



## Emergency Food Parcel Provision in Scotland April 2018 to September 2019

A Menu for Change has been working in partnership with the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) to measure the scale of emergency food parcel provision in Scotland. Until recently the only national data available had come from the Trussell Trust, the UK's largest network of food banks. However, in March 2019 IFAN and A Menu for Change published statistics showing the number of emergency food parcels distributed by independent food banks in Scotland, representing over 40 percent of the food bank picture, nearly doubled previously known figures from the Trussell Trust<sup>1</sup>.

IFAN's Sabine Goodwin has gone on to work together with A Menu for Change to establish that **278,258** emergency food parcels were distributed by independent food parcel distributors during the next comparable 18-month period from April 2018 to September 2019. 91 of 101 independent food bank venues operating across Scotland during this period were able to contribute statistics to our database<sup>2</sup>.

This figure adds significantly to the 318,214<sup>3</sup> distributed by the 135 Trussell Trust food bank venues during April 2018 to September 2019.

This study reveals that the reported total number of emergency food parcels distributed across Scotland, combining the IFAN and Trussell Trust figures, stands at **596,472**.

In the last 18 months, a total of 586,723 parcels were distributed by the food banks included in our previous research and Trussell Trust food banks. This represents a **22 percent** rise compared to the total of 480,583 parcels given out during the previous 18-month period recorded. April 2017 to September 2018<sup>4</sup>.

The number of parcels distributed by 10 remaining food banks is still unknown<sup>5</sup>. Our estimate suggests that if the food parcels provided by all 101 independent food banks were counted, as many as 308,757 emergency food parcels could have been distributed by independent food banks in Scotland over the period - almost equivalent to the number distributed by the Trussell Trust.

The combined statistics still represent the tip of the food insecurity iceberg as they do not reflect the other types of emergency food aid provision nor the scale of people going hungry without accessing help at all. The 2018 Scottish Health Survey found that 9 percent of adults in Scotland worried about running out of money for food<sup>6</sup>.

Data was collated from independent food banks and food parcel distributors across 20 Scottish local authorities with the inclusion of two additional areas since our last release of data.

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<sup>1</sup> Previous April 2017 to September 2018 briefing: <https://menuforchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Emergency-Food-Parcel-Provision-in-Scotland-Apr-2017-to-Sep-2018.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> IFAN identified 101 independent food banks and food parcel distributors operating across Scotland distributing emergency food parcels regularly every week between April 2018 and September 2019. This figure does not include a number of Salvation Army centres that distribute emergency food parcels as up-to-date information was not available.

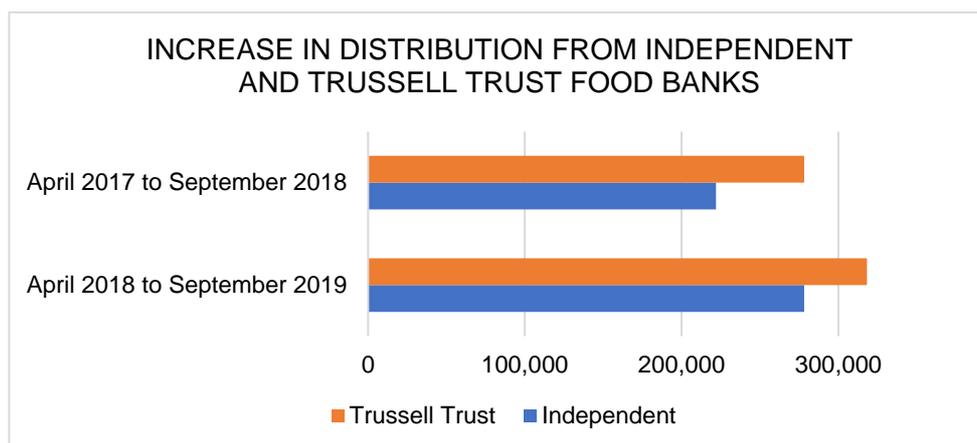
<sup>3</sup> Trussell Trust end of year statistics. This number has been calculated by combining the April 2018 to March 2019 full year figure (210,605) and April 2019 to September 2019 mid-year figure (107,609): <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/>.

<sup>4</sup> 7 independent food banks that contributed data to the new data set did not contribute to the previous independent figures: 2 were newly formed, and 4 hadn't yet participated in the project. A further 1 new contributor was part of the Trussell Trust network (and figures) for the last data set (April 2017- September 2018).

