

East Lothian Partnership

East Lothian by Numbers

A Statistical Profile of East Lothian

3. Economy and Income

2022

Economy & Income

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Economy & Income

Although East Lothian is generally considered to be an area of high employment and general affluence there is considerable variation in economic activity, unemployment and the financial position of households between and within East Lothian's wards.

Generally East Lothian is an area that is more affluent than the Scottish average. However, East Lothian has a job density well below the national average, and many people commute to jobs outside of the county.

This section concentrates on income and employment figures across East Lothian and in comparison with the rest of Scotland as well as people's perceptions of their own financial position.



Summary:

- Earnings for those who work in East Lothian rose above those who reside in East Lothian but may work outside the area for the first time in 10 years.
- More people in East Lothian are economically active when compared to Scotland as a whole.
- 10.2% of the population in East Lothian were considered to be income deprived in SIMD2020, lower than the 12.1% across Scotland, but higher than the 9.8% in 2016.
- 8.1% of the working age population in East Lothian were considered to be employment deprived in SIMD2020, lower than the 8.4% in 2016, and lower than the 9.3% across Scotland in 2020.
- The number of people on Universal Credit (UC) peaked at 9,777 in July 2020, 64.7% higher than the pre pandemic figure of 5842 in February 2020.
- The number of people on seeking work peaked at 3,426 in May 2020, 105.4% higher than the pre pandemic figure of 1668 in February 2020.
- In April 2022 the number of people seeking work was below the pre pandemic level, however although the overall number of UC claimants has been reducing gradually it is still higher than the pre pandemic level.
- East Lothian had a job density of 0.58 in 2020, lower than the Scottish figure of 0.80, however the five year average in East Lothian increased from 0.52 (2011 to 2015) to 0.56 (2016 to 2020).
- The most visited attraction in East Lothian is the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick.

Income

Figure 3.1 shows that the gross weekly pay in East Lothian in 2021 fell below the Scottish average for the first time in 10 years. The figures are survey based and do not cover those who are self-employed. The sample sizes mean that the Scottish figures are classed as precise, and the East Lothian figures are reasonably precise.

Figure 3.1: Gross weekly pay by East Lothian as a place of residence 10 year trend (Nomis)

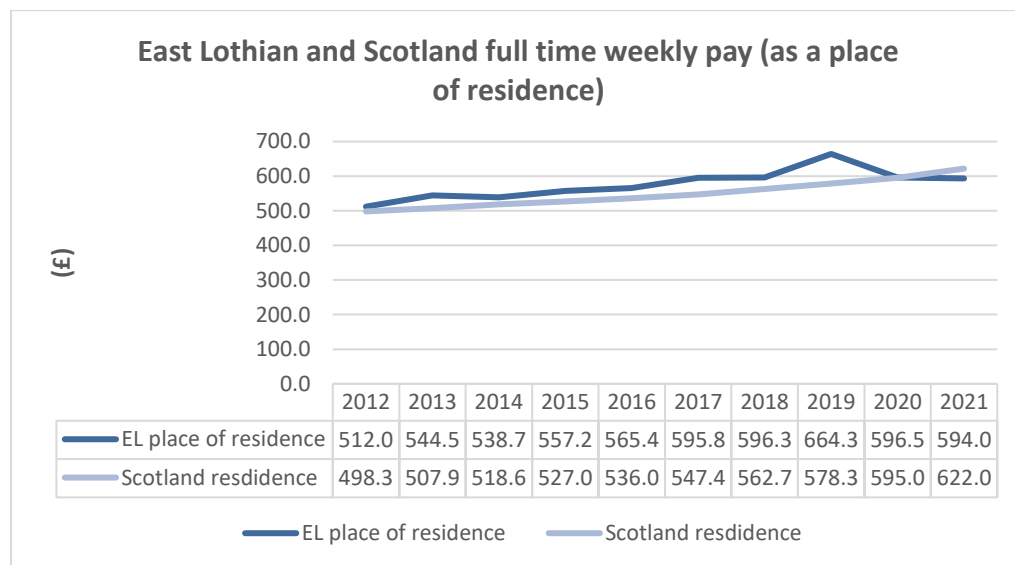


Figure 3.2 shows the gross weekly residence pay by gender. The male figures are classed as reasonably precise. The female figures are classed as reasonably precise from 2012 to 2018, however 2019 to 2021 are acceptable but should be used with caution.

Figure 3.2: Gross weekly pay by gender for East Lothian as a place of residence (Nomis)

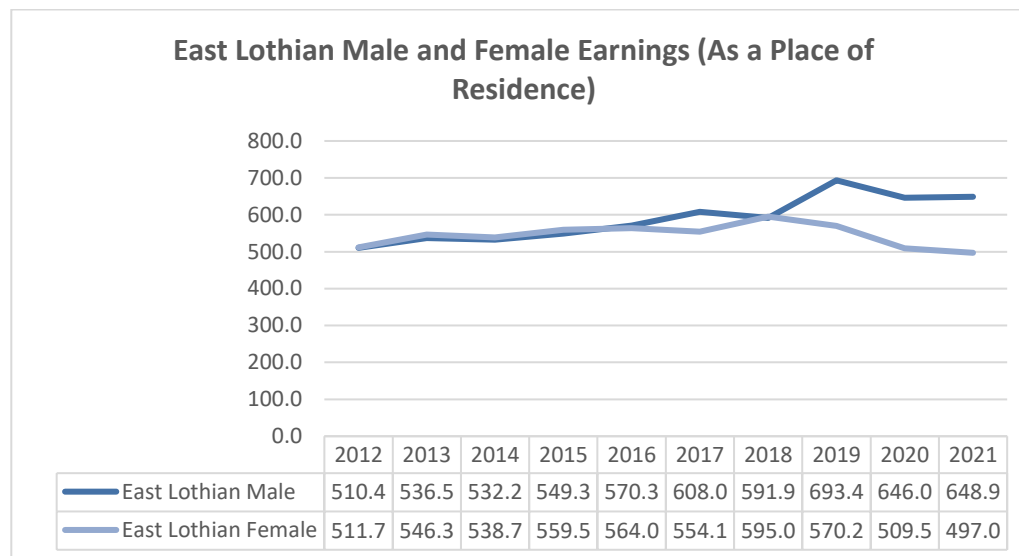
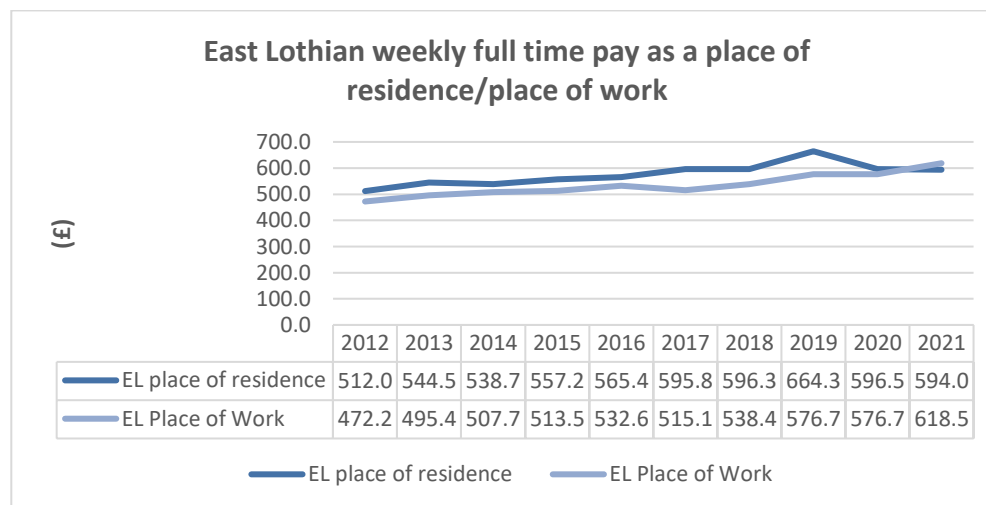


Figure 3.3 shows that for the first time in 10 years, those who work in East Lothian earned more than those who reside in East Lothian but may work outside the area.

