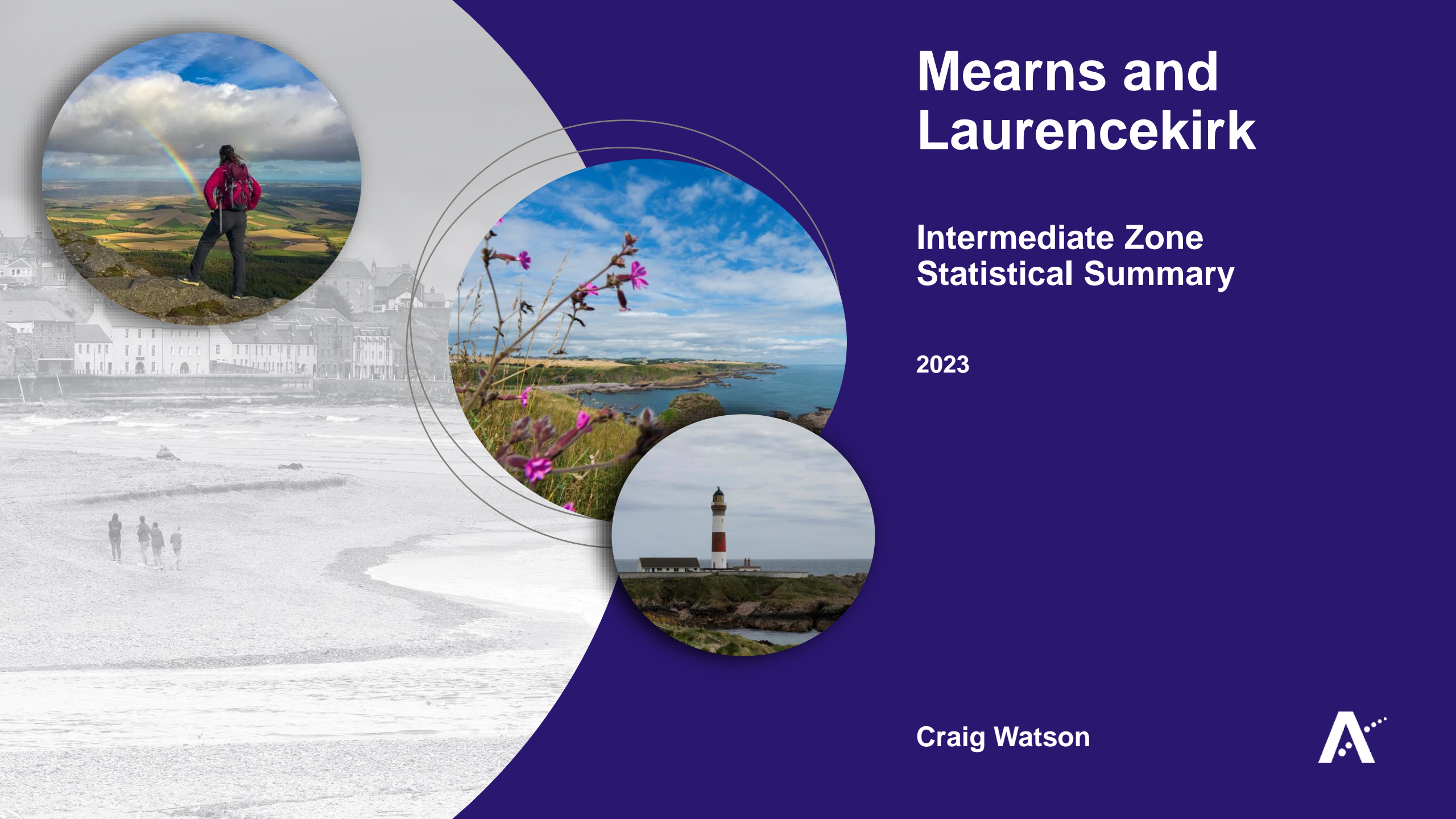


Mearns and Laurencekirk

Intermediate Zone Statistical Summary

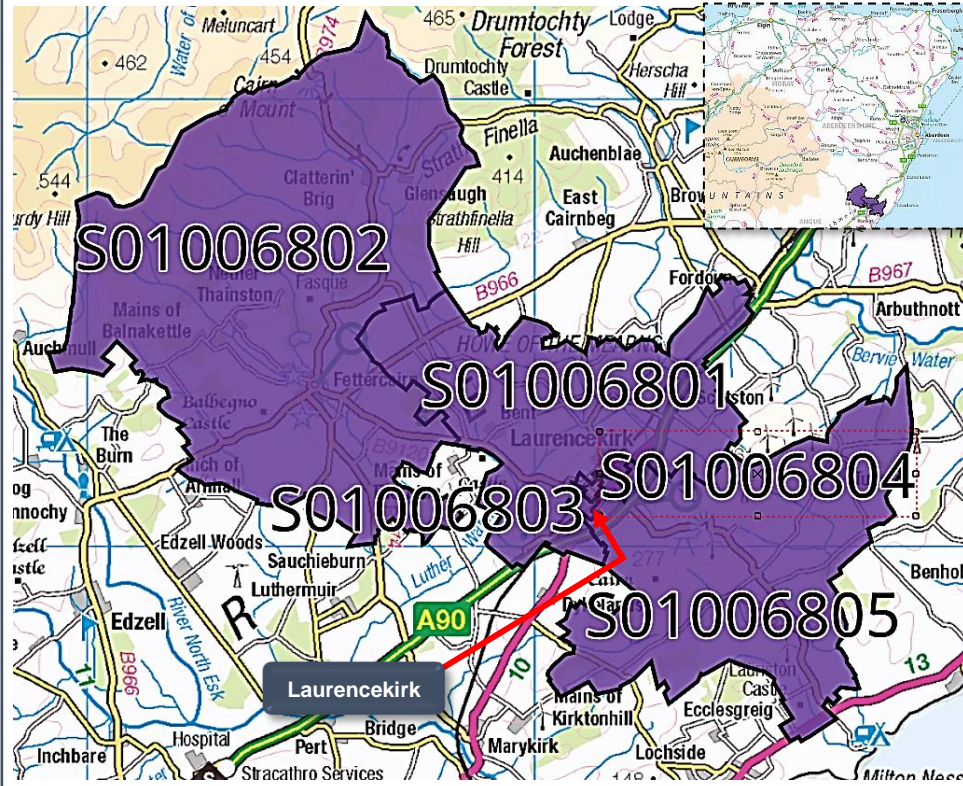
2023

Craig Watson

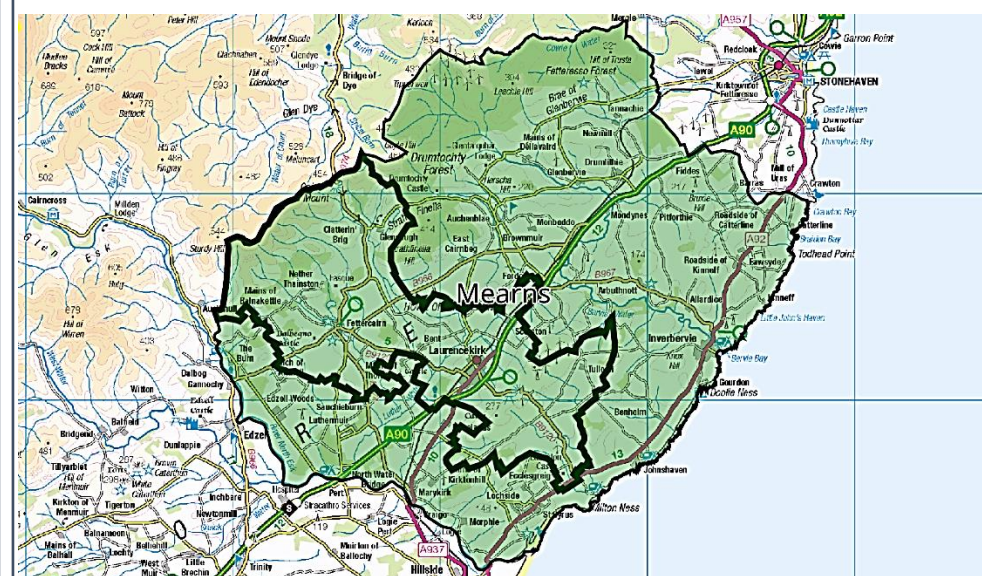


Mearns and Laurencekirk

Data Zones Within the Intermediate Zone



Relevant Multi-Member Wards



Notes on the Maps

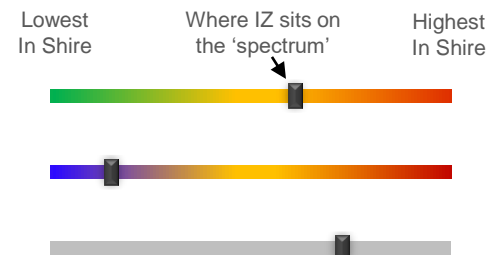
The map on the left shows the location and geographic area of the Mearns & Laurencekirk Intermediate Zone. It contains 5 Data Zones. Laurencekirk itself comprises 2 Data Zones – S01006803, and S01006804.

Only one MMW straddles the Intermediate Zone (Mearns).

Spectrum Charts Explained

The following statistical pages frequently utilise spectrum charts as a visual aid to accompany an indicator. They are used to place the relevant Intermediate Zone (IZ) in the context of all other IZs in Aberdeenshire with regards to that indicator.

The charts to the right are examples of the spectrum charts used in this report. The black line represents where the IZ sits in the context of the highest and lowest figures in Aberdeenshire. If the black line is situated towards the left-hand side, the IZ recorded one of the lowest figures in Aberdeenshire. Conversely, if the black line is towards the right-hand side, it recorded one of the highest figures in Aberdeenshire.



