 83,500 in the 12 months to September 2023.<sup>14</sup>

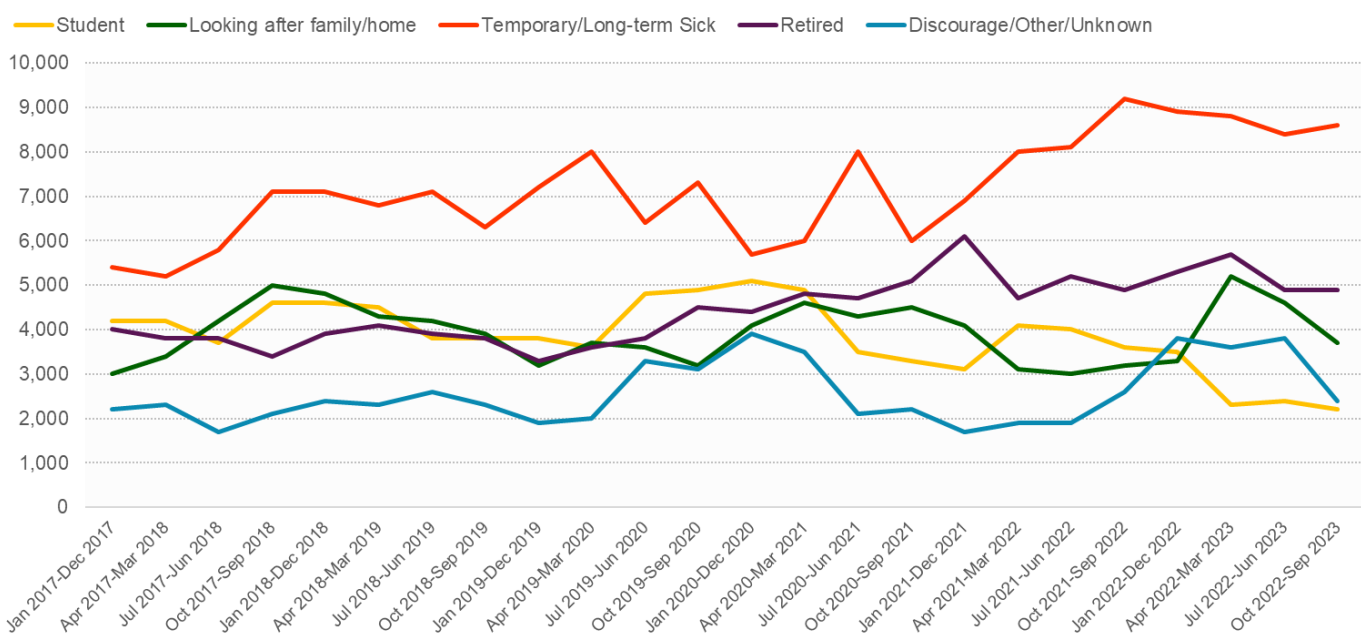
<sup>14</sup> ONS. APS.

### Labour Market Participation % Aged 16-64 - Dumfries and Galloway, 2017-2023



Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

### Economically Inactive Aged 16-64 by Reason - Dumfries and Galloway, 2017-23



Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

Levels of economic inactivity remained high 2023 compared to the pre-pandemic period.

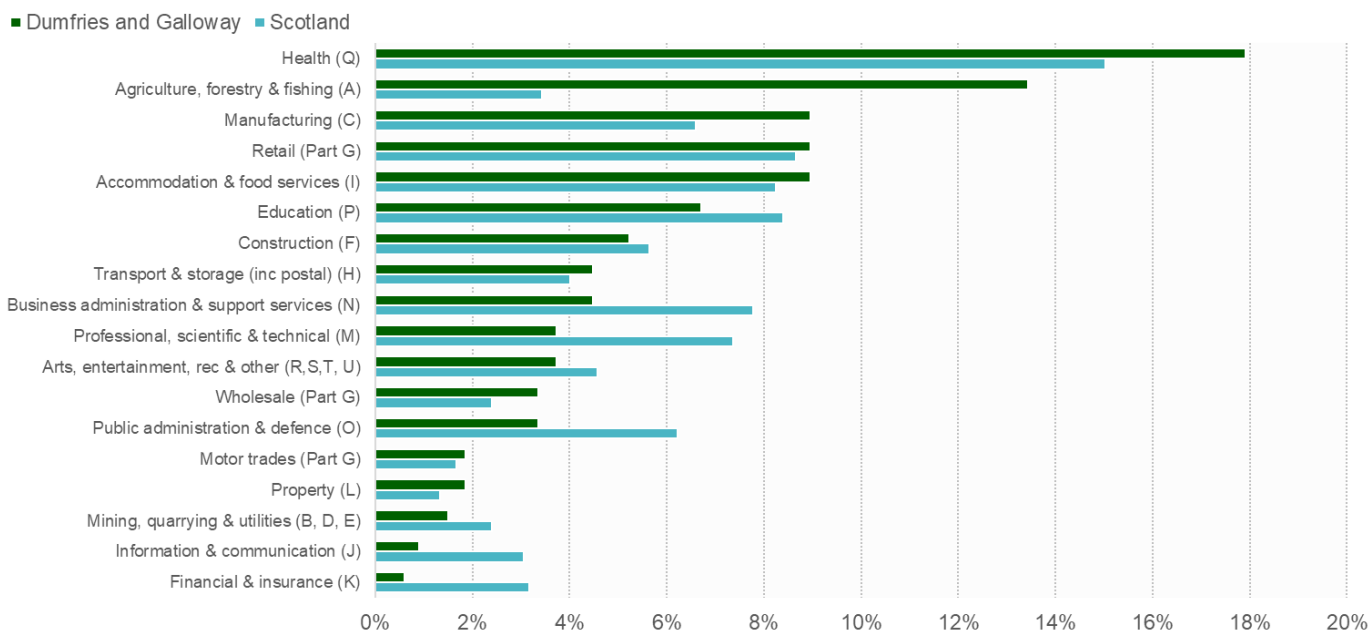
In the 12 months to September 2023, 8,600 working aged people aged 16 to 64 living in Dumfries and Galloway were economically inactive due to temporary or long terms sickness, 36.5% higher than 6,300 who were inactive due to illness in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2019.

4,900 working aged people living in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 were inactive due to having been retired, 28.9% higher than 3,800 people inactive due to retirement in the 12 months to September 2019.

3,700 people aged 16 to 64 in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 were inactive due to looking after family or home, compared to 3,900 in the 12 months to September 2019.

4,900 working aged people and 22.5% of those economically inactive in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 wanted to find a job, whilst 16,900 and 77.5% of those economically inactive did not want a job.<sup>15</sup>

### Employment by Industry Sector - Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, 2022



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

The largest industry sector in terms of employment in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was Health industries, with 12,000 people employed and 17.9% of total employment (VAT/PAYE only), compared to 15.0% of employees in Scotland within these industries in 2022.

The second largest industry sector in Dumfries and Galloway in terms of employment in 2022 was Agriculture, forestry and fishing industries, with 9,000 employees and 13.4% of total employment, significantly higher than 3.4% of Scottish employees within these industries within the same period.

There were 6,000 employees and 9.0% of total employment in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 within Manufacturing industries, compared to 6.6% of employment in Scotland within these industries within the same period. Dumfries and Galloway has lower proportions of employees within higher gross value adding industries than Scotland.

0.6% of employees in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 worked within Financial and insurance industries, compared to 3.2% of employees in Scotland working within these industries in 2022.

0.9% of employees in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 were employed within Information and communication industries, compared to 3.1% of Scottish employees.

3.7% of employees in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 worked within Professional, scientific & technical industries, compared to 7.4% of Scottish employees.

<sup>15</sup> ONS. APS.

4.5% of employees working in Dumfries and Galloway worked with in Business administration & support services industries, compared to 7.8% of Scottish employees.<sup>16</sup>

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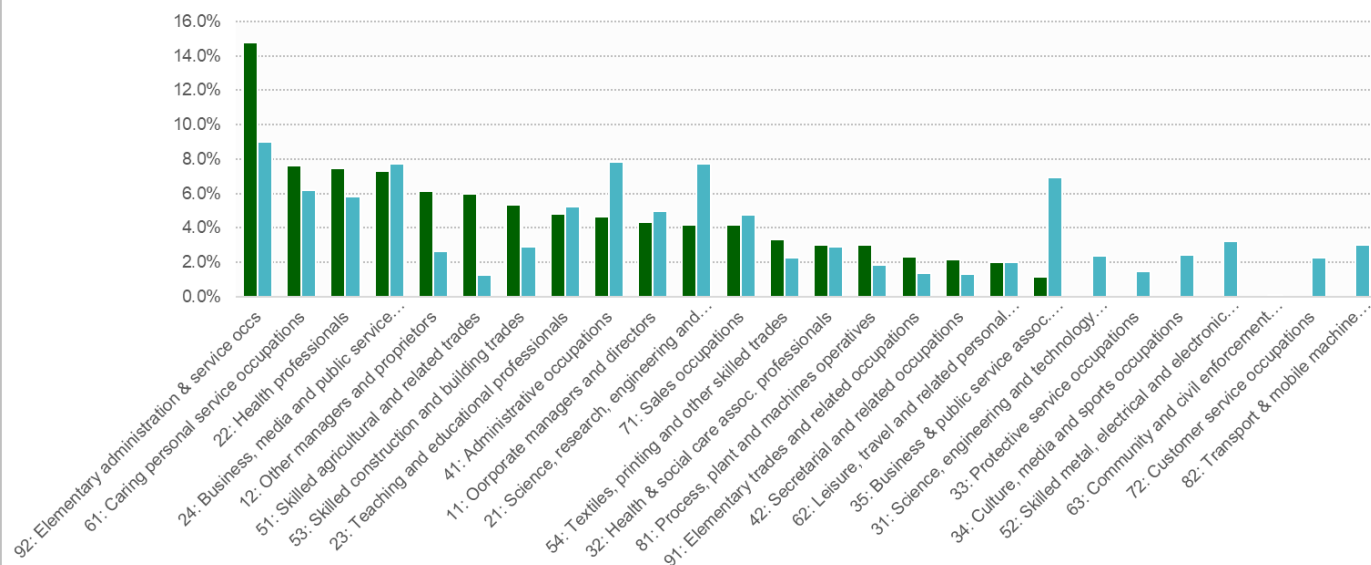
<sup>16</sup> Office for National Statistics. Business Register and Employment Survey. Access: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)

## Skills and Productivity:

### Employment by Occupation - Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland - Oct 2022-Sep 2023

SOC 2020 Sub-major group; Estimates for some occupations are missing due to disclosure and low sample sizes

■ Dumfries and Galloway ■ Scotland



Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

8,900 people and 14.8% of people working in Dumfries and Galloway in the year ending September 2023 worked within Elementary administration & service occupations, compared to 9.0% of people working in Scotland.

4,600 people and 7.6% of people working in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 were working within Caring personal service occupations, with 4,500 people and 7.5% of people working in Dumfries and Galloway employed within Health professional occupations within the same period.

3,700 people and 6.1% of people working in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 worked in other manager and proprietor occupations, compared to 2.7% of employees in Scotland in these occupations within the same period.

3,600 people and 6.0% of people employed in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 were employed within Skilled agricultural and related trades, compared to 1.3% of people employed in these occupations in Scotland within the same period.

1.2% of employees in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 worked within Business & public service assoc. professional occupations, compared to 6.9% of employees in Scotland within these occupations within the same period.<sup>17</sup>

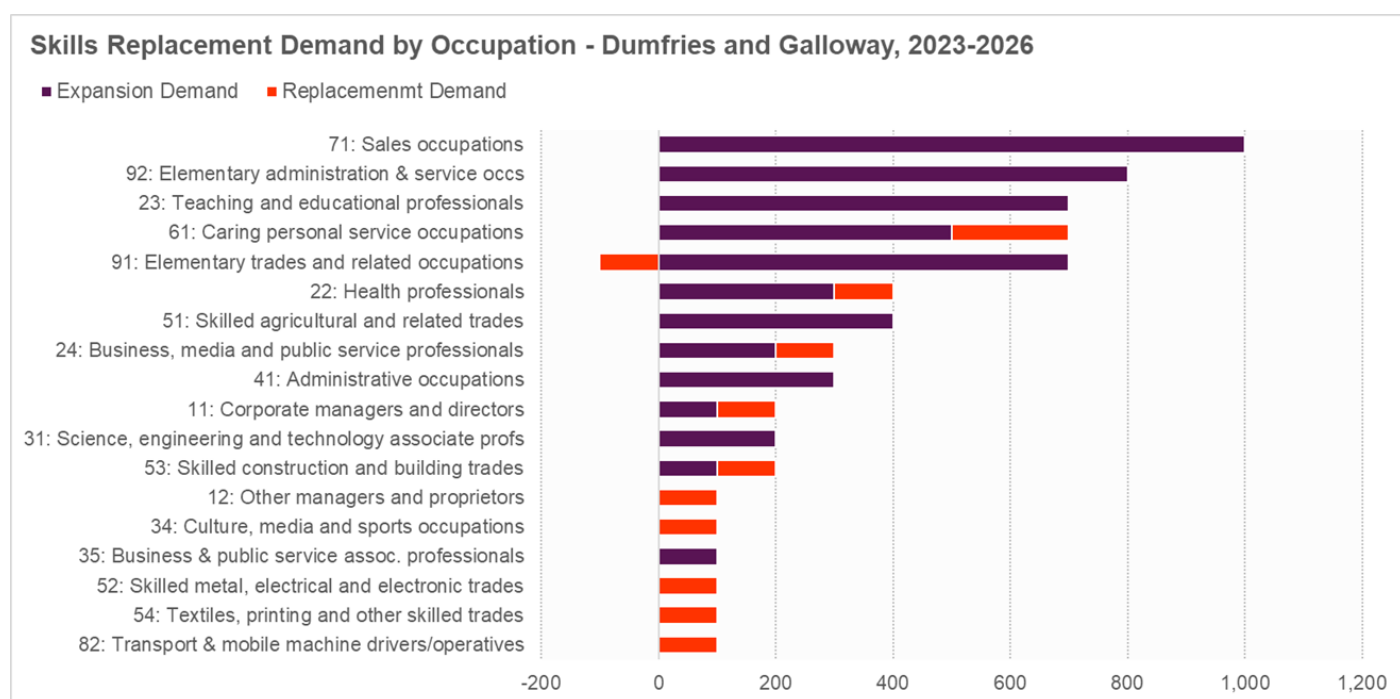
<sup>17</sup> ONS. APS.

