

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: April 2021

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



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Notice

20 April 2021

The effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on our capacity means we have reviewed the existing labour market releases and will be suspending some publications.

This will protect the delivery and quality of our remaining labour market outputs as well as ensuring we can respond to new demands as a direct result of the coronavirus. More details about the [impact on labour market outputs](#) can be found in our statement.

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1 . Other pages in this release

- [Labour market overview](#)
- [Employment in the UK](#)
- [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain](#)

2 . Main points

- Vacancy numbers in January 2021 to March 2021 fell by nearly 23% on the year, remaining 178,000 lower than this time last year; arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services continue to be the worst affected.
- In January 2021 to March 2021 there were an estimated 607,000 job vacancies, which is a 22.7% fall compared with a year ago; growth in the number of vacancies has slowed this quarter although experimental single-month statistics indicate a strong increase in March and Experimental Statistics of online job adverts provided by Adzuna suggest a potential acceleration into April.
- The slowing down in the rate of recovery for job vacancies to March 2021 is more evident among smaller companies; businesses employing one to nine employees had 21.9% fewer vacancies in January 2021 to March 2021 compared with a quarter ago, and is the only size band displaying a fall on the quarter.
- Lockdown restrictions continue to affect jobs and vacancies in two industry sectors more than others, with vacancies in arts, entertainment and recreation down 78.9% (18,000) from a year ago and 54.7% from the previous quarter; vacancies in accommodation and food services are down 70.3% (59,000) from a year ago and 13.2% from the previous quarter.

3 . Vacancies for January 2021 to March 2021

The monthly Vacancy Survey asks businesses for the number of external vacancies on a specified count date (always a Friday) that falls in the first eight days of each month.

Figure 1: The vacancies' recovery has stalled in recent months, and the estimated 607,000 vacancies is 22.7% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between January 2002 to March 2002 and January 2021 to March 2021

Figure 1: The vacancies' recovery has stalled in recent months, and the estimated 607,000 vacancies is 22.7% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between January 2002 to March 2002 and January 2021 to March 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

In January 2021 to March 2021, there were an estimated 607,000 vacancies. This is 178,000 (22.7%) fewer than the estimated 785,000 vacancies a year earlier, immediately prior to the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.

Vacancies declined sharply from April 2020, at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. This was initially followed by signs of a quick recovery, but the recovery slowed in late autumn as further restrictions and national lockdowns were introduced. The increase in vacancies over the latest quarter was 17,000, which is a six-month consecutive slowdown in the quarterly figures from the 165,000 increase seen in September 2020.

The headline vacancy estimates are based on three-month averages, which naturally involve some time lag. Insight into trends in March 2021 alone is provided by two experimental sources. Firstly, single-month vacancy estimates (see [Strengths and limitations](#)), available in [Dataset x06](#), indicate that there were nearly 16% more vacancies in March 2021 (reference date 5 March) compared with February 2021. Meanwhile, Adzuna Online job advert estimates in our [online job advert estimates](#) in our [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy](#) release showed some strengthening in online job adverts in the first week of March 2021. The differing pattern between the Vacancy Survey and Adzuna reflects, in part, that smaller companies (whose vacancies are less likely to be advertised online or feature in the Adzuna estimates) reduced their vacancies at the start of the year, as described under Figure 3.

