

Weekly briefing on ONS COVID-19 data and analysis



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Overview

This pack provides a brief overview of key facts and figures from the latest content from ONS between 19 and 23 October 2020 relating to COVID-19. It summarises the latest data and analysis published by ONS on aspects of the economy and society impacted by COVID-19.

Further information, including strengths and limitations about the statistics contained in this pack can be found by clicking through on the source links on the relevant pages.

Information on ONS publications and statistics relating to COVID-19 included in this pack can be found on ONS' [COVID-19 landing page](#) where all articles, statistical bulletins and data relating to COVID-19 are published. ONS' [Coronavirus Roundup page](#) provides a summary of 'what we know about COVID-19' and you can receive [email alerts](#) on the latest updates. Our [National Statistical](#) Blog provides news and insight from across ONS.

This will be the last weekly briefing pack in its current form whilst we assess its future development. We are looking to develop a more succinct version possibly on a monthly basis to include topics of current interest. We would welcome your thoughts and comments on how you would like to receive this information and in what format. Please provide feedback on how you use it and what additional information would be useful via COVID19Analysis@ons.gov.uk.

Main points

- The number of deaths registered during week ending 9 October 2020 was above the five-year average in most English regions and Wales and deaths involving COVID-19 (438 deaths) increased for the fifth consecutive week.
- Over half of excess deaths in private homes in England and Wales were of people aged 70 to 89 years.
- Adults' anxiety scores remained at the highest since the beginning of April, and life satisfaction is at its lowest point, while other measures of personal wellbeing remained stable compared to last week.
- The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) 12-month inflation rate rose to 0.7% in September 2020.
- UK average house prices rose by 2.5% over the year to August 2020, up from 2.1% in July 2020.
- Public sector net borrowing (excluding public sector banks, PSNB ex) is estimated to have been £36.1 billion in September 2020.
- In September 2020 retail sales volumes rose by 1.5% when compared with August, leading to a rise of 5.5% when compared with February's pre-pandemic level.

The number of deaths registered was above the five-year average in most English regions and Wales

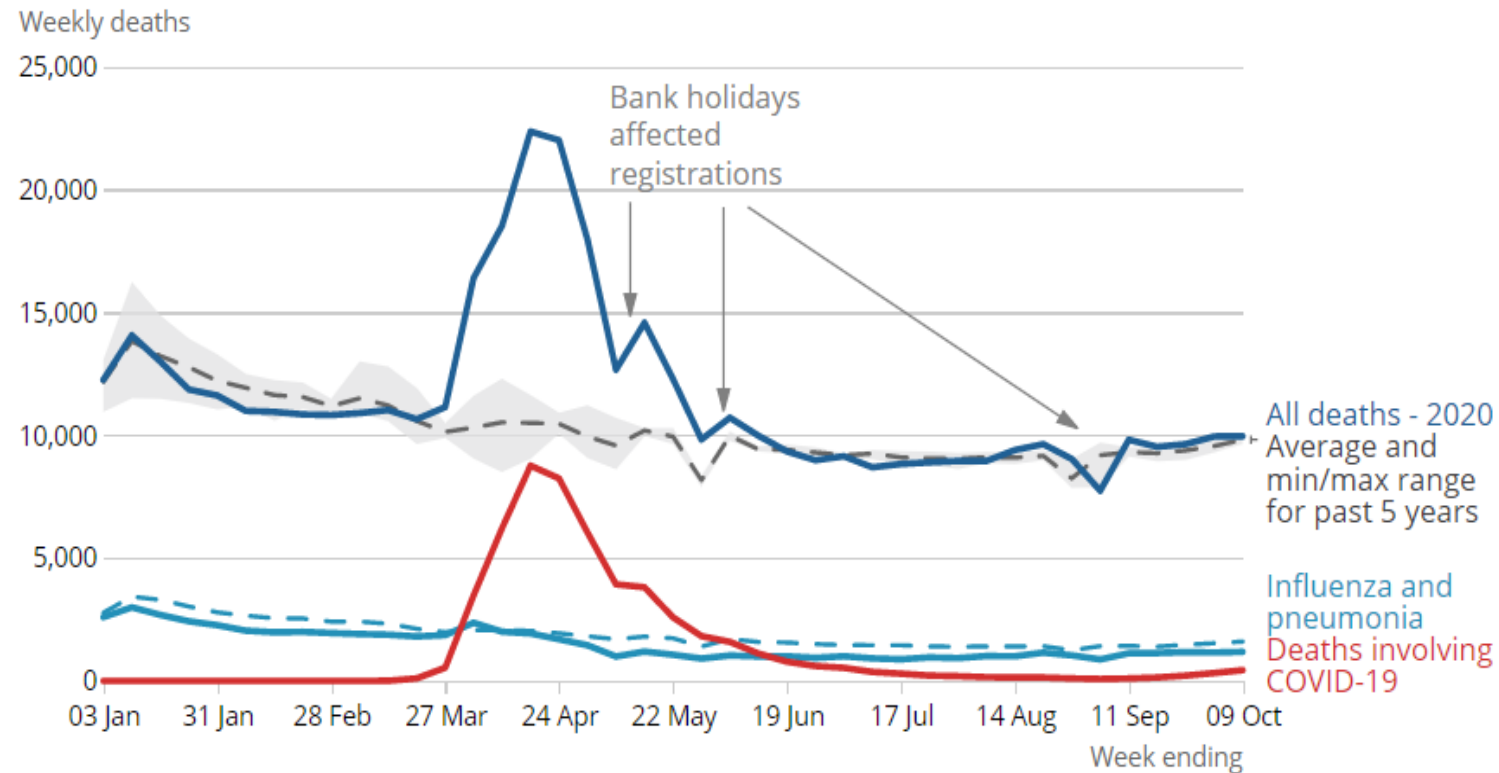
Deaths registrations during week ending 9 October 2020 in England and Wales:

- Total deaths were 9,954; up 9 deaths on previous week and 1.5% above the 5-year average (143 deaths higher).
- 438 deaths involving COVID-19 (4.4% of all deaths); 117 deaths higher than the previous week.
- In England, the total number of deaths increased from 9,257 to 9,308; the East, London, the South East and the South West regions had lower overall deaths than the five-year average.
- The number of deaths in private homes remained above the 5-year average, whereas the numbers of deaths in hospitals, care homes and other locations were below the 5-year average.
- 55.1% of all deaths involving COVID-19 for the year-to-date were males.
- 89.3% of all deaths involving COVID-19 for the year-to-date were aged 65+.

474 UK COVID-19 deaths (week ending 9 October 2020): 58,164 total UK COVID-19 deaths.

Deaths involving COVID-19 increased for fifth consecutive week

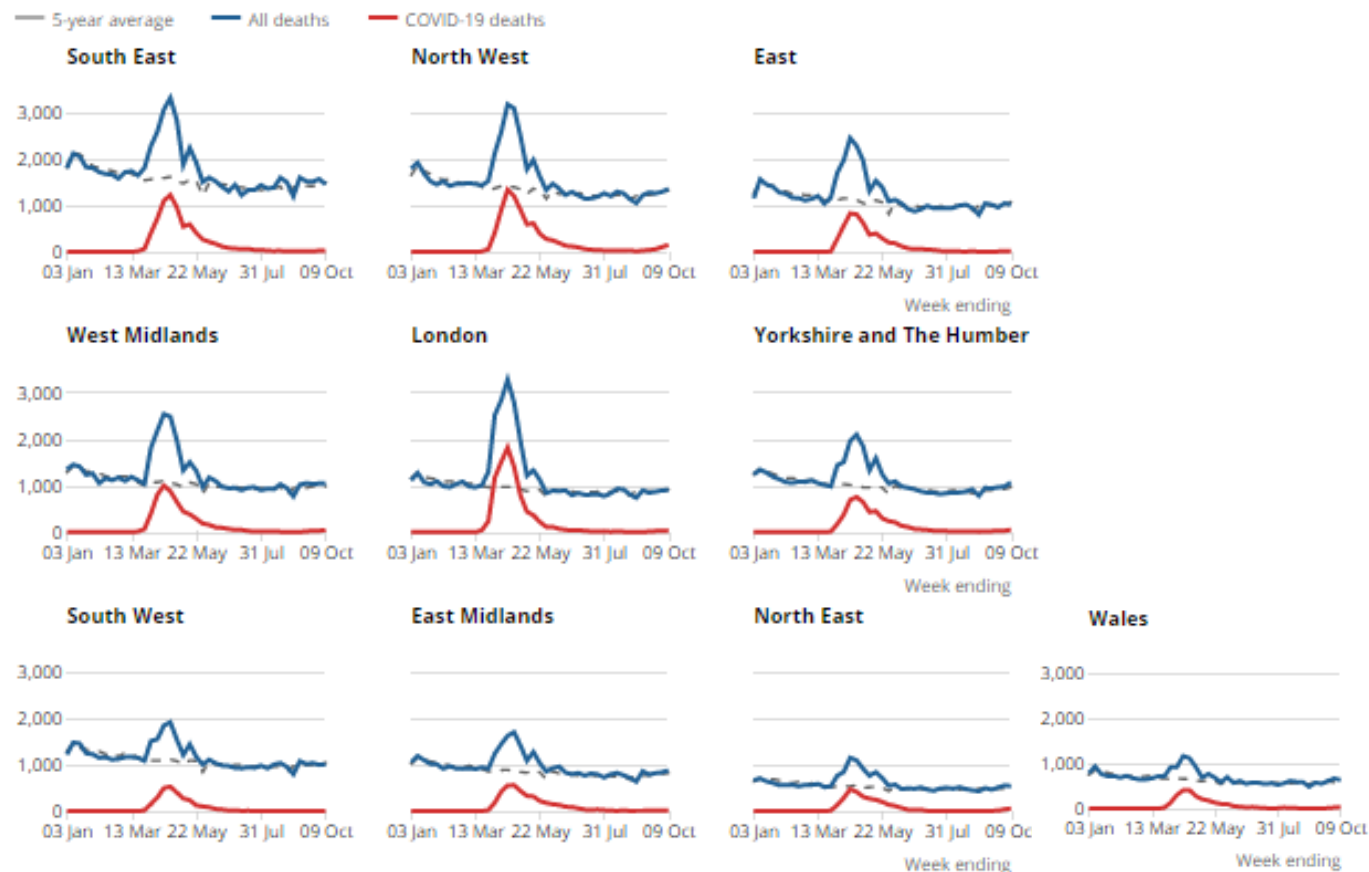
Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 9 October 2020



Source: [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 9 October 2020](#)

The number of deaths in week ending 9 October 2020 increased in most of the English regions but decreased in Wales

Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered between 28 December 2019 to 9 October 2020



Source: [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 9 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Sarah Caul](#)

