

Statistical bulletin

Index of Services, UK: September 2020

Movements in the volume of output for the UK services industries. Figures are seasonally adjusted.



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1 . Main points

- There was a rise of 1.0% in the Index of Services (IoS) between August 2020 and September 2020; the largest contribution to monthly growth came from professional, scientific and technical activities, rising by 3.9%.
- In September 2020, the IoS was 8.8% below February 2020, the previous month of "normal" trading conditions, prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- There were four industries that failed to reach 50% of their pre-February 2020 level; these were travel agencies, air transport, rail transport, and creative, arts and entertainment.
- Total services output increased by 14.2% in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2020, compared with Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2020, the largest rise since records began in January 1997; this was led by wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, rising by 30.7%.
- Services output between the three months to September 2019 and the three months to September 2020 decreased by 10.0%.
- The coronavirus pandemic had a significant negative impact on the output of the services industries during September 2020; for further and detailed analysis of the effect on our monthly IoS estimate, please see our article, [Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy, UK: September 2020](#), published today (12 November 2020).

2 . Index of Services data

[Index of Services time series](#)

Dataset | Dataset ID: IOS1 | Released 12 November 2020

Monthly movements in output for the services industries: distribution, hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communication; business services and finance; and government and other services.

[Monthly Business Survey turnover of services industries](#)

Dataset | Released 12 November 2020

Monthly Business Survey (MBS) services industries' total turnover; current price and non-seasonally adjusted, UK.

[Index of Services, main components and sectors to four decimal places](#)

Dataset | Released 12 November 2020

Monthly historical movements in output for services and their industry components, by chained volume indices of gross value added, UK.

[Index of Services revisions triangles](#)

Dataset | Released 12 November 2020

Monthly chained volume indices in gross value added for services and its main components.

All data related to the Index of Services (IoS) are available on the [Related data page](#).

3 . Measuring the data

Data sources and collection

The Index of Services (IoS) is compiled using data from several different sources:

- ONS: Monthly Business Survey (44.4%)
- ONS: Retail Sales Inquiry (6.4%)
- ONS: Government Expenditure (20.1%)
- ONS: Households' Expenditure (15.3%)
- ONS: Finance Expenditure (7.8%)
- Other (5.9%)

The Monthly Business Survey (MBS) data are published alongside this release in [MBS turnover in services industries](#).

Data relating to the retail industry are broadly comparable with [Retail sales, Great Britain: September 2020](#), published on 23 October 2020.

For further information on what is included within Other, please see the [GDP\(o\) data sources catalogue](#).

Percentage of each data source is based on their gross value added weight. The [GDP\(o\) methods and sources pages](#) provide more information on the data that underpin these statistics; of particular note is the [GDP\(o\) data sources catalogue](#).

From February 2018, Value Added Tax (VAT) data have also been included across 64 production industries for small and medium-sized businesses. For more information, see [VAT turnover data in national accounts: background and methodology](#).

Quality and methodology

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [IoS QMI](#).

Leaving the EU

As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020.

After the transition period, we will continue to produce our national accounts statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and in accordance with internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.

The Withdrawal Agreement outlines a need for UK gross national income (a fundamental component of the national accounts, which includes gross domestic product (GDP)) statistics to remain in line with those of other EU countries until the EU budgets are finalised for the years in which we were a member. To ensure comparability during this cycle, the national accounts will continue to be produced according to [European System of Accounts \(ESA\) 2010](#) definitions and standards.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The MBS is fully online, meaning that business owners can log-on from any location and submit their data at an appropriate time. Most other data in the IoS come from within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and therefore will be less impacted than survey data.

Our latest data and analysis on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and population is now available on a [web page](#). This is the hub for all special virus-related publications, drawing on all available data.

The ONS has released a [public statement](#) on COVID-19 and the production of statistics. Specific queries must be directed to the [Media Relations Office](#).