Figure 3.3: Gross weekly pay in East Lothian as a place of residence/place of work (Nomis)



Hourly Earnings

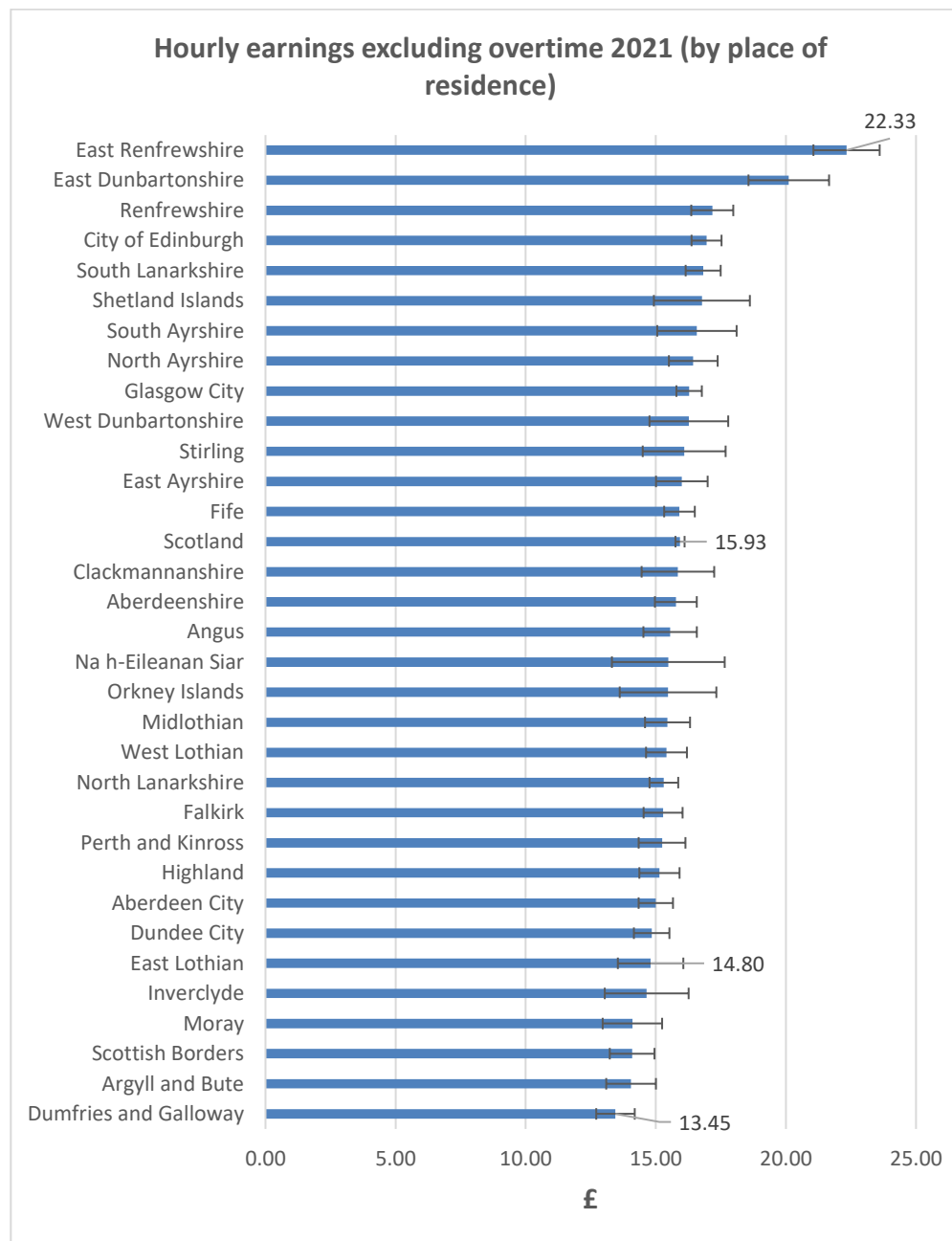
Full time male workers living in East Lothian earn an average of £3.56 per hour more than females (Scotland £0.59) Figure 3.4 shows the hourly pay rates by sex for workers, the figures for East Lothian males and Scotland males & females are classed as precise or reasonably precise, however the East Lothian female hourly rate is acceptable but should be treated with caution.

Figure 3.4: Hourly pay by East Lothian as a residence (excluding overtime) by sex in East Lothian, Scotland (Nomis).



The Hourly rate excluding overtime in East Lothian is £14.80 (Figure 3.5), lower than the Scottish figure of £15.93. All figures in the chart are precise or reasonably precise with the exceptions of Inverclyde, Shetlands, Orkneys and Na h-Eileanan Siar which are acceptable but should be used with caution

Figure 3.5: Hourly pay (exc. over time) by local authority as a place of work (Nomis).



Occupations

Figure 3.6 summarises the occupations of East Lothian residents. When compared to Scotland as a whole.

Figure 3.6: Employment by occupation in East Lothian 2021 (Nomis).

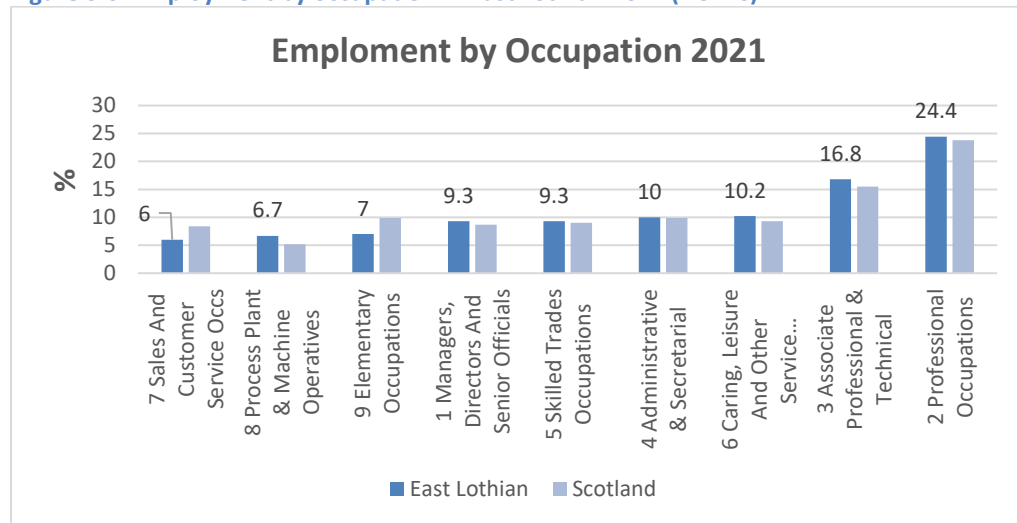
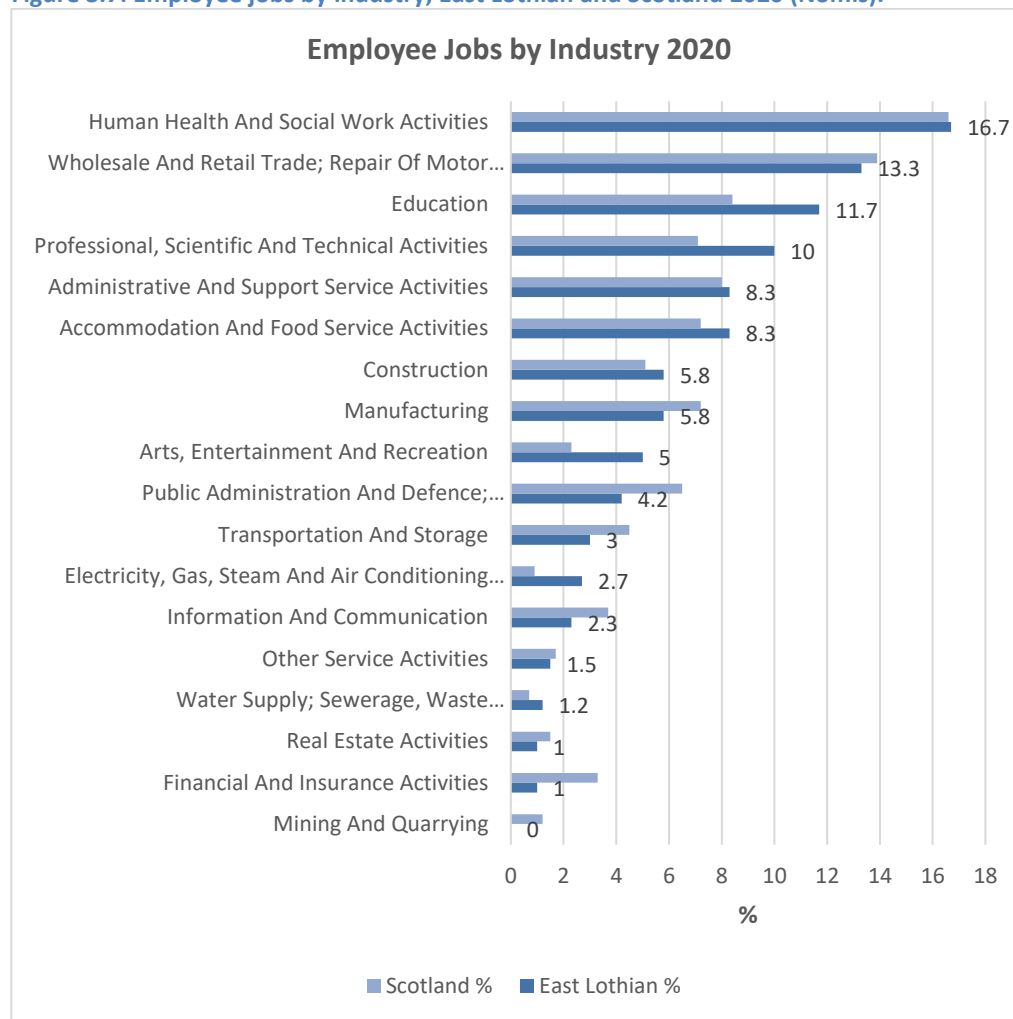


Figure 3.7 displays the industries that East Lothian residents are employed in compared with the Scottish average. The categories are similarly distributed throughout East Lothian and Scotland. More people were employed in the Professional, Scientific, Technical and Educations industries in East Lothian when compared to Scotland.