<sup>5</sup> Some independent food banks participating in the project have been unable to send in data/confirm details due to being too busy, and others have proved to be unreachable.

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Health Survey: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2018-summary-key-findings/>

**Figure 1: Comparison of independent and Trussell Trust emergency food parcel distribution between April 2017 and September 2018 and April 2018 and September 2019**



**Table 1: Emergency food parcels distributed by independent food banks during April 2017 - September 2018 and April 2018 - September 2019**

Local Authority	No of participating independent food banks April 2017 to September 2018	No of parcels distributed from April 2017 to September 2018	No of participating independent food banks April 2018 to September 2019	No of parcels distributed from April 2018 to September 2019	No of parcels distributed from April 2018 to September 2019 excluding data from 4 venues which hadn't yet participated re first data set
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	12	27,062	12	30,448	30,448
Angus	1	1,984	1	2,415	2,415
Argyll and Bute	5	7,195	5	8,509	8,509
City of Edinburgh & East Lothian	10	23,670	11	30,260	27,781
Clackmannanshire	2	12,018	2	13,171	13,171
Dumfries and Galloway	3	11,970	4	12,963	12,963
Falkirk	3	2,185	4	6,642	3,374
Fife	9	25,795	10	42,491	40,409
Glasgow City	10	44,037	10	47,377	47,377
Highland	0	0	1	1,920	N/A
Moray	0	0	1	2,464 (April '19 plus)	2,464
North Ayrshire	1	367 (Jan '18 plus)	1	1,351	1,351
North Lanarkshire	9	27,267	9	28,240	28,240
Perth and Kinross	1	272 (Jan '18 plus)	1	582	582
Scottish Borders	5	3,373	6	3,915	3,915
South Lanarkshire	8	15,486	8	19,613	19,613
Stirling	2	3,402	2	3,580	3,580
West Dunbartonshire	3	15,894	3	22,317	22,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>221,977</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>278,258</b>	<b>268,509</b>

**Table 2: Percentage increase by Local Authority of emergency food parcels distributed by independent food banks during April 2017 - September 2018 and April 2018 - September 2019**

Local Authority	No of parcels distributed from April 2017 to Sept 2018	No of parcels distributed from April 2018 to Sept 2019	No of parcels distributed by venues contributing fully to both data sets for April 2018 to September 2019	Percentage increase based on figures from venues contributing fully to both data sets for April 2018 to September 2019
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	27,062	30,448	30,448	12%
Angus	1,984*	2,415	N/A	N/A
Argyll and Bute	7,195	8,509	8,509	18%
City of Edinburgh & East Lothian	23,670	30,260	27,781	17%
Clackmannanshire	12,018	13,171	13,171	9%
Dumfries and Galloway	11,970	12,963	12,963	8%
Falkirk	2,185	6,642	2763	26%
Fife	25,795	42,491	40,409	56%
Glasgow City	44,037	47,377	47,377	7%
Highland	N/A	1,920	N/A	N/A
Moray	N/A	2,464**	N/A	N/A
North Ayrshire	367*	1,351	N/A	N/A
North Lanarkshire	27,267	28,240	28,240	3%
Perth and Kinross	272*	582	N/A	N/A
Scottish Borders	3,373	3,915	3,659	8%
South Lanarkshire	15,894	19,613	19,613	23%
Stirling	3,402	3,580	3,580	5%
West Dunbartonshire	15,894	22,317	22,317	40%
TOTAL	221,977	278,258	260,830	17%

\* This organisation started operating later than or was only able to contribute data for later than April 2017.

\*\* Data included from April 2019 to September 2019 as this was previously a Trussell Trust food bank.

**Table 3: Comparison of April 2017 – September 2018 and April 2018 – September 2019 excluding data from 4 food banks to allow for direct comparison. Independent food banks represent 42 percent of Scotland’s food banks**

	April 2017-September 2018	April 2018-September 2019	Difference (%)
<b>Independent</b>	221,977	268,509	20%
<b>Trussell Trust</b>	258,606	318,214	23%
<b>Total</b>	480,583	586,723	22%