4 . Related links

[Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy, UK: September 2020](#)

Article | Released 12 November 2020

Analysis of monthly growth for the production, services and construction industries in the UK economy between August and September 2020, highlighting the early impact from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[A comparison between official estimates of UK output and diffusion indices](#)

Article | Released 21 October 2019

The level of correlation between Office for National Statistics (ONS) data and IHS Markit and Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Purchasing Managers' Indices.

[GDP monthly estimate, UK: September 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 12 November 2020

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of and growth in the economy and includes the Index of Production (IoP), Index of Services (IoS) and construction output in Great Britain.

[Services sector, UK: 2008 to 2018](#)

Article | Released 2 April 2019

The article details the changes that have taken place in the UK services sector from 2008 to 2018. It also looks at the differences between public sector-dominated sectors and the rest of the IoS and compares the growth of individual IoS sectors in more detail.

[Index of Production, UK: September 2020](#) Bulletin | Released 12 November 2020

Movements in the volume of production for the UK production industries: manufacturing, mining and quarrying, energy supply, and water and waste management.

Industry sections (SIC2007)					
Section	Total service industries	Distribution hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Business services and finance	Government and other services
	G-T	G and I	H and J	K-N	O-T
2018 weights	1000	169	134	420	276
	S2KU	S2MV	KI7B	KI7L	KI7T
2015	95.6	92.7	91.6	95.6	99.5
2016	97.1	95.5	93.8	97.9	98.7
2017	98.5	97.3	96.7	98.9	99.4
2018	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2019	101.8	102.5	105.1	100.5	101.7
2019 Q3	101.6	102.7	105.4	100.9	101.9
Q4	102.1	102.5	105.3	100.9	102.5
2020 Q1	99.6	97.7	102.5	100.4	98
Q2	80.4	64.2	84.5	89.3	74.8
Q3	91.8	96.3	93.5	93.2	86.2
2019 Jul	102.1	102.8	105.9	100.9	101.8
Aug	102.1	102.7	105.0	101.0	102.0
Sep	102.0	102.5	105.5	100.7	102.0
Oct	102.4	102.9	106.0	101.1	102.2
Nov	102.0	102.3	104.6	100.7	102.6
Dec	102.3	102.3	105.4	101.0	102.8
2020 Jan	102.4	103.4	104.4	101.1	102.9
Feb	102.2	102.9	104.4	101.1	102.2
Mar	94.1	86.9	98.6	98.8	89.0
Apr	77.3	53.3	81.5	88.7	72.8
May	78.7	60.2	82.1	88.1	74.2
Jun	85.2	79.2	90.0	91.2	77.5
Jul	90.1	91.8	93.2	92.6	83.6
Aug	92.2	99.3	93.2	93.0	86.2
Sep	93.2	97.7	94.2	94.0	88.6
Percentage change, latest year on previous year					
	S222	S243	KI77	KI7G	KI7O
2015	2.5	3.8	4.2	2.3	1.1
2016	1.6	3.1	2.4	2.4	-0.8
2017	1.4	1.8	3.1	1.0	0.7
2018	1.6	2.8	3.4	1.1	0.6
2019	1.8	2.5	5.1	0.5	1.7
Percentage change, latest month on same month a year ago					
	S26Q	S28R	KI7A	KI7I	KI7Q
2019 Jul	2.0	1.3	6.8	0.8	1.8
Aug	1.7	1.7	4.0	0.9	1.9
Sep	1.6	2.1	3.6	0.6	2.0
Oct	1.5	1.7	4.3	0.4	1.7
Nov	1.0	0.3	2.5	-	2.1
Dec	1.4	1.6	1.4	0.8	2.3
2020 Jan	1.3	1.4	-	1.1	2.3
Feb	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.8	1.2
Mar	-7.2	-15.1	-5.5	-1.4	-12.0
Apr	-23.7	-48.0	-22.4	-11.3	-28.0
May	-22.4	-41.2	-21.9	-12.0	-26.7
Jun	-16.3	-22.7	-14.6	-9.3	-23.8
Jul	-11.8	-10.7	-12.0	-8.2	-17.8
Aug	-9.7	-3.3	-11.1	-7.9	-15.5
Sep	-8.7	-4.6	-10.7	-6.7	-13.1

1 The IOS output is designated as a National Statistic.

2 Indices reflect values measured at basic prices, which exclude "taxes less subsidies on products".

3 Estimates cannot be regarded as accurate to the last digit shown.

4 Any apparent inconsistencies between the index numbers and the percentage changes shown in these tables are due to rounding.