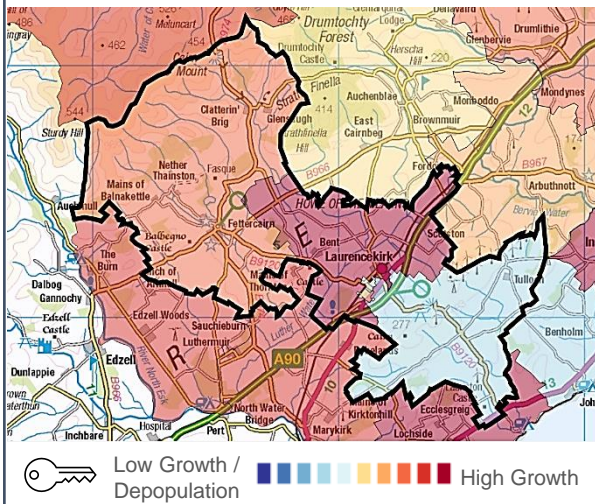
The green/red spectrum charts are the most common type. If the black line is situated towards the red end of the spectrum, it means the figure is objectively worse than most other IZs in Aberdeenshire and vice versa.

The blue/red spectrum charts are used in the demographic section to denote high population growth (red) and population decline (blue).

The grey spectrum charts are simply used to denote high and low in the context of Aberdeenshire, where the high / low figure is neither good nor bad. An example would be the proportion of dwellings that fall within Council Tax Bands F-G.

Mearns and Laurencekirk Demographic Data

Map of Mearns and Laurencekirk: Population Change (2014-2021)



The population in this IZ increased by 6.3% between 2014 and 2021, which is among the greatest percentage increases in Aberdeenshire over that period. This is largely thanks to growth in two DZs - S01006801 and S01006802. These DZs are located to the north and northwest of Laurencekirk. Indeed, the fastest growing DZ (+37.6% growth rate) encompasses the northeast portion of Laurencekirk itself, from the waste & recycling site on Market Road to the developments either side of the railway line northbound.

