

Weekly briefing on ONS COVID-19 data and analysis



7 – 11 September 2020

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This pack provides a brief overview of key facts and figures from the latest content from ONS between 7 and 11 September 2020 relating to COVID-19. It includes published ONS data on aspects of the economy and society impacted by COVID-19, summarising the latest information from this week covering the following themes: Mortality and deaths, Infection, Well-being, UK GDP, UK trade, Business impact, UK Mergers and Acquisitions, Business impact, Company impact, Prices, Consumer behaviour, Labour market, and Road traffic.

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.

We are constantly seeking to improve this product, please provide feedback on how you use it and what additional information would be useful via COVID19Analysis@ons.gov.uk.

Main Points

- Total deaths for the third consecutive week have been higher than the 5-year average. Deaths related to COVID-19 in England and Wales remain low at 101 (1.1% of all deaths) during week ending 28 August 2020.
- The most recent modelled estimates suggest the number of COVID-19 infections has increased in recent weeks in England.
- Financial resilience showed some worsened into July 2020 compared to June 2020, particularly for parents and those renting.
- Monthly GDP grew by 6.6% in July 2020 as lockdown measures continued to ease. However, GDP in July 2020 remains 11.7% below the levels seen in February 2020.
- The total trade surplus, excluding non-monetary gold and other precious metals, widened by £5.9 billion to £6.4 billion in the three months to July 2020. Imports fell by £8.5 billion, while exports fell by a lesser £2.7 billion.
- Domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2020 saw 152 completed transactions, a sizeable fall of 311 when compared with the previous quarter (463) and 292 fewer than in Quarter 2 2019 (444).
- According to the latest Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey, across all industries of businesses currently trading, 15% reported that operating costs exceeded turnover and 49% reported that turnover exceeded operating costs.

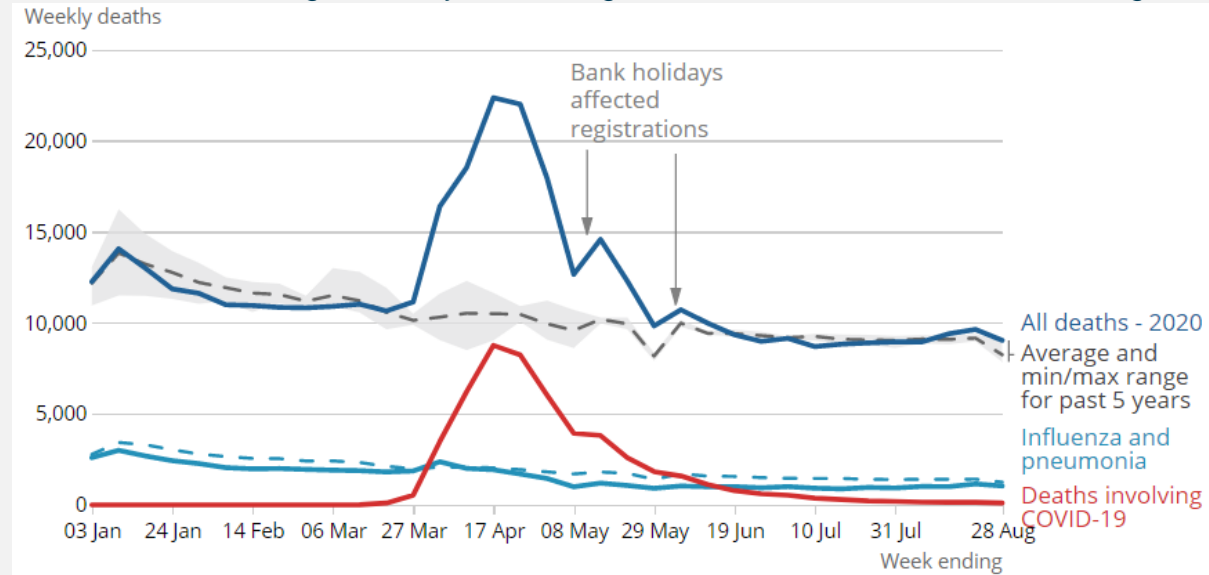
Third consecutive week that deaths have been higher than 5-year average

Deaths registrations during w/e 28 August 2020 in England and Wales:

- Total deaths were 9,032; down 599 deaths on previous week. Third consecutive week that weekly deaths have been higher than 5-year average (9.6% or 791 deaths higher) but rise not driven by COVID-19.
- Deaths related to COVID-19 were 101 (1.1% of all deaths); the lowest number of COVID-19 deaths since w/e 20 March and down 37 (26.8%) on previous week. There has been 52,282 COVID-19 deaths in total.