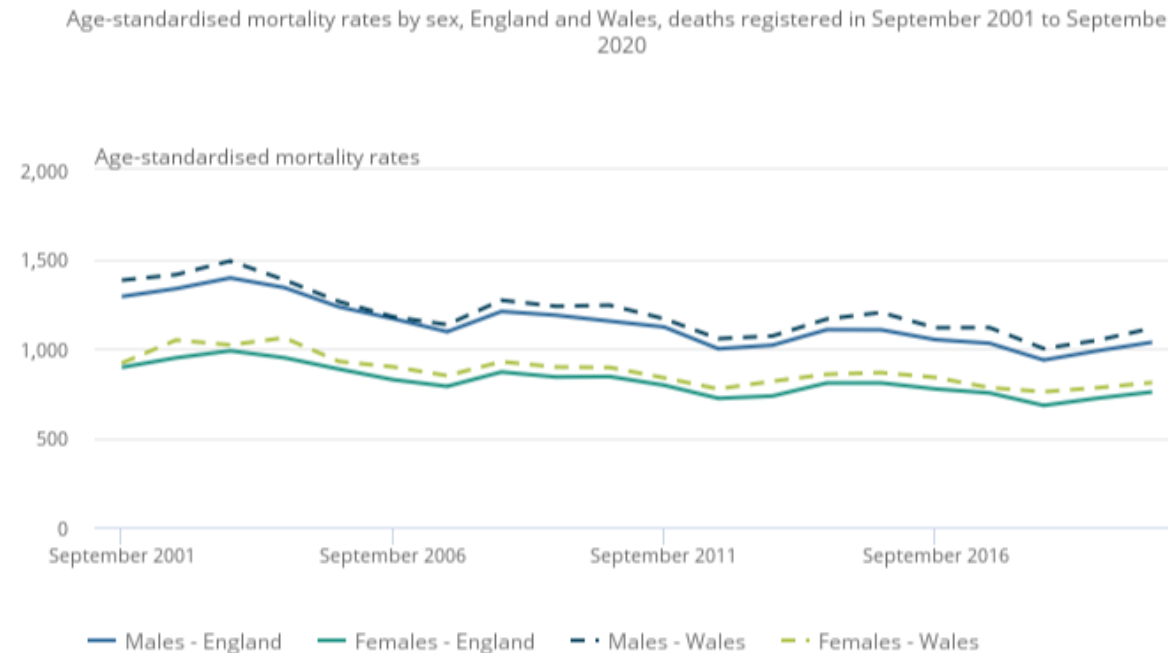
Mortality rates for deaths in September 2020 due to COVID-19 have increased for the first time since the peak in April 2020

Deaths registered in England and Wales in September 2020:

- 39,827 deaths were registered in England, 2,568 deaths more than the 5-year average for September; in Wales, there were 2,610 deaths registered, 135 deaths more than the 5-year average.
- Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death in England (11.2% of all deaths) and in Wales (11.1% of all deaths).
- COVID-19 did not feature in the top ten leading causes of death in September 2020, in England or Wales. In England, COVID-19 was the 19th most common cause of death and in Wales COVID-19 was the 24th most common cause of death, for deaths registered in September 2020.
- The age-standardised mortality rate of death due to COVID-19 for England and Wales was 12.6 and 10.8 per 100,000 persons respectively; in England, for the first time since April, the COVID-19 mortality rate significantly increased, compared to the previous month.

Mortality rates for the month of September have fallen between 2003 and 2020

Age-standardised mortality rates by sex, England and Wales, deaths registered in September 2001 to September 2020



Source: [Monthly Mortality Analysis, England and Wales: September 2020](#)

Leading Analyst: [Sarah Caul](#)

Over half of excess deaths in private homes in England and Wales were of people aged 70 to 89 years

Deaths in private homes, registered from 28 December 2019 to 11 September 2020, England and Wales:

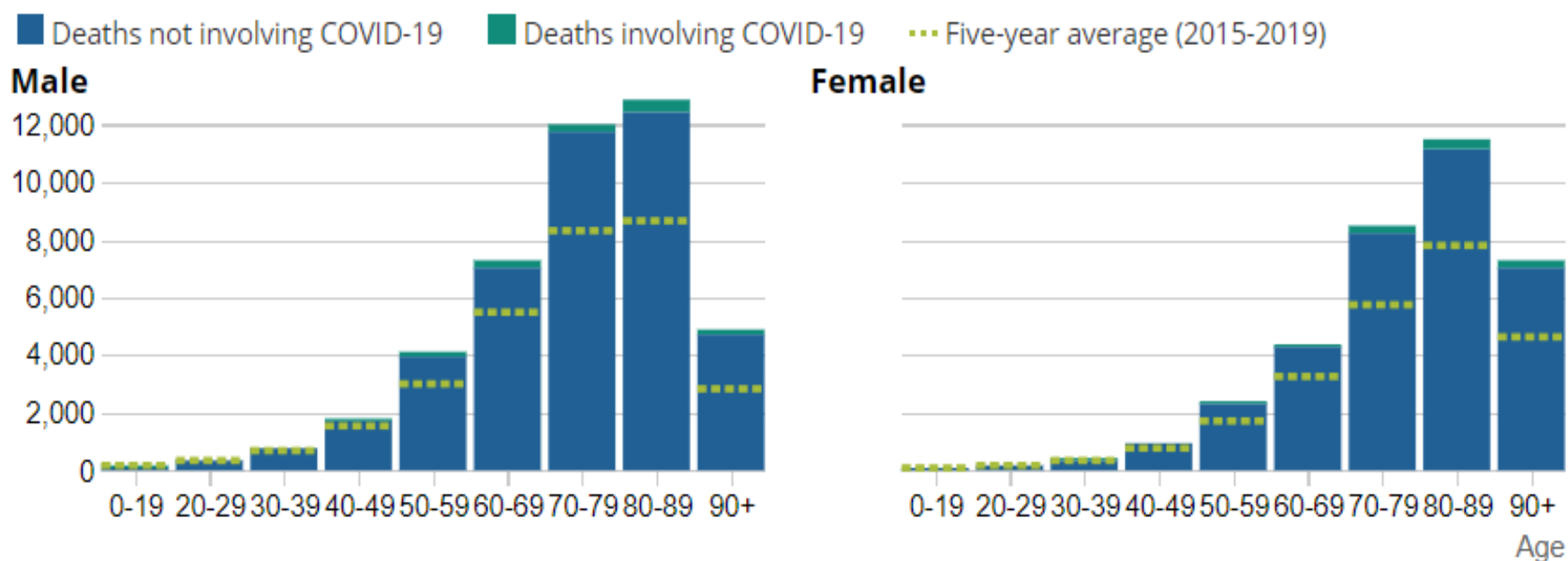
- The number of deaths in private homes in England was 108,842; this was 25,472 deaths more than the five-year average for the same period.
- The number of deaths in private homes in Wales was 7,440; this was 1,624 deaths more than the five-year average for the same period.
- Between the week ending 20 March 2020 and the week ending 11 September 2020, males accounted for a higher percentage of excess deaths in private homes than females, while males and females aged 70 to 89 years accounted for majority of the excess.

Excess deaths in private homes in England and Wales were mostly due to deaths not involving COVID-19

- Excess deaths in private homes were mostly due to deaths not involving COVID-19.
- Deaths in private homes and care homes for the leading causes of death were above the five-year average while deaths in hospitals and hospices were below the five-year average suggesting a re-distribution of deaths between locations.
- Deaths in private homes for males from Ischaemic heart diseases increased by 25.9% in England and 22.7% in Wales compared to the five-year average, while deaths in hospitals decreased by 22.4% and 29.3% respectively; looking across all settings there was an increase of 2.3% in England and a decrease of 2.5% in Wales.
- Deaths in private homes for females from Dementia and Alzheimer's disease increased by 75.0% in England and 92.2% in Wales compared to the five-year average, larger than the increase across all settings (21.7% and 19.3% respectively), while deaths in hospitals decreased by 40.6% and 25.5% respectively and deaths in care homes increased by 32.0% and 28.6% respectively.

Almost 60% of excess deaths in private homes in England were of people aged 70 to 89 years

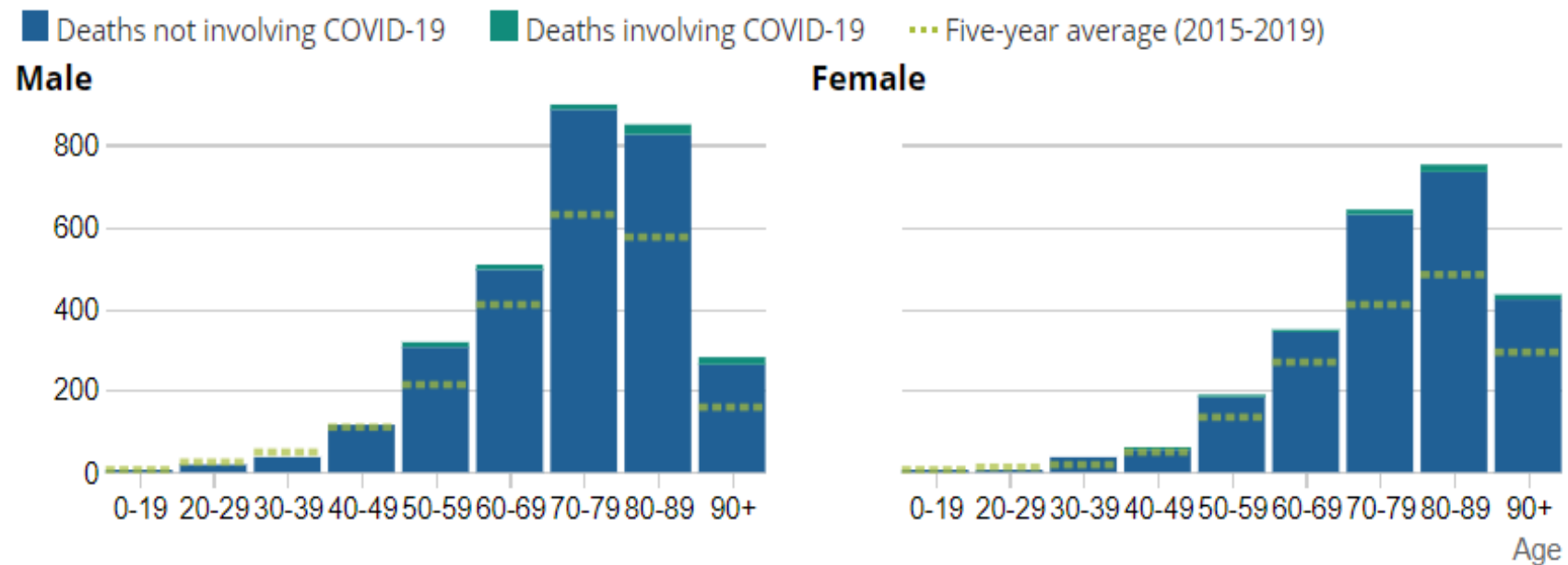
Number of deaths in private homes by sex and age, England, registered between 14 March 2020 and 11 September 2020



Source: [Deaths in private homes, England and Wales \(provisional\): deaths registered from 28 December 2019 to 11 September 2020](#)

Over 60% of excess deaths in private homes in Wales were of people aged 70 to 89 years

Number of deaths in private homes by sex and age, Wales, registered between 14 March 2020 and 11 September 2020



Source: [Deaths in private homes, England and Wales \(provisional\): deaths registered from 28 December 2019 to 11 September 2020](#)

Lead analysts: [Sarah Caul](#) ; [Melissa Price](#)

The number of infections continues to increase, with the current rates highest in older teenagers and young adults

- The number of infections continues to increase; an estimated 433,300 people (95% credible interval: 407,500 to 459,300) within the community population in England had COVID-19 during the most recent week, from 10 to 16 October 2020, equating to around 1 in 130 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 130 to 1 in 120).
- There has been growth in COVID-19 infection rates in all age groups over the past two weeks including those aged over 70 years, with the current rates highest in older teenagers and young adults.
- The highest COVID-19 infection rates continue to be seen in the North West, Yorkshire and The Humber, and the North East.
- The number of infections in Wales has increased in recent weeks; during the most recent week (10 to 16 October 2020), we estimate that 16,700 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 7,600 to 30,400), equating to 1 in 180 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 400 to 1 in 100).

The incidence rate in England has continued to increase in recent weeks, with an estimated 6.46 new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people per day in the most recent week

- During the most recent two weeks (3 to 16 October 2020), we estimate that 1.01% of people in Northern Ireland had COVID-19 (95% confidence interval: 0.64% to 1.50%), which is around 1 in 100 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 160 to 1 in 70).
- For the first time we are reporting results for Scotland; during the most recent two weeks (3 to 16 October 2020), we estimate that 0.57% of people in Scotland had COVID-19 (95% confidence interval: 0.35% to 0.88%), which is around 1 in 180 people (95% confidence interval: 1 in 290 to 1 in 110).
- During the most recent week (10 to 16 October 2020), we estimate there were around 6.46 new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people per day (95% credible interval: 5.46 to 8.55) in the community population in England, equating to around 35,200 new cases per day (95% credible interval: 29,800 to 46,600).