The largest occupation in terms of projected skills demand in Dumfries and Galloway between 2023 and 2026 is within Sales occupations, with 2,500 people employed within Sales occupations in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023, requiring 1,000 additional employees between 2023 and 2026.

900 people are projected to be required within Elementary administration & service occupations in Dumfries and Galloway between 2023 and 2026, with 8,900 people employed within these occupations in the 12 months to September 2023.

There is projected requirement for 700 people to be employed within Teaching and educational professionals between 2023 and 2026, with 2,900 people employed within these occupations in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023.

There is a projected requirement for 700 people within Caring personal service occupations in Dumfries and Galloway between 2023 and 2026, with 4,600 people employed within these occupations in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to December 2023.<sup>18</sup>



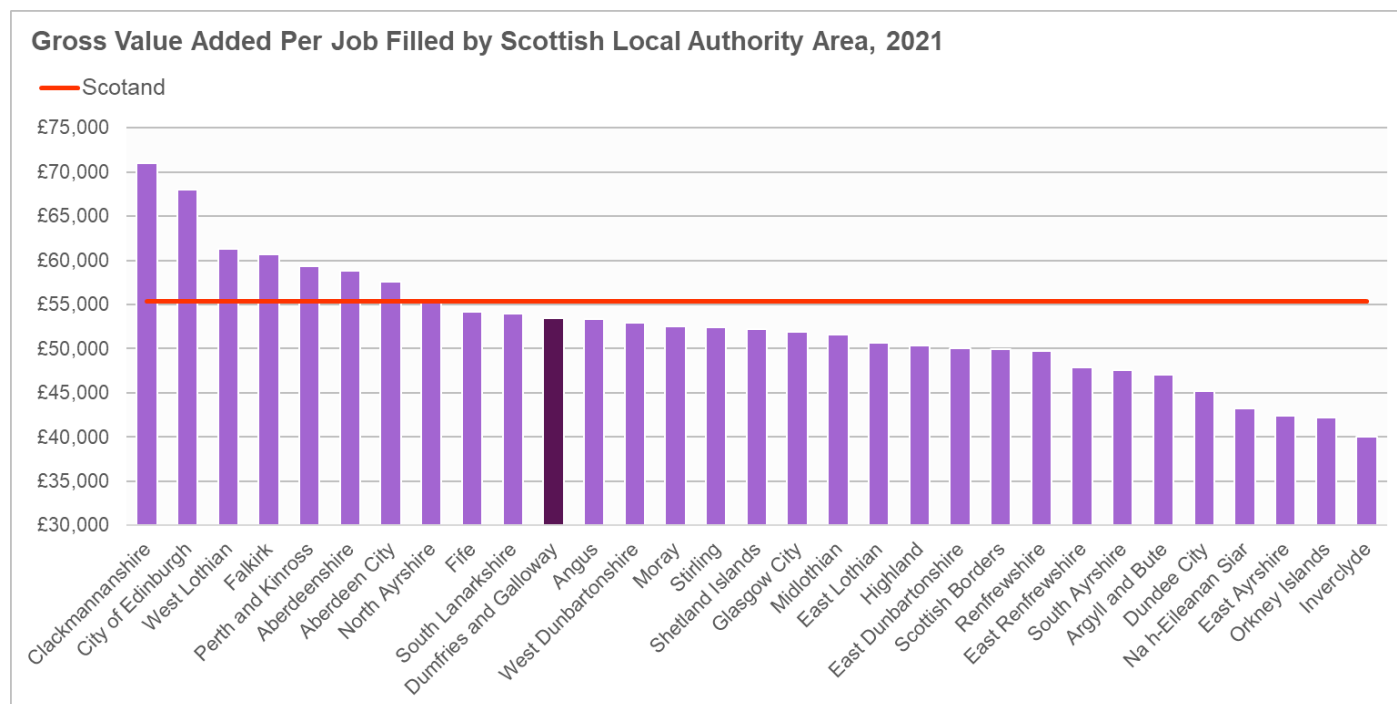
Source: Skills Development Scotland/Oxford Economics. Regional Skills Assessments. Dumfries and Galloway. October 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Skills Development Scotland/Oxford Economics. Regional Skills Assessments. Dumfries and Galloway. October 2023. Access: [PowerPoint Presentation \(skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk\)](https://skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk). ONS. APS.

Gross value added (GVA) is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services in the economy, area or industry, with GVA per job filled as an indicator of productivity in the workforce.

Dumfries and Galloway had the 11th highest GVA per job filled of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2021.

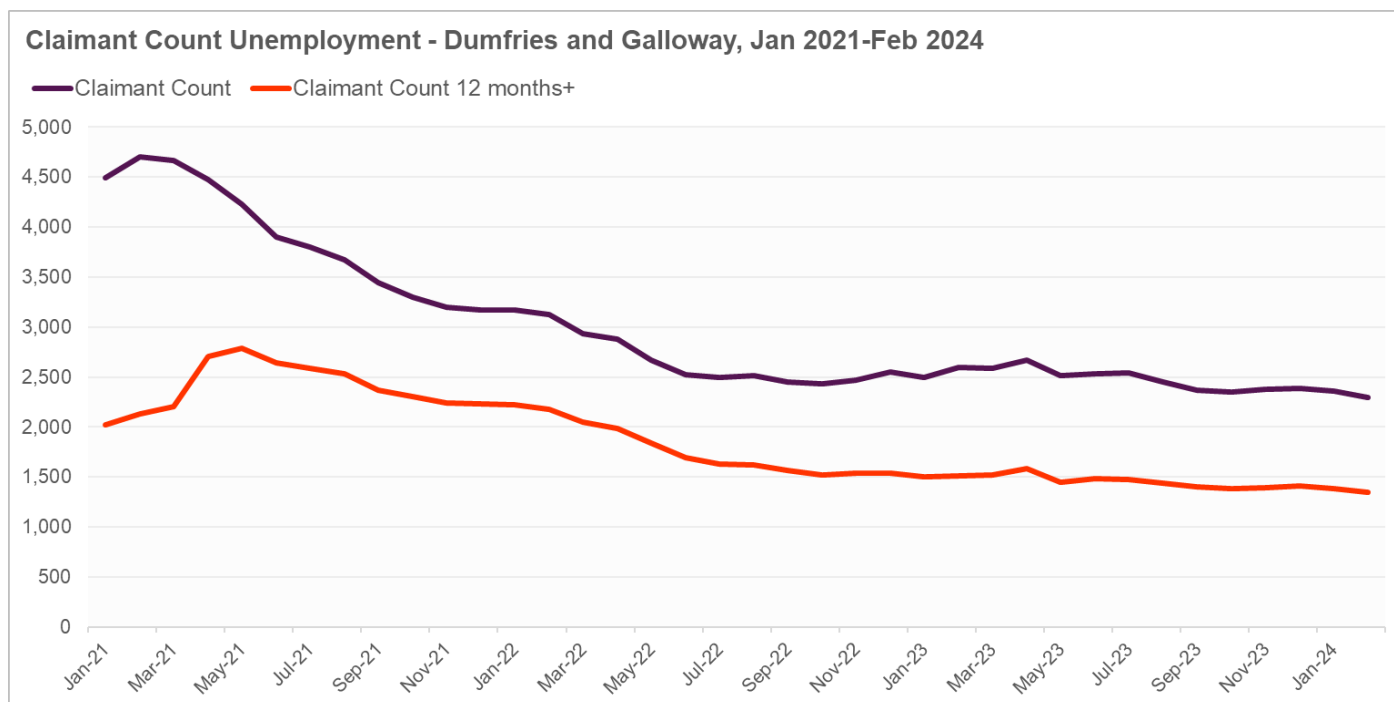
GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway in 2021 was £53,490, 2.3% lower than GVA per job filled in Scotland in 2021. GVA per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway increased by 3.7% between 2020 and 2021, compared to 0.4% increase in GVA per job filled in Scotland within the same period and the 2nd highest increase in GVA per job filled of 32 Scottish local authority areas between 2020 and 2021 (North Ayrshire: +4.9%).<sup>19</sup>



Source: Office for National Statistics. Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district.

<sup>19</sup> ONS. Subregional productivity

## Out-of-work Benefits and Unemployment:



Source: Office for National Statistics. Claimant Count. Jobseeker's Allowance; Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit.

2,300 people and 2.7% of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years living in Dumfries and Galloway were claimant count unemployed in February 2024, 11.5% lower than 2,600 people and 3.0% of those aged 16 to 64 years in February 2023. 108,490 people 3.1% of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years in Scotland were claimant count unemployed in February 2024, having declined at a significantly slower rate than Dumfries and Galloway, having declined by 2.4% from 111,155 and from 3.2% of working aged people in February 2023. Dumfries and Galloway had the third highest reduction in claimant count unemployment of 32 Scottish local authority areas between February 2023 and 2024 (Orkney Islands: -18.8%; Shetland Islands: -13.7%).<sup>20</sup> 1,345 working aged people living in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 were on the claimant count for 12 months plus duration, 10.8% lower than 1,508 in February 2023.<sup>21</sup>

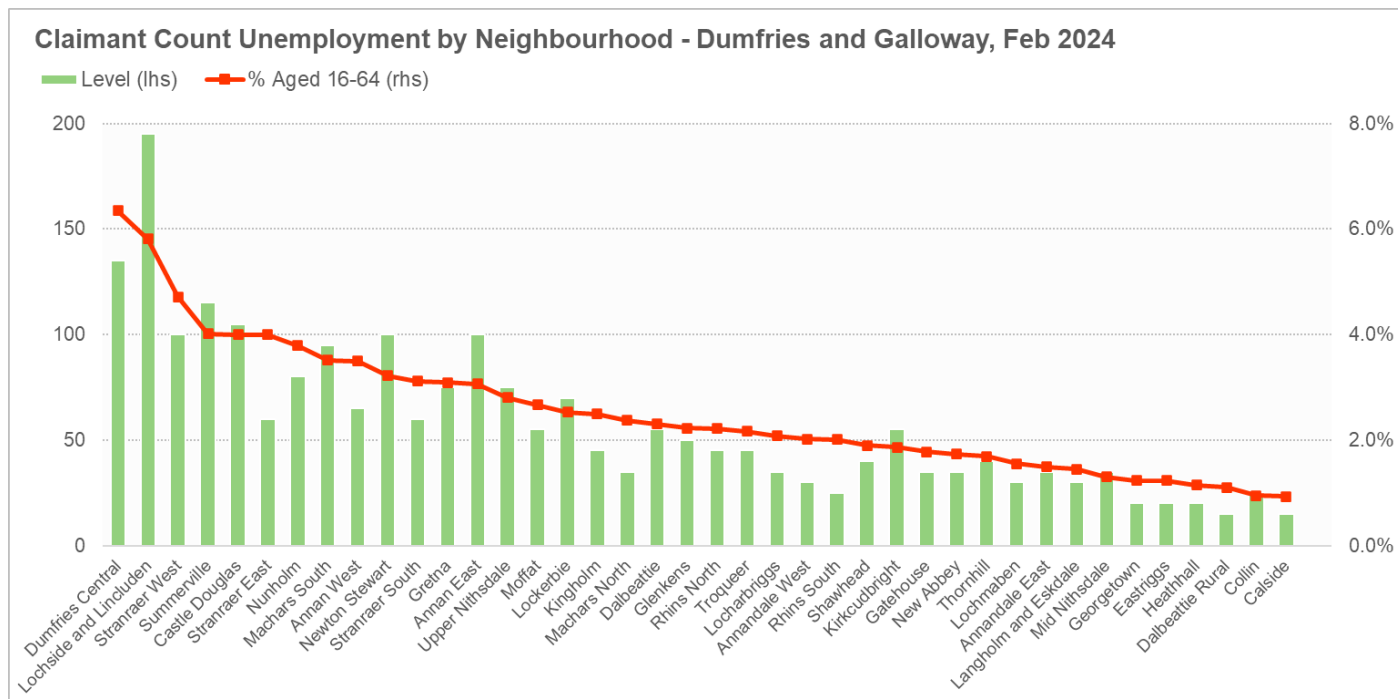
29 out of 32 Scottish local authority areas saw an increase in claimant count unemployment between January and February 2024, evidence that unemployment in Scotland has increased in the first months of 2024, possibly reflecting which industry sectors and regions are being impacted by recent economic trends.

Claimant count unemployment in Dumfries and Galloway declined by 2.3% and by 55 people between January and February 2024, the highest decline in claimant count unemployment of 32 Scottish local authorities within the same period and one of three areas with a decline in the period (Renfrewshire: -2.1%; East Ayrshire: -1.0%), compared to an increase of 3,605 people and by 3.4% in claimant count unemployment in Scotland within the same. The Scottish local authorities with the largest percent increase in claimant count unemployment between January and February 2024 were Shetland Islands (+7.3%), Scottish Borders (+6.9%) and Na h-Eileanan Siar (+6.9%). The local authorities with the highest-level increase in claimant count unemployment between January and February 2024 were Glasgow City (+880), City of Edinburgh (+495) and North Lanarkshire (+280).<sup>22</sup>

<sup>20</sup> ONS. Claimant Count.

<sup>21</sup> Office for National Statistics. Jobseeker's Allowance by age and duration. Access: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk). Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View \(dwp.gov.uk\)](https://dwp.gov.uk)

<sup>22</sup> ONS. Claimant Count.