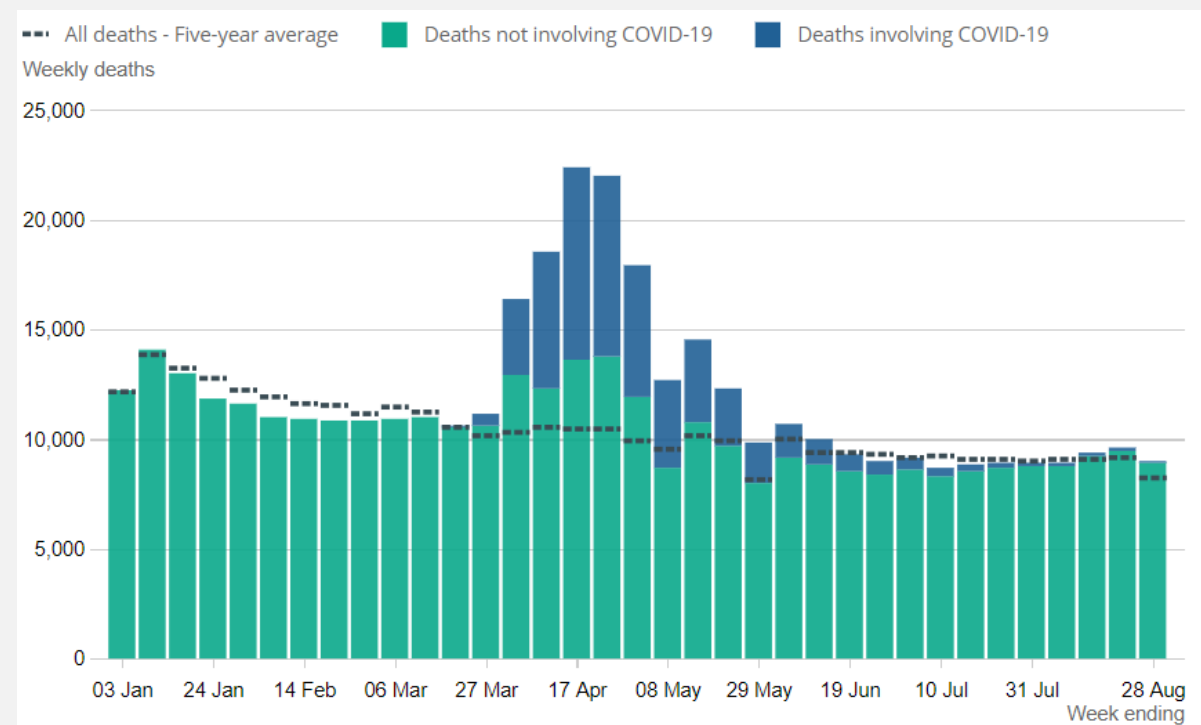
Number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased for the 19th consecutive week

Number of deaths registered by week, England & Wales, 28 Dec 2020 to 28 Aug 2020



The number of deaths not involving COVID-19 increased above the five-year average for the third consecutive week

Number of deaths registered by week, England & Wales, 28 Dec 2020 to 28 Aug 2020



- Deaths in hospitals were below the 5-yr average. In private homes, care homes and other locations deaths were above the 5-yr average.
- 55.0% of all deaths involving COVID-19 to w/e 28 Aug were males.
- 89.3% of all deaths involving COVID-19 to w/e 28 Aug were aged 65+.

