

Statistical bulletin

Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: September 2021

Experimental monthly estimates of payrolled employees and their pay from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data. This is a joint release between HMRC and the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

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1. Main points

- Early estimates for August 2021 indicate that the number of payrolled employees rose by 3.0% compared with August 2020, which is a rise of 836,000 employees; the number of payrolled employees is up by 1,000 since February 2020 (this shows as a 0.0% rise as the increase is too small to be reflected).
- 241,000 more people were in payrolled employment in August 2021, when compared with July 2021.
- Early estimates for August 2021 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 5.3% compared with August 2020 and by 6.5% when compared with February 2020.
- All age groups saw an increase in payrolled employees between August 2020 and August 2021; there was an increase of 381,000 payrolled employees aged younger than 25 years.
- For NUTS3 regions, annual growth in payrolled employees in August 2021 was the highest in Orkney Islands, with a rise of 6.4%, and was lowest in Solihull, with a rise of 0.9%; there is greater variation at local administrative unit level, with growth rates varying between negative 1.1% and positive 19.0%.
- The increase in payrolled employees between August 2020 and August 2021 was largest in the
 administrative and support services sector (a rise of 249,000 employees) and smallest in the transportation
 and storage sector (a fall of 19,000).
- Three of the sectors that have had the greatest decreases have all continued to see more recent monthly
 increases in payrolled employees, according to flash estimates; between July and August 2021,
 accommodation and food service activities increased by 36,000 employees, arts and entertainment by
 11,000, and wholesale and retail by 7,000.
- Annual growth in median pay for employees in August 2021 was highest in the professional, scientific and technical sector (an increase of 9.7%) and lowest in the households sector (a decrease of 0.5%).

Annual growth rates for August 2021 are compared against August 2020, and so the reduction in employees and median pay seen following the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is no longer contributing to the annual growth rate. Annual growth rates are now compared with this lower baseline.

About the data in this release

Early estimates for August 2021 are provided to give an indication of the likely level of employees as well as median pay in the latest period. The figures for August 2021 are based on around 85% of information being available. They are considered of lower quality and may be subject to revision in next month's release when between 98% to 99% of data will be available. This work was introduced in April 2020, in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) and methods will continue to be developed. A <u>revisions triangle</u> is available for employees and median pay at the UK level.

This release covers people paid through the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system where their pay is reported through the Real Time Information (RTI) system. As employees who are furloughed as part of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) programme should still have their payments reported through this system, they should feature in these data and contribute toward the employment and pay statistics for the relevant periods.

Statistics in this release are based on people who are employed in at least one job paid through PAYE, and monthly estimates reflect the average of such people for each day of the calendar month. This follows the introduction of a <u>new methodology</u> in December 2019, designed to better align with international guidelines for labour market statistics. This differs from the methodology used prior to December 2019, which produced statistics based on the total number of people paid in a particular time period.

2. Payrolled employees

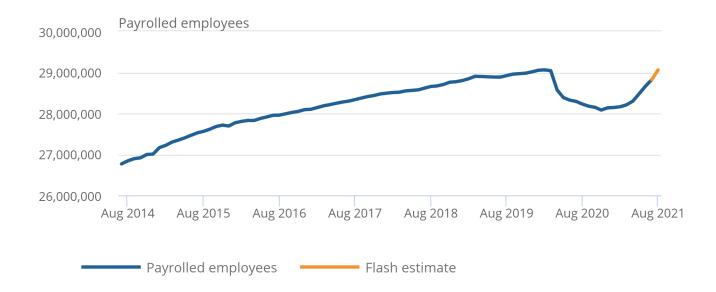
Early estimates for August 2021 indicate that there were 29.1 million payrolled employees (Figure 1), a rise of 3.0% compared with the same period of the previous year and a rise of 836,000 people over the 12-month period. Compared with the previous month, the number of payrolled employees increased by 0.8% in August 2021 – equivalent to 241,000 people.

Figure 1: The number of employees declined between February and November 2020, but has risen more recently

Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2014 to August 2021

Figure 1: The number of employees declined between February and November 2020, but has risen more recently

Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2014 to August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

- 1. The latest period, highlighted in orange, is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.
- 2. The July 2021 figure is not a flash estimate of payrolled employees, this is included purely for graphing purposes.

Annual growth in the number of employees remained broadly within a range of 1.0% to 1.5% from mid-2016 until 2019. Growth rates prior to mid-2016 were higher than 1.5% (Figure 2).

Starting around early 2019, employee growth began a slight downward trend. However, employee growth slowed more substantially past March 2020, (becoming negative in April 2020) coinciding with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

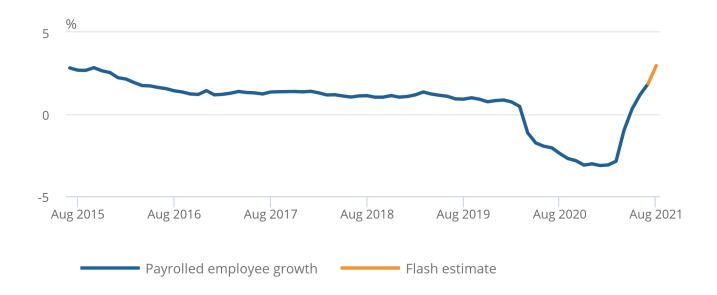
Since the start of 2021, growth rates have started to recover on the lower rates seen since the start of the pandemic. However, part of this recovery is because of the reduction in employees between March and May 2020 no longer contributing to the annual growth rate.

Figure 2: Growth in the number of payrolled employees fell throughout 2020, but has started to recover

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2015 to August 2021

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Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2015 to August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs – Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

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- 1. The latest period, highlighted in orange, is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.
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3. Median monthly pay

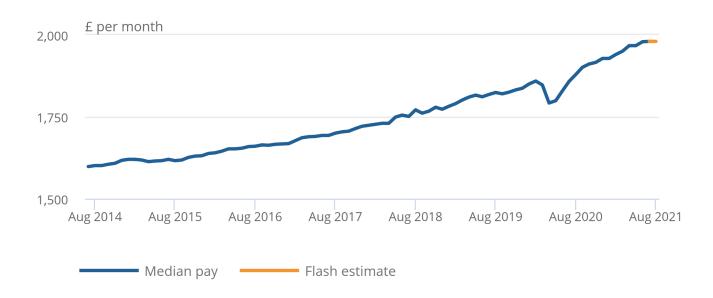
Early estimates for August 2021 indicate that median monthly pay increased to £1,980, an increase of 5.3% compared with the same period of the previous year.

