

Town Centres



Vacancy Rate, April 2018

	Cowdenbeath	Fife
% of Vacant Floor space	25.3%	20.0%
% of Vacant Units	24.2%	15.3%

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

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee. The vacancy rate is calculated using data for Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly town centres.

Commentary:

- Between April 2014 and April 2018, Cowdenbeath Area Committee's vacancy rate by retail unit increased by 6.6 percentage points.
- During the same period, the number of vacant units increased and the number of total units increased.
- The vacancy rate based on floor space also increased by 6.7 percentage points over the same period, experiencing both an increase in total floor space and an increase in vacant floor space.
- In July 2018, Lidl and B&M announced plans to open new stores at the former North End Park site near Cowdenbeath High Street as part of both retailers' ambitious expansion plans in Scotland. The proposed development is expected to create around 80 jobs.

Employment



Employment rate, 12-months to June 2018

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
Employment rate	72.8%	75.8%	74.5%
Employment rate - Female	66.2%	71.4%	70.7%
Employment rate - Male	83.0%	80.5%	78.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
 Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Employment by occupation, 12-months to June 2018

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
High skilled	24.3%	28.2%	29.1%
Technician	26.4%	24.5%	24.5%
Low skilled	!	47.0%	46.0%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
 Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee
 ! - denotes that the sample size is too small to give a reliable estimate of employment

Commentary:

Employment rate:

- Cowdenbeath area's employment rate is lower than the averages for both Fife and Scotland, and is the third lowest rate when compared with Fife's other areas.
- The Cowdenbeath female employment rate is the lowest rate in Fife.
- The male employment rate however is higher than both Fife and Scotland. It is also the third highest rate out of Fife's seven areas after South West Fife, which only had a slightly higher rate of male employment at 84.4%.

Occupation:

- Based on available data, the Cowdenbeath area is below the Fife and Scottish averages for high skilled employment.
- Despite this, the Cowdenbeath area has a higher proportion of people employed in technical jobs. Its rate of 26.4% is higher than Fife and Scotland, and is the second highest out of Fife's seven areas.
- See the Business Based & 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 at Cowdenbeath area level is unavailable as sample size is too small to give a reliable estimate.

Economic Inactivity, 12-months to June 2018

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
Economic Inactivity	27.2%	21.9%	22.2%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Claimant Rate, October 2018

	Claimant Rate
Cowdenbeath Area Committee	5.2%
Ward 7. Cowdenbeath	4.7%
Ward 8. Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	5.7%
Fife	3.7%
Scotland	2.7%

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Geography: Cowdenbeath 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 Cowdenbeath area's claimant rate is higher than the Fife average, as is the area's two wards: Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty. In comparison to other areas, 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

	Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
Resident Earnings	£499.30	£543.40	£562.70
Workplace Earnings	£534.20	£521.50	£563.20

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings

Geography: Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath Westminster Parliamentary Constituency. This boundary includes 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.
- Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath's resident earnings are lower than workplace earnings which suggests that those who work in the area are earning more than those who commute to other areas.

Travel to work areas:

- An interactive map showing commuter flows in Scotland can be accessed [here](#).
- 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.



Qualifications & Skills

Qualifications, 2017

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
% 16-64 year olds: No Qualifications	4.9%	7.3%	8.7%
% 16-64 year olds: NVQ4 or above	46.3%	45.0%	43.9%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
 Geography: Cowdenbeath 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

	Cowdenbeath	Fife
Number of school engagements	33	158
Number of businesses engaged with schools	28	295
Number of pupils participating in CoE activities	1,529	4,471

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

Commentary:

- The Cowdenbeath area has the lowest proportion of 16-64 year olds with no qualifications when compared to the other Fife areas.
- 160 pupils across Fife took part in Foundation Apprenticeships in June 2018, taking part in one of the 12 different frameworks 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

	Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath	Fife	Scotland
Number of enterprises	2,820	9,730	174,730

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Geography: Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath Westminster Parliamentary Constituency. This boundary includes Dalgety Bay and Aberdour.

