

Statistical bulletin

GDP monthly estimate, UK: November 2018

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.



Contact:
James Scruton
GDP@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)1633 455284

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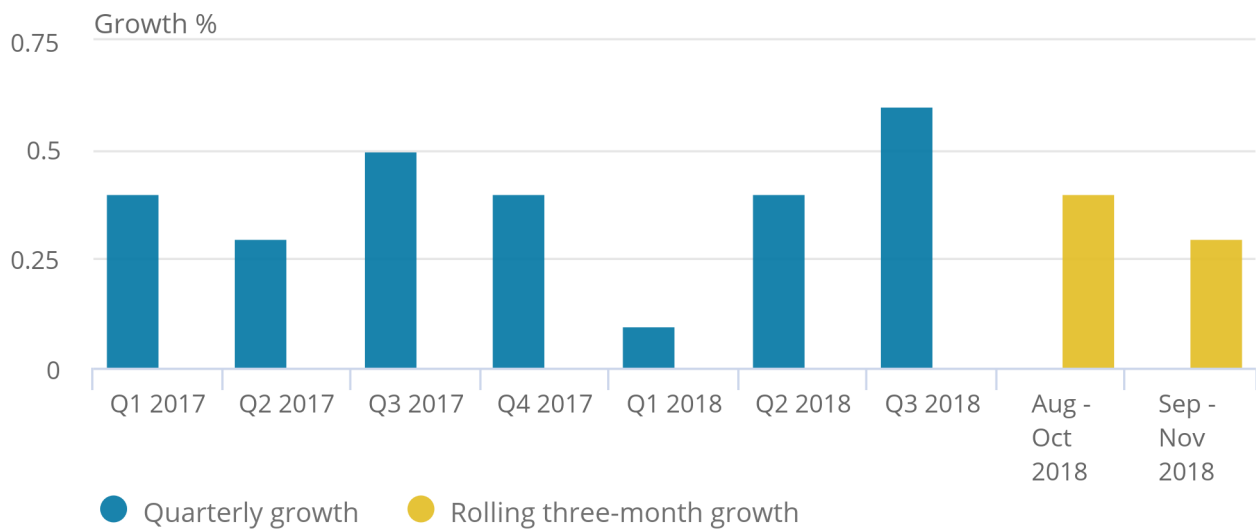
1 . UK gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.3% in the three months to November 2018

Figure 1: Rolling three-month growth continued to slow after a peak in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

UK GDP growth, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2017 until September to November 2018

Figure 1: Rolling three-month growth continued to slow after a peak in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

UK GDP growth, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2017 until September to November 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Q1 refers to Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar), Q2 refers to Quarter 2 (Apr to June), Q3 refers to Quarter 3 (July to Sept), Q4 refers to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec).
2. Rolling three-month data are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period, for example, GDP in September to November compared with the previous June to August.

Commenting on today's GDP figures Head of National Accounts Rob Kent-Smith said:

“Growth in the UK economy continued to slow in the three months to November 2018 after performing more strongly through the middle of the year. Accountancy and housebuilding again grew but a number of other areas were sluggish.

“Manufacturing saw a steep decline, with car production and the often-erratic pharmaceutical industry both performing poorly.”

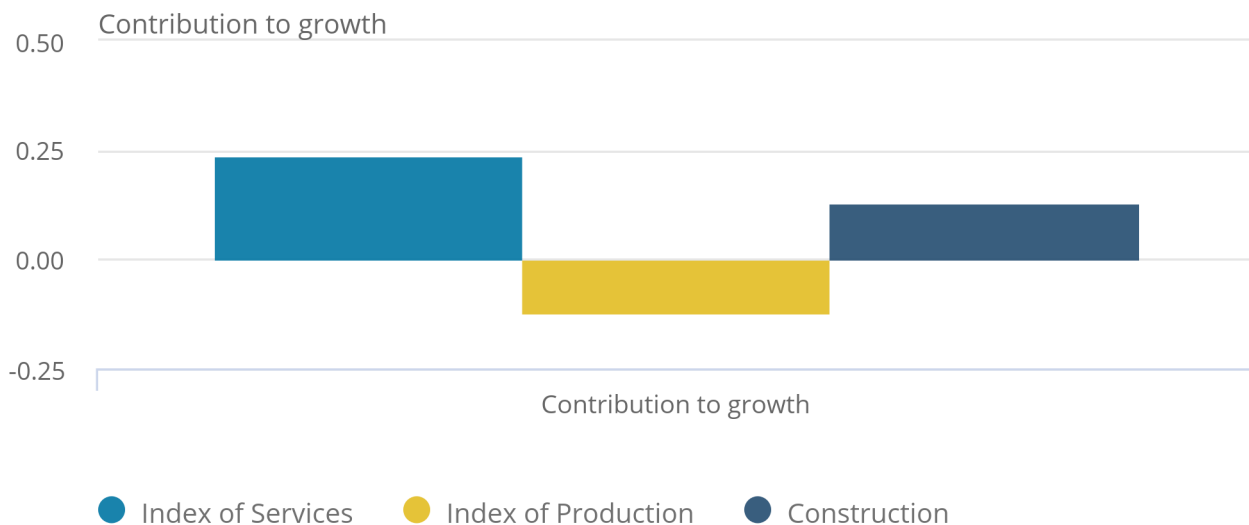
2 . The services and construction sectors drove GDP growth, although contraction in the production sector contributed negatively

