

Statistical bulletin

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 4 September 2025

Data on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and innovative methods. These are official statistics in development.

Contact:
Real Time Indicators team
realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk

Release date:
4 September 2025

Next release:
11 September 2025

Correction

9 September 2025 08:40

We have corrected an error that affects some of our weekly shipping estimates for the week ending 6 January 2019. This error is isolated to the first row of data, in Tables 2, 3 and 4. The correct data are available in a new dataset. No other datasets have been affected. This happened because of a coding error.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Latest indicators at a glance](#)
3. [Data](#)
4. [Glossary](#)
5. [Data sources and quality](#)
6. [Related links](#)
7. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Main points

- In late August 2025, 48% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported that their staffing costs (including wages, bonuses, national insurance (NI) and pension contributions) had increased over the last 3 months; this is down 29 percentage points compared with late May 2025, but up 12 percentage points compared with late August 2024 (Final results from Wave 139 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey).
- The total number of ship visits to major UK ports increased by 1% in the week to 31 August 2025 compared with the previous week, but decreased by 12% when compared with the equivalent week of 2024 (exactEarth).
- The seasonally adjusted number of daily UK flights increased by 1% in the week to 31 August 2025 compared with the previous week, and increased by 2% when compared with the equivalent week of 2024 (EUROCONTROL).
- The System Average Price (SAP) of gas remained broadly unchanged in the week to 31 August 2025 compared with the previous week, but remains 11% lower than the equivalent week of 2024 (National Gas Transmission).
- The number of Energy Performance building Certificates (EPCs) for new dwellings lodged in England and Wales decreased by 18% in the week to 31 August 2025 compared with the previous week, and increased by 1% when compared with the equivalent week of 2024 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).

These are official statistics in development, and we advise caution when using the data. The data sources used to compile these indicators are regularly reviewed to ensure they are representative and relevant, which may mean indicators change at short notice. Read more in [Section 5: Data sources and quality](#).

2 . Latest indicators at a glance

Notes

1. Card spending over time increased because of the impacts of both inflation on value of transactions and cash-to-card conversion.
2. Revolut adjustments to user count are at an aggregate level and as such age bands may not adjust evenly.
3. Indicators with "SA" in the title have been seasonally adjusted.
4. Existing weekly EPC data can show sudden spikes when housing associations lodge multiple expired EPCs at once.

3 . Data

[System Average Price \(SAP\) of gas](#)

Dataset | Released 4 September 2025

Daily data showing System Average Price (SAP) of gas, and rolling seven-day average, traded in Great Britain over the On-the-Day Commodity Market (OCM). These are official statistics in development. Source: National Gas Transmission.

[Weekly shipping indicators](#)

Dataset | Released 4 September 2025

Weekly data showing ship visits to and from selected UK ports. These are official statistics in development. Source: exactEarth.

[Daily UK flights](#)

Dataset | Released 4 September 2025

Daily data showing UK flight numbers and rolling seven-day average, including flights to, from, and within the UK. These are official statistics in development. Source: EUROCONTROL.

This section lists a selection of data available in this publication. Please note that because of our data sharing agreement with MRI onLocation, we are unable to provide a dataset for our footfall metric. For the full list of available datasets, please see our [accompanying dataset page](#).

4 . Glossary

Real-time indicator

A real-time indicator provides insights into economic activity using close-to-real-time big data, administrative data sources, rapid response surveys or experimental estimates, which represent useful economic and social concepts.

Seasonal adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is the identification and removal of consistent and systematic variation in time series associated with the time of year. For more information on seasonal variation, and how we implement seasonal adjustment, see Section 2 of our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology article](#)

5 . Data sources and quality

Official statistics in development

These statistics are labelled as [official statistics in development](#). Until September 2023, these were called "experimental statistics". Read more about the change in our [Guide to official statistics in development](#).

We are developing how we collect and produce the data to improve the quality of these statistics. Find out more in our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology article](#).

Once the developments are complete, we will review the statistics with the Statistics Head of Profession. We will decide if the statistics are of sufficient quality and value to be published as official statistics, or if further development is needed. Production may be stopped if they are not of sufficient quality or value. Users will be informed of the outcome and any changes.

We value your feedback on these statistics. If you would like to get in touch, please email realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk.

Dataset release dates and intended release frequency

Latest release dates and intended release frequency of our associated datasets are available in this section. Please note that there may be some change to the intended release frequency for a variety of reasons, such as data availability. If you would like further information about any of these datasets, or previous release dates, please email realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk.

Weekly data release

- [Revolut spending on debit cards dataset](#); updated 21 August 2025.
- [Automotive fuel spending dataset](#); updated 4 September 2025.
- [Advanced notification of potential redundancies dataset](#); updated 29 August 2025.
- [System Average price of gas dataset](#); updated 4 September 2025.
- [System Price of electricity dataset](#); updated 4 September 2025.
- [Energy Performance Building Certificates \(EPC\) dataset](#); updated 4 September 2025.
- [Weekly shipping indicators dataset](#); updated 4 September 2025.
- [Daily UK flights dataset](#); updated 4 September 2025.
- [Company incorporations, voluntary dissolutions and compulsory dissolutions dataset](#); updated 30 January 2025.

Monthly data release

- [Monthly Direct Debit failure rate and average transaction amount dataset](#); updated 14 August 2025.
- [Textkernel new online job adverts dataset](#); updated 29 August 2025.
- [Value Added Tax \(VAT\) flash estimates dataset](#); updated 21 August 2025.
- [Renter affordability for new tenancies dataset](#); updated 7 August 2025.

Quarterly data release

- [Sales and jobs in small businesses dataset](#); updated 7 November 2024.

Strengths and limitations

These statistics have been produced to provide timely indicators of the effect of developing world events on the UK economy and society. We use close-to-real-time big data, administrative data sources, rapid response surveys, or official statistics in development.

The data presented in this bulletin are reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis. Indicators are swapped in and out of the publication based on their suitability and availability.

Seasonality

Seasonal fluctuations are likely to be present in many of these indicators, so caution must be applied when interpreting changes in series that are not seasonally adjusted.

6 . Related links

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology](#)

Methodology | Last revised 25 June 2025

Methodology for the data collection, aggregation, analysis and presentation for the real-time indicators bulletin.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: seasonal adjustment](#)

Article | Released 25 June 2025

Methodology for the seasonal adjustment of real-time indicators.

[GDP monthly estimate, UK](#)

Bulletin | Released monthly

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of the economy and its growth.

[Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain](#)

Bulletin | Released monthly

Social insights on daily life and events, including experiences of the cost of living, well-being, and attitudes to important issues from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#)

Bulletin | Released fortnightly

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses, including financial performance, workforce, trade, and business resilience.

[Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification \(SOC 2020\), UK](#)

Dataset | Released monthly

These tables contain the number of online job adverts, split by local authority and occupation (SOC 2020).

7 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), published 4 September 2025, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 4 September 2025](#)