

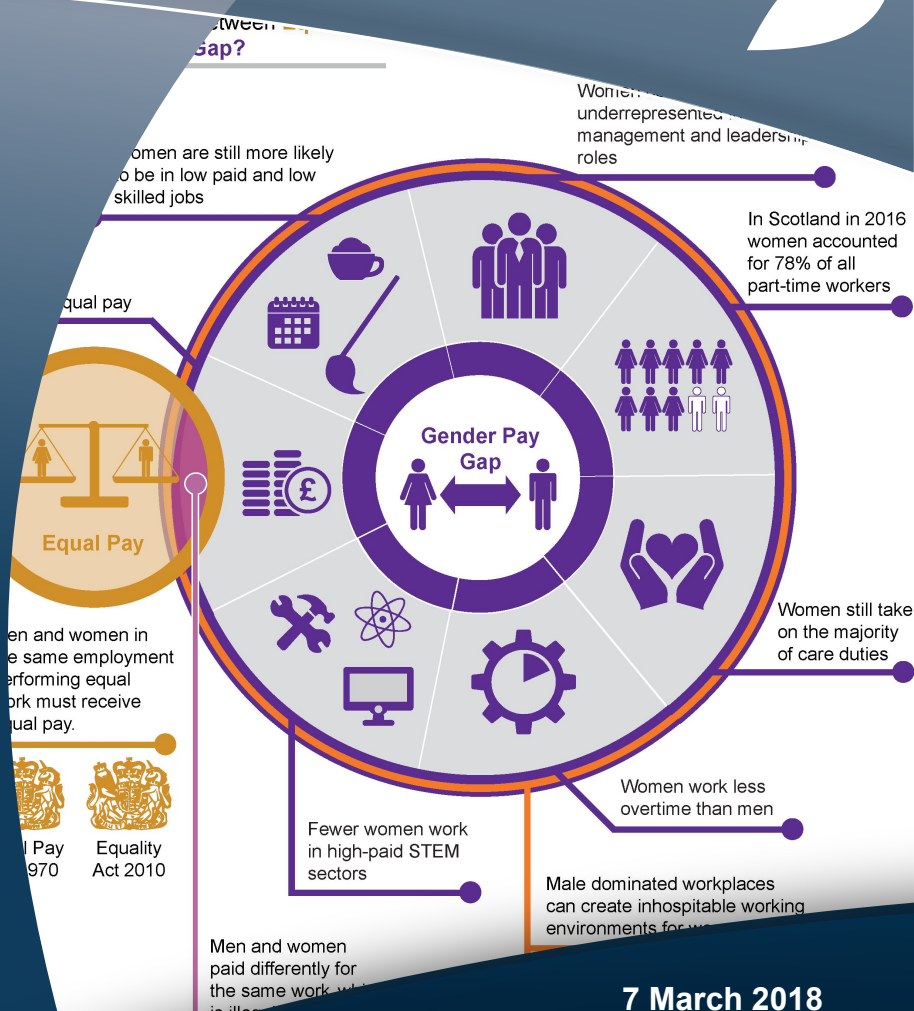


SPICe Briefing  
Pàipear-ullachaidh SPICe

# The gender pay gap: facts and figures - 2017

Andrew Aiton

This briefing looks at the latest figures from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) from the Office for National Statistics. It provides a range of data looking at the gender pay gap.



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# Executive Summary

This briefing looks at the latest figures from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) <sup>1</sup> from the Office for National Statistics. It provides a range of data looking at the gender pay gap.

Last June the Economy, Fair Work and Jobs committee published [No Small Change: The Economic Potential of Closing the Gender Pay Gap](#). One of the main areas of discussion was around the use of statistics. This briefing takes into consideration some of the report's points, specifically the Committee's decision to use overall, full-time and part-time pay as more representative of the gender pay gap than full-time pay.

This year's data show that:

- The gender pay gap for full-time workers in 2017, the main indicator for the gender pay gap used by the Scottish Government, was at 6.6%. This was a 0.3% point increase from 2016.
- The pay gap for all employees, full-time and part-time, was 16.1%.
- The pay gap for part-time employees was -5.1%, meaning women have higher part-time pay.
- The pay gap for all and full-time employees has seen little change since 2011.
- The "Skilled trade" occupations have the highest gender pay gap at 33.4% for all employees.
- "Managers, directors and senior officials" occupations have the highest median income for men, while for women it is "professional occupations" for all employees.
- The pay gap for all employees increases from 7.9% for the 30-39 year old age group to 22.5% for the 40-49 year old age group.
- The "Finance and Insurance" industry has the highest gender pay gap at 31.3% for all employees.

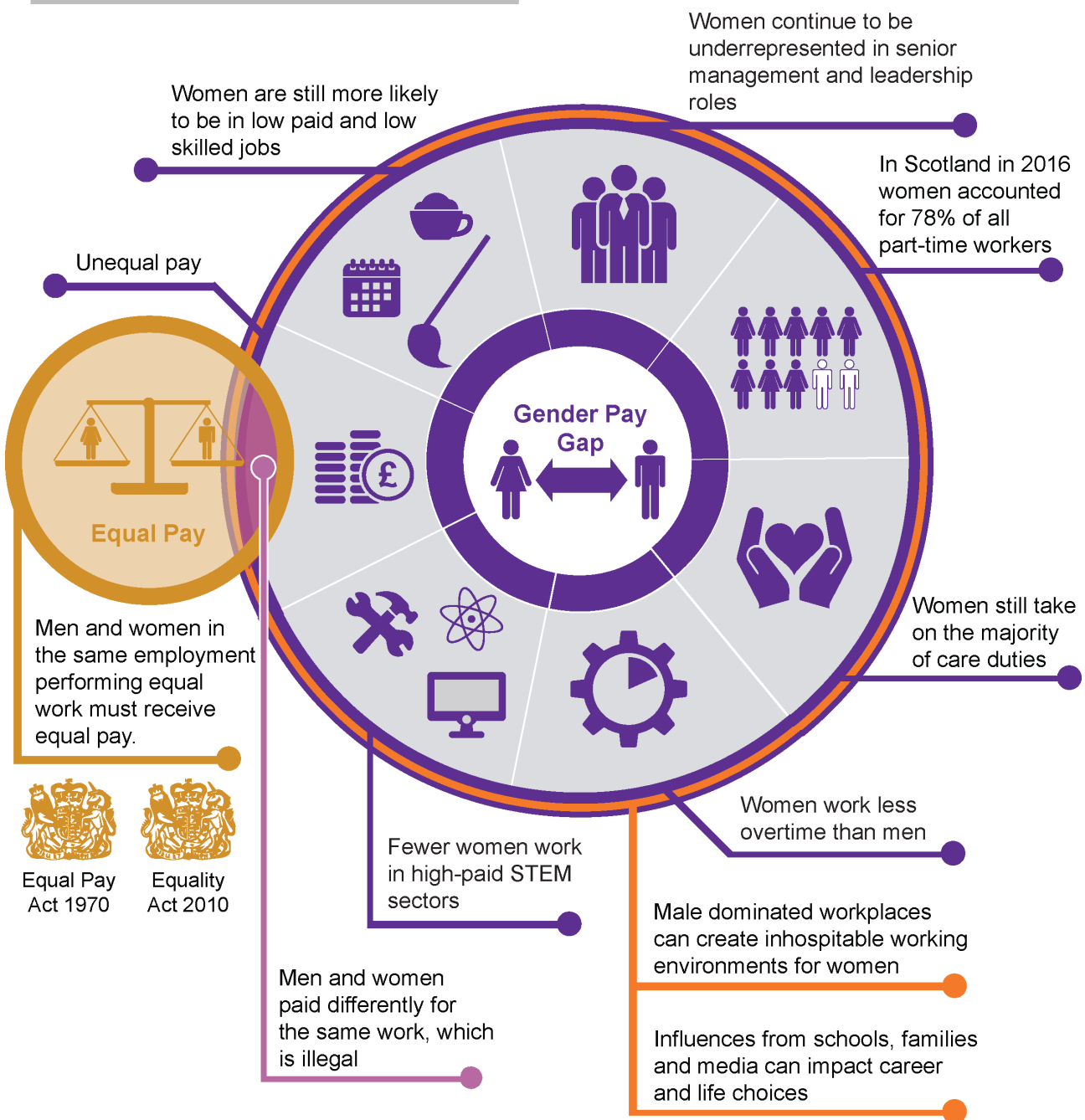
# Comparing pay by gender

Overall, women can expect to earn significantly less than men over their entire careers<sup>2</sup>. This section looks at the key issues when comparing women's pay with men's. The gender pay gap is made up of a complex set of factors.