Figure 2: The services sector was the largest contributor to growth, at 0.24 percentage points

Contribution to GDP growth, September to November 2018

Figure 2: The services sector was the largest contributor to growth, at 0.24 percentage points

Contribution to GDP growth, September to November 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Rolling three-month growth in the services sector was 0.3%, making the sector the largest contributor to gross domestic product (GDP) growth. The construction sector also had a positive contribution, with rolling three-month growth of 2.1%. However, growth of negative 0.8% in the production sector acted as a drag on GDP growth.

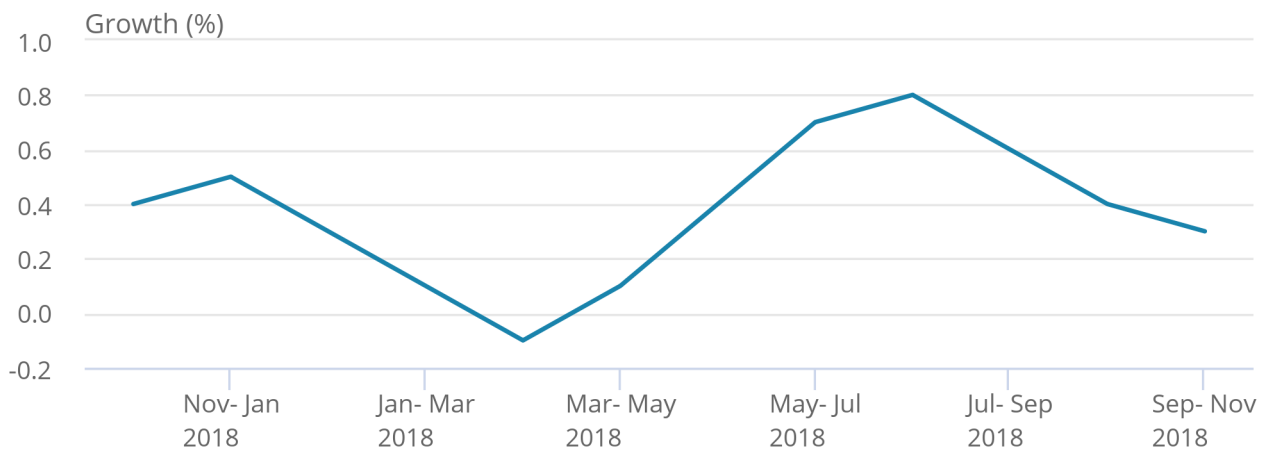
3 . Rolling three-month growth continued its slowdown after a strong summer

Figure 3: Rolling three-month growth increased by 0.3% in November 2018

Growth, three-months on previous three-months, October to December 2017 until September to November 2018

Figure 3: Rolling three-month growth increased by 0.3% in November 2018

Growth, three-months on previous three-months, October to December 2017 until September to November 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Rolling three-month data are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period, for example, GDP in September to November compared with the previous June to August.

Rolling three-month growth was 0.3% in November 2018, continuing the return to moderate growth rates after some volatility earlier in the year, in part related to the weather.

Rolling three-month growth is based on output gross value added (GVA) and therefore there will be discrepancies in the time series with our quarterly estimates of gross domestic product (GDP), which include information on the expenditure and income approaches to measuring GDP.