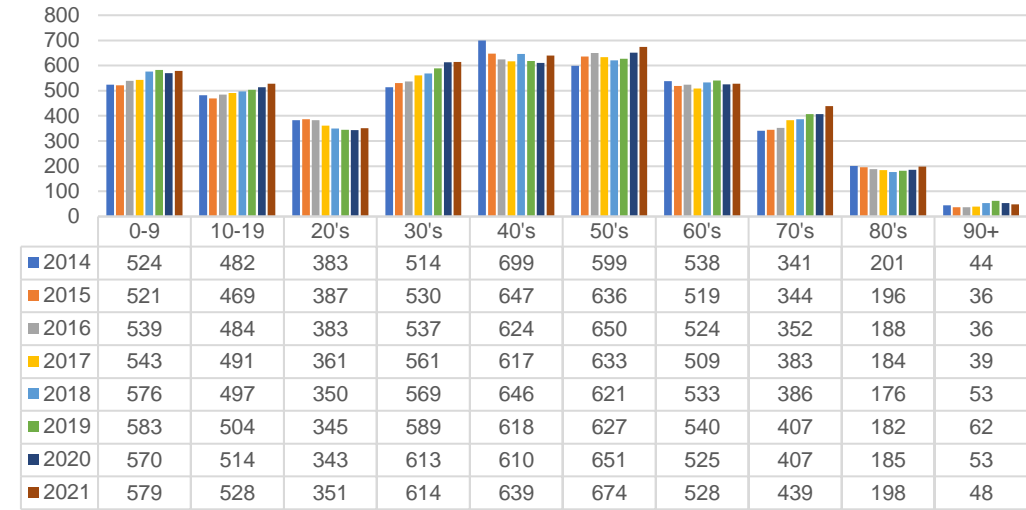
Generally speaking, population increases were seen across the younger age groups and those in their 50's. Given that approximately 20% of the total population is aged between 0-15, which is one of the highest proportions in Aberdeenshire, and the numbers are growing, it suggests the area is attractive for younger families, particularly DZs in and around Laurencekirk.

At 59.5%, the proportion of Working Age people is towards the lower end of the spectrum in an Aberdeenshire context, but that is likely a result of having a greater child population than most other areas. Although the 60+ population has grown over the years, this IZ may be considered relatively young in terms of its demographic makeup. The area is also home to a statistically significant proportion of people aged 35-39 compared to Aberdeenshire as a whole (8.07% versus 6.43% respectively). The same may be said of children under 10 years of age.

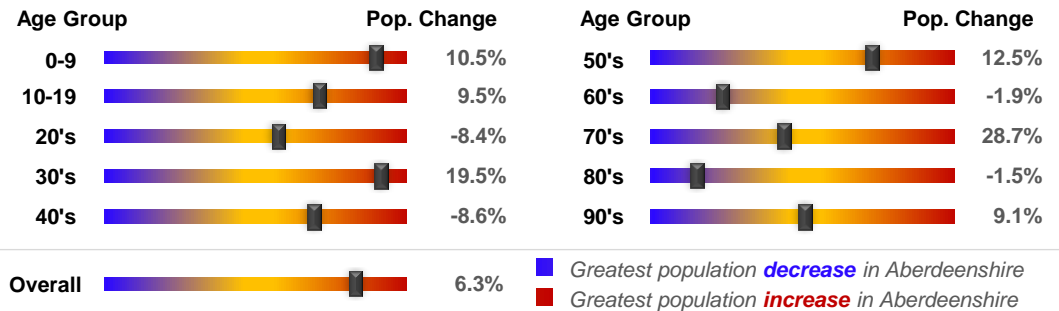
Population Change per Data Zone, 2014 & 2021

| Data Zone | 2014 | 2021 | % Difference |
|-----------|------|------|--------------|
| S01006801 | 970 | 1335 | 37.6% |
| S01006802 | 744 | 760 | 2.2% |
| S01006803 | 654 | 637 | -2.6% |
| S01006804 | 801 | 770 | -3.9% |
| S01006805 | 1156 | 1096 | -5.2% |
| Total | 4325 | 4598 | 6.3% |

Population per Age Group, Mearns and Laurencekirk, 2014-2021



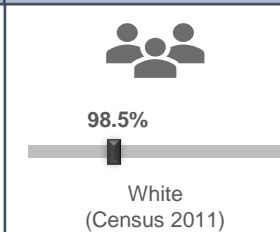
Rate of Population Change per Age Group, 2021 Compared to 2014



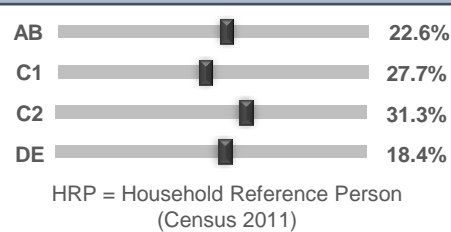
Country of Birth



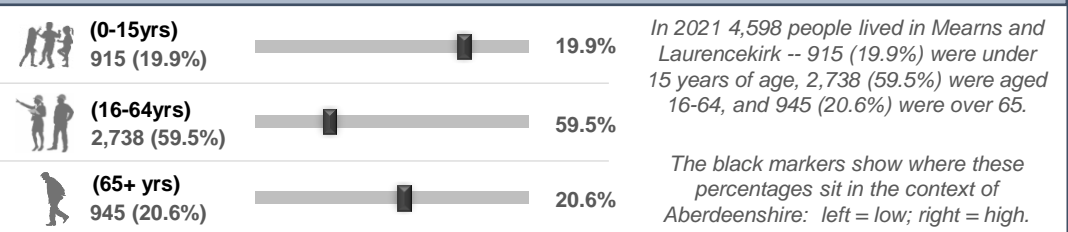
Ethnicity



Approximated Social Grade of HRP



Population per Broad Age Group, 2021

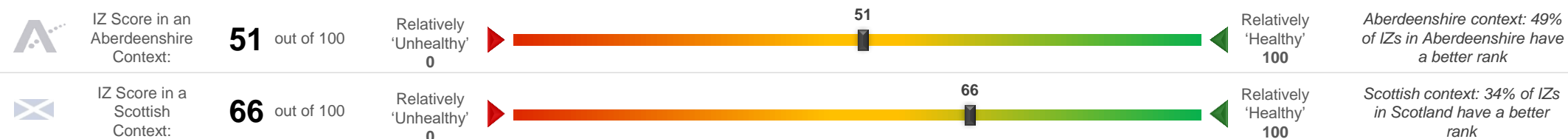


Means and Laurencekirk Health Data (1 of 2)