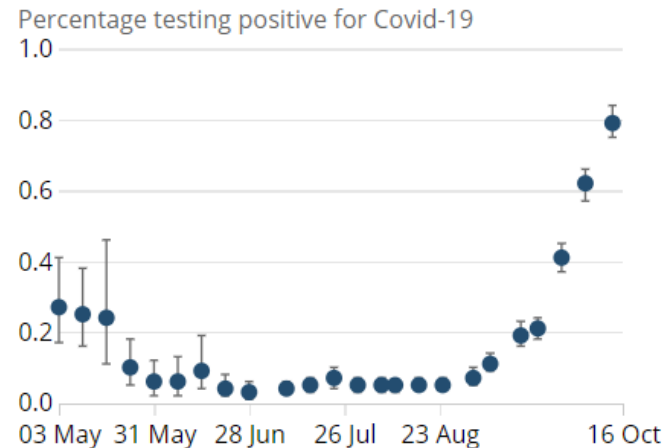
The most recent modelled estimate shows the number of infections in England has continued to increase in recent weeks

Estimated percentage of the population in England testing positive for COVID-19 on nose and throat swabs based on modelled estimates from 5 September 2020

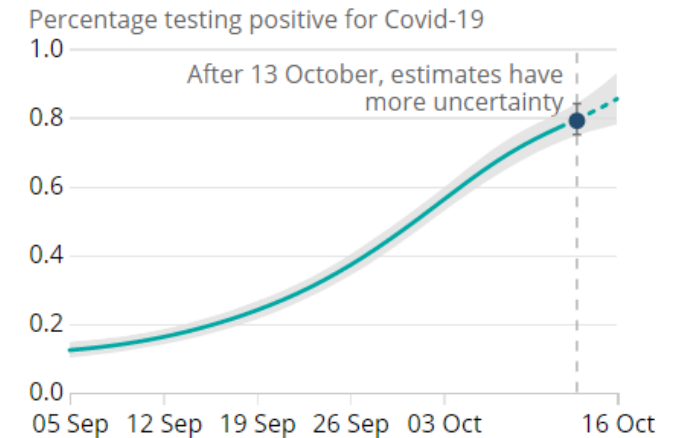
Source: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, UK: 23 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Kara Steel and Eleanor Fordham](#)

Official reported estimates of the rate of COVID-19 infections in the community in England.



Modelled estimates are used to calculate the official reported estimate. The model smooths the series to understand the trend and is revised each week to incorporate new test results.



Around 1 in 18 people tested positive for antibodies in September in England

- In England, an estimated 5.6% (95% confidence interval 5.0% to 6.2%) of people would have tested positive for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 on a blood test in September, suggesting they had the infection in the past. It is estimated that an average of 2.5 million people aged 16 years and over in England had antibodies to COVID-19 during this time (95% confidence interval: 2.2 million to 2.8 million). This equates to 1 in 18 people aged 16 years and over (95% confidence interval 1 in 20, to 1 in 16).
- The highest antibody positivity was seen in London, followed by the North East, Yorkshire and The Humber and the North West.
- In Wales, an estimated 4.2% (95% confidence interval 2.1% to 7.5%) of people would have tested positive for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 on a blood test in September, suggesting they had the infection in the past. It is estimated that an average of 107,000 people aged 16 years and over in Wales would have tested positive for antibodies during this time (95% confidence interval: 53,000 to 189,000). This equates to 1 in 24 people aged 16 years and over (95% confidence interval 1 in 48, to 1 in 13).

Source: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, UK: 23 October 2020](#)

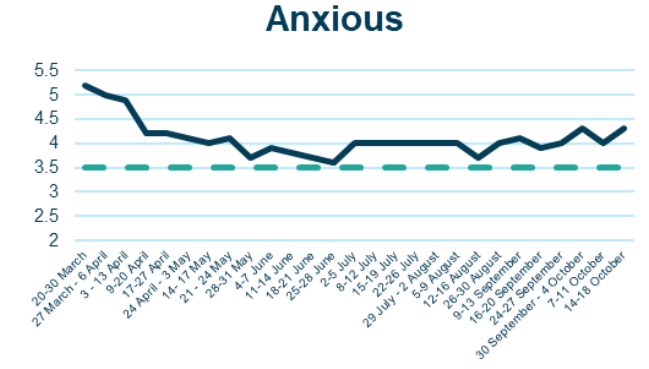
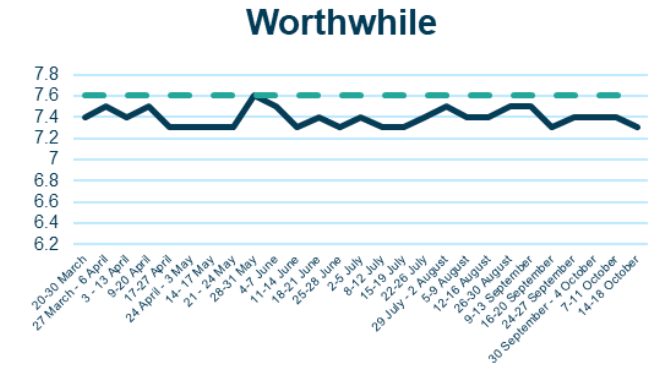
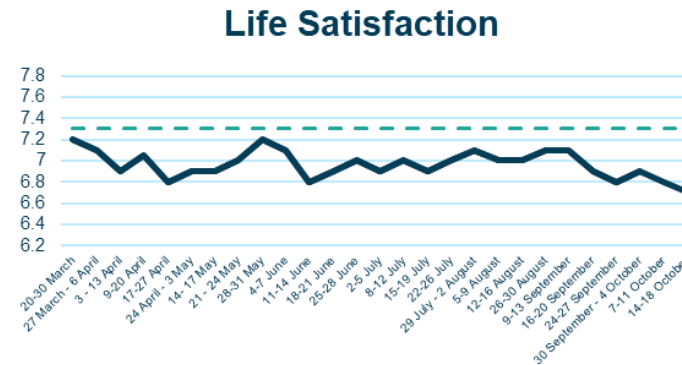
Adults' anxiety scores remained at the highest since the beginning of April, and life satisfaction is at its lowest point, while other measures of personal wellbeing remained stable compared to last week

Question: "Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?", "Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?", "Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?", "Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?".

Each of these questions is answered on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is "not at all" and 10 is "completely".

Source: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 23 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Tim Vizard](#)



Adults say they are worried about the effect of COVID-19 on their life, this has increased gradually since the end of the summer

Key trends on well-being	24-27 September	30 September- 4 October	7-11 October	14-18 October
% of adults that say they are somewhat or very worried about the effect the COVID-19 outbreak is having on their life right now	74	72	74	76
% of adults that say their well-being is affected by the COVID-19 outbreak	48	47	46	49
% of adults that say they are often/always or sometimes lonely	25	23	23	27

Source: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 23 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Tim Vizard](#)

Adults in local lockdown areas reported differences in socializing, information about government plans and the impacts of coronavirus

- A lower percentage of those living in local lockdown areas met up with people in a personal place compared to those not in local lockdown (12% compared to 25%)
- Levels of socialising indoors in the past seven days were reduced when an individual was in a “local lockdown” area; 17% of those in a local lockdown area said they had not socialised indoors with anyone, compared with 11% not in local lockdown.
- A lower percentage of those living in local lockdown areas reported that they had enough information about government plans to manage the coronavirus pandemic, compared to those not in local lockdown (40% compared to 47%).
- There were some differences in concerns reported between those living in local lockdown compared to those not in local lockdown; the largest difference was the percentage that reported they are unable to make plans (56% compared to 46%), and those who reported that their wellbeing is affected (55% compared to 46%).
- A slightly lower percentage (55%) of those living in local lockdown reported travelling to work, compared with those not in local lockdown (62%).

Percentage of adults leaving their home by reason, Great Britain, May to October 2020

 Office for National Statistics

Trends on leaving home and preventative measures remained stable compared to last week

Key trends on leaving home	24-27 September	30 September-4 October	7-11 October	14-18 October
% of adults that left their home in past 7 days	94	95	95	94
% of adults that feel safe or very safe outside their home due to COVID-19	29	31	34	33
% of adults that have left their home and worn a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19	97	98	98	96

Source: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 23 October 2020](#)

Adults with dependent children were asked how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting children or young people within their household

- More than a quarter (26%) of adults with dependent children of school age reported the coronavirus is affecting their child's feelings about going to school or college a lot.
- Around 6 in 10 (64%) of adults with dependent children were very or somewhat worried about them going to school or college this term. Among those who were worried about going to school and college this term, the most common concern reported was about them catching the coronavirus (COVID-19) at school or college.
- Among those adults with dependent children whose oldest child had either been sent home, or had a coronavirus outbreak at school or college, 74% reported that they strongly agree or agree that their school or college had done a good job in their handling of their coronavirus outbreak this term.
- Around 7 in 10 (66%) adults with dependent children reported that the school or college was giving the oldest child in their household a lot or some support to help them catch up with education missed during spring and summer due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

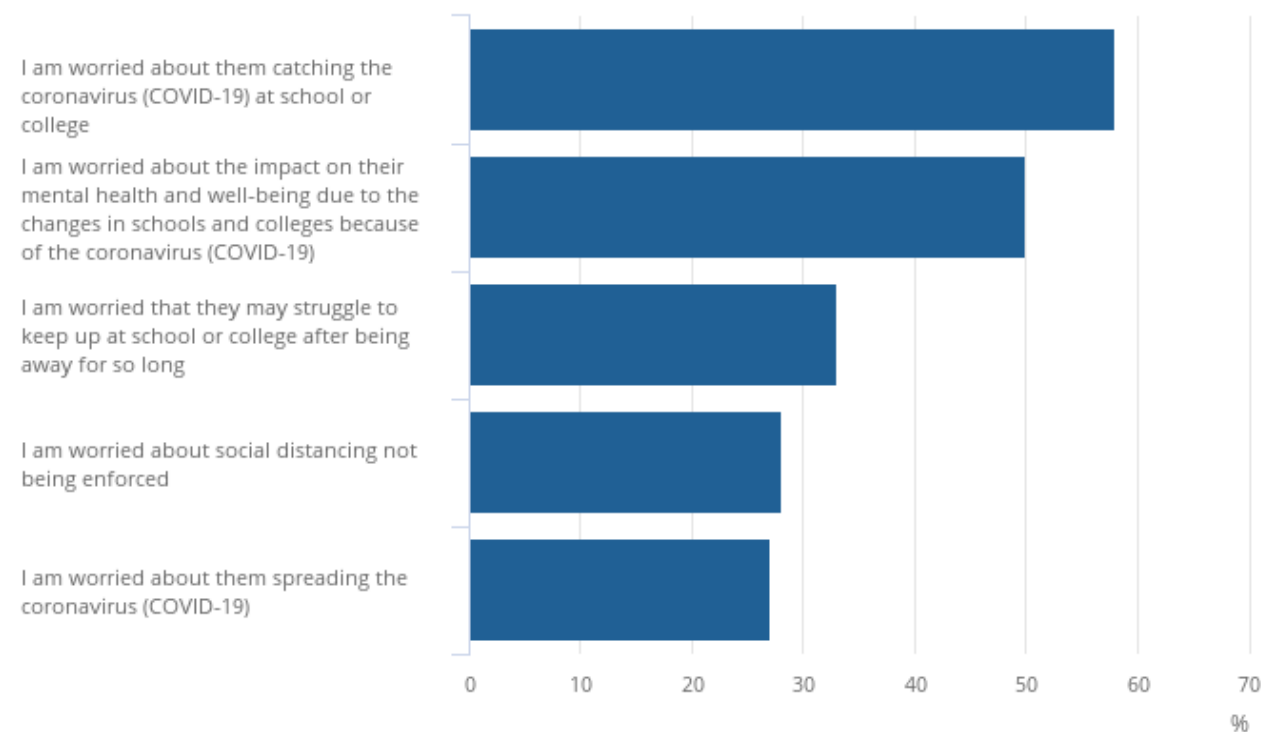
Source: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 23 October 2020](#)