4 . GDP grew by 0.2% in November 2018

Table 1: Breakdown of GDP growth rates by month
UK, September, October and November 2018

	Sep-2018	Oct-2018	Nov-2018
GDP	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Index of Services	-0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Index of Production	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%
Manufacturing	-0.1%	-0.6%	-0.3%
Construction	1.9%	0.0%	0.6%
Agriculture	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 0.2% in November 2018, following flat growth in September 2018 and growth of 0.1% in October 2018.

The monthly growth rate for GDP is volatile and therefore it should be used with caution and alongside other measures such as the three-month growth rate when looking for an indicator of the longer-term trend of the economy. However, it is useful in highlighting one-off changes that can be masked by three-month growth rates.

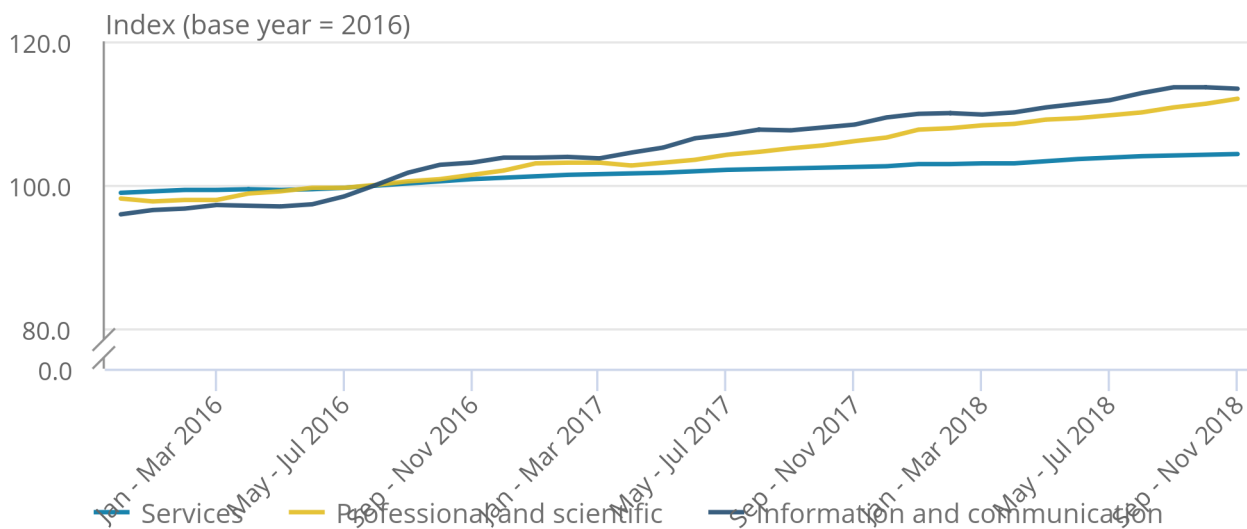
5 . The services sector grew by 0.3% in the three months to November 2018, driven by professional activities

Figure 4: Output in the professional industries and information and communication industries has risen steadily since 2016

Rolling three-month index, October to December 2015 until September to November 2018, base year 2016

Figure 4: Output in the professional industries and information and communication industries has risen steadily since 2016

Rolling three-month index, October to December 2015 until September to November 2018, base year 2016



Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Monthly growth in the services sector was 0.3% in November 2018. The main driver to growth was retail sales, which saw a boost from Black Friday promotions. This was partially offset by a slight contraction in legal activities and accounting.

The services sector rolling three-month growth to November 2018 was 0.3%. Professional and scientific activities was the largest contributor, with a contribution of 0.14 percentage points to gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Other notable contributors were information and communication, and human health activities. As seen in Figure 4, the professional and scientific industry and the information and communication industry have performed well since 2016, with growth over this period outstripping services as a whole.

