

Child poverty data report South Ayrshire

South Ayrshire

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Version history

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Contents

Introduction	5
Background	5
Why use this document?	6
Potential local priorities for South Ayrshire	7
Higher priority	7
Medium priority	8
Lower priority (maintain progress)	9
Data on relative poverty	10
Number and proportion of children under 16 living in relative poverty at ward and local authority level, before housing costs	10
Number and proportion of children under 16 living in relative poverty at local authority level, after housing costs	11
Number of children in relative poverty in a household where at least one adult works	11
The number of children in relative poverty in lone-parent households	12
Data on income from social security and benefits in kind	13
Families with children affected by the benefit cap (number and rate per 1,000), by local authority	13
Number and proportion of households affected by the two-child limit, by local authority	14
Proportion of Crisis Grants for families with dependent children which result in an award, by local authority	14
The number of Crisis Grants awarded to all recipients	15
Estimated take-up rate for the Scottish Child Payment (for children aged under 16)	16
The number of children receiving the Scottish Child Payment	17
Proportion of successful applications for Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods, by local authority	17
Proportion of P1–P7 pupils registered and present taking Free School Meals	18

Proportion of S1–S6 pupils registered and present taking Free School Meals	19
Discretionary Housing Payment award rate and average value of awards	19
The number of young people in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance	20
Council Tax Reduction recipients by family type, March 2023	21
Number of child winter heating assistance payments	21
Data on population context	22
Number of children within specific age groups, by local authority or health board	22
Number of babies born by local authority or health board	23
Number of babies born to mothers under the age of 25 by local authority or health board	24
The number of large families in receipt of Child Benefit, by local authority	25
The number and proportion of school pupils by local authority who are: from minority ethnic groups; assessed or declared as having a disability; asylum seekers or refugees	26
Data on child poverty priority groups	27
The number of single-adult households with children in receipt of Universal Credit	27
Number of households claiming Universal Credit, with a child in receipt of disabled child element	28
Data on education	29
Proportion of secondary school leavers by total qualifications achieved (1 SCQF level 5 or better)	29
Proportion of secondary school leavers by total qualifications achieved (1 SCQF level 6 or better)	30
Data on child health and wellbeing	31
The number and proportion of babies who are small for gestational age	31

The proportion of Primary 1 pupils who have a healthy body mass index (BMI)	32
The number and rate of teenage pregnancies (<20 years) per 1,000 women	32
Percentage of primary 7 pupils with no obvious tooth decay experience	33
The number and proportion of infants exclusively breast fed at visits (first visit, 6–8 weeks, 13–15 months)	33
Number and proportion of children with at least one developmental concern	34
Proportion of children attending Primary School and Secondary School	35
Number and rate per 1,000 children on the Child Protection Register	36
Number of children looked after by placement type	36
Households with children and/or pregnant women in temporary accommodation	37
Number of children who are homeless or threatened with homelessness	38
Data on income from employment	38
Residents employed in lower paid occupations	38
The proportion of employees aged 18 years or over and earning the Real Living Wage or more	39
Employment rates	40
Median gross weekly earnings – workforce living in the area	41
Underemployment rate for age 16+	41
Jobs density	42
Employment per 100 people aged 16–64 (Business Register and Employment Survey)	42
The proportion of working age population with a RQF3 or RQF4 level qualification or above	43
Annual participation measure of young adults (16–19) participating in education, training and employment	44
The number of 16-to-24-year-olds claiming Universal Credit and seeking work or Job Seekers Allowance	45

Proportion of apprentices leaving a Modern Apprenticeship who are certificated leavers	46
The proportion of all 16-to-24-year-olds in employment who are Modern Apprentices	46
Proportion of modern apprenticeship new starts by gender	47
Data on childcare	48
The number and proportion of all 2-year-olds utilising 2-year-old entitlement to ELC	48
Capacity in childcare services as a rate per 100 population, by local authority	49
Children registered with childcare services as a rate per 100 population, by local authority	51
Data on the cost of living	53
Average property price (monthly)	53
Level and trends in monthly rental housing costs (private properties) Broad Rental Market Area	54
Mean weekly rental housing costs of social landlord properties	54
Numbers of families with children seeking advice from local authority funded money and welfare rights services, 2022/2023	55
Total amount of verified financial gain for clients of local authority funded money and welfare rights advice	56

Introduction

Background

The following document is an overview of key data of relevance to child poverty in South Ayrshire. We have used 'primary' and 'secondary' sources of data to generate this document (i.e. data sources that are either very relevant or relevant to child poverty). This document includes data about:

- relative poverty
- income from social security and benefits in kind
- the local population
- child poverty priority groups
- education
- child health and wellbeing
- income from employment
- childcare
- the cost of living.

We selected these data because they are, in the main, timely, disaggregated to local level and relatively easy to access. These data tell us something about:

- the local population context
- the groups most likely to experience poverty (child poverty priority groups)
- children and their wellbeing

- the key factors that drive poverty (income from employment, income from social security, cost of living)
- the level of need in an area as a consequence of the impact of poverty.

Up to date data for South Ayrshire have been provided in this document alongside comparative data for Scotland.

Why use this document?

This document provides an overview of the types of data you might wish to use that will tell you more about your local area, and how to assemble these data into one document.

You may also want to, as we have done, use the data to identify key issues and priorities of relevance to child poverty in your local authority area, and to identify data sources to monitor and to measure progress towards.

In this document, we have also undertaken a short prioritisation exercise. We have grouped the various themes covered in this document as being potentially of lower (i.e. maintain progress), medium or higher priority for South Ayrshire.

This is an exercise that is relatively straightforward to do. We have also provided an accompanying blank template on the [Data for child poverty webpage](#) that you can use to gather data about your local authority area, in order to identify some local priorities.

Potential local priorities for South Ayrshire

Higher priority

- Relative child poverty rates, before housing costs, are highest in Girvan and South Carrick and Ayr North.
- More than 6 out of 10 South Ayrshire children in relative poverty, before housing costs, live in working households.
- The employment rate in South Ayrshire is lower than in Scotland as a whole. This is driven by lower male employment rates.
- Employees in South Ayrshire workplaces are less likely to receive the Real Living Wage than workers in Scotland.
- In South Ayrshire a higher proportion of employees are employed in caring and leisure roles and sales and customer service roles, typically lower paid work, than in Scotland.
- The proportion of children living in relative poverty in lone-parent households in South Ayrshire has increased, as in Scotland, and is similar to Scotland.
- Lone parents in receipt of Universal Credit tend to be found in Lochside, Braehead and Whiteletts (274 lone parents), Annbank, Mossblown and Tarbolton – the coalfields (244 lone parents), Ayr North Harbour, Wallacetown and Newton South (229 lone parents) and Dalmillig (207 lone parents).
- There is a higher rate of school pupils in South Ayrshire who have been assessed or declared as having a disability, when compared with Scotland.

Medium priority

- School leavers in South Ayrshire are more likely to achieve 1 SCQF Level 5 or better than in Scotland, but there is a significant gap in achievement between the most and least deprived leavers in South Ayrshire.
- For school leavers in South Ayrshire there is a very significant gap in achievement, for achieving at least one pass at SCQF Level 6 or better, between the most and least deprived leavers.
- Childcare service capacity has been lower in South Ayrshire for out-of-school clubs, childminding, children and family centres, and playgroups.
- Primary school pupils were slightly less likely to take up a means tested free school meal in South Ayrshire than those in Scotland in 2023.
- Secondary school pupils in South Ayrshire registered for free school meals were slightly less likely to take them up than those in Scotland in 2023.
- In April 2023, 440 households in South Ayrshire were affected by the two-child limit.
- Crisis Grant award rates for families with dependent children in South Ayrshire have tended to be lower than the Scottish average.
- In April to September 2023, the average Discretionary Housing Payment award in South Ayrshire was lower than the Scottish average.
- In South Ayrshire a lower proportion of the working age population have an RQF3 or RQF4 level qualification or above than in Scotland.
- One in 20 16-to-24-year-olds in South Ayrshire claimed unemployment benefits in 2023, higher than the Scottish average.
- The rate of births to young mothers in South Ayrshire was higher than Scotland between 2018 to 2021.

