



Renfrewshire
Council

Renfrewshire Economic Development Newsletter – August 2015

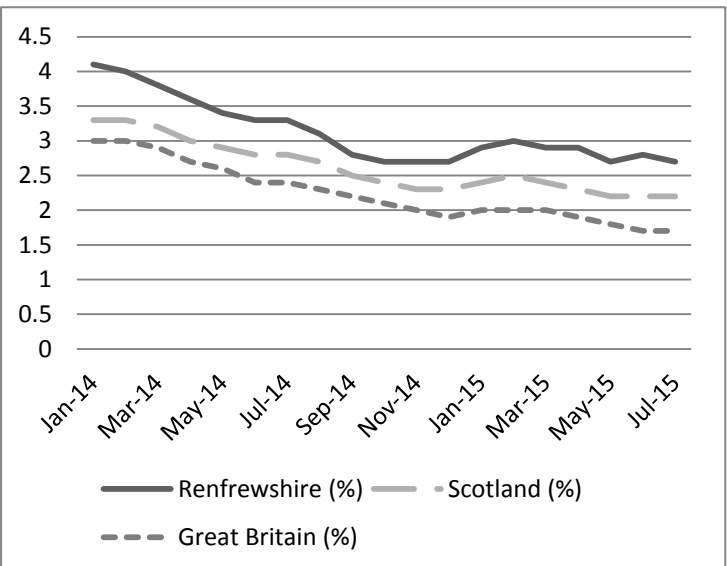
This Economic Development newsletter provides an extended overview of employment activity and economic development in Renfrewshire at the end of **July 2015**.

The latest statistics from NOMIS illustrate the Renfrewshire labour market position and show how Renfrewshire fares in comparison to Scotland and to the UK. As well as the JSA figures this newsletter will also report on the wider, most recent employment and unemployment stats available for the area.

The newsletter includes a summary of the progress made to date by the council's Invest in Renfrewshire programme and Business Gateway programme as well as information on wider economic development activity.

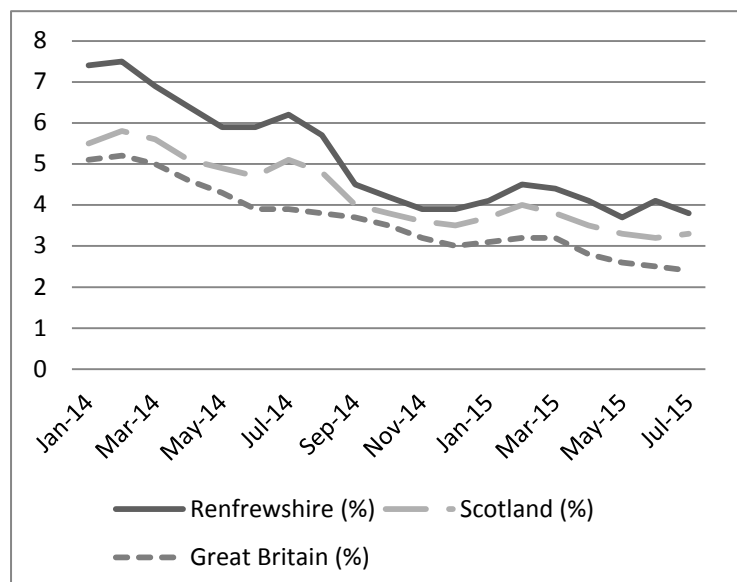
JSA Claimants All Ages (16-64)

- The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) rate for July 2015 is **2.7%**, with jobseekers totalling **3,005**.
- This month the rate has **decreased** slightly by 0.1%.
- The rate this time last year was **3.3%**.