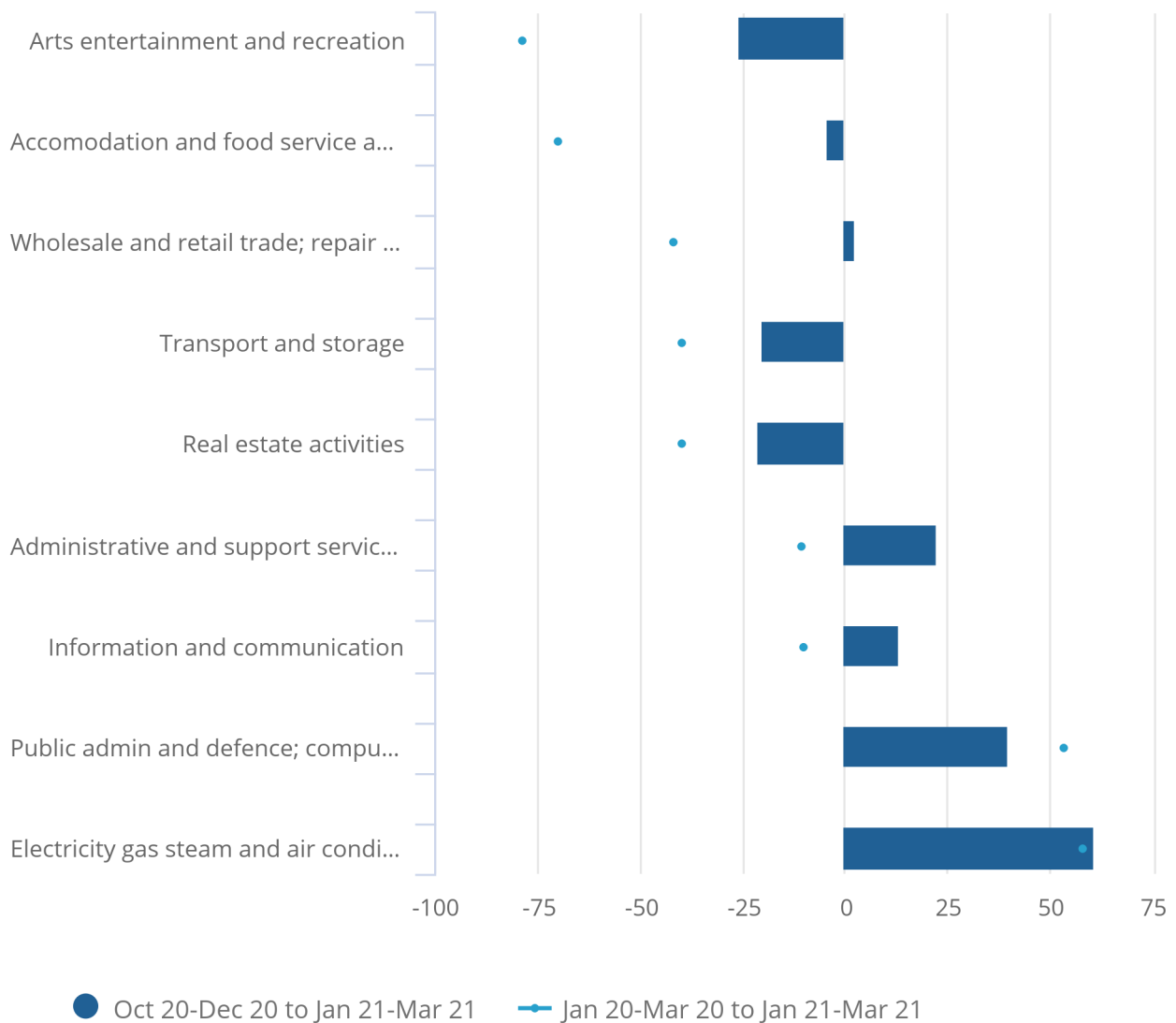
The [Adzuna estimates](#) also provide an early insight into a possible strengthening of vacancies in March and into the first two weeks of April 2021. However, the Adzuna estimates are experimental and should be interpreted with caution, most notably because they cover vacancies advertised online only.

Figure 2: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply saw the highest annual and quarterly growth with vacancies reaching pre-pandemic levels

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between October 2020 to December 2020 and January 2021 to March 2021 when both indexed to January 2020 to March 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to January 2020 to March 2020

Figure 2: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply saw the highest annual and quarterly growth with vacancies reaching pre-pandemic levels

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between October 2020 to December 2020 and January 2021 to March 2021 when both indexed to January 2020 to March 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to January 2020 to March 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

All industries have seen an annual fall in number of vacancies since the start of the pandemic except for four (construction; public administration and defence and compulsory social security; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; and water, sewerage, waste management and remediation services). Particularly large falls in vacancies have been seen in the following industries:

- arts, entertainment and recreation (down 79% from a year ago)
- accommodation and food services (down 70% from a year ago)
- wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (down 42% from a year ago)

Among industries that saw a growth in vacancies over the quarter, the most notable was electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning. This was driven by the larger size band companies recruiting and preparing for the easing of lockdown restrictions. The other notable industry to display increases both quarterly and annually is public admin and defence and compulsory social security, driven by recruitment for Census 2021.

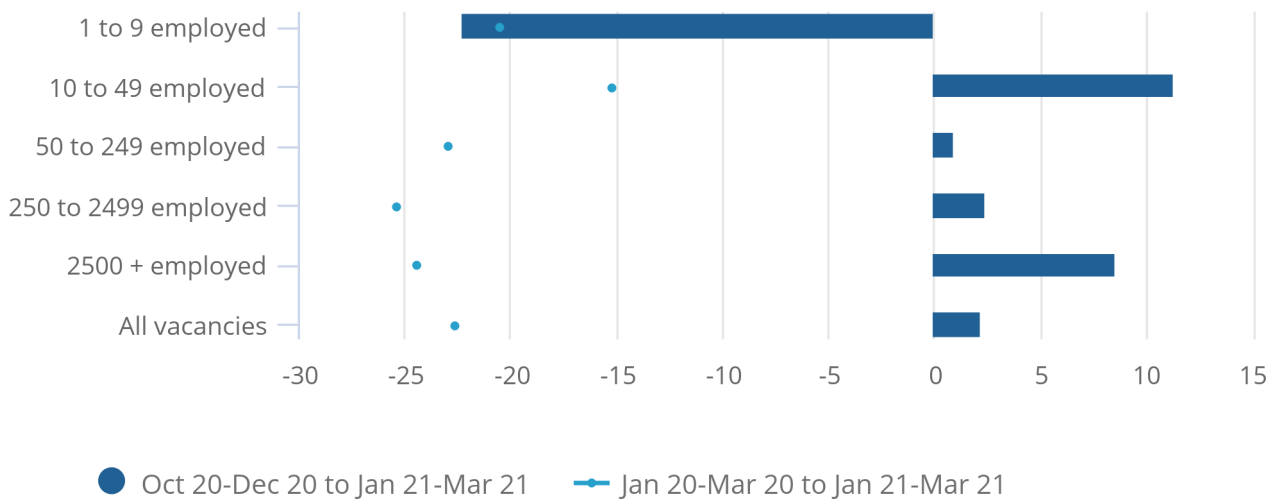
The ratio of vacancies to employee jobs is highest (3.8 per 100) in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning industry. It is lowest (0.7 per 100) in arts, entertainment and recreation, which had a rate of over 3.0 per 100 prior to the pandemic.