110 UK COVID-19 deaths (w/e 28 August): 56,762 total UK COVID-19 deaths.

Source: [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: we 28 August 2020](#)

The most recent modelled estimates suggest the number of COVID-19 infections has increased in recent weeks in England

During the most recent week (30 August to 5 September 2020):

- An estimated 39,700 people (95% credible interval: 29,300 to 52,700) within the community population in England had COVID-19, equating to around 1 in 1,400 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 1,900 to 1 in 1,000).
- It is estimated there were around 0.58 (95% credible interval: 0.38 to 0.84) new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people per day in the community population in England, equating to around 3,200 new cases per day (95% credible interval: 2,000 to 4,600).
- It is estimated that 1,200 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 300 to 2,800), which is around 1 in 2,600 people (95% credible interval: 1 in 10,900 to 1 in 1,100).

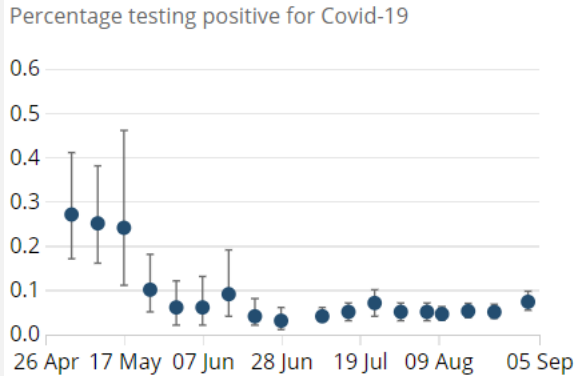
The most recent modelled estimates suggest:

- The number of infections has increased in recent weeks.
- In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 aged 17 to 24 years and 25 to 34 years whereas the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 aged 50 years and over appears to be stable or declining.
- The incidence rate for England has increased in recent weeks.

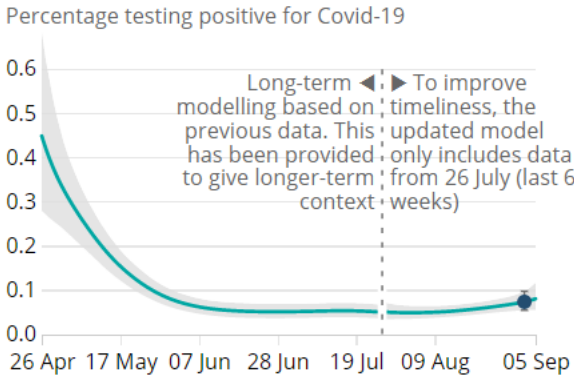
The most recent modelled estimate suggests the number of infections has increased in recent weeks

Estimated percentage of the population in England testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs since 26 April 2020

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 works by smoothing the series to understand the trend and is revised each week to incorporate new test results.



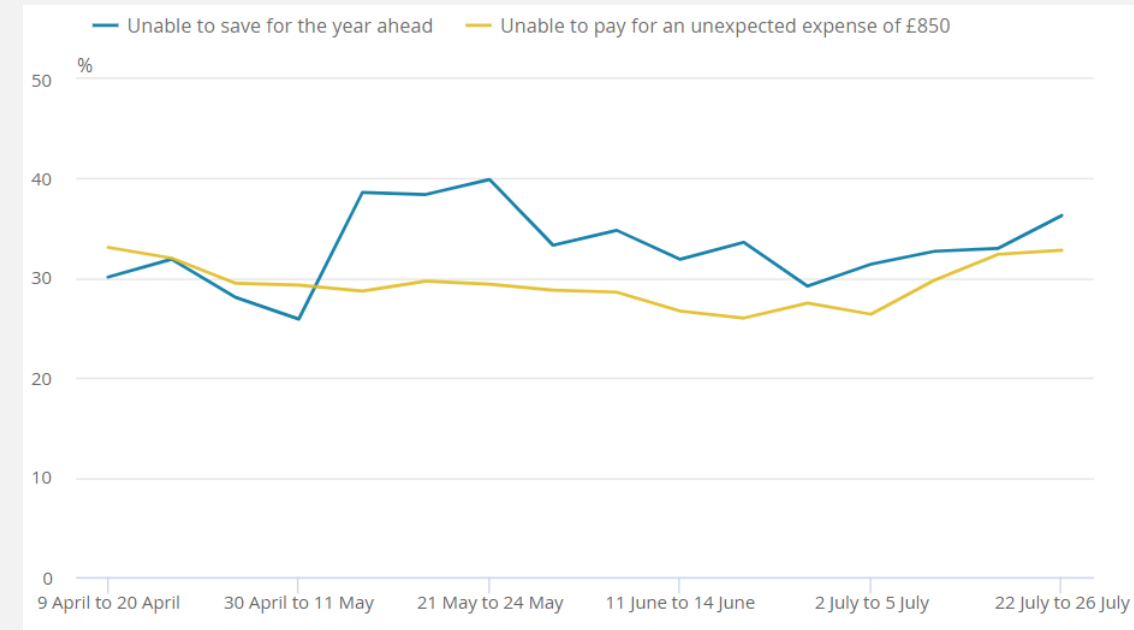
Source: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey pilot: England and Wales, 11 Sept 2020](#)