Lower priority (maintain progress)

- Median gross weekly earnings for male and female full-time workers living in South Ayrshire tend to be higher than those for Scotland.
- In August 2023, 26 households with children were affected by the benefit cap in South Ayrshire.
- Estimated take-up rates at March 2023 in South Ayrshire for the Scottish Child Payment were similar to the Scottish average.
- A higher proportion of eligible two-year-olds are accessing ELC in South Ayrshire than in Scotland.
- The proportion of all modern apprentices who were certificated leavers in South Ayrshire was similar to the proportion for Scotland in 2022 to 2023.
- Young adults aged 16 to 19 in South Ayrshire are slightly more likely to be participating in education, training and employment than in Scotland.
- South Ayrshire teen pregnancy rates have been generally lower than the national average.

Data on relative poverty

Number and proportion of children under 16 living in relative poverty at ward and local authority level, before housing costs

- Relative child poverty rates, before housing costs, are highest in Girvan and South Carrick, and Ayr North.
- In 2021–22 (shown in Table 1 below), there was an estimated 3,710 children under 16 living in relative poverty in South Ayrshire, 21.5% of all children aged 0–15.
- The highest rates of child poverty were in Girvan and South Carrick (30.1%) and Ayr North (29.4%), and the lowest in Prestwick (17.1%) and Ayr West (13.6%).

Table 1: Children in relative low-income households before housing costs, number and proportion: by South Ayrshire ward, 2021–22.

Electoral ward	Children aged 0–15 in relative low-income households: 2021–22	Children aged 0–15	% of children in relative low-income households
Ayr East	455	2008	22.7
Ayr North	861	2926	29.4
Ayr West	282	2079	13.6
Girvan and South Carrick	481	1597	30.1
Kyle	508	2691	18.9
Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton	401	1975	20.3
Prestwick	332	1939	17.1
Troon	395	2029	19.5

Electoral ward	Children aged 0–15 in relative low-income households: 2021–22	Children aged 0–15	% of children in relative low-income households
South Ayrshire	3710	17244	21.5

Source: [Children in low-income families' local area statistics \(CiLIF\)](#); National Registers of Scotland. [Electoral Ward Population Estimates \(2011 Data Zone based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Number and proportion of children under 16 living in relative poverty at local authority level, after housing costs

- The relative child poverty rate, after housing costs, in South Ayrshire is similar to Scotland.
- In 2021–22, there were an estimated 4,807 children living in relative poverty in South Ayrshire (see Table 2 below). This was 24.4% of children under the age of 16, similar to the proportion reported for Scotland (24%).

Table 2: Percentage of children in relative poverty, after housing costs: Scotland and South Ayrshire, 2017/18 to 2021/22

Area	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Scotland	24%	23%	24%	25%	24%
South Ayrshire	24.6%	24.6%	24.8%	20.6%	24.4%

Source: End Child Poverty <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty/>

Number of children in relative poverty in a household where at least one adult works

- More than 6 out of 10 South Ayrshire children in relative poverty (before housing costs) live in working households.

- In 2021/22, there were almost 2,890 South Ayrshire children in relative poverty in working households. This was 62.5% of all children in relative poverty (see Table 3 below).

Table 3: Number and percentage of children in relative poverty (before housing costs), where at least one adult works

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Scotland	126,317 (64.1%)	136,228 (65.9%)	107,509 (61.4%)	143,646 (63.5%)	145,635 (62.4%)
South Ayrshire	2,635 (64.9%)	2,708 (65.8%)	2,014 (59.4%)	2,889 (64.0%)	2,890 (62.5%)

Source: [DWP Stat-Xplore](#), Children in Low Income Families.

The number of children in relative poverty in lone-parent households

- In 2022/23, there were 2,850 children in South Ayrshire in relative poverty living in lone-parent households.
- The proportion of children living in relative poverty (before housing costs) in lone-parent households in South Ayrshire has increased, as in Scotland, and is currently similar to Scotland.

Table 4: Percentage of children in relative poverty living in lone-parent households: South Ayrshire and Scotland 2018/19 to 2022/23

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Scotland	100,549 (51.0%)	101,427 (49.1%)	83,982 (48.0%)	123,665 (54.7%)	137,045 (58.7%)
South Ayrshire	2,062 (50.8%)	1,990 (48.4%)	1,708 (50.3%)	2,531 (56.1%)	2,850 (61.7%)

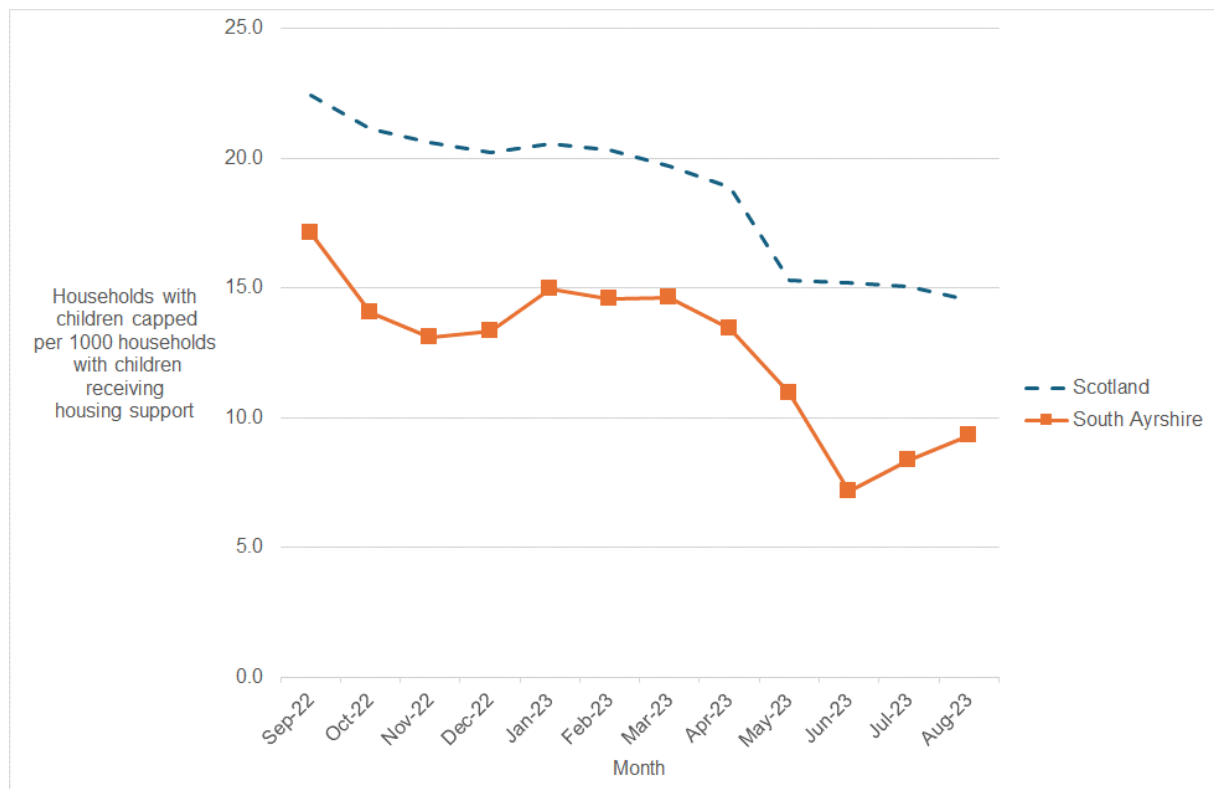
Source: [DWP Stat-Xplore](#), Children in Low Income Families.

Data on income from social security and benefits in kind

Families with children affected by the benefit cap (number and rate per 1,000), by local authority

- In August 2023, 26 households with children were affected by the benefit cap in South Ayrshire. This was a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 households with children receiving housing support. This rate was lower than Scotland.
- South Ayrshire households with children were less likely to be capped compared to the Scottish average, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Households with children capped per 1,000 households in receipt of housing support: Scotland and South Ayrshire



Source: DWP Stat-Xplore – Benefit Cap, Households on Universal Credit and Housing Benefit Caseload.