Figure 3: Median pay decreased sharply in April 2020, but has returned to the previous trend

Median pay per month, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2014 to August 2021

Figure 3: Median pay decreased sharply in April 2020, but has returned to the previous trend

Median pay per month, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2014 to August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

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- 2. The July 2021 figure is not a flash estimate of median pay, this is included purely for graphing purposes.

Following a general trend of increasing pay growth between mid-2015 and mid-2018, pay growth tended to fluctuate around 3.6% until 2020, when pay growth became negative coinciding with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and related economic and policy responses. From June 2020, median pay growth has been positive, and is now above pre-coronavirus (February 2020) levels.

Figure 4: The rate of growth in median pay fell between March and May 2020, but is now higher than the average growth before March 2020

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2015 to August 2021

Figure 4: The rate of growth in median pay fell between March and May 2020, but is now higher than the average growth before March 2020

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2015 to August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

- 1. The latest period, highlighted in orange, is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.
- 2. The July 2021 figure is not a flash estimate of median pay growth, this is included purely for graphing purposes.

The relatively high level of pay growth between June and December 2020 is partially explained by lower levels of inflows than usual during that period. As explored in the <u>August 2020 bulletin</u> and <u>September 2020 bulletin</u>, while the general trend of pay growth is dominated by those continually employed, the mean pay of inflows tends to be around 40% lower than mean pay for those continually employed – meaning inflows into payrolled employment tend to bring down average pay and average pay growth. As inflows were relatively low between June 2020 and December 2020, this reduced the downward pressure on pay growth, which in turn increased median pay growth.

The high level of pay growth in April 2021 is attributed to the record high in median pay in April 2021, combined with the suppressed level of median pay in April 2020 at the onset of the pandemic.

4. Pay distribution

In the three months to July 2021, the 10th percentile of the monthly pay distribution was £679, the 90th percentile was £4,704 and the 99th percentile was £13,435 (Figure 5). This means that:

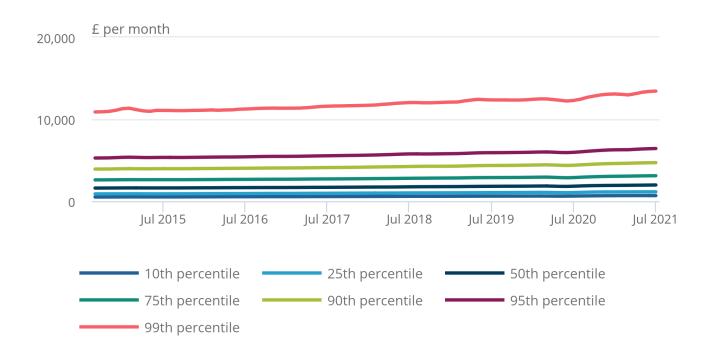
- 10% of payrolled employees earned equal to or less than £679 per month
- 90% of payrolled employees earned equal to or less than £4,704 per month
- 99% of payrolled employees earned equal to or less than £13,435 per month

Figure 5: 10% of employees earn less than £679 per month and 90% earn less than £4,704 per month

Pay per month, seasonally adjusted, UK, three months to September 2014 to three months to July 2021

Figure 5: 10% of employees earn less than £679 per month and 90% earn less than £4,704 per month

Pay per month, seasonally adjusted, UK, three months to September 2014 to three months to July 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

1. Data for the 50th percentile (that is, the median) in this chart are based on three-month moving averages. For this reason, they are not directly comparable with Figures 3 or 4 (which use data for a single month).

5. Regional data

The regional figures in this bulletin are based on where employees live and not the location of their place of work. They include data for August 2021, and cover Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics: NUTS1, NUTS2, NUTS3 regions, and local administrative units (LAUs).

While the UK as a whole has experienced moderate, if declining, payrolled employee growth since January 2017, growth within regions has not been even (Figure 6).

Numbers of payrolled employees in the UK for the regions shown in Figure 6 range from 764,000 in Northern Ireland to 4,098,000 in the South East in August 2021.

All regions except London, Scotland and the South East are now above pre-coronavirus (February 2020) levels.

Figure 6: Regional employee growth has fallen across the UK over the last year, but has risen more recently

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2017 to August 2021

Notes:

1. The latest period is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.

Download the data

.xlsx

London and Northern Ireland experienced higher growth than the UK average between January 2017 and early 2020, while the North East and Scotland experienced lower growth than the UK overall. Since January 2019, Inner London (both West and East) experienced greater volatility in employee growth than both Outer London and the UK average. Employee numbers within LAUs, and NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions are available in the datasets published alongside this bulletin.

Over the course of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, all regions' growth rates followed a similar pattern: rapidly declining and becoming negative since April 2020, but beginning to improve again in recent months. However, the magnitude of changes varies.

Comparing August 2021 with the same period of the previous year for NUTS1 regions, changes in payrolled employees ranged from a 3.7% increase in Northern Ireland to a 2.2% increase in London.

Examining NUTS3 regions, Solihull experienced an increase of 0.9% in payrolled employees in comparison with August 2020, and Orkney Islands experienced an increase of 6.4% (Figure 7).

There is greater variation at LAU level, with growth rates varying between negative 1.1% and positive 19.0%, but with most LAU growth rates being between positive 0.3% and positive 5.8%.

Figure 7: Growth in payrolled employees varies across the UK

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, NUTS3 level, August 2021

Notes:

1. The latest period is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.

Download the data

.xlsx

Median pay across the NUTS3 regions of the UK in August 2021 ranged from £1,647 in Torbay to £3,064 in Wandsworth (Figure 8).

Median pay across the LAUs in August 2021 ranged from £1,602 in Torridge to £5,066 in City of London.

Inner London generally differs from Outer London, with median pay ranging from £1,953 in Barking and Dagenham to £5,066 in City of London. Median pay in August 2021 for London as a whole was £2,399.

Figure 8: Median pay varies across the UK

Median pay, seasonally adjusted, UK, NUTS3 level, August 2021

Notes:

1. The latest period is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.

Download the data

.xlsx

6. Industry data

The industrial sectors in this bulletin are based on the <u>UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes</u>, as defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). These codes have been determined from both the <u>Inter-Departmental Business Register</u> and data from Companies House for each Pay As You Earn (PAYE) enterprise. The findings from the 14 largest sectors are presented. The seven smaller sectors have been removed from the bulletin for presentational purposes, but their estimates are available in the <u>datasets</u> published alongside this bulletin.

The three largest sectors – wholesale and retail, health and social work, and education – account for more than 40% of UK employees. These three sectors combined with administrative and support services, manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical, and accommodation and food service activities account for more than 70% of UK employees.

