

Fife Findings: Children in low income families – New local area statistics for Fife

Experimental Statistics from DWP

26 March 2020

The Department of Work and Pensions has published new experimental Official 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.

At least 1 in 5 children in Fife (21%) – 13,238 children aged under 16 – are living in relative poverty before housing costs. 10,915 children (17%) of Fife children are living in absolute poverty before housing costs. This is above 18% and 15% for Scotland respectively.

Table 1 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), in Fife and Scotland, 2018/19 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Fife	13,238	21%	10,915	17%
Scotland	166,784	18%	137,452	15%

While there has been little change in absolute poverty since 2014/15 in both Fife and Scotland, relative poverty has increased in both Fife (from 17% to 21%) and Scotland (from 15% to 18%) between 2014/15 and 2018/19.

Of those living in a low income household in Fife, 2 out of 3 children (61%) are in working families, as is the case in Scotland (64%).

Child poverty is highest in the Glenrothes¹, and Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituencies, and lower in the North East Fife constituency (see **Table 2**).

Table 2 – Number Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Westminster Parliamentary Constituency, 2018/19 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Dunfermline and West Fife	3,842	21%	3,189	17%
Glenrothes ¹	4,757	29%	3,967	24%
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	4,984	27%	4,075	22%
North East Fife	2,063	18%	1,717	15%
Fife	13,238	21%	10,915	17%

At ward level, child poverty is highest in Kirkcaldy Central and East, and Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages, and lowest in Tay Bridgehead and St Andrews. Notably, East Neuk and Landward has higher rates of both relative and absolute child poverty than many other Fife wards (see **Table 3**).

Table 3 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Ward for Fife, 2018/19 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

Ward	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	539	20%	414	16%
Rosyth	495	18%	419	15%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	369	13%	316	11%
Dunfermline North	407	15%	350	13%
Dunfermline Central	559	16%	471	13%
Dunfermline South	762	15%	629	12%
Cowdenbeath	923	23%	772	19%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	1,007	28%	798	22%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	452	18%	359	14%
Kirkcaldy North	711	22%	570	17%
Kirkcaldy Central	844	33%	687	27%
Kirkcaldy East	859	32%	692	26%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	616	19%	519	16%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	715	25%	595	21%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	741	24%	612	20%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	336	16%	287	14%
Tay Bridgehead	306	11%	246	9%
St. Andrews	164	11%	138	9%
East Neuk and Landward	409	23%	352	20%
Cupar	341	15%	279	12%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	673	21%	557	18%
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,017	31%	856	26%
Fife	13,238	21%	10,915	17%

The new figures continue to show that poverty affects children in every part of Scotland, with as many as 28% of children living in relative poverty in Glasgow compared to 9% of children in Shetland (see **Table 4**).

Table 4 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority Area, 2018/19 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

Local Authority	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Aberdeen City	5,198	15%	4,270	12%
Aberdeenshire	5,089	10%	4,289	9%
Angus	3,389	18%	2,841	15%
Argyll and Bute	2,254	17%	1,877	14%
City of Edinburgh	9,897	13%	8,316	11%
Clackmannanshire	1,866	21%	1,517	17%
Dumfries and Galloway	4,831	21%	3,897	17%
Dundee City	5,134	21%	4,095	17%
East Ayrshire	4,838	23%	3,973	19%
East Dunbartonshire	1,999	10%	1,656	9%
East Lothian	3,055	16%	2,507	13%
East Renfrewshire	1,931	10%	1,643	9%
Falkirk	5,106	18%	4,246	15%
Fife	13,238	21%	10,915	17%
Glasgow City	27,963	28%	22,891	23%
Highland	6,575	17%	5,499	14%
Inverclyde	2,234	18%	1,698	13%
Midlothian	2,766	16%	2,265	13%
Moray	2,602	16%	2,208	14%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	581	13%	504	12%
North Ayrshire	5,328	23%	4,339	19%
North Lanarkshire	12,944	21%	10,795	17%
Orkney Islands	553	16%	473	13%
Perth and Kinross	3,829	16%	3,217	13%
Renfrewshire	5,105	17%	4,081	14%
Scottish Borders	3,360	18%	2,794	15%
Shetland Islands	393	9%	342	8%
South Ayrshire	3,386	19%	2,761	16%
South Lanarkshire	9,520	17%	7,824	14%
Stirling	2,305	15%	1,963	13%
West Dunbartonshire	3,442	22%	2,765	18%
West Lothian	6,073	17%	4,991	14%
Scotland	166,784	18%	137,452	15%

Technical notes

These new 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.

This is the first release of these 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.

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

Relative low income measures families in low income 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 2021.

More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-201415-to-201819>

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