Financial resilience showed some worsened into July 2020 compared to June 2020, particularly for parents and those renting

- By the end of July 2020, around a third (32.8%) of people in Great Britain reported that they were unable to pay for an unexpected but necessary expense of £850. Particularly affected were parents (47.5%) and those who were renting (63.2%).
- Those in work with total personal income between £10,000 and £20,000 a year showed the largest increase in likelihood of returning to some work, but were also most likely to report reduced hours (up to an estimated 17.6% at the end of July 2020 from 8.6% at the beginning of July).
- Although there was some improvement in finances for those in employment throughout June and early July 2020, with one in four reporting reduced household income at the end of May down to around one in six by 12 July 2020, this trend did not continue in the second half of July 2020.
- Anxiety levels remained substantially higher for those who are disabled, those who often or always feel lonely, and for those who feel unsafe outside their own home because of COVID-19 compared with the overall population, and the gap between them and the overall population slightly widened.
- Despite lockdown restrictions easing throughout June and July, the proportion of people who thought it would take more than a year for life to return to normal, if at all, rose from 21.8% in mid-June 2020 to 30.5% by the end of July 2020.

Improvements to measures of financial resilience stalled at the beginning of July and have since worsened across July

Share of the population reporting being unable to save for the year ahead or unable to pay for a necessary but unexpected expense of £850, Great Britain, 9 April to 26 July 2020



Source: [Personal and economic well-being in Great Britain: September 2020](#)