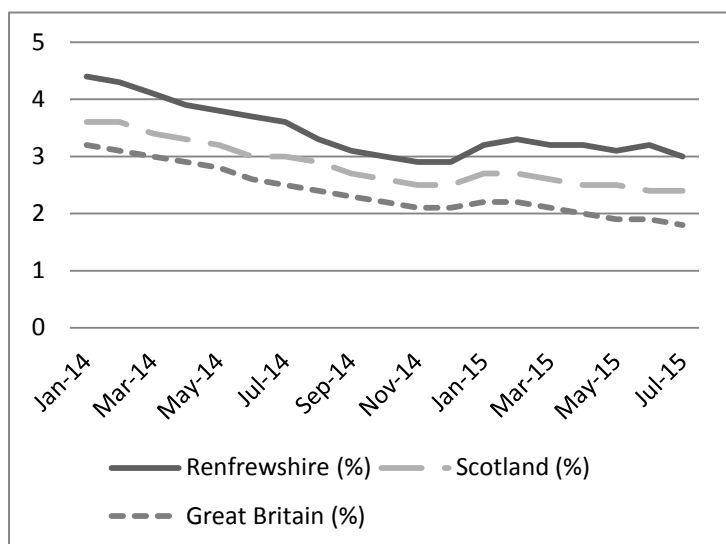
JSA Claimants Aged 18-24

- The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) rate for July 2015 is **3.8%**, with **570** young people seeking work.
- This month the rate has decreased by 0.3%. This is a greater decrease than the overall Scottish average.
- The rate was significantly higher this time last year at **6.2%**.



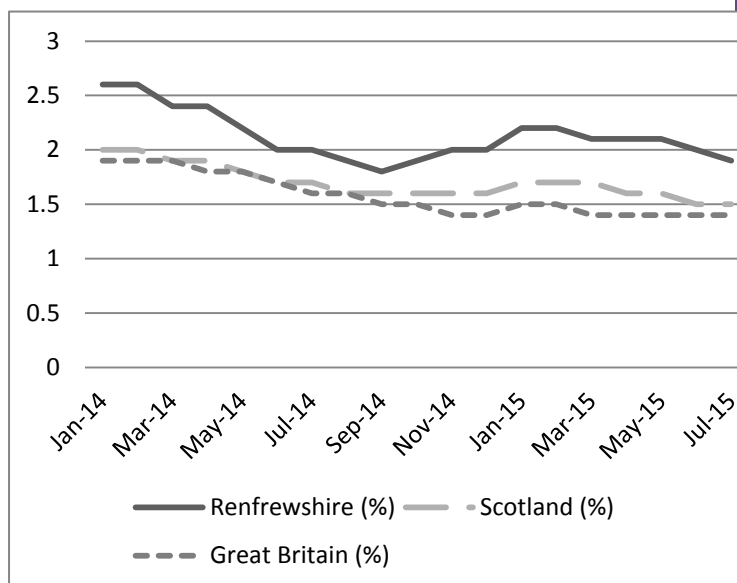
JSA Claimants Aged 25-49

- The 25-49 JSA rate for July 2015 is **3%**, with **1,730** claimants.
- This month the rate has slightly decreased by **0.1%**.
- The rate was higher this time last year at 3.6%.



JSA Claimants Aged 50+

- The 50+ JSA rate for July 2015 is **1.9%** with **700** people signed on.
- This month the 50+ JSA rate decreased by **0.1%** after a period of stagnation.
- The rate was the same this time last year at 2.0%.



Source: ONS claimant count - age duration with proportions
 Note: % is number of persons claiming JSA as a proportion of resident population of the same age.