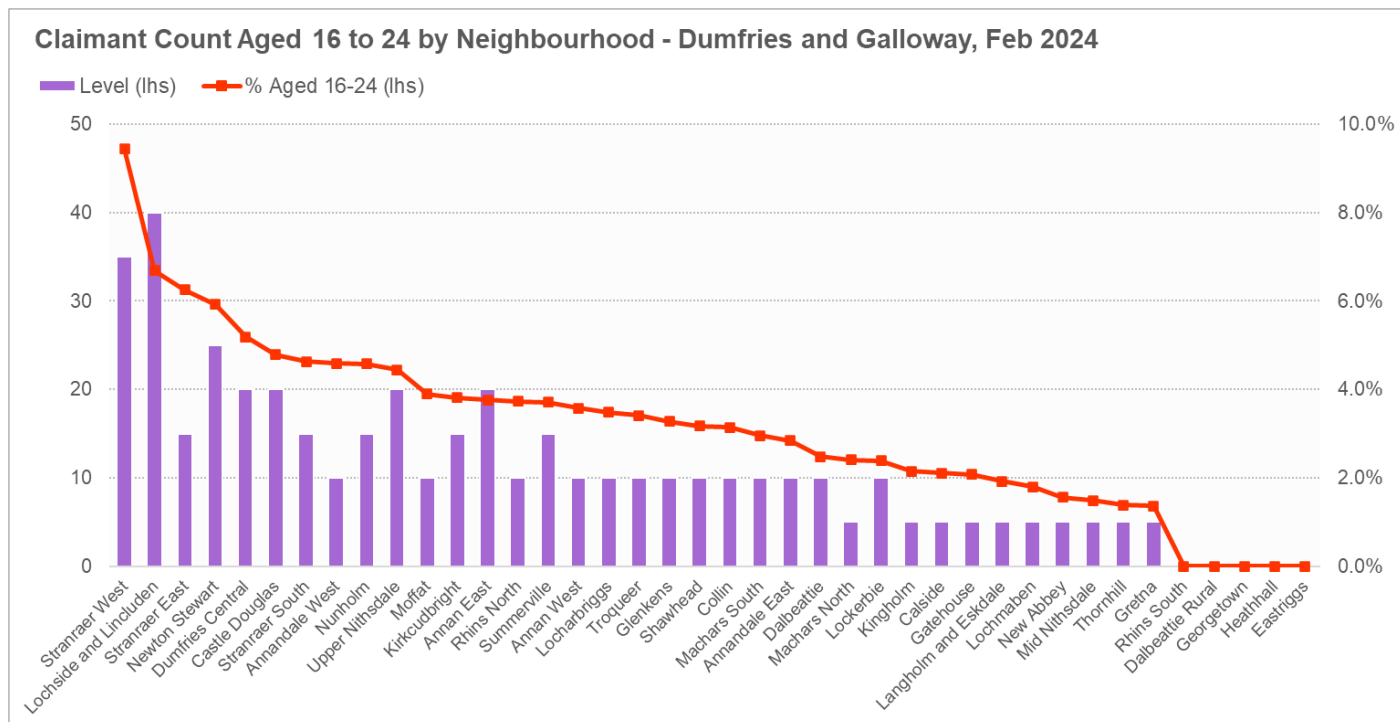


Source: Office for National Statistics, Claimant Count. National Records of Scotland. Mid-year Population Estimates.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of claimant count unemployment in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 were Dumfries Central, with 6.3% of working aged people aged 16 to 64 who were claimant count unemployed, Lochside and Lincluden at 5.8%, Stranraer West at 4.7%, Summerville at 4.0% and Stranraer East at 4.0%.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest levels of claimant count unemployment in February 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden with 195 claimants, Dumfries Central with 135 claimants, Summerville with 115 claimants, Castle Douglas with 100 claimants and Stranraer West with 100 claimants. Claimant count unemployment in Castle Douglas increased from 85 in October 2023 to 115 by December 2023.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> ONS. Claimant Count. NRS, Mid-year Population Estimates.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Claimant Count. National Records of Scotland. Mid-year Population Estimates.

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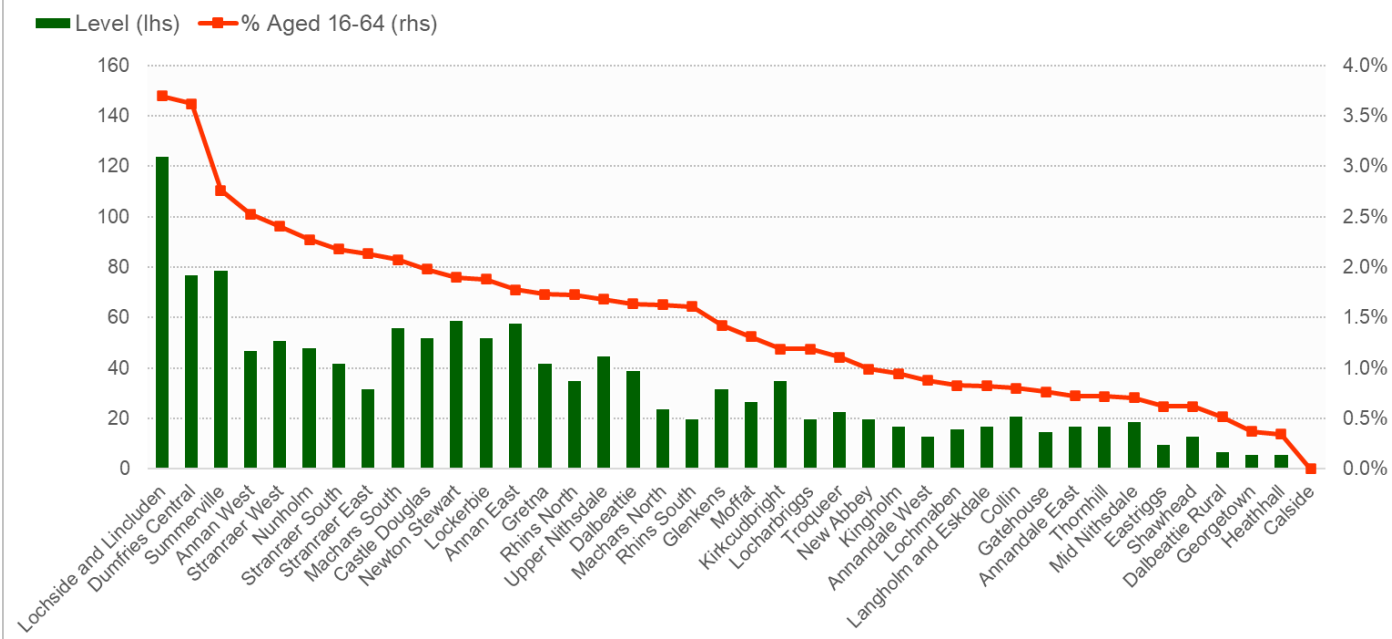
430 people aged 16 to 24 and 3.4% of people aged 16 to 24 living in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 were claimant count unemployed.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of claimant count unemployed for those aged 16 to 24 in February 2024 were Stranraer West, with 9.3% of those aged 16 to 24 who were claimant count unemployed, Lochside and Lincluden at 6.7%, Stranraer East at 6.3%, Newton Stewart at 5.9% and Dumfries Central at 5.2%.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest levels of claimant count unemployment aged 16 to 24 years in February 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden with 40 claimants aged 16 to 24, Stranraer West with 35 claimants, Newton Stewart with 25 claimants and Dumfries Central, Castle Douglas, Upper Nithsdale and Annan East, all with 20 claimants aged 16 to 24 years.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> ONS. Claimant Count. NRS, Mid-year Population Estimates.

### Claimant Count Unemployment 12 Months+ - Dumfries and Galloway, Feb 2024



Source: Office for National Statistics. Jobseeker's allowance by age and duration. Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. National Records of Scotland. Mid-year population estimates.

1,260 people and 1.4% of working aged population aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway were claimant count unemployed for a duration exceeding 12 months in February 2024.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of people aged 16 to 64 on the claimant count for 12 months plus duration in February 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden at 3.7%, Dumfries Central at 3.6%, Summerville at 2.8%, Annan West at 2.5% and Stranraer West at 2.4%.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the largest levels of people who were claimant count unemployed for a duration of 12 months plus in February 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden at 124 claimants, Summerville with 79 claimants, Dumfries Central with 77 claimants, Newton Stewart with 59 claimants and Annan East with 58 claimants.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Office for National Statistics. Jobseeker's Allowance by age and duration. Access: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk/). DWP. People on Universal Credit. NRS Mid-year population estimates.

13,861 people aged 16 plus and 15.5% of working aged people aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway were in receipt of Universal Credit in February 2024. The neighbourhood in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportion of Universal Credit recipients aged 16 to 64 years in February 2024 was Lochside and Lincluden with 34.3% of people aged 16 to 64 on Universal Credit, Stranraer West at 29.7%, Dumfries Central at 27.0%, Stranraer East at 26.7% and Stranraer South at 24.2%. The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway in with the highest levels of Universal Credit recipients in February 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden with 1,174 claimants, Annan East with 680 claimants, Summerville with 672 claimants, Stranraer West with 645 claimants, Upper Nithsdale with 619 claimants and Dumfries Central with 589 claimants. These 6 neighbourhoods accounted for 18.9% of the working aged population of Dumfries and Galloway yet accounted for 31.6% of total Universal Credit recipients in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024.<sup>26</sup>

People on Universal Credit Aged 16 Plus by Neighbourhood and Conditionality Regime - Dumfries and Galloway, February 2024								
Neighbourhood:	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total	% Aged 16-64
Annan East	98	105	287	131	8	51	680	20.5%
Annan West	63	69	184	51	6	18	391	20.1%
Annandale East	37	41	114	57	..	15	264	11.9%
Annandale West	27	31	110	42	5	16	231	15.8%
Calside	13	17	43	27	..	7	107	5.9%
Castle Douglas	102	65	172	96	10	29	474	18.0%
Collin	23	17	65	39	..	17	161	5.2%
Dalbeattie	50	70	165	61	..	24	370	15.6%
Dalbeattie Rural	15	11	19	22	..	..	67	4.7%
Dumfries Central	125	90	251	83	7	33	589	27.0%
Eastriggs	23	28	92	47	5	19	214	12.2%
Gatehouse	31	30	83	27	..	11	182	9.2%
Georgetown	22	21	39	27	..	5	114	6.9%
Glenkens	43	38	118	42	..	14	255	11.2%
Gretna	63	75	175	55	7	29	404	16.5%
Heathhall	22	14	57	35	..	9	137	6.6%
Kingholm	34	24	100	37	5	10	210	11.2%
Kirkcudbright	50	40	144	56	5	24	319	11.2%
Langholm and Eskdale	30	37	102	37	..	17	223	9.9%
Locharbriggs	35	42	159	77	..	11	324	19.0%
Lochmaben	27	25	130	52	5	8	247	11.8%
Lochside and Lincluden	183	141	564	189	11	86	1,174	34.3%
Lockerbie	63	56	232	77	10	34	472	16.4%
Machars North	33	24	124	35	..	12	228	14.7%
Machars South	89	57	225	73	5	27	476	17.2%
Mid Nithsdale	30	37	111	48	..	15	241	8.1%
Moffat	47	40	99	42	..	19	247	11.7%
New Abbey	25	40	81	38	..	14	198	9.5%
Newton Stewart	98	95	266	95	7	27	588	18.6%
Nunholm	70	36	118	38	5	26	293	13.4%
Rhins North	47	32	140	30	..	20	269	11.9%
Rhins South	24	27	106	22	7	11	197	14.1%
Shawhead	38	33	89	49	..	16	225	10.3%
Stranraer East	52	66	202	54	5	30	409	26.7%
Stranraer South	56	79	225	92	6	20	478	24.2%
Stranraer West	98	87	334	75	9	42	645	29.7%
Summerville	103	90	322	99	6	52	672	22.8%
Thornhill	39	33	145	52	..	12	281	12.2%
Troqueer	41	34	110	36	..	18	239	11.3%
Upper Nithsdale	74	70	343	90	10	32	619	22.6%
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>6,448</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>13,861</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

<sup>26</sup> Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View \(dwp.gov.uk\)](https://www.dwp.gov.uk/stat-xplore-table-view). NRS, Mid-year Population Estimates.

Source: DWP. People on Universal Credit. National Records of Scotland. Mid-year population Estimates. \*denotes a disclosive statistical value of less than 5 people.