Figure 3: The smallest companies reduced their vacancies again in January to March 2021

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between October 2020 to December 2020 and January 2021 to March 2021 when both indexed to January 2020 to March 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to January 2020 to March 2020

Figure 3: The smallest companies reduced their vacancies again in January to March 2021

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between October 2020 to December 2020 and January 2021 to March 2021 when both indexed to January 2020 to March 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to January 2020 to March 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

Following an initial fall in vacancies of over 50% in all company size bands during early summer 2020, the smallest companies (employing one to nine employees) started to increase their vacancies much more quickly than other size bands. However, vacancies in these smallest companies fell by 21.9% in January 2021 to March 2021 compared with the previous quarter, while larger companies continued to add vacancies.

4 . Jobs, vacancies and wider labour market measures

Vacancies represent one element of labour demand, but a more complete understanding of the health of the labour market should also consider number of jobs and number of people looking for work.

The latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate of the number of (filled) [workforce jobs is for December 2020, published on 23 March 2021](#). This shows a fall of 1.2 million compared with March 2020, before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Over the same period, vacancies dropped by 195,000, giving a combined fall in labour demand of a little under 1.4 million. Since then, vacancies have increased very slightly at just 18,000.

Workforce jobs estimates for March 2021 will be published in June 2021.

Given the fall in labour demand, the number of people in work has naturally dropped, as reported in [ONS employment estimates](#) based on the Labour Force Survey, and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimates of the number of employees from [Pay As You Earn Real Time Information](#). The additional excess labour supply has resulted in the rate of unemployment increasing. Once that increase in unemployment is considered, the rate of recovery in vacancies at the back end of 2020 is less positive.

5 . Vacancies and jobs data

[Vacancies by industry](#)

Dataset VACS02 | Released 20 April 2021

Estimates of vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[Workforce jobs summary](#)

Dataset JOBS01 | Released 23 March 2021

Estimates of jobs by type of job (including employee jobs, self-employment jobs, HM Forces and government-supported trainees).

[Workforce jobs by industry](#)

Dataset JOBS02 | Released 23 March 2021

Estimates of jobs by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

6 . Glossary

Vacancies

[Vacancies](#) are defined as positions for which employers are actively seeking recruits from outside their business or organisation. The estimates are based on the Vacancy Survey; this is a survey of employers designed to provide estimates of the stock of vacancies across the economy, excluding agriculture, forestry and fishing (a small sector for which the collection of estimates would not be practical).

Jobs

A [job](#) is an activity performed for an employer or customer by a worker in exchange for payment, usually in cash, or in kind, or both. The number of jobs is not the same as the number of [people in employment](#). This is because a person can have more than one job. The number of jobs is the sum of employee jobs from employer surveys, self-employment jobs from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), those in HM Forces and government-supported trainees. The number of people in employment is measured by the LFS; these estimates are available in our [Employment in the UK](#) release.

A [more detailed glossary](#) is available.

7 . Measuring the data

Coronavirus

For more information on how labour market data sources are affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, see the article published on 6 May 2020, which details [some of the challenges that we have faced in producing estimates](#) at this time.

An article, published on 11 December 2020, [compares our labour market data sources and discusses some of the main differences](#).

Our latest data and analysis on the impact of the coronavirus on the UK economy and population are available on our dedicated [coronavirus page](#). This is the hub for all special coronavirus-related publications, drawing on all available data. In response to the developing COVID-19 pandemic, we are working to ensure that we continue to publish economic statistics. For more information, please see [COVID-19 and the production of statistics](#).

Impact on production of vacancy and workforce job estimates

Because of social distancing measures leading to the temporary closure of businesses across the UK, there have been some difficulties in collecting data using the Vacancy Survey and the Short-Term Employment Surveys.