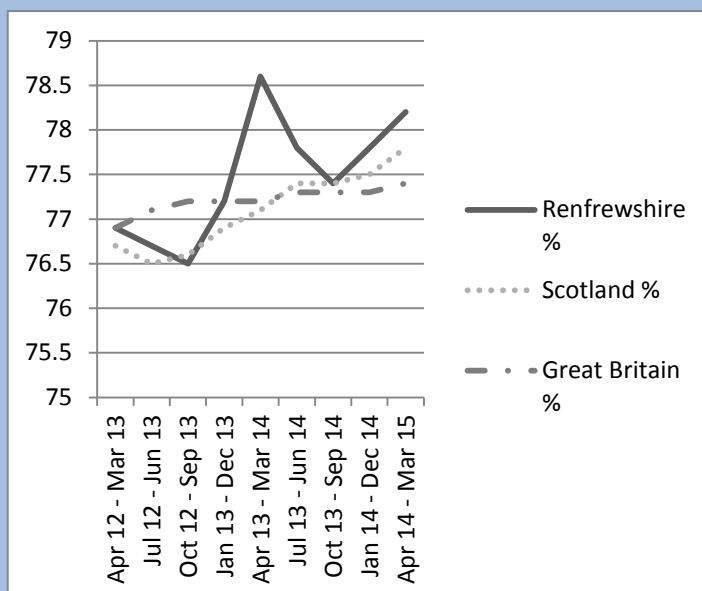
Labour Supply: Employment and Unemployment Update (April 2014-March 2015)

This wider NOMIS report provides statistical figures for the total working population (16-64) of Renfrewshire which is 112,500 residents for the period April 2014–March 2015.

The Renfrewshire Labour supply consists of those who are employed, as well as those defined as unemployed or economically inactive, who can be considered to be potential labour supply. The following information derives from NOMIS.

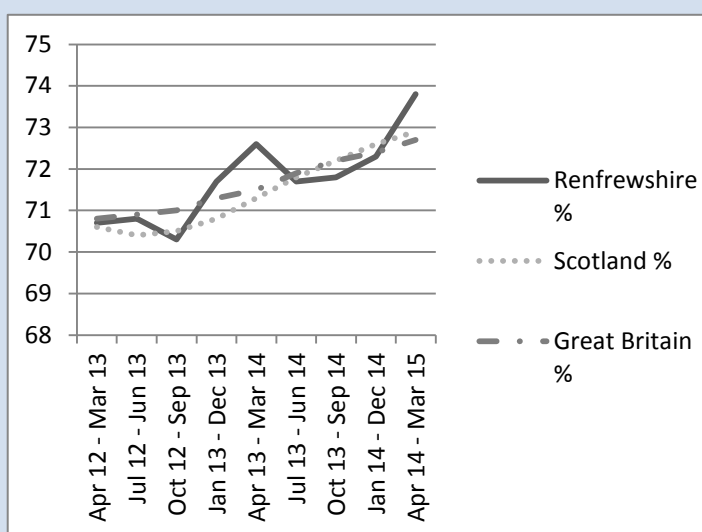
Economically Active

- The overall economically active for the period April 2014-March 2015 was 78.2%, in total 90,200 residents.
- This is an increase of 0.4% from the previous period (January 2014-December 2014).
- This rate is higher than the Scottish average of 77.8% and the average of Great Britain 77.4%.



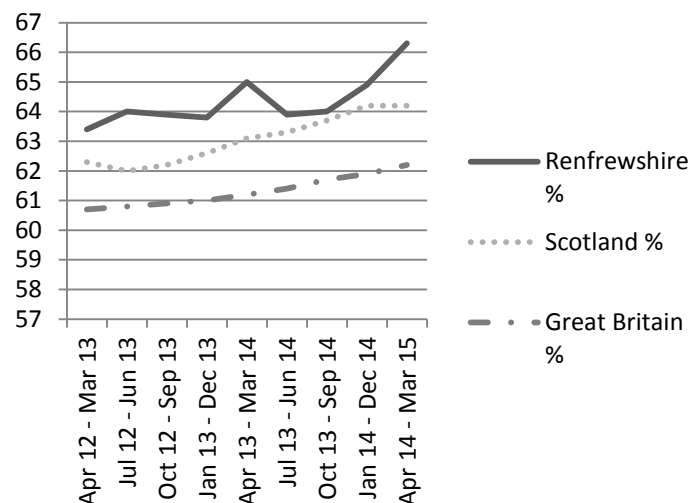
Total in Employment

- The overall percentage of those in employment for the April 2014-March 2015 period was 73.8% in total 85,300 residents.
- This is a significant increase of 1.5% from the previous period (January 2014-December 2014).
- This rate is higher than the Scottish Average of 72.9% and the average of Great Britain 72.7%



