

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has published an update to statistics on the number (and proportion) of children living in low income families across Great Britain by local area. The local estimates are broken down by Local Authority, Ward, and Westminster Parliamentary Constituency.

23.2% of children in Fife (14,796 aged under 16) are living in relative poverty before housing costs. 11,773 children (18.5%) are living in absolute poverty before housing costs. This is above 20.8% and 16.5% for Scotland respectively. While there has been only a small change in absolute poverty since 2015 (2.3%), relative poverty increased in Fife from 16.1% to 23.2% between 2015/16 and 2021/22.

Table 1 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), in Fife and Scotland, 2021/22 (Source: DWP)

	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Fife	14,796	23.2%	11,773	18.5%
Scotland	189,178	20.8%	150,051	16.5%

Poverty affects children in every part of Scotland, with an estimated 31.8% of children living in relative poverty in Glasgow compared to 10.9% of children in East Renfrewshire (see **Figure 1**):

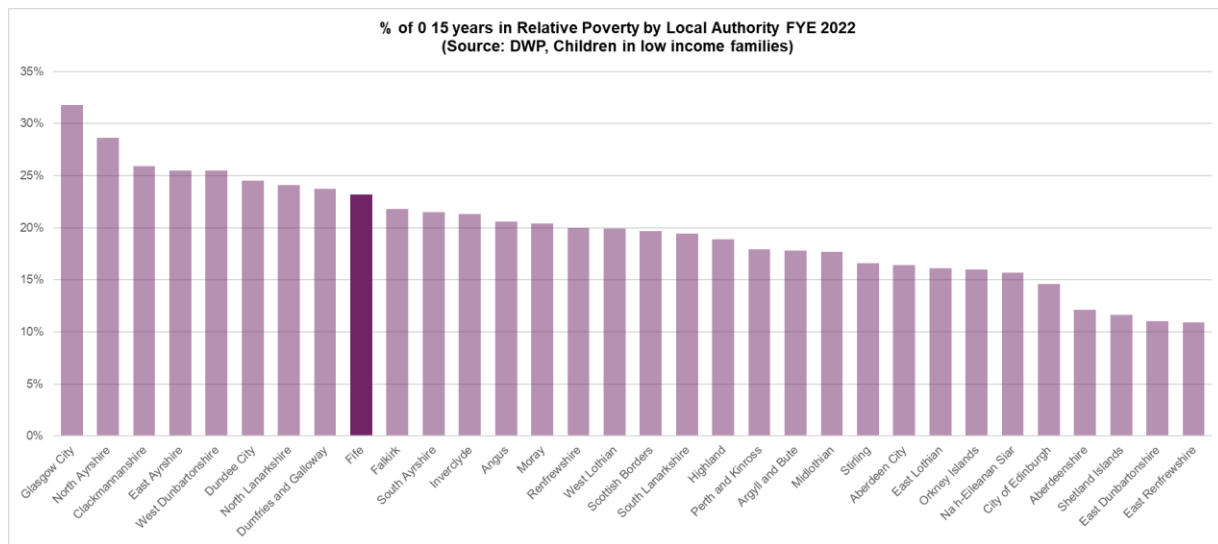


Figure 1: Children living in Relative Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority, 2021/22 (Source: DWP)

A breakdown of the latest figures by local authority area is given in **Table 2:**

Table 2 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority Area, 2021/22 (Source: DWP)

