

Fife Findings: Children in low income families – 2020/21 local area statistics

Experimental Statistics from DWP

31 March 2022

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.

17.3% of children in Fife (13,724 aged under 16) are living in relative poverty before housing costs. 9,047 children (14.1%) are living in absolute poverty before housing costs. This is above 15.9% and 12.9% for Scotland respectively. While there has been little change in absolute poverty since 2014/15, relative poverty increased in Fife from 16% to 21% between 2014/15 and 2019/20.

Note: caution is needed in interpreting large changes for the year ending 2021 to data for previous years, given discontinuities in data collection owing to the pandemic.

Table 1 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), in Fife and Scotland, 2020/21 (Source: DWP)

	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Fife	11,096	17.3%	9,047	14.1%
Scotland	146,088	15.9%	118,689	12.9%

Poverty affects children in every part of Scotland, with an estimated 24.6% of children living in relative poverty in Glasgow compared to 8.3% of children in East Dunbartonshire (see **Figure 1**):

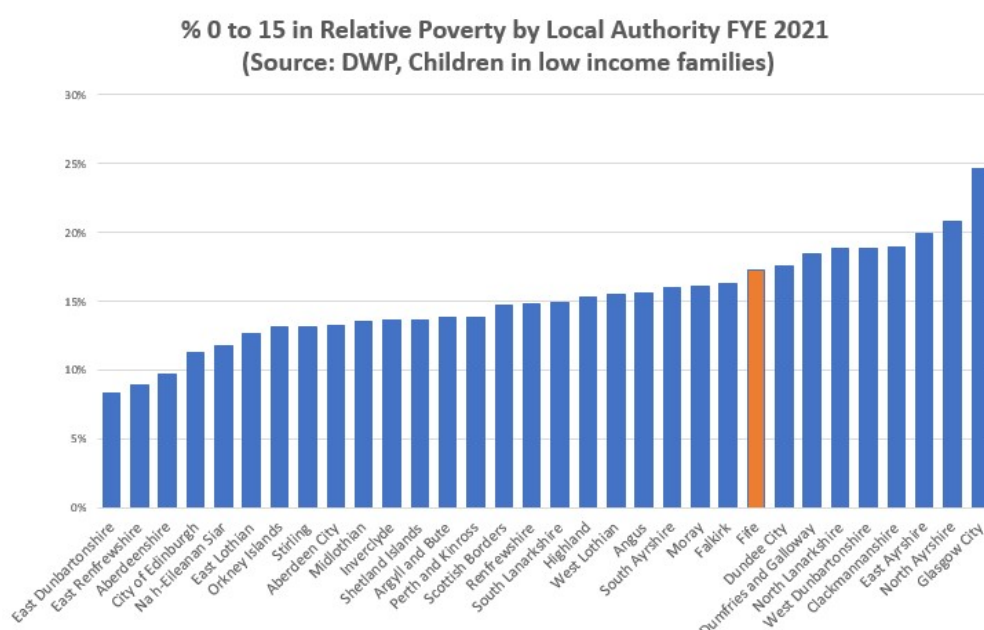


Figure 1: Children living in Relative Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority, 2020/21 (Source: DWP)

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, 2020/21 (Source: DWP)