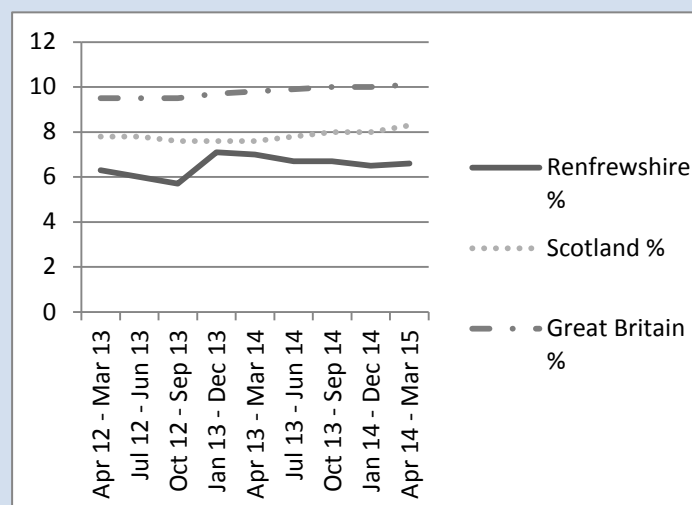
Employment: Total Employees

- The overall percentage of employees for the April 2014-March 2015 period was 66.3% - 76,000 people.
- This is a significant increase of 1.4% from the previous period (January 2014-December 2014)
- This rate is higher than the Scottish Average of 64.2% and the average of Great Britain at 62.2%



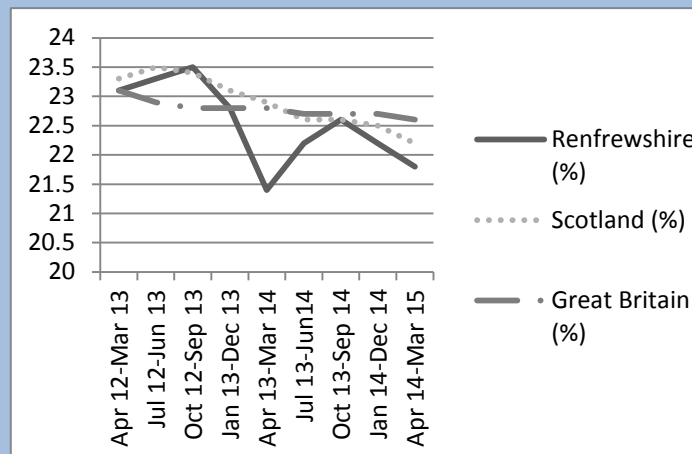
Employment: Total Self Employed

- The overall percentage of those self employed for the April 2014-March 2015 period was 6.6% - 8,200 people.
- This is an increase of 0.1% from the previous period (January 2014-December 2014).
- This is an increase of 1.8% from the same period in 2008.
- This rate is lower than the Scottish average of 8.3% and the average of Great Britain at 10.1%.



Economic Inactivity

- The overall economic inactivity in Renfrewshire for the period April 2014-March 2015 was 21.8% - 24,400 people.
- This is a decrease of 0.4% from the previous period (January 2014-December 2014).
- This rate is lower than the Scottish average of 22.2% and the average of Great Britain 22.6%.



Local Economic Development Update

Paisley High Street is now open for traffic for the first time in 18 years. The reopening of the High Street aims to reinvigorate night-time activity and the overall High Street economy by allowing taxis and cars access to the street between 18:30 and 06:30.

