ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

November Economic Briefing

11th OF November 2025

Please note that the Claimant Count and Monthly Roundup has been restructured. If you have any feedback on the changes made, please email James.Paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

KEY STATISTICS

- The ONS reports that real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by **0.2%** in the three months to July 2025, down from three-month-on-three-month growths of **0.3%** in June 2025 and **0.6%** in May 2025. Services output and construction output have both demonstrated a similar decline in growth. Production output fell by **1.3%** in the three months to July 2025, compared with the three months to April 2025, following a fall of **0.3%** in the three months to June 2025.
- The Consumer Price Index annual rate has increased to **4.2%,** up from **4.1%** in June 2025. The ONS reports that petrol and oil, including fuel oil, cost **7%** less in July 2025 than it did in July 2024.
- In the three months to July 2025, average regular pay (excluding bonuses) was estimated at **£680** per week in nominal terms (not adjusted for inflation), up from **£650** per week in July 2024. From May to July 2025, average regular earnings growth was **5.6%** for the public sector and **4.7%** for the private sector.
- **Table 1.** Illustrates how Argyll and Bute compares with the top performing local authority in each category and Scotland in key metrics. This data set provides a clear snapshot of the performance of Argyll and Bute by providing a figure for the percentage gap set against the top-performing local authority

CLAIMANT COUNT

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits (Table 2) has changed across many of our Wards since the last briefing in October 2025.

- The percentage of the working age population claiming unemployment benefits is **2.3%** for Argyll and Bute, which is lower than Scotland as a whole (**3.0%**) and significantly lower than the UK as a whole (**4.0%**).
- Of the three age groups (**Figure 1**). The 25-49 age group continues to be the highest in terms of claimants and has shown a recent decrease. The 50+ age group shows a slight increase, as does the 16 to 24 group.
- Argyll and Bute, when compared to other local authorities, is far to the left of the centre and significantly below the rate for Scotland and the UK in terms of the claimant count expressed as a percentage of the working-age population (**Figure 2**).

EMPLOYMENT

Employment

The latest employment rate information from NOMIS covers the period from July 2024 to June 2025. This shows that **71.9%** of Argyll and Bute's working-age population were in employment, compared with **74.1%** for Scotland as a whole.

Economic Activity

In the period from July 2024 to June 2025, **74.1%** of the working-age population (16-64) were economically active. This is lower than that for Scotland as a whole, which is reported as **76.9%** (NOMIS).

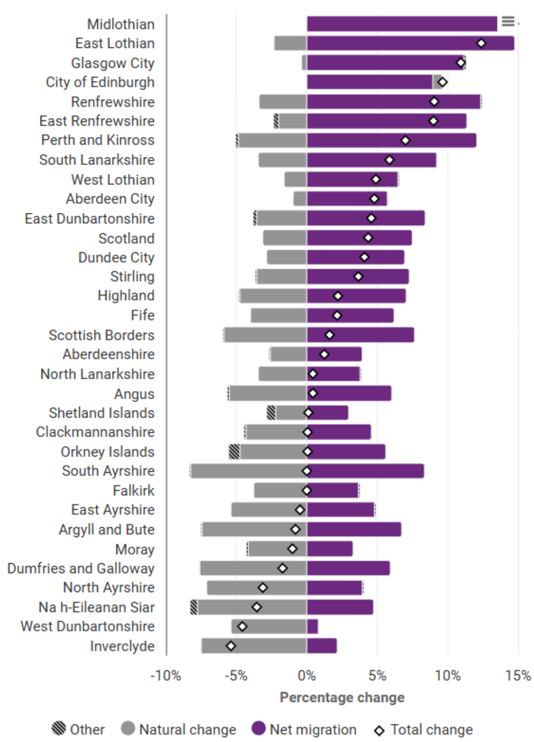
Employability

Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team has several sources of support available to help people into work - whether for young people looking to go into a job or further education, employers looking to set up job placements, or supporting the long-term unemployed to access skills, training and jobs. See: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/helping-people-work and https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/contact-employability-team

POPULATION RETENTION AND GROWTH

The NRS Sub-National Population Projections, based on the 2022 Census, were published on the 30th of September. The data projects that between 2022 and 2032 Argyll and Bute's population will decline by 0.8%. The data provided shows that this projection is due to 'natural change' outweighing 'net migration'. Natural change (births minus deaths) is expected to be -7.42%, while net migration (inward migration minus outward migration) is expected to be +6.42%.
This is in comparison to the NRS Sub-National Population Projections published in 2020 which used NRS 2018 Mid-Year Population Estimates to predict Argyll and Bute's population would decline by 5.9% between 2018 and 2028. In contrast,

Projected components of population change, council areas, mid-2022 to mid-2032



the 2022-based projections, informed by Census data, predict that Argyll and Bute's population in 2032 will be 10.3% higher than the level projected for 2032 in the earlier 2018-based projections.
The data also projects the components of population change due to migration. Argyll and Bute Council is one of the council areas that will see the largest projected net migration increases due to migration from the rest of the UK (+7.3%). Other areas seeing a similar trend include Orkney Islands, Dumfries and Galloway, and Highland.
The ONS note that these statistics are projections, and make assumptions on future fertility, mortality and migration. These projections are simply scenarios (the outcome of a given set of assumptions), and not forecasts of the most likely course of future events.

