

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.

23.6% of children in Fife (15,024 aged under 16) are living in relative poverty before housing costs. 11,923 children (18.7%) are living in absolute poverty before housing costs. Both are above the Scottish rates of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. While there has been only a small change in absolute poverty since 2015 (2.4%), relative poverty increased in Fife from 16.1% to 23.6% between 2015/16 and 2022/23.

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	15,024	23.6%	11,923	18.7%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	156,179	17.1%

Poverty affects children in every part of Scotland, with an estimated 33.5% of children living in relative poverty in Glasgow compared to 10.3% of children in East Renfrewshire (see **Figure 1**):

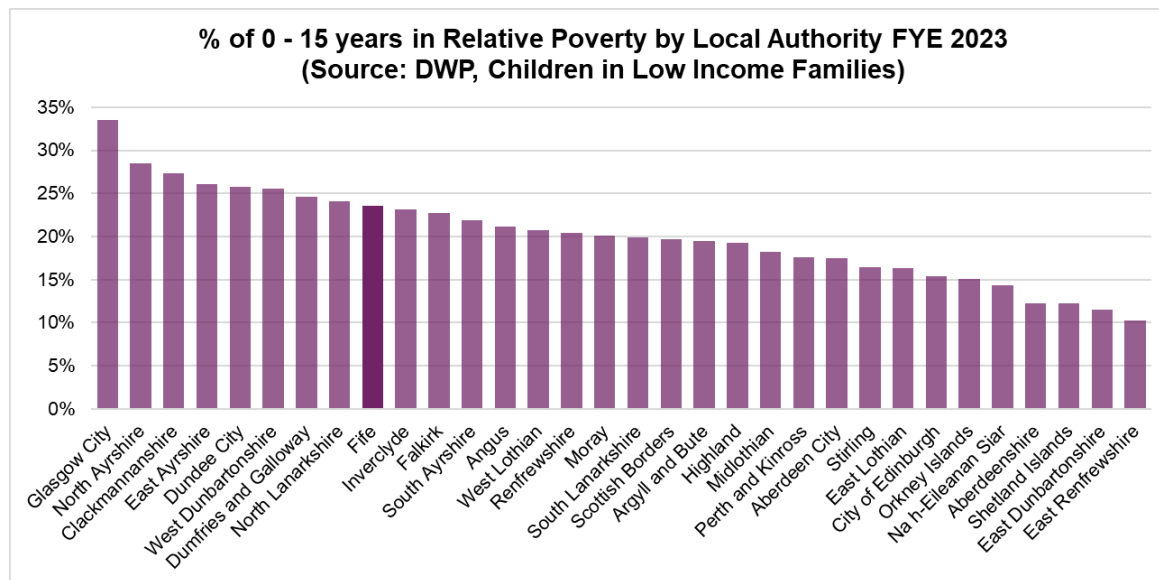


Figure 1: Children living in Relative Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority, 2022/23 (Source: DWP)

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	6,278	17.5%	5,087	14.2%
Aberdeenshire	5,964	12.3%	4,672	9.6%
Angus	3,943	21.2%	3,222	17.3%
Argyll and Bute	2,430	19.5%	1,924	15.5%
City of Edinburgh	12,160	15.4%	9,840	12.5%
Clackmannanshire	2,423	27.3%	1,945	21.9%
Dumfries and Galloway	5,622	24.6%	4,488	19.6%
Dundee City	6,116	25.8%	4,835	20.4%
East Ayrshire	5,429	26.1%	4,401	21.2%
East Dunbartonshire	2,248	11.5%	1,743	8.9%
East Lothian	3,224	16.3%	2,539	12.8%
East Renfrewshire	2,021	10.3%	1,656	8.4%
Falkirk	6,247	22.7%	5,047	18.3%
Fife	15,024	23.6%	11,923	18.7%
Glasgow City	33,508	33.5%	27,352	27.4%
Highland	7,355	19.3%	5,965	15.6%
Inverclyde	2,821	23.1%	2,202	18.1%
Midlothian	3,335	18.2%	2,666	14.6%
Moray	3,205	20.1%	2,590	16.2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	582	14.3%	471	11.6%
North Ayrshire	6,234	28.5%	5,026	23.0%
North Lanarkshire	14,867	24.1%	12,021	19.5%
Orkney Islands	536	15.1%	436	12.3%
Perth and Kinross	4,274	17.6%	3,491	14.4%
Renfrewshire	6,068	20.4%	4,874	16.4%
Scottish Borders	3,690	19.7%	2,889	15.4%
Shetland Islands	506	12.3%	399	9.7%
South Ayrshire	3,774	21.9%	2,994	17.4%
South Lanarkshire	11,088	19.9%	8,784	15.8%
Stirling	2,458	16.4%	1,972	13.2%
West Dunbartonshire	3,900	25.6%	2,992	19.6%
West Lothian	7,266	20.7%	5,738	16.3%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	156,179	17.1%

Within Fife, child poverty is highest in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituencies, and lowest 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, 2022/23 (Source: DWP)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Dunfermline and West Fife	3,822	20.6%	3,002	16.2%
Glenrothes (includes Levenmouth)	4,692	28.8%	3,754	23.1%
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	4,674	26.4%	3,717	21.0%
North East Fife	1,840	16.5%	1,449	13.0%
Fife	15,024	23.6%	11,923	18.7%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	156,179	17.1%

At ward level, relative child poverty is highest in Kirkcaldy Central and Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Village, followed by Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty. It is lowest in Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay 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, 2022/23 (Source: DWP)

Ward	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,170	34.3%	948	27.8%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	551	21.8%	448	17.7%
Cowdenbeath	1,028	25.2%	800	19.6%
Cupar	375	16.5%	298	13.1%
Dunfermline Central	620	17.5%	502	14.2%
Dunfermline North	465	17.3%	362	13.5%
Dunfermline South	881	17.2%	686	13.4%
East Neuk and Landward	416	22.9%	320	17.6%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	809	28.1%	646	22.5%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	784	24.5%	664	20.8%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	886	28.5%	677	21.8%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	351	17.6%	275	13.8%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	361	12.9%	296	10.6%
Kirkcaldy Central	944	38.5%	803	32.8%
Kirkcaldy East	841	31.0%	663	24.4%
Kirkcaldy North	751	23.3%	572	17.8%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	740	23.2%	586	18.4%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	1,177	32.1%	896	24.4%
Rosyth	669	24.3%	517	18.8%
St. Andrews	172	11.0%	132	8.4%
Tay Bridgehead	390	13.8%	325	11.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	659	23.6%	519	18.6%
Fife	15,024	23.6%	11,923	18.7%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	156,179	17.1%

Note: local area statistics are calculated on the basis of 2021 Electoral Wards.

Technical Notes

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 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. Figures for the latest year are provisional and will be subject to revision in subsequent releases.

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 (a single adult; married or cohabiting couple; or a Civil Partnership; and any dependent children) in low income (not households) in the reference year, whereas Absolute low income measures families in low income based on what low income looked like year ending 2011.

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 2025.

More information is available at [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2023)

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