Survey response rates were lower than is typical. To protect the quality of our output, we have used alternative sources where possible to inform data. We have used Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) section-level indications from the Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS), as well as survey contributor-level comments provided to us over the telephone or electronically, as a guide on whether businesses are operational and likely, or not, to be actively recruiting and to confirm employment figures.

End of EU exit transition period

As the UK enters into a new Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the EU, the UK statistical system will continue to produce and publish our wide range of economic and social statistics and analysis. We are committed to continued alignment with the highest international statistical standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally, and ensuring the general public, statistical users and decision-makers have the data they need to be informed.

As the shape of the UK's future statistical relationship with the EU becomes clearer over the coming period, the Office for National Statistics is making preparations to assume responsibilities that as part of our membership of the EU, and during the transition period, were delegated to the statistical office of the EU, Eurostat. This includes responsibilities relating to international comparability of economic statistics, deciding what international statistical guidance to apply in the UK context and to provide further scrutiny of our statistics and sector classification decisions.

In applying international statistical standards and best practice to UK economic statistics, we will draw on the technical advice of experts in the UK and internationally, and our work will be underpinned by the UK's well-established and robust framework for independent official statistics, set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Further information on our proposals will be made available later this year.

We will continue to produce our labour market statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) definitions and agreed international statistical guidance.

Sources

The data in this bulletin come from surveys of businesses. It is not feasible to survey every business in the UK, so these statistics are estimates based on samples, not precise figures.

Vacancies

Estimates of vacancies are obtained from the [Vacancy Survey](#), a survey of employers. Adzuna [Online job advert estimates](#) are also published as part of the [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy](#) release.

Jobs

Estimates of jobs are compiled from a number of sources, including Short-Term Employment Surveys (STES), the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and the [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#). STES is a group of surveys that collect employment and turnover information from private sector businesses. In December of each year, the jobs estimates are "benchmarked" to the latest estimates from the [Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#).

The STES estimates are drawn for a specified date early in the last month of each calendar quarter. The March 2020 data were from 13 March 2020 before the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.

Self-employment estimates from the LFS are based on interviews from the three months that include the estimated month, and each month either side. So, for example, the self-employment estimates for each December will be based on LFS estimates for the period November to January. Given this, the March 2020 data were based on interviews from the start of February to the end of April 2020, so only around half of these relate to the period prior to the start of social distancing, while interviews in the final week of March and the whole of April relate to the lockdown period.

Employment status on the LFS is self-reported, with people classifying themselves as being either an employee or self-employed. Labour market flows estimates show that the recent decreases in the number of self-employed people have been driven, in part, by a movement of people from self-employed to employee status. For example, between April to June 2020 and July to September 2020, the number of people who changed from reporting themselves as self-employed to an employee was 277,000, the highest level since records began in 2005. Of these, the number who had changed jobs had not increased from normal levels. Consequently, some of the fall in self-employment comes from an increase in the number of people who have changed to classifying themselves as an employee, even though they have not changed jobs.

LFS responses are weighted to official 2018-based population projections on demographic trends that pre-date the coronavirus pandemic. In our Coronavirus and the impact on payroll employment article we analyse the population totals used in the LFS weighting process and state our intention to make adjustments. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

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

Sampling variability

Sampling variability information for jobs is available in Table 1 in this bulletin and in [Dataset JOBS07: Workforce jobs sampling variability](#).

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level is around plus or minus 1.5% of that level expressed as a [coefficient of variation](#), giving a 95% [confidence interval](#) for estimates of approximately plus or minus 20,000.

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level, for a typical industrial sector is around plus or minus 6% of that level.

Table 1: Sampling variability for estimates of jobs in the UK, thousands

SIC 2007 Section	United Kingdom		
		Estimate for Dec 2020	Sampling variability of estimate ¹
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	386	±45
B	Mining and quarrying	55	±7
C	Manufacturing	2,553	±40
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	148	±9
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities	208	±9
F	Construction	2,225	±64
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,922	±57
H	Transport and storage	1,735	±44
I	Accommodation and food service activities	2,232	±55
J	Information and communication	1,459	±53
K	Financial and insurance activities	1,142	±31
L	Real estate activities	662	±44
M	Professional scientific and technical activities	3,188	±76
N	Administrative and support service activities	2,829	±63
O	Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	1,586	±16
P	Education	2,915	±50
Q	Human health and social work activities	4,404	±60
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	906	±49
S/T	Other service activities /Private Households	946	±45
	All jobs	34,500	±205

Source: Office for National Statistics - Workforce Jobs

8 . Strengths and limitations

Accuracy of the statistics: estimating and reporting uncertainty.

The figures in this bulletin mainly come from surveys of businesses, which gather information from a [sample](#) rather than from the whole population. The samples are designed to be as accurate as possible given practical limitations such as time and cost constraints. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This can have an impact on how changes in the estimates should be interpreted, especially for short-term comparisons.