| SIMD 2020 Health Domain Rank | | Universal Credit (UC) Limited Work Capability Households | Personal Independence Payments | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <p>Relatively Good Ranking ■ ■ ■ ■ Relatively Poor Ranking</p> | | <p>No. of Households in receipt of Universal Credit</p> <p>■ On UC, With Limited Work Capability (IZ) ■ All Other Households on UC (IZ)</p> <p>Intermediate Zone</p> <p>17000 16000 15000 14000 13000 12000</p> <p>Aberdeenshire</p> <p>Apr-21 Jun-21 Aug-21 Oct-21 Dec-21 Feb-22 Apr-22 Jun-22 Aug-22 Oct-22 Dec-22 Feb-23 Apr-23</p> <p>% of Households where at least 1 occupant has limited work capability (May-2023) - Aberdeenshire Context</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2.8%</p> | <p>No. of Cases with Entitlement</p> <p>— Mearns and Laurencekirk — Aberdeenshire</p> <p>Intermediate Zone</p> <p>140 120 100 80 60 40 20 0</p> <p>8500 8000 7500 7000 6500 6000</p> <p>Aberdeenshire</p> <p>Apr-21 Jun-21 Aug-21 Oct-21 Dec-21 Feb-22 Apr-22 Jun-22 Aug-22 Oct-22 Dec-22 Feb-23 Apr-23 Jun-23</p> <p>% of Working Age Population (16-64) Receiving PIPs (Jul-2023) - Aberdeenshire Context</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2.6%</p> | | | | |
| <p>Day-to-Day Activities</p> <p>Proportion of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little or a lot - Aberdeenshire Context (Census 2011)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15.5%</p> | <p>Health Rating</p> <p>Proportion of people who rated their health as either 'good' or 'very good' - Aberdeenshire Context (Census 2011)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">88.6%</p> | <p>According to monthly health-related benefits data, the number of households on Universal Credit increased at the start of Covid and remained relatively steady since the peak in April 2021. The number of households with Limited Work Capability or LWC (due to physical or mental health issues) has likewise increased and remained relatively high throughout. The IZ figure of 2.8% of households with at least 1 occupant assessed as having LWC is slightly higher than most other IZs in Aberdeenshire, and higher than a similar period last year. Approximately 55 households are now affected, up from 27 in April 2021.</p> <p>A lower proportion of the Working Age Population (2.6%) receive Personal Independence Payments (PIPs). This helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health. The IZ trend has decreased over the past few months in keeping with the wider Aberdeenshire trend. The 2.6% figure is more or less in line with the Aberdeenshire IZ average.</p> <p>According to SIMD 2020 data, DZ S01006804 has the best health ranking and S01006803 has the worst. Both areas are in Laurencekirk. The best ranking area is to the north of Cairnveiv Place, and the worst is south of Robson Drive. The rankings are relatively good in a national context.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>SIMD 2020 Health Domain Indicators per each Data Zone in the Mearns and Laurencekirk Intermediate Zone (compared to Aberdeenshire average)</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>SIMD Health Domain Indicator (Data Zones colour-coordinated with map) >></p> | | <p>S01006801</p> | <p>S01006802</p> | <p>S01006803</p> | <p>S01006804</p> | <p>S01006805</p> | <p>Shire</p> |
| <p>Health Domain Rank (see map for colour-coded rankings) (the higher, the better)</p> | | 5465 | 5470 | 4066 | 6265 | 5582 | 5,254 |
| <p>Comparative Illness Factor (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</p> | | 50 | 60 | 80 | 50 | 55 | 58 |
| <p>Emergency stays in hospital (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</p> | | 62.7 | 66.0 | 79.0 | 57.3 | 64.6 | 71.5 |
| <p>Hospital stays related to alcohol misuse (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</p> | | 23.1 | 23.9 | 39.0 | 19.9 | 29.6 | 45.4 |
| <p>Hospital stays related to drug misuse (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</p> | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 24.9 | 0.0 | 50.3 | 30 |
| <p>Proportion of live singleton births of lowbirth weight (the lower, the better)</p> | | 0.0% | 2.7% | 4.0% | 2.6% | 6.3% | 4.0% |
| <p>Proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis</p> | | 17.9% | 14.2% | 16.3% | 11.8% | 13.4% | 15.6% |
| <p>Standardised Mortality Ratio (Scotland = 100) (the lower, the better)</p> | | 157 | 90 | 139 | 66 | 62 | 85 |

Mearns and Laurencekirk Health Data (2 of 2)

Mearns and Laurencekirk's position on the 'Health Spectrum' – Aberdeenshire and Scottish Context (the higher the score, the better)



Selection of ScotPHO indicators, Mearns and Laurencekirk IZ compared to Aberdeenshire & Scotland (latest data)

| Indicator | Latest Available Figures | | | | IZ Trend | Indicator Measurement |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|---|
| | IZ | IZ's latest figure compared to: | | | | |
| | | Aberdeenshire | Scotland | | | |
| Alcohol-related hospital stays | 381.7 | 43.6% | | -37.5% | Up | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| All-cause mortality among the 15-44 year olds | 154.4 | 63.6% | | 31.8% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks | 50.4 | 9.8% | | 18.6% | Up | % of babies with a valid feeding status |
| Bowel screening uptake | 72.8 | -0.2% | | 7.2% | Up | % of eligible people (aged 50-74) |
| Child dental health in primary 1 | 74.7 | -4.1% | | 1.5% | Down | % of P1 pupils |
| Child dental health in primary 7 | 77.6 | -2.2% | | 2.6% | Up | % of P7 pupils |
| Child healthy weight in primary 1 | 61.0 | -16.4% | | -8.8% | Down | % of P1 pupils |
| Deaths all ages | 1144.6 | 8.1% | | -3.1% | Up | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Developmental concerns at 27-30 months | 0.0 | -2.9% | | -14.6% | Flat | % of children reviewed |
| Early deaths from cancer (<75) | 81.3 | -38.3% | | -45.7% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Early deaths from coronary heart disease (<75) | 41.0 | 8.6% | | -22.0% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Female life expectancy | 81.2 | -0.8% | | 0.6% | Up | Life expectancy at birth in years |
| Healthy birth weight | 83.1 | 0.0% | | -1.1% | Up | % of all singleton births |
| Immunisation uptake at 24 months - 6 in 1 | 100.0 | 2.2% | | 3.0% | Up | % of children in relevant age group |
| Immunisation uptake at 24 months - MMR | 94.7 | -0.1% | | 0.3% | Down | % of children in relevant age group |
| Male life expectancy | 78.1 | 0.5% | | 2.0% | Up | Life expectancy at birth in years |
| Maternal obesity | 23.5 | -0.9% | | -2.6% | Up | % of women at antenatal booking |
| Patients (65+) with multiple A&E hospitalisations | 5300.1 | -15.8% | | -22.3% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Patients hospitalised with asthma | 49.8 | 55.8% | | -27.3% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Patients hospitalised with COPD | 76.0 | -35.1% | | -63.4% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Patients hospitalised with coronary heart disease | 200.2 | -31.9% | | -41.4% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Patients with emergency hospitalisations | 4589.2 | -13.1% | | -36.6% | Down | Rate per 100,000 pop. |
| Premature births | 8.5 | -0.8% | | 0.3% | Up | % of all live births |
| Uptake of the HPV vaccine in S3 girls | 91.0 | 1.7% | | 6.2% | Down | % of S3 girls |

Based on the 24 health-related indicators in the table, this IZ is now situated towards the less vulnerable end of the spectrum in an Aberdeenshire context, with a better showing when all Scottish IZs are taken into consideration. The rankings improved compared to last year as the IZ was in the bottom half in an Aberdeenshire context: no so this year.