Settlement Project Update
The SPSO's recent site visit to Kintyre aimed to gather insights into the barriers to and opportunities for population retention and attraction.

Housing: Limited affordable housing is a significant challenges for recruiting essential workers. High proportion of STL/ vacant homes. Significant number of individuals relocating during retirement, driving up property prices. Limited rental market.

Transport: Unreliable flight, the ferry is a relief vessel that operates seasonally- reduces tourism and subsequent economic impact on businesses. Lack of public transport provision allowing individuals to attend employment.

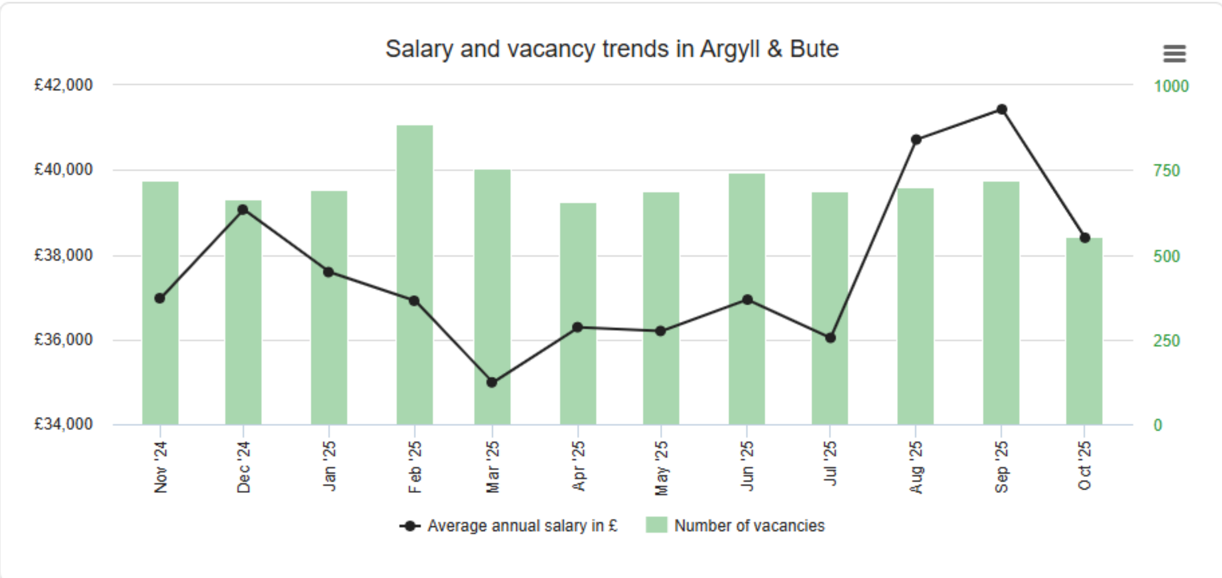
Opportunities: Limited employment opportunities/ loss of industry. Lack of permanent contracts and seasonality of employment. Limited subject choice in schools. Lack of youth opportunities from age 14+. Limited wraparound childcare.

Should you wish to contribute to the understanding of barriers and opportunities for population retention and growth, please email Olivia.Brown@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY

According to ADZUNA on 013/10/2025.

- The average salary for currently advertised jobs in Argyll & Bute is **£38,592**.
- Most live job ads in Argyll & Bute are for trade, construction and teaching posts.
- Salaries in Argyll & Bute have gone up by **3.9%** year on year**.**
- There are currently **454** live job ads in Argyll & Bute.
- The average salary for 2024 was **£36,851** for Argyll and Bute and **£34,986** for Scotland (NOMIS).



HOUSING

House Prices

[ROS House Price Indices](#) show Argyll and Bute's median house price in September 2025 was **£180,000.** A total of **175** house sales took place in September, up from **161** in August 2025. The value of residential property sales for Argyll and Bute for September 2025 was **£39.6m**. These prices have the potential to make housing unavailable to people on local incomes (Average annual salary **£37,715.60**).

Rented Accommodation

ONS reports that private rent prices increased to an average of **£840** in September 2025, an annual increase of **4.1%** from **£807** in September 2024. This was higher than the average increase across Scotland (**3.4%**) over the year. The number of private rented sector (PRS) properties across Argyll and Bute continues to significantly decrease, having reduced by **25%** from **5,824** in May 2020 to **4,339** in November 2025.