As the number of people available in the sample gets smaller, the variability of the estimates that we can make from that sample size gets larger. Estimates for small groups (for example, vacancies in the construction industry), which are based on small subsets of the Vacancy Survey sample, are less reliable and tend to be more volatile than for larger aggregated groups (for example, total vacancies in the UK).

In general, short-term changes in the growth rates reported in this bulletin are not usually greater than the level that can be explained by sampling variability. Short-term movements in reported rates should be considered alongside longer-term patterns in the series and corresponding movements in other sources to give a fuller picture.

Vacancies

The vacancy headline estimate is based on a seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average and has [National Statistics status](#). Further information about how single estimates have impacted the three-month estimates is available in the [X06 dataset](#). These [experimental estimates](#) are non-seasonally adjusted and should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months because of the high volatility caused by the survey sample design. They can be used to indicate an approximate change in the level of total vacancies.

Approximately 80% of the rotational survey overlaps every three months, therefore a comparison of vacancy estimates for a given month to three months prior can provide a reasonable indication of the change in monthly vacancies.

Jobs

An annual [reconciliation report of job estimates](#) is published every March comparing the latest workforce jobs (WFJ) estimates with the equivalent estimates of jobs from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, in 2021 this article will be delayed because of our intention to make adjustments in LFS weighting where appropriate.

The concept of employment (measured by the LFS as the number of people in work) differs from the concept of jobs, since a person can have more than one job and some jobs may be shared by more than one person. The LFS, which collects information mainly from residents of private households, is the preferred source of statistics on employment. The WFJ series, which is compiled mainly from surveys of businesses, is the preferred source of statistics on jobs by industry as it provides a more reliable industry breakdown than the LFS.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the LFS and WFJ series may have additional difference because a person's perception of their attachment to a job may differ from the business's perception of that job. It is also important to note that the LFS is based on interviews throughout the coverage period whereas the WFJ series relates to a specific date. This difference can be significant in a labour market that is experiencing rapid changes.

9 . Related links

[Coronavirus and the effects on UK labour market statistics](#)

Article | Released 6 May 2020

This article looks at the expected impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) upon the UK labour market and some of the practical challenges that the Office for National Statistics is likely to face in collecting data.

[Employees in the UK: 2019](#)

Bulletin | Released 6 November 2020

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry.

[Revisions to workforce jobs](#)

Article | Released 15 December 2020

This article explains the revisions that have been made to the workforce jobs series.

[Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: April 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 20 April 2021

Experimental monthly estimates of paid employees and their pay from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data.

Index of Tables

The table below provides an index of the tables appearing in this Statistical Bulletin and it shows how these table numbers [match up with the Excel spreadsheet datasets which are available on the website.](#)

Statistical Bulletin table number	Table description	Dataset
SUMMARY		
1	Labour Force Survey Summary	Dataset A02 SA
2 (*)	Labour market status by age group	Dataset A05 SA
EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS		
3	Full-time, part-time & temporary workers	Dataset EMP01 SA
4	Public and private sector employment	Dataset EMP02
4(1)	Public sector employment by industry	Dataset EMP03
4(2)	Public sector employment by sector classification: Headcount	Dataset PSE
5	Workforce jobs summary	Dataset JOBS01
6 (**)	Workforce jobs by industry	Dataset JOBS02
7	Actual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR01 SA
7(1)	Usual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR02 SA
NON-UK WORKERS		
8	Employment by country of birth and nationality	Dataset EMP06
8(1)	Unemployment and economic inactivity by country of birth and na	Dataset A12
UNEMPLOYMENT		
9	Unemployment by age and duration	Dataset UNEM01 SA
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY		
10(*)	Economic activity by age	Dataset A05 SA
11	Economic inactivity by reason	Dataset INAC01 SA
12	Labour market and educational status of young people	Dataset A06 SA
EARNINGS		
13	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Total pay	Dataset EARN01
14	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Bonus pay	Dataset EARN01
15	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Regular pay	Dataset EARN01
16	Average Weekly Earnings real and nominal (summary table)	Dataset EARN01
INTERNATIONAL SUMMARY		
17	International comparisons of employment and unemployment	Dataset A10
LABOUR DISPUTES		
18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
VACANCIES		
19	Vacancies by size of business	Dataset VACS03
20	Vacancies and unemployment	Dataset VACS01
21	Vacancies by industry	Dataset VACS02
REDUNDANCIES		
22	Redundancies levels and rates	Dataset RED01 SA
REGIONAL SUMMARY		
23	Regional labour market summary	Dataset A07

(*) Tables 2 and 10 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file have been amalgamated into one spreadsheet (Dataset A05 SA).

(**) Table JOBS02 provides more detail than Table 6 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file.