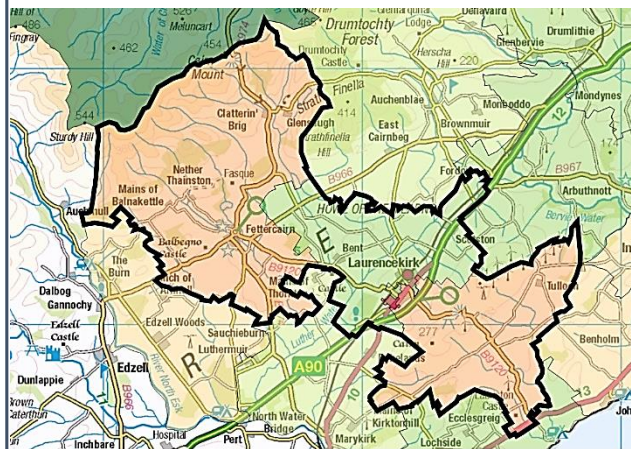
The area compares favourably to most other areas in Scotland in terms of the hospitalisation rate for various illnesses - particularly in relation Developmental concerns at 27-30 months; Patients with emergency hospitalisations; Patients hospitalised with coronary heart disease; Early deaths from cancer (<75); and Patients (65+) with multiple emergency hospitalisations. The IZ is in the top 10% of the country regarding these particular indicators.

Issues that may require further investigation include:
 - Child healthy weight in primary 1;
 - All-cause mortality among 15-44-year olds;
 - healthy birthweight; and
 - Premature births.

With regards to each of the indicators listed above the IZ compares less favourably to other areas in Aberdeenshire and, in some instances, Scotland (and/or the trend is worsening).

Means and Laurencekirk Economic Data (1 of 3)

Rank of Household Income per Data Zone (2023)



Relatively low Relatively high

In terms of household income, this IZ is generally in keeping with the Aberdeenshire averages, with a slight bias towards the less affluent end of the spectrum. The median household income in 2023 equated to £40,717, which is £1,039 lower than the Shire average (£41,756), a slight closing of the gap compared to last year.

Median household income ranges from £29,925 in DZ S01006803 (southern part of Laurencekirk) to £47,869 in DZ S01006801 (to the north of Laurencekirk and includes the northern tip of the town).

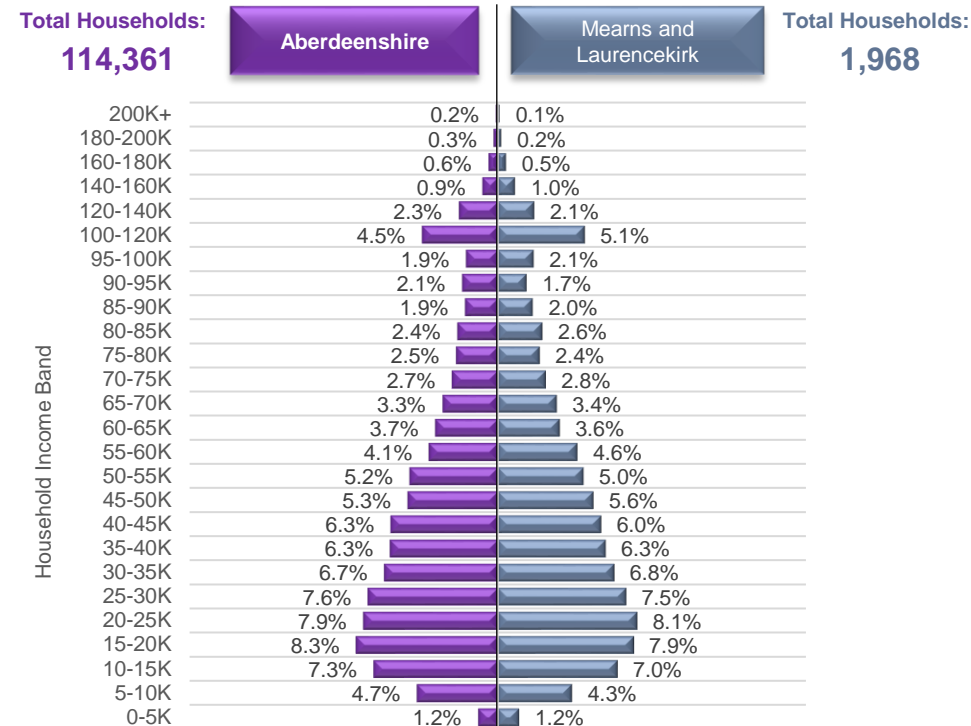
Approximately 5.6% of households in this IZ earn less than £10,000 per year. This equates to roughly 110 households, fewer than last year. Areas with a particularly high concentration of such households are located in Fettercairn (sheltered housing complex) and around Mearns Court/Drive in Laurencekirk.

High income households are generally located to the west of Laurencekirk, and the western part of the town (e.g. Reed Crescent/Adamson Drive).