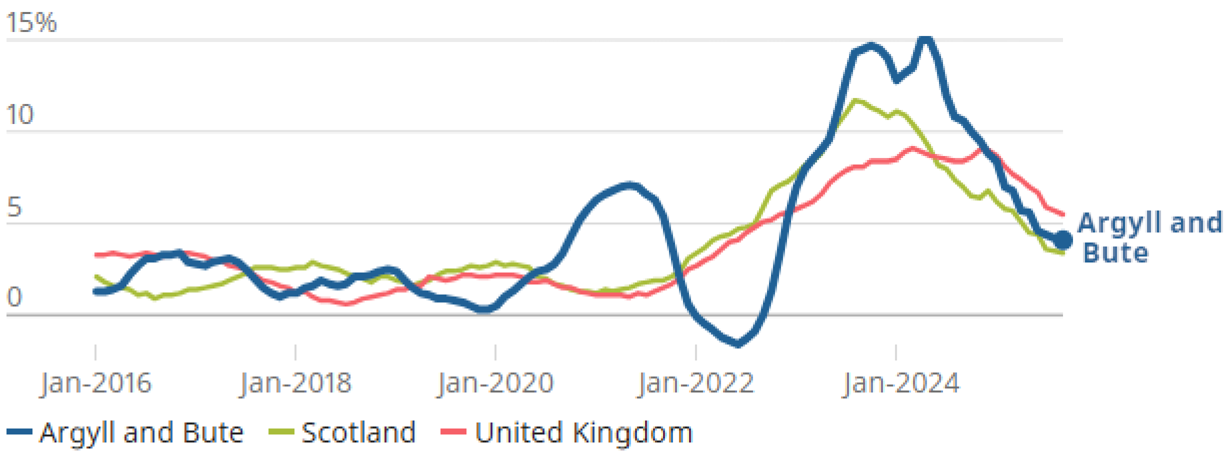
Mid-Market Rents

The shrinking private rented sector reduces the number of housing options available and is likely to increase demand for social housing and alternative tenure opportunities such as Mid-Market Rents (MMRs). As of November 2025, **632** people across Argyll and Bute had indicated their interest in MMR properties through HOME Argyll, accounting for 20% of the total Common Housing Register. It is notable that there is likely to be additional demand for MMRs from those who have not registered their need for housing via the Common Housing Register, due to the differences in eligibility between social rented housing and MMRs. In recent statistics (Introduction - Mid market rent (MMR) analysis: December 2020 to February 2025 - gov.scot) published by the Scottish Government in relation to the characteristics of MMR providers and MMR tenants, only 29% of tenants advised that they were registered on a housing list prior to applying for the property.

The same statistics highlighted above indicate that 59.5% of tenants had rented from a private landlord at the time of applying for their MMR property. As a result of the ongoing and predicted reduction of the private sector rental market, it is likely that the demand for MMRs will continue to increase across Argyll and Bute.

Annual change in rents in Argyll and Bute

Private rental price annual inflation, Argyll and Bute, January 2016 to September 2025



Source: Price Index of Private Rents from the Office for National Statistics

TOURISM

The Visitor Economy

With over **31,000** bed spaces (serviced and non-serviced in the peak season), and over **3.3m** visitors (2024), tourism in Argyll and Bute is one of our largest sectors in terms of economic impact and employment. The Scottish Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) data shows an **18.8%** average annual increase in visitor numbers from 2013 to 2024.

Visitor Levy

The Argyll and Bute Council Visitor Levy consultation returned **3,284** online responses, including **721** from businesses, **2,031** from residents and **532** from visitors. The report conducted by the contracted consultant has been published. At the full council meeting on the 24th September it was decided to pause the Visitor Levy until late January 2026

Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund

The council has secured funding from the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) for two island-based projects - Tiree and Staffa. Skerryvore Lighthouse Shore Station on Tiree received a grant award of **£219,359**. For Staffa Access Infrastructure, Stage 3 - Staircase Replacement, the RTIF grant is for a maximum award of **£900,000**. RTIF Grant agreements have been signed with Hynish Trust and NTS, who are going to deliver the projects. The projects are part of a package of 11 Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development (STID) proposals initially developed by the council with local community groups and charities across nine of the region's islands.

The Clipper Race 2026

Officers are working on planning for the Scottish stopover in Oban from the 10th to 19th of July 2026. For the first time-ever, a Brand Scotland yacht sponsored by UK Government and Diageo competes in the Race. The 2024 event contributed significantly to the local economy (an estimated **£1.9m** direct economic impact). The media coverage of the event reached over **800,000** people and had an impact of **£1.9m**. The Clipper Race has been deemed a contributing factor to Oban achieving the Town of the Year 2024 accolade.