UK GDP continues to recover but still well below pre-pandemic levels

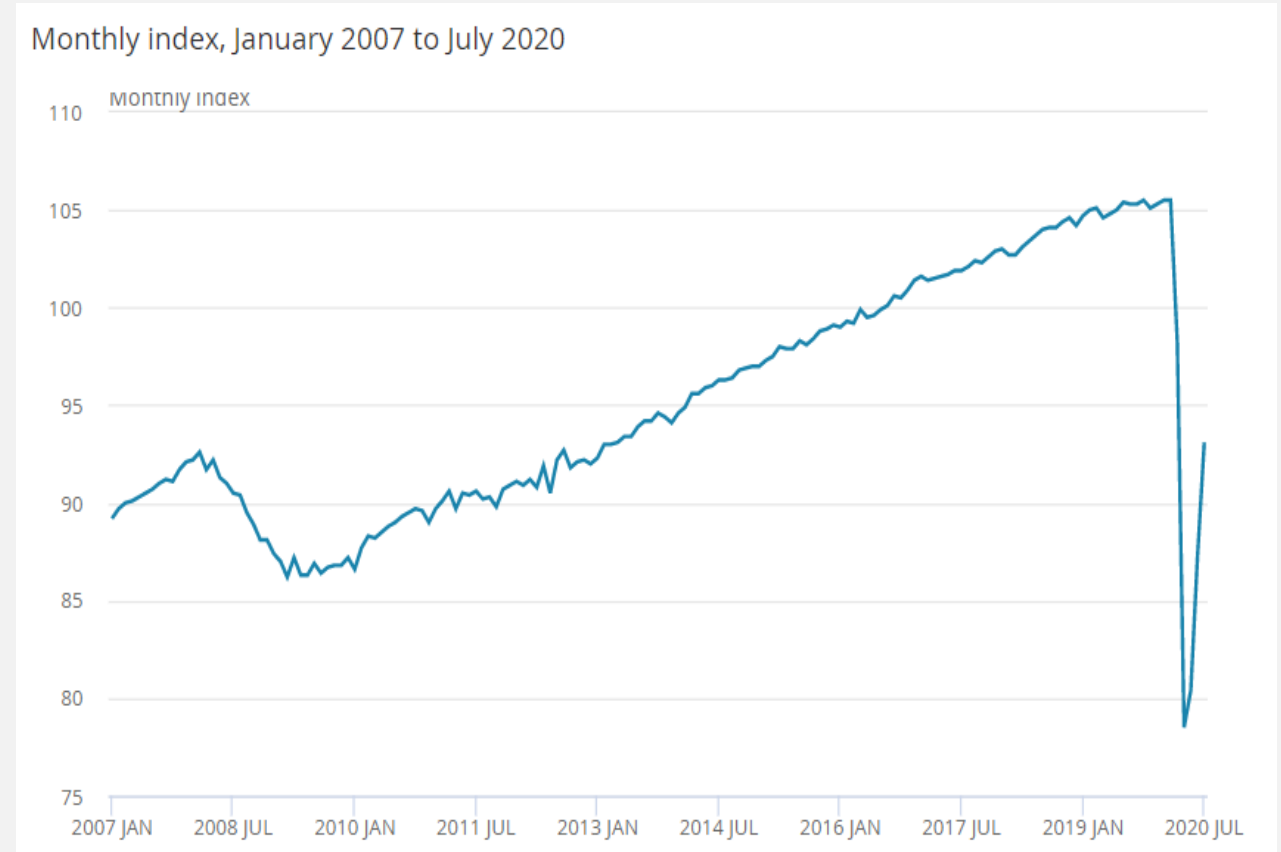
- Monthly GDP grew by 6.6% in July 2020 as lockdown measures continued to ease, following growth of 8.7% in June and 2.4% in May and a record fall of 20.0% in April 2020.
- July 2020 GDP is now 18.6% higher than its April 2020 low. However, July 2020 GDP still remains 11.7% below the levels seen in February 2020, before the full impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- GDP fell by 7.6% in the three months to July 2020 following two consecutive quarterly falls, as government restrictions on movement dramatically reduced economic activity.

Breakdown by main sectors:

- Despite a rise of 6.1% in services, the level of services output was 12.6% lower than the level in February 2020.
- Production grew by 5.2% in July 2020, with manufacturing growing by 6.3%. However, production output was 7.0% lower than the level in February 2020, with manufacturing 8.7% lower.
- Despite growth in the construction sector, by 17.6% in July 2020, output remains 11.6% lower than the level in February 2020.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.6% in July 2020, the third consecutive monthly increase, but it has still only recovered just over half of the lost output caused by the coronavirus

