

Statistical bulletin

Non-financial business economy, UK and regional (Annual Business Survey): 2020 results

Size and growth within the UK and regional non-financial sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.



Contact:
Dai Summers
ABAPS@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 456602

Release date:
16 June 2022

Next release:
To be announced

Correction

17 May 2023 10:30

Dataset: Non-financial business economy, UK regional results: Sections A to S (2008 to 2020 edition, uploaded on 16 June 2022)

There was an inconsistency in markers between the separate region tabs and 'All region' tab. These are now corrected. We apologise for any misunderstanding.

Dataset: Non-financial business economy, UK: changes year-on-year (2008 to 2020 edition, uploaded on 16 June 2022)

The 'ABS Revisions to Data' tab 2018 for all SICs contained the provisional data and not revised, and Section A for 2008 contained 2019 data. These are now corrected. We apologise for any misunderstanding.

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1 . Main points

- In 2020, approximate gross value added at basic prices (aGVA) of the UK non-financial business economy was estimated to be £1,194.9 billion; a decrease of £117.9 billion (9.0%) compared with 2019.
- The non-financial services sector, which accounted for over half (56.9%) of total aGVA in 2020, decreased by £67.9 billion (9.1%) to £679.7 billion; transport and storage saw the largest decrease in aGVA of £20.6 billion (22.6%) decreasing from £91.3 billion to £70.7 billion.
- Total turnover and purchases of the UK non-financial business economy were estimated to be £3,580.9 billion and £2,358.3 billion respectively; a decrease of £515.6 billion (12.6%) and £398.4 billion (14.5%) compared with 2019.
- All of the 12 [UK regions](#) experienced decreased growth in aGVA; London experienced the largest decrease in aGVA of £34.8 billion to £290.2 billion (10.7%), followed by the South East at £16.1 billion (7.5%).
- The North East and Scotland saw the largest year-on-year aGVA percentage decreases, the North East aGVA fell by £6.9 billion (19.0%), from £36.2 billion to £29.3 billion; the aGVA in Scotland fell by £15.3 billion (15.9%), from £96.1 billion to £80.8 billion.

2 . Annual Business Survey data

[Non-financial business economy, UK regional results: quality measures](#)

Dataset | Released 16 June 2022

Annual data on quality measures for business turnover, approximate gross value added (aGVA), purchases and employment costs, from the Annual Business Survey.

[Non-financial business economy, UK regional results: revisions and change on previous year](#)

Dataset | Released 16 June 2022

Annual revisions and year-on-year changes to business turnover, approximate gross value added (aGVA) and purchases, from the Annual Business Survey. Standard Industrial Classification 2007 broad industry group by region or country.

[Non-financial business economy, UK regional results: Sections A to S](#)

Dataset | Released 16 June 2022

Annual data on business turnover, approximate gross value added (aGVA), purchases and employment costs, from the Annual Business Survey. Two-digit Standard Industrial Classification 2007 group by region or country.

[Non-financial business economy, UK: changes year-on-year](#)

Dataset | Released 16 June 2022

Annual revisions and year-on-year changes to business turnover, approximate gross value added (aGVA) and purchases within the UK non-financial business sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey; Standard Industrial Classification 2007 by broad industry group.

[Non-financial business economy, UK: quality measures](#)

Dataset | Released 16 June 2022

Quality measures for annual data on size and growth within the UK non-financial business sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.

[Non-financial business economy, UK: Sections A to S](#)

Dataset | Released 16 June 2022

Annual data on size and growth within the UK non-financial business sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey, broken down to four-digit Standard Industrial Classification 2007.

3 . Measuring the data

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In 2020, 59.3% of sampled businesses were included in the final Annual Business Survey (ABS) results. The average response rate in previous years was approximately 75%. The 2020 rate was lower than usual because the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic made it more difficult to contact respondents in order to process survey returns. This means that the estimates in this release are subject to more uncertainty than usual. [Quality measures for the ABS](#) results are available as part of this release.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released a [public statement on COVID-19 and the production of statistics](#). You can email queries to the Media Relations office at media.relations@ons.gov.uk.

Datasets

Please note that the Retail Commodities and the UK size banded tables will not be published in this release. This was because of the need to carry out additional quality assurance on the remaining data tables. We will aim to publish these tables at the end of July.

Employment data

The employment data has been removed from this publication. This can be found from our [Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#) and downloaded from the [Nomis web portal](#).

Data sources and collection

The Annual Business Survey (ABS) is a sample survey of approximately 73,000 businesses across the UK. The ABS draws its sample from the [Inter-Departmental Business Register \(IDBR\)](#).

Quality and methodology

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our [Annual Business Survey \(ABS\) Quality and Methodology Information report](#) and [ABS Technical Report](#) published on the [ABS methodology page](#).

User consultation

On Monday 20 June 2022 ONS will launch a user engagement exercise to understand more about users' experiences of the Annual Business Survey (ABS) and the Annual Purchases Survey (APS), and help us answer the following:

- what data are most useful?
- what data gaps currently exist?
- what impact any changes we make may have?

We would be grateful if you could share your views by completing this [short survey](#), or email the team at Annual.Developments@ons.gov.uk. Please note, the link will not be available to view until Monday 20 June 2022.

The ONS has recently published a statement outlining our plans to review, develop and [improve the annual and short-term business surveys](#). This includes further details on our plans to transform the Annual Business Survey.

Accessibility of ABS output datasets

We have reviewed the new accessibility of datasets legislation, and updated all datasets within this release. If you have feedback or questions on the new layout, please email ABAPS@ons.gov.uk.

4 . Related links

[Firm-level labour productivity measures from the Annual Business Survey, UK: 1998 to 2019](#)

Article | Released 7 March 2022

Labour productivity firm-level experimental statistics using the Annual Business Survey. Covering non-financial business economy for the UK, 1998 to 2019.

[Non-financial business economy, UK and regional \(Annual Business Survey\): 2019 results](#)

Bulletin | Released 24 June 2021

Size and growth within the UK and Regional non-financial sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.

[Non-financial business economy, UK and regional \(Annual Business Survey\): 2018 revised results](#)

Bulletin | Released 15 May 2020

Size and growth within the UK and Regional non-financial sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.

[Non-financial business economy, UK \(Annual Business Survey\): 2018 provisional results](#)

Bulletin | Released 7 November 2019

Size and growth within the UK non-financial sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.

[Non-financial business economy, UK and regional \(Annual Business Survey\): 2017 revised results](#)

Bulletins | Released 16 May 2019

Size and growth within the UK and Regional non-financial sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.

Earlier releases

We have moved earlier releases to [The National Archives](#) website, to keep this website as responsive as possible. Please note: all historical data are still on this website.