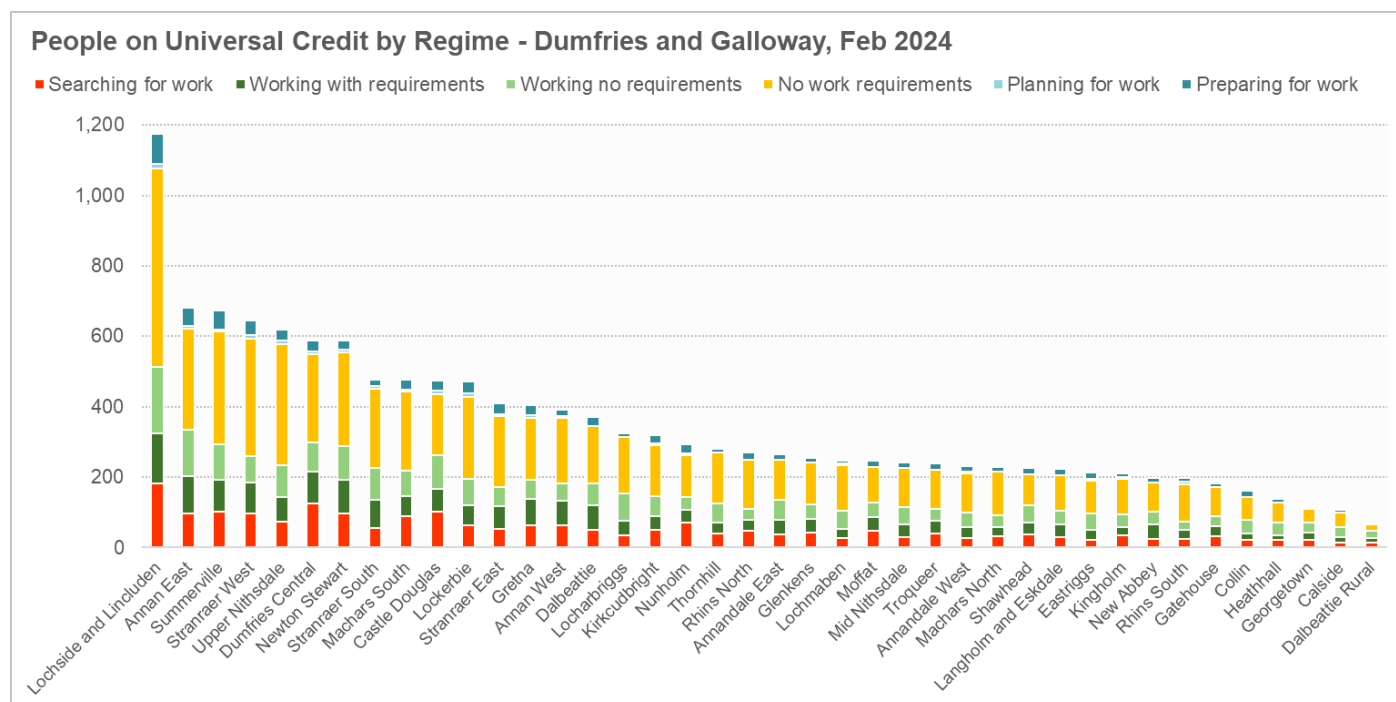
1,568 people aged 16 to 24 years and 12.3% of those aged 16 to 24 in Dumfries and Galloway were on Universal Credit in February 2024.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of those in receipt of Universal Credit in February 2024 were Stranraer West with 27.2% of those aged 16 to 24 years in receipt of Universal Credit, Stranraer East at 26.3%, Lochside and Lincluden at 23.6%, Dumfries Central at 22.3% and Stranraer South at 20.4%.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest levels of Universal Credit recipient aged 16 to 24 years in February 2024 were Lochside and Lincluden with 141 recipients, Stranraer West with 101 recipients, Annan East with 88 recipients, Dumfries Central with 86 recipients and Upper Nithsdale with 78 recipients.

Lochside and Lincluden accounted for 4.7% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Dumfries and Galloway, yet 9.0% of those in receipt of Universal Credit in Dumfries and Galloway were from Lochside and Lincluden in February 2024.

7.3% of those aged 16 to 24 years in Dumfries and Galloway lived in Stranraer, yet 14.7% of Universal Credit recipients aged 16 to 24 years in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 were from Stranraer.<sup>27</sup>



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

<sup>27</sup> DWP. People on Universal Credit. NRS. Mid-year population estimates.

## People on Universal Credit Aged 16 to 24 by Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, February 2024:

Neighbourhood:	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work	Total	% Aged 16-24
Lochside and Lincluden	36	5	62	22	6	12	141	23.6%
Annan East	23	7	49	5	..	8	88	16.5%
Annan West	7	10	25	5	..	..	53	18.9%
Annandale East	11	..	11	..	..	6	26	7.4%
Annandale West	7	5	8	..	..	..	27	12.4%
Calside	..	..	5	..	..	..	12	5.1%
Castle Douglas	21	7	26	6	..	..	61	14.6%
Collin	11	..	13	5	..	..	28	8.8%
Dalbeattie	12	6	13	6	..	..	37	9.2%
Dalbeattie Rural	..	..	..	5	..	..	5	2.8%
Dumfries Central	23	11	42	12	..	..	86	22.3%
Eastriggs	..	..	8	7	..	6	20	9.7%
Gatehouse	8	..	6	..	..	..	15	6.2%
Georgetown	..	..	7	..	..	..	13	5.8%
Glenkens	9	..	8	..	..	5	28	9.2%
Gretna	8	5	14	5	5	5	35	9.6%
Heathhall	..	..	6	..	..	..	6	2.4%
Kingholm	8	..	8	5	..	..	22	9.4%
Kirkcudbright	11	5	21	..	..	6	46	11.7%
Langholm and Eskdale	..	..	9	..	..	..	13	5.0%
Locharbriggs	11	..	14	8	..	..	34	11.8%
Lochmaben	7	..	15	..	..	..	21	7.5%
Lockerbie	11	..	23	7	5	7	49	11.7%
Machars North	7	..	5	..	..	5	17	8.2%
Machars South	11	..	14	7	..	..	32	9.5%
Mid Nithsdale	..	5	6	5	..	..	21	6.3%
Moffat	13	..	6	..	..	..	22	8.6%
New Abbey	9	5	18	..	..	..	31	9.7%
Newton Stewart	22	10	24	..	..	6	64	15.2%
Nunholm	11	5	15	..	..	6	36	11.0%
Rhins North	11	..	13	..	..	..	21	7.8%
Rhins South	..	..	10	..	..	..	13	8.1%
Shawhead	11	..	7	..	..	6	24	7.6%
Stranraer East	17	8	25	7	..	6	63	26.3%
Stranraer South	16	6	30	6	..	..	66	20.4%
Stranraer West	32	11	43	7	..	7	101	27.2%
Summerville	13	6	38	6	..	10	76	18.8%
Thornhill	5	..	8	..	..	..	17	4.7%
Troqueer	9	6	15	..	..	..	31	10.6%
Upper Nithsdale	20	..	42	6	6	5	78	17.3%
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

Source: Department for Work and Pensions. People on Universal Credit. National Records of Scotland. Mid-year population Estimates. \*.. denotes a disclosive statistical value of less than 5 people.



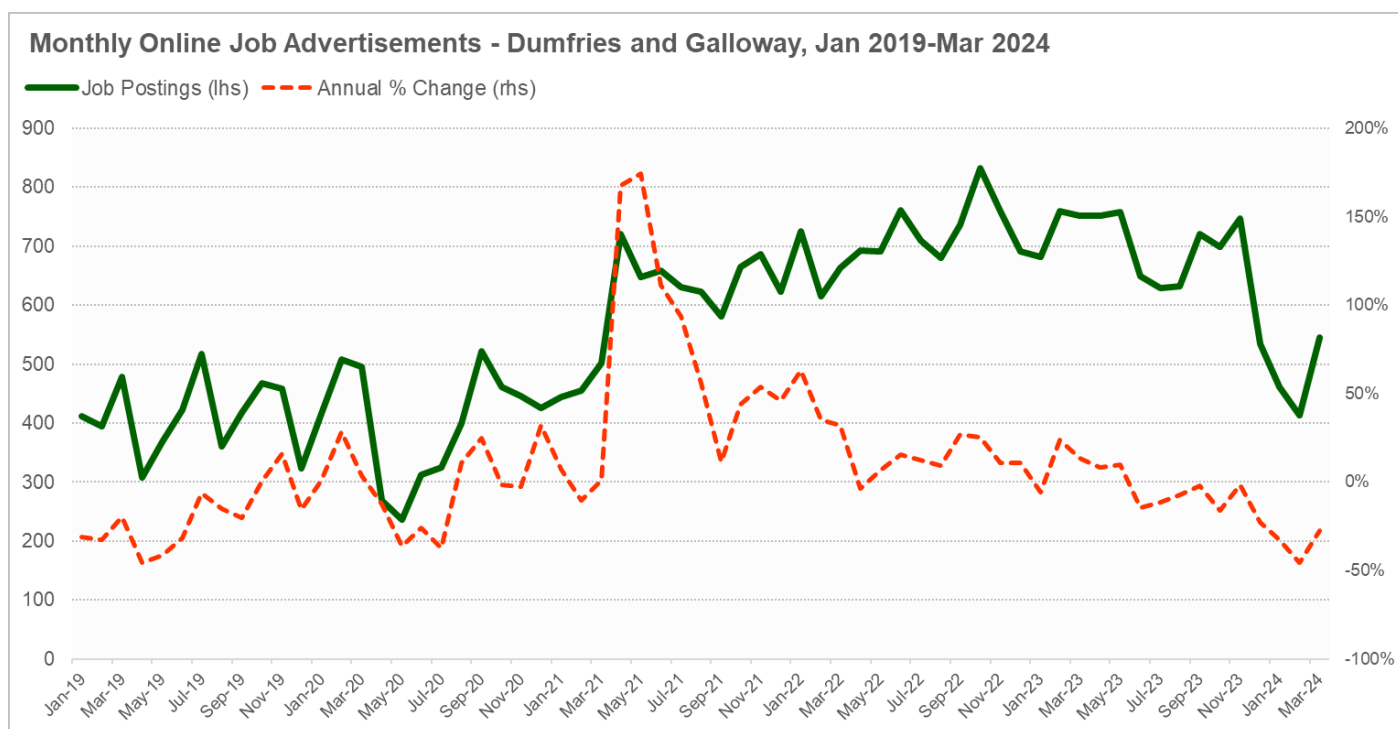
### Labour Demand and Job Openings:

Demand for labour in the region has continued to decline throughout the second half of 2023 and first quarter of 2024. There were 545 online job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024, 27.4% fewer than 751 in March 2023, with job advertisements in Scotland down 39.9% within the same period.

The median advertised salary for jobs advertised in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024 was £29,963, having increased by 5.2% from £28,472 in March 2023, with the median advertised salary for jobs in Scotland increasing by 5.9% within the same period.

The median advertised salary for jobs advertised in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024 was 5.9% lower than jobs advertised in Scotland within the same period.

Annual percent changes in monthly job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway have been negative in every month between June 2023 and March 2024.<sup>28</sup>



Source: Adzuna. Labour Market Intelligence.

Whilst 2022 saw record levels of demand for labour, issues around job quality and what types of skills have been in demand during this period have been identified.

There were 192 full-time jobs advertised in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024, compared to 104 in March 2023 and 176 in March 2022.

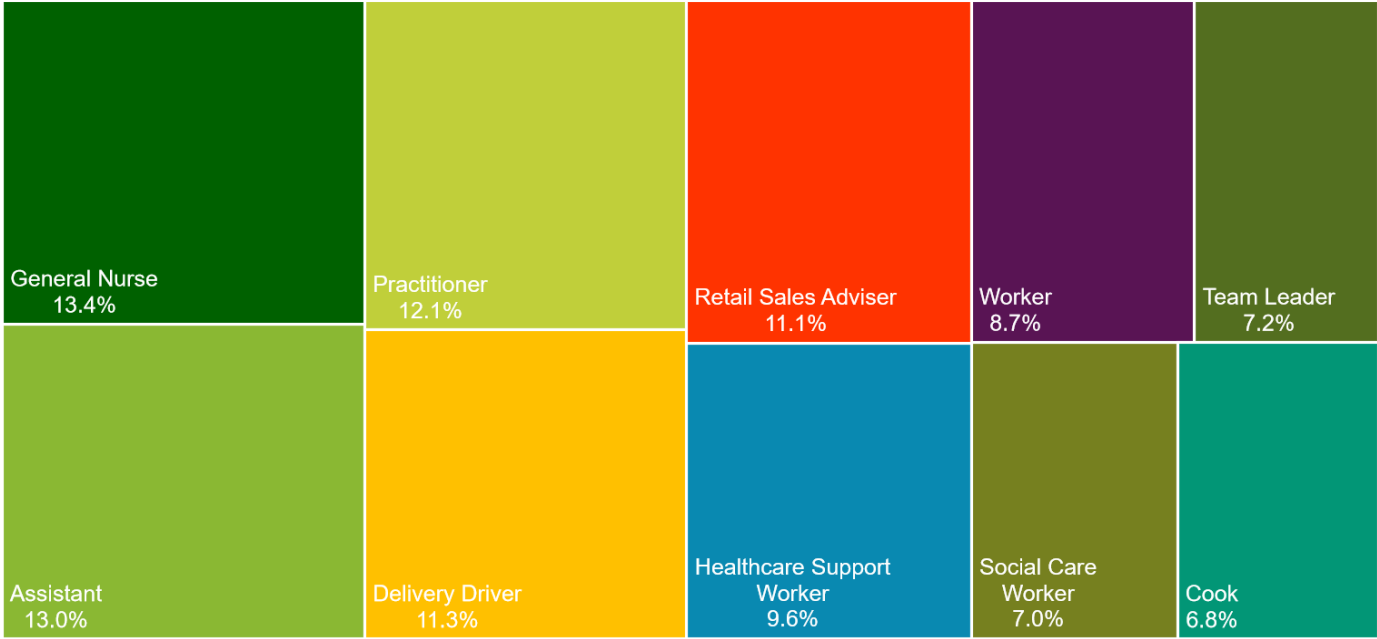
There were 65 part-time jobs advertised in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024, compared to 65 in March 2023 and 59 in March 2022.

The largest movements in jobs advertised has been where the contract type has not been specified, with 251 unspecified jobs advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway in March 2024, significantly lower than 571 unspecified jobs in March 2023 and 663 in March 2022.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Adzuna. Labour Market Intelligence.

<sup>29</sup> Adzuna. Labour Market Intelligence.