Number and proportion of households affected by the two-child limit, by local authority

- In April 2023, 440 households in South Ayrshire were affected by the two-child limit.
- This was 53% of all larger families receiving Universal Credit or Child Tax Credits, similar to the Scottish figure (54%), as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Large family households affected by the two-child limit: South Ayrshire and Scotland, April 2023

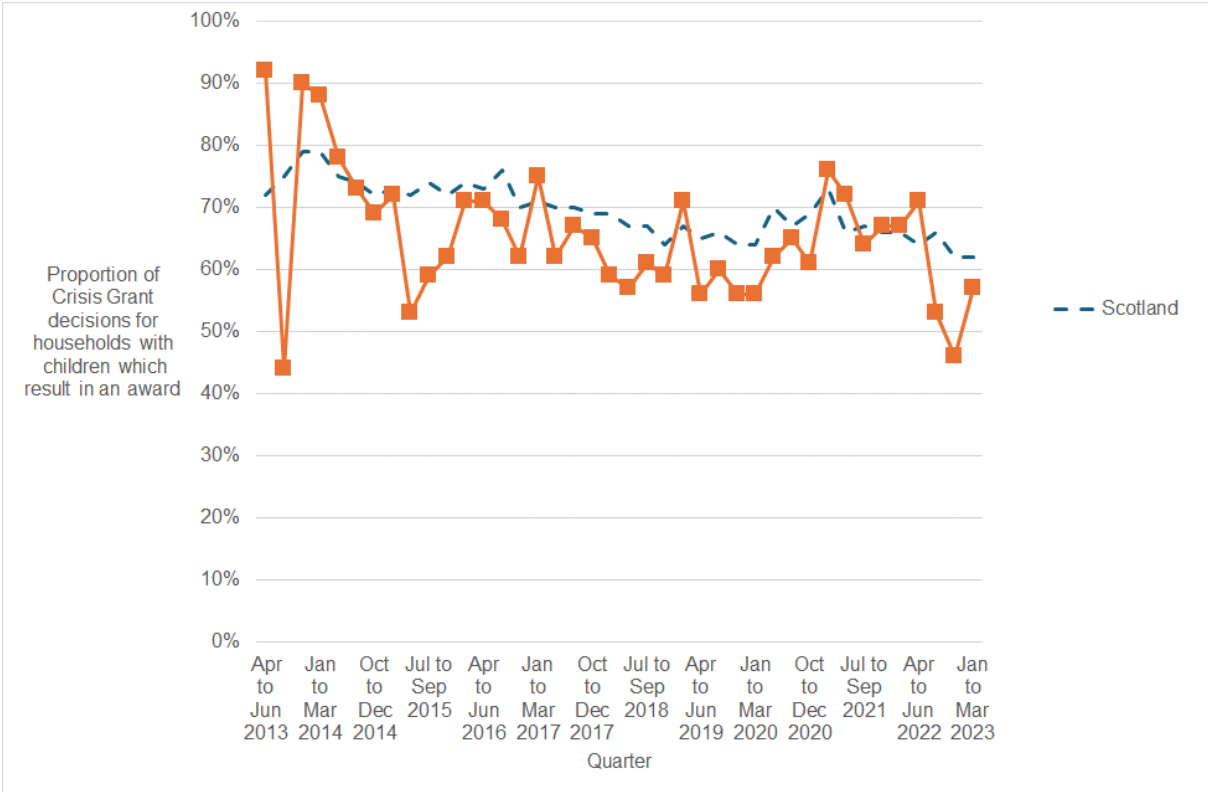
Area	Number of households	Number of households not receiving a child element/amount for at least one child	Proportion of households not receiving a child element/amount for at least one child
Scotland	44,840	24,160	54%
South Ayrshire	830	440	53%

Source: DWP and HMRC. [Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit claimants: statistics related to the policy to provide support for a maximum of 2 children, April 2023](#)

Proportion of Crisis Grants for families with dependent children which result in an award, by local authority

- Crisis Grant award rates, for families with dependent children, in South Ayrshire have tended to be lower than the Scottish average.
- For most of the time series, Crisis Grant award rates in South Ayrshire were lower than the Scottish average, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Award rate to families, Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grants, Scotland and South Ayrshire: 2013 to 2023



Source: Scottish Government

The number of Crisis Grants awarded to all recipients

The number of Crisis Grants awarded, to all recipients (not solely families with dependent children) in South Ayrshire was 2,755 in 2022–23, an increase of around 33% on the number issued in 2013, as shown in Table 6.

In Scotland, the number of Crisis Grants issued between 2013–2023 more than doubled.

Table 6: the number of all Crisis Grants awarded: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2013 -2023

Year	South Ayrshire	Scotland
2013-14	2,060	81,990
2014-15	1,950	103,020

Year	South Ayrshire	Scotland
2015-16	1,130	102,360
2016-17	1,720	116,805
2017-18	1,550	118,745
2018-19	2,090	125,140
2019-20	2,105	140,370
2020-21	2,760	188,380
2021-22	3,115	176,080
2022-23	2,755	186,330

Source: Scottish Government. [Scottish Welfare Fund Statistics: annual update 2022-2023](#)

Estimated take-up rate for the Scottish Child Payment (for children aged under 16)

Estimated take-up rates in South Ayrshire for the Scottish Child Payment were similar to the Scottish average (82% vs 83%), as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Estimated take up rates, Scottish Child Payment: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022/23

Area	Take-up rates (%)
Scotland	83%
South Ayrshire	82%

Note: At March 2023, 6-to-15-year-olds had only recently become eligible for the payment, so the data covered just a few months of those applications.

Source: Scottish Government. [Scottish Child Payment: Local Authority Take-Up Rate Estimates – Take-up rates of Scottish benefits](#): November 2023

The number of children receiving the Scottish Child Payment

The number of children in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment, at September 2023, in South Ayrshire was 6,295, as shown in Table 8 below.

Note: Data is also available for the number of children in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment at intermediate zone for all local authorities. See: statistics.gov.scot : Scottish Child Payment: Caseload

Table 8: the number of children in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment: South Ayrshire and Scotland, September 2023

Area	Number of children
Scotland	323,315
South Ayrshire	6,295

Source: Social Security Scotland. [High level statistics to 30 September 2023](#)

Proportion of successful applications for Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods, by local authority

The proportion of authorised Best Start Grants and Foods applications in South Ayrshire were broadly the same as for Scotland.

During 2022 to 2023, there were 1,105 authorised applications for Best Start Grants and Foods in South Ayrshire, as shown on Table 9 below. 65% of all processed applications were authorised, at Scotland level it was 66%.

In South Ayrshire, there 595 were applications for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, 455 applications for the Early Learning Payment. 465 applications for the School Age Payment. There were 1,030 applications for Best Start Foods.

Table 9: The proportion of successful applications for Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods. South Ayrshire and Scotland. 2022 to 2023.

Type of application	South Ayrshire (number or %)	Scotland (number or %)
Authorised applications	1,105	58,425
Percentage of processed applications authorised	65%	66%
Pregnancy and baby payment applications	595	34,690
Early learning payment applications	455	23,855
School age payment applications	465	21,965
Best Start Foods applications	1,030	58,775

Source: Scottish Government. [Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods: high level statistics to 30 September 2023](#)

Proportion of P1–P7 pupils registered and present taking Free School Meals

As shown on Table 10 below, 64.2% of primary school pupils in South Ayrshire registered for means-tested free school meals took them up in 2023.

This was lower than the Scottish average (66.7%).

Table 10: Percentage of registered Primary school pupils out of total registered roll taking free school meals, 2023

Area	%
Scotland	66.7%
South Ayrshire	64.2%

Source: Scottish Government. [School Healthy Living Survey: school meal uptake and PE provision statistics 2023](#)

Proportion of S1–S6 pupils registered and present taking Free School Meals

As shown on Table 11 below, 57% of secondary school pupils in South Ayrshire registered for free school meals took them up in 2023. This was lower than the Scottish average (60.6%).

Table 11: Percentage of free school meals in secondary schools out of total registered roll, 2023

Area	%
Scotland	60.6%
South Ayrshire	57%

Source: Scottish Government. [School Healthy Living Survey: school meal uptake and PE provision statistics 2023](#)

Discretionary Housing Payment award rate and average value of awards

The average Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) in South Ayrshire was £587, lower than the average for Scotland (£674) at April to September 2023.

The proportion of all DHPs awarded (to all applicants, not solely those with dependent children) in South Ayrshire was very similar to that for Scotland.

98% of applicants in South Ayrshire got an award. In Scotland it was 97%, as shown on Table 12 below.

2,645 DHP awards were issued in South Ayrshire during April to September 2023.

Table 12: Discretionary Housing Payment average award value. South Ayrshire and Scotland, April to September 2023.

Area	Discretionary Housing Payment average award value	Proportion of all applicants in receipt of an award
South Ayrshire	£587	98%
Scotland	£674	97%

Source: Scottish Government. [Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland: 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023](#)

The number of young people in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance

The total number of young people in South Ayrshire in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), between 2021 and 2022, was 505.

Around 30% of EMA recipients were from the most deprived SIMD quintile in South Ayrshire. In Scotland, around 39% of recipients were from the most deprived quintile.