Figure 3.7: Employee jobs by industry, East Lothian and Scotland 2020 (Nomis).



Economic Activity and Inactivity

Figure 3.8 shows that in 2021, more people in East Lothian were economically active (in employment or unemployed) and employed when compared to Scotland as a whole.

Figure 3.9 shows the employment trend in East Lothian compared with Scotland. 79.8% of people aged 16-64 living in East Lothian are in employment. The proportion of the working age population in employment in East Lothian has been higher than the Scottish average over the last 5 years.

17.1% of East Lothian’s population is economically inactive (People who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a home or retired), lower than the national figure of 23.8%. Figure 3.10 shows that 28.9% of those who are economically inactive in East Lothian want a job (Scotland 17.6%).”Other” includes Students, Looking after family/home, Temporary sick, and discouraged.

Table 3.1 shows that more males than females in East Lothian are self employed. This is also the case nationally.

Figure 3.8: Employment and Unemployment (Nomis).

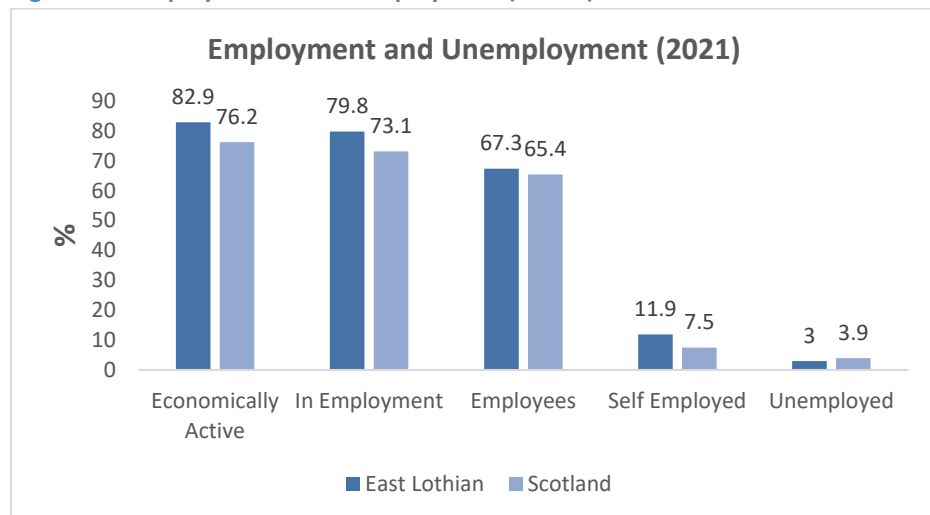


Figure 3.9: Percentage of 16 to 64 year olds in employment in East Lothian and Scotland (Nomis)

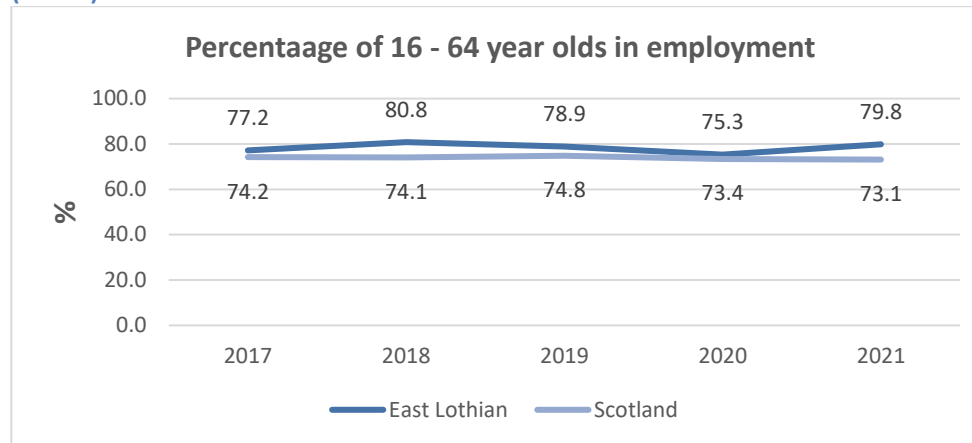


Figure 3.10: Economically Inactive (Nomis)

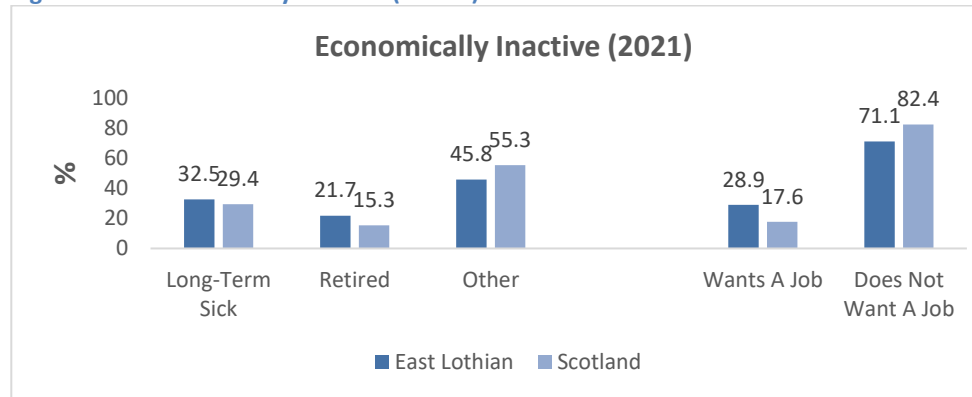


Table 3.1: % of East Lothian 16 to 64 year olds who are employees/self employed

% of East Lothian 16 to 64 year olds by Employment Type (2021)			
	All	Males	Females
In Employment	79.8	79.7	79.9
Employees	67.3	63.5	70.5
Self Employed	11.9	14.8	9.3

Income Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation income domain identifies areas where there are concentrations of individuals and families living on low incomes. This is based on the following factors: Income Support and Income-based Employment Support Allowance claimants (16-59); Job Seekers Allowance and Guaranteed Pension Credit Claimants (all ages); Universal Credit claimants with no employment marker; number of children in JSA, IS or ESA households; number of adults and children dependent on adults in receipt of Tax Credits.

The SIMD2020 level of income deprivation in East Lothian was 10.2%, higher than the 9.8% figure in 2016. This compares to 12.1% across Scotland in 2020, the Scottish figure reduced slightly from the 12.3% in 2016.

Figure 3.11 shows the East Lothian data zones that fall within the most 10% and 20% most income deprived data zones in Scotland. 11 data zones are in the most income deprived 20% in Scotland, compared to 10 in 2016. These mainly lie in the west of the county, although there is now one in Haddington, which had no data zones in this quintile in 2016.

2 of these data zones are in the 10% most income deprived in Scotland, compared to 3 in 2016. These are located in Prestonpans and Tranent.

Figure 3.11: East Lothian Most Income Deprived data zones in Scotland (SIMD2020)