Among adults with dependent children who were worried about them going to school or college this term, the main concern was catching COVID-19 at school or college

Great Britain, 14 to 18 October 2020

Source: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 23 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Tim Vizard](#)



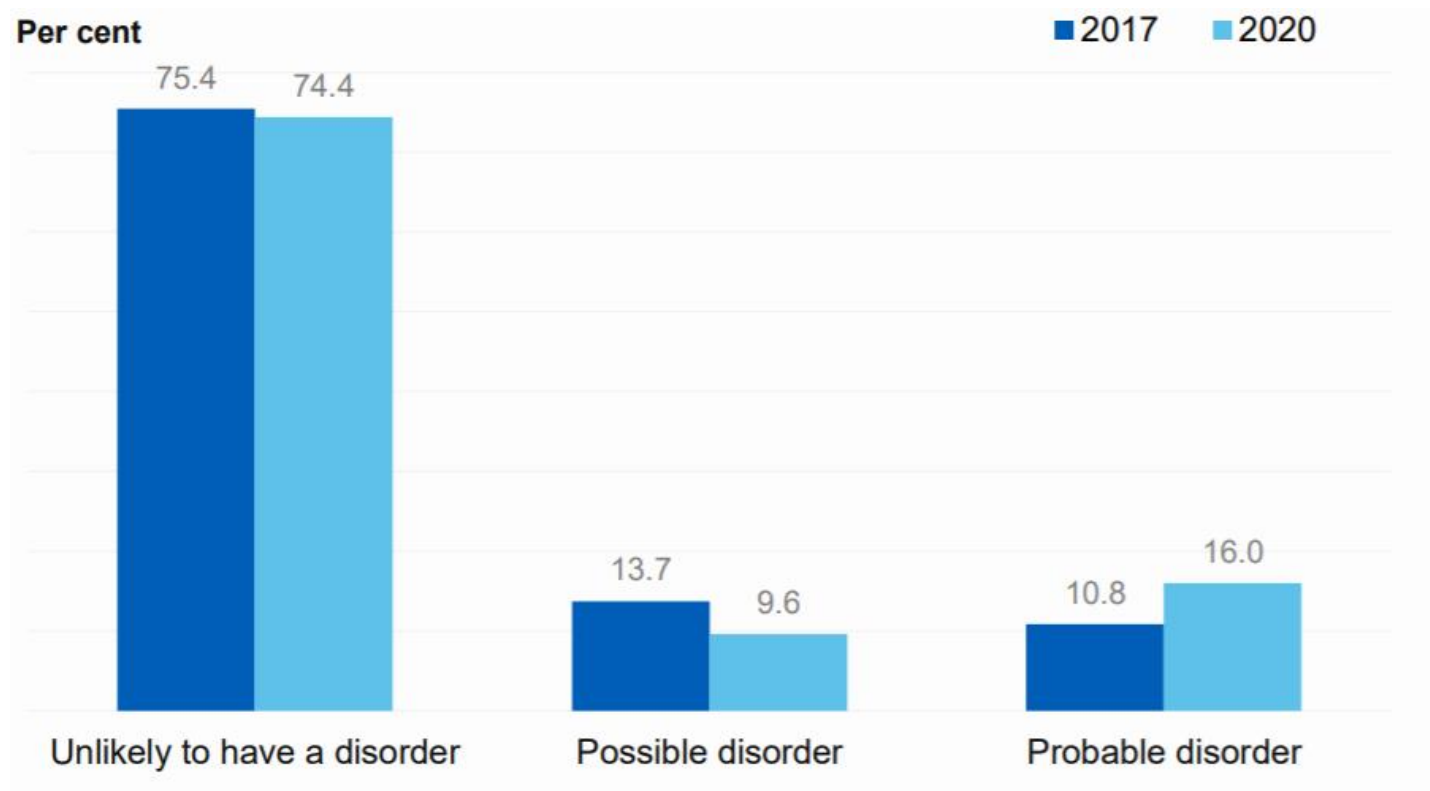
The proportion of children experiencing a probable mental disorder has increased over the past three years, from one in nine in 2017 to one in six in July this year.

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in the UK in March 2020, children and young people have experienced major changes in their lives. NHS Digital, in collaboration with ONS, the National Centre for Social Research, the University of Cambridge and the University of Exeter took a look at the mental health of children and young people in England in July 2020, and how this has changed since 2017.

- In 2020, one in six (16.0%) children aged 5 to 16 years were identified as having a probable mental disorder, increasing from one in nine (10.8%) in 2017. The increase was evident in both boys and girls
- The likelihood of a probable mental disorder increased with age with a noticeable difference in gender for the older age group (17 to 22 years); 27.2% of young women and 13.3% of young men were identified as having a probable mental disorder in 2020
- Children and young people with a probable mental disorder were more likely to say that lockdown had made their life worse (54.1% of 11 to 16 year olds, and 59.0% of 17 to 22 year olds), than those unlikely to have a mental disorder (39.2% and 37.3% respectively)

Percentage of children with an unlikely, possible and probable mental disorder, 2017 and 2020

Base: 5 to 16 year olds in England



Source: NHS Digital, [The Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2020](#)

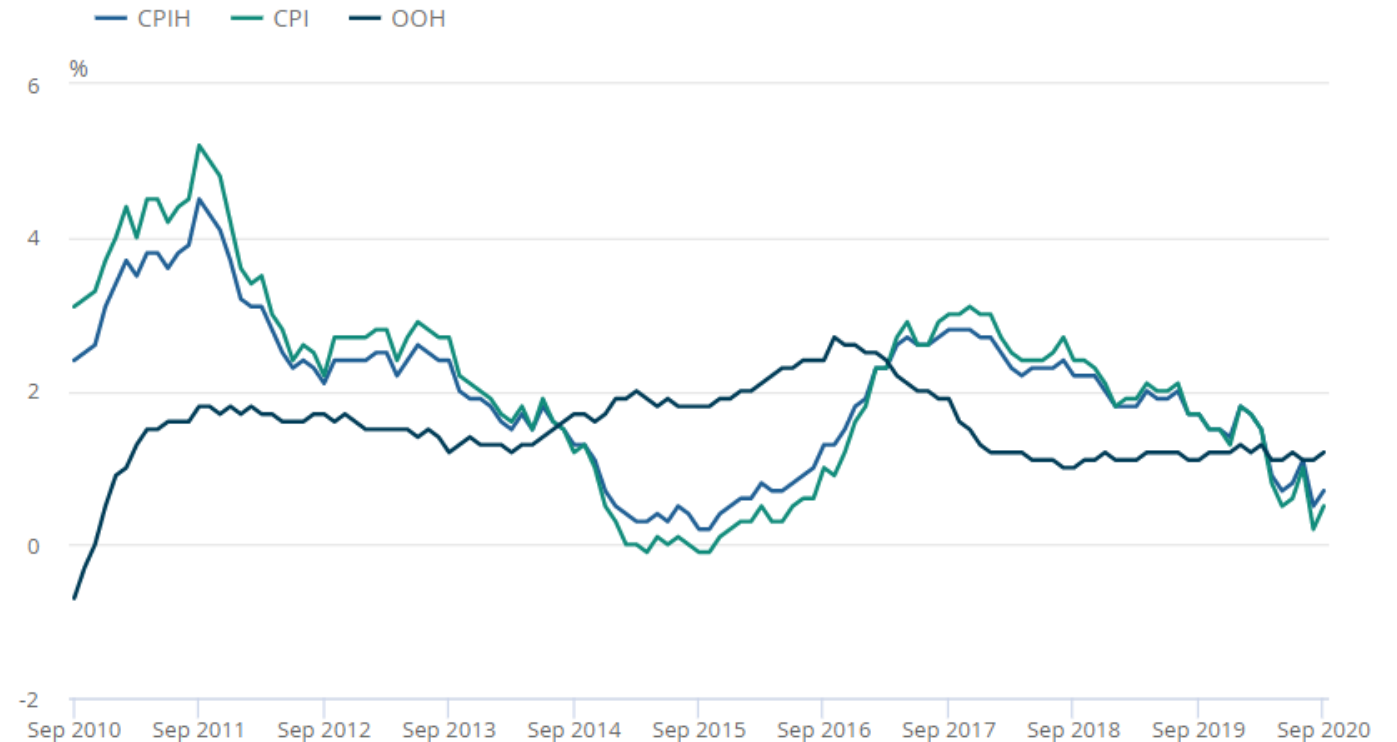
Lead analysts: [Tim Vizard](#), [Jodie Davis](#), [Tracy Williams](#), [Charlotte Leach](#)

Inflation rises to 0.7% in September 2020 up from 0.5% in August 2020

- The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) 12-month inflation rate rose to 0.7% in September 2020 up from 0.5% in August 2020.
- Transport costs, and restaurant and café prices made the largest upward contributions to the change in the CPIH 12-month inflation rate between August and September 2020.
- Transport had an upward contribution for the first time since March. This was driven by an upward contribution from air fares; and higher second-hand car prices, as people may be reducing their reliance on public transport.
- The upward contributions from restaurants and hotels reflects the end of the Eat Out to Help Out, EOHO, scheme (which had reduced the prices of food and non-alcoholic drinks in participating restaurants, pubs and cafés) leading to higher costs of eating out in September. Our analysis finds that the CPIH 12-month inflation rate would have been around 0.9% (instead of 0.5%) in August 2020 if EOHO and the VAT reduction pass through from restaurants had not been in effect.
- Despite September's price rise, the fall in prices between July and August 2020 has not entirely been reversed with a continuing effect from the temporary reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) on the hospitality sector and some restaurants still offering discounts via unofficial EOHO schemes.

Transport costs and restaurant prices lead the increase to the CPIH and CPI 12-month inflation rates

CPIH, Owner Occupiers' Housing (OOH) component and CPI 12-month inflation rates for the last 10 years, UK, September 2010 to September 2020



Source: [Office for National Statistics – Consumer price inflation](#); [Impacts of Eat Out to Help Out on consumer prices: August 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Andy King](#); [Kathryn Keane](#)

UK average house prices see annual rise of 2.5% in August 2020

- UK average house prices rose by 2.5% over the year to August 2020, up from 2.1% in July 2020. The average UK house price was £239,000 in August 2020, which is £6,000 higher than in August 2019.
- Average house prices increased over the year in England by 2.8%, Wales by 2.7%, Scotland by 0.6% and Northern Ireland by 3.0%. The East Midlands was the English region to see the highest annual growth in average house prices (3.6%), while the North East saw the lowest (0.2%).
- London house prices remain the most expensive at an average of £489,000; this is a joint record high for London, with this price last seen in July 2017

Note: Due to the impact of the pandemic on both the number and supply of housing transactions, some methodology changes have been made. The processing of new build properties has been more affected than the processing of "old build" properties. So, we have had to pool new build transactions for certain months. These changes might lead to larger revisions to published estimates than usual.