The following symbols are used in the tables: p provisional, r revised, .. Not available, * suppressed due to small sample size. The four-character identification codes appearing in the tables are the ONS references for the data series appearing in the Labour Market Statistics dataset which is available on the website at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/labourmarketstatistics>

EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

5 Workforce jobs¹

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted				
	Workforce jobs	Employee jobs	Self-employment jobs ²	HM Forces	Government-supported trainees ²
	1	2	3	4	5
	DYDC	BCAJ	DYZN	LOJX	LOJU
Dec 18	35,233	30,476	4,584	152	22
Mar 19	35,452	30,619	4,653	153	27
Jun 19	35,557	30,694	4,670	152	41
Sep 19	35,627	30,829	4,615	153	29
Dec 19	35,658	30,781	4,690	153	35
Mar 20 ³	35,620	30,908	4,527	154	31
Jun 20	35,160	30,609	4,365	156	30
Sep 20 (r)	34,612	30,159	4,267	157	30
Dec 20 (p)	34,417	30,059	4,166	158	34
Change on quarter	-196	-100	-101	1	4
Change %	-0.6	-0.3	-2.4	0.7	13.5
Change on year	-1,242	-722	-523	5	-1
Change %	-3.5	-2.3	-11.2	3.1	-4.3

Relationship between columns: 1=2+3+4+5

See footnotes under table 6

6 Workforce jobs by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All jobs	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	Transport & storage	Accommodation & food service activities	Information & communication
	A-T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	DYDC	JWR5	JWR6	JWR7	JWR8	JWR9	JWS2	JWS3	JWS4	JWS5	JWS6
Dec 18	35,233	383	59	2,683	149	224	2,352	5,005	1,798	2,455	1,470
Mar 19	35,452	389	62	2,705	142	228	2,365	5,037	1,783	2,453	1,491
Jun 19	35,557	397	61	2,689	144	223	2,338	5,016	1,822	2,513	1,494
Sep 19	35,627	404	61	2,692	142	220	2,312	5,004	1,805	2,517	1,500
Dec 19	35,658	411	62	2,676	148	216	2,341	4,993	1,795	2,528	1,507
Mar 20 ³	35,620	385	67	2,680	149	213	2,319	4,970	1,790	2,531	1,531
Jun 20	35,160	372	62	2,626	146	209	2,327	5,000	1,796	2,404	1,491
Sep 20 (r)	34,612	432	55	2,564	144	211	2,217	4,876	1,766	2,361	1,470
Dec 20 (p)	34,417	387	55	2,556	148	208	2,225	4,844	1,718	2,239	1,461
Change on quarter	-196	-45	0	-8	4	-4	8	-31	-48	-122	-9
Change %	-0.6	-10.4	0.3	-0.3	3.1	-1.7	0.4	-0.6	-2.7	-5.2	-0.6
Change on year	-1,242	-24	-7	-120	0	-9	-116	-149	-77	-289	-45
Change %	-3.5	-5.9	-11.5	-4.5	0.0	-4.0	-4.9	-3.0	-4.3	-11.4	-3.0

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional scientific & technical activities	Administrative & support service activities	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security ⁴	Education	Human health & social work activities	Arts, entertainment & recreation	Other service activities	People employed by households, etc.	Total services
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	G-T
	JWS7	JWS8	JWS9	JWT2	JWT3	JWT4	JWT5	JWT6	JWT7	KW78	JWT8
Dec 18	1,123	592	3,125	3,010	1,505	2,949	4,346	1,019	941	45	29,384
Mar 19	1,132	579	3,183	3,023	1,512	2,955	4,380	1,032	949	54	29,562
Jun 19	1,134	590	3,216	3,023	1,511	2,938	4,414	1,028	946	59	29,705
Sep 19	1,143	614	3,203	3,046	1,524	2,950	4,426	1,044	965	54	29,796
Dec 19	1,137	638	3,186	3,022	1,533	2,954	4,414	1,054	990	53	29,804
Mar 20 ³	1,147	649	3,251	2,992	1,544	2,951	4,409	1,045	942	55	29,806
Jun 20	1,150	642	3,154	2,852	1,562	2,948	4,422	996	961	40	29,417
Sep 20 (r)	1,134	632	3,163	2,806	1,565	2,932	4,374	939	923	48	28,989
Dec 20 (p)	1,142	662	3,188	2,809	1,587	2,917	4,408	914	906	42	28,837
Change on quarter	9	30	24	3	22	-15	35	-25	-17	-5	-152
Change %	0.8	4.7	0.8	0.1	1.4	-0.5	0.8	-2.7	-1.9	-11.2	-0.5
Change on year	5	24	2	-212	54	-37	-6	-141	-84	-10	-966
Change %	0.5	3.8	0.1	-7.0	3.5	-1.3	-0.1	-13.3	-8.5	-19.4	-3.2

Workforce jobs enquiries 01633 456776

Sources: Employer surveys, Labour Force Survey and administrative sources

1. Workforce Jobs estimates include data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). LFS responses are weighted to official population projections. As the current projections are 2018-based they are based on demographic trends that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. We are analysing the population totals used in the weighting process and intend to make adjustments where appropriate. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

2. Workforce Jobs figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For this reason estimates of self-employment jobs and government supported trainee jobs differ from estimates of people in self-employment and in government supported training and employment programmes shown at Table 3. The estimates for government supported trainees shown in this table exclude trainees with contracts of employment as such people are included in the estimates of employee jobs.