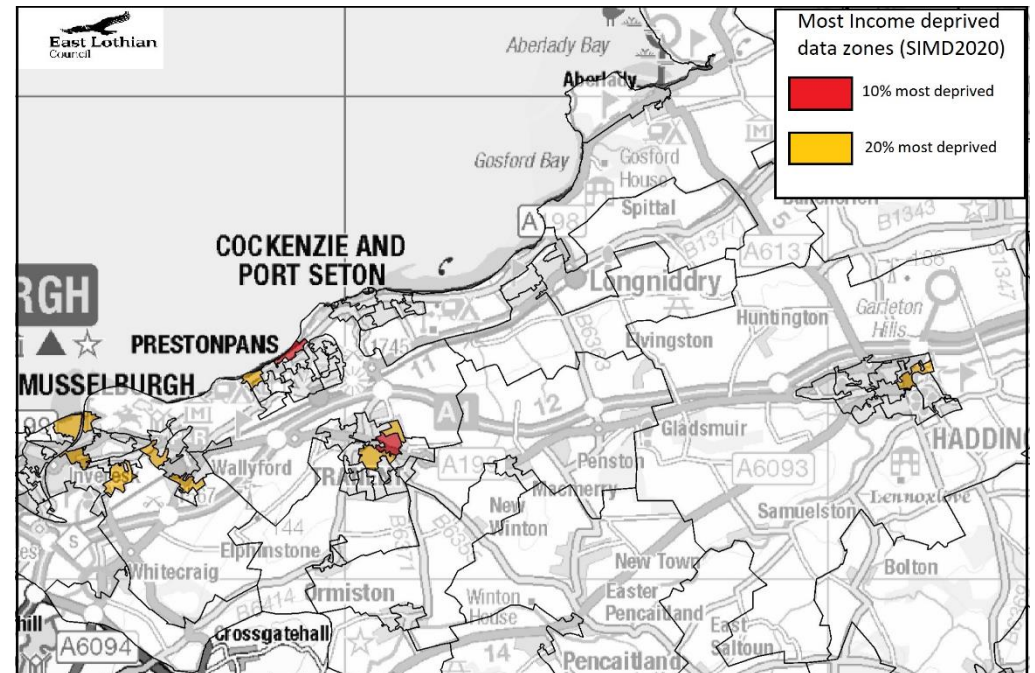
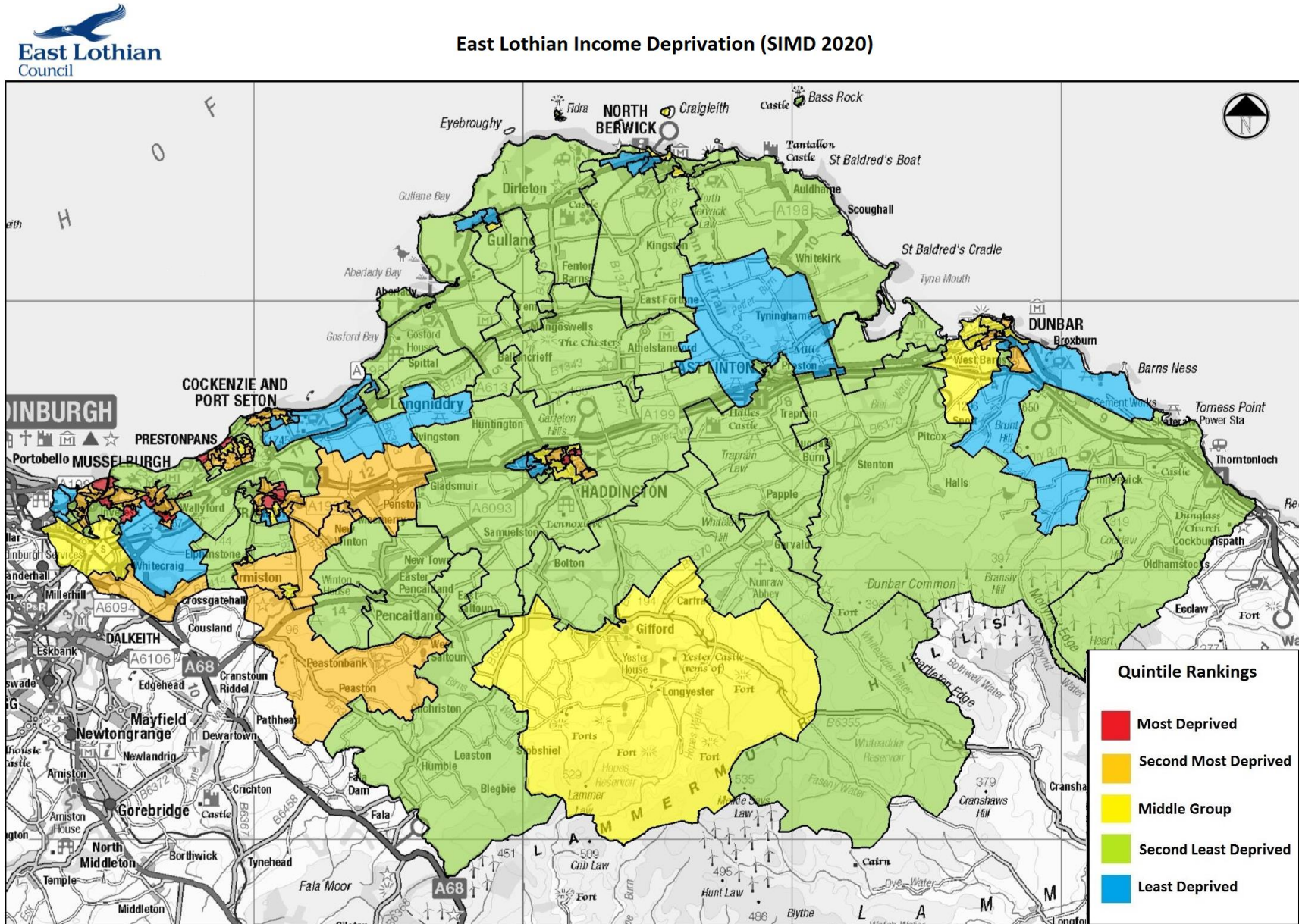


Figure 3.12 shows the Income Deprivation in East Lothian by the SIMD 2020 Scottish quintile rankings. This shows that the concentrations of the most income deprived data zones are found to the west of the county, with the rural areas being mainly in the 2nd least deprived quintile. Although all wards have data zones in the least deprived quintile, North Berwick has a larger share of its data zones in the least deprived quintile when compared to the other wards.

Figure 3.12: East Lothian Income Deprivation by Scottish quintile ranking (SIMD 2020)



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Employment Deprivation

The level of employment deprivation in East Lothian is below that in Scotland as a whole. In the SIMD 2020 employment domain 8.1% of the working age population of East Lothian were employment deprived. This compares to 9.3% across Scotland as a whole.

The SIMD employment domain is based on the following factors:

Unemployment claimant averaged over 12 months; working age Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance recipients; working age Severe Disablement Allowance recipients.

Figure 3.13: shows the Employment Deprivation in East Lothian by the SIMD 2020 Scottish quintile rankings. A similar pattern to the income deprivation data emerges, with many of the data zones falling into the most deprived quintiles in the west of the area.

East Lothian has no data zones in the 10% most employment deprived data zones in Scotland, 14 data zones are within the 20% most employment deprived in Scotland (6 in 2016).

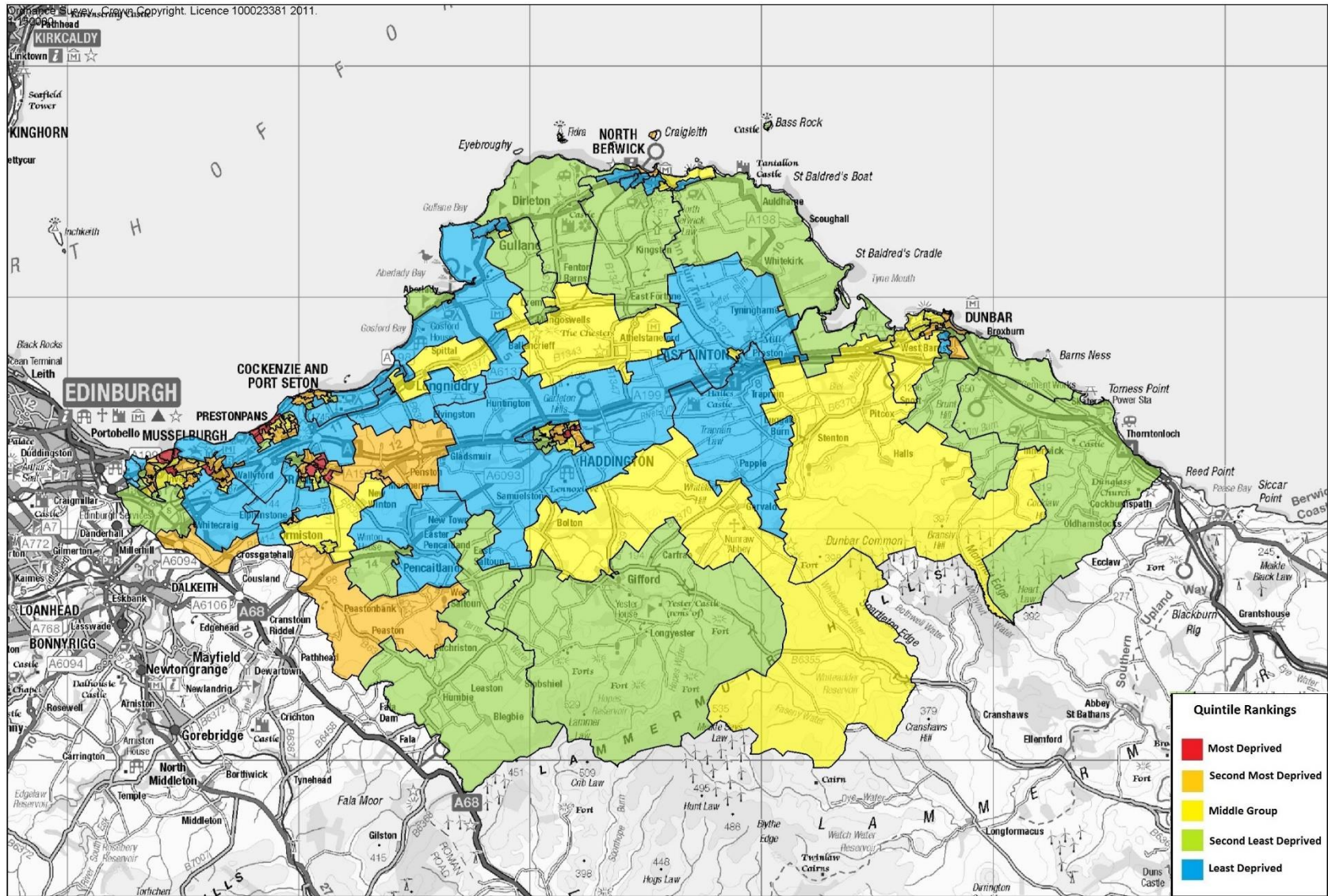
The most employment deprived data zone in East Lothian in SIMD 2020 is Tranent High St/ Northfield/ Lindores Dr with a ranking of 708, out of the 6,976 Scottish data zones.

