

Statistical bulletin

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 21 May 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 12 to 16 May 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

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1 . Main points

This week, over the period 12 to 16 May 2021, based on adults in Great Britain:

- Compliance with measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) remained high for adults reporting handwashing when returning home (87% this week, 88% last week (5 to 9 May 2021)) and using a face covering (97% this week and last week); those maintaining social distancing with people outside their household, childcare or support bubble remained similar (78% this week, 79% last week) having fallen from 84% in the week before (28 April to 3 May 2021).
- Of adults who reported they left home in the last seven days, just over a fifth did so to eat or drink at a restaurant, bar or pub (21% this week, 23% last week); around a quarter reported shopping for things other than basic necessities (26% this week, 30% last week) and just over 1 in 10 reported visiting a hair salon or barber (12% this week, 15% last week).
- The proportion of adults meeting up indoors with someone not in their household, childcare or support bubble in the last seven days remained similar (20% this week, 19% last week) having recently increased from 10% in the week before (28 April to 3 May) as restrictions around this eased across Great Britain from late April and May 2021.
- The proportion of adults meeting up outdoors with someone not in their household, childcare or support bubble (53%) fell slightly compared with last week (57%); this proportion has been relatively stable in recent weeks having previously increased quickly as restrictions around this eased across Great Britain from late March 2021 (19% in the period 10 to 14 March 2021).
- Over 6 in 10 (62%) of working adults reported leaving home for work in the past seven days, a slight increase on last week (60%); this proportion has gradually increased since mid-February 2021 (44% in the period 10 to 14 February).
- Personal well-being levels remain relatively stable with happiness (7.0) and anxiety (3.9) unchanged from last week; levels of life satisfaction (7.0 from 7.1 last week) and feeling that things done in life are worthwhile (7.3 from 7.4 last week) decreased slightly.
- Positive sentiment towards the COVID-19 vaccine remained high; 94% of adults reported they had now either received a vaccine or would be likely to have a vaccine if offered, a slight decrease when compared with last week (95%).
- Around 7 in 10 adults reported to have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (71% this week, 69% last week), which includes around 4 in 10 adults reporting to have received their second dose (39% this week, 33% last week).

The estimates presented here are based on data collected before the further easing of lockdown restrictions that were introduced across Great Britain from 17 May 2021.

2 . Social impacts on Great Britain data

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)

Dataset | Released 21 May 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. Includes breakdowns by at-risk age, sex and underlying health condition.

3 . Measuring the data

This release contains data and indicators from a module being undertaken through the Office for National Statistics' Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

Breakdowns by age, sex, region and country, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this bulletin, associated confidence intervals should be used to assess the [statistical significance](#) of the differences.

Positive vaccine sentiment

"Positive vaccine sentiment" refers to adults who:

- have received the vaccine
- have been offered the vaccine and are waiting to be vaccinated
- report being very or fairly likely to have the vaccine if offered

Our survey does not include adults living in care homes or other establishments so will not capture vaccinations in these settings. Because of small sample sizes, the percentage of adults who have declined the vaccine should be treated with caution.

Estimates of attitudes towards vaccination provided since 13 to 17 January 2021 should be used with caution when compared with any weeks prior to this. In the weeks prior to this, adults were asked their likelihood of having a vaccine if offered, but they were not specifically asked if they had already been offered or received a vaccine.