Scottish International Winter Swimming Championship 2025

The International Winter Swimming Association (IWSA) has approached the council, intending to host the Scottish leg of the championship at the North Pier pontoon in Oban Bay. The event is scheduled for Sat 13th December. *Registration for participants is almost sold out.* The competition will see other stages in Argentina, Morocco and Poland and will close in Oulu, Finland, in March 2026. The aim for the season 2026/2027 is to have Oban as a World Cup stage. Officers across the council are working to support the establishment of this winter season event. It will give high-value exposure to Oban and Argyll and Bute as a place to visit in December.

RETAIL

Last week marked International Trade Week, a Department for Business and Trade initiative designed to support UK firms in expanding through exports. The week-long programme featured five days of free online and in-person events for businesses of all sizes, offering insights into global markets and export opportunities.

The WTO reports that UK's services export sector continues to perform strongly, with annual exports currently valued at around **£542 billion** - more than twice the level recorded a decade ago. If current growth trends persist, services exports alone could surpass **£1 trillion** a year before 2035. By contrast, goods exports present a more mixed picture. While challenges remain, there is cautious optimism about future growth in areas such as green hydrogen, climate and clean energy technologies, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, advanced automotive manufacturing, and food and drink.

The event also provided a timely opportunity to reflect on developments shaping global trade. Tariffs, supply chain challenges, and shifting international policies continue to dominate headlines. In particular, recent US tariff increases, reported to be the highest since 1934, have contributed to lower-than-expected economic performance across Europe, the Americas, and China.

According to the latest ONS Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), conducted from 20 October to 2 November 2025, **34%** of businesses with 10 or more employees that exported goods in the past year reported being affected by US tariffs in the previous month. The most common impact was increased costs, cited by **22%** of affected firms. Overall, **95%** of businesses reported that they were trading in late October 2025, with **83%** fully operational and **12%** partially trading (e.g. trading with reduced hours or staff numbers). Meanwhile, **3%** reported “temporarily paused trading” and **2%** had “permanently ceased trading”.

On the high street, the BRC reports that total retail sales rose **1.6%** from a year earlier, below the 12-month average and the slowest since May. This subdued pace was driven by non-food spending, with essentially no growth in the sales of toys, electronics and clothing. Growth in food sales was up **3.5%**, but mostly driven by higher prices rather than higher volumes, the BRC state. According to Worldpanel, about **30%** of grocery spending was on promoted items. Online remains the fastest growing part of the grocery market and spending on home delivery rose by **11%** this month, with every retailer who offers the service boosting sales.

Black Friday is still expected to boost sales for grocers, particularly online. Last year there was an average sales uplift of **114%.**

Exploring Economies: Doughnut Economics

Rethinking Economic Goals for the 21st Century: Insights from the Doughnut Economics Action Lab

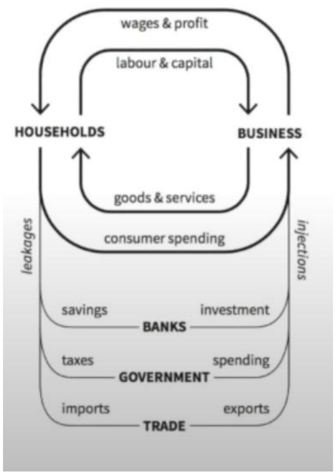
Limitations of 20th Century Economic Thought

The Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) argues that much of 20th century economic thought is built on assumptions about the economy, its purpose, and what constitutes success that are no longer compatible with current social and environmental realities. Conventional economic models emphasise market efficiency and continuous growth, yet they largely ignore the essential factors that sustain human wellbeing and the ecological systems that support life.

A foundational image in traditional economics is the supply and demand model, which positions price as the central measure of economic activity and treats the economy as a network of market exchanges. Under this model, outcomes outside market transactions, such as unpaid care work, community activity, and environmental impacts, are considered externalities rather than integral to the economy.

Another widely taught model, the circular flow of income and goods (see Figure 1), illustrates the movement of money and goods between households and firms. While it acknowledges income and consumption flows, DEAL highlights its limitations. It does not account for unpaid domestic work, energy inputs, or the commons, and it fails to measure what is essential for human wellbeing. The result is an incomplete representation of the economy, one that overlooks the conditions necessary for both social and ecological health.

Figure 1: The Circular Flow of Income and Goods

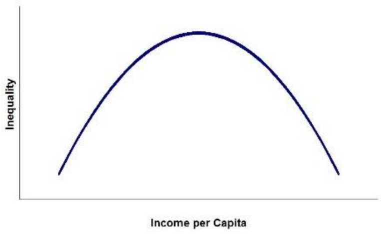


The goal of 20th century economics has been continuous growth, measured in gross domestic product or national income. Success is equated with expansion, on the assumption that increased production and consumption eventually improve wellbeing and reduce inequality. DEAL argues that this assumption has guided economic policy for decades despite failing to address persistent social deprivation and escalating environmental crises.

