

# Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

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Fife continues to track what is happening with Scotland as a whole in relation to both income and employment deprivation. Fife's most deprived areas continue to be concentrated in Mid Fife, with some areas now showing as more deprived relative to other areas of Scotland. Across domains, Fife's deprived areas are becoming more deprived. Fife continues to see a relative worsening of Crime and Health deprivation, but still within what is expected.

## Introduction

The Scottish Government launched its latest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) – SIMD20 – on 28 January 2020. It ranks datazones (some 700 people on average) across Scotland from 1 (most deprived) to 6976 (least deprived). As an index, it measures relative not absolute deprivation (i.e. how multiple deprivation compares between datazones, rather than how much deprivation is in each) across small areas in Scotland.

## Fife in context

Fife is Scotland's third largest local authority, with a 7% share of Scotland's population and datazones, and a varied socio-economic profile that mirrors that of Scotland. With SIMD20, Fife continues to track what is happening in Scotland as a whole. In absolute terms, 9.4% of the working age population are employment deprived in Fife (9.3% for Scotland), down from 11% in SIMD16. 11.9% of the population are income deprived in Fife (12.1% for Scotland), compared to 12.4% in SIMD16.

Since 2004, Fife has generally seen an increasing share of Scotland's most deprived datazones but consistent with its share of Scotland's population and datazones. 19.8% of Fife's datazones are in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (19.2% in SIMD16). Fife now has 15.8% of its 494 datazones in the 15% most deprived for Scotland (compared to 11.9% SIMD16).

## How is SIMD changing over time by Area?

Figure 1 Table: Area distribution of 20% most deprived datazones, showing change from 2016 to 2020

Area	No of datazones in 20% most deprived		Change
	2020	2016	
South and West Fife	5	5	0
City of Dunfermline	11	8	+ 3
Cowdenbeath	19	19	0
Kirkcaldy	21	23	- 2
Glenrothes	15	16	- 1
Levenmouth	26	23	+ 3
North East Fife	1	1	0
<b>Fife</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>+ 3</b>

Fife now has 98 datazones in 20% most deprived for Scotland, up from 95 in SIMD16. Increases are in the Levenmouth and Dunfermline areas. The majority of Fife's most deprived areas continue to be concentrated in Mid Fife, across the Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes areas.

## How is SIMD changing over time by Domain?

As deprivation can take many different forms, the SIMD combines seven different domains (aspects) of deprivation:

Figure 2 Table: Distribution of 20% most deprived datazones by Domain, showing change from 2016 to 2020

Make-up of index	Domain	No of datazones in 20% most deprived		Change
		2020	2016	
28%	Income	102	95	+ 7
28%	Employment	101	103	- 2
14%	Health	86	73	+ 13
14%	Education, Skills and Training	105	97	+ 8
9%	Geographic Access	89	94	- 5
5%	Crime	97	81	+ 16
2%	Housing	14	14	0

Employment, Income and Education deprivation remain key factors in the relative ranking of Fife datazones on the index.

As with most domains Fife continues to see a relative worsening of its position on the Health and Crime domains over time but within what would be expected.

Fife's deprived areas are becoming more deprived, with increasing concentrations of deprivation in 5% and 10% from 15% and 20% most deprived.

### What the SIMD tells us and what it doesn't

SIMD is a tool for identifying the places in Scotland where people are experiencing disadvantage across different aspects of their lives. 'Deprived' does not mean just 'poor' or 'low income'. It can also mean people have fewer resources and opportunities.

It can be used to help organisations invest in those areas who need it the most. SIMD can also be used by communities to highlight the things that matter to them and identify opportunities to improve the lives of local people.

Since the SIMD is a relative ranking of all datazones in Scotland, as some improve and move down the table, others will move up to take their place. Such changes may only reflect a relative change in deprivation. Further analysis of the underlying data may be necessary to explain:

- a) the extent to which absolute changes in deprivation have occurred
- b) explanation for changes in Fife's relative rankings, including changes elsewhere
- c) significant changes in the pattern of deprivation within Fife

### Further Information

**SIMD web pages** Data, analysis, guidance and technical notes: [www.gov.scot/SIMD](http://www.gov.scot/SIMD)

**SIMD mapping tool** Interactive mapping: <http://simd.scot>

**KnowFife Dataset** To explore changes in local neighbourhoods: <http://knowfife.fife.gov.uk/>

**KnowFife Hub** Fife briefings, Area analysis, Maps, interactive story map <http://know.fife.scot>