Household Income per Data Zone (2023)

| Data Zone | Households | Average Income | Median Income | Lower Quartile Income |
|-----------|------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| S01006801 | 523 | £ 55,468 | £ 47,869 | £ 28,314 |
| S01006802 | 357 | £ 46,259 | £ 38,215 | £ 21,138 |
| S01006803 | 310 | £ 38,445 | £ 29,925 | £ 16,914 |
| S01006804 | 323 | £ 55,445 | £ 47,071 | £ 26,507 |
| S01006805 | 455 | £ 45,665 | £ 38,115 | £ 21,752 |

Household Income per Band, Means and Laurencekirk & Aberdeenshire (2023)



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Median Household Income (2023)



£40,717

Aberdeenshire: £41,756

£40,717



% of Households Earning Less Than £10k (2023)



<£10K

5.6%

Aberdeenshire: 5.3%

5.6%



% of Households Earning More Than £100k (2023)



>£100K

9.0%

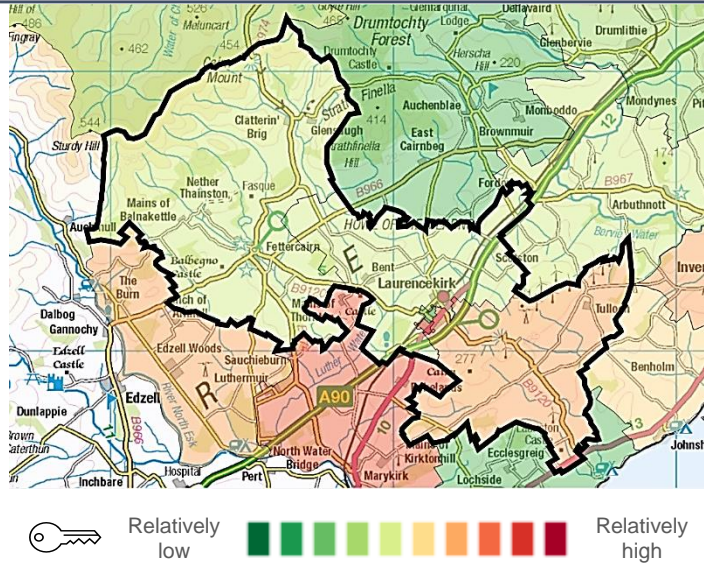
Aberdeenshire: 10.1%

9.0%

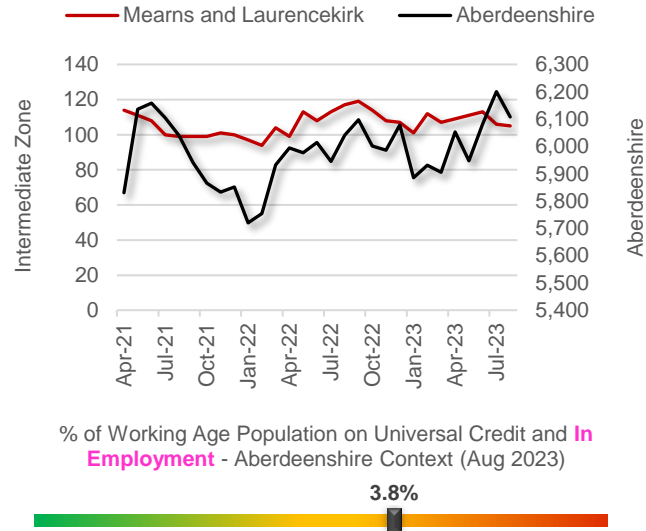


Mearns and Laurencekirk Economic Data (2 of 3)

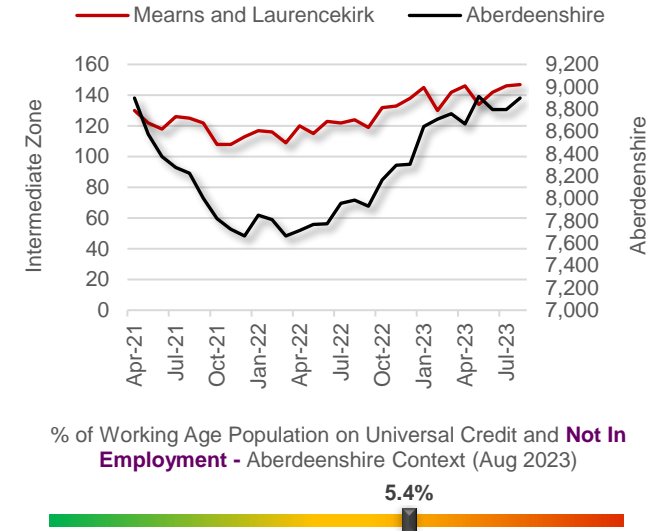
Latest Unemployment Rate - Ranking per Data Zone



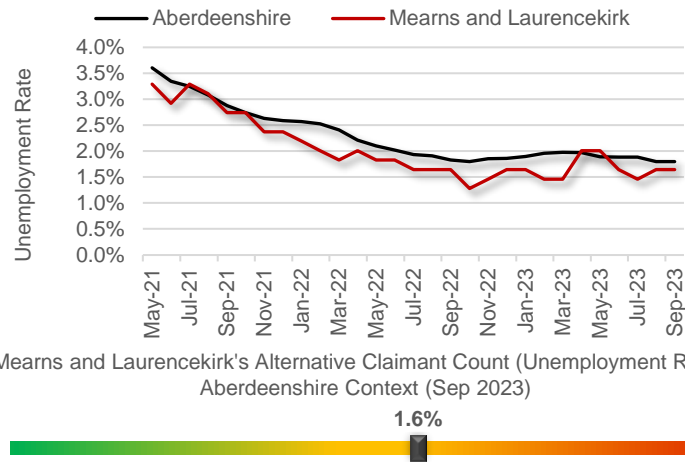
People on Universal Credit - In Employment



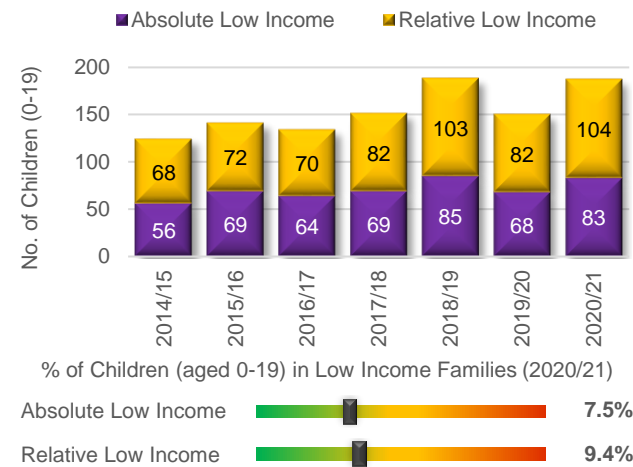
People on Universal Credit - Not In Employment



Alternative Claimant Count - Effective 'Unemployment Rate'



Children in Low Income Families



Summary

The number of people claiming Universal Credit (UC) - who are also in employment - has remained relatively steady over the past couple of years. Latest figures show 3.8% of people aged 16-64 (who also have jobs) are claiming UC. As the spectrum chart shows, this is relatively high in an Aberdeenshire context, but lower than last year.

