

Town Centres



Vacancy Rate, April 2018

	South & West Fife	Fife
% of Vacant Floor Space	16.9%	20.2%
% of Vacant Units	10.7%	16.9%

Source: GOAD Data (Fife Council) - Latest available data is for April 2018

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee. The vacancy rate is calculated using data for Inverkeithing and Kincardine town centres.

Commentary:

- Between April 2014 and April 2018, South & West Fife's vacancy rate by retail unit increased by 0.9 percentage points.
- Over this period, the number of vacant units in Inverkeithing decreased, but the number of vacant units in Kincardine increased.
- On the other hand, vacancy rates by floors pace increased by 8.0 percentage points over the same period. This was mainly driven by an increase in both total floor space and vacant floor space.
- Despite this, the overall vacancy rates for South & West Fife (for both floor space and units) are less than the Fife averages for both units and floor space.
- Looking at the two towns which make up the South & West Fife figure, Kincardine has experienced the greatest increase in vacancy rates since 2014. This has mainly been driven by both an increase in units and an increase in vacant floor space / units.

Employment



Employment rate, 12-months to June 2018

	South & West Fife	Fife	Scotland
Employment rate	72.4%	75.8%	74.5%
Employment rate - Female	60.9%	71.4%	70.7%
Employment rate - Male	82.5%	80.5%	78.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

Employment by occupation, 12-months to June 2018

	South & West Fife	Fife	Scotland
High skilled	!	28.2%	29.1%
Technician	29.4%	24.5%	24.5%
Low skilled	38.8%	47.0%	46.0%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

! - denotes that the sample size is too small to give a reliable estimate of employment

Commentary:

Employment rate:

- When compared with the other Fife areas, South & West Fife's male employment rate was the second highest after Dunfermline (85.1%).
- Despite this, the overall and female employment rates were below the Fife and Scottish averages.

Occupation:

- Based on available data, South & West Fife has more people in technical jobs compared with Fife and Scotland. Due to the sample size, the proportion of people in high skilled occupations is unavailable.
- The proportion of people in low skilled jobs is lower than for Fife and Scotland.
- See the Business Base & Key Sectors section for a full breakdown of employment by industry sector.

Unemployment



Unemployment*, 12-months to June 2018

	Fife	Scotland
Unemployment rate	3.0%	4.1%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

* Unemployment for the South & West Fife area is unavailable because the sample size is too small to give a reliable estimate.

Economic Inactivity, 12-months to June 2018

	South & West Fife	Fife	Scotland
Economic Inactivity	24.2%	21.9%	22.2%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

Claimant Rate, October 2018

	Claimant Rate
South & West Fife Area Committee	2.7%
Ward 1. West Fife and Coastal Villages	3.5%
Ward 5. Rosyth	2.6%
Ward 6. Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	2.1%
Fife	3.7%
Scotland	2.7%

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee and wards

Commentary:

- The claimant rate is the sum of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants and people who are required to search for work on Universal Credit as a percentage of the working age population.
- The three wards in South & West Fife have claimant rates below the Fife and Scottish rates. The lowest claimant rate for a Fife ward was 0.6% in St Andrews and the highest was 7.8% in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages at October 2018.

Weekly Earnings



Median Weekly Earnings, 2018

	Dunfermline & West Fife	Fife	Scotland
Resident Earnings	£601.80	£543.40	£562.70
Workplace Earnings	£548.00	£521.50	£563.20

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings

Geography: Dunfermline & West Fife Westminster Parliamentary Constituency. This boundary does not include Dalgety Bay and Aberdour.

Commentary:

- Resident earnings reflect those who live in the area, but do not necessarily work in the area, and workplace earnings reflect those who work in the area, but do not necessarily live in the area.
- Dunfermline & West Fife's resident earnings are higher than workplace earnings which suggest that commuting to areas outwith Dunfermline & West Fife (i.e. Edinburgh) provide higher paid jobs.
- This is similar to most of Fife's areas with resident earnings higher than workplace earnings.
- Dunfermline & West Fife's weekly earnings (for both resident and workplace) are the highest out of the four Fife parliamentary constituency areas.