UK house price growth has generally slowed since mid-2016, but has picked up this year

Annual house price rates of change for all dwellings, UK, January 2006 to August 2020



Source: [HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land and Property Services Northern Ireland, Office for National Statistics – UK House Price Index](#)

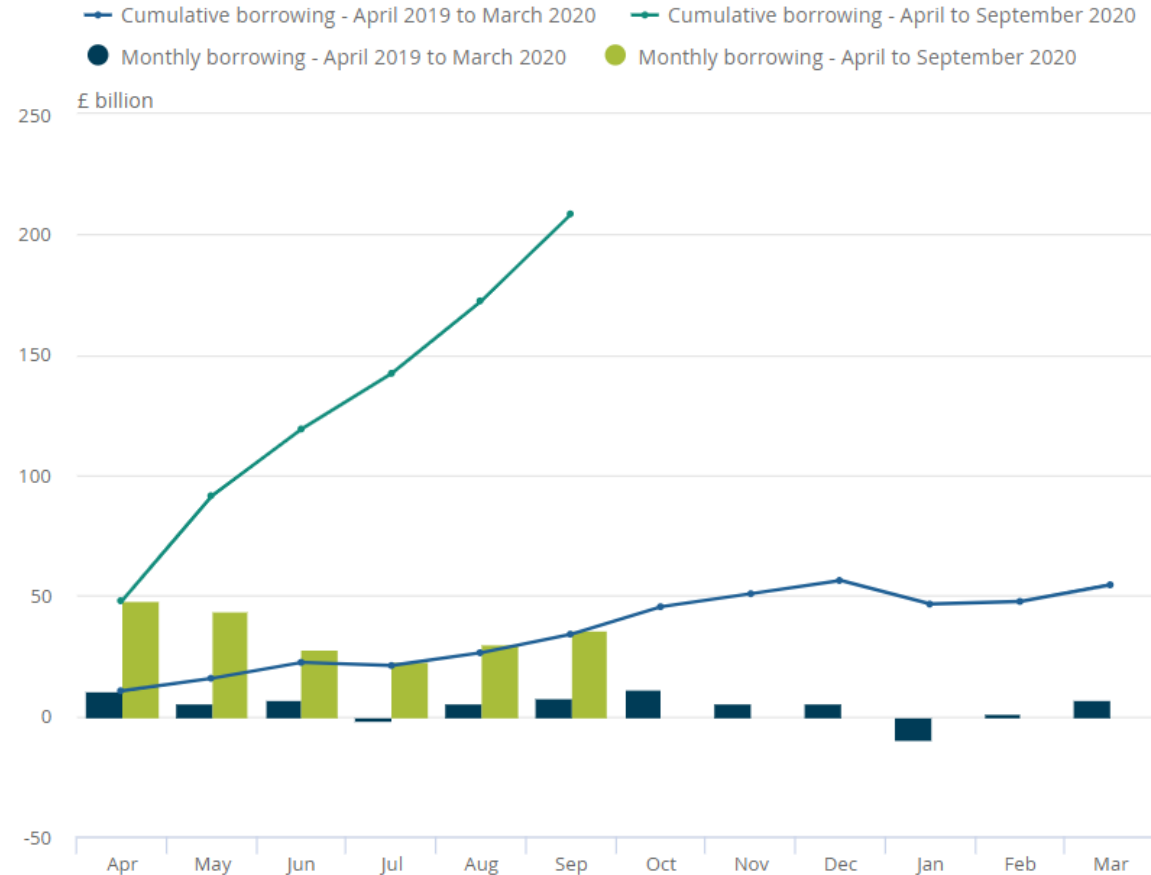
Lead analyst: [Natalie Jones](#)

Public sector borrowing continues to rise and was £36.1bn in September 2020

- Public sector net borrowing (excluding public sector banks, PSNB ex) is estimated to have been £36.1 billion in September 2020, £28.4 billion more than in September 2019.
- Central government tax receipts are estimated to have been £6.0 billion less than in September 2019, with large falls in Value Added Tax (VAT), Business Rates and Corporation Tax receipts.
- Central government bodies are estimated to have spent £18.1 billion (excluding net investments) more than in September 2019; this includes £4.9 billion in Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) payment.
- Borrowing (PSNB ex) in the first six months of this financial year (April to September 2020) is estimated to have been £208.5 billion, nearly four times the £54.5 billion borrowed in the whole of the last full financial year.
- Public debt (public sector net debt excluding public sector banks, PSND ex) rose to reach £2,059.7 billion at the end of September 2020, or around 103.5% of GDP. This has been driven by higher Government spending on Covid-19 support schemes, falling cash receipts and a fall in GDP.

Borrowing in the current financial year-to-date is substantially higher than in the same period last year

Public sector net borrowing excluding public sector banks, UK, the current financial year-to-date (April to September 2020) compared with the financial year ending March 2020 (April 2019 to March 2020)



Source: [Office for Budget Responsibility and Office for National Statistics – Public sector finances](#)

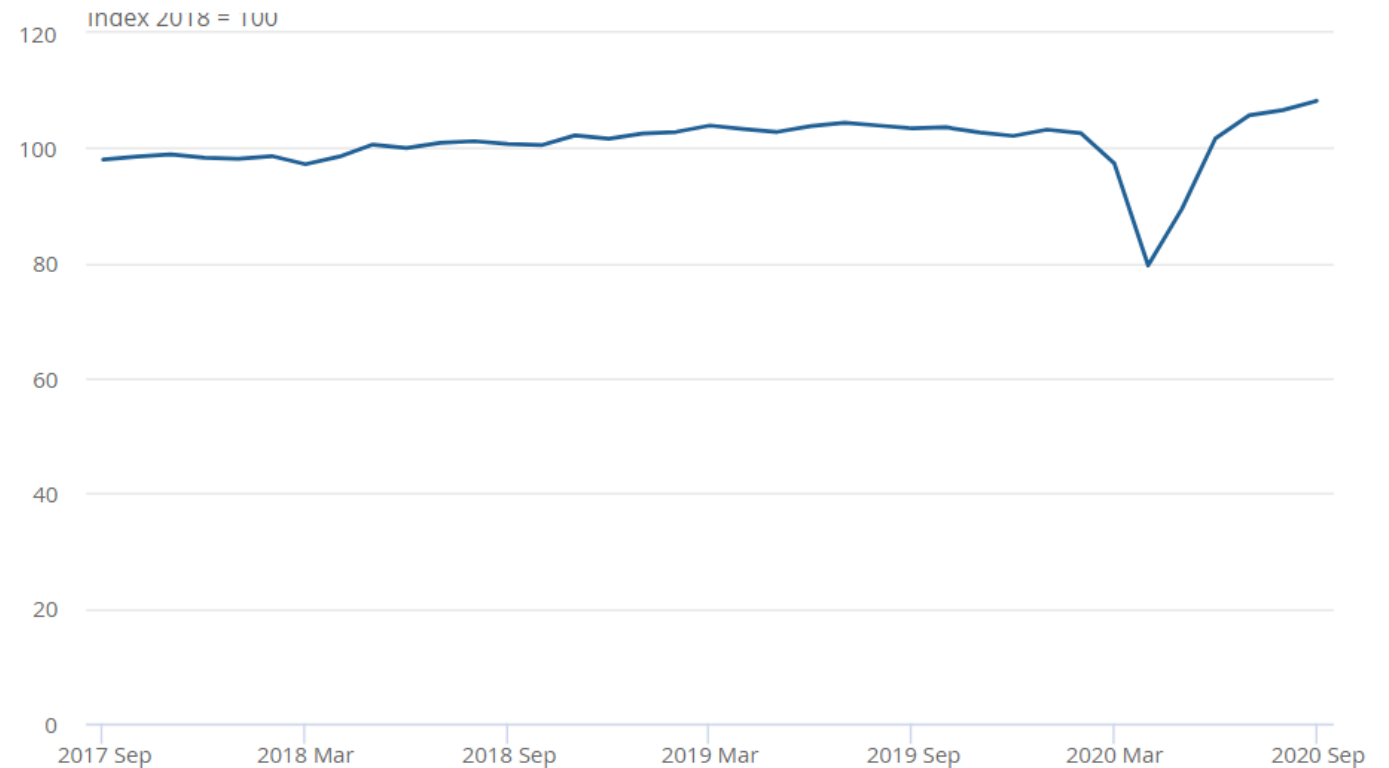
Lead analyst: [Fraser Munro](#)

Retail Sales volumes rise by 1.5% in September, the fifth consecutive month of growth

- In September 2020 retail sales volumes rose by 1.5% when compared with August, leading to a rise of 5.5% when compared with February's pre-pandemic level.
- Analysis of sales volume by main sectors finds that food stores and non-store retailing remained at higher levels than in February. Higher spending in food stores is likely to be explained by government tightening restrictions for bars and restaurants which may have encouraged spending in food stores.
- Non-food stores' sales volumes recovered in September from falls during the lockdown due to many stores temporarily closing. Fuel was the only main sector to remain at lower levels than in February 2020 due to some Covid-19 restrictions still in place.
- In the three months to September, retail sales volumes rose by 17.4% when compared with the previous three months; this is a record quarterly increase as sales picked up from record-low levels experienced earlier in the year.
- The proportion of online sales was at 27.5%, compared with 20.1% reported in February, despite small monthly declines across most of the retail sector.

Total retail sales volumes continued to increase for the fifth consecutive month since the sharp falls experienced in February

Volume sales, seasonally adjusted, Great Britain, September 2017 to September 2020



Source: [Office for National Statistics – Monthly Business Survey – Retail Sales Inquiry](#)

Lead analyst: [Rhian Murphy](#)

Almost three-quarters (71%) of businesses report that they were at no or low risk of insolvency

- According to the latest Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey, across all industries, 71% of businesses said they were at no or low risk of insolvency.
- The accommodation and food service activities industry and the administrative and support service activities industry had the highest percentage of businesses with a severe risk of insolvency, at 17% and 9% respectively.

Businesses Trading Status:

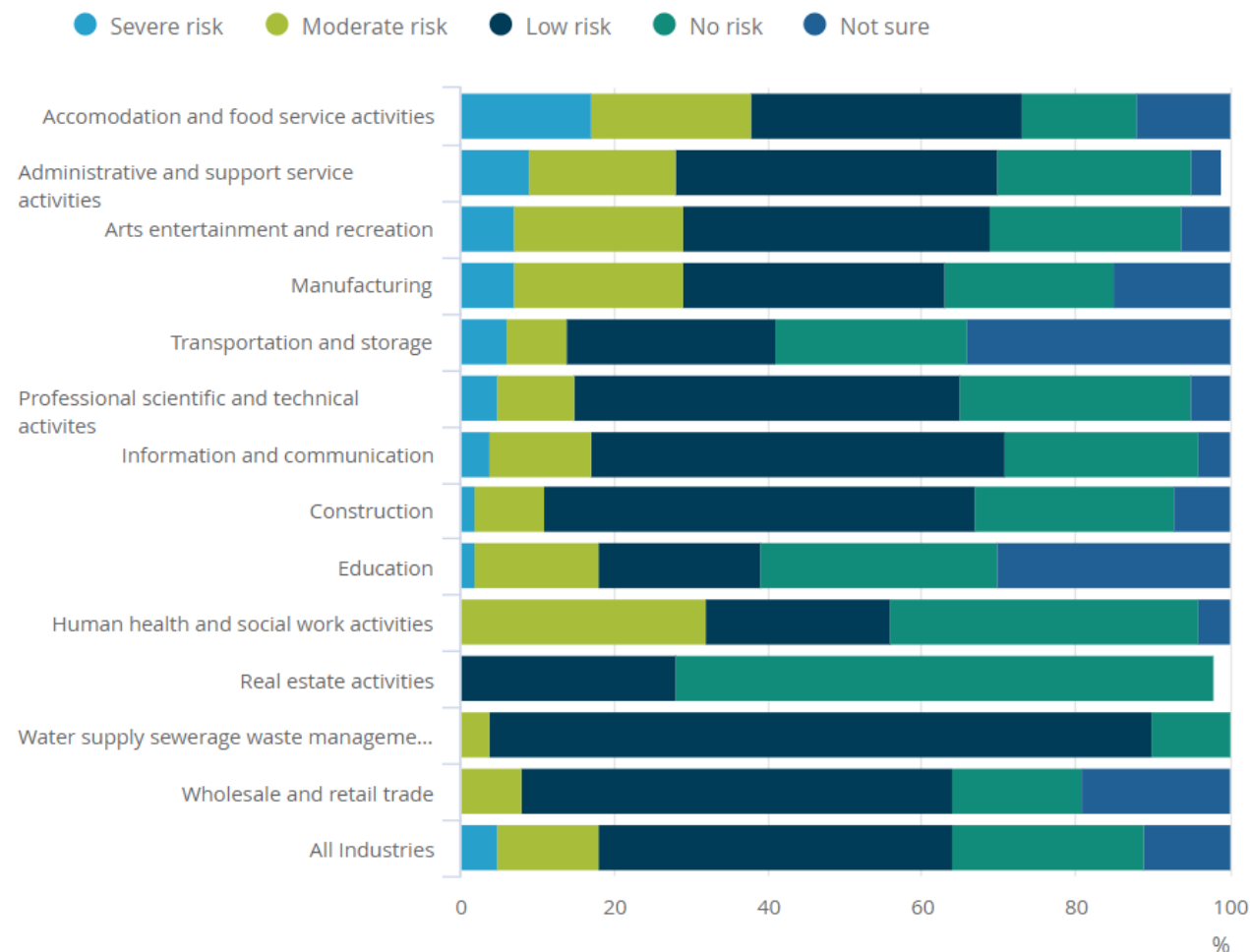
- Across all industries, 84% of businesses had been trading for more than the last two weeks, while 9% of businesses had paused trading and do not intend to restart in the next two weeks.