Table 13: Number of young people in receipt of the EMA by SIMD quintile: South Ayrshire and Scotland 2021–2022

Deprivation quintile	South Ayrshire	Scotland
SIMD Quintile 1 (most deprived)	155 (30.6%)	9,310 (39%)
SIMD Quintile 2	130	5,795
SIMD Quintile 3	140	4,010
SIMD Quintile 4	45	2,850
SIMD Quintile 5 (least deprived)	30	1,690
Total	505	23,905

Source: Scottish Government. [Education Maintenance Allowances: 2021–22](#)

Council Tax Reduction recipients by family type, March 2023

These data will not tell us what proportion of families eligible for the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) take it up, just the numbers that do.

The proportion of all recipients of the CTR in South Ayrshire who were lone-parent (13%) or couple families (4%) with children was similar to the proportion in Scotland at March 2023, although in South Ayrshire a lower proportion of all recipients were lone parents.

Table 14: Council Tax Reduction recipients by family type: South Ayrshire and Scotland, March 2023

Family type	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Single – one or more child dependents	1,320 (13%)	75,520 (16.6%)
Couple – one or more child dependents	410 (4%)	23,290 (5.1%)
Single – no child dependents	6,770 (69%)	309,720 (68%)
Couple – no child dependents	1,310 (13%)	45,820 (10%)
Total	9,800	454,350

Source: Statistics supplied by Scottish Government on request

Number of child winter heating assistance payments

The number of child winter heating assistance payments in South Ayrshire in 2022/2023 was 425, as shown below in Table 15.

Table 15: Child Winter Heating Assistance payments: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2020-2023

Year	South Ayrshire	Scotland
2020/2021	290	18,360
2021/2022	310	20,000
2022/2023	425	26,555
Total	1030	64,915

Source: Scottish Government. [Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics: winter 2022 to 2023](#)

Data on population context

Number of children within specific age groups, by local authority or health board

The age distribution of children in South Ayrshire is slightly older than the Ayrshire and Arran region and Scotland.

In 2021, there were an estimated 21,742 children aged 0–19 years resident in South Ayrshire (shown in Table 16 below).

The age distribution of children in South Ayrshire is slightly older than the Ayrshire region and Scotland, with fewer children aged 0–4 and more aged 10–19.

Table 16: Age distribution of children aged 0–19: South Ayrshire, Ayrshire and Scotland, 2021

Age group	South Ayrshire number (proportion)	Ayrshire Health Board number (proportion)	Scotland number (proportion)
0	799 (3.7%)	2,944 (3.8%)	46,782 (4.1%)
1–4	3,795 (17.5%)	16,235 (20.8%)	208,655 (18.3%)
5–9	5,499 (25.3%)	19,205 (24.6%)	293,727 (25.8%)

Age group	South Ayrshire number (proportion)	Ayrshire Health Board number (proportion)	Scotland number (proportion)
10–14	6,021 (27.7%)	20,536 (26.3%)	304,566 (26.8%)
15–19	5,628 (25.9%)	19,222 (24.6%)	283,630 (24.9%)
Total	21,742 (100.0%)	78,142 (100.0%)	1,137,360 (100.0%)

Source: National Records of Scotland. [Mid-2021 Population Estimates Scotland](#)

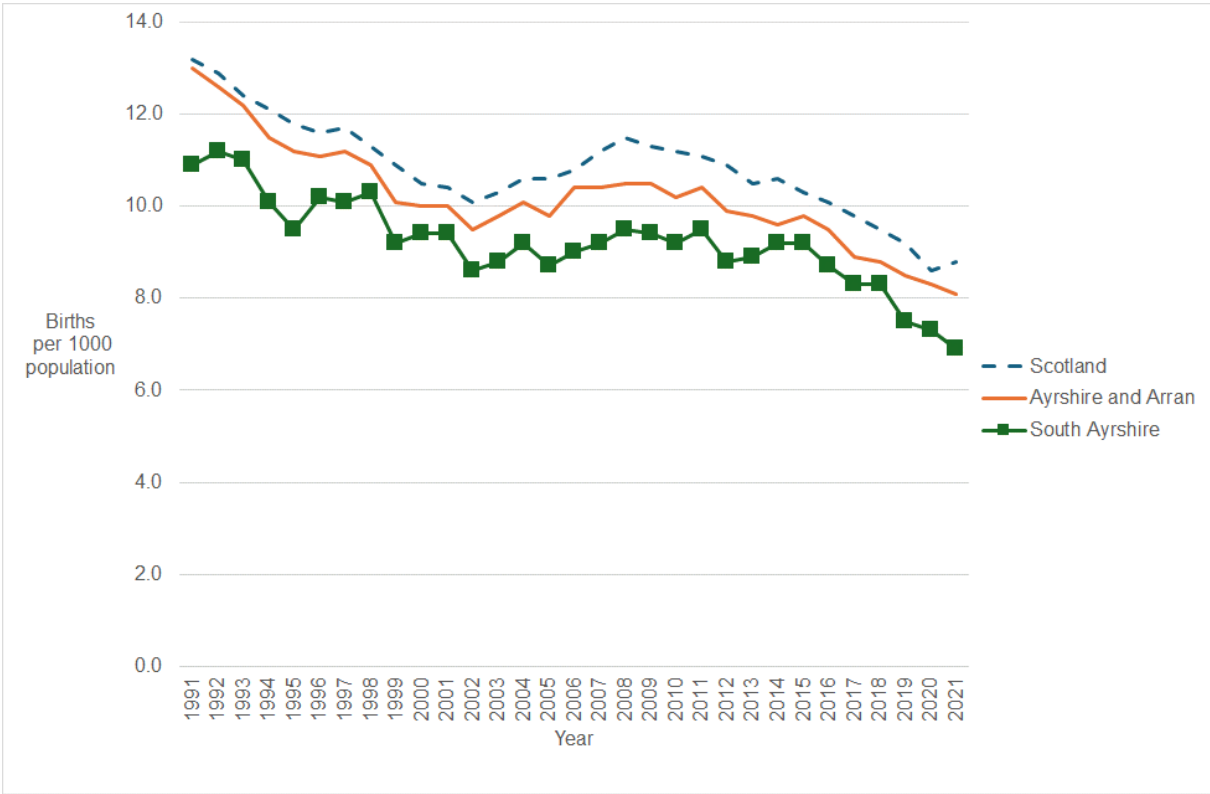
Number of babies born by local authority or health board

The birth rate in South Ayrshire is lower than the region of Ayrshire and Arran and Scotland.

In 2022, there were 739 births in South Ayrshire.

The birth rate in South Ayrshire has been consistently lower than both the Ayrshire region and Scotland over time (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Birth rate, South Ayrshire, Ayrshire and Scotland: 1991 to 2021



Source: National records of Scotland. [Births Time Series Data](#).

Number of babies born to mothers under the age of 25 by local authority or health board

The rate of births to young mothers in South Ayrshire was higher than Scotland between 2018 to 2021.

In 2022, there were 111 births in South Ayrshire to mothers under the age of 25, as shown in Table 17.

Table 17: Births and birth rate, mothers aged <25: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2018 to 2021

Year	South Ayrshire Births to mothers aged 15-24	Birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-24 in South Ayrshire	Ayrshire and Arran births to mothers aged 15-24	Birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-24 in Ayrshire and Arran	Scotland births to mothers aged 15-24	Birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-24 in Scotland
2018	171	31.8	713	38.0	8824	27.7
2019	153	29.2	676	37.0	8186	25.8
2020	156	30.3	657	36.5	7502	23.7
2021	138	26.7	556	30.7	6662	21.2
2022	109	21.1	504	28.2	6664	20.9
2023	138	n/a	521	n/a	6447	n/a

Source: National Records for Scotland. [National Records of Scotland](#).

The number of large families in receipt of Child Benefit, by local authority

In August 2022, there were around 1,150 large families in receipt of Child Benefit living in South Ayrshire, as shown in Table 18.

This was 11% of all families receiving Child Benefit, similar to the Scottish average (12%).

Table 18: Families with three or more children in receipt of child benefit: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2018 to 2021

Area	Number of families receiving child benefit	Number of families with three or more children	Proportion of families receiving child benefit with three or more children
Scotland	526,430	63,835	12.1
South Ayrshire	10,290	1,150	11.2

Source: HMRC. [Child Benefit Statistics. Annual Release](#). 2022.

The number and proportion of school pupils by local authority who are: from minority ethnic groups; assessed or declared as having a disability; asylum seekers or refugees

There is a higher rate of pupils in South Ayrshire who have been assessed or declared as having a disability, when compared with Scotland.

