

Statistical bulletin

Consumer trends, UK: January to March 2021

Household final consumption expenditure (HHFCE) for the UK, as a measure of economic growth. Includes all spending on goods and services by members of UK households.



Contact:
Katherine Kent
consumer.trends@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)1633 455829

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1 . Main points

- In Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2021, household spending (adjusted for inflation) growth was negative 4.6% compared with Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2020; when compared with Quarter 1 2020, household spending decreased by negative 11.0%.
- When compared with Quarter 4 2020, the largest negative contribution to growth was from restaurants and hotels which decreased by negative 42.2%; when compared with Quarter 1 2020, spending on restaurants and hotels decreased by negative 63.2%.

2 . Consumer trends data

[Consumer trends: current price, not seasonally adjusted](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, current price, not seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2020.

[Consumer trends: current price, seasonally adjusted](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, current price, seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2020.

[Consumer trends: chained volume measure, not seasonally adjusted](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, chained volume measure, not seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2020.

[Consumer trends: chained volume measure, seasonally adjusted](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, chained volume measure, seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2020.

[Consumer trends: implied deflator, not seasonally adjusted](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, implied deflator, not seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2020.

[Consumer trends: implied deflator, seasonally adjusted](#)

Dataset | Released 30 June 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, implied deflator, seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2020.

3 . Measuring the data

The quarterly consumer trends data are typically published around 90 days after the end of the quarter.

This release contains data that are consistent with the [UK National Accounts, The Blue Book: 2020](#), released on 30 October 2020. As such, data for all periods within this release are subject to revision in line with the [National Accounts Revisions Policy](#).

The Blue Book is the UK's annual compendium of national accounts data and incorporates several improvements to methods and sources into the UK's National Accounts.

The reference year and last base year for all chained volume measure estimates is now 2018.

Further information on latest developments and changes implemented in Blue Book 2020 can be found in the [Latest developments and changes to be implemented in blue book and pink book 2020](#) article.

Household final consumption expenditure (HHFCE) includes spending on goods and services except for buying or extending a house, investment in valuables (for example, paintings and antiques) or purchasing second-hand goods. Explanations for these exceptions and the related concepts are available in [Consumer trends guidance and methodology](#).

Quality

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

More about economy, business and jobs

- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [economy, business and jobs roundup](#).
- Explore the latest trends in employment, prices and trade in our [economic dashboard](#).
- View [all economic data](#).

Impact of the coronavirus (COVID 19)

Since Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2020, estimates of household final consumption expenditure (HHFCE), along with other components of gross domestic product (GDP), have been subject to more uncertainty than usual as a result of the challenges we faced in collecting the data under government imposed public health restrictions. In the case of HHFCE, these challenges have been compounded by the suspension of data collection for the International Passenger Survey (IPS) on 16 March 2020 and the temporary suspension of the Living Costs and Food survey (LCF) between 16 March and 14 April 2020.

4 . Related links

[GDP quarterly national accounts, UK: January to March 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 30 June 2021

Revised quarterly estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) for the UK. Uses additional data to provide a more precise indication of economic growth than the first estimate.

[Quarterly sector accounts, UK: January to March 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 30 June 2021

Detailed estimates of quarterly sector accounts that can be found in the UK Economic Accounts (UKEA).

[Retail sales, Great Britain: May 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 18 June 2021

A first estimate of retail sales in volume and value terms, seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted.

[Family spending in the UK: April 2019 to March 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 16 March 2021

Average weekly household expenditure on goods and services in the UK, by age, income, economic status, socio-economic class, household composition and region.

[Impact of Blue Book 2021 changes on current price and volume estimates of gross domestic product](#)

Article | 28 June 2021

Methodological and data improvements that affect current price and chain volume measure of gross domestic product (GDP), 1997 to 2019.