

North Ayrshire Research Briefing: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

Main Points

- North Ayrshire is the 5th most deprived Council area in Scotland (as in 2016)
- 52 (28%) of North Ayrshire's 186 data zones are in the 15% most deprived in Scotland (compared to 51 (27%) in 2016)
- Deprivation is concentrated in The Three Towns and Irvine locality areas but Kilwinning and the Garnock Valley also have above average deprivation
- North Ayrshire deprivation is mainly concentrated on the employment, income and health domains

Background

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) has been published by the Scottish Government every three or four years since 2004. An updated (sixth) version was published on 28 January 2020.

The SIMD offers an opportunity to assess relative deprivation across Scotland. Analysis is at data zone level of which there are 186 in North Ayrshire (average 727 population/344 households per data zone). All 6,976 Scottish data zones are ranked in order of relative deprivation. As such it is important to recognise that the SIMD does not measure absolute deprivation. Even if areas improve over time there will always be a "most deprived" data zone and there will continue to be 1,046 data zones in the 15% most deprived in Scotland. Indeed over time deprivation has become less concentrated in the major cities with a consequent increase in relative deprivation in other parts of Scotland.

As well as an overall deprivation rank the SIMD provides a breakdown by seven 'domains' - income, employment, education, health, crime, housing and access.

SIMD 2020 - Key Results

52 of North Ayrshire's 186 data zones are in the 15% most deprived in Scotland, 1 more than in 2016. The "local share" measures the proportion of North Ayrshire's 186 data zones that are in the 15% most deprived data zones in Scotland. Between 2016 and 2020 this has increased by 0.6 percentage points to 28.0%. On this basis North Ayrshire has the 5th highest deprivation in Scotland, the same as in 2016.

Local share of data zones in top 15% most deprived in Scotland

	2004	2006	2009	2012	2016	2020
North Ayrshire data zones in 15% most deprived	33	33	43	46	51	52
Local share of 15% most deprived (%)	18.4	18.4	24.0	25.7	27.4	28.0
Total North Ayrshire data zones	179	179	179	179	186	186

75 (40%) of North Ayrshire's 186 data zones are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland, 5 more than in 2016. On this broader definition North Ayrshire has the 3rd highest deprivation in Scotland.

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Key results for individual domains

Results for the seven domains, comparing the number of data zones and local shares for 2016 and 2020 are illustrated in the table below. The highest increase has been for the Income domain with an increase in local share of +4.8 percentage points since the last SIMD. The Employment and Health domains are also well above the national average at 30.6% and 27.4% respectively. Crime is the only domain to see an improvement since 2016 with a 5.9 percentage point fall bringing it well below the national average.

Local share – proportion of North Ayrshire’s data zones in 15% most deprived in Scotland by domain

	2016 Number	2016 Local Share (%)	2020 Number	2020 Local Share (%)	% point change 2016-2020
Income	60	32.3	69	37.1	+4.8
Employment	52	28.0	57	30.6	+2.6
Health	51	27.4	51	27.4	0.0
Education	28	15.1	33	17.7	+2.6
Housing	6	3.2	7	3.8	+0.6
Access	20	10.8	23	12.4	+1.6
Crime	33	17.7	22	11.8	-5.9

Multiple deprivation within localities

Deprivation across the six Locality Partnership Areas from 2004 to 2020 is shown in the table below.

Locality Partnerships – Number of data zones in 15% most deprived 2004 – 2020 (local share in brackets)

	2004	2006	2009	2012	2016	2020	Change 2004 - 2020	Change 2016 - 2020
Three Towns	15	16	19	19	18 (41%)	17 (39%)	+2	-1
Irvine	10	10	14	16	19 (35%)	20 (36%)	+10	+1
Kilwinning	6	4	6	5	6 (27%)	6 (27%)	0	0
Garnock Valley	2	3	4	6	7 (26%)	7 (26%)	+5	0
North Coast	0	0	0	0	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	+2	+1
Arran	0	0	0	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0

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In terms of local share the most deprived locality is the Three Towns which sees 39% of its 44 data zones in the 15% most deprived in Scotland followed by Irvine with 36%. Kilwinning and the Garnock Valley are also more deprived than average with 27% and 26% respectively.

It can be seen that the number of data zones in Irvine classified as being in the 15% most deprived in Scotland has doubled since the first SIMD was published in 2004, with one added since the last version in 2016. The Three Towns has also seen an increase of two (from 15 to 17) over the long term although there was a decrease of one since 2016 (continuing an improving trend since 2012). The Garnock Valley has also seen a deteriorating picture since 2004 with an increase of five data zones in the most 15% most deprived.

Until the 2016 SIMD neither the North Coast or Arran had any data zones in the 15% most deprived in Scotland. However in 2016 the North Coast saw one data zone being identified as being in the 15% most deprived in Scotland. In 2020 this increased by one (on Cumbrae). This may be a consequence of deprivation across Scotland as well as within North Ayrshire being more evenly dispersed in relative terms (ie deprivation in urban/city areas improving relative to the rest of the country/rural areas).

North Ayrshire's most and least deprived Data Zones

The following table shows the five most and least deprived North Ayrshire data zones:

Data Zone	Intermediate Zone	North Ayrshire Rank (out of 186)	Scotland Rank (out of 6,976)
Most Deprived			
S01011240	Saltcoats Central	1	26
S01011230	Irvine Fullarton	2	60
S01011243	Ardrossan Central	3	76
S01011244	Ardrossan Central	4	153
S01011235	Stevenston Ardeer	5	200
Least Deprived			
S01011330	Largs North	182	6153
S01011255	Saltcoats North West	183	6177
S01011312	West Kilbride and Seamill	184	6189
S01011319	Largs South	185	6462
S01011350	Beith West	186	6478

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North Ayrshire data zones moving into and out of the 15% most deprived in Scotland

The following table shows the North Ayrshire data zones that have moved into (5) and out of (4) the 15% most deprived in Scotland (ie the 1,046 most deprived data zones out of 6,976 in Scotland) between 2016 and 2020:

Data Zone Code	Intermediate Zone	Scotland Rank 2016 (out of 6,976)	Scotland Rank 2020 (out of 6,976)	Rank Change 2016 to 2020
Moved into 15% most deprived in Scotland between 2016 and 2020				
S01011274	Stevenston Hayocks	1,233	957	-276
S01011287	Kilwinning Pennyburn	1,125	880	-245
S01011198	Irvine Bourtreehill	1,188	1035	-153
S01011224	Irvine East	1,089	967	-122
S01011327	Largs Central and Cumbrae	1,414	872	-542
Moved out of 15% most deprived in Scotland between 2016 and 2020				
S01011298	Kilwinning Central and North	786	1197	+411
S01011237	Saltcoats Central	938	1308	+370
S01011275	Stevenston Hayocks	958	1198	+240
S01011197	Irvine Bourtreehill	1,044	1073	+29

Conclusion

The revised SIMD provides an opportunity to review the distribution of deprivation across North Ayrshire and to ensure that resources are targeted at areas in most need of assistance.

Further Information

Further information including interactive mapping can be found on the Scottish Government's SIMD website at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

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