Since January 2017, employee growth has not been even across sectors (Figure 9). Sectors such as construction, transportation and storage, and information and communication experienced higher growth than the UK average between January 2017 and early 2020, while sectors such as manufacturing, and wholesale and retail experienced lower growth than the UK overall.

All sectors highlighted experienced a decrease in employee growth around April 2020, with the smallest decrease being in health and social work.

Public administration and defence, and health and social work saw early recoveries in their growth rates, as did administrative and support services, and education from early 2021 onwards. The majority of sectors have now returned to positive growth with the exception of manufacturing, wholesale and retail, and transportation and storage.

When compared with the same period of the previous year, percentage changes in payrolled employees range from negative 1.4% in transportation and storage to positive 11.1% in administrative and support services.

Figure 9: Employee growth has been very different across sectors

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2017 to August 2021

Notes:

Download the data

.xlsx

The increase in payrolled employees between August 2020 and August 2021 was largest in the administrative and support services sector (a rise of 249,000 employees) and smallest in the transportation and storage sector (a fall of 19,000 employees).

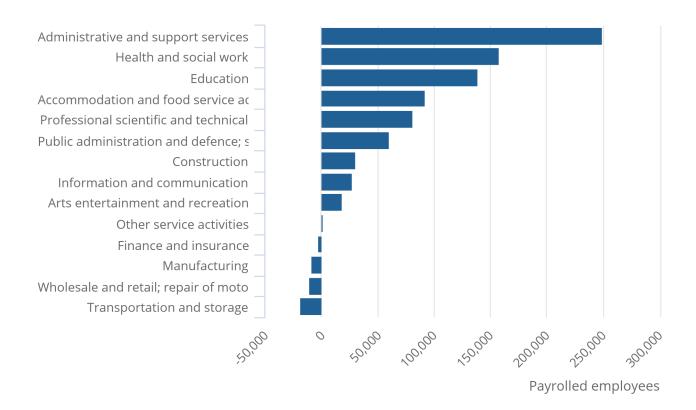
However, the flash estimate suggests that three of the sectors that have had the greatest decreases have all continued to see monthly increases in payrolled employees. Between July and August 2021, accommodation and food service activities increased by 36,000 employees, arts and entertainment by 11,000, and wholesale and retail by 7,000.

Figure 10: The transportation and storage sector has seen the greatest decrease in payrolled employees since August 2020

Payrolled employees, absolute change on August 2020, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021

Figure 10: The transportation and storage sector has seen the greatest decrease in payrolled employees since August 2020

Payrolled employees, absolute change on August 2020, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

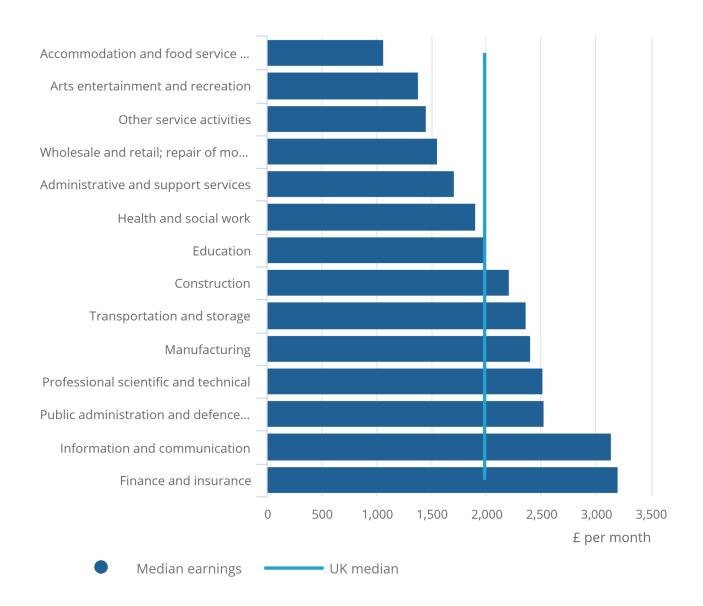
Median pay in August 2021 across the highlighted sectors ranged from £1,066 in the accommodation and food service activities sector to £3,206 in finance and insurance (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Median pay varies by industry

Median pay, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021

Figure 11: Median pay varies by industry

Median pay, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

Compared with the same month in the previous year, median pay grew fastest in the professional, scientific and technical sector (positive 9.7%, Figure 12) and slowest in the accommodation and food service activities sector (positive 0.9%).

Estimates of mean pay for each sector are available in the datasets published alongside this bulletin.

However, care needs to be taken when interpreting median pay growth. As explored in more detail in <u>previous bulletins</u>, mean and median pay growth are influenced by the relative pay of those entering and leaving the labour market. This means if the relative pay of inflows and outflows in particular sectors differ to the UK average, median pay growth could be higher or lower in these sectors. For example, median pay growth could be lower if outflows are higher paid than average, or conversely, could be higher if outflows are lower paid than average.

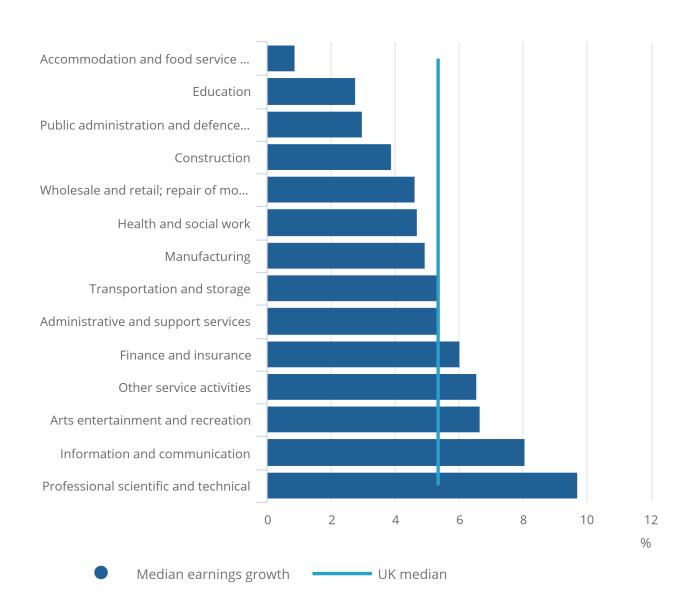
Similar principles apply for inflows. The high median pay growth in the arts and entertainment sector may be a consequence of unusual relative pay of inflows or outflows in that sector.

Figure 12: Median pay increased most in the professional, scientific and technical sector

Percentage change on same month last year, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021

Figure 12: Median pay increased most in the professional, scientific and technical sector

Percentage change on same month last year, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

- 1. The latest period is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.
- 2. The UK median is shown here for comparative purposes, but it does not represent an "average" of median pay growth across the regions. It is statistically possible, for example, for median pay growth for the UK as a whole to be higher or lower than pay growth in all constituent parts of the UK.
- 3. Changes in growth rates are affected by changes in the base period (a year ago) as well as changes in the latest period.