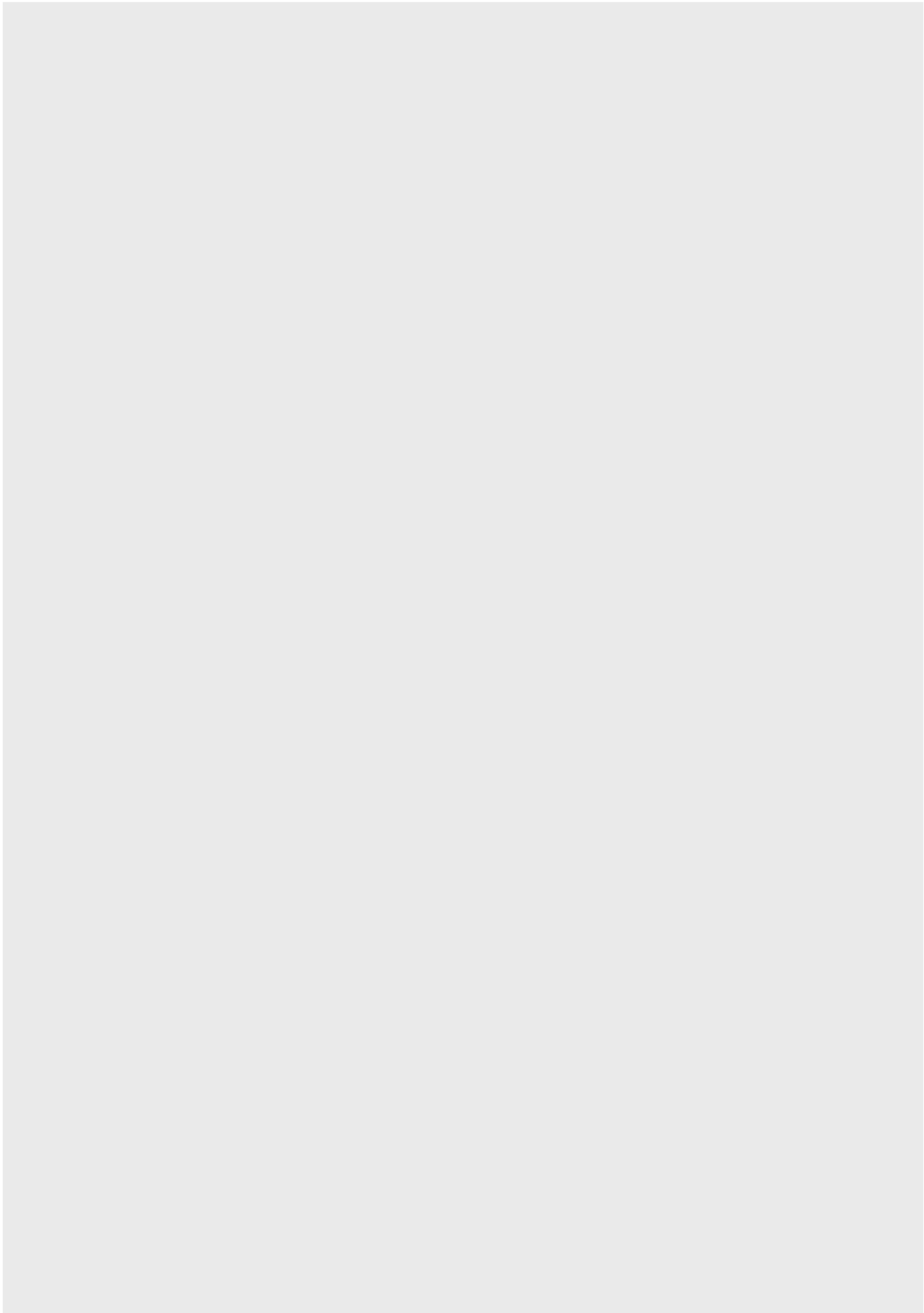
Sampling and weighting

In the week 12 to 16 May 2021 a sample of 5,984 households was randomly selected from those that had previously completed the Labour Market Survey.

The responding sample contained 4,127 individuals, representing a 69% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on May 2021 population estimates). Further information on the survey design and quality can be found in the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Quality and Methodology Information](#).

4 . Related links



[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

Latest data and analysis on the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effects on the economy and society.

[Coronavirus and vaccine hesitancy, Great Britain: 31 March to 25 April 2021](#)

Headline | Released 6 May 2021

Estimates of vaccine sentiment with breakdowns by different population groups. Analysis based on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

[Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain: January to March 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 5 May 2021

Analysis of the proportion of the British adult population experiencing some form of depression in early 2021, by age, sex and other characteristics. Includes comparisons with 2020 and pre-pandemic estimates.

[Coronavirus and compliance with government guidance, UK: April 2021](#)

Article | Released 12 April 2021

Exploring the attitudes and behaviours of different social groups in relation to compliance with coronavirus (COVID-19) government guidance across the UK.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: antibody and vaccination data for the UK, 13 May 2021](#)

Article | Released 13 May 2021

Antibody and vaccination data by UK country and regions in England from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This survey is being delivered in partnership with University of Oxford, University of Manchester, Public Health England and Wellcome Trust.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on households in subnational areas in Great Britain: 2020 and 2021](#)

Article | Released 27 April 2021

Indicators from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on different households in subnational areas in Great Britain.

[Homeworking in the UK Labour Market: 2020](#)

Article | Released 17 May 2021

Breakdowns of the prevalence of homeworking by industry, occupation, region, age, sex, ethnicity and local authority.

[How has lockdown changed our relationship with nature?](#)

Article | Released 26 April 2021

More than a year on from the first national lockdown in spring 2020, we look at how people's perception of nature changed during the pandemic and whether this is likely to continue as restrictions ease.

[Coronavirus and vaccine attitudes and behaviours in England: over 80s population, 15 February to 20 February 2021](#)

Article | Released 4 March 2021

Analysis of people aged over 80 years in England during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including attitudes, behaviours and well-being in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain: February 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 9 April 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey on the social impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on disabled people in Great Britain. This release uses three waves of survey results covering dates between the 3 to 28 February 2021 and includes indicators broken down by impairment type.

[Comparing behaviours and economic activity during lockdown periods: March 2021](#)

Article | Released 19 March 2021

Understanding how the coronavirus has affected society, work, mobility and consumer consumption during the different lockdown periods.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on behaviours during different lockdown periods, Great Britain: up to February 2021](#)

Article | Released 5 February 2021

Attitudes towards staying and working at home, meetings in personal and public places, compliance with lockdown rules, well-being and when life will return to normal.

[Quarterly estimates of personal well-being in the UK: April 2011 to September 2020](#)

Article | Released 4 February 2021

Quarterly estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK level, created using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Covering the periods from Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2011 through to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2020.

[Personal and economic well-being in Great Britain: January 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 January 2021

Estimates looking across personal and economic well-being covering the period from March to December 2020, to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on people and households in Great Britain.