The main issues to consider when comparing pay by gender are set out below in figure 1.

**Figure 1: Factors affecting the gender pay gap**

## What's the difference between **Equal Pay** and the **Gender Pay Gap**?



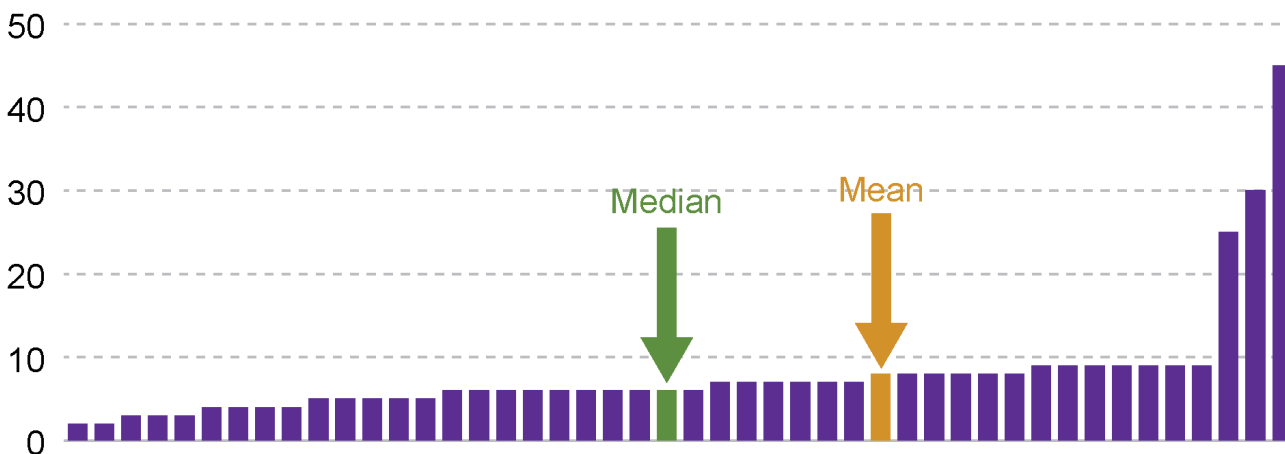
# How is the gender pay gap calculated?

**Figure 2: How the gender pay gap is calculated**



Men's and women's earnings are compared by looking at the difference between their earnings as a percentage of men's earnings, as set out in figure 2. This is known as the gender pay gap. To calculate the pay gap, the ONS uses median hourly pay excluding overtime, as it controls for men being more likely to work overtime. Using hourly pay also means it does not matter whether the individual is working full-time and part-time.

**Figure 3: Comparing mean and median**



ASHE provides both the mean and median values for earnings. The median is generally used to calculate the gender pay gap. The mean, or average, is calculated by adding together all the values within a data set and dividing the total by the number of values. This means that the mean result is susceptible to influence from outliers.

The median is the middle value of a set of data and is therefore more representative of the typical value within a data set. Figure 3 compares the median and mean for a data set with a small number of outliers.

Unless otherwise stated the median estimates have been used rather than mean.

# How does women's pay compare to men's pay?

Comparing pay for men and women is complex as there is no single measure which adequately represents the complex issues underlying differences between men's and women's pay.

This section looks at the pay gap for:

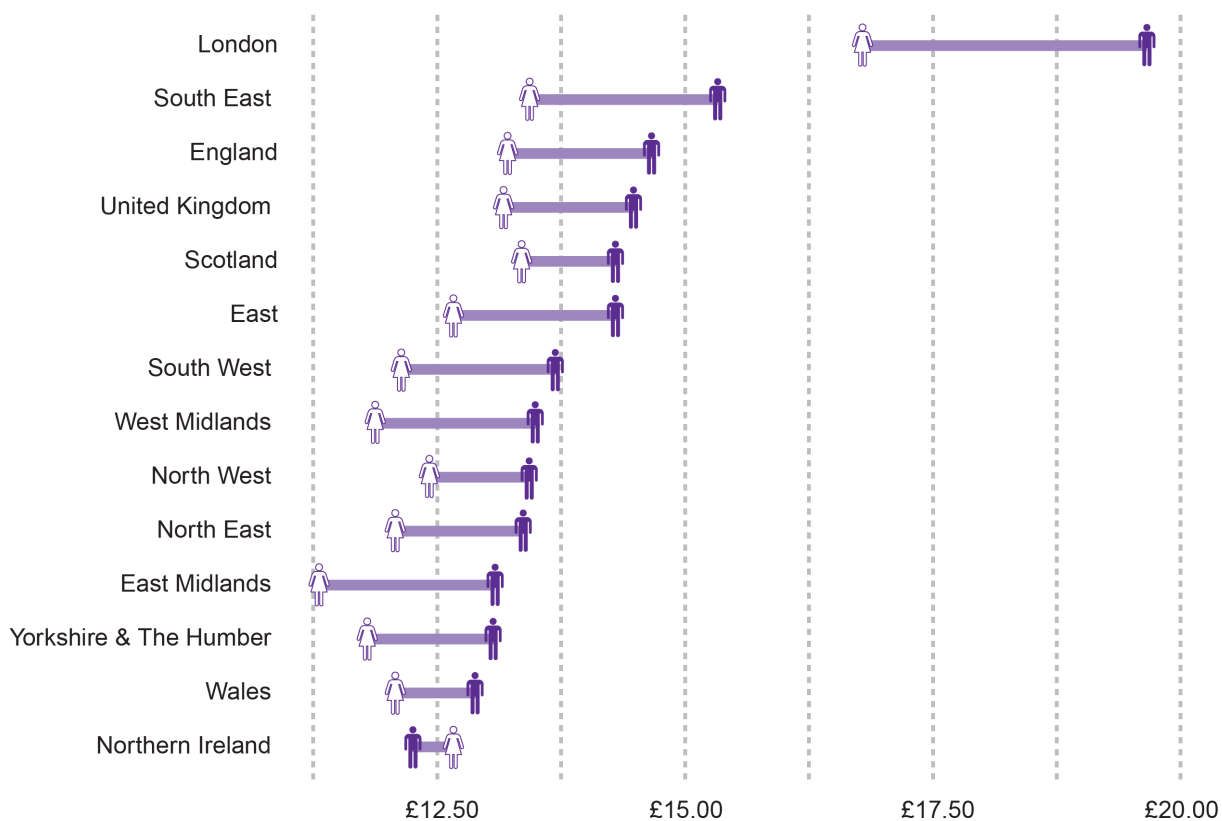
- Full-time employees.
- All employees.
- Part-time employees.
- Women working part-time and men working full-time.
- The mean gender pay gap.

## What is the pay gap for full-time pay?

The main indicator for the gender pay gap, used by the Scottish Government, is to compare hourly pay excluding overtime for full-time workers. Using full-time pay controls for the fact women are more likely to work part-time.

### Full-time pay is highest in London for both men and women

Figure 4: Full-time pay by gender for each nation and region of the UK - 2017

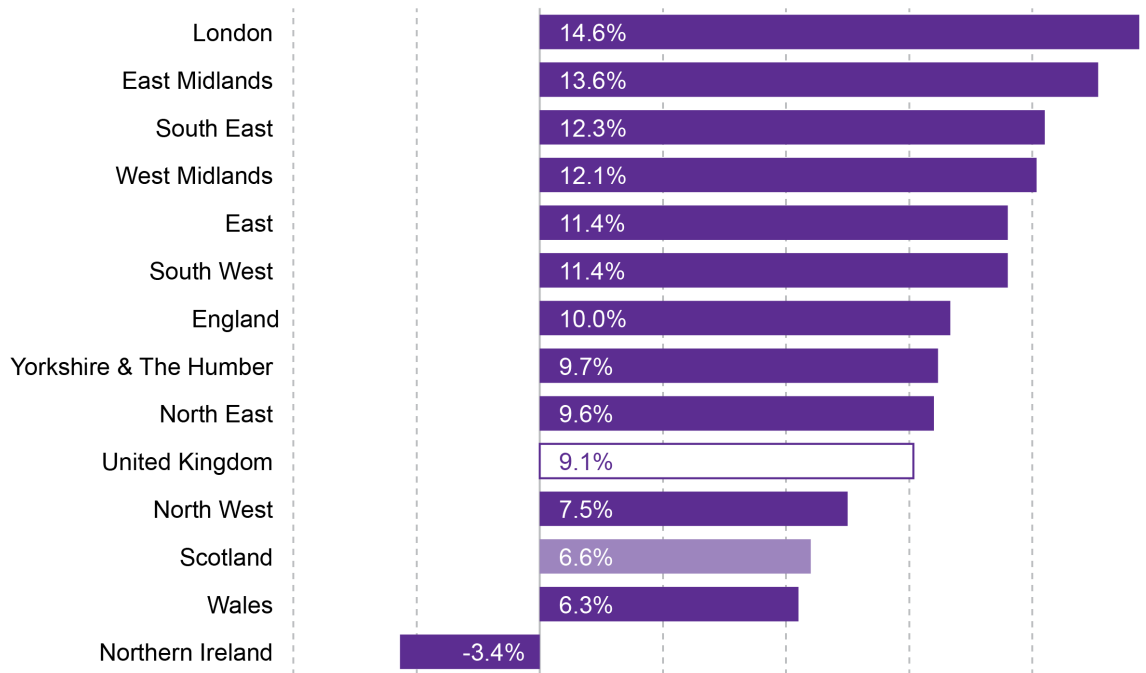


[Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional](#)