7. Age data

The age figures in this bulletin are calculated based on individuals' age at the time they receive a payment. Of the 29.1 million payrolled employees in the UK in August 2021, 94.9% are aged 18 to 64 years.

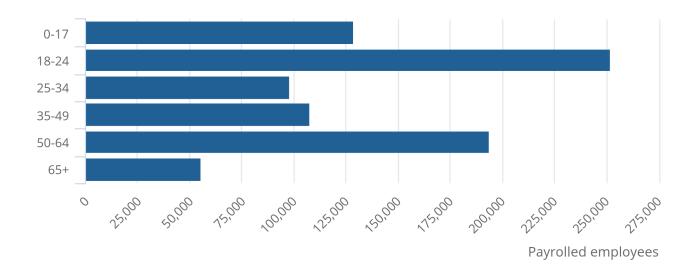
Between August 2020 and August 2021, there was a 381,000 increase in payrolled employees aged younger than 25 years. During the same period, payrolled employees aged 50 to 64 years increased by 194,000.

Figure 13: The 18 to 24 age group has seen the greatest increase in payrolled employees since August 2020

Payrolled employees, absolute change on August 2020, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021

Figure 13: The 18 to 24 age group has seen the greatest increase in payrolled employees since August 2020

Payrolled employees, absolute change on August 2020, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs - Pay As You Earn Real Time Information Payrolled

Notes:

1. The latest period is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.

The number of payrolled employees aged 50 years and over has increased at faster rates than the UK as a whole since 2017 (Figure 14). Since 2019, this is particularly true for those aged 65 years and over, who saw employee growth peak at 10.7% in January 2020.

These periods of higher growth coincide with the <u>phased increase in State Pension age</u> between March 2019 and September 2020, from 65 to 66 years for both men and women. Conversely, growth in payrolled employees under age 25 years has undergone long-term decline since 2017, particularly compared with the UK as a whole.

Since August 2020, annual employee growth has risen to positive 1.2% for those aged 35 to 49 years, and positive 1.5% for those aged 25 to 34 years. Those aged under 18 years saw a rise in employee growth to 41.1% during this period.

Figure 14: Employee growth fell more sharply in younger age groups, but has risen more recently

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2017 to August 2021

Notes:

1. The latest period is based on early data and therefore is more likely to be subject to slightly more significant revisions.

Download the data

.xlsx

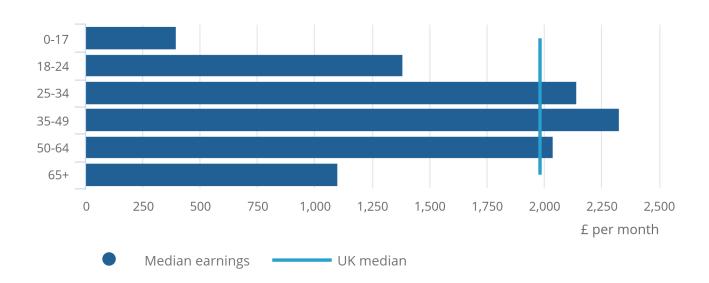
Median pay in August 2021 ranged from £397 for those under 18 years to £2,328 for those aged 35 to 49 years (Figure 15). Overall, median pay is higher in central age bands, of those studied.

Figure 15: Median pay varies by age

Median pay, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021

Figure 15: Median pay varies by age

Median pay, seasonally adjusted, UK, August 2021



Source: HM Revenue and Customs – Pay As You Earn Real Time Information

Notes:

8. Earnings and employment data

Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, non-seasonally adjusted

Dataset | Released on 14 September 2021

Earnings and employment statistics from Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) (Experimental Statistics), non-seasonally adjusted.

Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, revision triangle

Dataset | Released on 14 September 2021

Revisions of earnings and employment statistics from Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) (Experimental Statistics).

Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted

Dataset | Released on 14 September 2021

Earnings and employment statistics from Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) (Experimental Statistics), seasonally adjusted.

9. Glossary

Median monthly pay

Median monthly pay shows what a person in the middle of all employees would earn each month. The median pay is generally considered to be a more accurate reflection of the "average wage" because it discounts the extremes at either end of the scale.

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage

The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is a minimum amount per hour that most workers in the UK are entitled to be payrolled. There are different rates of minimum wage depending on a worker's age and whether they are an apprentice. The NMW applies to employees aged between 16 and 24 years. The government's National Living Wage (NLW) was introduced on 1 April 2016 and applies to employees aged 25 years and over.

In April 2021, the NMW and NLW rates were:

- £8.91 for employees aged 23 years and over
- £8.36 for employees aged 21 to 22 years
- £6.56 for employees aged 18 to 20 years
- £4.62 for employees aged under 18 years
- £4.30 for apprentices aged under 19 years and those aged 19 years or over who are in the first year of their apprenticeship

Pay As You Earn

Pay As You Earn (PAYE) is the system employers and pension providers use to take Income Tax and National Insurance contributions before they pay wages or pensions to employees and pensioners. This publication relates to employees only and not pensioners. It was introduced in 1944 and is now the way most employees pay Income Tax in the UK.

10. Measuring the data

Data source and collection

The data for this release come from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) system. They cover the whole population rather than a sample of people or companies, and they will allow for more detailed estimates of the population. The release is classed as Experimental Statistics as the methodologies used to produce the statistics are still in their development phase. As a result, the series are subject to revisions.

Coverage

This publication covers employees payrolled by employers only. It does not cover self-employment income or income from other sources such as pensions, property rental and investments. Where individuals have multiple sources of income, only income from employers is included. The figures in this release are for the period July 2014 to August 2021 and are seasonally adjusted.

Upcoming changes

Future bulletins are planned to include additional statistics, such as more detailed geographic breakdowns, industry and demographic breakdowns. The focus and timing of these will be informed by user feedback. Please email rtistatistics.enquiries@hmrc.gov.uk if you would like to offer feedback on how the contents can be improved in the future.

Methodology

An accompanying article contains more information on the <u>calendarisation and imputation methodologies</u> used in this bulletin, alongside comparisons with other earnings and employment statistics and possible quality improvements in the future.

11 . Strengths and limitations

Pre-release data

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) grants pre-release access to <u>official statistics</u> publications. As this is a joint release, and in accordance with the HMRC policy, pre-release access has been granted to a number of people to enable the preparation of statistical publications and ministerial briefing. Further details, including a <u>list of those granted access</u>, can be found on <u>HMRC's website</u>.

