

Statistical bulletin

Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: 15 to 26 November 2023

Insights on important issues facing society today from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN). This edition focuses on climate change.

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1 . Main points

Ahead of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), in the period between 15 and 26 of November, we asked adults in Great Britain about climate change and how it had impacted their lifestyle.

- When asked about the important issues facing the UK today, adults continued to report the cost of living (89%), the NHS (87%) and the economy (74%) as the top three issues.
- The fourth most important issue remained climate change and the environment, which was reported by around 6 in 10 (61%) adults; this was a decline from 66% of adults choosing the same issue last year ahead of COP27 (in the period 26 October to 6 November 2022).
- Other important issues reported in the current period included crime (60%), housing (59%), immigration (54%) and international conflict (50%).
- We asked adults the extent to which they had made changes to their lifestyle to tackle climate change; around 1 in 12 adults (8%) reported they had made a lot of changes, around two in three (64%) had made some changes, and around 3 in 10 (28%) had made no changes.
- Among those who had made a lot of or some changes to their lifestyle to tackle climate change, the most reported concerns that motivated them to do so were the effect on future generations (69%), loss of natural habitats or wildlife (66%), and the direct effects of climate change such as extreme weather events or rising sea levels on others (52%) or themselves (32%).
- Among adults who had not made changes to their lifestyle, the most reported reasons for this were thinking the changes they make will have no effect on climate change (41%), thinking large polluters should change before individuals (34%) and finding it too expensive to make changes (30%).
- Compared with last year's estimates (in the period 20 to 31 July 2022), among adults who had not made changes to their lifestyle, there was an increase in the proportion of those who thought the changes they make will have no effect on climate change (41%, compared with 32% in 2022), thought the effects of climate change are exaggerated (11%, compared with 4%), and said they do not believe in climate change (7%, compared with 3%); these differences in sentiment may be influenced by an extreme heatwave in July 2022.

2 . Public opinions and social trends data

[Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: climate change](#)

Dataset | Released 1 December 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) on the extent to which people have made changes to their lifestyles to tackle climate change and related motivations and barriers.

[Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: household finances](#)

Dataset | Released 1 December 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of people's experiences of changes in their cost of living and household finances in Great Britain.

[Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: personal well-being and loneliness](#)

Dataset | Released 1 December 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of worries, personal well-being, and loneliness in Great Britain.

[Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: personal experiences of shortages of goods](#)

Dataset | Released 1 December 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of whether people experienced shortages of food when shopping in Great Britain.

[Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: GP practice access](#)

Dataset | Released 1 December 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) related to people's experiences of GP practice access in Great Britain.

3 . Measuring the data

This release contains data and indicators from the Office for National Statistics' (ONS's) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

From the 16 June 2023 release onwards, we have made changes that reduce the scope of the release and accompanying datasets. This is based on a routine review of the relevance and usefulness of this release.

Breakdowns by age and sex are no longer provided for fortnightly estimates in the latest [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain datasets](#). All previous versions of the dataset remain available from this page. Estimates from the OPN by these and other personal characteristics will continue to be provided on a regular basis in other ONS releases. For example, OPN estimates relating to the impact of the cost of living among different sub-groups of the population are provided within the regular [Impact of increased cost of living on adults across Great Britain](#) series.

[Confidence intervals](#) are provided for all estimates in the datasets. Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this release, or comparisons between estimates are made, associated confidence intervals should be used to assess the [statistical significance](#) of the differences.

Sampling and weighting

In the latest period (15 to 26 December 2023), we sampled 4,989 households. This sample was randomly selected from people who had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample for the latest period contained 2,424 individuals, representing a 48.6% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on ONS population estimates). Because of sampling changes in July 2023, some groups in our unweighted sample may be over-represented. Although our weighting strategy aims to account for this, in some instances, we may see some differences in population totals presented in the data tables from wave to wave. Further information on the survey design and quality can be found in our [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\)](#).

4 . Related links

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#)

Bulletin | Released 16 November 2023

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses. Based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) to deliver real-time information to help assess issues affecting UK businesses and economy, including financial performance, workforce, trade, and business resilience.

[Climate change insights, families and households, UK: August 2023](#)

Article | Released 11 August 2023

Latest climate change-related analysis using a range of UK official statistics.

[UK Measures of National Well-being](#)

Release | Released 10 November 2023

Data of the UK's progress across 10 domains of national well-being. Breakdowns by UK countries and regions, age and sex, and quality information included where available.

[Cost of living insights](#)

Web page | Updated frequently

The latest data and trends about the cost of living. Explore changes in the cost of everyday items and how this is affecting people.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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