Median full-time pay for women in Scotland is higher than in the UK as a whole and is third highest of the nations and regions of the UK. By contrast, men's full-time pay is below the UK figure but is the highest outside London and the South East. Northern Ireland is the only area where women have a higher median pay than men, for full-time work.

## The full-time gender pay gap in Scotland is below the UK overall

Figure 5: Median full-time gender pay gap by nation and region of the UK - 2017



Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional

The full-time pay gap in Scotland is 6.6%, which is lower than the UK figure of 9.1%. Scotland has the third lowest gender pay gap for full-time employees of the Nations and Regions of the UK.

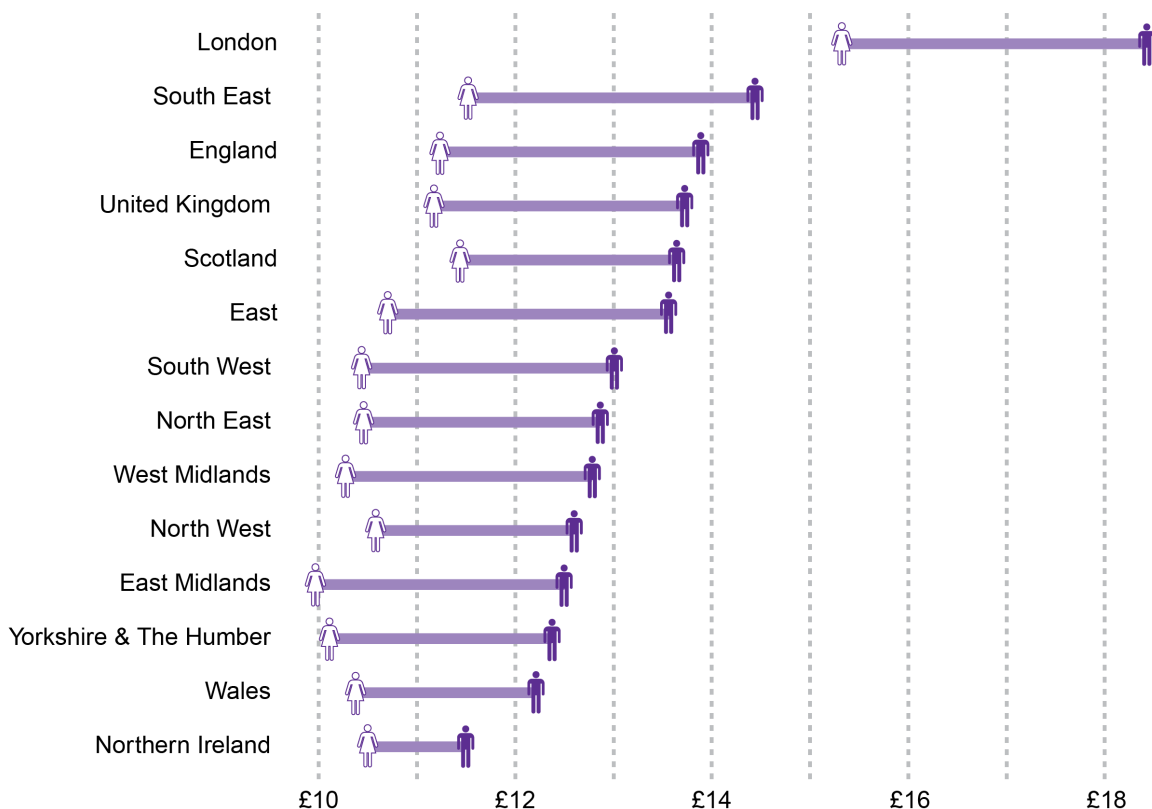
## What is the pay gap for all employees?

The overall pay gap includes full and part-time workers. The larger pay gap for all employees shows the effect of the higher proportion of women who work part-time.



### Overall pay is highest in London for both men and women

Figure 6: Median pay for all employees gender pay gap by nation and region of the UK - 2017

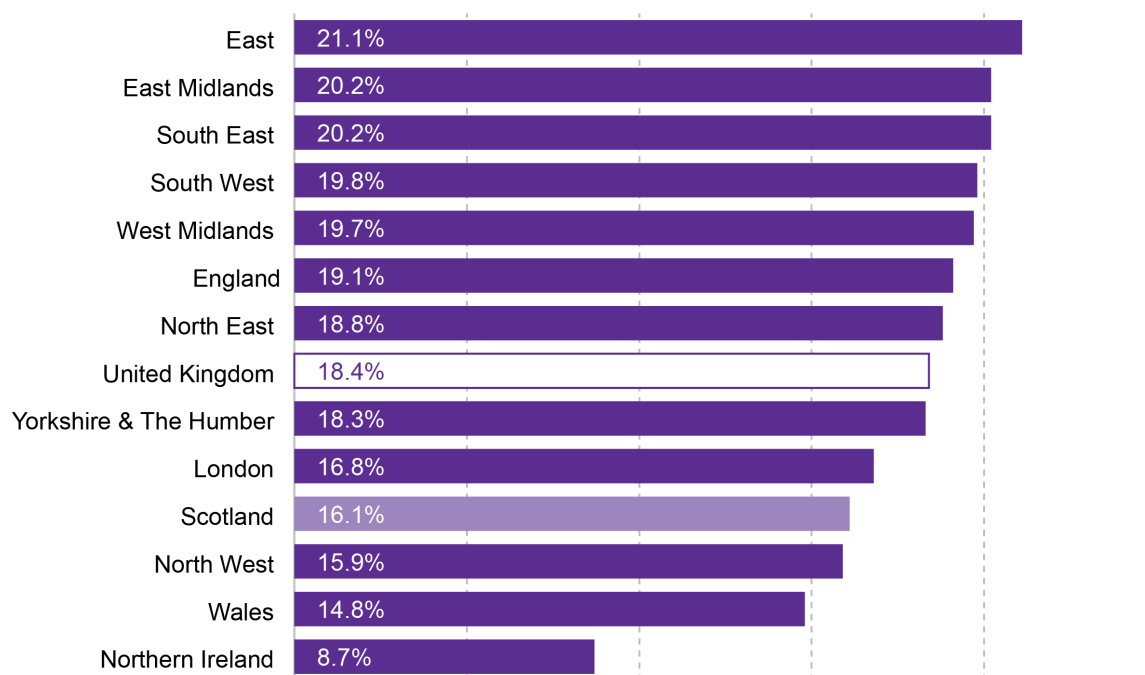


Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional

Median pay for women in Scotland is higher than in the UK as a whole and is third highest of the nations and regions of the UK. By contrast men's pay is below the UK figure but is the highest outside London and the South East.