Experimental Statistics status

This is a joint experimental release between HMRC and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The existing monthly publications produced by the ONS remain the primary <u>National Statistics</u> for the labour market. The intention is that these new statistics will also be updated on a monthly basis.

The release is classed as Experimental Statistics as the methodologies used to produce the statistics are still in their development phase. This does not mean that the statistics are of low quality, but it does signify that the statistics are new and still being developed. As the methodologies are refined and improved, there may be revisions to these statistics.

Rather than waiting until the development work has been completed, the statistics are being published now to involve potential users in developing the statistics. We hope that this encourages users to provide us with their thoughts and suggestions on how useful the statistics are and what can be done to improve them. Comments can be sent by email to rtistatistics.enquiries@hmrc.gov.uk.

More information about <u>Experimental Statistics</u>, including when they should be used and the differences between them and <u>National Statistics</u>, is available.

Strengths of the data

As Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data cover the whole population, rather than a sample of people or companies, we are able to use these to produce estimates for geographic areas and other more detailed breakdowns of the population. The methods for producing such breakdowns are under development and we expect to include further statistics in a future release. These statistics can help inform decision-making across the country. They also have the potential to provide more timely estimates than existing measures.

These statistics also have the potential to replace some of those based on surveys, which could reduce the burden on businesses needing to fill in statistical surveys.

Imputation and revisions

A limitation of the calendarisation used is that the figures for pay and numbers of employees in month t depend on payments made in month t plus 1. This means only around 80% of the data used in the calculation on month t statistics are available at the end of each month.

Rather than wait until all those remaining payment returns have been received, we have decided to produce a timelier measure of numbers of employees and median pay by imputing the values for missing returns. The data on which the statistics are based were extracted at the beginning of September 2021, which means around 1% to 2% of the data for July 2021 are imputed, while around 15% of the data for the "flash" August 2021 data are imputed. As a result, the figures in future releases will be updated as new payment returns are received, and the imputation payments can be replaced with actual data.

Starting with the December 2020 publication, we introduced a revisions policy. For each publication, we incorporate new input data only for the latest two tax years. In May of each year, new input data will be incorporated for the whole data time series. The benefit of introducing this revisions policy is that we are able to use the processing time saved to produce and publish more detailed breakdowns.

Seasonal adjustment

The seasonal adjustment applied in this bulletin follows established best practice. This approach assumes that any seasonal patterns remain broadly consistent over time. If the seasonal pattern changes in strength, this will be represented as greater volatility in the seasonally adjusted figures. Both the seasonal and non-seasonally adjusted datasets are released alongside this bulletin.

Differences compared with the Labour Force Survey and Average Weekly Earnings statistics

Further information about the methodology used and comparisons with the ONS's <u>Labour Force Survey (LFS)</u> and <u>Average Weekly Earnings</u> can be found in <u>New methods for monthly earnings and employment estimates from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (PAYE RTI) data: <u>December 2019</u>.</u>

<u>Comparison of labour market data sources</u> shows the strengths and weaknesses of these sources and other labour market data sources, including the advantages of new administrative data sources and limitations of some of our published figures.

12. Related links

Labour market overview: September 2021

Bulletin | Released 14 September 2021

Estimates of employment, unemployment, economic inactivity and other employment-related statistics for the UK.

Employment in the UK: September 2021

Bulletin | Released 14 September 2021

Estimates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity for the UK.

Labour market in the regions of the UK: September 2021

Bulletin | Released 14 September 2021

Regional breakdowns of changes in UK employment, unemployment and economic inactivity.

Average weekly earnings in Great Britain: September 2021

Bulletin | Released 14 September 2021

Estimates of growth in earnings for employees before tax and other deductions from pay.

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: September 2021

Bulletin | Released 14 September 2021

Estimates of the number of vacancies and jobs for the UK.

PAYROLLED EMPLOYEES

1 Payrolled employee counts from PAYE RTI

Payrolled employees UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted Payrolled employees Period August 2014 26,838,233 August 2015 27,559,338 27,953,651 August 2016 August 2017 28,333,100 28,654,042 August 2018 August 2019 28,918,031 August 2020 28,224,776 September 2020 28,172,980 October 2020 28,145,654 November 2020 28,078,340 December 2020 28,132,018 January 2021 28,140,470 February 2021 28,159,347 March 2021 28,205,933 April 2021 28,295,392 May 2021 28,476,439 June 2021 28,660,853 July 2021 28,819,617 August 2021 29,060,450 835,674 Change on year Change %

- 1. Figures for July 2021 are early estimates and are more likely to be subject to more significant revisions.
- 2. These data are experimental statistics.
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MEDIAN PAY

2 Median monthly pay from PAYE RTI

£ per month UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	Median pay
August 2014	1,601
August 2015	1,616
August 2016	1,660
August 2017	1,700
August 2018	1,771
August 2019	1,824
August 2020	1,879
September 2020	1,901
October 2020	1,911
November 2020	1,916
December 2020	1,928
January 2021	1,928
February 2021	1,940
March 2021	1,950
April 2021	1,967
May 2021	1,967
June 2021	1,979
July 2021	1,980
August 2021	1,980
Change on year	100
Change %	5.3

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£ per month

UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	Mean pay
July 2014	2,189
July 2015	2,229
July 2016	2,275
July 2017	2,327
July 2018	2,412
July 2019	2,488
July 2020	2,526
August 2020	2,561
September 2020	2,594
October 2020	2,613
November 2020	2,638
December 2020	2,662
January 2021	2,663
February 2021	2,665
March 2021	2,660
April 2021	2,692
May 2021	2,705
June 2021	2,707
July 2021	2,725
Change on year	200
Change %	7.9

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£ per month

UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	Aggregate pay
July 2014	58,587,646,514
July 2015	61,354,736,456
July 2016	63,573,224,893
July 2017	65,856,426,227
July 2018	69,024,459,653
July 2019	71,870,578,688
July 2020	71,451,389,466
August 2020	72,273,952,683
September 2020	73,080,907,130
October 2020	73,544,036,785
November 2020	74,062,436,142
December 2020	74,892,072,715
January 2021	74,929,049,475
February 2021	75,054,297,178
March 2021	75,029,429,433
April 2021	76,163,808,665
May 2021	77,036,206,903
June 2021	77,586,697,137
July 2021	78,546,417,140
Change on year	7,095,027,675
Change %	9.9