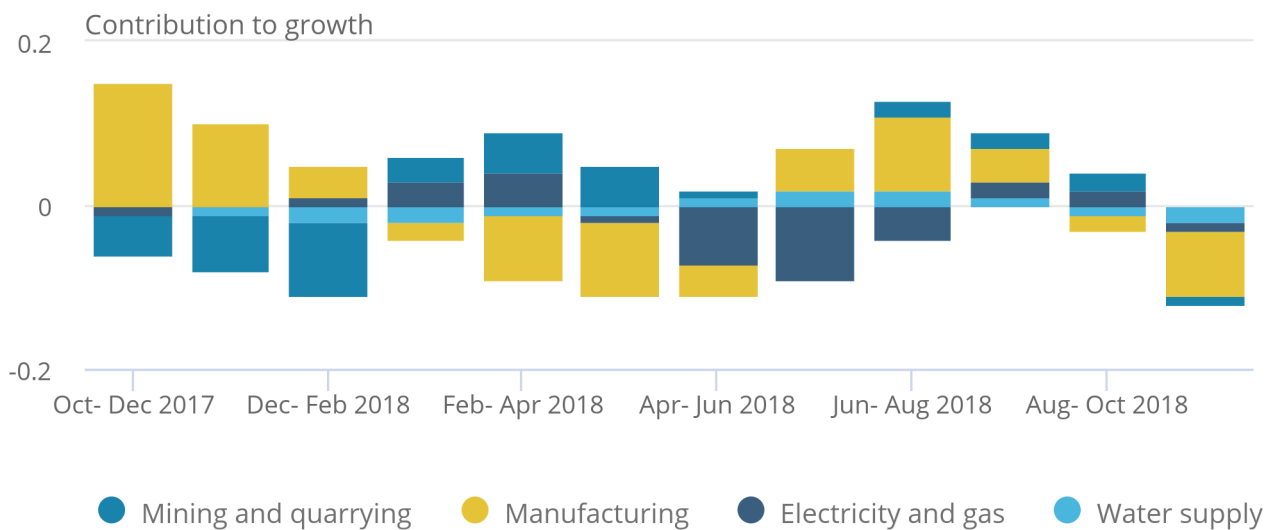
6 . The production sector experienced negative growth in the three months to November 2018, as all four of its subsectors contracted

Figure 5: Widespread contraction in production industries resulted in negative contributions to GDP across the sector

Contribution to GDP growth, three-months on previous three-months, October to December 2017 until September to November 2018

Figure 5: Widespread contraction in production industries resulted in negative contributions to GDP across the sector

Contribution to GDP growth, three-months on previous three-months, October to December 2017 until September to November 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Rolling three-month data are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period, for example, GDP in September to November compared with the previous June to August.

Month-on-month growth in the production industries was negative 0.4%. This was driven by weakness in manufacturing, and mining and quarrying, the latter due to unplanned maintenance.

Rolling three-month growth in production was negative 0.8%. As shown in Figure 5, all four main production subsectors experienced negative growth; the last time this happened was in October 2012. Maintenance across several months resulted in growth of negative 1.1% in mining and quarrying. Within manufacturing 10 out of 13 sub-industries contracted, driving the negative 0.8% growth in manufacturing.

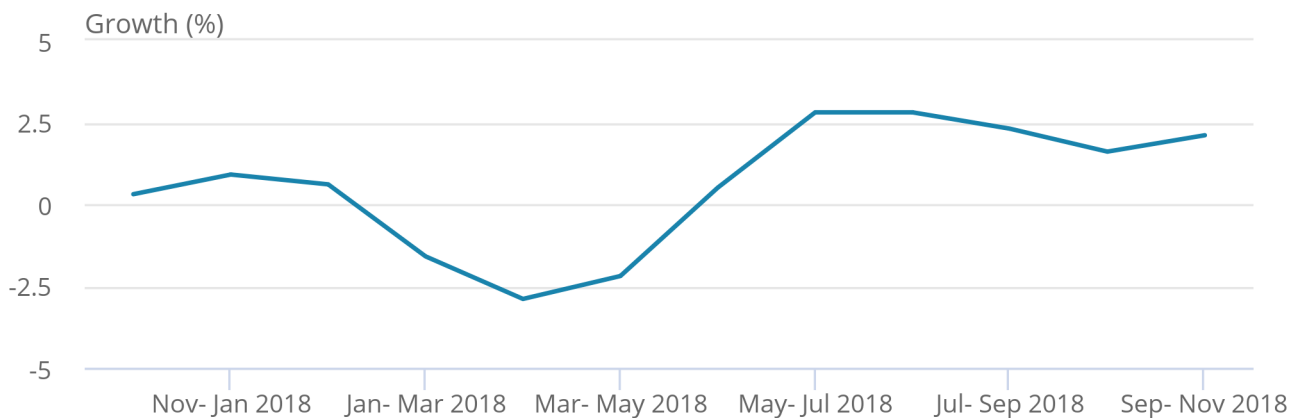
7 . Rolling three-month growth in construction continued to perform strongly after a summer high

Figure 6: Construction growth remained strong at 2.1%

Growth, three-months on previous three-months, October to December 2017 until September to November 2018

Figure 6: Construction growth remained strong at 2.1%

Growth, three-months on previous three-months, October to December 2017 until September to November 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics, GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Rolling three-month data are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period, for example, GDP in September to November compared with the previous June to August.