**Notes:**

1. Like the Trussell Trust’s statistics, the number of parcels is based on the number of people, both children and adults, who have been provided with 3-day supplies of food with one parcel equating to one 3-day supply of food for one person. Some independent food banks provide more than 3 days’ worth of food per person, so to enable comparison with Trussell Trust data, collated information was converted into the shared unit of measurement.
2. Like the Trussell Trust totals, these figures do not account for repeat users who may have used a food bank on more than one occasion and so therefore do not reflect the total number of individuals using food banks during this period.
3. Reflecting the pressure independent food banks are under simply to maintain their operations as well as being newly open or newly independent, 5 of the 91 participating venues were only able to provide data for some but not all of the latest selected time period, while 15 of the 91 participating venues were only able to provide estimates of the number of people supported or the number of referrals/visits. A further 9 venues partly provided an estimate based on 6-months of data collected mid-way between April 2017 and September 2018. 10 venues were only able to provide data on the number of referrals/visits - this means the number of 3-day supplies in these cases is underestimated.
4. On behalf of IFAN, Sabine Goodwin has by now identified at least 822 independent food banks and food parcel distributors across the UK: [www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/independent-food-banks-map](http://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/independent-food-banks-map)

5. The Independent Food Aid Network supports and connects a range of independent frontline food aid organisations while advocating on their behalf at a national level. Its vision is of a country that doesn't need emergency food aid and in which good food is accessible to all. You can find out more about their on-going project to collate data from independent food banks in Scotland here: [www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/food-bank-data-in-scotland](http://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/food-bank-data-in-scotland).
6. A Menu for Change is a three-year project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and managed by Oxfam Scotland, The Poverty Alliance, Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland and Nourish Scotland. It aims to reduce the need for emergency food aid by ensuring people across Scotland get the cash, rights and food they need before they are in crisis.

#### Organisations contributing data to this data set include:

Somebody Cares, Aberdeen City  
 CFINE, Aberdeen City  
 Instant Neighbour, Aberdeen City  
 Tillydrone Community Flat, Aberdeen City  
 Integrate Scotland (7 venues), Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire  
 Brechin Community Pantry, Angus  
 Kintyre Food Bank, Argyll and Bute  
 Bute Oasis Food Bank, Argyll and Bute  
 Helensburgh and Lomond Food Bank (2 venues), Argyll and Bute  
 Hope Kitchen, Argyll and Bute  
 The Gate Charity, Clackmannanshire  
 Sauchie Food Bank, Clackmannanshire  
 Machars Churches Basics Food Bank, Dumfries and Galloway  
 The First Base Agency, Dumfries and Galloway  
 Helping Hands Food Bank The Hub Youth Centre, Dumfries and Galloway  
 Kate's Kitchen, Dumfries and Galloway  
 Dunbar Basics Bank, East Lothian  
 Edinburgh City Mission Basics Banks (9 venues), Edinburgh City & East Lothian  
 Broomhouse Foodbank, Edinburgh City  
 Trinity City Foodbank, Edinburgh City  
 Kersiebank Community Food Bank, Falkirk  
 Bo'ness Storehouse, Falkirk  
 Braes Store Food Bank, Falkirk  
 Falkirk Vineyard Storehouse, Falkirk  
 Kirkcaldy Food Bank (5 venues), Fife  
 EATS Rosyth, Fife  
 East Neuk Foodbank, Fife  
 Tay Bridgehead Food Bank (2 venues), Fife  
 Storehouse NE Fife, Fife  
 Whiteinch Food Bank, Glasgow City  
 Storehouse Food Bank, Glasgow City

Queen's Park Govanhill Food Bank, Glasgow City  
 Govan Community Project (2 venues), Glasgow City  
 Lodging House Mission, Glasgow City  
 Central and West Integration Network, Glasgow City  
 Crookson Community Group, Glasgow City  
 Drumchapel Foodbank, Glasgow City  
 Skye and Lochalsh Community Foodbank, Highland  
 Largs Food Bank, North Ayrshire  
 Coatbridge Community Food Bank, North Lanarkshire  
 Bethlehem House of Bread Food Bank (3 venues), North Lanarkshire  
 Basics Food Banks (4 venues), North Lanarkshire  
 Belshill Community Food Bank, North Lanarkshire  
 Moray Food Plus, Moray  
 Broke not Broken, Perth and Kinross  
 Galashiels Area Food Bank, Scottish Borders  
 Kelso Food Bank, Scottish Borders  
 Berwickshire Churches Food Bank, Scottish Borders  
 Selkirk Food Bank, Scottish Borders  
 Jedburgh Churches Food Bank, Scottish Borders  
 East Kilbride Community Food Bank (6 venues), South Lanarkshire  
 Clydesdale Food Bank, South Lanarkshire  
 Loaves and Fishes, South Lanarkshire  
 Start-Up Stirling (2 venues), Stirling  
 West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare (3 venues), West Dunbartonshire