## The gender pay gap for all employees in Scotland is below the UK overall

Figure 7: Median gender pay gap for all employees by nation and region of the UK - 2017



[Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional](#)

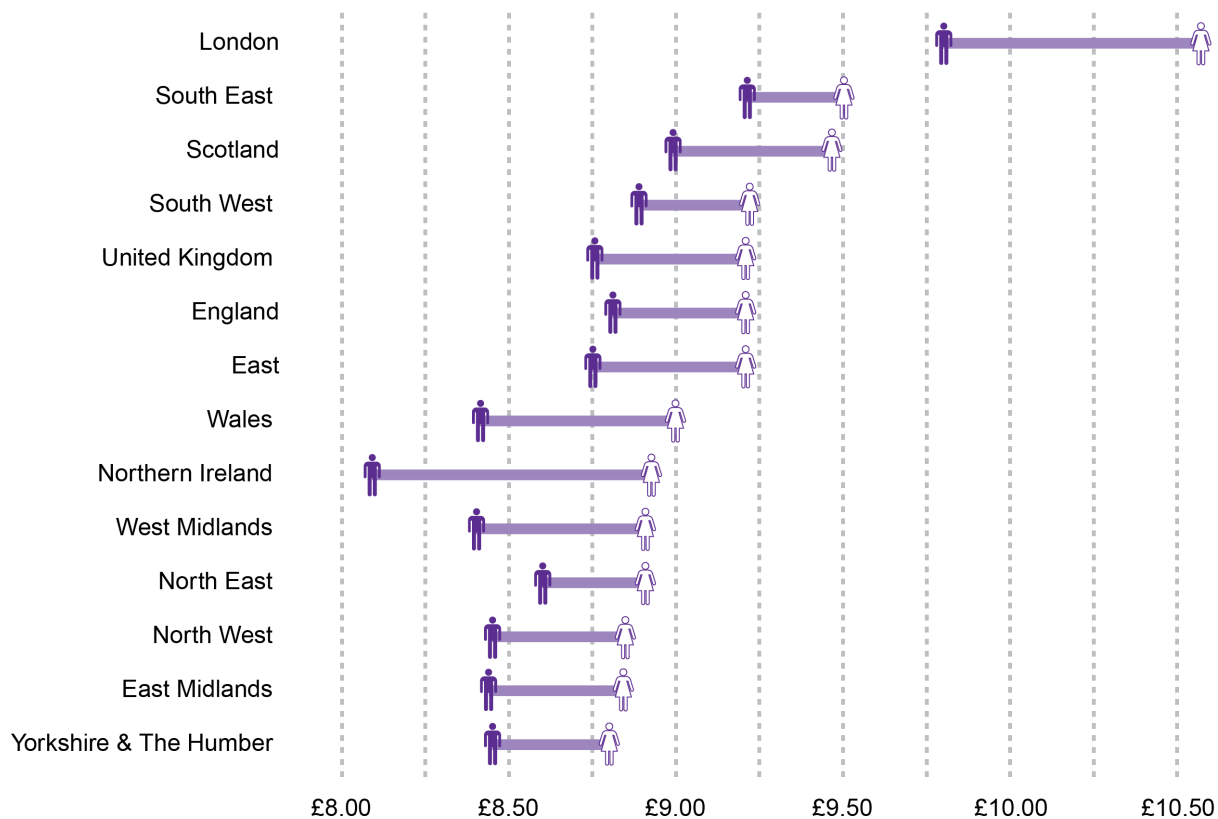
The gender pay gap in Scotland in 2017 for all employees was 16.1%, which is lower than the UK figure of 18.4%. Scotland has the fourth lowest gender pay gap for all employees of the Nations and Regions of the UK.

## What is the pay gap for part-time pay?

Women are more likely to be in part time employment than men, with 41% of women working part-time compared with 11% of men. Women account for 78% of Scottish part-time employment

## Women in Scotland have the 3rd highest part-time pay of the nations and regions of the UK

Figure 8: Median part-time gender pay gap by nation and region of the UK - 2017

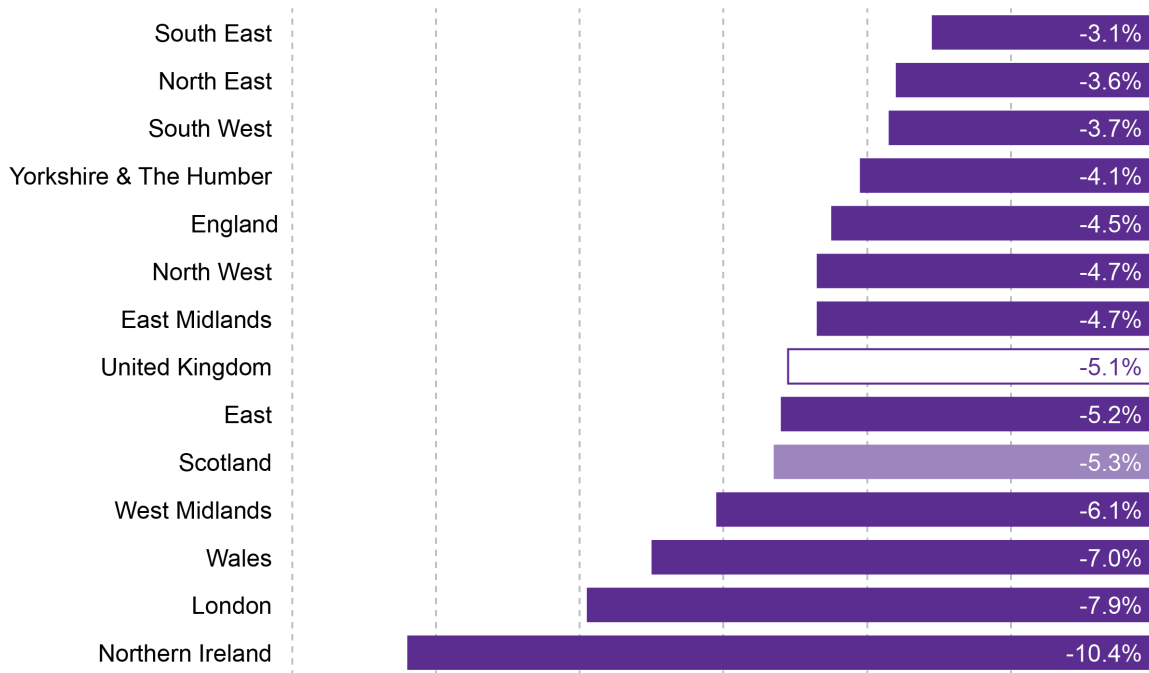


Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional

Median part-time pay for both men and women in Scotland is above the UK average. Both men and women have the third highest part-time pay across the nations and regions of the UK.

## The pay gap for part-time employees in Scotland is around the same as the UK overall

Figure 9: Median part-time gender pay gap by nation and region of the UK - 2017



[Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional](#)

The part-time gender pay gap in Scotland is -5.3%, meaning women have a higher median pay than men for part-time work. The UK is at -5.1%.

## How does women's part-time pay compare to men's full-time pay?

As women are more likely to work part-time and make up the majority of people in part-time employment, Close the gap suggests that it is relevant to compare women's part-time earnings to men's full-time earnings.

The pay gap for women working part-time and men who work full-time is higher in the UK than in Scotland, 36.4% in the UK compared with 33.8% in Scotland.

**Table 1: Women's part-time earning compared to men's full-time earnings – 2017**

	Men's full-time hourly pay (£)	Women's part-time hourly pay (£)	pay gap
Scotland	14.30	9.46	33.8%
UK	14.48	9.21	36.4%

[Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional](#)

## What does the mean pay gap look like?

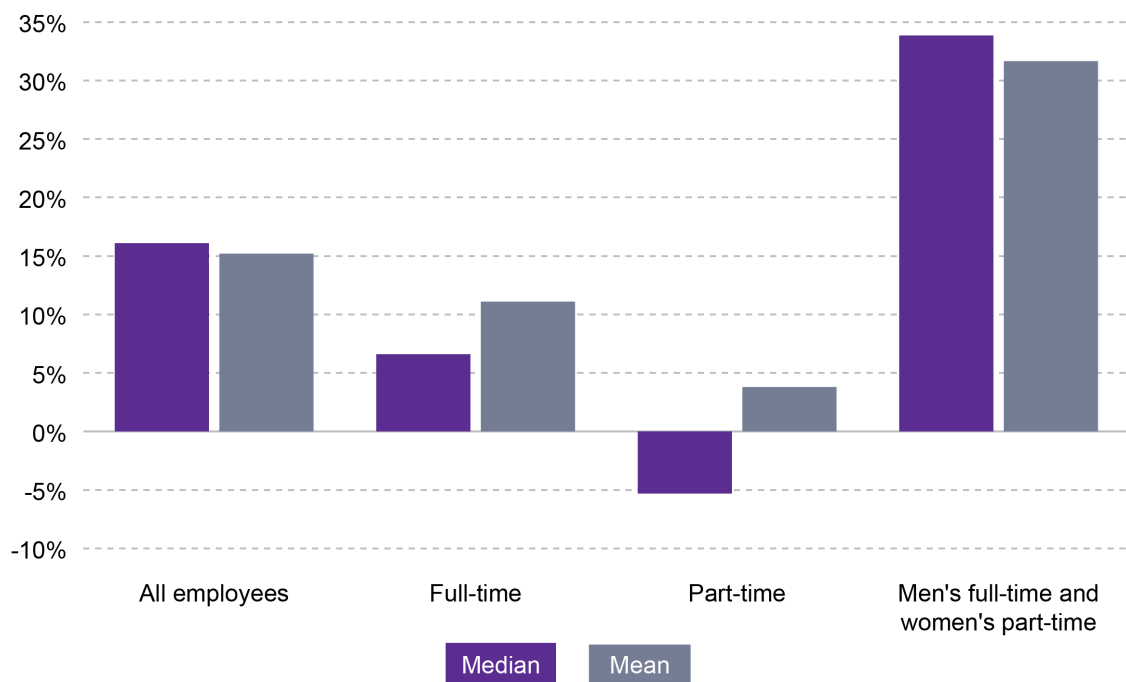
The pay gap based on median pay represents the pay difference for the typical workers' income. Those at the higher end of the pay distribution tend to be men, using mean pay for the pay gap shows the effect of this on the difference of men's and woman's pay.