The number and rate of people classed as employment deprived has fallen from 5,330 (8.4%) in SIMD 2016 to 5,265 (8.1%) in SIMD 2020.

13 data zones in East Lothian are in the 10% least employment deprived in Scotland, and 26 are in the 20% least employment deprived in Scotland. 8 of North Berwick's 17 data zones are in the 20% least employment deprived in Scotland.

Figure 3.13: East Lothian Employment Deprivation by Scottish quintile ranking (SIMD2020)

East Lothian Employment Deprivation by Scottish Quintile Ranking (SIMD 2020)



Universal Credit

Figure 3.14 shows that the number of UC claimants peaked at 9,777 in July 2020, 67.4% higher than the pre COVID February 2020 figure of 5,842. The number of UC claimants seeking work peaked at 3,426 people in May 2020, 105.4 % higher than the February 2020 pre COVID figure of 1,668. In April 2022 the number of people seeking work was below the pre pandemic level, however although the overall number of UC claimants has been reducing gradually, it is still higher than the pre pandemic level.

Figure 3.14: East Lothian Universal Credit and Searching for Work (Stat-Xplore)

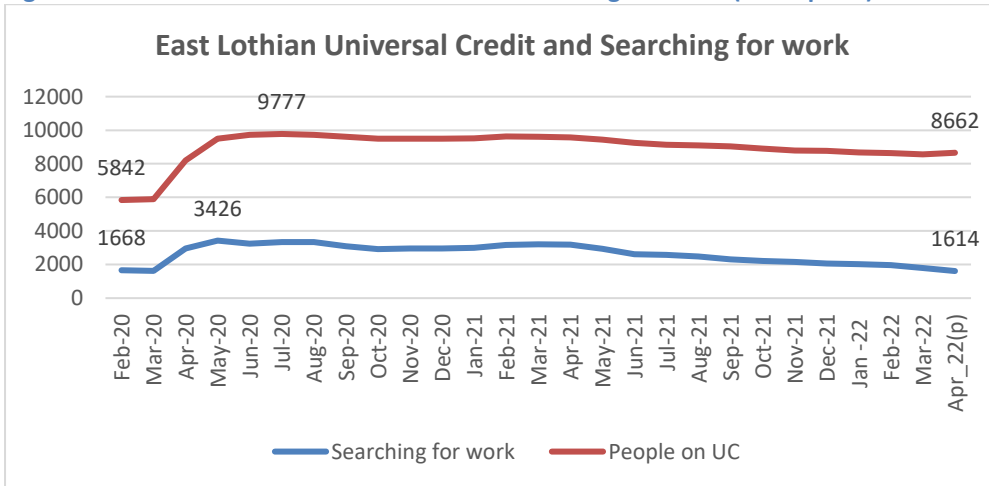
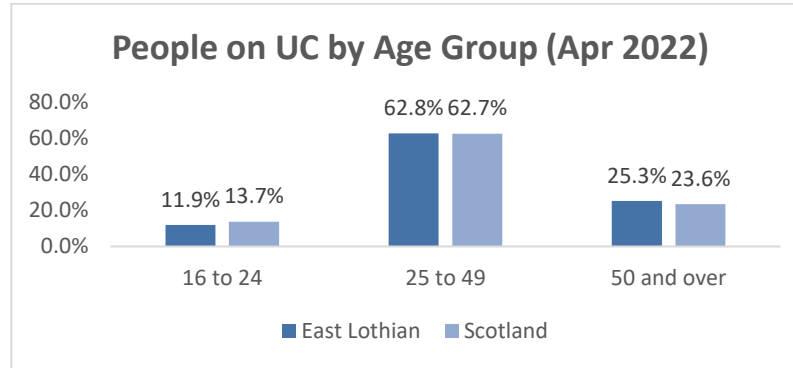


Figure 3.15 displays the proportion of the working age population that receive Universal Credit. Proportionately More Universal Credit claimants in East Lothian are 50 and over, and less are 24 or under when compared to Scotland as a whole.

Figure 3.15: People on Universal Credit by Age Group (Stat-Xplore)

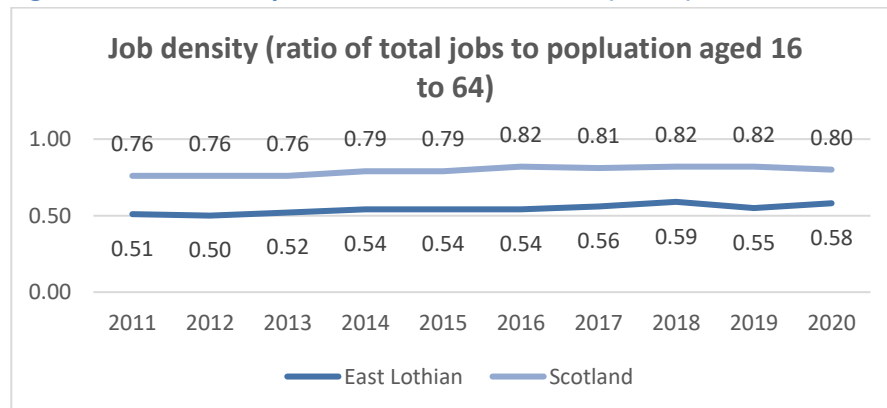


Job Density

Figure 3.16 shows the job density trend from 2011-2020. Jobs density is defined as the number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population aged 16-64 in that area. A job density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident aged 16-64.

East Lothian’s jobs density per population is much lower than the Scottish figure, highlighting the number of East Lothian workers who commute out of the area, particularly to Edinburgh. The 2016-2020 five year average of 0.56 for East Lothian was higher than the 0.52 for 2011- 2015. This upward trend was also reflected across Scotland with the five year average increasing from 0.77 (2011-2015) to 0.81 (2016-2020).

Figure 3.16: Jobs density in East Lothian and Scotland (Nomis).



Qualifications

The five levels measured are: lower than level 1; level 1; level 2; level 3; and level 4 or higher. Each of these levels corresponds to a group of qualifications on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework – also set out below.

The range of qualifications by SCQF levels:

Pre-Level 1 Qualifications:

- SCQF 1: e.g. Access 1 or National 1.
- SCQF 2: e.g. Access 2 or National 2.
- SCQF 3: Access 3, National 3.

Level 1 Qualifications:

- SCQF 4: e.g. National 4 or Scottish Vocational Qualification 1.
- SCQF 5: e.g. National 5 or SVQ 2.

Level 2 Qualifications:

- SCQF 6: e.g. Higher or SVQ 3

Level 3 Qualifications:

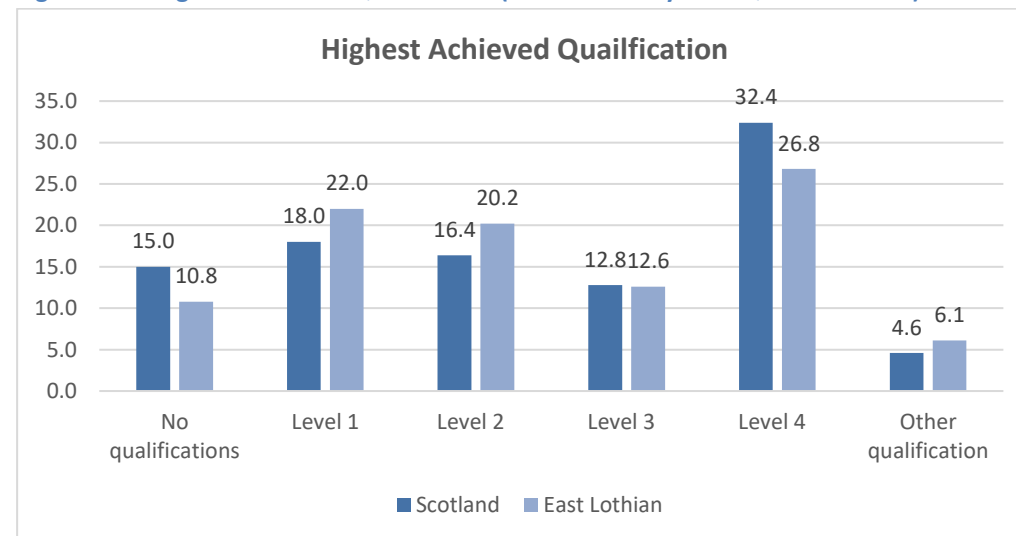
- SCQF 7: e.g. Advanced Higher or SVQ 3.
- SCQF 8: e.g. Higher National Certificate or SVQ 4.

