

2021 Productivity Dashboard

	Latest Performance	Benchmark: how does Scotland compare?	Short-term trend: are we improving?	Long-term trend: are we improving?	Notes
Business practices					
1. Business investment as a percentage of GDP	7.4% (2020)	●	●	●	Business investment as a share of Scottish GDP contracted by 1.2-percentage points in 2020, meaning Scotland's performance is now below its long-run average of 7.7%.
2. Exports as a percentage of GDP	19.1% (2020)	●	●	●	Exports as a share of Scottish GDP fell from 20.2% in 2019 to 19.1% in 2020; a 1.1-percentage point contraction.
3. Business R&D spend as a percentage of GDP	0.84% (2019)	●	●	●	Business expenditure on R&D as a share of GDP in Scotland increased marginally from 0.83% in 2018 to 0.84% in 2019.
4. Percentage of innovation-active businesses	32% (2016-18)	●	●	●	Scotland experienced the greatest fall across UK nations, from 45% in 2014-16 to 32% in 2016-18.
5. Total early-stage entrepreneurial activity ¹	7.3% (2020)	●	●	●	The latest year (2020) sees a marginal increase of 0.1-percentage points in Scotland's Total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA). After a significant fall of almost 3-percentage points in England, there is now no significant difference between UK nations for this indicator.
Skills and training					
6. Percentage of working age population with Higher Education Certificate or above	49% (2020)	●	●	●	The latest data shows a rise on the previous year, with Scotland continuing to have the highest share of its working age population with NVQ 4+ qualifications in the UK.
7. Percentage of workforce in job-related training in past 3 months	23% (2020)	●	●	●	The latest data (2020) shows this indicator has decreased again for Scotland, although this year-on-year change is not statistically significant.
8. Percentage of employers with skill shortage vacancies ²	3% (2020)	●	●	●	In 2020, this indicator improved (down from 6% in 2017). ³ However, this data does not reflect the current impact of skills and labour shortages across the economy.
9. Percentage of employers with underutilised staff ⁴	33% (2020)	●	●	●	The latest data (2020) highlights that this measure has improved for Scotland – down from 35% in 2017. ⁵
Health and wellbeing					
10. Percentage of hours lost due to sickness absence	2% (2020)	●	●	●	Despite experiencing no significant change in this indicator in the period 2019–2020, Scotland continues to have the second highest sickness absence rate in the UK. Over the past decade, sickness absence in Scotland is just under 1-percentage point lower than the period 1995-2009, meaning the long-term trend is positive.
11. Percentage of economic inactivity due to long-term ill health	29% (2020)	●	●	●	The latest data (2020) shows that there has not been a statistically significant change since 2019 for Scotland. While there have been longer-term improvements – albeit slow improvements in recent years – Scotland's rate is above the UK average of 24%.
Infrastructure and connectivity					
12. Average internet speeds in Scotland	Mean download & upload speed (58.6 & 12.0 Mbps) (Q3 2021)	●	●	●	Scotland's average download speed is down by 1.1 Mbps on the previous quarter (Q2 2021), and its average upload speed is up 0.3 Mbps. Overall speeds continue to lag the UK average.
13. Percentage of premises with access to full fibre broadband	20% (Jan 2021)	●	●	●	The latest data for January 2021 shows there has been an increase of 7-percentage points since May 2020 and 3-percentage points since September 2020. Scotland is 1-percentage point below the UK average of 21%.
14. 4G Mobile coverage	44% (Jan 2021)	●	●	●	The latest data for January 2021 indicates a 1-percentage point rise in this measure since May 2020 for Scotland. However, Scotland and Wales (60%) continue to drag the UK average (69%) down, with England (84%) and Northern Ireland (79%) significantly ahead.
15. Travel to work time	26 mins (2019)	●	●	●	The latest data (2019) shows that Scotland has a shorter travel to work time than the GB average of 30 minutes, which is significantly skewed by London. Commute time in Scotland has decreased marginally since 2018.