Office for National Statistics

Statistical bulletin

Children living in long-term workless households in the UK: 2024

Annual UK estimates of the number of children living in households where all adults have not worked for at least 12 months.

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1 . Main points

- In 2024, 1.2 million children (9.4%) lived in long-term workless households, up 1.2 percentage points on the previous year.
- Of those children in workless households, 83.6% lived in long-term workless households.
- The lowest percentage of children in long-term workless households was in the South West (6.6%).
- The highest percentage of children in long-term workless households was in the North East (16.6%).

2 . Data on children living in long-term workless households in the UK

Children living in long-term workless households (Table A1)
Dataset | Released on 29 October 2025
Annual estimates of the number of children living in households in the UK where all the adults have not worked for at least 12 months.

Children living in long-term workless households, by combined economic status (Table B)
Dataset | Released on 29 October 2025
Annual estimates of the number of children living in households in the UK where all the adults have not worked for at least 12 months, by combined economic status of adults in the household.

Children living in long-term workless households, by region (Table D)
Dataset | Released on 29 October 2025
Annual estimates of the number of children living in households in the UK where all the adults have not worked for at least 12 months, by region of residence.

3 . Data sources and quality

Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets are used for the analysis of family or household characteristics. For all analyses in this bulletin, a household is defined as containing at least one person aged 16 to 64 years. This bulletin focuses on the number of children living in workless households (households where no adult is in employment) and long-term workless households (households where no adult has worked in the previous 12 months).

The APS and APS household datasets have not been reweighted to the new populations. Consequently, all APS household tables remain weighted to the previous 2021 population totals, which will be inconsistent with those used for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in the latest periods.

For a comparison of our labour market data sources and the main differences, see our Comparison of labour market data sources methodology.

APS household estimates are classed as official statistics in development. Until September 2023, these were called "experimental statistics". Read more about the change in our Guide to official statistics in development.

More information about the APS being classed as official statistics in development can be found in the Office for National Statistics's (ONS's) letter to the Office for Statistics Regulation about the APS.

4 . Related links

Working and workless households in the UK: April to June 2025
Bulletin | Released 27 August 2025
The economic status of households in the UK and the people living in them, where at least one person is aged 16 to 64 years. Taken from the Labour Force Survey.

Workless households for regions across the UK: 2024
Bulletin | Released 30 July 2025
Annual information at a local level about households and the adults and children living in them, by their economic activity status.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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