3. The employee jobs data relate to the March 2020 period before reported cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. Self-employment jobs relate to the period February-April 2020 which includes self-employment jobs before and after COVID-19 measures were implemented.

4. This series is not exclusively a public sector series as it includes some private sector jobs. See table 4 for estimates of public and private sector employment.

VACANCIES

19 Vacancies¹ by size of business

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

		All Vacancies	Number of employees				
			1-9	10-49	50-249	250-2499	2500+
			AP2Y	ALY5	ALY6	ALY7	ALY8
Levels							
Jan-Mar 2019	(r)	838	122	124	113	185	294
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	785	111	108	107	165	294
Feb-Apr 2020	(r)	633	82	77	88	133	253
Mar-May 2020	(r)	476	62	52	63	101	198
Apr-Jun 2020	(r)	341	47	33	43	71	147
May-Jul 2020	(r)	381	70	51	47	70	143
Jun-Aug 2020	(r)	443	90	67	59	77	150
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	507	106	81	73	89	157
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	545	108	85	80	105	168
Sept-Nov 2020	(r)	564	107	83	82	113	179
Oct-Dec 2020	(r)	589	113	79	81	119	197
Nov-Jan 2021	(r)	597	106	77	80	121	214
Dec-Feb 2021	(r)	599	96	80	82	121	219
Jan-Mar 2021	(p)	607	88	91	82	123	222
Change on quarter	*	17	-25	12	1	4	25
Change %	*	3.0	-21.9	15.5	1.2	3.3	12.6
Change on year		-178	-23	-17	-25	-42	-72
Change %		-22.7	-20.6	-15.3	-23.0	-25.4	-24.5

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

20 Vacancies¹ and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

		All Vacancies ¹	Unemployment ²	Number of unemployed people per vacancy
		AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels				
Dec-Feb 2019	(r)	842	1,343	1.6
Dec-Feb 2020	(r)	811	1,364	1.7
Mar-May 2020	(r)	476	1,384	2.9
Jun-Aug 2020	(r)	443	1,522	3.4
Sep-Nov 2020	(r)	564	1,724	3.1
Dec-Feb 2021	(r)	599	1,675	2.8
Change on quarter		35	-50	-0.3
Change %		6.2	-2.9	
Change on year		-212	311	1.1
Change %		-26.2	22.8	

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey/ Labour Force Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

2. Unemployment estimates are produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are always one period behind the ONS Vacancy Survey estimates. This table therefore shows estimates for the same periods as shown in table 1 (which shows LFS estimates).

3. Labour Force Survey (LFS) responses are weighted to official population projections. As the current projections are 2018-based they are based on demographic trends that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. We are analysing the population totals used in the weighting process and intend to make adjustments where appropriate. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