Local Authority	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Aberdeen City	5,864	16.4%	4,662	13.0%
Aberdeenshire	5,888	12.1%	4,666	9.6%
Angus	3,848	20.6%	3,062	16.4%
Argyll and Bute	2,218	17.8%	1,717	13.8%
City of Edinburgh	11,528	14.6%	9,267	11.8%
Clackmannanshire	2,297	25.9%	1,812	20.4%
Dumfries and Galloway	5,428	23.7%	4,307	18.8%
Dundee City	5,797	24.5%	4,507	19.0%
East Ayrshire	5,303	25.5%	4,180	20.1%
East Dunbartonshire	2,156	11.0%	1,708	8.7%
East Lothian	3,199	16.1%	2,467	12.4%
East Renfrewshire	2,140	10.9%	1,745	8.9%
Falkirk	6,016	21.8%	4,661	16.9%
Fife	14,796	23.2%	11,773	18.5%
Glasgow City	31,779	31.8%	25,624	25.7%
Highland	7,200	18.9%	5,810	15.2%
Inverclyde	2,597	21.3%	1,926	15.8%
Midlothian	3,243	17.7%	2,619	14.3%
Moray	3,246	20.4%	2,590	16.2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	639	15.7%	494	12.2%
North Ayrshire	6,255	28.6%	4,910	22.4%
North Lanarkshire	14,841	24.1%	11,775	19.1%
Orkney Islands	567	16.0%	469	13.2%
Perth and Kinross	4,342	17.9%	3,440	14.2%
Renfrewshire	5,960	20.0%	4,727	15.9%
Scottish Borders	3,681	19.7%	2,834	15.1%
Shetland Islands	478	11.6%	371	9.0%
South Ayrshire	3,710	21.5%	2,923	17.0%
South Lanarkshire	10,790	19.4%	8,481	15.2%
Stirling	2,481	16.6%	2,001	13.4%
West Dunbartonshire	3,883	25.5%	3,002	19.7%
West Lothian	7,003	19.9%	5,530	15.7%
Scotland	189,178	20.8%	150,051	16.5%

Within Fife, child poverty remains highest in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituencies, and lower in the North East Fife constituency (see **Table 3**):

Table 3 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Westminster Parliamentary Constituency, 2021/22 (Source: DWP)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Dunfermline and West Fife	3,755	20.2%	3,018	16.3%
Glenrothes (includes Levenmouth)	4,568	28.1%	3,600	22.1%
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	4,724	26.7%	3,746	21.1%
North East Fife	1,750	15.7%	1,404	12.6%
Fife	14,796	23.2%	11,773	18.5%
Scotland	189,178	20.8%	150,051	16.5%

At ward level, child poverty is highest in Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty, Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages, and Cowdenbeath, and lowest in Howe of Fife and Tay Coast and St Andrews (see **Table 4**).

Table 4 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Ward for Fife, 2021/22 (Source: DWP)

Ward	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1168	34.4%	901	26.5%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	541	21.8%	438	17.7%
Cowdenbeath	1031	25.4%	820	20.2%
Cupar	357	16.1%	272	12.3%
Dunfermline Central	611	17.5%	484	13.8%
Dunfermline North	467	17.4%	366	13.6%
Dunfermline South	867	17.2%	702	13.9%
East Neuk and Landward	399	22.7%	340	19.4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	820	29.2%	659	23.4%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	707	22.3%	559	17.6%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	853	27.9%	682	22.3%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	339	17.4%	276	14.2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	386	14.3%	315	11.6%
Kirkcaldy Central	879	35.9%	719	29.4%
Kirkcaldy East	874	32.3%	703	26.0%
Kirkcaldy North	738	23.1%	579	18.1%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	731	23.2%	572	18.2%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	1216	33.3%	936	25.6%
Rosyth	649	24.0%	532	19.7%
St. Andrews	160	11.0%	124	8.5%
Tay Bridgehead	352	12.7%	278	10.0%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	652	23.7%	521	18.9%
Fife	14,796	23.2%	11,773	18.5%
Scotland	189,178	20.8%	150,051	16.5%

Note: local area statistics are calculated on the basis of 2007 Ward boundaries.

Technical Notes

This is the fourth release of the local area statistics which have replaced DWP's Children in out-of-work benefit households and HMRC's Personal Tax Credits: Children in low income families local measure.

These statistics complement and should be viewed as a companion release to the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) survey on children in low income households which provides National and Regional estimates, but not local area estimates.

While the data for FYE 2021 and 2022 has undergone extensive quality assurance prior to publication, DWP recommend that users exercise additional caution when using the data, particularly when making comparisons with previous years and when comparing local areas across countries. This is especially recommended when interpreting larger changes observed in FYE 2021.

To be classed as low income in these statistics, a family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year.

Relative low income measures families in low income (not household)s in the reference year, whereas Absolute low income measures families in low income based on what low income looked like in 2010/11.

Income is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and is equivalised to adjust for family size and composition.

This is an annual release and the next release will be in Spring 2024

More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022>

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