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The Recruit kick started again in August with twenty hopeful 'Recruits' participating in various work related challenges. This year five successful Recruits are guaranteed to secure a highly sought after Modern Apprenticeship. All other participants will receive help in finding other jobs and training opportunities.

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InCube officially opened its doors to guests and the public on the 24th June. Guests were treated to inspirational stories from Lord Haughey of City Refrigeration Ltd and Margaret Gibson, CEO of Women's Enterprise Scotland and winner of the Queen's Award for Enterprise. The open day also gave the InCube entrepreneurs an opportunity to showcase their businesses.

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Glasgow airport had a record breaking Summer with the total amount of passengers using the airport. It was reported that **956,483 passengers** used Glasgow Airport; this is an increase of **13.7%**. This substantial increase put Glasgow Airport as one of Europe's fastest growing airport during the first six months of 2015 according to European airport trade body, ACI Europe.

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Renfrewshire Council will be the first Scottish Local Authority to set up a **Tackling Poverty cash fund**, for hard pressed parents struggling to meet the costs of Schooling their children. The cash boost and the creation of a new task force come on the back of the findings and recommendations from the Tackling Poverty Commission and the £6M financial commitment from Renfrewshire Council..

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This year's **Sma' Shot Day** saw thousands of Renfrewshire residents attend the annual celebration of the area's weaving heritage. The new addition to this year's event was the inception of the Sma' Shot Bigshot poetry slam. The new event allowed talented Renfrewshire poets to showcase their work alongside Create Paisley 2020 film project being displayed for the first time to the public.

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Maclay Inns, the owner of Paisley's oldest pub the **Bull Inn**, the **Abbey Inn** has been bought out of administration by Stonegate Pub Company. The deal comes after Alloa-based Maclay called in administrator at EY in January 2015.

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Rolls Royce announced a **£60 million investment** in their base in Renfrewshire. The company will build a new 'Centre of Competence' at their Inchinnan factory. The company stated that the investment would reduce the 187 job losses announced in March by creating **around 130 jobs**.

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Arnold Clark unveiled plans to relocate their headquarters and several dealerships to Hillington Park. The new headquarters will cover a 90,000 sq ft site will accommodate **over 400 jobs** whilst recruiting 100 new jobs.

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Spark of Genius, the Paisley-based company who provide residential care and educational services for young people with complex needs, have been sold to CareTech Holdings, based in Hertfordshire, for £9 million. Founder Tom McGhee and other senior management will remain with the business under new ownership.

Invest in Renfrewshire Update – August 2015

INVEST IN EMPLOYMENT

Since the launch of Invest in Renfrewshire in June 2012 **916** new paid posts have been created:

- **674** new jobs have been created through the wage subsidy / Employer Recruitment Incentive programmes.
- **170** Graduate Internships have been created, **117** within the Council and **53** with local companies.
- **62** people have started traineeships with the Council.

In addition:

- **6,234** unemployed people have registered and received support from the Invest in Renfrewshire employability service.
- **1,993** additional people have been supported to move into wider employment opportunities.

INVEST IN COMMUNITIES

The Invest in Renfrewshire social Enterprise Small Grants Fund, launched in December 2014, with a budget of £100k has now:

- Dealt with enquiries from **45** social enterprise companies and organisations.
- Approved **11** awards totalling **£50,282**.

INVEST IN BUSINESS

789 local companies have signed up to the Invest in Renfrewshire initiative of which:

- **684** have created new jobs and internships for young people
- **316** companies have been offered grants to pursue development, training, exhibition and ICT projects, amounting to combined funding of over **£1,441,354**.
- Funding of **£79,600** has been provided through the micro loan fund.
- The Retail Improvement Scheme has received **119** formal applications totalling grant support of **£700,000**.
- In the last 34 months, since the start of the new Business Gateway contract:
 - **1022** new companies have been established with Business Gateway support.
 - **394** businesses have demonstrated growth aspiration and been given a dedicated business adviser.
 - **285** start-up workshops and **137** business growth workshops have been delivered.