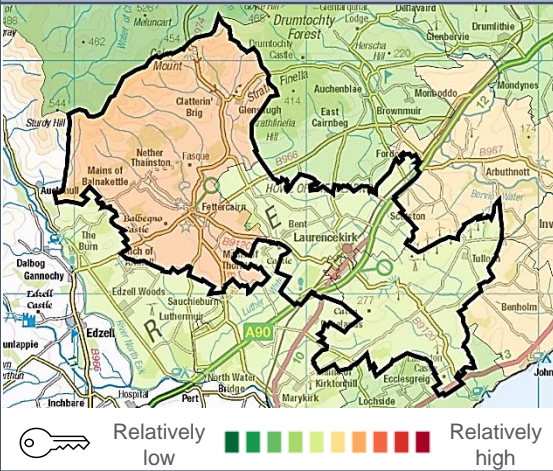
Like Aberdeenshire, the unemployment rate in the IZ has fallen substantially since the October 2020 peak of 4.2%. Latest data suggests approximately 1.6% of the Working Age population is currently out-of-work, which is virtually the same as the Shire-wide rate (1.8%). The rate ranges from 0.7% (S01006804, which surrounds the Blackiemuir Avenue / Market Road junction, taking in Reed Crescent to the west of Market Road and Cairnview Place and Faulkner Avenue to the east) to 2.6% (S01006803, which is the southern part of Laurencekirk, around the primary school grounds).

The proportion of children living in low-income households is towards the lower end of the spectrum in an Aberdeenshire context. However, the number of children appears to have increased over the past few years.

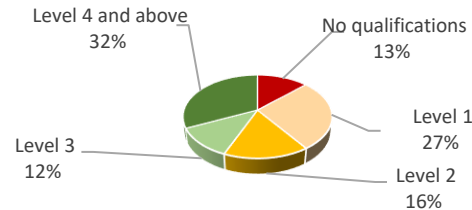
Economic Indicators

Mearns and Laurencekirk Economic Data (3 of 3)

People With No Qualifications, Census 2011



% of Employees per Qualification Type



Summary

The employment numbers per broad industrial group relate to the kind of jobs within the area, which may be filled by those living outwith the IZ.

Employment in this IZ is generally spread out among five or six industrial groups, the main ones being Business admin., Education, Health, and the Professional, scientific and technical sector.

Positively, the Manufacturing and Construction sectors added jobs over the past few years. Although that was not enough to offset the 1% overall reduction in jobs since 2020.

Common job types in the area relate to recruitment agencies; primary and secondary education; residential nursing care activities; and electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities.

Smaller enterprises (in terms of turnover) appear to have dwindled in number over the past few years, while larger enterprises have increased in number. The increase in larger enterprises relate to the Motor trades sector and the Agriculture sector. The fall in medium-sized enterprises relate to the Professional sector, as well as the Agriculture, Manufacturing and Retail sectors.

Approximate Employment Count per Broad Industrial Group, Mearns and Laurencekirk, 2020-22

| Broad Industrial Group | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020-22 % Diff. |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Agriculture, forestry & fishing | 5 | 10 | 5 | 0% |
| Mining, quarrying & utilities | 10 | 5 | 5 | -50% |
| Manufacturing | 100 | 125 | 125 | 25% |
| Construction | 100 | 150 | 125 | 25% |
| Motor trades | 30 | 40 | 40 | 33% |
| Wholesale | 25 | 40 | 50 | 100% |
| Retail | 100 | 100 | 75 | -25% |
| Transport & storage (inc postal) | 100 | 50 | 50 | -50% |
| Accommodation & food services | 50 | 75 | 75 | 50% |
| Information & communication | 10 | 5 | 5 | -50% |
| Financial & insurance | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0% |
| Property | 15 | 15 | 5 | -67% |
| Professional, scientific & technical | 125 | 100 | 150 | 20% |
| Business administration & support services | 250 | 250 | 150 | -40% |
| Public administration & defence | 10 | 10 | 15 | 50% |
| Education | 225 | 200 | 250 | 11% |
| Health | 175 | 175 | 175 | 0% |
| Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services | 50 | 75 | 50 | 0% |
| Total | 1,380 | 1,425 | 1,360 | -1% |

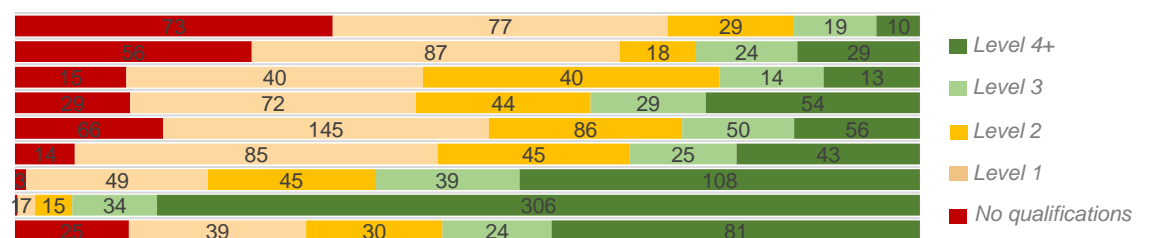
Approximate Number of Enterprises per Turnover Band (£), Mearns and Laurencekirk, 2021-23

| Turnover | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2021-23 % Diff. |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| £1m+ | 5 | 5 | 15 | 200% |
| £500-999k | 15 | 10 | 10 | -33% |
| £200-499k | 20 | 25 | 15 | -25% |
| £100-199k | 80 | 70 | 60 | -25% |
| £50-99k | 50 | 55 | 50 | 0% |
| £0-49k | 30 | 30 | 40 | 33% |

Employees per Occupation Type, Census 2011

| | |
|---|-----|
| Elementary occupations | 208 |
| Process, plant and machine operatives | 214 |
| Sales and customer service occupations | 122 |
| Caring, leisure and other service occupations | 228 |
| Skilled trades occupations | 403 |
| Administrative and secretarial occupations | 212 |
| Associate professional and technical... | 244 |
| Professional occupations | 363 |
| Managers, directors and senior officials | 199 |