The construction sector had month-on-month growth of 0.6% in November 2018.

Rolling three-month growth for construction was 2.1% in November 2018, driven by new work in housebuilding and infrastructure.

The construction sector experienced high growth in the summer months, due partly to a bounce back from weakness in the spring. However, as illustrated in Figure 6, growth has remained at these high levels.

8 . Quality and methodology

The [Gross domestic product \(GDP\) Quality and Methodology Information report](#) contains important information on:

- the strengths and limitations of the data and how it compares with related data
- uses and users of the data
- how the output was created
- the quality of the output including the accuracy of the data

9 . Related links

[Index of Services](#)

[Index of Production](#)

[Construction output in Great Britain](#)

GVA3 Monthly GDP based on GVA (Gross Value Added) ¹
Chained volume indices of gross value added at basic prices ^{2,3,4}

seasonally adjusted 2016=100

Section	Industry sections (SIC2007)																						
	Total GVA at basic prices	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Total production industries	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity gas, steam and air	Water supply, sewerage etc	Construction	Total service industries	Wholesale and retail: motor vehicles and motorcycles	Transport and storage	Accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Administrative and support service activities	Public administration and defence	Education	Human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment and recreation	Other service activities	Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services
	A-T	A	B-E	B	C	D	E	F	G-T	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
2016 weights	1000	7	138	10	100	17	10	60	796	104	43	30	63	73	138	75	48	47	59	75	15	21	4