Turnover Expectations:

- Nearly half (48%) of currently trading businesses reported that their turnover had fell below what is normally expected for this time of year.
- The highest share of businesses experiencing a fall in turnover were in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry (75%) and the accommodation and food service activities industry (68%).

Across all industries, 71% of businesses said they were at no or low risk of insolvency, but 17% of those in accommodation and food services were at a severe risk

Risk of insolvency, businesses which have not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, weighted, UK, 21 September to 4 October 2020



Source: [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [Jon Gough](#)

The Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS) estimates show businesses' turnover results complement official GDP estimates

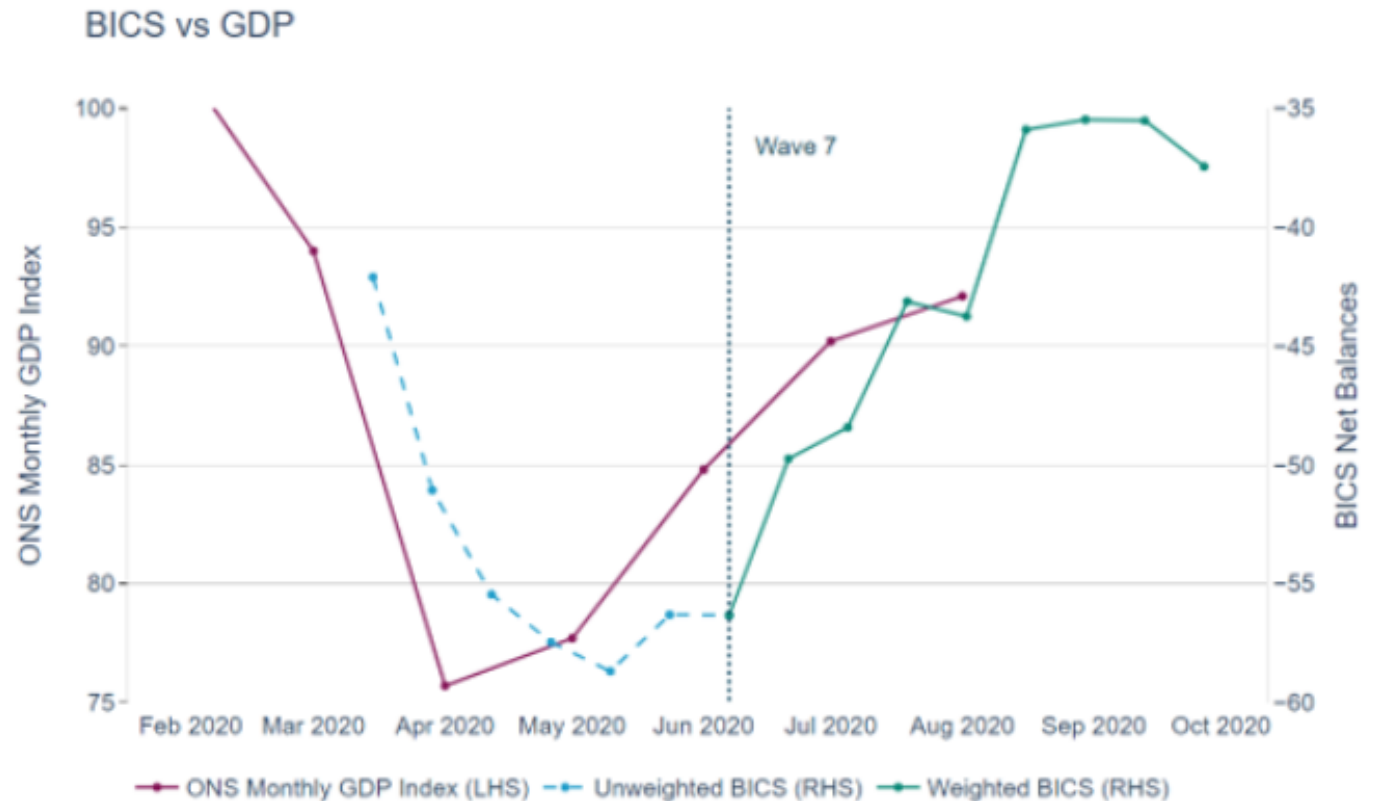
- The fortnightly estimates from BICS on businesses' turnover broadly reflects the published UK monthly GDP estimates. This is despite the fact that BICS is published much earlier than the official monthly GDP estimates.
- The BICS calculation is based on a net balance approach, using the final unweighted BICS results for Waves 1 to 6 and preliminary weighted BICS estimates (not including imputations) for Wave 7 onwards, using the turnover variable.

Workforce:

- Across all industries, of businesses not permanently stopped trading: 9% of the workforce were on partial or full furlough leave; and 28% of the workforce were working remotely instead of at their normal place of work.
- The arts, entertainment and recreation industry had the highest share of its workforce (28%) on partial or full furlough leave, followed by the accommodation and food service activities industry (24%).

Fortnightly estimates from BICS on businesses' turnover broadly reflects the published UK monthly GDP estimates

Net turnover balances of businesses currently trading against gross domestic product (GDP) monthly estimates, UK, 1 February to 4 October 2020



Source: [Coronavirus and the economic impacts on the UK: 22 October 2020](#)

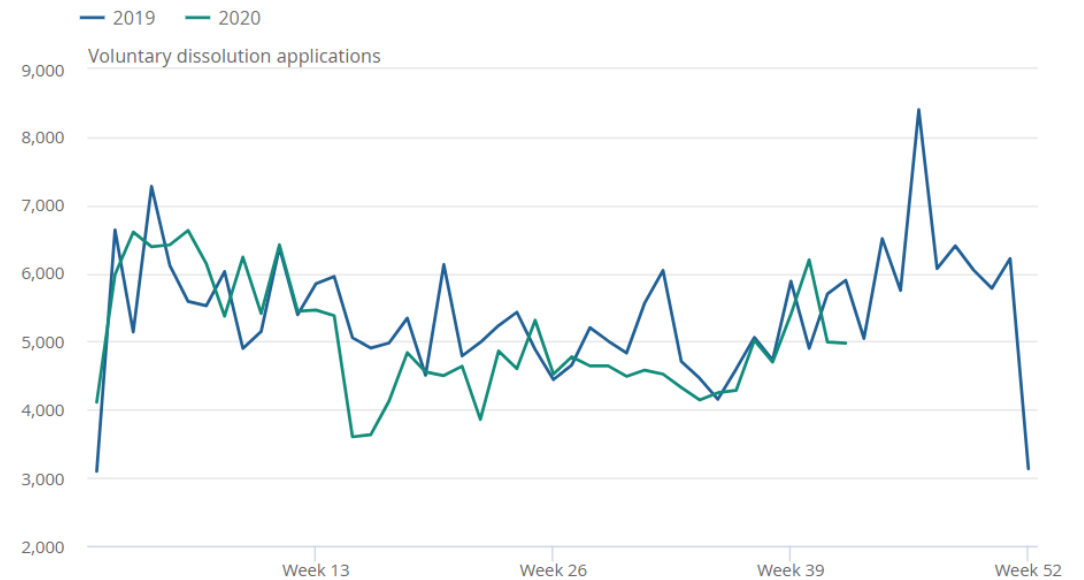
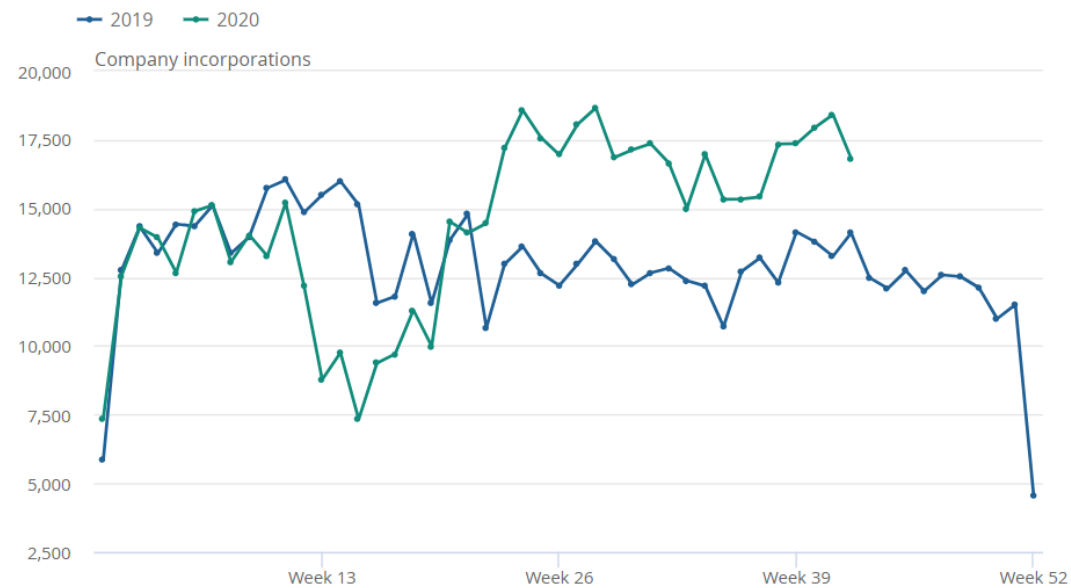
Lead analyst: [Jon Gough](#)

In the latest week, company incorporations were higher and voluntary dissolution applications were lower than the same week last year

- In the week ending Friday 16 October 2020, there were 16,821 company incorporations, which is lower than the previous week but remains higher than the same week the previous year (14,107).
- In the week ending Friday 16 October 2020, there were 4,974 voluntary dissolution applications, similar to the previous week but lower than the same week the previous year (5,898)

In the week ending 16 October 2020, there was a total of 16,821 company incorporations and total of 4,974 voluntary dissolution applications

Total weekly company incorporations and voluntary dissolution applications, UK, from week ending Friday 4 January 2019 to Friday 16 October 2020



Source: Companies House and ONS; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