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PAY DISTRIBUTION

5 Monthly pay by percentile from PAYE RTI

£ per month, 3 month moving average

UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	10th percentile	25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile	99th percentile
July 2015	518	898	1,617	2,624	3,965	5,343	11,081
July 2016	544	933	1,655	2,660	4,017	5,414	11,249
July 2017	565	965	1,692	2,714	4,106	5,542	11,592
July 2018	593	1,004	1,751	2,793	4,232	5,769	12,039
July 2019	615	1,046	1,814	2,882	4,356	5,920	12,358
July 2020	623	1,054	1,828	2,882	4,386	5,964	12,300
August 2020	634	1,072	1,857	2,920	4,430	6,025	12,448
September 2020	646	1,095	1,883	2,956	4,476	6,090	12,684
October 2020	657	1,113	1,900	2,984	4,518	6,151	12,837
November 2020	664	1,122	1,912	3,008	4,554	6,204	12,980
December 2020	670	1,131	1,921	3,025	4,581	6,248	13,059
January 2021	674	1,130	1,926	3,037	4,600	6,271	13,083
February 2021	678	1,135	1,933	3,047	4,615	6,279	13,038
March 2021	680	1,135	1,938	3,057	4,629	6,281	12,971
April 2021	682	1,139	1,948	3,074	4,656	6,331	13,122
May 2021	682	1,141	1,955	3,088	4,676	6,373	13,293
June 2021	682	1,143	1,966	3,100	4,692	6,405	13,396
July 2021	679	1,146	1,975	3,106	4,704	6,427	13,435
Change on year	56	91	147	224	318	464	1,135
Change %	8.9	8.7	8	7.8	7.3	7.8	9.2

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UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	Inflows	Ox, all industries, seasonally adjusted
August 2017	678,181	641,445
August 2018	674,852	633,975
August 2019	656,657	620,292
August 2020	516,891	582,504
September 2020	531,705	583,502
October 2020	562,575	589,901
November 2020	567,442	634,756
December 2020	606,142	552,464
January 2021	573,774	565,321
February 2021	525,363	506,486
March 2021	557,261	510,675
April 2021	594,622	505,163
May 2021	748,335	567,288
June 2021	756,473	572,059
July 2021	726,882	568,118
August 2021	854,056	613,223
Change on year	337,165	30,719
Change %	65.2	5.3

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Payrolled employees
UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

			V1 -1-1							UK, ali iliuu	stries, seasona	illy adjusted
	North Foot	Nauth Wast	Yorkshire and the	East	West	F	Landan	Carrette Facet	Courtle Wood	\4/alaa	Castland	Northern
Period	North East	North West	Humber	Midlands	Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
August 2014	1,032,642	2,919,336	2,156,040	1,960,633	2,302,083	2,554,305	3,688,273	3,800,584	2,249,901	1,189,029	2,310,566	674,840
August 2015	1,050,365	2,991,035	2,201,250	2,014,907	2,376,199	2,628,933	3,845,972	3,898,909	2,305,243	1,209,057	2,341,377	696,093
August 2016	1,055,524	3,027,609	2,231,530	2,047,061	2,412,675	2,680,605	3,926,087	3,954,246	2,341,914	1,221,893	2,349,037	705,470
August 2017	1,062,993	3,075,326	2,258,787	2,079,425	2,447,487	2,718,499	3,989,502	4,003,571	2,372,247	1,238,399	2,366,744	720,121
August 2018	1,068,753	3,117,025	2,282,988	2,107,829	2,471,925	2,749,275	4,050,619	4,049,027	2,392,971	1,253,803	2,374,754	735,072
August 2019	1,069,694	3,141,952	2,307,325	2,120,921	2,484,999	2,779,969	4,126,153	4,083,649	2,415,027	1,258,122	2,383,448	746,771
August 2020	1,052,093	3,087,745	2,259,533	2,078,259	2,429,926	2,717,650	3,989,379	3,978,354	2,354,038	1,227,877	2,313,132	736,789
September 2020	1,051,240	3,082,656	2,256,969	2,075,482	2,423,554	2,713,820	3,965,203	3,974,566	2,353,656	1,228,653	2,310,434	736,747
October 2020	1,050,775	3,081,182	2,257,365	2,076,913	2,419,543	2,711,977	3,945,711	3,974,131	2,354,830	1,228,921	2,308,052	736,254
November 2020	1,049,930	3,078,155	2,251,686	2,075,488	2,415,947	2,708,113	3,915,818	3,966,439	2,352,957	1,226,174	2,302,332	735,302
December 2020	1,051,587	3,083,529	2,257,021	2,079,754	2,420,365	2,711,069	3,919,857	3,973,920	2,357,910	1,229,482	2,310,185	737,338
January 2021	1,052,834	3,086,323	2,259,366	2,081,472	2,423,093	2,710,313	3,916,225	3,972,329	2,358,260	1,231,001	2,310,934	738,320
February 2021	1,053,231	3,092,256	2,260,666	2,083,710	2,424,568	2,711,770	3,912,262	3,976,271	2,360,359	1,232,693	2,312,436	739,126
March 2021	1,055,727	3,094,321	2,265,051	2,087,167	2,430,052	2,717,115	3,917,117	3,981,757	2,364,702	1,234,204	2,317,840	740,878
April 2021	1,059,808	3,102,285	2,270,601	2,090,411	2,438,950	2,729,270	3,941,273	3,989,094	2,372,000	1,235,295	2,325,156	741,248
May 2021	1,065,605	3,123,952	2,284,826	2,103,257	2,455,130	2,744,011	3,969,652	4,011,413	2,388,464	1,245,879	2,336,839	747,410
June 2021	1,072,203	3,143,913	2,300,017	2,114,558	2,470,021	2,760,217	3,998,927	4,037,247	2,407,186	1,254,411	2,347,760	754,393
July 2021	1,077,503	3,160,569	2,312,820	2,124,406	2,482,193	2,770,339	4,026,627	4,060,467	2,419,580	1,263,428	2,360,855	760,830
August 2021	1,083,861	3,189,242	2,331,370	2,139,915	2,499,432	2,794,186	4,078,429	4,098,304	2,439,133	1,272,177	2,370,062	764,339
Change on year	31,768	101,497	71,837	61,656	69,506	76,535	89,050	119,950	85,095	44,300	56,930	27,550
Change %	3	3.3	3.2	3	2.9	2.8	2.2	3	3.6	3.6	2.5	3.7

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£ per month UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

