

Town Centres



Vacancy Rate, April 2018

	Glenrothes	Fife
% of Vacant Floor Space	24.5%	20.2%
% of Vacant Units	19.6%	16.9%

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

Commentary:

- Between April 2013 and April 2018, Glenrothes town centre's vacancy rate by floor space decreased over this period by 4.4 percentage points.
- Over the same period, the amount of vacant floor space decreased as did the total amount of floor space in Glenrothes town centre.
- Recent closures, such as Dunes, is likely to have impacted the vacancy rates.

Activity:

- Work began on the Glenrothes District Heat Scheme in July 2018. The project will provide sustainable low carbon heat to a mix of industrial, commercial, community and domestic properties in Glenrothes as part of a collaboration between Fife Council, RWE and the Scottish Government.

Retail:

- Poundworld went into administration in June 2018. The Glenrothes store subsequently closed in July 2018.
- Sports Direct reported a sharp fall in profits from £281.6m in 2016/17 to £77.5m in 2017/18. There are no current plans for store closures.
- Dixons Carphone reported a fall in profits in June 2018. The retailer is set to close 92 of its more than 700 stores this year. No stores in Fife are currently scheduled to close.
- New Look reported a drop in sales in 2017/18. The company is set to close 60 stores and cut 1,000 jobs. There is no proposal at present to close the Glenrothes store.
- Work is underway on the new £10 million development in the centre of Glenrothes. The development of the former CISWO site on North Street is expected to be completed by the end of the year and host a number of retailers and restaurants, including a Marks & Spencer's Food Hall, Tony Macaroni and KFC. Work is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Employment



Employment rate, 12-months to June 2018

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
Employment rate	70.8%	75.8%	74.5%
Employment rate - Female	71.5%	71.4%	70.7%
Employment rate - Male	70.1%	80.5%	78.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Employment by occupation, 12-months to June 2018

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
High skilled	13.7%	28.2%	29.1%
Technician	25.1%	24.5%	24.5%
Low skilled	33.8%	47.0%	46.0%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Commentary:

Employment rate:

- Despite having rates above the Fife average for female employment, the Glenrothes area has the lowest employment rate and male employment rate compared with Fife's other areas.

Occupation:

- The Glenrothes area has the lowest percentage of high skilled workers when compared with other Fife areas.
- 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 Glenrothes area is unavailable because the sample size is too small to give a reliable estimate.

Economic Inactivity, 12-months to June 2018

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
Economic Inactivity	28.1%	21.9%	22.2%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Claimant Rate, October 2018

	Claimant Rate
Glenrothes Area Committee	3.5%
Ward 13. Glenrothes West & Kinglassie	3.7%
Ward 14. Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	2.6%
Ward 15. Glenrothes Central & Thornton	4.3%
Fife	3.7%
Scotland	2.7%

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Geography: Glenrothes 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.
- Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch has the lowest claimant rate out of the three Glenrothes wards, and was below both the Fife and Scottish averages.
- In comparison with other Fife wards, 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

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
Resident Earnings	£510.40	£543.40	£562.70
Workplace Earnings	£502.00	£521.50	£563.20

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings

Geography: Glenrothes Westminster Parliamentary Constituency. This boundary includes Buckhaven, Kennoway and Methil and parts of Leven, and goes as far west as Cardenden.

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.
- Glenrothes' resident earnings are higher than workplace earnings which suggest that commuting to areas outwith Glenrothes can provide residents with higher paid jobs.
- This is similar throughout Fife's areas with resident earnings typically higher than workplace earnings.

Qualifications & Skills



Qualifications, 2017

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
% 16-64 year olds: No Qualifications	6.8%	7.3%	8.7%
% 16-64 year olds: NVQ4 or above	30.6%	45.0%	43.9%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
Geography: Glenrothes 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

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

	Glenrothes	Fife
Number of school engagements	41	158
Number of businesses engaged with schools	128	295
Number of pupils participating in CoE activities	732	4,471

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development
Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Commentary:

- Pupils from Auchmuty, Glenrothes and Glenwood high schools participated in the 2018 Raytheon Quadcopter Challenge. STEM Ambassadors from Glenrothes-based, Raytheon, worked with pupils across a number of Fife schools to design, build and fly their own quadcopter and develop skills.
- 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.
- Glenrothes benefits from being one of Fife College's major campus locations.

Business Base & Key Sectors



UK Business Counts, 2018

	Glenrothes	Fife	Scotland
Number of enterprises	1,745	9,730	174,730

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Geography: Glenrothes Westminster Parliamentary Constituency. This boundary includes Buckhaven, Kennoway and Methil and parts of Leven, and goes as far west as Cardenden.