**Table 2: Mean gender pay gaps for Scotland and the UK - 2017**

	All Employees	Full-time	Part-time	Men's full-time and women's part-time
Scotland	15.2%	11.1%	3.8%	31.7%
UK	17.4%	14.1%	5.2%	33.0%

[Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional](#)

**Figure 10: Comparison of the Median and Mean gender pay gaps in Scotland - 2017**



[Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2017 provisional](#)

Figure 10 shows that when comparing the **mean** and **median** pay gaps there is little difference between the figures for all employees and the comparison of full-time men to part-time women. Differences can be seen in the comparison of the full-time and part-time mean and median pay gaps:

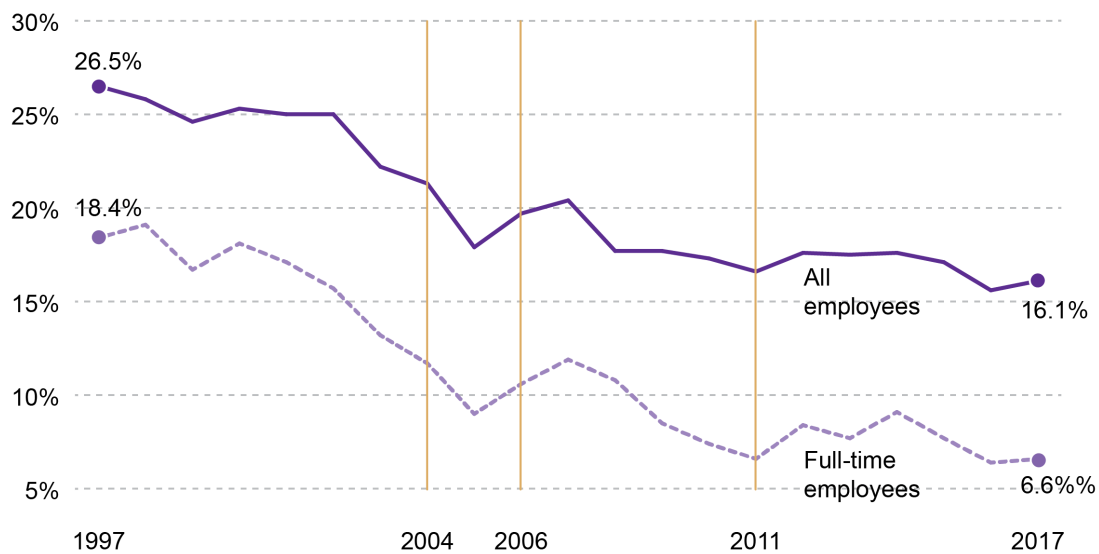
- The larger gap for **mean** full-time pay can be explained by the larger number of men who work full-time and in higher paid roles.
- The **mean** pay gap for part-time pay is 3.8% despite the **median** pay gap showing woman having higher pay by 5.3%. One potential reason for this is that although women make up the majority of part-time workers, men are more likely to work in more senior, higher paid roles. Therefore a small number of high earning men who work part-time can have a large impact on the mean pay gap.

# How has the gender pay gap changed over time?

The Scottish Government advises that it is best to look at the change in the gender pay gap over time because of uncertainties with the statistical significance of annual changes <sup>3</sup>

**The gender pay gap for all employees and full-time employees has remained unchanged since 2011**

Figure 11: gender pay gap for all and full-time employees in Scotland - 1997 to 2017



[Scottish Government](#)

Since 1997 the gender pay gap for all employees has fallen by 12 percentage points, and by 10 percentage points for full-time employees. However since 2011 there has been little or no change in the gender pay gap for both full-time and all employees.

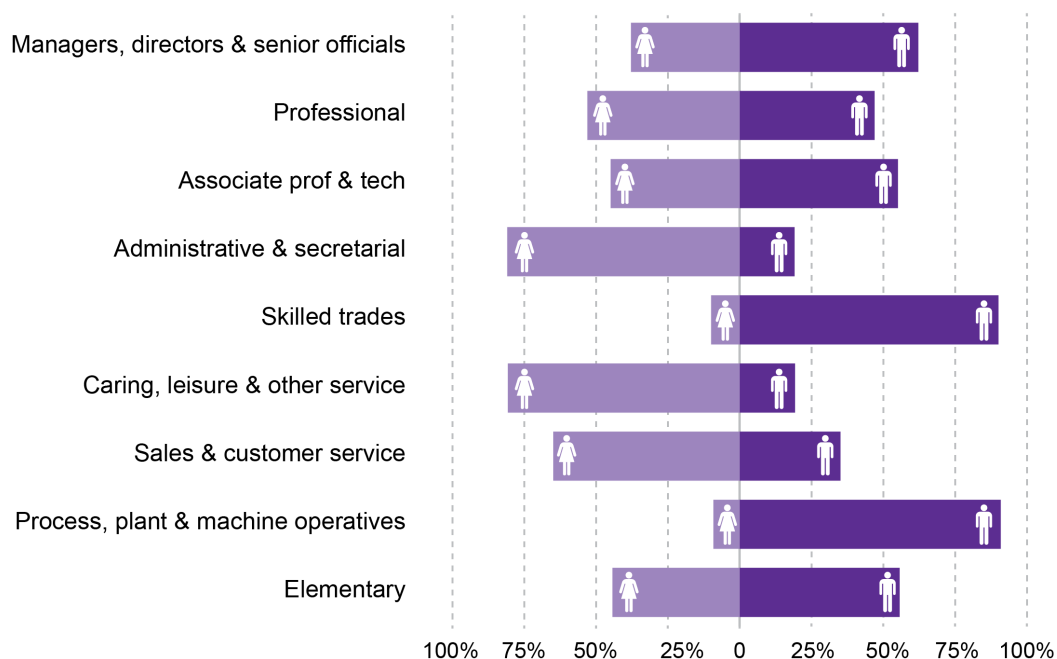
It should be noted that yellow lines represent discontinuities in 2004, 2006 and 2011 ASHE estimates due to changes in the way the data was captured.

# What is the pay gap by occupation?

When looking at the gender pay gap by occupation it is important to understand the gender breakdown of different occupation groups. The latest data from the Annual Population Survey (Jul 2016-Jun 2017) from the ONS shows that women dominate the "Administration & secretarial", "Caring, leisure & other service" and "Sales & customers services" occupations, which tend to be lower skilled and lower paid.

However it is worth pointing out that there is a slightly higher proportion of women working in the professional occupations in Scotland.

Figure 12: gender breakdown of major occupation groups in Scotland - Jul 2016-Jun 2017



[Annual Population Survey via nomis](#)

When looking at pay for **all employees** by occupation, it shows that median pay for men is higher than for women in all occupations. While the "Managers, directors and senior officials" occupations have the highest pay for men, it is the "professional" occupations where women have the highest median income.

