

## Hit the headlines...

Assistant Statisticians in the Scottish Government take on a significant level of responsibility for their area of work. Here is a small sample of the column inches devoted to our work:

Violent crime down by 17% in Scotland  
(BBC News)

Scotland's population at record high  
(The Guardian)

Scotland officially out of recession  
(STV News)

Surge in number of Scots singletons  
(The Scotsman)

Record numbers go into further education or job  
(The Herald)

Bowel cancer survival 'more likely'  
(BBC News)

## ...and then do something really important.

Of course, grabbing the headlines is only the by-product of an Assistant Statistician's role in the Scottish Government. Although, it should be clear from the above excerpts that an assistant statistician's job is an important one.

The ability for our profession to provide information that is both relevant and objective has clear implications for the effectiveness of the devolved Scottish Parliament. Government Statisticians work alongside researchers and economists to produce the information that government needs to support effective decision making.

## A breadth of experience...

The Scottish Government produces statistics across a diverse range of policy and business areas. As an assistant statistician, you will be encouraged to gain experience in a number of the following subject areas:

- Agriculture, fishing and forestry
- Commerce, energy and industry
- Crime and justice
- Economy
- Education and training
- Health and care
- Labour market
- Natural and built environment
- Population and migration
- Public sector
- Social and welfare
- Transport, travel and tourism.

## How to apply

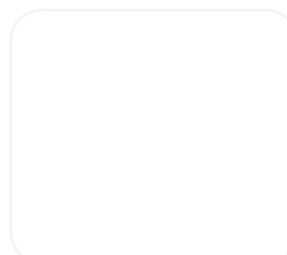
We advertise our vacancies here:  
[www.work-for-scotland.org](http://www.work-for-scotland.org)

If you would like us to keep you informed of temporary or permanent statistics vacancies in the Scottish Government, please email:  
[statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

[www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics)

# Scottish Government

assistant statistician  
recruitment



## Requirements

To apply directly for an Assistant Statistician post at the Scottish Government you will need a good honours degree in a numerate discipline, e.g. statistics, maths, economics, sciences, etc. You also need to be able to communicate and negotiate, analyse and evaluate, and to present your findings clearly and concisely.

As an Assistant Statistician you will follow a structured development plan which will enable you to develop your skills and knowledge in different posts across a wide range of government departments.

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.



## Locations

Most Scottish Government vacancies occur in Edinburgh in a number of buildings in the North, West and centre of the city. However, there are also several posts in Glasgow city centre and Livingston. It is possible to move to different locations since assistants normally move post every 18-24 months.

## Salary

Most direct entrants will start in the B1 pay band approximately £20k to £25k (&#x2013; 2019). For those with relevant work experience there is also the possibility of direct recruitment at B2 level, with a pay range of approximately £25k to £30k (&#x2013; 2019).

## Training & Development

The Civil Service encourages training and development of their staff. Courses are available to improve statistical skills and there are opportunities to attend conferences on statistics and issues related to the job. Transferable skills can be developed through courses on communication, team building and managerial skills.

Promotion is based on merit and those who show a high standard of work will be given plenty of opportunity to move higher up the ranks. All Assistant Statisticians have the chance to improve their skills and potential, enabling them to move on to more senior roles, such as Statistician or Senior Statistician posts.

## Government Statistical Service

All statisticians who work for the Scottish Government are part of the UK Government Statistical Service (GSS).

However, the Scottish Government Statisticians Group no longer recruit via the Statistician Fast Stream competition. If you pass the Civil Service Selection Board assessment to become a Fast Stream Assistant Statistician you will not be assigned a post within the Scottish Government.

## What the people say...



### James – Education Department

Since I joined the Scottish Government, I have had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of posts. My current post involves working on a new benchmarking tool to help local authorities and secondary schools to analyse, compare and improve the performance

of pupils in the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence. Common to all my postings, there is a strong sense of relevance and purpose of being involved with issues that affect real people's lives.



### Valerie – Household Projections

So far, I have had two exciting but different roles. In Environment Economics I helped to develop the 'Zero Waste Plan' for Scotland and worked closely with the policy team to pull together evidence to support decision making. I now work in Demography developing household projections getting 'up close and personal' with the data and some interesting methodological puzzles! I also volunteer to work in the SG Resilience Room, supporting Ministers in national events or emergencies.



### Gregor – Agriculture Statistics

I joined the Scottish Government in 2009. Since then I've worked in Labour Market Statistics (examining survey data for patterns in employment and unemployment), Justice (using administrative data from courts, police, prisons, etc. to look for trends in crime, conviction rates and sentence lengths) and Agriculture (producing an annual balance sheet to estimate the total income from farming in Scotland). The regular rotation of posts is a big selling point for me, ensuring that you're always kept on your toes!



### Sara – Health Statistics

During my time as a Government Statistician I have worked in Education, Census, Transport Scotland and am currently working on the Detect Cancer Early programme in Health. In each post I have found the work varied, interesting and rewarding. The managed move structure allows breadth and depth of experience to be gained of topic areas and working with a range of internal and external colleagues, stakeholders and the public. There are also opportunities for formal training to develop statistical and broader skills.