Theoretical Foundations Supporting Continuous Exponential Growth

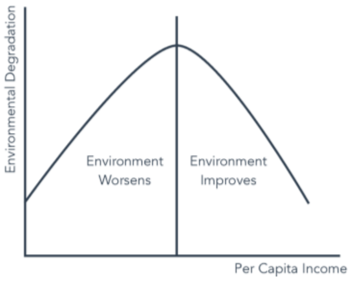
- The Kuznets curve: Shown in Figure 2, the Kuznets curve suggests that inequality initially rises with economic development but eventually declines as wealth spreads. Although empirical evidence does not consistently support this pattern, it has underpinned the idea that societies could grow first and redistribute later. This assumption has guided decades of policy that prioritised growth in the hope that inequality would naturally decline.

Figure 2: The Kuznets Curve



- The Environmental Kuznets curve: proposes that environmental degradation initially rises with income but falls once countries reach higher income levels. This idea reinforced the belief that economic growth could ultimately resolve environmental challenges, allowing societies to pursue development without addressing ecological limits.

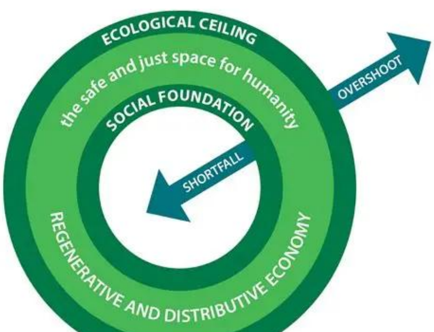
Figure 3: The Environmental Kuznets Curve



Together, these models provided legitimacy to the pursuit of growth, shaping policy and public expectations for decades. DEAL emphasises that these assumptions are increasingly incompatible with the urgent social and ecological challenges facing humanity.

Doughnut Economics: A 21st Century Approach

Figure 4: Doughnut Economics Framework



Doughnut Economics offers an alternative framework for understanding prosperity, defining a “safe and just space for humanity”, shown in Figure 4. This space is bounded internally by a social foundation, representing the minimum standards of human wellbeing, and externally by an ecological ceiling, representing the limits of the Earth’s life-supporting systems. The space between these boundaries is where humanity can thrive sustainably.

To give specificity to human deprivation and planetary degradation, we can fill it in.

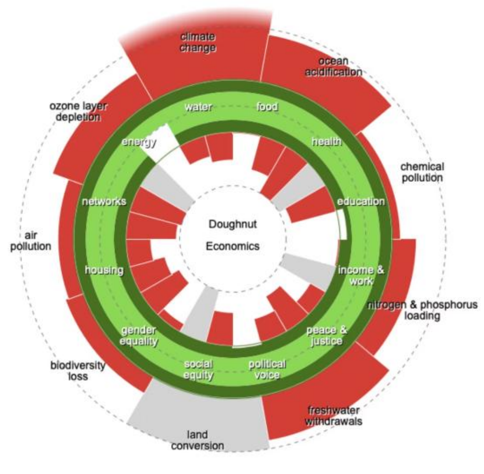
Figure 5: Environmental Degradation and Social Depravation

The social foundation, based on the Sustainable Development Goals, includes essentials such as food, water, health, education, energy, and equity, shown in Figure 5. The ecological ceiling reflects nine planetary boundaries identified by Earth system scientists, which have maintained stable conditions on Earth for the last 11,000 years. The framework reframes the goal of the economy, moving from endless growth toward sustaining human and planetary wellbeing. DEAL argues that this approach provides clarity about what it means to prosper in the 21st century. With this model, the goal is no longer endless exponential growth, but thriving in balance between social foundations and the ecological ceiling.

Shortfall and Overshoot

DEAL emphasises that humanity is currently far from achieving a balanced state.

Figure 6: Measuring Overshoot and Shortfalls



The red space within each category on figure X demonstrates the extent to with we currently exist outside the 'safe and just space for humanity'.

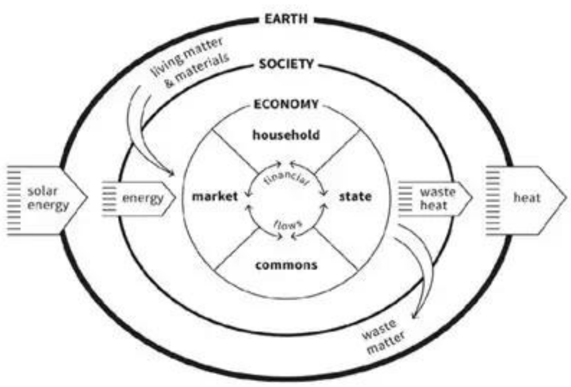
Millions of people fall below the social foundation, lacking access to sufficient food, clean water, adequate housing, and education. At the same time, as shown by Figure 6, critical planetary boundaries have already been exceeded. Climate change, biodiversity loss, land-use change, and excessive fertiliser use are beyond safe limits, and recent evidence indicates that water withdrawals and chemical pollution are also contributing to overshoot.