**For men, "Managers, directors and senior officials" is the highest paid occupation group, for women "professional occupations" is the highest paid occupation group**

Figure 13: pay by occupation and gender in Scotland - 2017



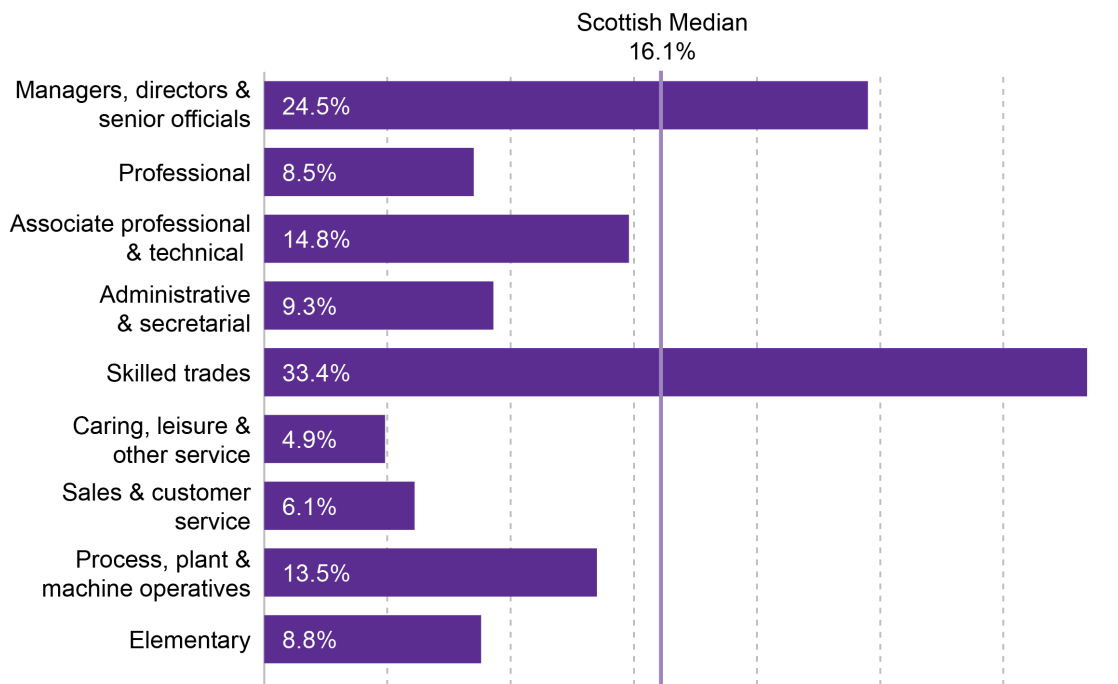
ASHE: Table 3 - Region by Occupation (2 digit SOC)

In Scotland in 2017 "Skilled trades" had the largest gender pay gap for **all employees** at 33.4%. "Caring, leisure & other service" had the smallest gender pay gap at 4.9%.



### "Skilled trades" has the highest gender pay gap in Scotland

Figure 14: Median gender pay gap by occupation - 2017



ASHE: Table 3 - Region by Occupation (2 digit SOC)

# What is the pay gap by industry?

When looking at the gender pay gap by industry it is important to understand the gender breakdown of the occupations within the industries. Figure 15 shows the gender breakdown of the occupations within the broad industries: "Distribution, hotels & restaurants", "Banking, finance & insurance" and "Public admin education & health".

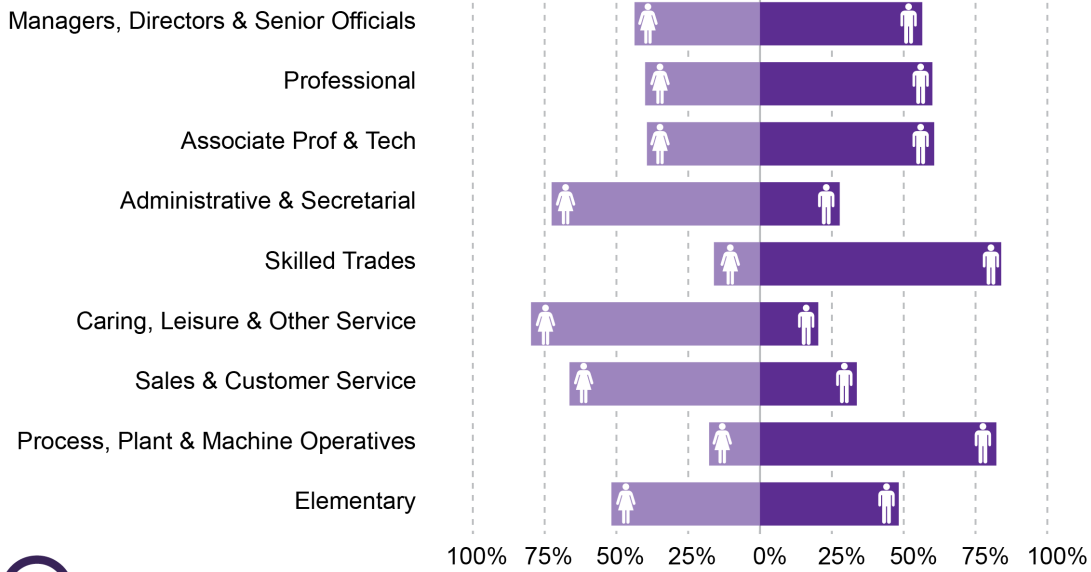
When comparing these industries to the overall Scotland figure it shows that there are some significant deviations, for example:

- In "Public admin, education & health" there is a higher proportion of women who are in the "Managers, directors & senior officials" occupation group than men. There is also a significantly higher proportion of women working in "skilled trades" and "elementary" occupations than the Scottish average.
- In both the "Distribution, hotels & restaurants" and "Banking finance & insurance" industries, there is a higher proportion of men in "professional" occupations than women, which is the opposite to the Scottish average.

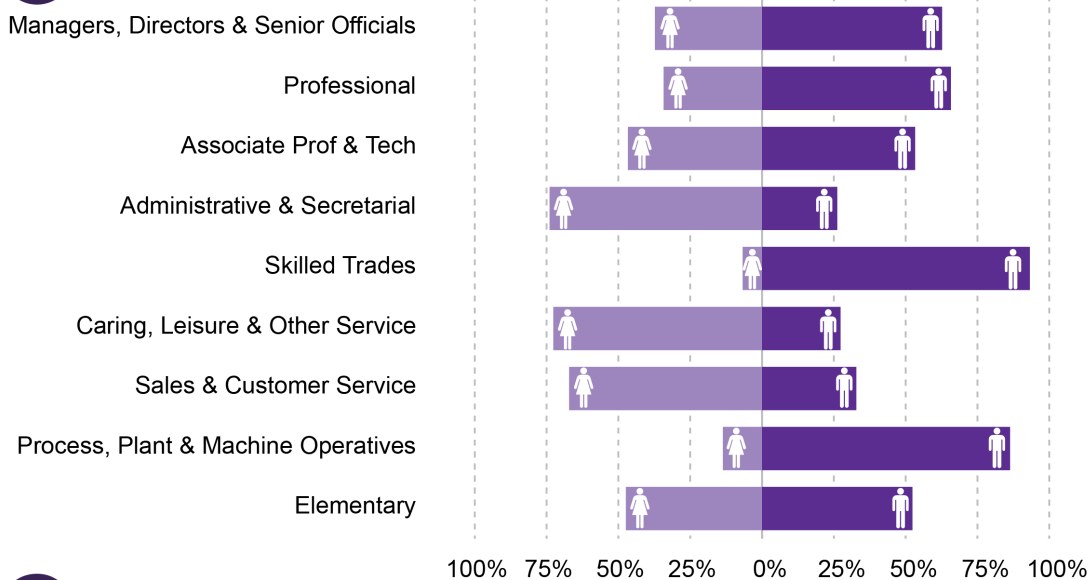
Figure 15: gender breakdown of major occupation groups by selected industries in Scotland - Jul 2016-Jun 2017