Local Authority	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Aberdeen City	4,731	13.2%	3,928	11.0%
Aberdeenshire	4,741	9.7%	3,892	8.0%
Angus	2,948	15.6%	2,390	12.6%
Argyll and Bute	1,736	13.8%	1,398	11.1%
City of Edinburgh	8,974	11.3%	7,286	9.2%
Clackmannanshire	1,680	18.9%	1,311	14.7%
Dumfries and Galloway	4,237	18.4%	3,368	14.6%
Dundee City	4,219	17.6%	3,347	14.0%
East Ayrshire	4,144	19.9%	3,387	16.2%
East Dunbartonshire	1,617	8.3%	1,327	6.8%
East Lothian	2,484	12.6%	2,011	10.2%
East Renfrewshire	1,756	8.9%	1,418	7.2%
Falkirk	4,532	16.3%	3,714	13.3%
Fife	11,096	17.3%	9,047	14.1%
Glasgow City	24,761	24.6%	20,248	20.2%
Highland	5,878	15.3%	4,817	12.5%
Inverclyde	1,683	13.6%	1,299	10.5%
Midlothian	2,446	13.5%	2,019	11.2%
Moray	2,582	16.1%	2,096	13.1%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	488	11.8%	423	10.2%
North Ayrshire	4,634	20.8%	3,708	16.6%
North Lanarkshire	11,699	18.8%	9,557	15.3%
Orkney Islands	467	13.1%	390	10.9%
Perth and Kinross	3,350	13.8%	2,736	11.3%
Renfrewshire	4,459	14.8%	3,599	11.9%
Scottish Borders	2,772	14.7%	2,213	11.8%
Shetland Islands	564	13.6%	495	11.9%
South Ayrshire	2,792	16.0%	2,255	12.9%
South Lanarkshire	8,270	14.9%	6,615	11.9%
Stirling	1,986	13.1%	1,597	10.5%
West Dunbartonshire	2,914	18.8%	2,322	15.0%
West Lothian	5,448	15.5%	4,476	12.7%
Scotland	146,088	15.9%	118,689	12.9%

Within Fife, child poverty remains highest in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituencies, and lower 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, 2020/21 (Source: DWP)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Dunfermline and West Fife	2,850	15.3%	2,307	12.4%
Glenrothes (includes Levenmouth)	3,345	20.5%	2,740	16.8%
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	3,534	19.6%	2,861	15.9%
North East Fife	1,369	12.2%	1,136	10.2%
Fife	11,096	17.3%	9,047	14.1%
Scotland	146,088	15.9%	118,689	12.9%

At ward level, child poverty remains highest in Kirkcaldy Central and East, Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages, and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty, and lowest in Tay Bridgehead and St Andrews. Notably, East Neuk and Landward continues to have higher rates of both relative and absolute child poverty than many other Fife wards (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, 2020/21 (Source: DWP)

Ward	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	825	24.3%	659	19.4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	400	16.4%	318	13.0%
Cowdenbeath	767	18.7%	657	16.0%
Cupar	291	13.0%	237	10.6%
Dunfermline Central	416	11.9%	349	10.0%
Dunfermline North	333	12.4%	252	9.4%
Dunfermline South	678	13.2%	536	10.5%
East Neuk and Landward	292	16.5%	260	14.7%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	592	20.9%	493	17.4%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	534	16.7%	453	14.1%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	634	20.8%	512	16.8%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	278	14.0%	222	11.2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	283	10.3%	240	8.8%
Kirkcaldy Central	643	25.8%	523	21.0%
Kirkcaldy East	691	24.9%	567	20.4%
Kirkcaldy North	572	17.7%	448	13.8%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	512	16.2%	416	13.2%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	890	24.1%	696	18.9%
Rosyth	502	18.1%	418	15.1%
St. Andrews	135	9.1%	110	7.4%
Tay Bridgehead	270	9.9%	224	8.2%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	564	20.7%	459	16.9%
Fife	11,096	17.3%	9,047	14.1%
Scotland	146,088	15.9%	118,689	12.9%

Note: local area statistics are calculated on the basis of 2007 Ward boundaries.

Technical Notes

This is the third release of the local area 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.

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.

Impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on statistics for the financial year ending (FYE) 2021: While the data for FYE 2021 has undergone extensive quality assurance prior to publication, DWP recommend that users exercise additional caution when using the data for FYE 2021, particularly when making comparisons with previous years and when comparing local areas across countries. This is especially recommended when interpreting larger changes observed in FYE 2021.

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 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 2023.

More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2021>

Report Contact

Coryn Barclay, Fife Council Research Team coryn.barclay@fife.gov.uk