5 A complete run of data is available on the ONS website as a [Time series dataset](#)

Sources: For further information on these data please telephone 01633 456387; fax 01633 455300 or e-mail ios.enquiries@ons.gov.uk

Section	Industry sections (SIC2007)				
	Total service industries	Distribution hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Business services and finance	Government and other services
	G-T	G and I	H and J	K-N	O-T
2018 weights	1000	167	135	426	272

Percentage change, latest month on previous month

	S222	S243	KI77	KI7G	KI7O
2019 Jul	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1
Aug	-	-0.1	-0.9	0.1	0.3
Sep	-0.1	-0.2	0.5	-0.3	-
Oct	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
Nov	-0.3	-0.6	-1.3	-0.4	0.4
Dec	0.3	-	0.8	0.2	0.3
2020 Jan	0.1	1.0	-1.0	0.2	0.1
Feb	-0.3	-0.5	0.1	-	-0.7
Mar	-7.9	-15.6	-5.6	-2.3	-12.9
Apr	-17.8	-38.7	-17.3	-10.3	-18.2
May	1.8	13.0	0.7	-0.6	1.9
Jun	8.2	31.6	9.5	3.4	4.5
Jul	5.7	15.8	3.6	1.6	7.9
Aug	2.4	8.2	0.1	0.4	3.0
Sep	1.0	-1.6	1.0	1.1	2.8

Percentage change, latest 3 months on same 3 months a year ago

	S2G6	S2I7	KI7C	KI7J	KI7R
2019 Jul	2.0	1.9	6.2	0.7	1.8
Aug	1.9	1.7	5.6	0.8	1.9
Sep	1.8	1.7	4.8	0.8	1.9
Oct	1.6	1.8	3.9	0.6	1.9
Nov	1.4	1.3	3.5	0.4	1.9
Dec	1.3	1.2	2.7	0.4	2.1
2020 Jan	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.6	2.2
Feb	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.9	1.9
Mar	-1.7	-4.4	-1.8	0.1	-2.8
Apr	-10.1	-20.8	-9.3	-4.0	-13.0
May	-17.8	-34.8	-16.6	-8.2	-22.3
Jun	-20.8	-37.3	-19.6	-10.9	-26.2
Jul	-16.8	-24.9	-16.2	-9.8	-22.8
Aug	-12.6	-12.2	-12.6	-8.4	-19.0
Sep	-10.0	-6.2	-11.3	-7.6	-15.5

Percentage change, latest 3 months on previous 3 months

	S2BG	S2DH	KI7D	KI7K	KI7S
2019 Jul	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.5
Aug	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7
Sep	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6
Oct	0.3	0.1	-	0.4	0.5
Nov	0.1	-0.1	-	0.1	0.4
Dec	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.6
2020 Jan	0.1	-	-0.6	-	0.7
Feb	0.2	0.3	-0.6	0.2	0.4
Mar	-2.6	-4.7	-2.7	-0.5	-4.4
Apr	-10.8	-21.1	-9.5	-4.7	-14.4
May	-18.5	-35.1	-16.5	-9.1	-23.4
Jun	-19.2	-34.3	-17.5	-11.0	-23.7
Jul	-7.1	-4.9	-6.8	-5.8	-10.8
Aug	6.9	34.9	5.4	0.4	4.8
Sep	14.2	49.9	10.6	4.4	15.2

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