Financial support to businesses in Fife, 2017/18

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses supported	7	69	10%
Value of financial support	£21,969	£178,847	12%
Jobs created as a result of financial support to businesses	31.5	192.5	16%

Source: Fife Council – Economic Development

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

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

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	% of Fife total
Number of businesses receiving Expert Help	25	139	18%
Business Gateway supported start-ups:			
No. of Business Gateway start-ups	66	468	14%
No. of jobs created from Business Gateway	80	609	13%
Turnover generated	£224,500	£17,740,680	1%

Source: Business Gateway Fife

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Employment by sector, 2017

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	% of Fife total
A : Agriculture, forestry and fishing*	10	4,000	0.3%
B : Mining and quarrying	40	200	20.0%
C : Manufacturing	900	15,000	6.0%
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	50	400	12.5%
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	50	1,000	5.0%
F : Construction	600	8,000	7.5%

	Cowdenbeath	Fife	% of Fife total
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,250	22,000	5.7%
H : Transportation and storage	600	6,000	10.0%
I : Accommodation and food service activities	350	10,000	3.5%
J : Information and communication	50	3,500	1.4%
K : Financial and insurance activities	40	4,000	1.0%
L : Real estate activities	75	1,000	7.5%
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	250	7,000	3.6%
N : Administrative and support service activities	250	8,000	3.1%
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	225	13,000	1.7%
P : Education	900	12,000	7.5%
Q : Human health and social work activities	1,000	20,000	5.0%
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	350	4,000	8.8%
S : Other service activities	225	3,500	6.4%

Source: ONS Business Register & Employment Survey

Geography: Cowdenbeath Area Committee

* Excludes farm agriculture.

Commentary:

- Some of the companies located in the Cowdenbeath area include the Shell and ExxonMobil Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran, Grahams Family Dairy, Robert Purvis, SCORE Europe and BRAG Enterprises.
- 8 businesses listed in Fife Council Economic Development's Top 200 are located in the Cowdenbeath area. These businesses are account managed by Economic Development due to their size, turnover and importance to the local economy.

Activity

- Around 80 jobs are to be created in Cowdenbeath after two well-known discount chains confirmed their intention to move into the town. Lidl and B&M are to open new stores at the former North End Park site near Cowdenbeath High Street as part of both retailers' ambitious expansion plans in Scotland.
- Cowdenbeath-based steel fabrication company, Rippon Ltd went into administration in Aug 2018 with the loss of 25 jobs. The company had been in business since 1974 and had experienced a significant downturn in orders.
- Mossmorran Fife Ethylene Plant operator Shell has been issued with a fine of £40k for failure to report emissions accurately. Both Shell and site neighbour ExxonMobil have also received final warnings from SEPA regarding the number of unplanned flaring incidents at the site

Tourism



Tourism Indicators, 2017

	Kirkcaldy	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: Cambridge Model

Geography: Kirkcaldy data includes Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes.

Commentary:

- The new Fife Cycle Park at Lochgelly was officially opened in May by Provost Jim Leishman & cyclist Mark Beaumont. The first of its kind in Scotland, the facility comprises a 1.6km outdoor closed-loop cycling circuit and clubhouse facility.
- Lochore Meadows Country Park is located on the B920 between Lochgelly & Ballingry. It is Fife's most popular outdoor attraction and holds a 4-star visitor rating from VisitScotland. The park covers 1,200 acres and provides opportunities for golf, walking, cycling, fishing and watersports including sailing, canoeing, kayaking and open water swimming. Much of the park is accessible to wheelchairs and buggies and all-terrain mobility scooters and adaptive bikes are also available for hire. The Council's Outdoor Education Team are also based at the park.
- The new Willie Clarke visitor centre was opened in 2018 and incorporates a café, public toilets, two education rooms and visitor exhibition & information displays. The park has also recently started to welcome motorhome overnight stays and is looking at the possibility of developing onsite accommodation.
- Major events hosted at Lochore Meadows in 2018 include the 'Park Fife' festival celebrating the Year of Young People, the Rockore Music Festival and the Tiger Escapade obstacle race challenge.
- Kelty, Lochore Meadows and Cardenden are all 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.