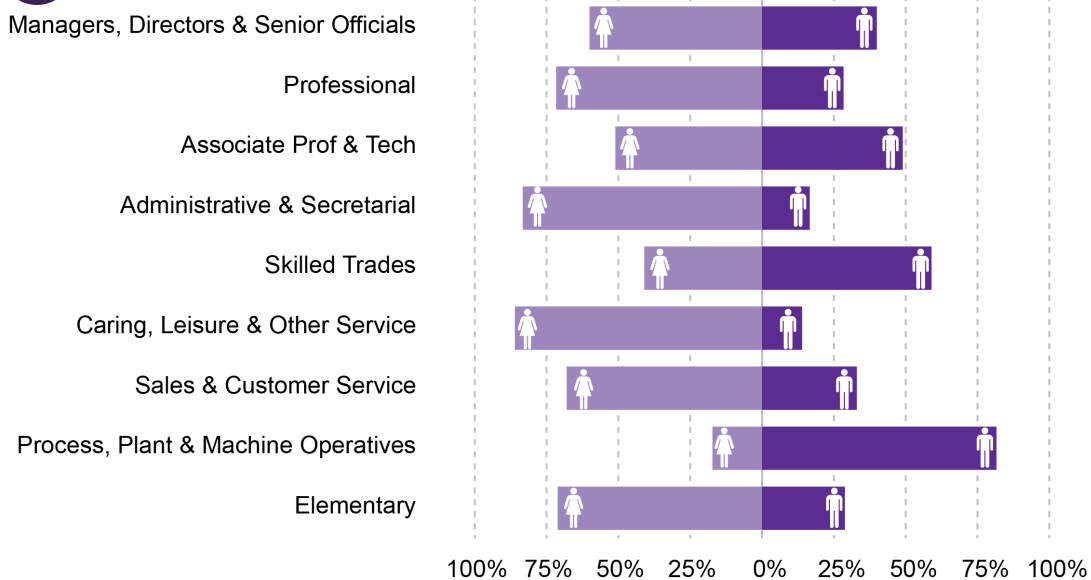
**Distribution, hotels & restaurants**



**Banking, finance & insurance**



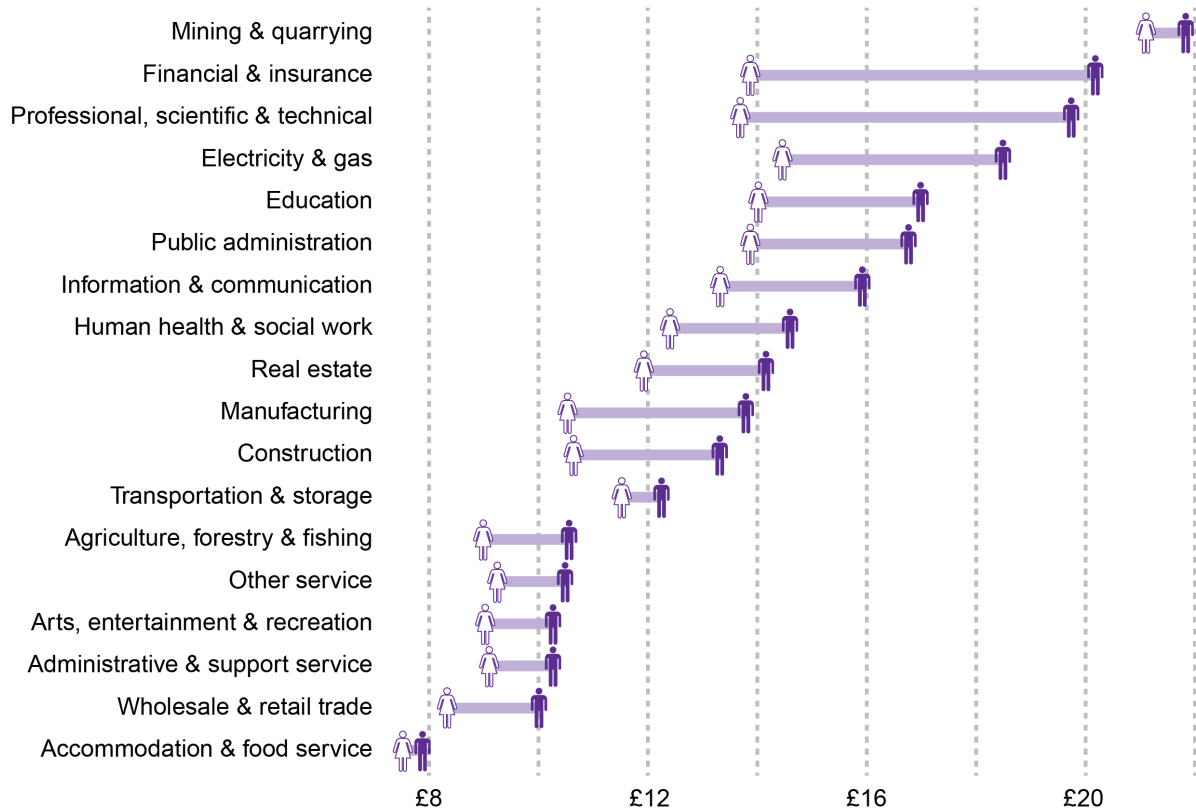
**Public administration, education & health**



Annual Population Survey via nomis

When looking at pay for **all employees** by industry, it shows that median pay for men is higher than for women in all industries. "Mining and quarrying" has the highest pay for both men and women while "accommodation and food services" have the lowest pay for both.

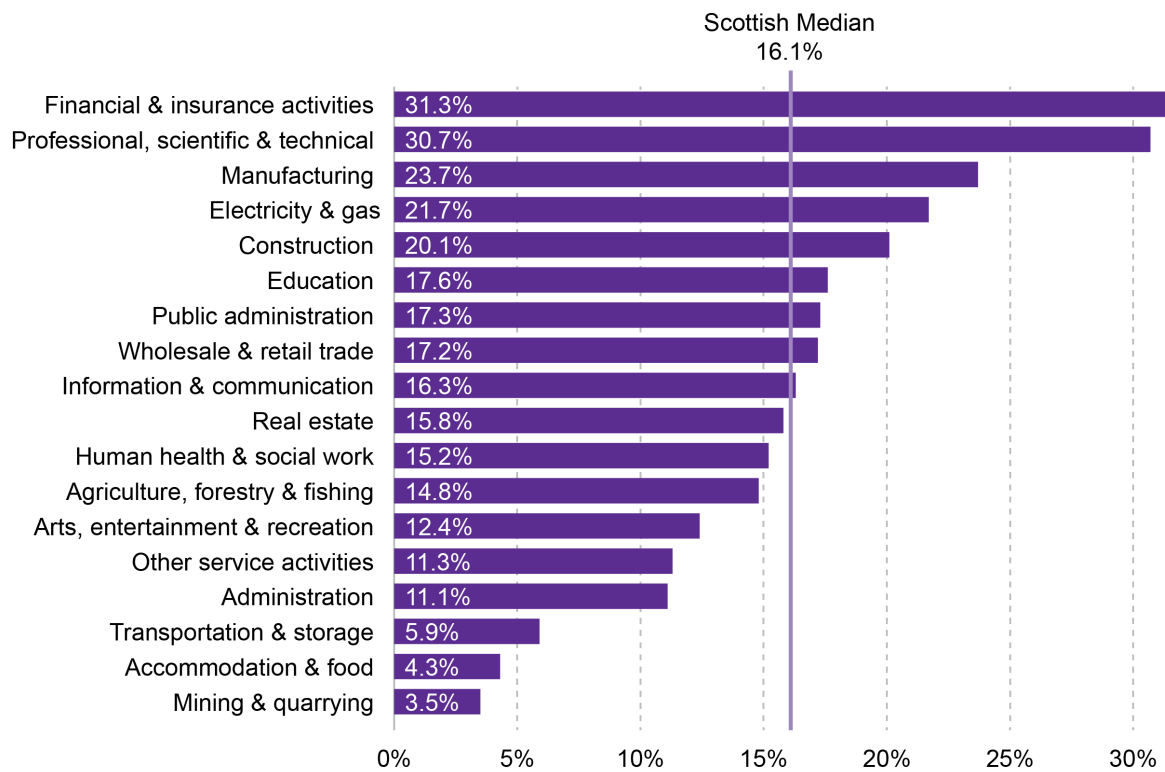
Figure 16: pay by industry and gender in Scotland - 2017



ASHE: Table 5 - Region by Industry (2 digit SIC)

The industry in Scotland with the highest gender pay gap for **all employees** in 2017 was "Finance and insurance activities". "Mining and quarrying" had the lowest gap but is the highest paid industry. "Accommodation and food" services had the second lowest gender pay gap, but is the lowest paid industry for both genders, with each having median pay below the real living wage at the time of the survey.

Figure 17: Median gender pay gap by industry - 2017



ASHE: Table 5 - Region by Industry (2 digit SIC)

# What is the pay gap for the public and private sectors?

Comparing public and private sector pay is a complex issue, due to the different jobs and characteristics of the people within each sector <sup>4</sup>. One of the key points to consider when comparing pay by gender between the public and private sectors is occupational differences. The public sector has a higher proportion of high skilled jobs than the private sector <sup>5</sup>. Another issue to consider is that the public sector has a higher proportion of people working in large organisations (those with at least 500 employees) which tend to pay higher wages.