Level 4 Qualifications:

- SCQF 9: e.g. Ordinary Degree or SVQ 4.
- SCQF 10: e.g. Honours Degree.
- SCQF 11: e.g. Masters Degree or SVQ 5.

Figure 3.17 shows that the highest achieved qualification for East Lothian and Scotland. 26.8% of working age people in East Lothian had a degree and 10.8% had no qualification, compared to 32.4% and 15% respectively for Scotland.

Figure 3:17: Highest Achieved Qualification (Scottish Survey Core Questions 2019).



Business Size & Growth

Figure 3.18 shows that the vast majority of businesses in East Lothian and Scotland employ less than 10 people.

Figure 3.18: Business size by number of employees as a proportion of registered enterprises (Nomis)

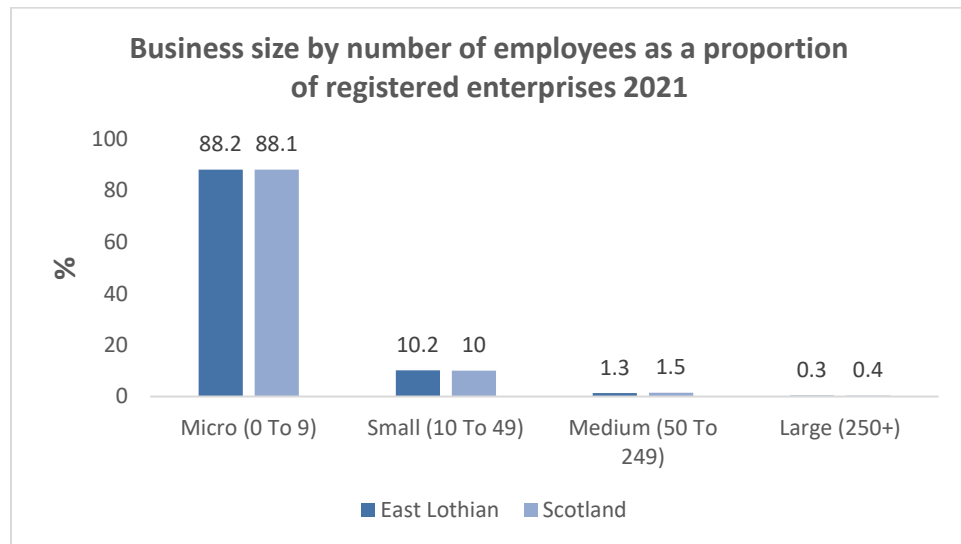


Figure 3.19 shows that a higher proportion of people are employed in businesses that employ 0-49 employees in East Lothian than in Scotland as a whole. Fewer people in East Lothian are employed by businesses with 250+ employees.

The largest employer in East Lothian is East Lothian Council with around 4,000 staff employed directly and through partner agencies. A number of other companies based within and out with East Lothian also employ a significant number of people. Belhaven Brewery, Dunbar Cement Plant, Charles River Laboratories, Lafarge, and Torness Power Station are just some of the companies based in East Lothian that employ a significant number of people.

Figure 3.19: Number of people employed, by size of business as a proportion of the total number of people employed (Scottish Government)

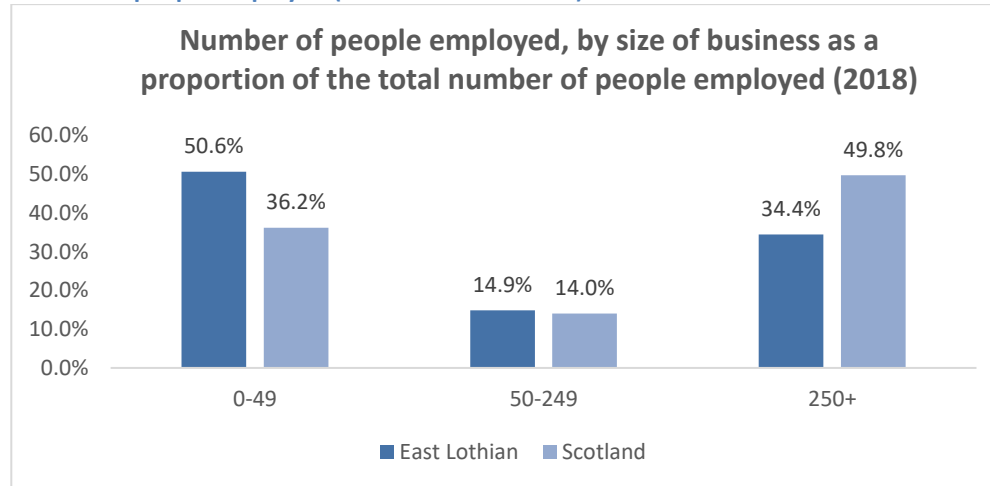
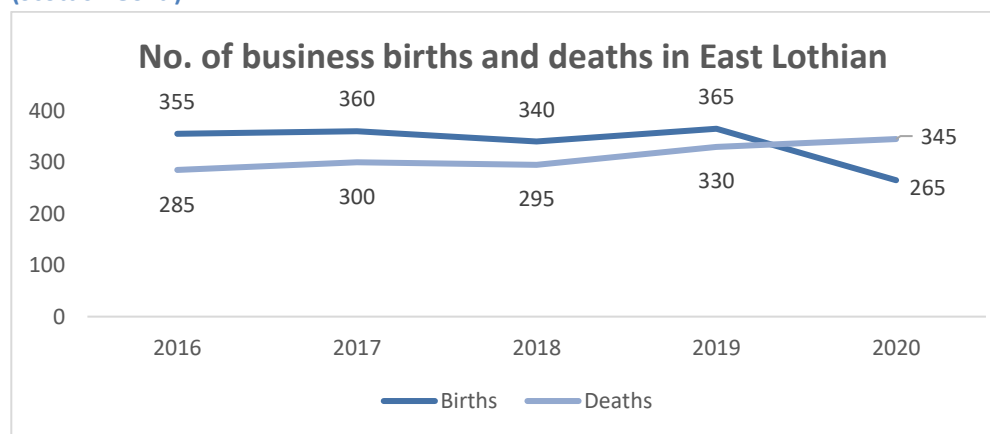


Figure 3.20 compares the number of business births and business deaths. The number of business births in East Lothian declined by 15% in 2006 before remaining relatively stable over the next 4 years before increasing to a 10 year high of 350 in 2013. The 2014 figure decreased by 10% in 2014. The number of business deaths is currently 17% lower than the business births, on average there have been 18% fewer business deaths than births over the last 10 years.

Figure 3.20: Number of business births and deaths in East Lothian (rounded to nearest 5) (Scottish Govt.).



The percentage of businesses surviving their first and second year after opening is fairly high in East Lothian. 76.5 % of businesses that had opened in 2018 were still actively trading after two years. However this is down from 95.6% (of the same businesses) that were actively trading after one year of opening

Figure 3.21 shows the percentage of businesses that survived their first and second years by year of business birth. The number of business in East Lothian declined in 2020 from the previous year, however the 2020 figure of 3,285 was 5% higher than the number of businesses in 2016, which was higher than the 1.6% national increase, as shown in Table 3.2.