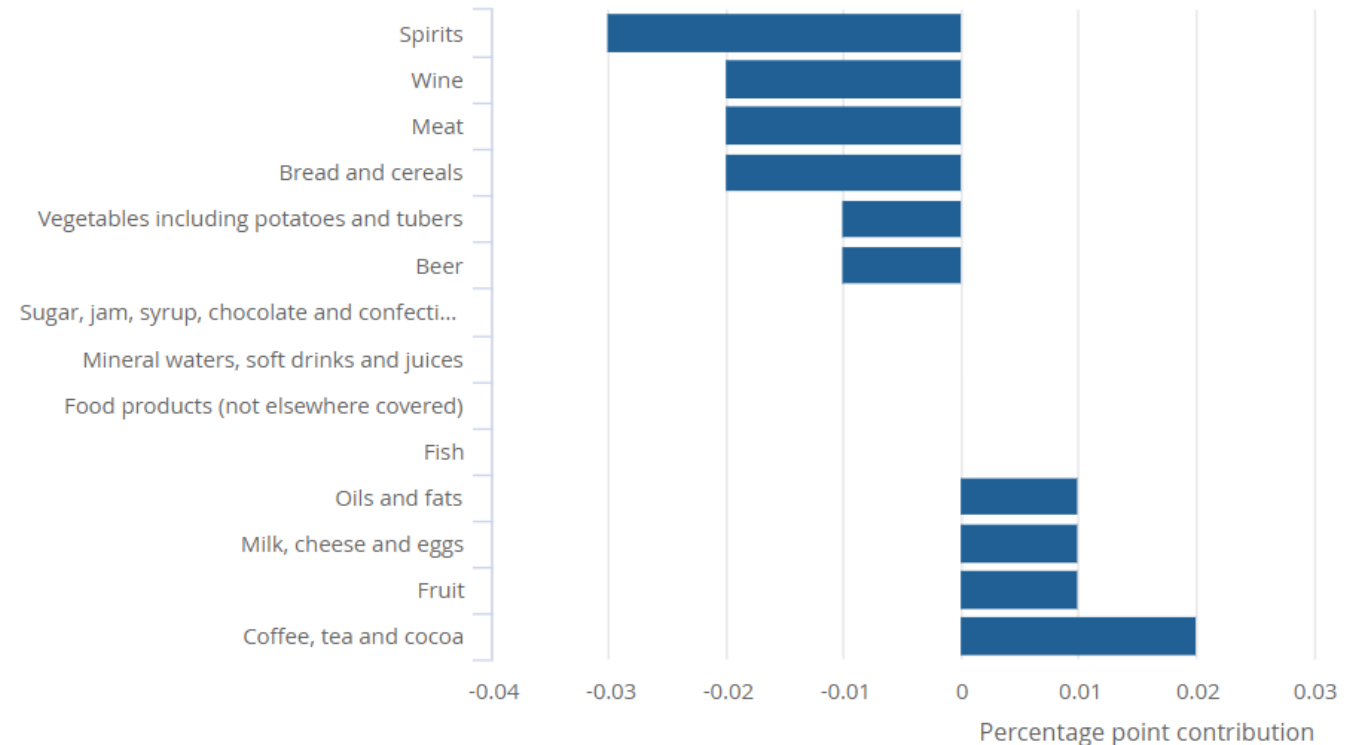
Lead analyst: [David Matthewson](#)

Prices of items in the food and drink basket fell by 0.1% in the latest week, while the all item index remained below its early June level

- Online prices of items in the food and drink basket fell overall by 0.1% between Week 19 (5 October to 11 October) and Week 20 (12 October to 18 October).
- The largest contribution to the downward weekly change was identified in the category of spirits (-0.03 percentage points). The second largest negative contributions came from the categories of wine, bread and cereals, and meat, which each had a negative contribution of -0.02 percentage points.
- The largest positive contribution to the weekly change was identified in the category of coffee, tea and cocoa (0.02 percentage points).
- The all item index (99.4) remains below the starting point of the series (Index=100, 1 June), but has been rising in the last few weeks.

Prices of items in the food and drink basket decreased by 0.1% in the latest week, with spirits being the main driver of the change

Contributions to online price change of a selection of food and drink products, UK, percentage point contributions to the percentage change between Week 19 (5 October to 11 October) and Week 20 (12 October to 18 October)



Source: [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

Lead analysts: [Helen Sands](#) [Tanya Flower](#)

Overall footfall falls to below 70% of its level this time last year

- In the week ending 18 October, overall footfall decreased to below 70% of its level in the same period of the previous year, with footfall dropping across high streets, shopping centres and retail parks.

UK Country and English regions variation:

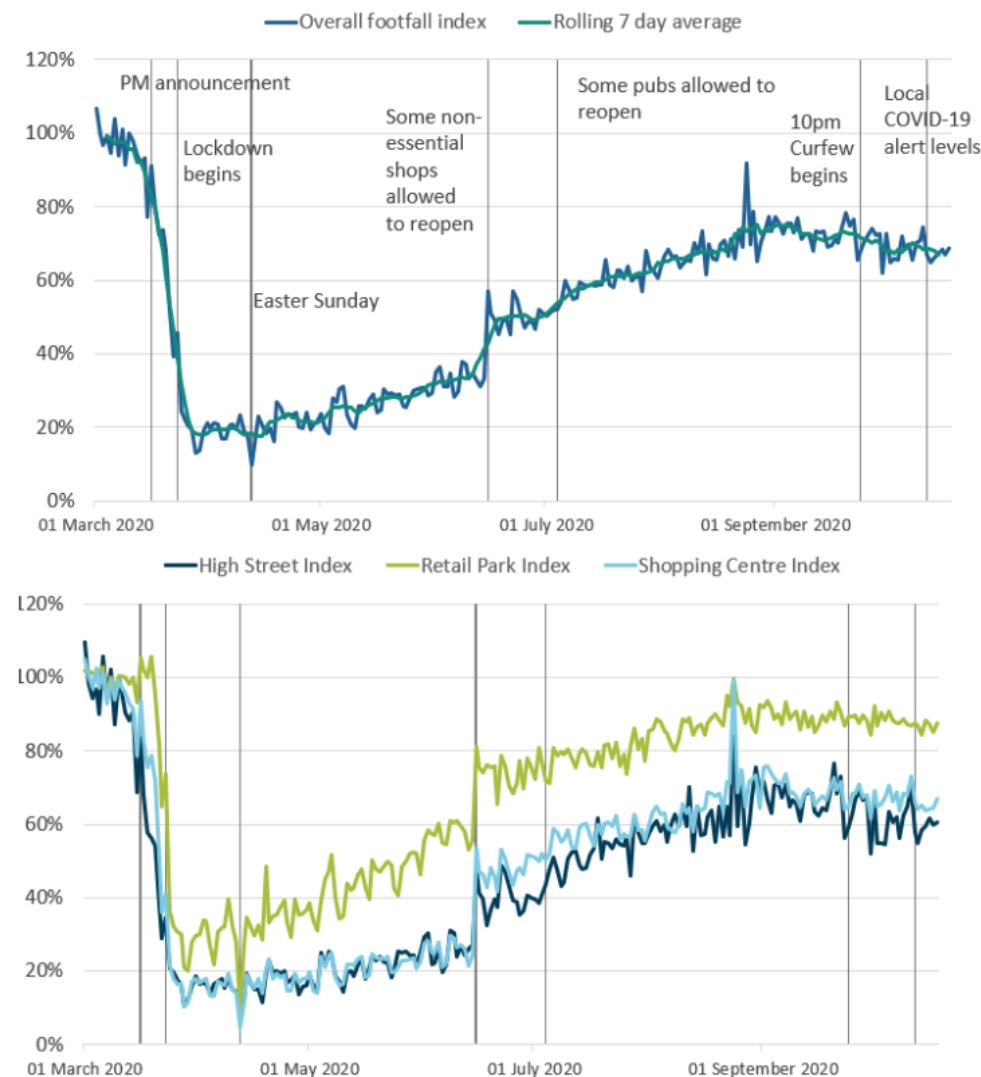
- In the week ending 18 October, footfall fell in all ten featured countries and regions.
- The largest decrease was in the East of England which includes the Essex County Council area which moved to tier 2 on 15 October, followed by Northern Ireland which introduced additional restrictions on 16 October. The smallest weekly decrease in footfall was in Wales.
- The highest level of footfall in comparison with the same period the previous year was in the South West, followed by the South East.

In the week ending 18 October, overall footfall decreased to below 70% of its level in the same period of the previous year, with footfall dropping across high streets, shopping centres and retail parks

Volume of footfall, percentage change from the same day the previous year, UK, 1 March to 18 October 2020

Source: Springboard and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; ONS; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [David Matthewson](#)



Total online job adverts rise again, now at 66% of their 2019 average

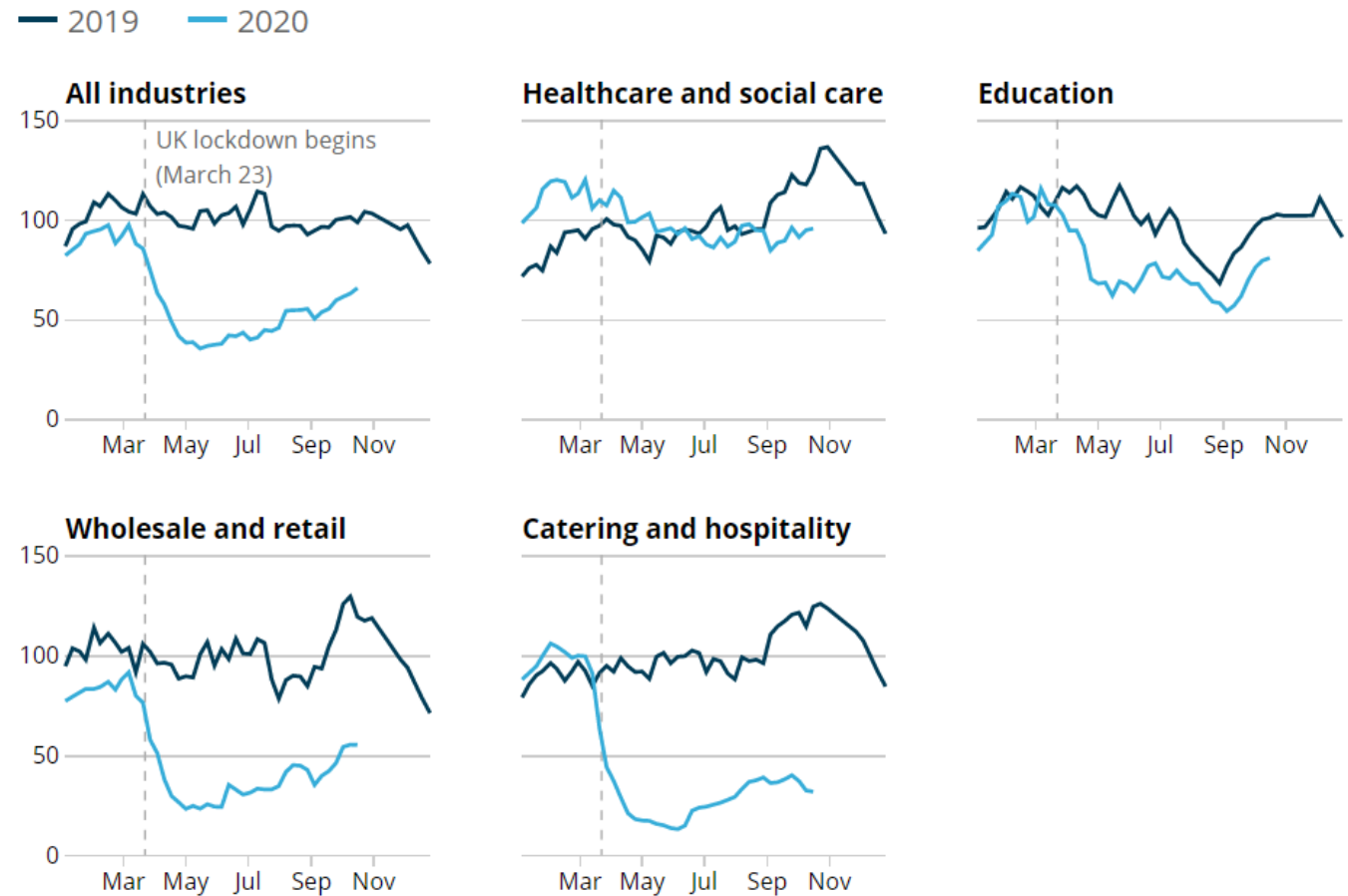
- In the latest week, total online job adverts rose by three percentage points to 66% of their 2019 average, and were above 60% for the third consecutive week.
- Online job adverts rose in 25 of the 28 Adzuna categories.
- There was a 12 percentage point rise in online job adverts for the energy, oil and gas category to 74% of its 2019 average. There was also a six percentage point rise for engineering, and a five percentage point increase for IT, computing and software.

Regional breakdowns:

- The volume of online job adverts increased in every country and region of the UK apart from Scotland, where they decreased by one percentage point.
- The largest increases were in Yorkshire and The Humber and the North West, where online job adverts increased five percentage points.
- The two regions with the highest volume of online job adverts compared with the 2019 average were the East Midlands followed by the North East. London remained the region with the lowest volume of online job adverts.

