

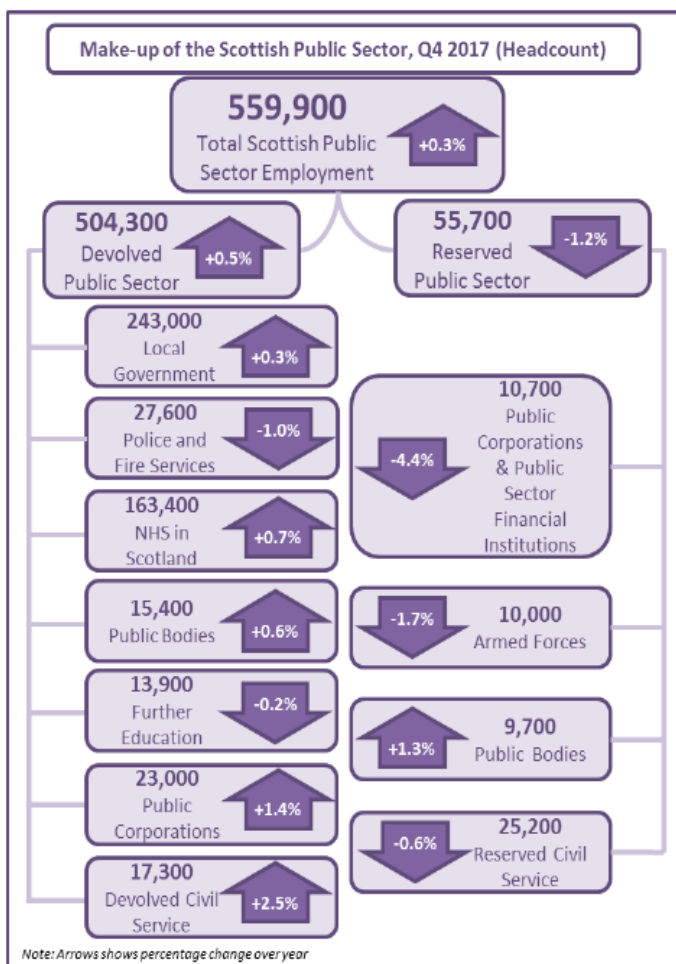
March 2018

### Scottish Workforce Statistics 2017

This briefing is our annual review of Scottish public sector workforce [statistics](#) for the year to December 2017.

There was an increase in public sector jobs (headcount) in 2017. Allowing for statistical reclassifications (not shown in the graphic below), around 532,000 people work in the public sector (up 2,090 last year) or 20.3% of the total Scottish workforce. Full time equivalent jobs are up 2300 in the devolved public sector, 1690 in total.

This more positive picture needs to be tempered by job transfers that are not always captured in the classifications. However, for the first time in a long period local government jobs have increased by 720 (0.3%). This probably reflects funding for non-core Scottish Government priorities in education etc.



Police and fire have lost a further 270 jobs (-1%). NDPBs are up 90 and FE colleges have lost another 30 jobs. Staffing levels in the NHS have increased by a further 1140 (0.7%).

2009 was the first full year after the crash when staffing numbers fell in line with budget cuts. Devolved public sector jobs have fallen by around 31,000 since the end of 2009 (allowing for transfers out).

Over this period, (with same transfers) local government has now lost around 29,000 jobs, which means 9 out of 10 austerity job losses have been in local government.

The NHS workforce has increased since the crash and FE colleges have lost around 2000 jobs. 1700 police and fire jobs have been lost since the creation of Police Scotland and the Fire and Rescue Service, although the overall equivalent numbers are higher than this because job cuts began before that date. Even with this year's increase, public sector employment as a percentage of the total workforce has reduced to 20.3% and that is a fall of over 4% since the financial crash.

Branches who want to analyse workforce numbers by the employers they cover can do so. For example, there are very significant differences in the local authority numbers by council. Local government tables can be viewed [here](#). NHS data is [here](#).

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