Workers in the public sector have a higher median income than the private sector. While men are more likely to be working in the higher paid professional jobs in the private sector, for example Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) occupations, women are more likely to be found in the low paid jobs, such as cleaning and catering. However, there is a higher proportion of women working in professional jobs in the public sector such as nursing and teaching.

**Table 3: pay by gender and pay gap for all employees in the public and private sectors in Scotland - 2017**

	Men	Women	pay gap
Scotland	13.63	11.44	16.1%
Public sector	16.76	14.55	13.2%
Private sector	12.60	9.33	25.9%
Non-profit body or mutual association	14.28	11.67	18.3%

[ASHE: Table 25 - Region by Public and Private Sector](#)

# What is the pay gap by age?

When looking at the gender pay gap by age the main point to consider is the ‘motherhood pay penalty’<sup>6</sup>. This refers to the period where women tend to either take time out of work or switch to part-time employment due to care commitments, for children and/or elderly relatives. This results in a fall in women's full-time earnings.

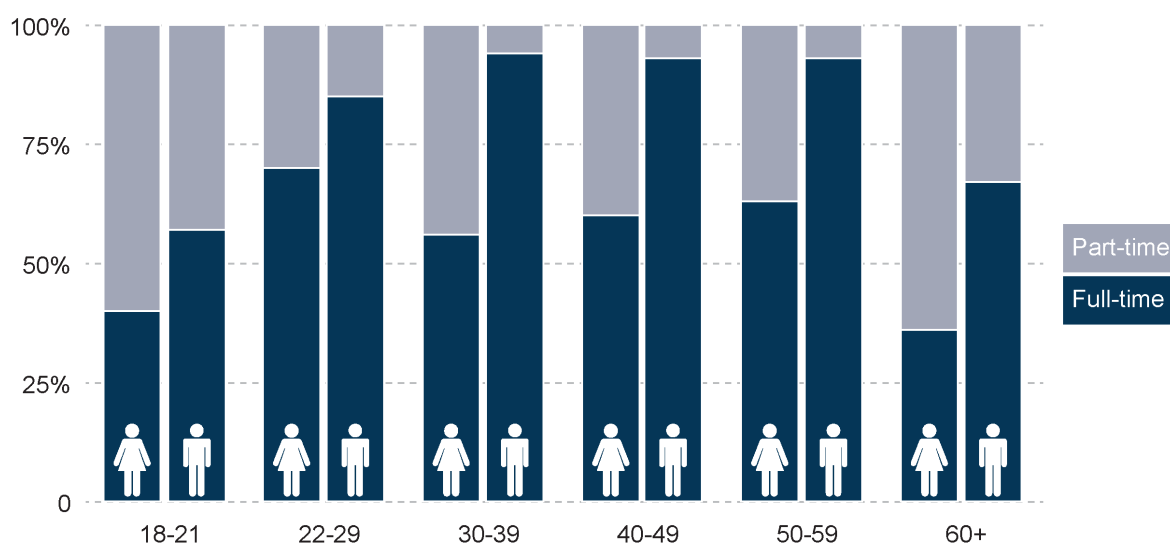
A report from the ONS suggests that full-time earnings for women stops growing by age 45 while men's stops at age 48. By the time women's wages have stopped growing they have increased by 50% from the age 16, while men's will have grown by 66% by the time their wages stop growing<sup>7</sup>.

This section compares hourly pay excluding overtime as women are more likely to work part-time. This is especially true when breaking down pay by ages. Figure 18 shows the breakdown of those working part-time and full-time by age and gender.

- The 22 to 29 age group has the highest proportion of women working full-time.
- Between the 22 to 29 and 30 to 39 age groups there is a large increase in the proportion of woman working part-time.
- The 18-21 age group has the highest proportion of men working part-time, this is likely because they will be in higher or further education.
- For women, the 60+ age group has the highest proportion of individuals working part-time.

## At all age groups women are more likely to work part-time than men

Figure 18: Proportion of people in full-time and part-time employment by gender and age in Scotland 2015



SPICe analysis of the Annual Population Survey

When looking at the pay for **all employees** by age, the 18-21 year old age group is the only group where women earn more.



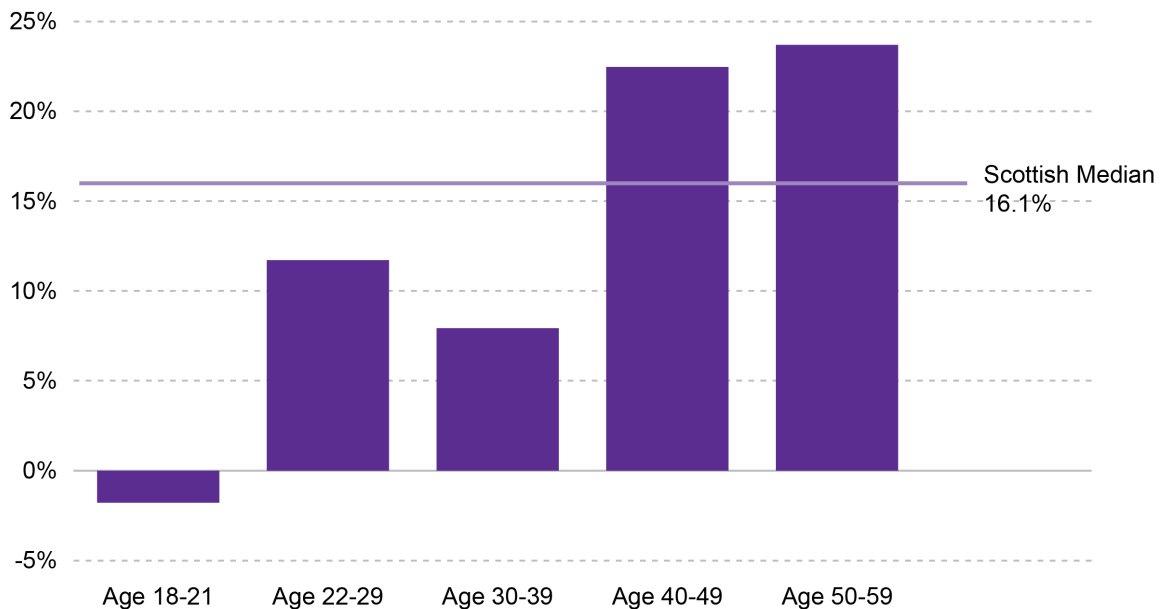
**Table 4: pay by gender and age in Scotland - 2017**

	Women	Men
Scotland	11.44	13.63
Age 18-21	8.00	7.86
Age 22-29	10.17	11.52
Age 30-39	13.24	14.38
Age 40-49	12.66	16.33
Age 50-59	11.72	15.36

Apart from the 18-21 year old age group, the 30-39 age group has the lowest gender pay gap at 7.9%. The pay gap then increases to 22.5% for 40-49 year olds and sees little change for 50-59 year olds. This is most likely because women are more likely to take on caring responsibilities, for children or elderly relatives.

### The pay gap increases significantly for those aged over 40

Figure 19: Median gender pay gap by age in Scotland - 2017



Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) WGOR by age from 1999 to 2017 provisional

# How do the latest figures affect the National Indicator on the gender pay gap?

Scotland Performs is the Scottish Government's tool for reporting on how the country is performing. It does this by measuring performance against a number of Performance Targets and National Indicators. One of the Indicators in Scotland Performs is:

## [Reduce the pay gap](#)

The Government specifies that

- a decrease of 1.5 percentage points or more suggests that the position is improving
- an increase of 1.5 percentage points or more suggests the position is worsening.

As there was an increase of 0.3 percentage points between 2016 and 2017 this indicator is **maintaining performance**.

This indicator focuses on full-time pay. However, in their report on the gender pay gap [No Small Change: The Economic Potential of Closing the Gender Pay Gap](#) the Economy, Fair Work and Jobs committee recommended:

“ That the Scottish Government changes the way it measures and reports the gender pay gap in its National Performance Framework (NPF), to take into account part-time workers in Scotland.”

The Government responded to the recommendation as follows

“ The measure chosen matches the headline measure used by the Scottish Government, and the measure used by the Office for National Statistics for the UK and so allows comparison and provides consistency. However, additional information will be provided on Scotland Performs to show the position for part-time workers”

The Scottish Government now publish data on the pay gap for all employees alongside the data on the full-time pay gap.

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