Qualifications & Skills



Qualifications, 2017

	South & West Fife	Fife	Scotland
% 16-64 year olds: No Qualifications	5.9%	7.3%	8.7%
% 16-64 year olds: NVQ4 or above	42.3%	45.0%	43.9%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
 Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

Percentage of school leavers achieving a positive destination, 2016/17

	Fife	Scotland
% of school leavers achieving a positive destination	90.9%	92.9%

Source: Scottish Government
 Geography: Not available at a sub-Fife level

School leaver STEM attainment by level and local authority, 2016

	Fife	Scotland
% of all leavers with a STEM subject pass at SCQF level 6+	33.2%	35.4%
% of all leavers with a STEM subject pass at SCQF level 7+	8.0%	8.5%

Source: SQA
 Geography: Not available at a sub-Fife level

Participation in the Culture of Enterprise (CoE) Programme, 2017/18

	South & West Fife	Fife
Number of school engagements	24	158
Number of businesses engaged with schools	48	295
Number of pupils participating in CoE activities	562	4,471

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development
 Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

Commentary:

- Pupils from Inverkeithing High School participated in the 2018 Raytheon Quadcopter Challenge – a STEM focused national programme run by the company, Raytheon. The team from Inverkeithing were chosen to represent Fife at the UK final in Manchester and came second overall in the UK.
- 160 pupils across Fife took part in Foundation Apprenticeships (FA) in June 2018. There are 12 different frameworks in the FA programme, including Business Skills, Civil Engineering, Engineering, Financial Services, Scientific Technologies, Children & Young People Social Services, and Software Development.

Business Base & Key Sectors



UK Business Counts, 2018

	Dunfermline & West Fife	Fife	Scotland
Number of enterprises	2,530	9,730	174,730

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Geography: Dunfermline & West Fife Westminster Parliamentary Constituency. This boundary does not include Dalgety Bay and Aberdour.

Financial support to businesses in Fife, 2017/18

	South & West Fife	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses supported	12	69	17%
Value of financial support	£32,828	£178,847	18%
Jobs created as a result of financial support to businesses	22.5	192.5	16%

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

Number of start-ups supported by Business Gateway Fife, 2017/18

	South & West Fife	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses receiving Expert Help	17	139	12%
Number of businesses accessing business growth services	2	54	4%
Business Gateway supported start-ups:			
No. of Business Gateway start-ups	58	468	12%
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	77	609	13%
Turnover generated	£2,754,500	£17,740,680	16%

Source: Business Gateway Fife

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

Employment by sector, 2016

	South & West Fife	Fife	% of Fife total
A : Agriculture, forestry and fishing*	30	4,000	0.8%
B : Mining and quarrying	30	200	15.0%
C : Manufacturing	4,000	15,000	26.7%
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	150	400	37.5%
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	175	1,000	17.5%
F : Construction	2,500	8,000	31.3%
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2,000	22,000	9.1%

	South & West Fife	Fife	% of Fife total
H : Transportation and storage	450	6,000	7.5%
I : Accommodation and food service activities	900	10,000	9.0%
J : Information and communication	450	3,500	12.9%
K : Financial and insurance activities	600	4,000	15.0%
L : Real estate activities	100	1,000	10.0%
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,750	7,000	25.0%
N : Administrative and support service activities	1,500	8,000	18.8%
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	800	13,000	6.2%
P : Education	700	12,000	5.8%
Q : Human health and social work activities	1,000	20,000	5.0%
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	300	4,000	7.5%
S : Other service activities	400	3,500	11.4%

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey

Geography: South & West Fife Area Committee

* Excludes farm agriculture.

Commentary:

- South & West Fife has many large employers: Babcock, BAE Systems, Forth Ports, Sainsbury's Bank and Marine Harvest to name a few.
- 38 of FC Economic Development's Top 200 listed businesses are located in the South & West Fife area.