			V- d-l-'							UK, all indus	stries, seasona	ally adjusted
Period	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
August 2014	1,524	1,514	1,494	1,511	1,518	1,643	1,929	1,715	1,495	1,498	1,649	1,489
August 2015	1,530	1,525	1,513	1,524	1,531	1,655	1,949	1,733	1,516	1,516	1,653	1,490
August 2016	1,566	1,567	1,545	1,561	1,573	1,697	2,011	1,782	1,556	1,551	1,688	1,526
August 2017	1,599	1,608	1,585	1,606	1,621	1,747	2,062	1,823	1,603	1,595	1,725	1,560
August 2018	1,673	1,682	1,651	1,673	1,687	1,822	2,147	1,890	1,668	1,648	1,783	1,619
August 2019	1,710	1,728	1,694	1,718	1,723	1,874	2,207	1,950	1,720	1,705	1,851	1,682
August 2020	1,762	1,784	1,754	1,779	1,778	1,940	2,261	2,013	1,780	1,776	1,908	1,749
September 2020	1,789	1,811	1,779	1,801	1,799	1,961	2,300	2,031	1,810	1,807	1,923	1,763
October 2020	1,795	1,817	1,786	1,807	1,807	1,971	2,318	2,041	1,816	1,811	1,935	1,768
November 2020	1,798	1,820	1,787	1,812	1,814	1,979	2,325	2,047	1,814	1,814	1,937	1,774
December 2020	1,802	1,831	1,796	1,828	1,826	1,999	2,337	2,069	1,829	1,817	1,953	1,783
January 2021	1,809	1,827	1,796	1,824	1,824	1,992	2,333	2,061	1,822	1,820	1,959	1,777
February 2021	1,809	1,834	1,801	1,834	1,829	2,001	2,352	2,076	1,833	1,819	1,976	1,772
March 2021	1,817	1,843	1,813	1,847	1,849	2,020	2,364	2,092	1,847	1,835	1,964	1,808
April 2021	1,828	1,853	1,819	1,857	1,858	2,029	2,389	2,108	1,853	1,852	2,023	1,827
May 2021	1,823	1,847	1,815	1,855	1,856	2,025	2,403	2,111	1,849	1,874	2,010	1,815
June 2021	1,835	1,860	1,830	1,870	1,863	2,045	2,423	2,118	1,868	1,868	2,019	1,843
July 2021	1,833	1,864	1,828	1,873	1,861	2,046	2,414	2,117	1,863	1,876	2,018	1,878
August 2021	1,832	1,864	1,830	1,869	1,862	2,044	2,399	2,115	1,859	1,871	2,023	1,830
Change on year	71	80	76	90	84	104	138	101	79	95	116	82
Change %	4	4.5	4.3	5	4.7	5.3	6.1	5	4.4	5.4	6.1	4.7

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Payrolled employees UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	August 2020	August 2021	Change on year	Change %
Tees Valley and Durham	473,216	486,382	13,166	2.8
Northumberland and Tyne and Wear	578,877	597,479	18,602	3.2
Cumbria	213,623	219,330	5,707	2.7
Greater Manchester	1,191,406	1,231,506	40,100	3.4
Lancashire	619,467	643,461	23,994	3.9
Cheshire	424,434	437,811	13,377	3.2
Merseyside	638,815	657,133	18,318	2.9
East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	389,671	402,220	12,549	3.2
North Yorkshire	344,724	357,560	12,836	3.7
South Yorkshire	567,400	582,488	15,088	2.7
West Yorkshire	957,739	989,103	31,364	3.3
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	927,266	953,080	25,814	2.8
Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire	835,896	861,520	25,624	3.1
Lincolnshire	315,096	325,315	10,219	3.2
Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire	599,032	615,010	15,978	2.7
Shropshire and Staffordshire	687,327	708,209	20,882	3
West Midlands (county)	1,143,567	1,176,213	32,646	2.9
East Anglia	1,074,875	1,108,959	34,084	3.2
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	848,337	870,230	21,893	2.6
Essex	794,438	814,996	20,558	2.6
Inner London - West	503,163	518,336	15,173	3
Inner London - East	1,117,877	1,149,244	31,367	2.8
Outer London - East and North East	837,741	854,178	16,437	2
Outer London - South	588,542	600,439	11,897	2
Outer London - West and North West	942,056	956,232	14,176	1.5
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	1,137,439	1,171,947	34,508	3
Surrey, East and West Sussex	1,220,471	1,257,704	37,233	3.1
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	858,099	881,918	23,819	2.8
Kent	762,345	786,734	24,389	3.2
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area	1,128,663	1,164,438	35,775	3.2
Dorset and Somerset	543,822	561,410	17,588	3.2
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	212,331	223,033	10,702	5
Devon	469,221	490,252	21,031	4.5
West Wales and The Valleys	746,917	774,372	27,455	3.7
East Wales	480,960	497,805	16,845	3.5
North Eastern Scotland	219,852	221,995	2,143	1
Highlands and Islands	194,333	201,848	7,515	3.9
Eastern Scotland	855,870	875,841	19,971	2.3
West Central Scotland	654,224	671,071	16,847	2.6
Southern Scotland	388,854	399,308	10,454	2.7
Northern Ireland	736,789	764,339	27,550	3.7

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£ per month

UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted

			UK, all industrie	s, seasonally adjusted
Period	August 2020	August 2021	Change on year	Change %
Tees Valley and Durham	1,754	1,827	73	4.2
Northumberland and Tyne and Wear	1,771	1,840	69	3.9
Cumbria	1,747	1,839	92	5.3
Greater Manchester	1,785	1,868	83	4.6
Lancashire	1,720	1,793	73	4.2
Cheshire	1,896	1,987	91	4.8
Merseyside	1,785	1,866	81	4.5
East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,709	1,798	89	5.2
North Yorkshire	1,754	1,819	65	3.7
South Yorkshire	1,741	1,816	75	4.3
West Yorkshire	1,780	1,856	76	4.3
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	1,784	1,866	82	4.6
Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire	1,803	1,898	95	5.3
Lincolnshire	1,723	1,819	96	5.6
Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire	1,857	1,954	97	5.2
Shropshire and Staffordshire	1,782	1,866	84	4.7
West Midlands (county)	1,747	1,828	81	4.6
East Anglia	1,829	1,928	99	5.4
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	2,081	2,197	116	5.6
Essex	1,971	2,081	110	5.6
Inner London - West	2,834	2,970	136	4.8
Inner London - East	2,318	2,454	136	5.9
Outer London - East and North East	2,069	2,192	123	5.9
Outer London - South	2,320	2,457	137	5.9
Outer London - West and North West	2,106	2,233	127	6
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	2,142	2,267	125	5.8
Surrey, East and West Sussex	2,015	2,114	99	4.9
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,923	2,018	95	4.9
Kent	1,917	2,024	107	5.6
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area	1,888	1,978	90	4.8
Dorset and Somerset	1,740	1,815	75	4.3
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	1,611	1,676	65	4
Devon	1,682	1,755	73	4.3
West Wales and The Valleys	1,746	1,837	91	5.2
East Wales	1,820	1,937	117	6.4
North Eastern Scotland	2,030	2,156	126	6.2
Highlands and Islands	1,825	1,926	101	5.5
Eastern Scotland	1,924	2,032	108	5.6
West Central Scotland	1,909	2,032	123	6.4
Southern Scotland	1,853	1,961	108	5.8
Northern Ireland	1,749	1,830	81	4.6