Financial support to businesses in Fife, 2017/18

	Glenrothes	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses supported	13	69	10%
Value of financial support	£30,498	£178,847	12%
Jobs created as a result of financial support to businesses	62.5	192.5	16%

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

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

	Glenrothes	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses receiving Expert Help	26	139	18%
Number of businesses accessing business growth services	10	54	19%
Business Gateway supported start-ups:			
No. of Business Gateway start-ups	73	468	14%
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	101	609	13%
Turnover generated	£2,353,180	£17,740,680	1%

Source: Business Gateway Fife

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

Employment by sector, 2016

	Glenrothes	Fife	% of Fife total
A : Agriculture, forestry and fishing*	5	4,000	0.1%
B : Mining and quarrying	100	200	50.0%
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	225	1,000	22.5%
F : Construction	700	8,000	8.8%
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3,000	22,000	13.6%

	Glenrothes	Fife	% of Fife total
H : Transportation and storage	600	6,000	10.0%
I : Accommodation and food service activities	1,000	10,000	10.0%
J : Information and communication	125	3,500	3.6%
K : Financial and insurance activities	800	4,000	20.0%
L : Real estate activities	125	1,000	12.5%
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	900	7,000	12.9%
N : Administrative and support service activities	800	8,000	10.0%
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	10,000	13,000	76.9%
P : Education	1,250	12,000	10.4%
Q : Human health and social work activities	3,000	20,000	15.0%
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	400	4,000	10.0%
S : Other service activities	800	3,500	22.9%

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey

Geography: Glenrothes Area Committee

* Excludes farm agriculture.

Commentary:

- Large employers located within Glenrothes include: Bosch Rexroth; Raytheon; Fife Council; Fife Fabrications; Semefab; Velux; CoorsTek; Glendale Plastics; ASDA; and Morrisons.
- 46 businesses listed in Fife Council Economic Development's Top 200 businesses are located in Glenrothes. These businesses are account managed by Economic Development based on their size, turnover or relative importance to the local economy.

Recent business activity:

- Fife Council received news in June 2018 that its application to the 2018 Enterprising Britain Awards in relation to Glenrothes has been shortlisted by the UK Government, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- A new masterplan proposal for the re-development of the former Tullis Russell paper mill site has been submitted to Fife Council by planners Barton Willmore on behalf of Bellshill-based Advance Construction. Proposals for the mixed-use development include 850 new homes along with retail & leisure facilities, business space and industrial units and a care home. It is estimated that the development could provide a £42million boost to the area and create up to 450 jobs and temporary employment for 300 construction workers over the 10-yr building programme.
- Since opening in Glenrothes in May 2017, the Enterprise Hub has enabled entrepreneurs and early stage businesses to office space and hot desking facilities. Kaber Helm was one of the first to benefit at that critical stage of needing to grow beyond its office at home. The start-up recently moved out of the new set-up into its own, larger premises at the business incubator in Mitchelston, Kirkcaldy, to accommodate its growing team of software developers.

Tourism



Tourism Indicators, 2017

	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife	Fife
Total day trips	1,933,000	7,700,000
Visitor spend	£96,396,000	£429,815,000
Tourism value	£127,050,000	£588,540,000
Actual tourism related employment	2,735	12,034
Percentage of all employment	4%	9%

Source: Fife Council – Tourism

Geography: Kirkcaldy data includes Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes

Commentary:

- Fife Council's new Heartlands of Fife tourism campaign will showcase ancient sites, facilities and natural heritage in the centre of the region, focusing on Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Levenmouth.
- Balbirnie House Hotel in Markinch has been shortlisted for the Haute Grandeur 2018 Best Destination Wedding Hotel and Best Destination Wedding Retreat on a country, continent and global basis. This is the third year that Balbirnie has been acknowledged by the Haute Grandeur Global Hotel Awards. In 2016, the hotel was named as Europe's Best Destination Wedding Retreat and 2017 saw them scoop three prizes: Best Function Venue Hotel in Europe, Best Romantic Hotel in Europe and Best Destination Wedding Hotel in Europe. The hotel was also named as Scotland's Best Wedding Hotel in April 2018, while Head Chef Robbie Penman was named as Executive Chef of the Year at the Scottish Food Awards in May 2018.
- Events taking place in and around Glenrothes in 2018 include Highland Games, Glenrothes Comic Con and the Glenrothes 70th anniversary programme.
- Glenrothes benefits from being the location for Fife's biggest sports and leisure facility. The Michael Woods Sports & Leisure Centre incorporates: an 8-lane competition swimming pool with a spectator gallery for 250 people; a training pool with underwater movable floor; an 80-station gym, strength and conditioning studio and purpose-built aerobics studio; regional standard 8-badminton court sports hall and 2 squash courts; an 11-a-side synthetic pitch, indoor 3G football arena with 7-a-side and 5-a-side pitch markings, a 3G synthetic pitch, tennis court and an athletics track.
- The Rothes Halls in Glenrothes is located adjoining the Kingdom Shopping Centre and provides a purpose-built multi-function performance and conference facility incorporating 2 auditoriums, 12 meeting rooms, art gallery space and cafe.
- Riverside Park in Glenrothes Riverside Park provides attractive woodland walks, floral gardens, a pond, several play areas, town art sculptures, outdoor fitness equipment, football facilities and one of Fife's largest skateboard parks.
- Kinglassie, Leslie, Glenrothes and Markinch feature as destinations on the new 104 km / 64 mile Fife Pilgrims Way long distance walking route that starts at Culross and North Queensferry and winds north-east to St. Andrews. The path is due to fully open to visitors in 2019.