The school census identifies that there were 498 children from minority ethnic backgrounds in schools in 2022, shown in Table 19.

1,791 children were assessed or declared as having a disability and 125.9 pupils, per 1,000 pupils, were assessed and/or declared as having a disability. This is substantially higher than for Scotland, which has 27.7 per 1,000 pupils.

There were 5 pupils from asylum seeking backgrounds and 75 children from refugee families.

Table 19: The number and proportion of school pupils who are from minority ethnic groups, assessed or declared as having a disability or asylum seekers or refugees. South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022

Pupil characteristic	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Minority ethnic	498	71,034
Assessed as having a disability	1,405	16,353
Assessed or declared as having a disability	1,791	19,554
Rate assessed and/or declared as having a disability per 1,000 pupils	125.9	27.7
Asylum seekers	5	2,062
Refugee	75	5,746

Source: Scottish Government. [Pupil census supplementary statistics. 2023.](#)

Data on child poverty priority groups

The number of single-adult households with children in receipt of Universal Credit

Lone parents in receipt of Universal Credit and living in South Ayrshire tended to be found in Lochside, Braehead and Whiteletts (274 lone parents), Annbank, Mossblown and Tarbolton – the coalfields (244 lone parents), Ayr North Harbour, Wallacetown and Newton South (229 lone parents) and Dalmilling (207 lone parents).

In February 2024, there were 2,977 single-adult-with-children households in receipt of Universal Credit resident in South Ayrshire, shown in Table 20.

This was 30.4% of all households claiming Universal Credit in South Ayrshire, which is lower than the Scottish average (32.4%).

Table 20: Single adult with children households claiming Universal Credit: South Ayrshire and Scotland, February 2024

Area	Number of households on Universal Credit	Number of single adults with children households on Universal Credit
Scotland	459,904	149,029
South Ayrshire	9,767	2,977

Source: [DWP Stat-Xplore](#).

Number of households claiming Universal Credit, with a child in receipt of disabled child element

28% of households with children claiming Universal Credit have a child or adult claiming a disabled element. 9% have a child element only, 2% get both adult and child element and 16% have an adult element only.

In August 2023, there were 441 households with children in receipt of Universal Credit resident in South Ayrshire with a disabled child element. There were another 610 households with children in receipt of Universal Credit with an adult disability element only, as shown in Table 21.

Table 21: Households with children claiming Universal Credit with a child disabled element or where adult has limited capability to work: South Ayrshire and Scotland, November 2023

Disability receipt	South Ayrshire	%	Scotland
Child element only	352	9	19,765
Adult element only	610	16	28,092
Both adult and disabled child element	89	2	4,480
Neither	2,707	72	13,5688

Disability receipt	South Ayrshire	%	Scotland
Total	3,758	100	188,025

Source: [DWP Stat-Xplore](#).

Data on education

Proportion of secondary school leavers by total qualifications achieved (1 SCQF level 5 or better)

School leavers in South Ayrshire are more likely to achieve 1 SCQF Level 5 or better than in Scotland, but there is a significant gap in achievement between the most and least deprived leavers in South Ayrshire.

86.6% of secondary school leavers in South Ayrshire achieved 1 SCQF level 5 or better in 2022 /2023. In Scotland it was 84.8%, as shown in Table 22.

Secondary school leavers from the most deprived areas in South Ayrshire were just as likely to achieve a 1 SCQF level 5 qualification or better than those also from the most deprived areas in Scotland.

In South Ayrshire, as in the Scotland, there was a significant gap in achievement between the most and least deprived leavers. In South Ayrshire, the percentage gap between the most and least deprived was slightly wider than in Scotland.

Table 22: Proportion of secondary school leavers by total qualifications achieved (1 SCQF level 5 or better), by SIMD. South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022-2023.

Deprivation quintile	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Most deprived 0-20%	74.3%	74.5%
20–40%	85.7%	79.7%
40–60%	86.2%	86.4%

Deprivation quintile	South Ayrshire	Scotland
60–80%	91.8%	90.2%
Least deprived 80–100%	97%	94.7%
Total	86.6%	84.8%

Source: Scottish Government. [Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations, no. 6: 2024 edition](#)

Proportion of secondary school leavers by total qualifications achieved (1 SCQF level 6 or better)

For school leavers in South Ayrshire there is a very significant gap in achievement, for achieving at least one pass at SCQF Level 6 or better, between the most and least deprived leavers.

57.8% of secondary school leavers in South Ayrshire achieved 1 SCQF level 6 or better in 2022 /2023. In Scotland, it was 57.9%, as shown in Table 23.

Secondary school leavers from the most deprived areas in South Ayrshire were less likely to achieve 1 SCQF level 6 qualification or better than those also from the most deprived areas in Scotland.

In South Ayrshire, there was a significant difference in the proportion of pupils from the most and least deprived areas who achieved at least one pass. This reflects the Scottish statistics.

The percentage gap between the most deprived and least deprived was wider in South Ayrshire than in Scotland as a whole.

Table 23: Proportion of secondary school leavers by total qualifications achieved (1 SCQF level 6 or better), by SIMD: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022–2023.

Deprivation quintile	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Most deprived 0–20%	37.8%	41.5%

Deprivation quintile	South Ayrshire	Scotland
20–40%	52.4%	48.7%
40–60%	55.6%	57.6%
60–80%	67.2%	66.1%
Least deprived 80–100%	81.5%	78.3%
Total	57.8%	57.9%

Source: Scottish Government. [Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations, no. 6: 2024 edition](#)

Data on child health and wellbeing

The number and proportion of babies who are small for gestational age

In 2022/23, 4.3% of babies in South Ayrshire were small for gestational age. This was lower than the Scottish average (5.0%), as shown in Table 24.

The proportion has fallen over time: from 5.6% in 2019/20 to 4.3% in 2022/23.

Table 24: Number and proportion of babies who are small for gestational age, Scotland and South Ayrshire: 2019/20 to 2022/23

Area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Scotland	2,556 (5.3%)	2,287 (5.0%)	2,269 (4.8%)	2,255 (5.0%)
S. Ayrshire	48 (5.6%)	40 (5.2%)	34 (4.2%)	31 (4.3%)

Source: Public Health Scotland. [Births in Scotland, year ending 31 March 2023.](#)

The proportion of Primary 1 pupils who have a healthy body mass index (BMI)

In 2022/23, 72.3% of P1 pupils in South Ayrshire had a healthy weight, slightly lower than the Scottish average.

The proportion of P1 pupils with a healthy weight in South Ayrshire was higher than the Scottish average between 2018/19 and 2020/21 but may have fallen relative to the national average since then, as shown in Table 25.

Table 25: Proportion of P1 pupils with a healthy weight, Scotland and South Ayrshire: 2018/19 to 2022/23

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Scotland	76.4%	76.6%	76.3%	69.7%	74.7%
South Ayrshire	78.0%	78.2%	80.9%	69.4%	72.2%

Source: Public Health Scotland. [Primary 1 Body Mass Index \(BMI\) statistics Scotland. School year 2022 to 2023.](#)

The number and rate of teenage pregnancies (<20 years) per 1,000 women

South Ayrshire teen pregnancy rates have been generally lower than the national average.

In 2021, there were 56 teen pregnancies in South Ayrshire, 19.9 per 1,000 women aged < 20. In Scotland there were 23.2 per 1,000 women aged <20, as shown in Table 26.

Table 26: Number and rate of teenage pregnancies (<20 years) per 1,000 women

Area	2018	2019	2020	2021
Scotland	4,118 (29.6)	3,815 (27.7)	3,306 (24.0)	3,221 (23.2)

Area	2018	2019	2020	2021
South Ayrshire	66 (24.6)	82 (30.7)	52 (18.9)	56 (19.9)

Source: Public Health Scotland. [Teenage pregnancies. Year of conception, ending 31 December 2021](#)

Percentage of primary 7 pupils with no obvious tooth decay experience

In 2022/23, almost 8 out of 10 children in South Ayrshire had no obvious tooth decay experience.

This was slightly higher than the percentage reported for Ayrshire and Arran (78.5%) and lower than Scotland (81.9%), as shown in Table 27.

Table 27: Percentage of primary 7 pupils with no obvious tooth decay experience, Scotland, Ayrshire and Arran and South Ayrshire, 2022/23

Area	2022/23
Scotland	81.9%
Ayrshire and Arran	78.5%
South Ayrshire	79.6%

Source: Public Health Scotland. [National dental inspection programme](#). 2023.