Employees per Qualification & Occupation Type, Census 2011



Mearns and Laurencekirk Housing Data



Relatively sparse / rural

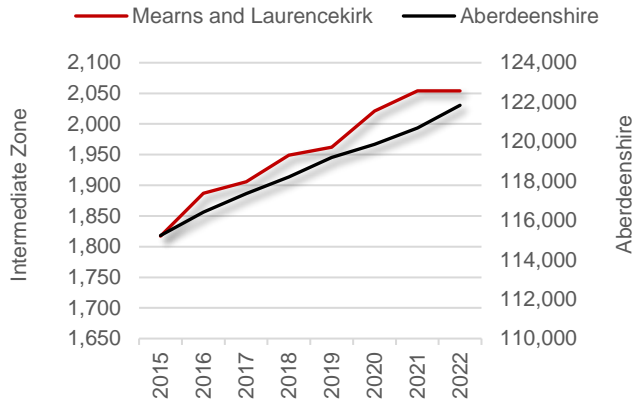
Dwellings per Hectare (2022)

0.16



Relatively dense / urban

Number of Dwellings, 2015-22



% Growth in No. of Dwellings 2015-22 (Aberdeenshire Context)



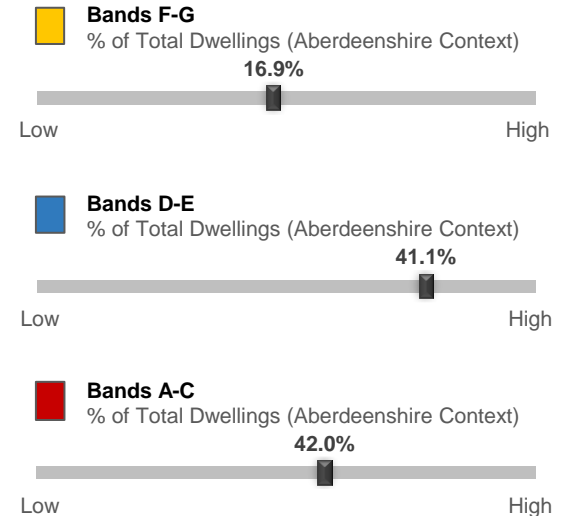
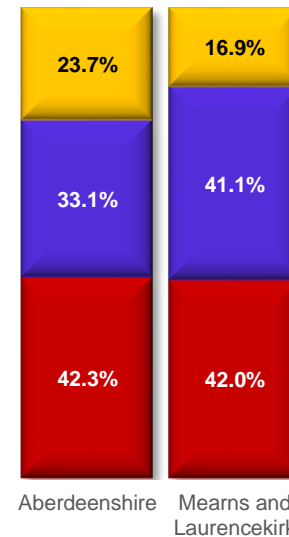
Summary

At 0.16 dwellings per hectare, this IZ is on the more rural side of the spectrum, with fewer properties per hectare relative to other IZs in the Shire. Although it contains the town of Laurencekirk, the IZ also stretches westward toward Fettercairn and beyond, which tends to be very rural in nature.

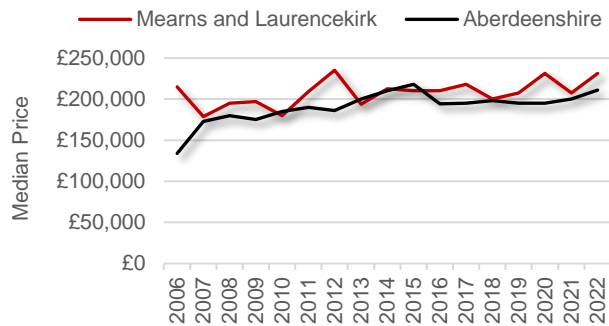
The number of houses in this area has increased by 11.5% since 2015, which is among the highest growth rates in Aberdeenshire. This is not surprising given that the area experienced one of the highest rates of population growth over a similar period, particularly among younger age groups. To some extent this may explain the rise in the number of Single Person Discounts.

The proportion of dwellings Council Tax bands A-C match Aberdeenshire rates. The IZ contains more dwellings in Bands D-E and fewer in Bands F-G. The 41.1% of dwellings in bands D-E is among the highest rates in Aberdeenshire.

Proportion of Dwellings per Council Tax Band, 2022



Median Residential House Prices (Sales), 2006-22

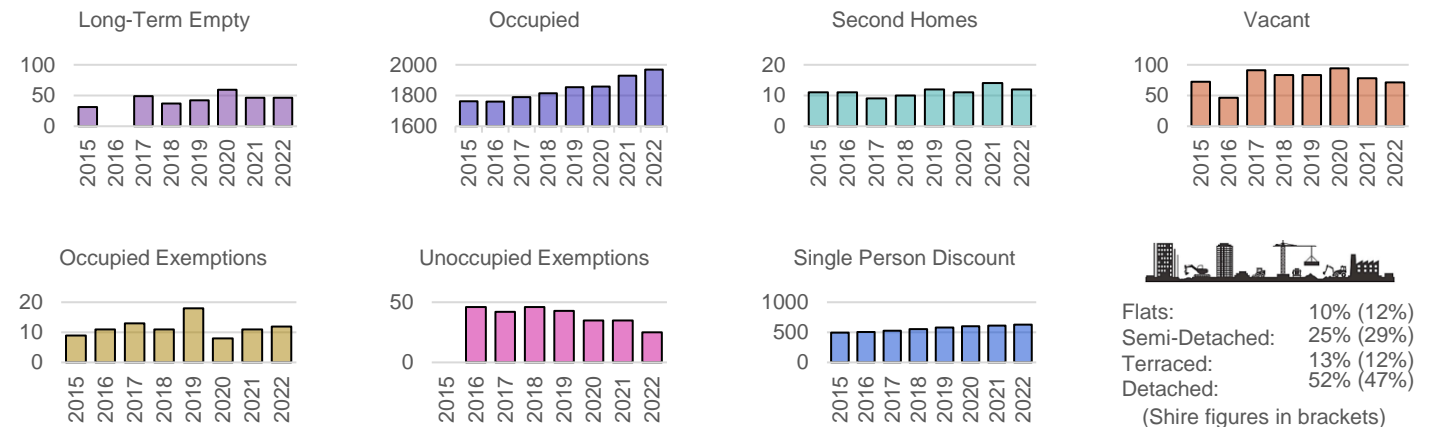


2022 Median House Price (Aberdeenshire Context)

£231,250



Housing Types, 2015-22 (Data on Flats, etc., relate to 2017 - the latest year for which data are available)



Flats: 10% (12%)
 Semi-Detached: 25% (29%)
 Terraced: 13% (12%)
 Detached: 52% (47%)
 (Shire figures in brackets)

Mearns and Laurencekirk Other Socio-Economic Data