Between 9 and 16 October, total online job adverts increased for the sixth consecutive week from 63% to 66% of their 2019 average, the highest recorded level since 3 April 2020

Total weekly job adverts on Adzuna, UK, 4 January 2019 to 16 October 2020, index 2019 average = 100



Source: Adzuna; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [David Matthewson](#)

Car traffic sees a fall whilst heavy vehicles and light commercial vehicle traffic remains stable

- Road traffic across total motor vehicles has fallen slightly in recent weeks, although it has stabilised in the most recent week. It continues to remain below levels seen in the first week of February 2020.
- On Monday 19 October, car traffic remained at 15 percentage points lower than the equivalent Monday in the first week of February.
- Light commercial vehicle traffic has remained stable whilst heavy vehicle traffic increased by 1 percentage point in the most recent week, with both remaining slightly above traffic seen on the equivalent Monday in the first week of February 2020.

Shipping:

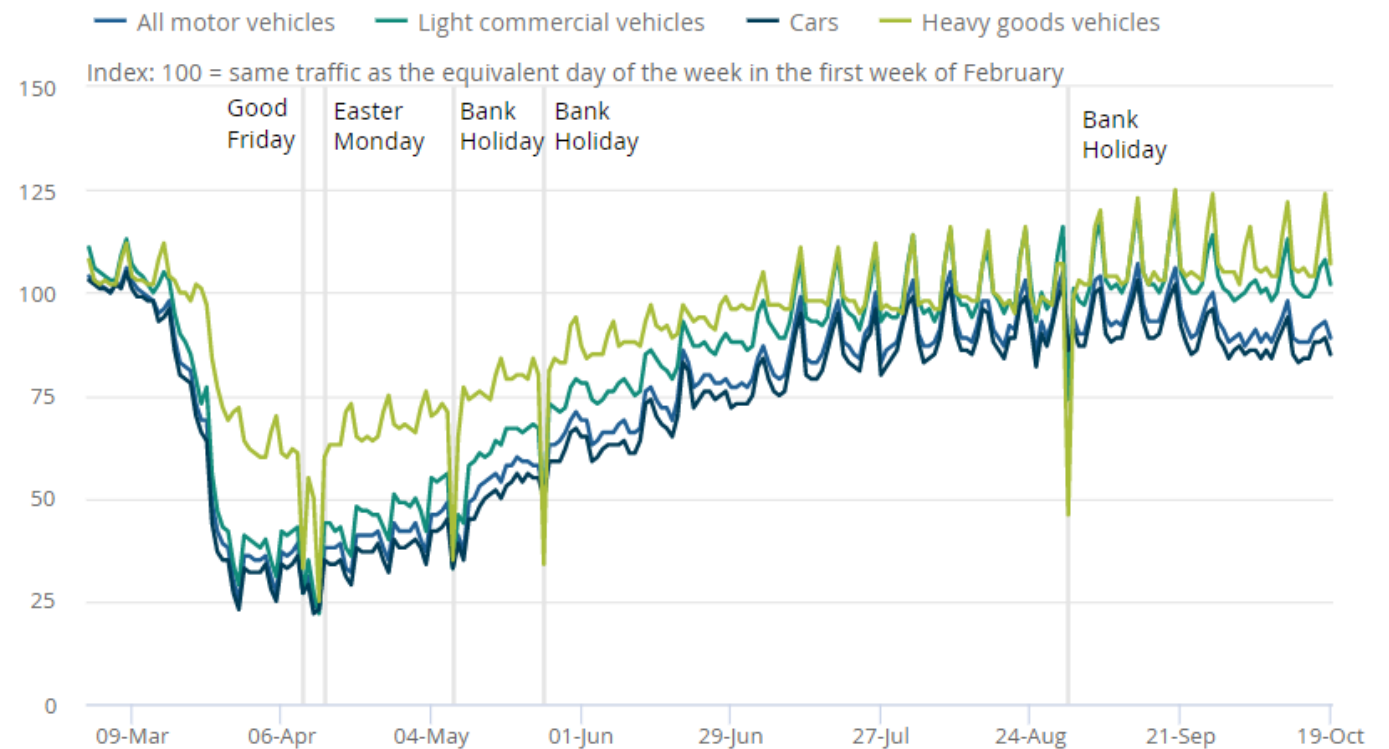
- In the week ending 18 October 2020, the average number of daily ship visits increased slightly compared with the previous week, from 291 visits to 308.
- In the week ending 18 October, the average daily number of visits for cargo ships increased slightly when compared with the previous week, from 94 visits to 100.

On Monday 19 October, the volume of all motor vehicle traffic was eleven percentage points below the levels seen on the first Monday of February. This is unchanged from the previous week

Daily road traffic index: 100 = same traffic as the equivalent day of the week in the first week of February, 1 March 2020 to 19 October 2020, non-seasonally adjusted

Source: Department for Transport – Road traffic statistics: management information; ONS; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [David Matthewson](#)



In London, counts of cars, buses, and pedestrians fell in the latest week

- In the latest week ending 18 October, all categories of activity in London had decreased.
- Counts of buses in London fell to around 93% of the average level seen pre-lockdown (11 March to 22 March). Counts of cars and of pedestrians and cyclists have both decreased to 89% of the level of activity seen pre-lockdown. Motorbikes and trucks fell by 10 percentage points each to 92% and 93%.
- In the North-East, counts of cars rose to 99% of the average level seen pre-lockdown (with this period referring to 1-22 March), whilst pedestrian and cyclists traffic rose to 96%. Counts of buses remained above their level immediately before lockdown, at 103%.
- In Northern Ireland, counts of buses continue to show a gradual increase, whereas cars, pedestrian and cyclists each continued to decline.

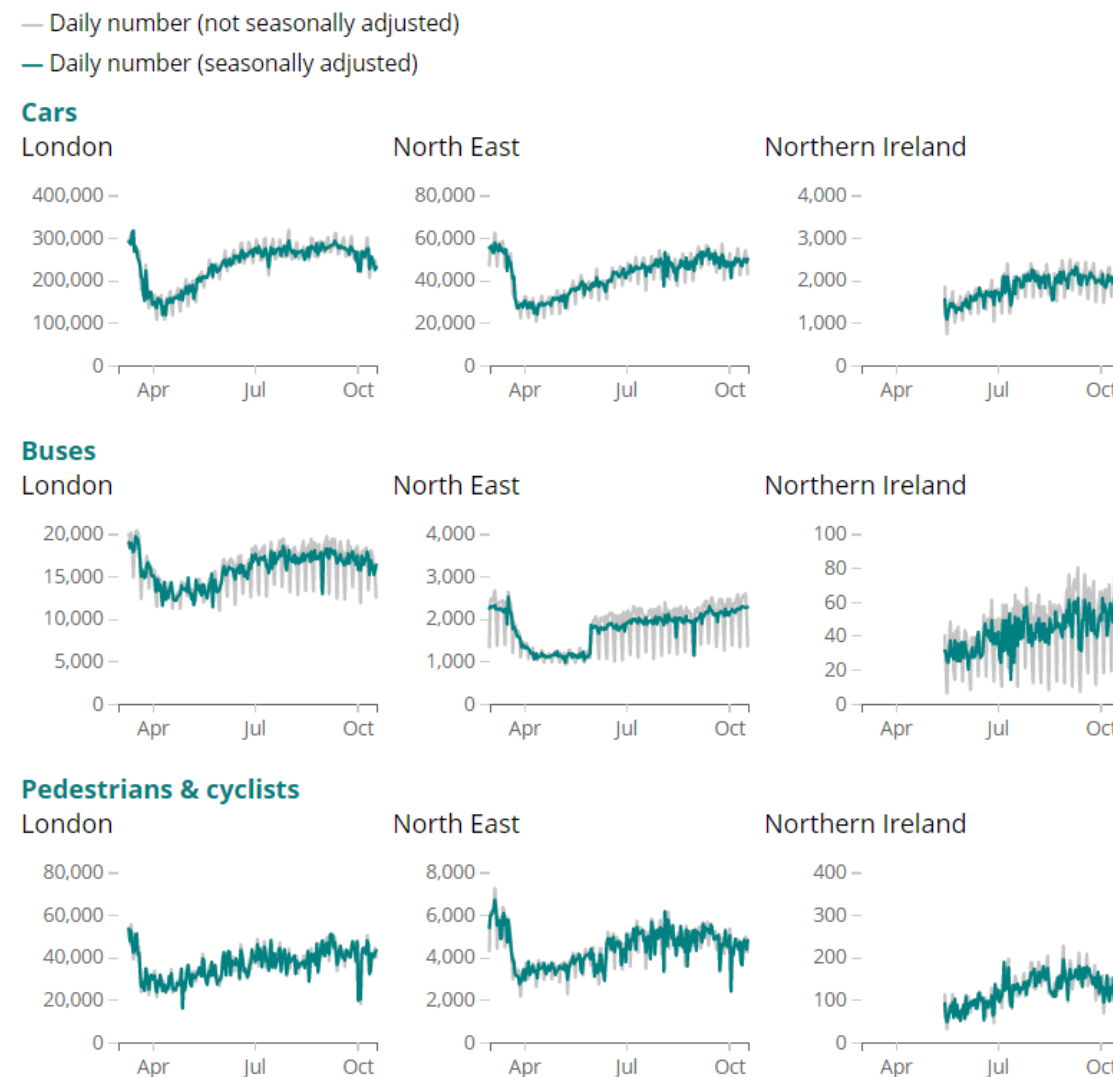
Please note that counts of buses gives no indication of the number of passengers onboard.

In the week ending 18 October, counts of cars, pedestrians and cyclists in London all decreased from the previous week, and remain below the levels seen immediately before lockdown

Activity in selected areas, daily counts of cars, buses, pedestrians and cyclists, seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted, UK, March to October 2020

Source: Transport for London, North East Traffic, TrafficWatchNI; ONS; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 22 October 2020](#)

Lead analyst: [David Matthewson](#)



News and announcements

ONS News:

[Mental health of children and young people in the pandemic](#): ONS blog discusses the findings of NHS Digital report on mental health of children and young people in England and earlier analysis on children's well-being.

[Mental health of children and young people in England, 2020, Report](#): study by NHS Digital, ONS, National Centre for Social Research and the Universities of Cambridge and Exeter looking at the circumstances and experiences of young people and their families in July 2020 and changes since 2017.

Government news and guidance:

[Plans for jobs: Chancellor increases financial support for businesses and workers](#): Rishi Sunak increases the support through the Job Support Scheme, self-employed grants, and business grants in high-alert level areas.

[Minister for Equalities sets out government action to tackle COVID-19 disparities](#): publication of the first quarterly report on progress to tackle COVID-19 disparities experienced by people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

[Local COVID alert level update for Coventry, Slough and Stoke-on-Trent](#): these three areas have been moved to "High" alert level.

[Local COVID alert level update for South Yorkshire](#): South Yorkshire moved to "Very High" alert level, which covers Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and the City of Sheffield.

[Local COVID alert level update for Greater Manchester](#): Greater Manchester moved to "Very High" alert level.

News and announcements

Government news and guidance (cont.):

[Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus on 20 October 2020](#): Boris Johnson announces that Greater Manchester will be moved to “Very High” alert level.

[Expert partnership to explore and establish Human Challenge studies of COVID-19 in the UK](#): combined NHS, academia and private sector research study to explore and establish human challenge trials in the UK to speed up the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

[National coronavirus firebreak to be introduced in Wales](#): two week firebreak to be introduced on Friday 23 October in Wales, replacing local restrictions which are in force in parts of Wales.

[Scotland's strategic framework](#): Nicola Sturgeon announces a five-level framework as part of a refreshed strategic approach to suppress COVID-19 outbreaks across Scotland.

[Changes to the coronavirus travel corridor countries list](#): the Canary Islands, Denmark, the Maldives and Mykonos added to the travel corridor exempt list for England, and Liechtenstein removed from the list.

[Full list of local COVID-19 alert levels by area](#): areas in England listed as local COVID alert level “high” and “very high”.