Job Openings by Occupation - Dumfries and Galloway, Jan-Mar 2024

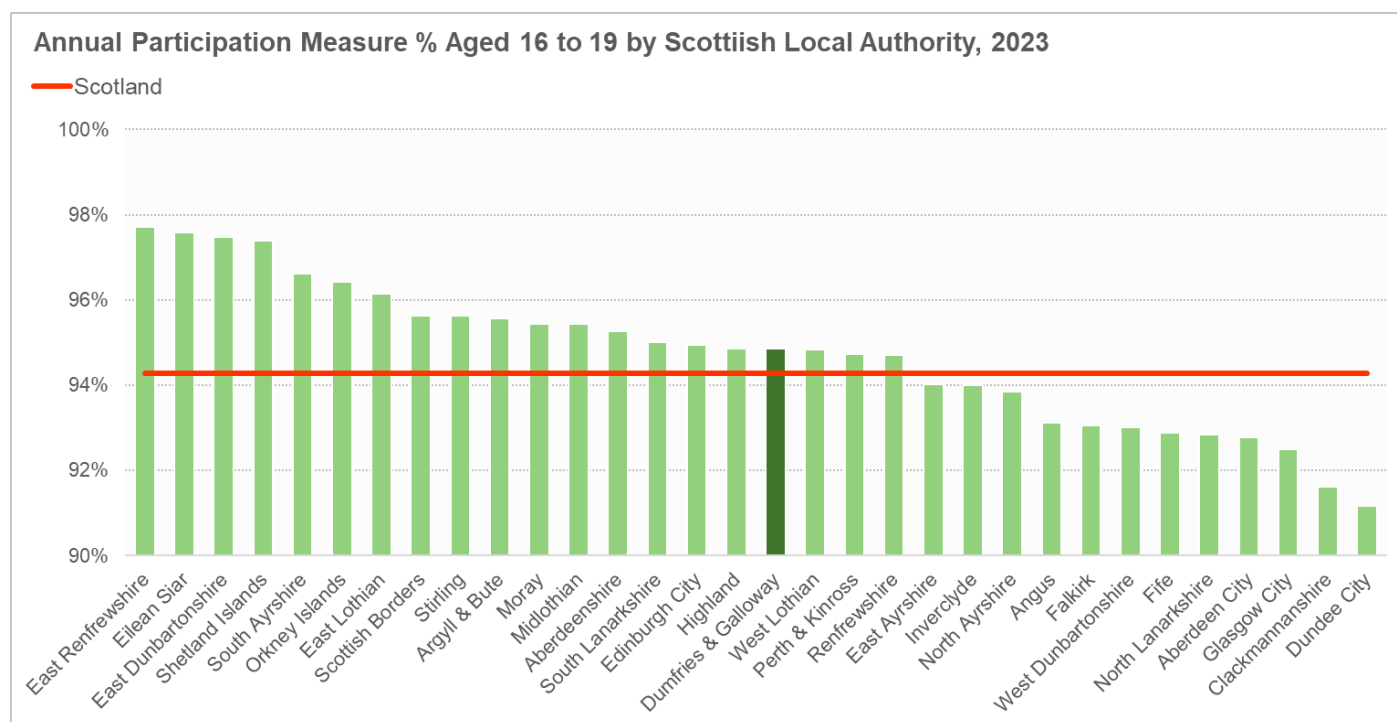


Source: Adzuna. Labour Market Intelligence.

The most in-demand occupations in terms of job advertisements in Dumfries and Galloway between January and March 2024 were for General Nurse occupations, with 71 jobs advertised, Assistant occupations with 69 jobs advertised and Practitioner occupations with 64 jobs advertised.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Adzuna. Labour Market Intelligence.

## Young People Participation Snapshot:



Source: Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure 2023.

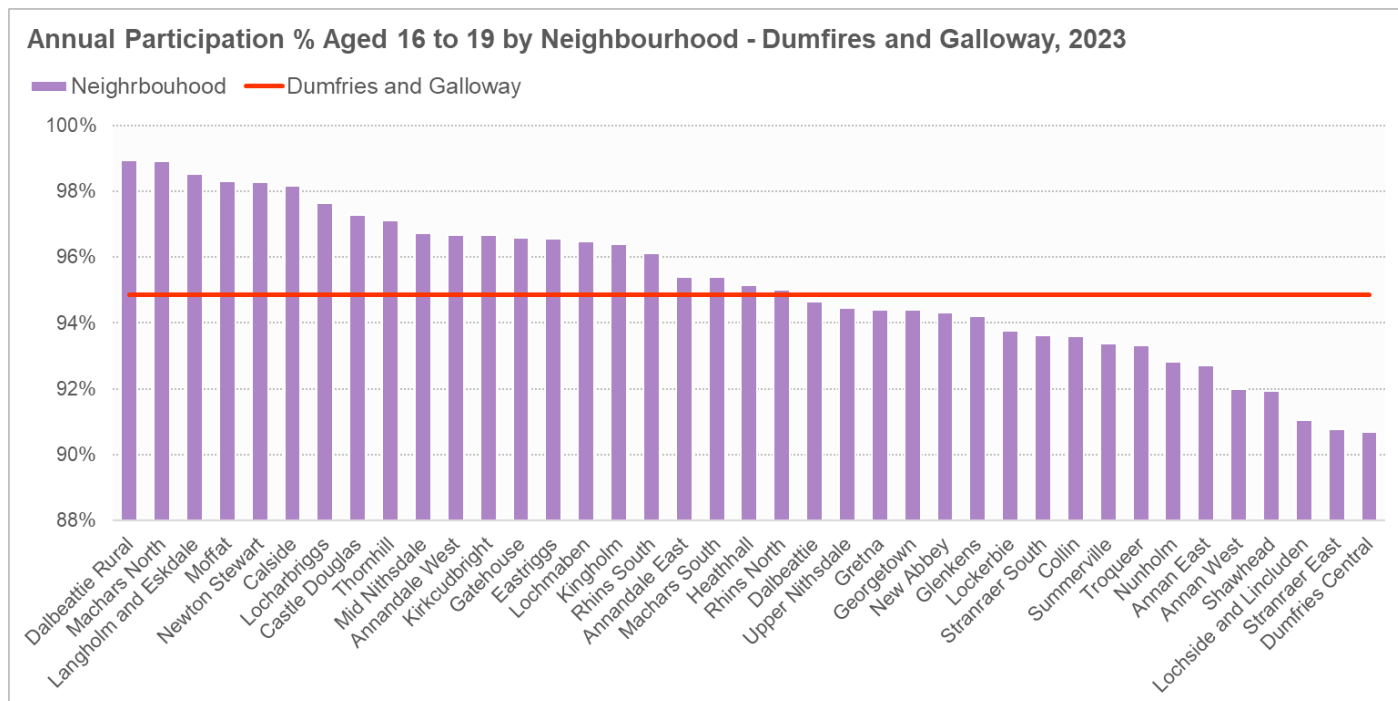
94.9% of those aged 16 to 19 years old in Dumfries and Galloway were participating in education, training or employment in 2023, compared to 94.3% of those aged 16 to 19 in Scotland.

Dumfries and Galloway ranked 17th of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023 in terms of participation rates for those age 16 to 19.

The participation rate for those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway increase by 1.5 percentage points (p.p.) from 93.3% in 2022 to 94.9% in 2023, compared to a 1.9 p.p. increase in participation for those aged 16 to 19 years in Scotland within the same period.

Dumfries and Galloway ranked 21<sup>st</sup> of 32 Scottish local authority areas in terms of increase in participation rates between 2022 and 2023.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure 2023. Access: [Annual Participation Measure - Skills Development Scotland](#)



Source: Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure 2023.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 years in 2023 was Dalbeattie Rural at 98.9%, Machars North at 98.9%, Langholm and Eskdale at 98.5%, Moffat at 98.3% and Newton Stewart at 98.3%.

The neighbourhoods with the lowest participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were Stranraer West at 89.0%, Dumfries Central at 90.7%, Stranraer East at 90.8%, Lochside and Lincluden at 91.0% and Shawhead at 91.9%.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest percentage point (p.p.) increase in terms of participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 between 2022 and 2023 were Gretna, having increased by 8.4 p.p. from 86.0% in 2022 to 94.4% in 2023, Kingholm with a 6.9 p.p. increase from 89.5% in 2022 to 96.4% in 2023 and Upper Nithsdale with a 5.1 p.p. increase from 89.4% in 2022 to 95.5% in 2023.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the lowest p.p. increases in terms of participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 between 2022 and 2023 were Stranraer East, having decreased by 2.8 p.p. from 93.5% in 2022 to 90.8% in 2023, Glenkens with a 2.0 p.p. decrease from 96.3% in 2022 to 94.2% in 2023 and Rhins North having declined by 1.9 p.p. from 96.9% in 2022 to 95.0% in 2023.

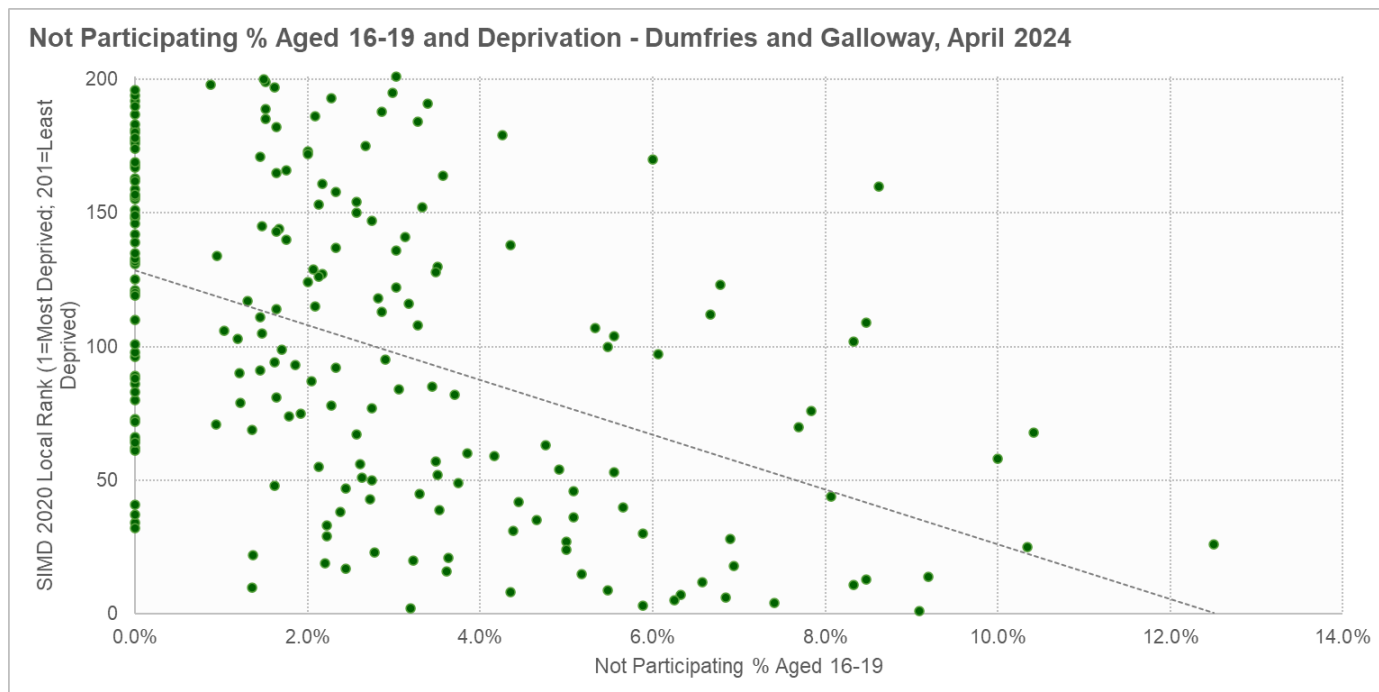
In the past five years, Lochside and Lincluden has been within the bottom 5 of 40 neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway in terms of participation rates for those aged 16 to 19 years in all years, with Dumfries Central being in the 5 worst performing neighbourhoods in terms of participation in 4 of 5 years, with Stranraer West and Summerville in the five worst performing areas in 3 out of 5 years.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>32</sup> SDS. Annual Participation Measure 2023.

## Annual Participation Measure % Aged 16 to 19 Years by Neighbourhood - Dumfries and Galloway, 2017-2023:

Neighbourhood:	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annan East	88.1%	89.1%	86.3%	87.3%	89.2%	88.8%	92.7%
Annan West	91.6%	90.4%	88.9%	86.4%	90.2%	91.2%	92.0%
Annandale East	93.0%	93.3%	93.2%	95.2%	92.2%	92.0%	95.4%
Annandale West	91.2%	99.0%	91.8%	89.8%	92.2%	94.3%	96.7%
Calside	93.0%	92.6%	91.5%	95.0%	95.5%	95.4%	98.2%
Castle Douglas	93.0%	93.8%	91.1%	92.2%	89.9%	94.5%	97.3%
Collin	92.7%	93.8%	94.3%	95.7%	97.1%	94.2%	93.6%
Dalbeattie	91.6%	92.6%	88.1%	95.4%	95.2%	92.3%	94.7%
Dalbeattie Rural	96.3%	96.3%	96.6%	97.9%	95.9%	97.8%	98.9%
Dumfries Central	89.0%	82.2%	82.7%	86.6%	86.9%	90.0%	90.7%
Eastriggs	96.4%	95.5%	93.6%	92.1%	98.1%	95.0%	96.6%
Gatehouse	93.4%	91.6%	84.5%	93.3%	93.8%	96.9%	96.6%
Georgetown	97.3%	96.3%	93.8%	98.0%	95.6%	94.7%	94.4%
Glenkens	95.2%	90.7%	90.3%	94.0%	94.3%	96.3%	94.2%
Gretna	90.1%	89.7%	89.6%	93.8%	94.2%	86.0%	94.4%
Heathhall	97.7%	94.0%	95.2%	94.2%	96.6%	96.0%	95.2%
Kingholm	93.2%	95.8%	98.2%	90.2%	92.0%	89.5%	96.4%
Kirkcudbright	94.8%	94.0%	97.4%	92.2%	95.5%	96.4%	96.7%
Langholm and Eskdale	91.7%	80.5%	85.0%	95.5%	94.5%	95.1%	98.5%
Locharbriggs	94.4%	92.0%	92.2%	87.1%	93.7%	93.5%	97.6%
Lochmaben	96.3%	94.9%	93.0%	89.1%	94.0%	96.8%	96.5%
Lochside and Lincluden	82.9%	85.7%	83.4%	82.8%	85.3%	88.6%	91.0%
Lockerbie	93.0%	94.0%	89.8%	92.0%	92.3%	91.3%	93.8%
Machars North	96.4%	95.3%	93.3%	92.9%	91.8%	98.9%	98.9%
Machars South	96.3%	95.8%	93.1%	90.8%	96.0%	93.6%	95.4%
Mid Nithsdale	94.8%	93.5%	93.8%	95.5%	97.5%	94.8%	96.7%
Moffat	92.0%	92.1%	91.7%	90.6%	95.3%	95.8%	98.3%
New Abbey	94.1%	92.5%	91.5%	95.8%	97.7%	96.2%	94.3%
Newton Stewart	94.3%	93.2%	92.5%	91.6%	96.2%	94.2%	98.3%
Nunholm	95.6%	93.5%	93.7%	94.2%	91.2%	94.2%	92.8%
Rhins North	92.5%	97.4%	96.7%	93.3%	95.0%	96.9%	95.0%
Rhins South	96.3%	98.8%	92.1%	95.6%	97.4%	95.7%	96.1%
Shawhead	94.9%	92.4%	94.2%	90.2%	92.2%	91.9%	91.9%
Stranraer East	88.2%	87.6%	92.1%	92.7%	94.2%	93.5%	90.8%
Stranraer South	93.1%	91.9%	92.0%	93.2%	91.4%	94.1%	93.6%
Stranraer West	91.1%	91.6%	86.8%	84.0%	88.1%	90.6%	89.0%
Summerville	90.1%	86.4%	82.4%	86.9%	88.1%	92.4%	93.4%
Thornhill	96.9%	95.3%	96.6%	96.0%	96.0%	95.2%	97.1%
Troqueer	95.0%	95.0%	97.1%	94.4%	93.8%	93.3%	93.3%
Upper Nithsdale	92.6%	91.3%	91.9%	94.7%	89.5%	89.4%	94.4%
<b>Dumfries and Galloway</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>92.2%</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	<b>91.9%</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>

Source: Skills Development Scotland. Annual Participation Measure.