Mindsets and Policies

DEAL argue that achieving a safe and just space requires a transformation in the economic mindset. Governments, businesses, and communities must adopt policies and practices that enable prosperity within planetary limits. This includes rethinking governance structures, business models, societal aspirations, and the economic relationship between the Global North and the Global South.

The embedded economy model provides a framework for this transformation. It situates the economy within human society and society within the living world, recognising that economic activity is structured by cultural, political, and legal institutions and is dependent on the health of ecological systems. By placing the economy within these broader contexts, the model emphasises that economic success is inseparable from social wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

Figure 7: The Embedded Economy



The embedded economy model, shown above in Figure 7, identifies four principal ways in which societies provide for human needs and wants: the market, the state, the household, and the commons.

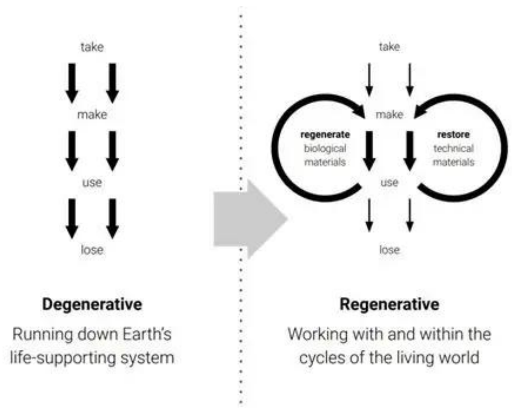
The market includes roles such as consumer, producer, labourer, and capital owner, as well as those excluded from participation. The state provides public services and governance, encompassing residents, public servants, voters, and activists. The household recognises unpaid domestic and care work, essential to sustaining wellbeing yet often invisible in traditional economic measures. The commons represents collective activity outside the market or state, including community stewardship, co-production, and voluntary initiatives. All these forms of provisioning for needs and wants are intermediated by financial flows.

DEAL notes that 20th century economic discourse focused heavily on the ideological contest between market and state, prompting economists to lose sight of the importance of the household and commons. Recognising all four domains allows policymakers to understand how societies can meet human needs more effectively and equitably.

From Regenerative to Degenerative Economies

The Doughnut Economics Action Lab argues that the dominant economic model inherited from the twentieth century is fundamentally *degenerative by design*. It is a linear system in which resources are extracted from the earth, transformed into products, consumed, and ultimately discarded. This "take, make, use, lose" dynamic underpins both ecological degradation and social inequality. It assumes that the earth's resources are infinite and that waste can be absorbed indefinitely, an assumption increasingly at odds with the evidence of planetary boundaries already breached.

Figure 8: Degenerative vs Regenerative Economies



In contrast, Doughnut Economics calls for economies that are *regenerative and distributive by design*. A regenerative economy does not merely aim to minimise damage; it seeks to restore, renew, and actively participate in the cycles of the living world. It would operate within planetary boundaries while ensuring that all people can meet their basic needs. DEAL identifies several pathways through which such a transformation could be realised:

- Regenerative landscape restoration, where nature is allowed to recover and re-establish itself in degraded areas, improving biodiversity and resilience.
- Circular manufacturing, which prioritises repair, reuse, and remanufacture over extraction and disposal.

- Urban redesign, shifting from car-centred to nature-centred districts that support active travel and community space.
- Nature-rich buildings, integrating ecological systems into architecture and design to enhance sustainability and wellbeing.
- Distributive housing, as seen in cities such as Vienna, where high-quality, affordable social housing provides central, secure living for the majority.
- Distributive transport, where public transit networks are comprehensive, reliable, and prioritised over private vehicles.
- Community-owned energy systems, such as micro-grids that allow residents to generate and share renewable power locally.
- Purpose-led business models, which distribute profits and decision-making power fairly among workers and stakeholders.

Each of these examples reflects a shift in mindset: away from extraction and accumulation, and toward circularity, participation, and renewal. The regenerative model challenges policymakers, businesses, and communities to rethink success, not in terms of expansion, but in terms of balance and resilience.

Crucially, DEAL suggests that high-income countries face the greatest responsibility in this transition. Having already achieved high living standards but also contributing disproportionately to ecological overshoot, they must find ways to *decouple prosperity from growth*. For these economies, thriving may mean levelling out rather than expanding, maintaining wellbeing without further resource accumulation. The challenge lies in unwriting the dependency on growth that has been built into economic and institutional systems, and in designing mechanisms that enable thriving within limits.

Rethinking the Role of Growth

If the objective is to achieve regenerative and distributive outcomes, DEAL questions the assumption that continuous economic growth is necessary to thrive. In high-income countries, additional growth contributes little to wellbeing while increasing ecological overshoot. Prosperity in these contexts requires stabilisation and redistribution rather than expansion. High-income nations have the capacity and responsibility to reduce dependency on growth and to lead the transition toward balanced economies that respect social and ecological limits.