Monthly index, January 2007 to July 2020



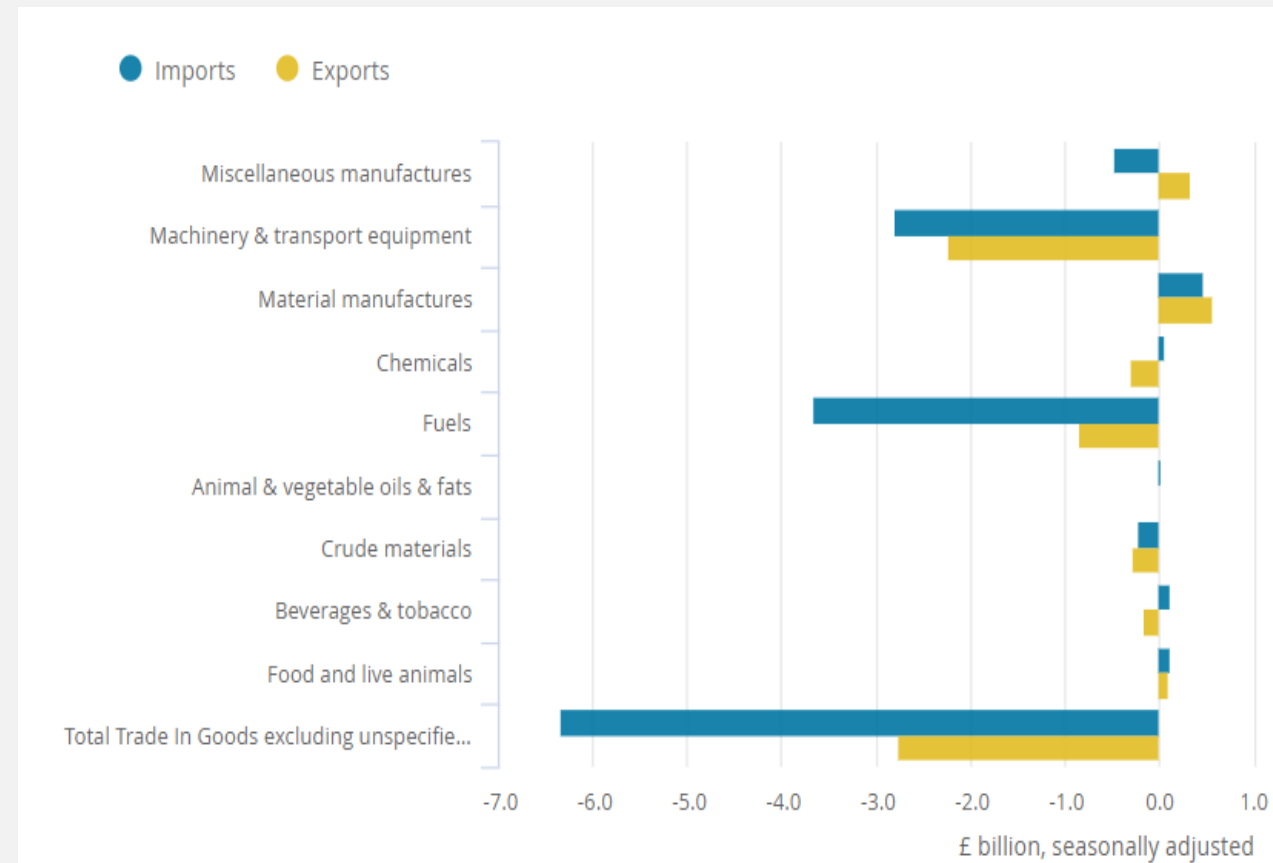
Source: [GDP monthly estimate, UK: July 2020](#)

UK total trade surplus widens to £6.4bn

- The total trade surplus, excluding non-monetary gold and other precious metals, widened by £5.9 billion to £6.4 billion in the three months to July 2020. Imports fell by £8.5 billion, while exports fell by a lesser £2.7 billion.
- There was a £3.4 billion narrowing of the trade in goods deficit while the trade in services surplus widened by a lesser £2.4 billion.
- The largest falls in imports and exports of goods in the three months to July 2020 were seen in machinery and transport equipment and fuels. This can be linked to the sharp drop in demand for road vehicles and oil due to coronavirus-related restrictions.
- The trade in services surplus widened by £2.4 billion to £29.6 billion in the three months to July 2020. Services imports fell by £2.2 billion to £39.7 billion, while services exports rose by a lesser £0.2 billion to £69.3 billion. The falls in exports and imports of services were largely seen in travel services, transport services and financial services.
- The total underlying trade surplus narrowed by £0.6 billion in July 2020, as imports rose by £3.3 billion and exports rose by a lesser £2.7 billion.