Source: Dumfries and Galloway Employability Client Data; The Scottish Government. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

1.8% of those aged 16 to 19 years in Dumfries and Galloway (excluding unconfirmed) were not participating in education, employment or training in February 2024.

The data zone (small statistical output area with approximately 500 to 1,000 people) in Dumfries and Galloway in February 2024 with the highest proportion of those aged 16 to 19 not participating in employment, education or training was in April 2024 was Summerville with 12.5% of 16 to 19 year olds not participating (economically inactive/unemployed) and the 26th most deprived data zone of 201 data zones in Dumfries and Galloway in 2020.

10.4% of those aged 16 to 19 in Newton Stewart - 02 were not participating, with a local deprivation rank of 68th most deprived.

10.3% of those aged 16 to 19 in Nunholm - 04 were not participating in April 2024, with 10.0% of those aged 16 to 19 in Upper Nithsdale were not participating.

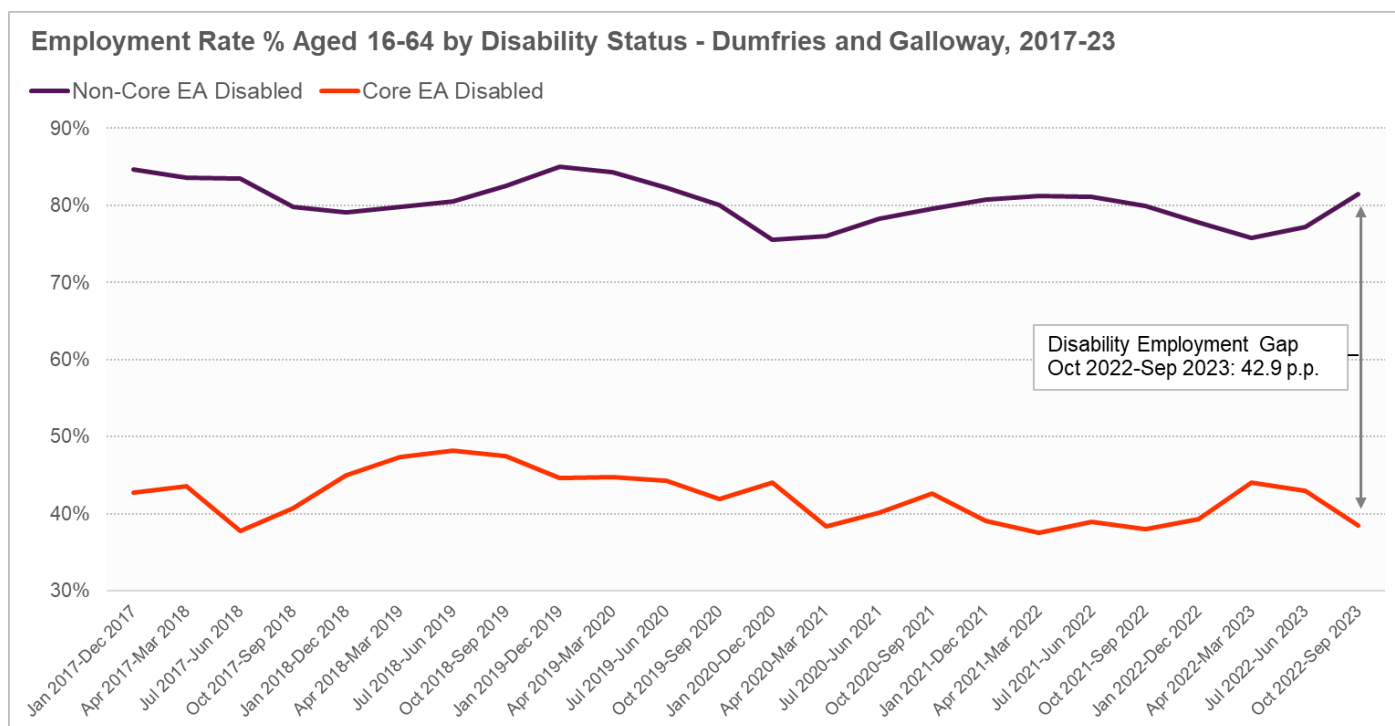
9.2% of those in aged 16 to 19 in Lochside and Lincluden - 07 were not participating, with a local deprivation rank of 12th most deprived.

9.1% of those aged 16 to 19 in Stranraer West - 06 were not participating, which was the most deprived data zone in Dumfries and Galloway in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.

The data zones in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest level of people aged 16 to 19 not participating in employment, education or training were Upper Nithsdale - 06 with 12 people, Dumfries Central - 04 with 9 people, Summerville - 05 with 8 people and Lochside and Lincluden - 07, Shawhead - 01 and Stranraer East - 01 with 8 people each not participating.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Dumfries and Galloway Council Employability Client Data. February 2024; The Scottish Government. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020. Access: [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/)

## Disability Employment Gap:



Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Population Survey.

The disability employment gap (Equality Act Core Disabled) in Dumfries and Galloway in the year ending September 2023 was 42.9 percentage points, significantly higher than 28.4 p.p. for Scotland within the same period.

The distance between the Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish disability employment gap in the 12 months to September 2023 was 14.5 p.p., the highest distance on record since 2017.

The number of disabled people in Dumfries and Galloway in employment in the 12 months to September 2023 is and has remained significantly lower than compared to pre-pandemic levels (Oct 2022-Sep 2023: 38.5%; Oct 2018-Sep 2019: 47.5%).

The employment rate for non-disabled people in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September 2023 was 81.4% of those aged 16 to 64, compared to 82.8% for Scotland.

The employment rate for those who are disabled in Dumfries and Galloway in the 12 months to September was 38.5%, significantly lower 54.4% for Scotland within the same period.

Dumfries and Galloway had the 2nd highest disability employment gap of all 32 Scottish local authority areas in the 12 months to September 2023 (East Ayrshire: 43.8 p.p.).

Dumfries and Galloway had the lowest employment rate for those who are disabled of all 32 Scottish local authorities in the 12 months to September 2023 at 38.5%.

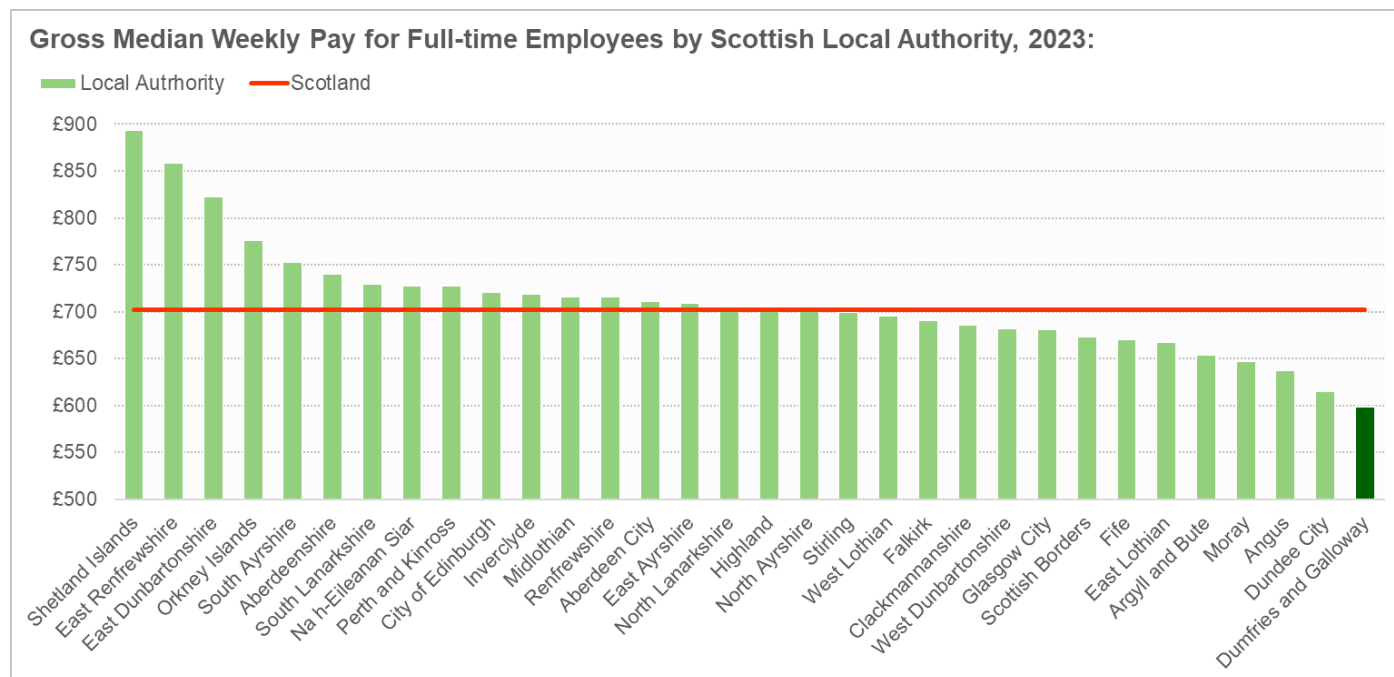
Some factors which may be contributing to this trend include Dumfries and Galloway's significantly larger older age population and particularly those approaching the age of retirement, industry sector structure i.e. agriculture, manufacturing, which may be more prohibitive to those with work limiting conditions, public health impacts such as the Covid pandemic, mental health, early retirement and lower levels of private sector enterprise in the region in comparison to Scotland.

## Low Pay and Gender Pay Gap:

Earnings for employees living in Dumfries and Galloway remains substantially lower than in Scotland, with very high levels of inflation throughout 2023 further eroding employee earnings.

Gross median weekly employee pay for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway was £598.20, 14.8% lower than £702.40 for Scotland in 2023 and the lowest gross median weekly pay for full-time employees of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2023.

Real gross median weekly pay for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway declined by 5.3% between April 2022 and April 2023, compared to a 1.6% increase in real-term for Scotland within the same period.<sup>34</sup>



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

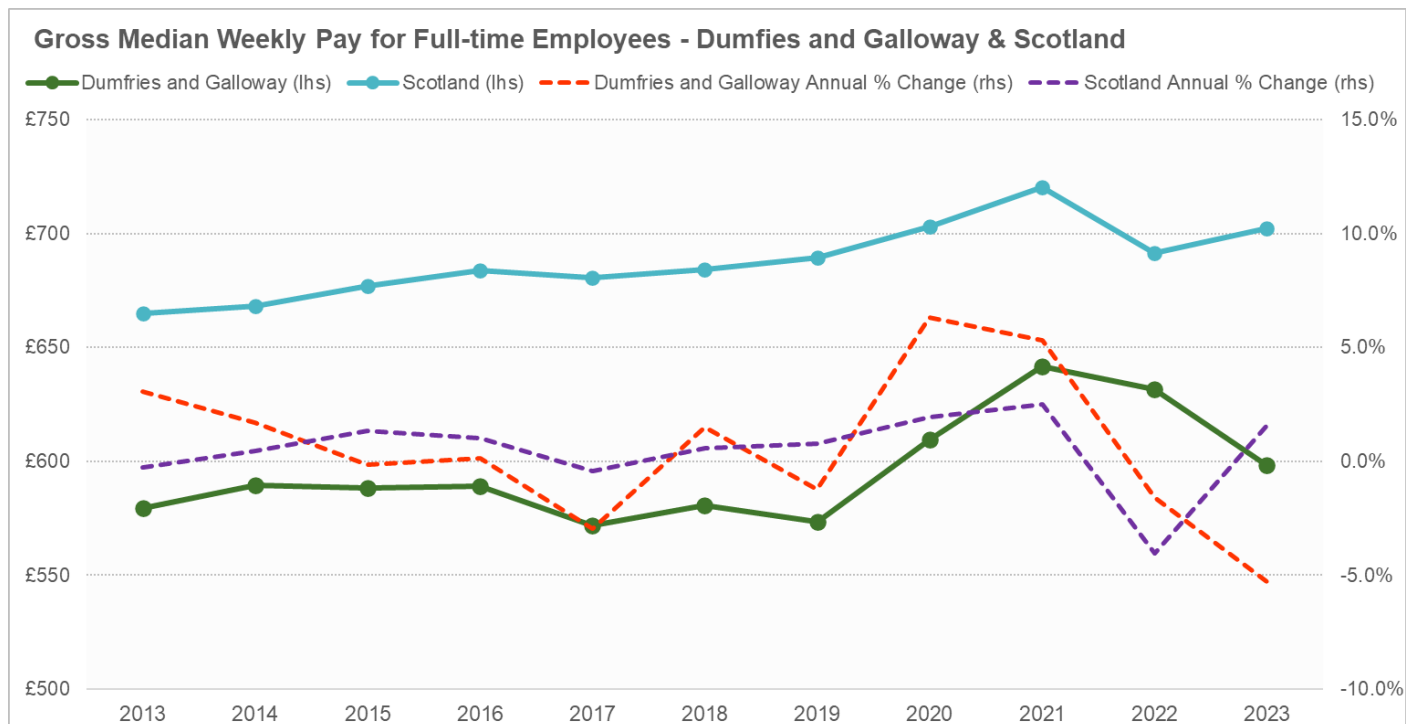
Gross median weekly earnings (*chart overleaf*) for full-time male employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £624.10, 14.0% lower than £725.70 for full-time male employees in Scotland within the same period.