Conclusion

Doughnut Economics challenges the assumptions and objectives of 20th century economic thought. By situating the economy within society and society within the living world, DEAL provides a framework that integrates social justice and ecological sustainability. Transitioning from degenerative to regenerative systems, and from divisive to distributive structures, requires a shift in mindset and policy priorities.

The Doughnut Economics framework provides guidance for designing economies that allow both people and the planet to thrive. It challenges the traditional western economic education and encourages policymakers to consider what it truly means to prosper in a world constrained by ecological limits and marked by social inequality. Achieving a safe and just space for humanity is not merely a technical challenge; it is a moral and strategic imperative.

Glossary

Term	Description
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	A weighted-average of a basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. Changes in measured CPI tracks changes in prices overtime.
Economic Activity	The economically active population only includes individuals who are of working age and are either employed or actively seeking employment.
Economic Inactivity	People who are not in the workforce are classified as economically inactive and have not been seeking work for the last four weeks and cannot start in the next two weeks.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	The total monetary value of final good and services produced in a country in a given time period.
Gross Value Added (GVA)	An economic productivity metric that measures the contribution made to an economy by one individual producer, industry, sector, or region.
Unemployment Rate	Unemployed people are out of work but actively looking for a job and available to start work in the next two weeks. It is measured as the number of unemployed people divided by the number of economically active population (those in employment and those unemployed).

Figures and Resources

Useful links

The challenges faced by rural landlords: The case of Argyll and Bute - UK Collaborative Centre For Housing Evidence

Rural Scotland's Data Dashboard

Labour market overview, UK - Office for National Statistics

Scottish Business Monitor Q2 2025 – Fraser of Allander Institute

Scottish Budget Mid-2025 Spending Review – Fraser of Allander

Plans to update the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Census Maps - Census 2022 data interactive, NRS

Fiscal Sustainability and the Scottish Budget - Fraser of Allander Institute

Scotland's Devolved Employment Services statistics

Table 1. No One Left Behind (NOLB) data gap analysis (July 2025) (produced by Glasgow City Region).

	Gap Analysis	Local Authority			Top Performing Scottish Local Authority	
	Indicator	Argyll and Bute	Top Performin g Scottish Local	Scotland	ercentage Gap	Approximate Volume Gap
Poverty and Child Poverty	% Children in Child Poverty	21.2	12.0	23.3	-9.1	-1,300
	% Children in Childcare	22.2	35.7	24.3	13.6	1,600
	% of Children in Low Income Families	14.7	8.0	16.3	-6.7	-800
	Household on Universal Credit (%)	14.9	11.2	19.9	-3.8	-1,600
	Claimant Count Rate (%)	2.7	1.2	3.1	-1.5	-800
	% of Household that are workless	23.0	12.0	17.4	-11.0	-2,200
Education	% of School Leavers in Positive Destination	94.8	98.7	95.7	3.8	0
	Participation Rate (%)	94.3	97.8	92.7	3.5	100
	Degree-level Qualifications Rate (%)	51.6	68.8	54.5	17.2	8,100
	No Qualifications Rate (%)	9.5	2.8	8.0	-6.7	-3,200
Labour Market	Number of Incpacity Based Benefits (per 1,000 16 - 64 population)	43.6	29.6	47.4	-14.0	9,600
	Economic Inactive: Long-term Sick/Disabled Rate (%)	47.4	6.7	33.7	-40.7	-3,800
	Economic Inactivity Rate (%)	18.7	13.2	23.0	-5.5	-2,800
	Employment Rate (%)	79.1	85.9	74.5	6.8	3,300
	Unemployment Rate (%)	2.7	1.6	3.3	-1.1	-500
	Employment in low pay sectors (%)	33.3	20.8	28.8	-12.5	-4,500
	Gender Employment Gap (% difference between Male and Female Employment Rates)	6.7	n/a	8.0	n/a	-
	Median Weekly Earnings (Residence-based, full-time)	702.9	862.0	740.0	n/a	159.1
	20th Percentile Weekly Earning (Residence based, full time)	558.8	614.8	536.6	n/a	56.0
	Underemployment Rate %	8.1	3.4	8.1	-4.7	-1,800
	% Employed in SOC 1 Occupations	13.0	14.6	8.6	1.6	700
	Satisfactory hours (% of employees)	81.4	92.7	-	11.3	-
	Low pay (% of employees)	17.5	21.0	-	3.5	-
	Zero-hour contracts (% of employees)	2.5	4.4	-	1.9	-
Economy	% of Procurement spend on Local SMEs	35.2	51.8	30.7	16.6	-
	Gross Value Added (£m)	2,596	34,281	183,471	n/a	31,685
	GVA per hour worked (£)	40.9	56.3	40.3	15.4	15.4