The number and proportion of infants exclusively breast fed at visits (first visit, 6–8 weeks, 13–15 months)

In 2022/23, just over a third (34%) of infants were exclusively breast fed at first visit in South Ayrshire. Figures were lower at 6–8 weeks (27.2%) and especially at 13–15 months (2.8%).

Exclusive breastfeeding rates in South Ayrshire are lower than in Scotland but higher than Ayrshire and Arran at first visit and 6–8 weeks, as shown on Table 28 below.

Table 28: The number and proportion of infants exclusively breast fed at health visits, Scotland, Ayrshire and Arran and South Ayrshire, 2022/23

Visit	South Ayrshire	Ayrshire and Arran	Scotland
First visit	242 (34.0%)	735 (27.4%)	16,414 (37.5%)
6–8 weeks	158 (27.2%)	539 (22.8%)	13,088 (32.0%)
13–15 months	21 (2.8%)	101 (3.7%)	3,870 (9.2%)

Source: Public Health Scotland. [Infant feeding statistics. Financial year 2022 to 2023.](#)

Number and proportion of children with at least one developmental concern

In 2022/23, the proportion of children with at least one developmental concern in South Ayrshire was:

- 10.7% at 13–15 months
- 15.0% at 27–30 months
- 11.4% at 4–5 years

This was slightly lower than the proportions recorded for Ayrshire and Arran and Scotland, as shown in Table 29.

Table 29: The number and proportion of children with at least one developmental concern, Scotland, Ayrshire and Arran and South Ayrshire, 2022/23

Time period	South Ayrshire	Ayrshire and Arran	Scotland
13-15 months	83 (10.7%)	345 (12.2%)	5567 (12.5%)
27-30 months	119 (15.0%)	532 (18.5%)	7810 (17.9%)
4-5 years	108 (11.4%)	476 (17.9%)	6613 (12.5%)

Source: Public Health Scotland. [Early child development statistics. Scotland 2022 to 2023.](#)

Proportion of children attending Primary School and Secondary School

Attendance rates in South Ayrshire:

- are similar to Scotland for primary school pupils
- are lower than Scotland for secondary school pupils, as shown in Table 30.

Table 30: The proportion of children attending primary and secondary school, Scotland and South Ayrshire, 2014/15 to 2022/23

School type	Area	2014/15	2016/17	2018/19	2020/21	2022/23
Primary	Scotland	95.1	94.9	94.5	94.0	92.2
Primary	South Ayrshire	94.1	95.1	94.5	94.0	92.1
Secondary	Scotland	91.8	91.2	90.7	89.1	87.7
Secondary	South Ayrshire	88.5	90.6	90.1	88.0	85.4

Source: **Scottish Government.** [School attendance and absence statistics, 2022–2023.](#)

Number and rate per 1,000 children on the Child Protection Register

In 2023, there were 43 children on the Child Protection Register in South Ayrshire, a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 children, as shown in Table 31 below.

While the rate of children on the Child Protection Register in South Ayrshire was similar to Scotland in 2023 (2.5 vs. 2.3), rates were lower than the national average between 2019 and 2022.

Table 31: Number and rate per 1,000 children on the Child Protection Register, South Ayrshire and Scotland: 2019 to 2023

Area	2020	2021	2022	2023
Scotland	2,641 (2.9)	2,119 (2.3)	2,019 (2.2)	2,094 (2.3)
South Ayrshire	29 (1.7)	19 (1.1)	22 (1.3)	43 (2.5)

Source: Scottish Government. [Children’s Social Work Statistics 2022–23 – Child Protection.](#)

Number of children looked after by placement type

Of 182 children looked after in South Ayrshire in 2022, the largest categories were ‘with foster carers provided by local authority (LA)’ (42%), ‘With friends/relatives’ (21%) and ‘at home with parents’ (18%).

Compared with Scotland, looked after children in South Ayrshire are less likely to be placed with ‘with friends/relatives’ (21% vs 34%) and more likely to be placed with foster carers provided by LA (41% vs. 23%).

Table 32: Number and % of children looked after by placement type: Scotland and South Ayrshire, July 2022

Placement type	Scotland	South Ayrshire
At home with parents	2637 (21%)	33 (18%)
With friends/relatives	4249 (34%)	39 (21%)
With foster carers provided by LA	2871 (23%)	74 (41%)
With foster carers purchased by LA	1284 (10%)	13 (7%)
In other community	271 (2%)	2 (1%)
In local authority home/voluntary home	642 (5%)	11 (6%)
In other residential care	642 (5%)	10 (5%)

Source: Scottish Government. [Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland: 2021 to 2022](#).

Households with children and/or pregnant women in temporary accommodation

In 2023, 60 households with children and/or pregnant women were in temporary accommodation in South Ayrshire.

The number of households with children in temporary accommodation has increased between 2019 and 2023, as shown in Table 33.

Table 33: Households with children and/or pregnant women in temporary accommodation, Scotland and South Ayrshire: 2019 to 2023

Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Scotland	3,415	3,620	3,910	4,345	4,735
South Ayrshire	45	35	55	60	60

Source: [Scottish Government. Homelessness in Scotland: 2022–23](#).

Number of children who are homeless or threatened with homelessness

In 2022–23, 353 children in South Ayrshire were homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The number of children in South Ayrshire who are homeless or threatened with homelessness has increased since 2020–21, as shown in Table 34.

Table 34: Number of children who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, Scotland and South Ayrshire: 2018–19 to 2022–23

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Scotland	16,016	16,119	12,358	14,830	16,263
South Ayrshire	272	262	226	280	353

Source: Scottish Government. [Homelessness in Scotland: 2022–23](#).

Data on income from employment

Residents employed in lower paid occupations

In South Ayrshire a higher proportion of employees are employed in caring and leisure roles and sales and customer service roles, typically lower paid work.

During January to December 2023 a higher proportion of employees in South Ayrshire than in Scotland, were working in caring and leisure roles, or sales and customer service roles, as shown in Table 35.

A lower proportion of workers in South Ayrshire were employed in professional occupations and associate professional roles.

A higher proportion in South Ayrshire were employed in managerial and senior roles than in Scotland.

Table 35: Residents employed in lower paid occupations. South Ayrshire and Scotland, January – December 2023.

Occupation	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Managers, directors and senior officials	9.1	7.7
Professional occupations	20.0	27.0
Associate professional occupations	13.1	16.5
Administrative and secretarial occupations	8.2	9.2
Skilled trades occupations	11.6	9.4
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	10.2	8.5
Sales and customer service occupations	11.2	6.8
Process, plant and machine operatives	6.8	4.8
Elementary occupations	9.3	9.7

Source: NOMIS. [Annual Population Survey](#)

The proportion of employees aged 18 years or over and earning the Real Living Wage or more

Employees in South Ayrshire workplaces are less likely to receive the Real Living Wage than workers in Scotland.

The proportion of employees aged 18 years or over, earning at least the Real Living Wage and working within South Ayrshire, between October 2022 and September 2023, was 82.1%, shown in Table 36 below. This was below the average for Scotland, at 89.9%

Table 36: The proportion of employees aged 18 years+ earning the Real Living Wage or more. South Ayrshire and Scotland. October 2022 – September 2023

Area	%
Scotland	89.9%
South Ayrshire	82.1%

Source: Scottish Government. [Annual survey of hours and earnings: 2023](#).

Employment rates

The employment rate in South Ayrshire is lower than in Scotland as a whole. This is driven by lower male employment rates.

The employment rate for those aged 16–64 was lower in South Ayrshire, between October 2022 and September 2023, at 61.4% than in Scotland as a whole (75.2%), as shown in Table 37.

The employment rate for males aged 16-64 was lower in South Ayrshire, at 56.3% than in Scotland as a whole (77.5%). There is a likelihood that the female employment rate in South Ayrshire is also lower than in Scotland as a whole.

Table 37: Employment rate for aged 16-64 including for m and females. South Ayrshire and Scotland: October 2022 – September 2023

Measure	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Employment rate for women aged 16–64	66.7% (58.5% to 74.9%)	73.1% (71.8% to 74.4%)
Employment rate for males aged 16–64	56.3% (47.2% to 65.4%)	77.5% (76.2% to 78.8%)
Employment rate aged 16–64, by local authority	61.4% (55.3% to 67.5%)	75.2% (74.3% to 76.1%)

Source: NOMIS. [Annual Population Survey](#)

Median gross weekly earnings – workforce living in the area

Median gross weekly earnings for male and female full-time workers living in South Ayrshire tend to be higher than those for Scotland.