Recent business activity:

- Umbilicals International has opened a new 780m² manufacturing facility in Rosyth. The firm aims to employ 58 people between Scotland and the United States.
- Nearly all 370 workers who were made redundant due to the closure of Longannet Power Station in March 2016 have found employment.
- Contractor Babcock confirmed in Nov 2017 that 250 jobs were to be lost from the core staff around 1,900 at Rosyth Dockyard following a reduction in work as the of the £6 billion contract to build 2 Royal Navy new generation aircraft carriers nears completion.
- Fears for Fife's shipbuilding future and its hundreds of jobs have been heightened after the UK government announced that it was to restart competition for work on the Type 31e frigate programme. Unions and politicians described the move as a body blow to the industry and Rosyth, which was set to benefit from the £1.25 billion contract.
- Fife Council is currently supporting a major regeneration initiative at Fraser Avenue in Inverkeithing, working with RSL partner Kingdom Housing Association. The project will involve the demolition of existing low demand 3-storey common access flats built in the 1950/60s and construction of new high quality, sustainable affordable housing.
- Committee approval in June 2018 for plans to charge commuters £1/day at Halbeath and Ferrytoll Park & Ride sites may be overturned following concerns raised by bus operator Stagecoach.
- Approval was granted on appeal in July 2018 for Taylor Wimpey to build 295 homes at Spencerfield, Inverkeithing without previously included health & education contributions.

Tourism



Tourism Indicators, 2017

	Dunfermline	Fife
Total day trips	2,032,000	7,700,000
Visitor spend	£94,459,000	£429,815,000
Tourism value	£116,216,000	£588,540,000
Actual tourism related employment	2,474	12,034
Percentage of all employment	4%	9%

Source: Fife Council – Tourism

Geography: Dunfermline includes South & West Fife

Commentary:

- The DoubleTree by Hilton - Edinburgh Queensferry Crossing gained a 4-star grading from VisitScotland following its relaunch and £15 million makeover in August 2017.
- Silver Sands Beach at Aberdour is one of the most popular and attractive beaches on the Fife coast and holds a Keep Scotland Beautiful Beach Award for 2018. The location provides the combination of seaside and countryside, and facilities include a popular beachside café, playpark and public toilets.
- The South & West Fife coastline enjoys unrivalled views of the Forth Bridges. The Forth Rail Bridge was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in its 125th anniversary year in July 2015 and now enjoys the same status as the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China. The Forth Road Bridge is also of great engineering significance – being the fourth longest in the world and longest outside the United States when it opened in 1964. The new Queensferry Crossing, opened in August 2017, is the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world.
- South & West Fife is particularly well-connected to the 117-mile Fife Coastal Path, stretching from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Tay. Destinations along the route include Culross, Charlestown, Limekilns, North Queensferry, Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay and Aberdour Silver Sands Beach.
- The new 104 km/64 mile Fife Pilgrims Way long-distance walking route has starting points at both Culross and North Queensferry in South & West Fife and winds north-east to St Andrews. The path is due to fully open to visitors in 2019.
- Culross was recently featured as a location for the popular Outlander TV series.
- Knockhill Racing Circuit near Dunfermline has been Scotland's National Motorsport Centre for over 40 years and is host to the UK's top televised motorsport events including the British Touring Car and British Superbike Championships. The venue includes a 1.27 mile long racing circuit, hillside rally stage, 4x4 off road track, outdoor karting circuit, skid pan, restaurants and conferencing facilities.
- The largest cruise ship ever to visit the Forth, MSC Meraviglia, arrived in June 2018 for a 12-hour visit carrying around 4,500 passengers and 1,000 crew. The visit is part of the busiest year for cruise passengers to the Forth, with around 70,000 visitors from 24 ships expected ashore at Hawes Pier, South Queensferry during 2018.
- Events taking place in South & West Fife in 2018 include the programme of motorsport events at Knockhill and the annual Inverkeithing Highland Games in August.
- The former PKD music festival, an established event in South & West Fife from 2008 to 2017 relocated to the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston as ScotFest in 2018.
- Inverkeithing benefits from being a principle east coast railway station, with Rosyth included on the Fife Circle rail link.