

Statistical bulletin

# Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: 17 to 29 August 2022

Social insights on daily life and events, including the cost of living, location of work, health and well-being from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

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Release date:  
7 September 2022

Next release:  
16 September 2022

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# 1 . Main Points

The following information is on the latest period, 17 to 29 August 2022, based on adults in Great Britain.

- Around 9 in 10 (91%) adults reported their cost of living has increased over the last month; this is an increase since we first started asking this question in the period 3 to 14 November 2021 (62%).
- Among adults who reported their cost of living has increased over the last month, the most reported reasons were an increase in the price of food shopping (96%), gas or electricity bills (79%) and the price of fuel (71%).
- Around 8 in 10 (81%) adults reported being very or somewhat worried about rising costs of living in the past two weeks; this is an increase since we first started asking this question in the period 27 April to 8 May 2022 (74%).
- Nearly one in five (19%) adults reported they had to borrow more money or take out more credit in the past month compared with a year ago, while 47% of adults stated they will not be able to save any money in the next 12 months.
- Over 4 in 10 (45%) adults who pay energy bills found it very or somewhat difficult to afford them; this is the same as the previous period (3 to 14 August).
- Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) adults travelled abroad in the last eight weeks; among those, 16% of adults reported that they experienced some form of disruption to their travel plans while travelling abroad in the last eight weeks.

A more detailed look at the experiences of increased cost of living and spending patterns among parents and non-parents is included in our article [Parenting and spending in the UK](#) using a larger pool of OPN data covering the period 30 March to 19 June 2022 and Living Costs and Food Survey data for April 2020 to March 2021.

This release has been published as main points only owing to the August bank holiday. The next Public opinions and social trends bulletin, covering the period 31 August to 11 September 2022, will be published on 16 September 2022.



## 2 . Public opinions and social trends data

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and other illnesses](#)

Dataset | Released 7 September 2022

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) related to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and other illnesses on people, households, and communities in Great Britain.

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

Dataset | Released 7 September 2022

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.

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

Dataset | Released 7 September 2022

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 7 September 2022

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: travel abroad](#)

Dataset | Released 7 September 2022

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) on people in Great Britain's experiences travelling abroad and any disruption faced.

## 3 . Measuring the data

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

From the period 30 March to 10 April 2022, changes were made to the OPN to enable us to provide ongoing indicators on a wide range of public opinions and societal issues.

Changes were made to the OPN survey design, for example, sample size, the questionnaire, and financial incentives to participate. These changes may result in small changes to the responding sample. We therefore advise caution with comparing estimates from this period onwards with those published prior to this period.

Breakdowns by age and sex, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in our [Public opinion and social trends, Great Britain datasets](#). Breakdowns by region are no longer provided within these datasets because of the smaller responding sample size of the OPN.

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.

### Sampling and weighting

In the latest period (17 to 29 August 2022), we sampled 4,980 households. This sample was randomly selected from those who had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample for the latest period contained 2,065 individuals, representing a 41% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on June 2021 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

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

Bulletin | Released 1 April 2022

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (covering 16 to 27 March 2022) of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households, and communities in Great Britain.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

An interactive tool to explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and other sources.

### [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators](#)

Bulletin | Released weekly

Early experimental data and analysis on economic activity and social change in the UK. These real-time indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and experimental methods.

### [What actions are people taking because of the rising cost of living?](#)

Article | Released 5 August 2022

Estimates from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey regarding increases in cost of living and the actions adults in Great Britain are taking as a result, by breakdowns including disability status, personal income, area deprivation and region, for the period 30 March to 19 June 2022.

### [Inflation and the cost of living for UK households, overview: June 2022](#)

Article | Released 22 June 2022

Inflation and cost of living article collating and updating analysis of different price measures.

### [The cost of living, current and upcoming work: June 2022](#)

Article | Released 10 June 2022

A summary of ONS' current and future analytical work related to the cost of living.

### [Worries about the rising costs of living, Great Britain: April to May 2022](#)

Article | Released 10 June 2022

An article covering people's worries about the rising costs of living, using data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey collected between 27 April and 22 May 2022 and based on adults in Great Britain aged 16 years and over.

### [Is hybrid working here to stay?](#)

Article | Released 23 May 2022

Almost half of working adults were working from home at times during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but what will business as usual look like with restrictions lifted?

### [The rising cost of living and its impact on individuals in Great Britain: November 2021 to March 2022](#)

Article | Released 25 April 2022

Analysis of how different groups in the population have been affected by an increase in their cost of living, using data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

### [Parenting and spending in the UK](#)

Article | Released 7 September 2022

Analysis of spending patterns by household type in 2020 to 2021, including comparisons of single and two-parent households using Living Costs and Food Survey data.

### [COVID-19 question bank](#)

Web page | Updated frequently

Government Statistical Service page that provides a bank of questions from multiple Office for National Statistics (ONS) surveys related to COVID-19 to be used in other surveys to further support harmonisation and questionnaire development. This bank also provides users with an understanding of what data the ONS has in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.



## 5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 7 September 2022, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: 17 to 29 August 2022](#)