Percentage change, latest month on same month a year ago

	ED2R	ED2S	ED2T	ED2U	ED2V	ED2W	ED2X	ED2Y	ED2Z	ED32	ED33	ED34	ED35	ED36	ED37	ED38	ED39	ED3A	ED3B	ED3C	ED3D	ED3E	ED3F
2016 Nov	2.4	-4.4	2.5	-1.0	1.6	8.5	6.6	7.1	2.0	5.4	0.7	2.0	6.3	4.3	-0.4	4.3	3.0	-1.2	-1.1	0.3	0.5	-0.9	-8.7
Dec	2.7	-3.0	4.5	0.2	4.4	8.6	4.1	6.8	2.1	4.3	2.0	1.0	10.0	2.1	-0.7	5.0	3.6	-1.3	-0.9	0.3	-0.8	2.5	-12.3
2017 Jan	2.8	-0.3	3.0	3.5	2.3	5.3	5.7	8.9	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.1	6.2	2.8	0.1	6.9	3.7	-0.9	0.2	-0.1	1.9	5.3	-7.3
Feb	2.3	1.8	2.2	-0.2	2.6	-1.3	7.0	7.8	1.9	2.9	2.8	4.2	6.4	2.6	-0.2	4.0	2.4	-0.7	0.1	-0.5	0.7	2.3	-5.8
Mar	2.9	2.9	1.6	1.6	2.7	-7.3	7.3	11.0	2.5	3.1	4.6	3.5	7.6	2.4	0.0	5.3	5.0	-0.2	0.9	-0.5	0.5	5.1	-7.4
Apr	2.1	3.1	-0.6	-0.8	0.4	-8.3	4.2	6.7	2.2	2.8	2.1	5.1	8.7	1.9	0.6	2.5	1.7	0.2	1.1	-0.2	4.9	6.5	-11.0
May	2.6	3.1	0.9	0.8	1.5	-2.8	1.9	7.9	2.5	1.7	2.7	3.4	8.9	1.1	1.3	4.2	5.9	0.6	0.4	0.0	2.5	7.0	-13.0
Jun	2.9	3.3	1.8	2.6	2.3	-2.6	2.8	8.2	2.6	3.2	1.3	1.6	10.7	0.4	1.3	5.0	5.4	0.5	0.5	-0.2	2.3	6.4	-10.9
Jul	2.5	3.8	1.8	-6.8	3.2	-0.4	2.3	6.2	2.3	2.8	2.5	6.0	7.0	-0.8	1.5	4.5	5.2	0.3	0.7	-0.2	0.6	5.3	-9.7
Aug	2.5	4.1	1.7	-5.3	2.7	0.5	2.0	9.0	2.1	2.5	1.4	1.9	5.6	2.1	1.6	4.3	5.7	0.2	0.8	-0.4	5.3	7.3	-8.2
Sep	2.2	4.1	3.0	0.5	3.1	4.2	2.4	6.2	1.8	1.5	1.2	0.5	5.1	-1.8	1.6	5.0	4.0	0.3	0.9	-0.5	3.6	7.6	-6.0
Oct	2.2	3.8	4.4	10.7	5.0	-2.1	2.9	4.6	1.6	0.5	1.2	1.1	4.5	-1.5	1.5	4.4	5.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	4.7	3.6	-4.5
Nov	2.0	3.2	2.2	2.3	3.5	-4.9	1.1	4.8	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.5	5.6	-1.7	1.5	4.7	5.1	0.7	0.5	-0.1	2.6	-0.5	-3.2
Dec	1.5	2.6	0.1	-14.1	1.1	2.0	1.2	4.0	1.5	0.3	0.8	1.5	5.9	-1.2	1.5	4.4	5.3	0.8	0.1	-0.1	2.0	-2.2	2.9
2018 Jan	1.5	0.6	1.3	2.3	2.4	-3.4	-2.8	0.8	1.6	1.6	0.0	2.1	6.1	-2.0	1.2	4.8	5.2	0.8	-0.4	0.1	0.7	-1.9	4.3
Feb	1.4	-0.9	2.3	0.7	2.7	4.2	-3.4	0.2	1.3	1.8	-1.4	-0.7	5.4	-1.8	1.2	5.0	2.9	0.8	-0.5	0.2	1.9	-1.3	6.4
Mar	1.3	-1.4	2.5	-4.1	2.4	11.9	-4.2	-2.1	1.3	0.8	-2.3	1.1	6.2	-1.7	1.1	5.3	2.8	0.7	-0.2	0.1	3.9	-2.3	11.2
Apr	1.4	-1.3	1.6	5.2	1.5	3.5	-3.7	-2.0	1.7	1.8	0.3	1.1	4.6	-1.5	0.8	6.9	5.9	0.6	0.2	-0.2	1.2	-2.8	9.1
May	1.5	-1.1	0.6	-1.7	1.8	-3.6	-2.2	0.7	1.7	3.9	0.7	2.3	5.2	-1.4	0.5	5.3	3.0	0.6	0.4	-0.4	2.4	-3.9	5.1
Jun	1.4	-1.2	1.0	-5.8	2.6	-2.9	-0.4	1.0	1.5	2.5	2.2	4.7	3.7	-1.2	0.3	4.5	3.3	0.8	0.3	-0.2	3.1	-2.6	0.5
Jul	1.8	-1.3	1.3	0.4	1.9	-0.6	-0.9	2.0	1.9	3.7	1.8	2.9	4.5	-0.9	0.3	6.0	3.5	0.9	0.2	-0.3	2.7	-2.0	-1.5
Aug	1.6	-1.5	1.4	3.6	1.7	-1.2	0.3	-0.1	1.7	3.4	1.8	3.3	6.0	-0.8	0.1	5.3	2.6	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.9	-4.2	1.2
Sep	1.4	-1.6	-0.4	-2.4	0.4	-3.6	-1.6	2.8	1.6	2.2	1.1	3.2	6.1	-0.8	0.3	4.9	1.5	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.6	-3.5	5.1
Oct	1.6	-1.4	-0.9	-2.6	-0.7	-0.3	-2.7	4.1	1.8	2.9	1.7	3.3	3.6	-0.8	0.5	6.5	2.6	0.7	0.2	0.9	-0.1	-1.0	9.9
Nov	1.4	-1.0	-1.5	-2.3	-1.1	-3.2	-1.7	3.0	1.9	3.6	1.6	3.4	4.1	-0.9	0.4	5.3	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.5	14.5

1 The GVA 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.

Sources: For further information on these data please telephone 01633 456724 or E-mail gdp@ons.gov.uk