Both male and female estimated median gross weekly full-time earnings (for the workforce living in the area) in South Ayrshire, during April 2023, were higher than in Scotland, as shown in Table 38. Female workers in South Ayrshire were, therefore, earning more than women workers in Scotland.

However, female median gross weekly part-time earnings in South Ayrshire (for the workforce living in the area) were slightly lower than those in Scotland.

Total median gross weekly earnings in South Ayrshire were slightly below those for Scotland.

Table 38: Male and female median gross weekly earnings (£) South Ayrshire and Scotland: April 2023

Sex and hours	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Male full-time	752.9 (678.4 to 827.4)	725.7 (717.0 to 734.4)
Male part-time	n / a	237 (229.9 to 244.1)
Female full-time	749.4 (667.0 to 831.8)	672 (663.9 to 680.1)
Female part-time	255.1 (219.4 to 290.8)	265 (259.4 to 270.6)
Total	576.6 (520.1 to 633.1)	588 (581.5 to 594.5)

Source: NOMIS. [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#)

Underemployment rate for age 16+

9.8% of adults aged 16+ in South Ayrshire were underemployed in 2020, as shown in Table 39 below.

Wide confidence intervals make it unclear whether local rates were higher than the Scottish average.

Table 39: Underemployment rates for adults aged 16+, Scotland and South Ayrshire, 2017 to 2020

Area	2017	2018	2019	2020
Scotland	8.0	7.4	7.1	8.1
South Ayrshire	7.9	10.2	6.4	9.8

Source: Scottish Government. [Scotland's Labour Market: People, Places and Regions – background tables and charts 2020/21](#).

Jobs density

Jobs density levels in South Ayrshire, in 2021, were the same for Scotland as a whole – i.e. there were around 8 jobs for every 10 working age people, as shown in Table 40 below.

Table 40: Jobs density. South Ayrshire and Scotland: October 2022 – September 2023

Area	Jobs density
South Ayrshire	0.81
Scotland	0.81

Source: NOMIS. [Jobs Density](#).

Employment per 100 people aged 16–64 (Business Register and Employment Survey)

Employment opportunities are distributed unevenly within South Ayrshire, as shown in Table 41.

Available employment is highest in Ayr West (119 per 100), Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton (94 per 100) and Prestwick (88 per 100).

They are lower across the rest of the local authority, especially in Troon (49 per 100) and Ayr East (21 per 100).

Table 41: Employment per 100 people aged 16–64, by electoral ward: 2022

Electoral ward	People aged 16–64	Employment	Employment per 100 people
Ayr East	7,309	1,546	21
Ayr North	10,719	7,074	66
Ayr West	9,056	10,786	119
Girvan and South Carrick	6,264	4,112	66
Kyle	8,619	4,729	55
Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton	7,591	7,145	94
Prestwick	8,283	7,262	88
Troon	8,003	3,898	49

Source: [Business Register and Employment Survey 2022](#); National Records of Scotland. Mid-year population estimates 2022.

The proportion of working age population with a RQF3 or RQF4 level qualification or above

In South Ayrshire a lower proportion of the working age population have a RQF3 or RQF4 level qualification or above than in Scotland, as shown in Table 42.

A similar proportion have a RQF1 or RQF2 qualification in South Ayrshire, as in Scotland.

Table 42: The proportion of working age population with a RQF3 or RQF4 level qualification or above: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2023

Highest qualification level	South Ayrshire	Scotland
RQF4+*	49.4% ^{**} (6.7)	55.1% (1.1)
RQF3+	70.5% (6.1)	73.7% (1.0)

Highest qualification level	South Ayrshire	Scotland
RQF2+	85.1% (4.8)	87.1% (0.8)
RQF1+	86% (4.6)	87.1% (0.7)

**RQF4 qualification equals SCQF level 7 (Advanced Higher)

*This data is provided with confidence intervals – i.e. the true value may be higher or lower. To use confidence intervals (in brackets), add and subtract the value in the bracket from the figures presented above.

Source: NOMIS. [Annual Population Survey](#)

Annual participation measure of young adults (16–19) participating in education, training and employment

Young adults aged 16 to 19 in South Ayrshire are slightly more likely to be participating in education, training and employment, than in Scotland.

In South Ayrshire 96.6% of young adults (aged 16–19) were participating in education, training and employment in 2023, as shown in Table 43. This is a higher than for Scotland as a whole (94.3%).

Education participation was higher in South Ayrshire (74.2%) than in Scotland as a whole (71.3%). Participation in employment in South Ayrshire was lower at 19.3% than in Scotland as a whole (21.4%).

A higher proportion were participating in training and development in South Ayrshire (3.1%), than in Scotland (1.6%).

Table 43: Annual participation measure of young adults (16-19) participating in education, training and employment. South Ayrshire and Scotland: 2023

Type of participation	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Participating in education, employment and training or development	4,098 (96.6%)	193,925 (94.3%)

Type of participation	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Participating in Education	3,299 (74.2%)	153,427 (71.3%)
Participating in Employment	644 (19.3%)	36,841 (21.4%)
Participating in Training and Development	155 (3.1%)	3,657 (1.6%)

Source: Skills Development Scotland. [Annual Participation Measure. Supplementary Tables. 2023.](#)

The number of 16-to-24-year-olds claiming Universal Credit and seeking work or Job Seekers Allowance

One in 20 16-to-24-year-olds in South Ayrshire claimed unemployment benefits in 2023. This was higher than the Scottish average.

In 2023, 385 South Ayrshire young adults aged 16–24 claimed unemployment benefits. This was 5.1% of all young adults, as shown in Table 44.

Over the period 2019 to 2023, the South Ayrshire youth claimant unemployment rate was consistently higher than the Scottish average.

Table 44: Number and percentage of young adults claiming unemployment benefits, May each year, 2019 to 2023

Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Scotland	21,040 (3.7%)	40,685 (7.3%)	36,820 (6.7%)	18,570 (3.4%)	19,820 (3.6%)
South Ayrshire	535 (5.2%)	890 (8.6%)	855 (9.4%)	375 (4.9%)	385 (5.1%)

Source: NOMIS. [Annual Population Survey; Claimant Count data.](#)

Proportion of apprentices leaving a Modern Apprenticeship who are certificated leavers

The proportion of all Modern Apprentices who were certificated leavers in South Ayrshire (73%) was similar to the proportion for Scotland (72.7%) in 2022 to 2023, as shown in Table 45.

Those aged 25+ in South Ayrshire (80%) were more likely to be certificated leavers than those in Scotland (77%).

Table 45: Proportion of apprentices leaving a Modern Apprenticeship who are certificated leavers: South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022- 2023

Age group	South Ayrshire	Scotland
All	73%	72.7%
16 to 19	68.2%	68.3%
20-24	71.3%	72.6%
25+	80%	77%

Source: Skills Development Scotland. [Modern Apprenticeships. Supplementary Tables Q4. 2022-2023.](#)

The proportion of all 16-to-24-year-olds in employment who are Modern Apprentices

The proportion of all 16-to-24-year-olds in employment who were Modern Apprentices in South Ayrshire in 2022/23 was 17.4%, higher than in Scotland (8.4%), as shown in Table 46.

This might indicate that in South Ayrshire, there are fewer other forms of employment for younger people locally or it may indicate that there is more investment in apprenticeship training opportunities by employers.

Table 46: Modern Apprentices in training, aged 16–24, as a proportion of all of those in employment: South Ayrshire and Scotland 2022/23

Area	Number of 16 to 24s in employment	16 to 24 and in Modern Apprentice training at 31st March 2023	Proportion of all 16 to 24s in employment who are Modern Apprentices
South Ayrshire	3,600	621	17.4%
Scotland	318,600	26,777	8.4%

Source: Skills Development Scotland. [Modern Apprenticeships. Supplementary Tables Q4. 2022–2023.](#)

Proportion of modern apprenticeship new starts by gender

In 2022/2023 the number of female modern apprenticeship starts in South Ayrshire was 204, and 313 for male starts, as shown in Table 47.

The proportion of all female starts was 39%, as in Scotland as a whole.

Table 47: The proportion of apprentices by gender: South Ayrshire and Scotland: 2022- 2023

Age	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Male	313 (61%)	15,644 (61%)
Female	204 (39%)	9,625 (39%)
Total	517	25,447*

*includes a further 178 who prefer not to say/in another way

Source: Skills Development Scotland. [Modern Apprenticeships. Supplementary Tables Q4. 2022-2023.](#)

Data on childcare

The number and proportion of all 2-year-olds utilising 2-year-old entitlement to ELC

A higher proportion of eligible two-year-olds are accessing ELC in South Ayrshire than in Scotland.