Gross median weekly earnings for full-time female employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £570.70, 15.1% lower than £672.60 for full-time female male employees in Scotland within the same period.

Gross median weekly earnings for all male employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £570.70, 11.0% lower than £670.60 for all male employees in Scotland within the same period.

Gross median weekly earnings for all female employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was £431.90, 16.2% lower than £515.50 for all male employees in Scotland within the same period.

<sup>34</sup> ONS. ASHE. ONS. Consumer Price Inflation.



Source: Office for National Statistics. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings; Consumer Price Index.

The gender pay gap for full-time employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was -8.6%, compared to -7.4% for Scotland within the same period.

The gender pay gap for total employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 was -27.6%, compared to -23.1% for Scotland within the same period.

88.0% of male employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were full-time employees with 12.0% part-time, compared to 85.7% of males employees in Scotland who were full time employees and 14.3% part-time employees.

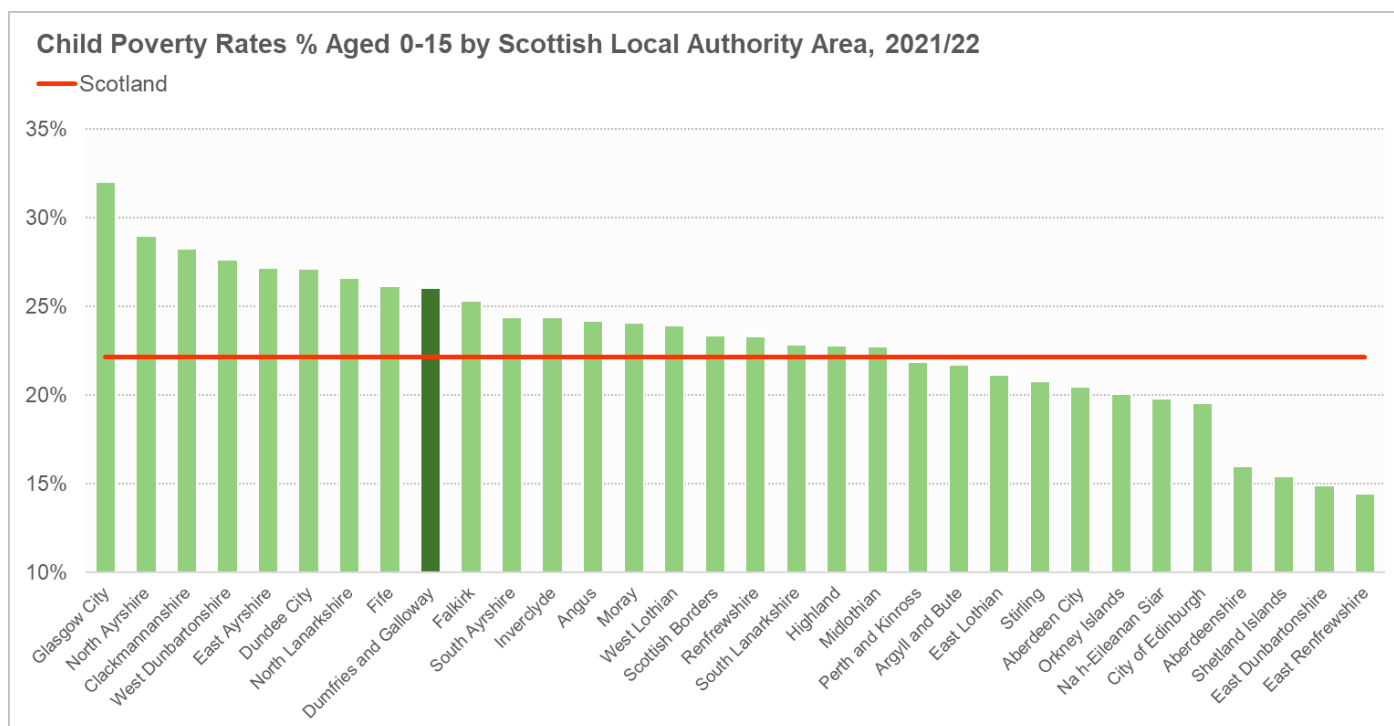
57.1% of female employees living in Dumfries and Galloway in 2023 were full-time employees with 42.9% part-time, compared to 60.5% of females employees in Scotland who were full time employees and 39.5% part-time employees.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> ONS. ASHE.

## Child Poverty:

Child poverty is a persistent problem in the region, with some of the highest rates of child poverty of any rural areas in Scotland. Child poverty has been increasing in recent years, with the cost-of-living crises further impacting child poverty. Food bank usage in the region has increased substantially in the area and there are areas in the region with high levels of poverty and deprivation.

The Trussell Trust provided 5,264 food parcels in Dumfries and Galloway in between April 2022 and March 2023, 82.8% more parcels than in the 2021/22 and the highest level on record. 26.0% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway were in poverty households in 2021/22, compared to 22.2% for Scotland, the 9<sup>th</sup> highest rate of child poverty of 32 Scottish local authorities and the highest rate of child poverty of rural Scottish local authorities in 2021/22.<sup>36</sup>



Source: End Child Poverty. Child poverty in your area.

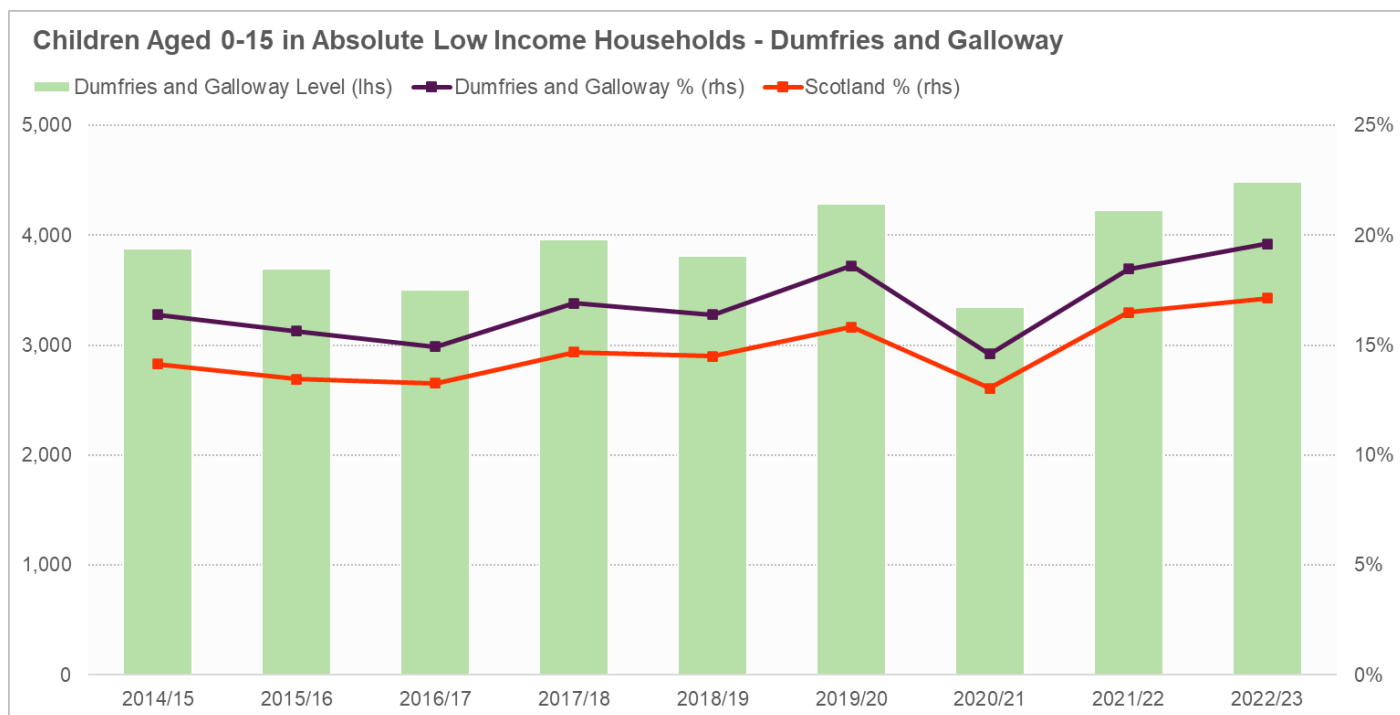
4,488 children and 19.6% of children aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway were living in absolute low-income households (Absolute low income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation), compared to 17.1% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland. (Chart overleaf)

The number of children aged 0 to 15 years who were in absolute low-income households in Dumfries and Galloway increase by 6.2% between 2021/22 and 2023, compared to a 3.9% increase in Scotland within the same period.

Dumfries and Galloway had the 7th highest rate of children aged 0 to 15 years living in absolute low-income households of 32 Scottish local authority areas in 2022/23, with the highest rate of any rural local authority in terms of absolute low income in 2022/23.<sup>37</sup>

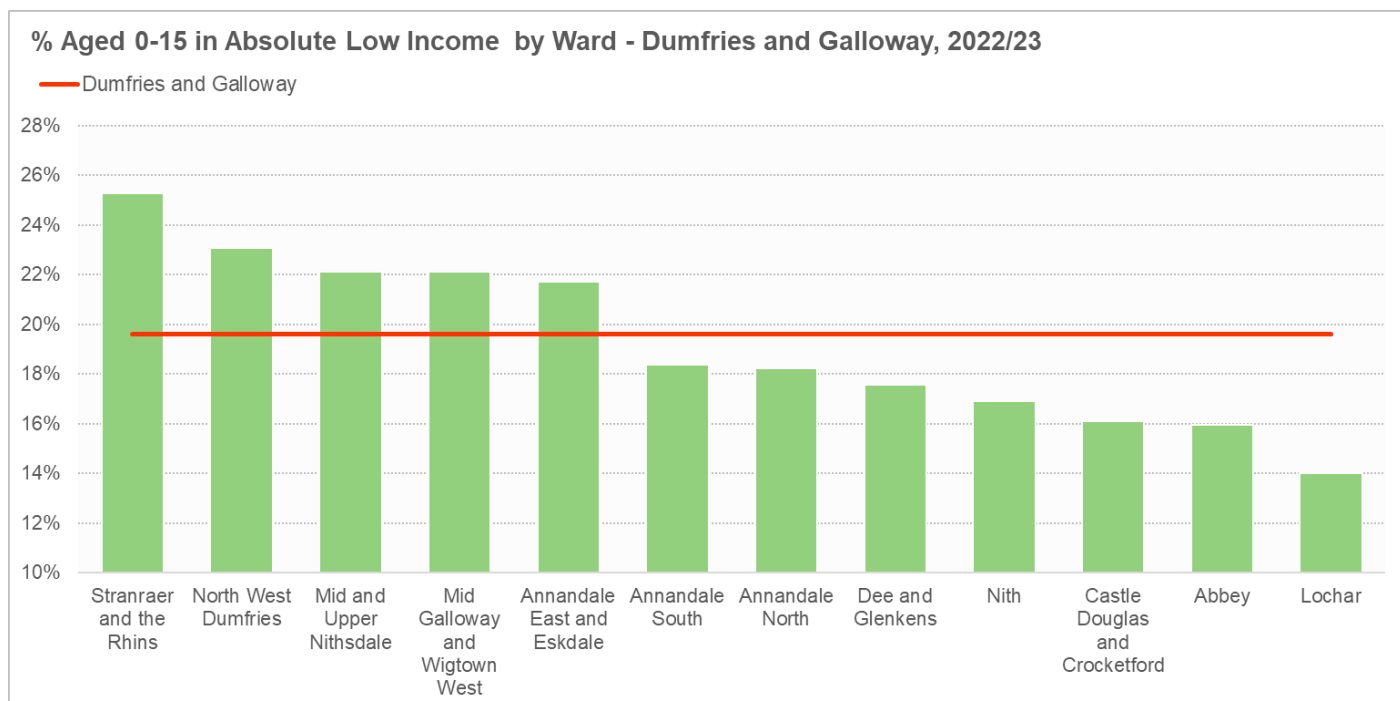
<sup>36</sup> End Child Poverty. Child poverty in your area. The Trussell Trust. Mid-year Stats, April to September 2023. Access: [Mid-Year Stats - The Trussell Trust](#)

<sup>37</sup> Department for Work and Pensions. Children in Low Income Households: Absolute Low Income. Access: [Stat-Xplore - Table View \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#); National Records of Scotland. Mid-Year Population Estimates. Access: [Population Estimates Time Series Data | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)



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

The electoral wards in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest rates of children in absolute low income household in 2023/23 were Stranraer and the Rhins with 635 children and 25.3% of children aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low income households, North West Dumfries with 625 children and 23.1% of those age 0 to 15 years in absolute low income households, Mid and Upper Nithsdale with 351 children and 22.1% of those aged 0 to 15 in absolute low income households and Mid Galloway and Wigtown West with 421 children and 22.1% of those aged 0 to 15 years in absolute low income households in 2022/23.<sup>38</sup>



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

<sup>38</sup> DWP. CILIH; National Records of Scotland. Electoral Ward Population Estimates (2011 Data Zone based). Access: [Electoral Ward Population Estimates \(2011 Data Zone based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/electoral-ward-population-estimates)

29.7% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway were living in relative low income households in 2022/23, compared to 23.9% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Scotland.