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INDUSTRY PAYROLLED EMPLOYEES

11 Industry payrolled employees from PAYE RTI

Payrolled employees
UK. all industries, seasonally adjusted

D. d. J	August 2020	August 2021	UK, all industries, se	Change %
Period				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	183,960	187,201	3,241	1.8
Mining and quarrying	49,086	49,382	296	0.6
Manufacturing	2,326,122	2,318,062	-8,060	-0.3
Energy production and supply	131,715	130,693	-1,022	-0.8
Water supply, sewerage and waste	181,458	186,908	5,450	3
Construction	1,248,167	1,279,192	31,025	2.5
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles	4,427,300	4,417,223	-10,077	-0.2
Transportation and storage	1,311,442	1,292,882	-18,560	-1.4
Accommodation and food service activities	1,867,398	1,959,839	92,441	5
Information and communication	1,197,407	1,225,290	27,883	2.3
Finance and insurance	1,052,259	1,050,139	-2,120	-0.2
Real estate	417,225	425,188	7,963	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical	2,153,542	2,234,977	81,435	3.8
Administrative and support services	2,241,455	2,490,310	248,855	11.1
Public administration and defence; social security	1,310,623	1,371,075	60,452	4.6
Education	3,081,052	3,220,352	139,300	4.5
Health and social work	3,896,373	4,054,038	157,665	4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	522,502	540,639	18,137	3.5
Other service activities	515,586	516,841	1,255	0.2
Households	107,231	107,299	68	0.1
Extraterritorial	2,870	2,923	53	1.8

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INDUSTRY MEDIAN PAY

12 Industry median monthly pay from PAYE RTI

£ per month

UK. all industries, seasonally adjusted

Period	August 2020	August 2021	Change on year	Change %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,722	1,800	78	4.5
Mining and quarrying	3,767	3,936	169	4.5
Manufacturing	2,287	2,400	113	4.9
Energy production and supply	3,320	3,515	195	5.9
Water supply, sewerage and waste	2,435	2,539	104	4.3
Construction	2,132	2,215	83	3.9
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles	1,488	1,557	69	4.6
Transportation and storage	2,242	2,362	120	5.4
Accommodation and food service activities	1,056	1,066	10	0.9
Information and communication	2,904	3,137	233	8
Finance and insurance	3,023	3,206	183	6.1
Real estate	2,024	2,099	75	3.7
Professional, scientific and technical	2,292	2,515	223	9.7
Administrative and support services	1,619	1,707	88	5.4
Public administration and defence; social security	2,458	2,531	73	3
Education	1,940	1,994	54	2.8
Health and social work	1,820	1,905	85	4.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,292	1,378	86	6.7
Other service activities	1,364	1,454	90	6.6
Households	961	956	-5	-0.5
Extraterritorial	2,856	2,890	34	1.2

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					Payrolled employees UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted	
Period	0-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
August 2014	409,724	3,494,900	6,369,202	9,161,459	6,587,491	815,458
August 2015	432,569	3,602,307	6,562,521	9,288,041	6,841,467	832,433
August 2016	436,351	3,607,861	6,683,667	9,334,578	7,043,524	847,669
August 2017	439,972	3,589,942	6,771,603	9,380,469	7,283,110	868,004
August 2018	441,991	3,581,688	6,819,145	9,420,865	7,499,647	890,705
August 2019	438,510	3,523,030	6,864,022	9,445,842	7,680,847	965,781
August 2020	313,304	3,186,287	6,684,219	9,345,898	7,715,815	979,253
September 2020	305,457	3,182,250	6,665,444	9,325,896	7,711,542	982,391
October 2020	297,858	3,184,819	6,656,211	9,319,575	7,709,344	977,846
November 2020	287,570	3,159,142	6,642,348	9,313,074	7,703,319	972,887
December 2020	283,485	3,157,334	6,664,641	9,329,123	7,724,612	972,823
January 2021	283,341	3,155,878	6,665,860	9,326,326	7,734,983	974,082
February 2021	285,070	3,157,971	6,664,880	9,324,873	7,747,205	979,348
March 2021	286,716	3,163,503	6,670,410	9,330,308	7,766,451	988,545
April 2021	301,314	3,189,977	6,681,747	9,343,424	7,784,186	994,744
May 2021	338,027	3,252,781	6,696,810	9,366,421	7,817,539	1,004,861
June 2021	394,333	3,316,552	6,710,336	9,384,719	7,842,655	1,012,259
July 2021	429,484	3,369,298	6,726,952	9,404,885	7,872,167	1,016,832
August 2021	442,121	3,438,259	6,782,231	9,453,791	7,909,520	1,034,529
Change on year	128,817	251,971	98,012	107,893	193,705	55,276
Change %	41.1	7.9	1.5	1.2	2.5	5.6

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					£ per month UK, all industries, seasonally adjusted	
Period	0-17	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
August 2014	276	1,080	1,730	1,907	1,722	723
August 2015	287	1,117	1,752	1,921	1,733	748
August 2016	292	1,170	1,796	1,960	1,762	782
August 2017	300	1,214	1,853	2,007	1,792	812
August 2018	315	1,264	1,923	2,080	1,854	862
August 2019	324	1,319	1,999	2,128	1,888	948
August 2020	357	1,345	2,026	2,180	1,925	1,030
September 2020	365	1,353	2,058	2,203	1,955	1,046
October 2020	361	1,358	2,072	2,218	1,959	1,057
November 2020	364	1,354	2,076	2,224	1,962	1,062
December 2020	361	1,365	2,092	2,239	1,981	1,076
January 2021	361	1,353	2,074	2,242	1,979	1,084
February 2021	387	1,370	2,086	2,255	1,988	1,091
March 2021	389	1,378	2,097	2,264	1,995	1,096
April 2021	383	1,382	2,108	2,291	2,018	1,104
May 2021	385	1,377	2,114	2,302	2,022	1,101
June 2021	408	1,396	2,131	2,316	2,032	1,106
July 2021	397	1,392	2,140	2,323	2,036	1,112
August 2021	397	1,386	2,142	2,328	2,040	1,099
Change on year	40	41	116	148	115	69
Change %	11.4	3.1	5.7	6.8	6	6.7

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