Figure 3.21: percentage of businesses in East Lothian that survive into the first and second year of activity by year of business' birth (ONS)

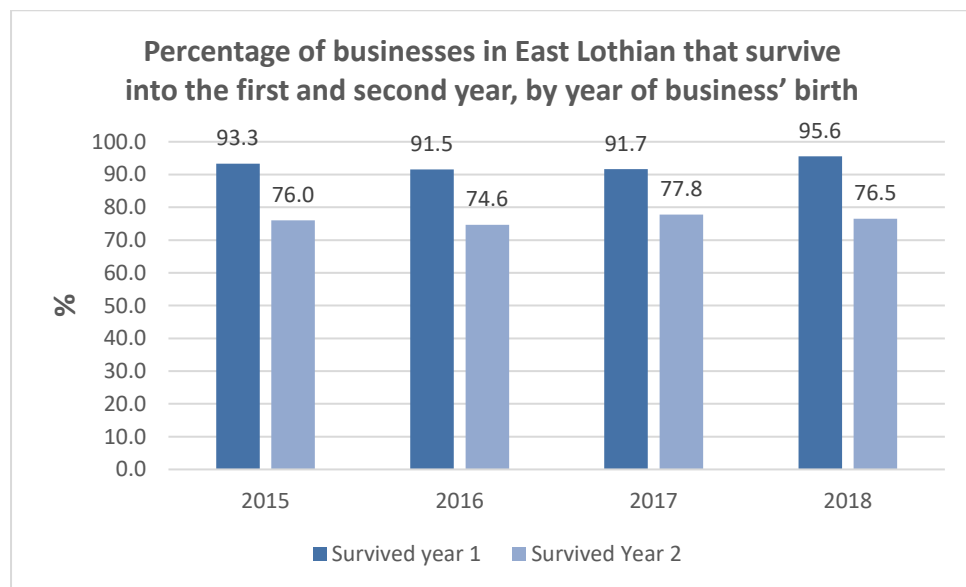


Table 3.2: Number of businesses in East Lothian and Scotland (ONS)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019 to 2020 change	2016 to 2020 % change
East Lothian	3,130	3,200	3,235	3,345	3,285	-1.8%	5.0%
Scotland	178,435	180,280	180,165	183,485	181,345	-1.2%	1.6%

Gross Domestic Product

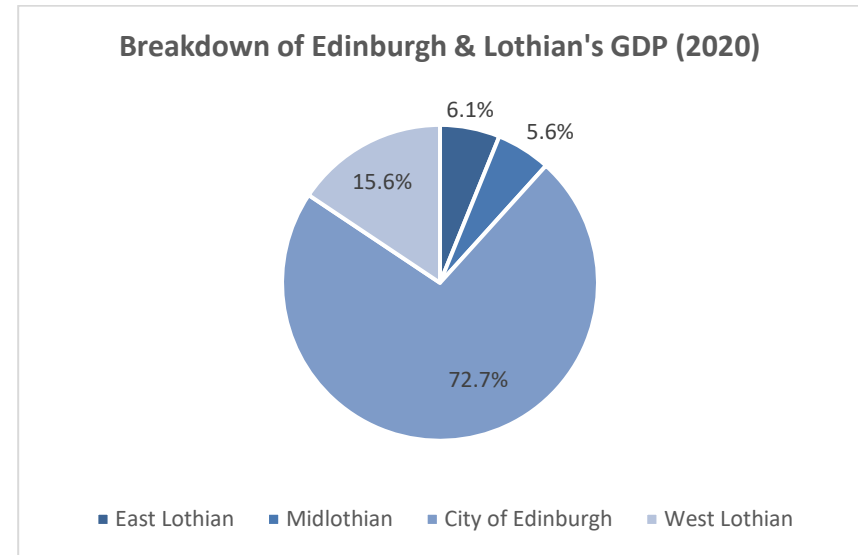
Figure 3.22 displays Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head of population. East Lothian has the 6th lowest GDP per head of population

Figure 3.22: GDP per head, (ONS).



The combined GDP from the Lothian area (Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, and West Lothian) generated 22% of the National figure, from a region with 16% of the national population. East Lothian is estimated to have contributed to 6.1% % of Lothian’s GDP (Figure 3.23)

Figure 3.23: Total Economic output at basic prices in Edinburgh and the Lothians (ONS)



Tourism

East Lothian has a variety of attractions and places to visit. Golf, beaches, museums, and a number of other attractions make East Lothian a popular area for both locals and tourists to enjoy. A full list can be found at www.visiteastlothian.org

Table 3.3 shows that the most visited places were North Berwick (64%), Dunbar (40%) and Gullane (38%). These findings are likely influenced by the survey's sampling locations, Consistent with 2018, the vast majority (93%) went to coastal locations, while less than half (40%) went to inland towns/villages.

Table 3.3: Places visited in East Lothian (East Lothian Visitors Survey)

Places Visited	2011	2015	2018	2021
North Berwick	57%	64%	66%	64%
Dunbar	42%	45%	41%	40%
Gullane	24%	25%	34%	38%
Musselburgh	20%	32%	24%	24%
Aberlady	-	16%	20%	23%
Haddington	14%	20%	22%	21%
Longniddry	-	13%	11%	19%
East Linton	14%	13%	15%	16%
Dirleton	-	14%	15%	15%

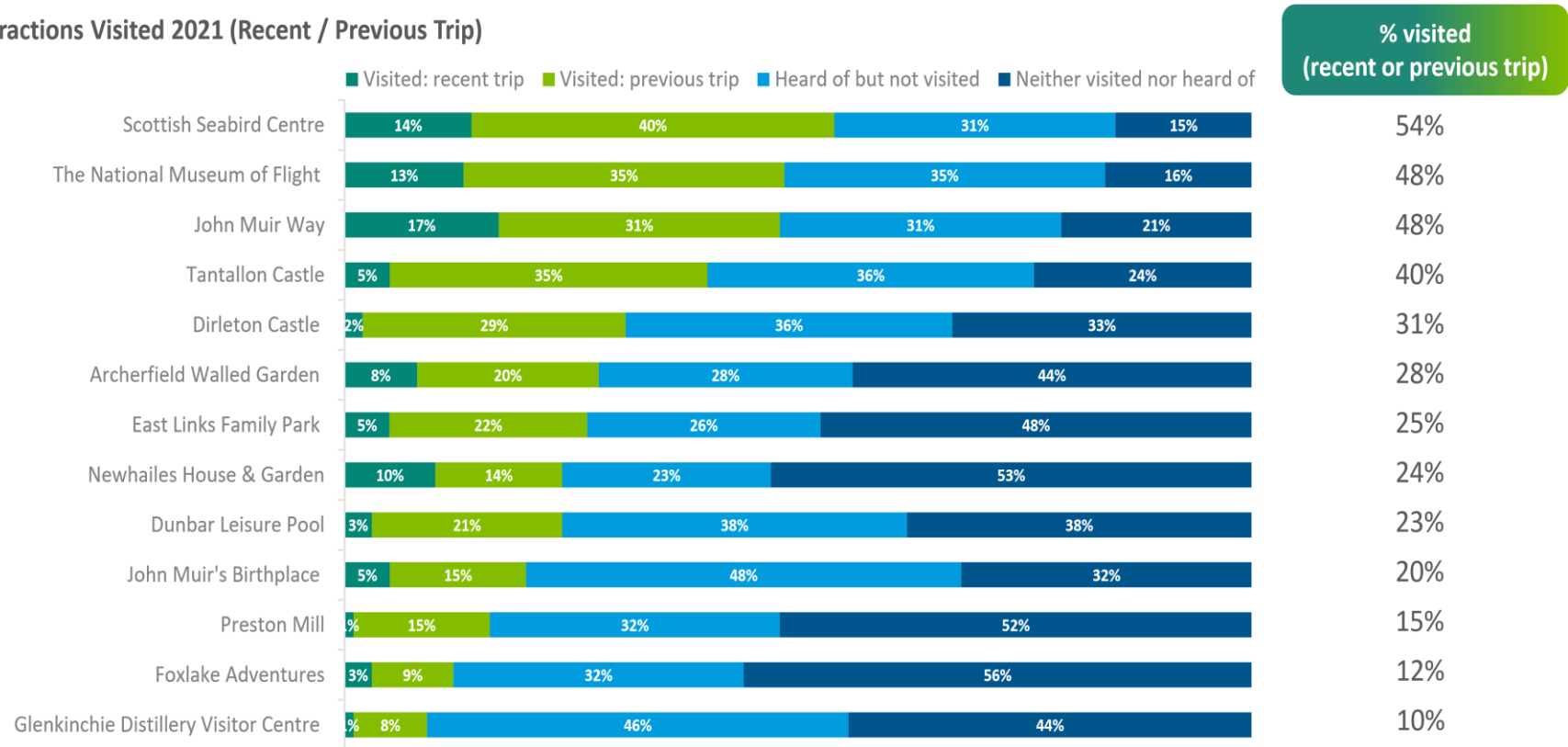
Thirteen attractions in East Lothian have a Scottish Tourist Board rating of 3 Stars or above. Eleven attractions have Green Tourism awards. Table 3.4 shows the different attractions in East Lothian with a Scottish Tourist Board rating.

Table 3.4: Visitor attractions in East Lothian with a Scottish Tourist Board star rating (Visit Scotland).

Attraction	Location	Leisure Type	STB Star Rating
Archerfield Walled Garden	Dirleton	Food & Drink	4
Chippendale Int. School of Furniture	Gifford	Other	3
East Links Family Park	Dunbar	Outdoor	4
Flag Heritage Centre	Athelstaneford	Historic	4
Glenkinchie Distillery	Pencaitland	Food & Drink	5
John Gray Centre	Haddington	Museum	5
John Muir Country Park	Dunbar	Outdoor	3
John Muir's Birthplace	Dunbar	Historic	5
Musselburgh Golf Course	Musselburgh	Sport	5
Musselburgh Racecourse	Musselburgh	Sport	5
Prestongrange Museum	Prestonpans	Historic	3
Scottish Seabird Centre	North Berwick	Museum	5
St Mary's Church	Haddington	Historic	3
Tours at Torness	Dunbar	Other	5

Figure 3.24: Attractions visited in East Lothian (East Lothian Visitors Survey)

Attractions Visited 2021 (Recent / Previous Trip)



The attraction most visited recently was the John Muir Way (17%), followed by the Scottish Seabird Centre (14%) and the National Museum of Flight (13%). The Scottish Seabird Centre (54%) was the most visited overall (on a recent or previous trip). However these figures were likely influenced by sampling due to higher footfall in areas such as North Berwick and Gullane.