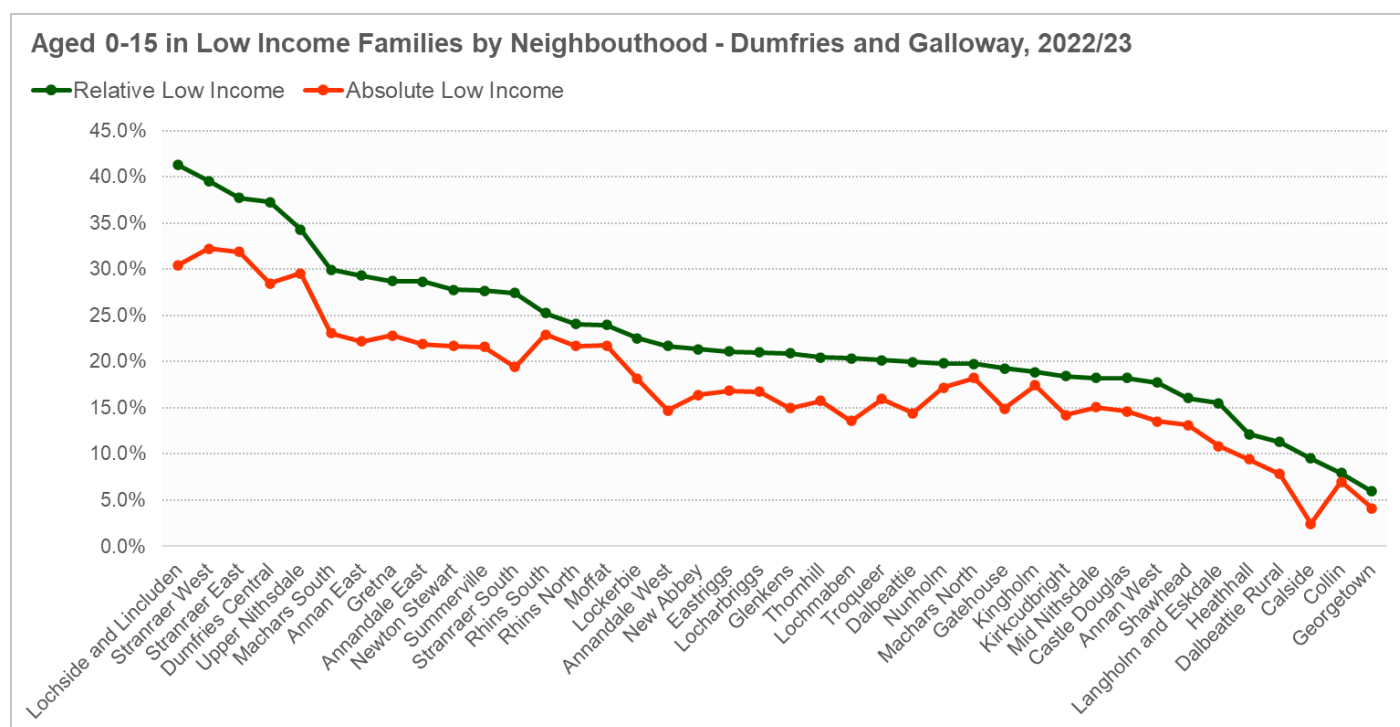
The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of children aged 0 to 15 years in relative low income households were:

- Lochside and Lincluden at 41.2%,
- Stranraer West at 39.5%,
- Stranraer East at 37.7%,
- Dumfries Central at 37.2% and
- Upper Nithsdale at 34.3%.

23.9% of those aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022/23 were living in absolute low income households, compared to 20.7% of those aged 0 to 15 in Scotland.

The neighbourhoods in Dumfries and Galloway with the highest proportions of children aged 0 to 15 years living in absolute low income households were

- Stranraer West at 32.2%
- Stranraer East at 31.9%,
- Lochside and Lincluden at 30.4%,
- Upper Nithsdale at 29.5% and
- Dumfries Central at 28.5%.<sup>39</sup>



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

<sup>39</sup> DWP. CILIF. \*Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs in the reference year that must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year; Absolute low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation.

## Population and Demographic Change:

Population decline, an ageing population and population dependency remain key challenges in terms of the local labour market and economy. An ageing population will increase demand on health and social care services, whilst a declining working age population poses challenges for businesses in the region and attracting investment.

The population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was estimated to be 145,700, having declined by 3.4% from 150,840 in 2012.

The population aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was 22,096, having declined by 10.7% from 24,618 in 2012.

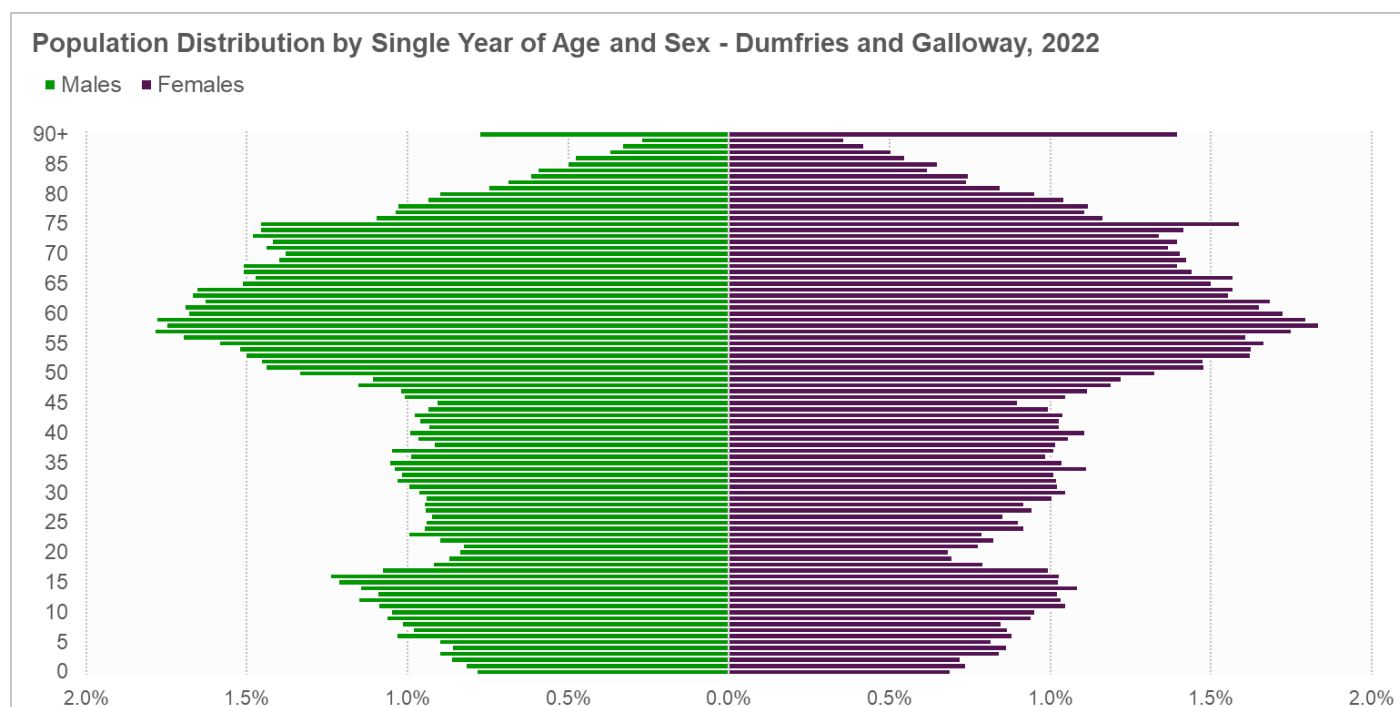
The working aged population aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was 83,896, having declined by 8.7% from 91,877 in 2012.

The population aged 65 plus in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 was 39,778, having increased by 15.8% from 34,345 in 2012. 15.2% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 were aged 0 to 15 years, compared to 16.3% in 2012.

57.6% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway were aged 16 to 64 years, compared to 60.9% in 2012, 63.5% for Scotland in 2022 and the lowest proportional working aged population of all Scottish local authority areas in 2022.

27.3% of the population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 were aged 65 plus, compared to 22.8% in 2012, 20.1% of the population of Scotland in 2022 and the highest proportional population aged 65 plus of all Scottish local authority areas in 2022.

The population dependency ratio of those aged 0 to 15 plus those aged 65 plus divided by the working aged population aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2022 0.74, compared to 0.64 in 2012, 0.58 in Scotland in 2022 and the highest population dependency ratio of all Scottish local authority areas in 2022.<sup>40</sup>



Source: National Records of Scotland. Mid-2022 Population Estimates Scotland.

<sup>40</sup> National Records of Scotland. Mid-2022 Population Estimates Scotland. Access: [Mid-2022 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/mid-2022-population-estimates-scotland)

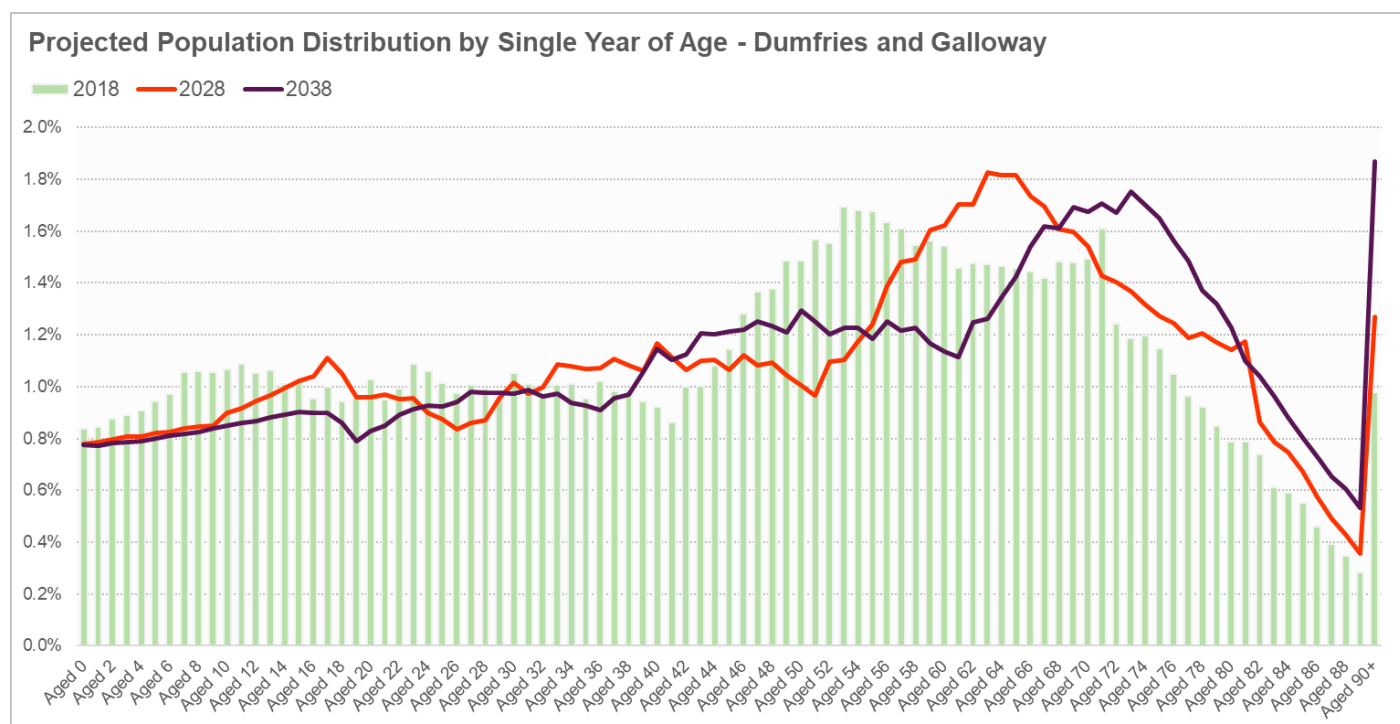
The population of Dumfries and Galloway in 2018 was 148,790, which is projected to decline by 2.8% to 144,575 by 2028 and decline by 6.5% to 139,086 by 2038.

The population aged 0 to 15 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2018 was 23,424, which is projected to decline by 14.2% to 20,089 by 2028 and decline by 21.4% to 18,421 by 2038.

The working age population aged 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2018 was 87,487, which is projected to decline by 7.4% to 80,981 by 2028 and decline by 16.4% to 73,119 by 2038.

The population aged 65 plus in Dumfries and Galloway in 2018 was 37,879 and is projected to increase by 14.9% to 43,505 by 2028 and increase by 25.5% to 47,546 by 2038.

The population dependency ratio of those aged 0 to 15 years plus those aged 65 plus, divided by those of working age 16 to 64 years in Dumfries and Galloway in 2018 was 0.70, which is projected to increase to 0.79 by 2028 and to 0.90 by 2038.<sup>41</sup>



Source: National Records of Scotland. Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based).

<sup>41</sup> National Records of Scotland. Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based). Access: [Population Projections for Scottish Areas \(2018-based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-projections). NRS. Mid-year population estimates.

## Top 10 Data Zones Not Participating % Aged 16 to 19 Years - Dumfries and Galloway, April 2024:

Data Zone:	Street/Location:	SIMD Local Rank (1=Most Deprived; 201=Least Deprived)	Not Participating % Aged 16 to 19	Map
Summerville - 05	Armour Drive / Ellisland Drive / Terregles Street	26	12.5%	
Newton Stewart - 02	Victoria Street / Wigtown Road / Arther Street	68	10.4%	
Nunholm - 04	Millburn Avenue / Greenbrae Loaning	25	10.3%	
Upper Nithsdale - 06	Castle Avenue / Forsyth Avenue / Glendyne Place	58	10.0%	
Lochside and Lincluden - 07	Lincluden Road / Criffel Dive / Priory Avenue	14	9.2%	
Stranraer West - 05	Coronation Drive / McDowell Avenue / Mount Vernon Road	1	9.1%	
Kirkcudbright - 02	Bourtrees Crescent / Princess Street / Silver Craigs Road	160	8.6%	
Stranraer West - 04	Agnew Crescent / Leswalt High Road / Glebe Street	13	8.5%	
Moffat - 01	Kinnelhead / Beattock / Ericstane	109	8.5%	
Stranraer East - 01	George Street / Lewis Street / Hanover Square	11	8.3%	

*Source. The Scottish Government. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020. Dumfries and Galloway Client Data.*