VACANCIES

21 Vacancies by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections		All vacancies ¹	Mining & quarrying	Manu- facturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply ²	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	Transport & storage	Accommoda- tion & food service activities	Information & communica- tion
		B-S	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
		AP2Y	JP9H	JP9I	JP9J	JP9K	JP9L	JP9M	JP9N	JP9O	JP9P
Levels (thousands)											
Jan-Mar 2019	(r)	838	1	59	3	4	28	135	42	91	48
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	785	1	51	3	4	26	129	35	84	42
Feb-Apr 2020	(r)	633	1	40	3	4	21	98	28	53	31
Mar-May 2020	(r)	476	1	32	2	3	12	64	20	26	22
Apr-Jun 2020	(r)	341	0	25	2	2	7	38	11	8	13
May-Jul 2020	(r)	381	0	27	2	2	12	44	14	16	16
Jun-Aug 2020	(r)	443	0	32	3	3	18	53	21	26	18
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	507	0	38	3	3	23	62	24	35	23
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	545	1	44	3	3	26	64	29	34	26
Sept-Nov 2020	(r)	564	1	44	4	3	26	68	28	34	30
Oct-Dec 2020	(r)	589	1	44	3	3	27	72	28	29	32
Nov-Jan 2021	(r)	597	1	46	4	3	28	75	24	22	35
Dec-Feb 2021	(r)	599	1	48	4	3	27	74	21	19	38
Jan-Mar 2021	(p)	607	1	49	5	4	28	75	21	25	38
Change on quarter	*	17	0	5	2	1	1	3	-7	-4	6
Change %	*	3.0	28.6	11.9	62.5	21.9	3.7	4.3	-25.1	-13.2	17.3
Change on year		-178	-1	-2	2	0	2	-54	-14	-59	-4
Change %		-22.7	-35.7	-3.4	57.6	8.3	8.8	-42.1	-40.1	-70.3	-10.2
		AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs											
Jan-Mar 2019	(r)	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	1.9	1.8	2.9	2.8	3.9	3.7
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.4	1.8	1.7	2.8	2.3	3.7	3.3
Feb-Apr 2020	(r)	2.1	2.3	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.4
Mar-May 2020	(r)	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.5	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.7
Apr-Jun 2020	(r)	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.0
May-Jul 2020	(r)	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.2
Jun-Aug 2020	(r)	1.5	0.6	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	1.7	0.8	1.6	2.4	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.8
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	1.8	0.9	1.8	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.5	2.0
Sept-Nov 2020	(r)	1.9	1.1	1.8	2.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.3
Oct-Dec 2020	(r)	2.0	1.3	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.3	2.5
Nov-Jan 2021	(r)	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.8	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.0	2.7
Dec-Feb 2021	(r)	2.0	1.7	2.0	3.1	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.4	0.8	2.9
Jan-Mar 2021	(p)	2.0	1.7	2.0	3.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.1	2.9
Change on quarter	*	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	-0.5	-0.2	0.4
Change on year		-0.6	-0.9	-0.1	1.4	0.1	0.2	-1.2	-0.9	-2.6	-0.3
		K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	G-S
Levels (thousands)											
Jan-Mar 2019	(r)	34	13	80	50	20	50	135	23	23	743
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	28	14	71	51	22	49	135	23	17	701
Feb-Apr 2020	(r)	25	12	56	43	21	42	127	15	13	565
Mar-May 2020	(r)	22	9	46	38	18	32	114	10	9	427
Apr-Jun 2020	(r)	18	4	36	30	16	23	103	2	5	306
May-Jul 2020	(r)	17	5	41	32	17	24	104	3	5	337
Jun-Aug 2020	(r)	17	7	45	30	19	30	112	4	8	387
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	19	7	47	36	20	35	116	5	9	438
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	19	10	49	36	19	40	122	8	12	466
Sept-Nov 2020	(r)	20	11	51	37	22	40	124	10	12	486
Oct-Dec 2020	(r)	21	11	65	34	25	41	131	11	12	511
Nov-Jan 2021	(r)	22	10	64	40	34	42	128	9	11	516
Dec-Feb 2021	(r)	23	8	65	43	35	42	130	6	12	514
Jan-Mar 2021	(p)	24	8	62	45	33	40	131	5	12	519
Change on quarter	*	3	-3	-3	11	9	-1	0	-6	0	8
Change %	*	15.9	-26.3	-4.2	33.3	35.4	-2.7	0.3	-54.7	-3.3	1.6
Change on year		-4	-6	-9	-6	12	-9	-4	-18	-5	-182
Change %		-15.5	-40.0	-12.8	-11.2	52.8	-18.9	-3.0	-78.9	-29.7	-25.9
		JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs											
Jan-Mar 2019	(r)	3.2	2.5	3.0	1.9	1.5	1.9	3.4	3.0	3.6	2.8
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.9	3.3	3.3	2.7	2.7
Feb-Apr 2020	(r)	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.6	3.1	2.2	2.1	2.2
Mar-May 2020	(r)	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	2.8	1.4	1.4	1.7
Apr-Jun 2020	(r)	1.6	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.9	2.5	0.3	0.8	1.2
May-Jul 2020	(r)	1.6	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.2	0.9	2.6	0.4	0.9	1.3
Jun-Aug 2020	(r)	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	2.7	0.6	1.2	1.5
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.3	2.9	0.8	1.5	1.7
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.5	3.0	1.2	1.9	1.8
Sept-Nov 2020	(r)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.5	3.0	1.4	1.9	1.9
Oct-Dec 2020	(r)	1.9	2.0	2.4	1.3	1.8	1.6	3.2	1.5	2.0	2.0
Nov-Jan 2021	(r)	2.0	1.8	2.4	1.6	2.5	1.6	3.2	1.2	1.8	2.0
Dec-Feb 2021	(r)	2.1	1.5	2.4	1.7	2.6	1.6	3.2	0.9	2.0	2.0
Jan-Mar 2021	(p)	2.3	1.5	2.3	1.8	2.5	1.5	3.2	0.7	1.9	2.0
Change on quarter	*	0.3	-0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-0.1	0.0
Change on year		-0.4	-1.0	-0.3	-0.2	0.8	-0.4	-0.1	-2.6	-0.8	-0.7

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

2. Not seasonally adjusted. These series do not display seasonality. Therefore the unadjusted series is the best estimate of a 'seasonally adjusted' series.

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

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