In South Ayrshire, at September 2023, 152 2-year-old children were taking up the two-year-old entitlement to ELC, as shown in Table 48.

These children represent 16% of all 2-year-olds in South Ayrshire and 65% of all eligible two-year-olds entitled to that care.

In Scotland, a lower proportion of all eligible 2-year-olds, 52%, were taking up the entitlement.

Table 48: Number and proportion of all 2-year-olds utilising 2-year-old entitlement to ELC. South Ayrshire and Scotland: September 2023

Measure	South Ayrshire	Scotland
Number of children using ELC	152	6,636
Proportion of all 2-year-olds	16%	13%
Proportion of all eligible 2-year-olds	65%	52%

Source: Scottish Government. [Summary statistics for schools in Scotland. 2023.](#)

Capacity in childcare services as a rate per 100 population, by local authority

In South Ayrshire the total service capacity for various forms of childcare, in 2022, was:

- Nurseries: 2,859
- Out of school clubs: 582
- Childminding: 382
- Holiday Playscheme: 78
- Playgroups: 31
- Children and family centres: 16
- Creches: n/a

In 2022, as shown in Table 49 below, service capacity (as a rate per 100 population of children aged e.g. 0 to 5, 0 to 15, by local authority) was higher in South Ayrshire, when compared with Scotland for nurseries and holiday playschemes.

Service capacity was lower in South Ayrshire for out of school clubs, childminding, children and family centres and playgroups.

Table 49: Service capacity in childcare services as a rate per 100 population by local authority. South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022.

Childcare type	South Ayrshire Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity	Scotland Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity
Nurseries	71.4 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	16.6	2,859	62.7 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	14.9	135,900
Out of school clubs	4.3 (per 100 of estimated population ages 4 to 15)	3.4	582	4.5 (per 100 of estimated population ages 4 to 15)	3.5	31,637
Childminding	-	2.2	382	-	2.4	22,040
Children and family centres	0.3	0.1	16	2.3	0.8	7,286
Playgroups	0.8 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	0.2	31	1.4 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	0.3	2,927
Holiday Playscheme	0.6 (per 100 of estimated population	0.5	78	0.2 (per 100 of estimated population	0.1	1,184

Childcare type	South Ayrshire Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity	Scotland Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity
	ages 5 to 15)			ages 5 to 15)		
Creches	-	-	n/a	0.1 (per 100 of estimated population ages 0 to 11)	0.1	985

Source: This data is supplied by the [Care Inspectorate](#) upon request.

Children registered with childcare services as a rate per 100 population, by local authority

In 2022, as shown in Table 50, children registered with childcare services (as a rate per 100 population of children aged e.g. 0 to 5, 0 to 15, by local authority) was lower in South Ayrshire, when compared with Scotland for children and family centres, holiday playschemes, childminding and playgroups.

It was higher for nurseries and out of school clubs.

Table 50: Children registered with childcare services as a rate per 100 population by local authority. South Ayrshire and Scotland, 2022.

Childcare type	South Ayrshire Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity	Scotland Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity
Nurseries	0.1	0	2.4	0.9	0.1	0
Out of school clubs	59 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	15.5	54.7 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	15.3	59 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	15.5
Childminding	6.9 (per 100 of estimated population ages 4 to 15)	5.6	6.1 (per 100 of estimated population ages 4 to 15)	4.8	6.9 (per 100 of estimated population ages 4 to 15)	5.6
Children and family centres	-	2.4	-	2.6	-	2.4
Playgroups	0.2 (per 100 of estimated population ages 5 to 15)	0.1	0.6 (per 100 of estimated population ages 5 to 15)	0.5	0.2 (per 100 of estimated population ages 5 to 15)	0.1

Childcare type	South Ayrshire Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity	Scotland Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–5	Service capacity per 100 of estimated population ages 0–15	Total service capacity
Holiday Playscheme	0.4 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	0.1	2.5 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	0.3	0.4 (per 100 of estimated population ages 2 to 5)	0.1
Creches	-	-	-	0.2	-	-

Source: This data is supplied by the [Care Inspectorate](#) upon request.

Data on the cost of living

Average property price (monthly)

In March 2024, the median property price in South Ayrshire was £141,000, lower than the Scottish average (£180,000).

Table 51: Median property prices, Scotland and South Ayrshire

Area	Median property price, March 2024
Scotland	180,000
South Ayrshire	141,000

Source: [Registers of Scotland. House price statistics.](#)

Level and trends in monthly rental housing costs (private properties) Broad Rental Market Area

The mean monthly private rental cost, for three-bedroom properties, in the Ayrshire Broad Rental Market Area was £687, below the national average of £1,026.

Monthly private rental costs in the Ayrshire Broad Rental Market Area have been consistently lower than the Scottish average over time.

Table 52: three-bedroom properties, average mean private rental costs: Scotland and the Ayrshires

Area	2010	2022	2023
Scotland	674	906	1,026
Ayrshires	556	606	687

Source: Scottish Government, [Supporting documents - Private Sector Rent Statistics, Scotland, 2010 to 2023](#)

Mean weekly rental housing costs of social landlord properties

South Ayrshire Council was the largest provider of three-apartment social housing in the South Ayrshire local authority area. Average weekly costs were £78 per week, below the Scottish average (£86 per week).

Ayrshire Housing and West of Scotland Housing Association were the second and third largest social housing providers in South Ayrshire. Their weekly housing costs were higher than the Scottish average (£96 per week).

Table 53: three-apartment self-contained units – average weekly rent

Landlord	Number of units	Average weekly rent
ANCHO Ltd	2	82.59
Ayrshire Housing	724	95.93
Blackwood Homes and Care	22	127.54

Landlord	Number of units	Average weekly rent
Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Ltd	59	115.86
Irvine Housing Association Ltd	50	90.33
Link Group Ltd	30	105
South Ayrshire Council	3456	78.39
Trust Housing Association Ltd	12	135.71
West of Scotland Housing Association Ltd	312	96.27
South Ayrshire area	4667	83.46
Scotland	281338	86.27

Source: Scottish Social Housing Regulator: [Landlord performance: statistical information](#). 2023

Numbers of families with children seeking advice from local authority funded money and welfare rights services, 2022/2023

620 lone parents and 352 couple families with children in South Ayrshire sought advice during 2022/23, as shown in Table 54.

The total number of households with children seeking advice in South Ayrshire was lower in 2022/23 than in 2020/21 (in Scotland it was higher).

Table 54a: The number of lone-parent and couple households with children seeking advice: South Ayrshire, 2018/19, 2021/22 and 2022/23

Year	Lone-parent households who sought advice	Couple family households with children who sought advice	Total number of households with children seeking advice
2018/19	93	300	393
2020/21	1,380	2,470	3,850
2022/23	620	352	972

Source: Improvement Service. [Common Advice Performance Management Reporting Framework Summary. South Ayrshire. 2022/23.](#)

Table 54b: The number of lone-parent and couple households with children seeking advice: Scotland, 2018/19, 2021/22 and 2022/23

Year	Lone-parent households who sought advice	Couple family households with children who sought advice	Total number of households with children seeking advice
2018/19	13,031	12,003	25,034
2020/21	17,227	16,461	33,688
2022/23	22,395	20,378	42,773

Source: Improvement Service. [Common Advice Performance Management Reporting Framework Summary. South Ayrshire. 2022/23.](#)

Total amount of verified financial gain for clients of local authority funded money and welfare rights advice

The total amount of verified financial gain for all clients in South Ayrshire was £13.2m in 2022/23, increasingly significantly from £2.2m in 2017/18, as shown in Table 55.

The total financial gain for all clients in Scotland has fluctuated but was slightly higher in 2022/23 than in 2017/18.

Table 55a: The total amount of verified financial gain for all clients: South Ayrshire, 2018/19, 2021/22 and 2022/23

Year	Total amount of verified financial gain
2018/19	£2,263,824
2020/21	£6,379,549
2022/23	£13,252,483

Source: Improvement Service. [Common Advice Performance Management Reporting Framework Summary](#). South Ayrshire. 2022/23.

Table 55b: The total amount of verified financial gain for all clients: Scotland, 2018/19, 2021/22 and 2022/23

Year	Total amount of verified financial gain
2018/19	£301,791,233
2020/21	£275,980,809
2022/23	£330,545,746

Source: Improvement Service. [Common Advice Performance Management Reporting Framework Summary](#). South Ayrshire. 2022/23.