Table 2. Claimant count by Electoral Ward

Claimant count by Electoral Ward, October 2025 (number in brackets indicates change since September 2025)		
Argyll and Bute Electoral Ward	**Claimants aged 16-64**	**Claimants as a % of residents aged 16-64**
Cowal	105 (+5)	3.0 (+0.2)
Dunoon	155 (-10)	3.8 (-0.2)
Helensburgh Central	135 (-5)	2.7 (-0.1)
Helensburgh & Lomond South	55	1.3 (+0.1)
Isle of Bute	150 (+5)	4.6 (+0.2)
Kintyre and the Islands	55 (-5)	1.5 (-0.1)
Lomond North	50 (+5)	0.8 (+0.1)
Mid Argyll	105 (+5)	2.5 (+0.2)
Oban North and Lorn	125 (-5)	2.2 (-0.1)
Oban South and the Isles	130 (+10)	2.1 (+0.2)
South Kintyre	95 (+5)	2.7
Argyll and Bute	1,160 (+10)	2.3 (+0.1)
Scotland	102,855 (+1,725)	3.0 (+0.1)
United Kingdom	1,691,460 (+34,350)	4.0 (+0.1)
(Nomisweb.co.uk) (figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and the previous month's figures were checked for errors)		

Updated statement from Nomis. "Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Figure 1. Claimant Count by age group October 2024 to October 2025 for Argyll and Bute (NOMIS)

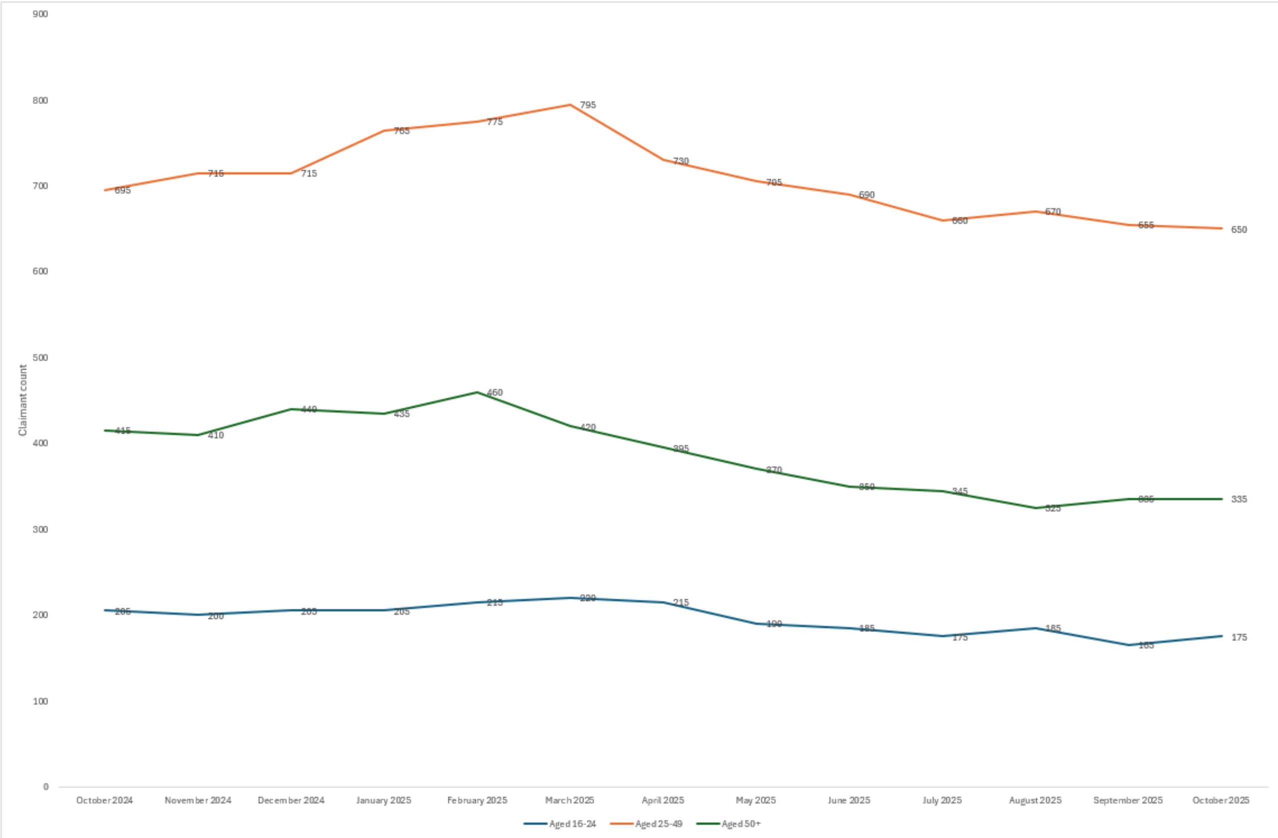


Figure 2. Claimants as a percentage of residents aged 16-64 for October 2025 for each Local Authority, compared with Scotland and the UK. (NOMIS)