

Statistical bulletin

# Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: 17 to 29 May 2023

Social insights on daily life and events, including the cost of living, and shortages of goods from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

Contact:  
Emily Froud, Ben Harris, Bonang  
Lewis and Tim Vizard  
[policy.evidence.analysis@ons.gov.uk](mailto:policy.evidence.analysis@ons.gov.uk)  
gov.uk  
+44 300 0671543

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Next release:  
16 June 2023

## Notice

**2 June 2023**

From 16 June 2023 onwards, we will be making changes to the Public opinions and social trends release and [accompanying datasets](#). This is based on a routine review of the relevance and usefulness of this release. In the future, the release will only include main points and a reduced scope to the accompanying datasets, without additional breakdowns by age and sex. All previous versions will be available via our [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain datasets](#) page. If you have any questions, please contact [policy.evidence.analysis@ons.gov.uk](mailto:policy.evidence.analysis@ons.gov.uk).

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# 1 . Main Points

The following information is for the latest survey period 17 to 29 May 2023, based on adults in Great Britain.

- When asked about the important issues facing the UK today, the most commonly reported issues continue to be the cost of living (92%), the NHS (87%), the economy (73%), and climate change and the environment (60%).
- Around two-thirds (67%) of adults reported that their cost of living had increased, compared with a month ago.
- The most common reasons reported by adults who said their cost of living had increased compared with a month ago were an increase in the price of food shopping (97%), an increase in gas or electricity bills (69%), and an increase in the price of fuel (40%).

This week, we also asked adults about their understanding of green jobs, as part of our [workplan on delivering statistics on green jobs](#).

- Around 3 in 10 (29%) working adults reported that they would describe any part of their job as a "green job", based on the definition of "a job that helps to protect or contribute towards the environment, such as helping to combat climate change or improve the natural environment".
- Around 1 in 25 (4%) working adults reported that all or most of their job relates to "green" activities.
- Around 1 in 7 (15%) working adults reported that they work for an organisation that does specific green activities, but their own work was not directly related.

## 2 . Public opinions and social trends data

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

Dataset | Released 2 June 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 2 June 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: working arrangements](#)

Dataset | Released 2 June 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) related to the working arrangements of people in Great Britain.

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

Dataset | Released 2 June 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of whether people experienced shortages of goods such as food, medicine, or fuel when shopping in Great Britain.

## 3 . Measuring the data

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

Breakdowns by age and sex, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in our [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain datasets](#).

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

This week's release includes new estimates on people's understanding of "green jobs", included in our accompanying [working arrangements dataset](#). These questions were added as part of the ONS's [defining and measuring green jobs project](#) and will be used to inform the development of our green jobs estimates.

### Sampling and weighting

In the latest period (17 May to 29 May 2023), we sampled 4,976 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 1,980 individuals, representing a 40% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on ONS population estimates). 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

### ["Green jobs" update, current and upcoming work: March 2023](#)

Article | Released 13 March 2023

An update to our work on green jobs, including a summary of user engagement, our definition, and future work.

### [Quality of life in the UK: May 2023](#)

Article | Released 12 May 2023

An update on the UK's progress across 10 domains of national well-being which include personal well-being, relationships, health, what we do, where we live, personal finance, economy, education and skills, governance, and the environment.

### [Tracking the impact of winter pressures in Great Britain: November 2022 to February 2023](#)

Article | Released 24 April 2023

Insights from our Winter Survey as we tracked participants to examine how increases in the cost of living and difficulty accessing NHS services had impacted their lives during the winter months.

### [The impact of winter pressures on different population groups in Great Britain: 15 to 26 February 2023](#)

Article | Released 30 March 2023

In-depth analysis on how increases in the cost of living and difficulty accessing NHS services have impacted people's lives across the winter period.

### [Characteristics of adults experiencing energy and food insecurity in Great Britain: 22 November to 18 December 2022](#)

Article | Released 13 February 2023

Understanding the characteristics associated with experiencing energy and food insecurity; logistic regression analysis using data from the Winter Survey.

### [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.

### [Impact of increased cost of living on adults across Great Britain: September 2022 to January 2023](#)

Article | Released 20 February 2023

Analysis of the proportion of the population that are affected by an increase in their cost of living, and of the characteristics associated with financial vulnerability, using data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

### [Cost of living and depression in adults, Great Britain: 29 September to 23 October 2022](#)

Article | Released 6 December 2022

Analysis into the prevalence of depression among adults in Great Britain in autumn 2022. Exploring this in the context of the rising cost of living.

## 5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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