Table 3.5. shows that East Lothian was the main or only destination for 69% of respondents in 2021, similar to the 71% in 2019.

Table 3.5: Description of visit to East Lothian (East Lothian Visitors Survey)

Description of Visit to East Lothian	2018	2021
Only destination on my trip away from home	51%	46%
Main destination on my trip away from home	20%	23%
Main destination on my trip away that I visited on my trip	23%	25%
A place I visited enroute to/from my train destination	6%	6%

Fig 3.25 shows that 44% of visitors stayed overnight in East Lothian, higher than the 37% in 2018.

Figure 3.25: Length of visit to East Lothian (East Lothian Visitors Survey)

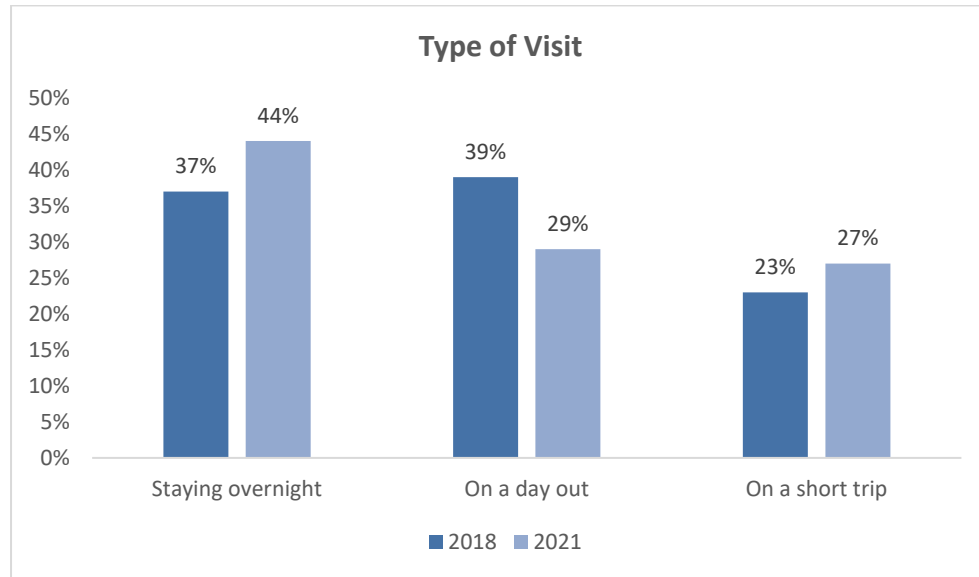


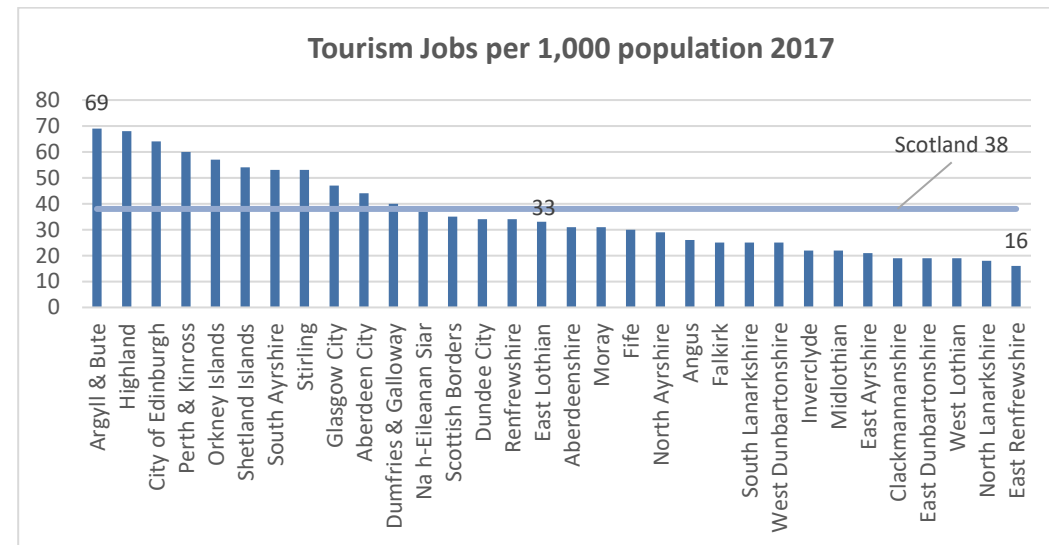
Table 3.6 shows that there were 3,500 tourism jobs in East Lothian in 2017, this was a 21% increase from 2012, and the 6th highest increase in Scotland.

Table 3.6: Tourism Employment by Local Authority Area and Rate of Change 2009-2012 & 2012-2017 (Visit Scotland)

	Tourism Jobs 2017	% change 2012- 2017
East Lothian	3500	21%
Scotland	206,000	13%

Tourism employment accounted for 33 jobs per 1,000 population lower than the 38 across Scotland as a whole (Figure 3:26)

Figure 3.26: Tourism Employment as % of Scotland Total & all Jobs in Local Authority 2017 (Visit Scotland)



Sources

In preparing this profile every attempt has been made to use the most recent information publically available for each theme. The information has come from a variety of external sources as well as internal council services. Sources include:

Alzheimer Europe www.alzheimer-europe.org

Association of Leading Visitor Attractions www.alva.org.uk

Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions www.asva.org.uk

Belhaven Hill School www.belhavenhill.com

Census 2001 www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Census 2011 www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Scotland www.cas.org.uk

Citizens Panel www.eastlothian.gov.uk

City of Edinburgh Council www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Community Health and Well-Being Profiles www.scotpho.org.uk

Department of Work and Pensions
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions

Early Development Instrument www.eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Council www.eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Visitor Survey 2021

[East Lothian Visitor Survey 2021 Final Report \(7\).pdf](#)

Edinburgh College www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk

Electoral Commission www.electoralcommission.org.uk

End Child Poverty www.endchildpoverty.org.uk

Enjoy Leisure www.enjoyleisure.com

eSAY Survey: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland www.sclد.org.uk

General Register Office for Scotland www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Green Tourism www.green-tourism.com

Hands Up! Survey www.sustrans.org.uk

HM Revenue and Customs
www.gov.uk/organisations/hm-revenue-customs

Higher Education Statistics Agency www.hesa.ac.uk

Improvement Service www.improvementservice.org.uk

Information Services Division Scotland www.isdscotland.org

James Hutton Institute www.hutton.ac.uk

Keep Scotland Beautiful www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org.uk

Loretto School www.lorettoschool.co.uk

LJ Research Ltd www.ljresearch.co.uk/

Midlothian Council www.midlothian.gov.uk

National Records of Scotland www.nrscotland.gov.uk

NHS Lothian www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics www.Nomisweb.co.uk

Office for National Statistics www.statistics.gov.uk

Office of Rail Regulation www.orr.gov.uk

Police Scotland www.scotland.police.uk

Public Protection East and Midlothian www.emppc.org.uk

Queen Margaret University www.qmu.ac.uk

Registers of Scotland www.ros.gov.uk

Residents Survey www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
www.rcahms.gov.uk

Scotland's Census Results Online www.scrol.gov.uk

Scottish Annual Business Statistics www.gov.scot

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration www.scra.gov.uk

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service www.firescotland.gov.uk

Scottish Funding Council www.sfc.ac.uk

Scottish Government www.gov.scot

Scottish Health and Care Experience Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Health Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Household Conditions Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Household Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Household Survey: Travel Diary www.transportscotland.gov.uk

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation www.sns.gov.uk

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics www.sns.gov.uk

Scottish Parliament Information Centre www.scottish.parliament.uk

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Survey
www.isdscotland.org

SESPlan www.sesplan.gov.uk

Skills Development Scotland www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Spark of Genius www.sparkofgenius.com

SQW: Research in Economic and Social Development www.sqw.co.uk

STRiVE www.strive.me.uk

Student Evaluation of Experience Survey www.eastlothian.gov.uk

The Compass School www.thecompassschool.org.uk

Transport Scotland www.transportscotland.gov.uk

Viewstat www.improvementservice.org.uk

Visit Scotland www.visitscotland.com

Women's Aid East and Midlothian www.womensaideml.org

East Lothian by Numbers

A Statistical Profile of East Lothian

3. Economy and Income

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Find this document at: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/StatisticsAndData



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