

Statistical bulletin

# Consumer trends, UK: July to September 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](mailto:consumer.trends@ons.gov.uk)  
+44 1633 455829

Release date:  
22 December 2021

Next release:  
31 March 2022

## Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Consumer trends data](#)
3. [Measuring the data](#)
4. [Related links](#)

# 1 . Main points

- In Quarter 3 (Jul to Sept) 2021, household spending growth (adjusted for inflation) was positive 2.7% compared with Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2021. When compared with Quarter 3 (Jul to Sept) 2020, household spending increased by positive 5.3%.
- When compared with Quarter 2 2021 the largest positive contribution to growth was from restaurants and hotels, which increased by positive 38.1%.
- When compared with Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2019, which was before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, household spending decreased by negative 2.1%.

# 2 . Consumer trends data

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

Dataset | Released 22 December 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, current price, not seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2021.

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

Dataset | Released 22 December 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, current price, seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2021.

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

Dataset | Released 22 December 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, chained volume measure, not seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2021.

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

Dataset | Released 22 December 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, chained volume measure, seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2021.

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

Dataset | Released 22 December 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, implied deflator, not seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2021.

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

Dataset | Released 22 December 2021

Quarterly and annual data on household expenditure in the UK, implied deflator, seasonally adjusted. Estimates are consistent with Blue Book 2021.

## 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: 2021, released on 29 October 2021. 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 a number of improvements to methods and sources into the UK's National Accounts. Details of improvements introduced in Bluebook 2021, which impact household expenditure and revisions to the previous publication, can be found in the [User guide to consumer trends](#).

The reference year and last base year for all chained volume measure estimates is 2019.

Further information on latest developments and changes implemented in Blue Book 2021 can be found in the article [Proposed changes to be implemented in blue book and pink book 2021](#).

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)
- 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)

From Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2020, estimates of household final consumption expenditure (HHFCE), along with other components of gross domestic product (GDP), are 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 \(IPS\)](#) between March 2020 and January 2021 and the temporary suspension of the Living Costs and Food survey (LCF) between March 16 and April 14 2020.

## 4 . Related links

### [GDP quarterly national accounts, UK: July to September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 22 December 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: July to September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 22 December 2021

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

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

Bulletin | Released 17 December 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 18 June 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 | Released on 28 June 2021

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