Falling imports and exports were seen across many commodity groups in the three months to July 2020

Changes in imports and exports, by goods commodity group, excluding unspecified goods, three months to July 2020 compared with three months to April 2020

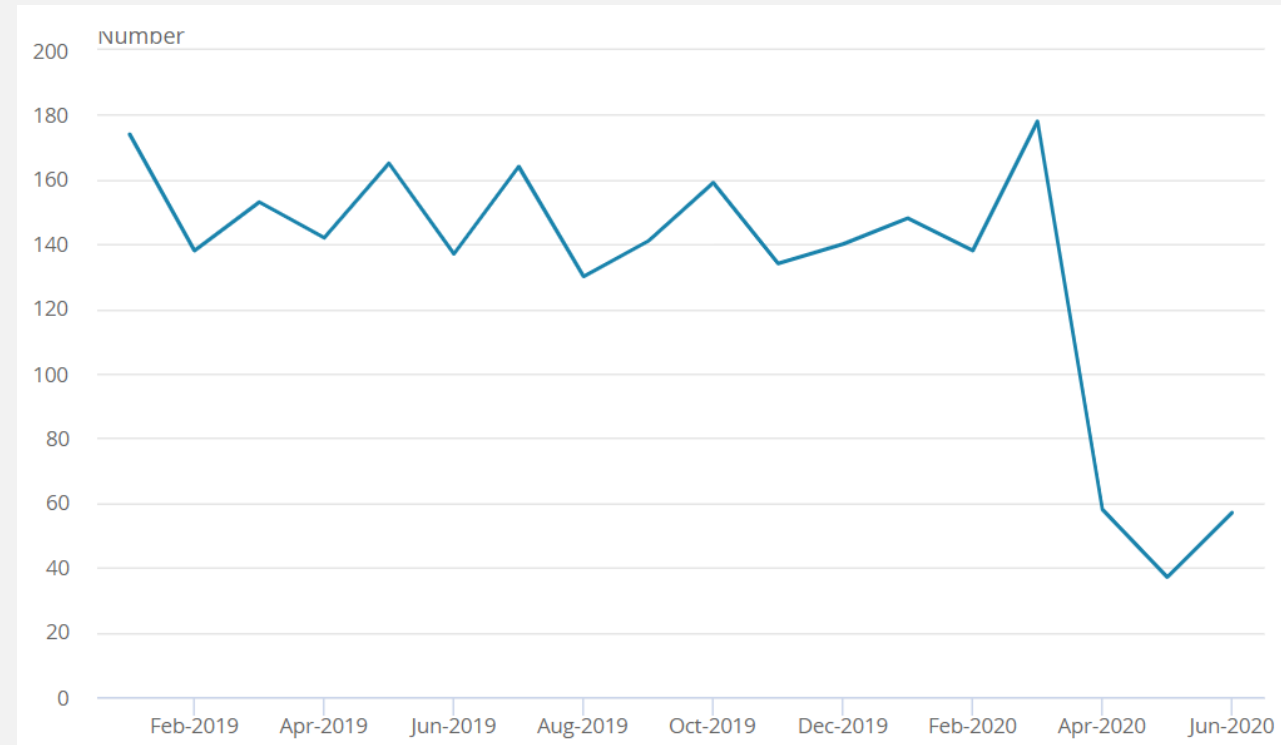


Source: [UK trade: July 2020](#)

Fall in number of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) transactions

- Domestic and cross-border M&A involving UK companies in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2020 saw 152 completed transactions, a sizeable fall of 311 when compared with the previous quarter (463) and 292 fewer than in Quarter 2 2019 (444).
- As these only measure completed transactions, they cannot provide evidence to explain a reduction in the number of transactions. However, the timing does follow the introduction of the restriction of movement in the UK, which began on 23 March 2020, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- There were expectations from external commentators that pandemic-related factors could cause delays to mergers and acquisitions transactions.
- Outward M&A (UK companies acquiring foreign companies abroad) was valued at £4.4 billion in Quarter 2 2020, a slight rise of £0.3 billion when compared with Quarter 1 2020 (£4.1 billion)
- The value of inward M&A (foreign companies abroad acquiring UK companies) in Quarter 2 2020 (£2.1 billion) was the lowest value recorded since Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun) (£1.9 billion)

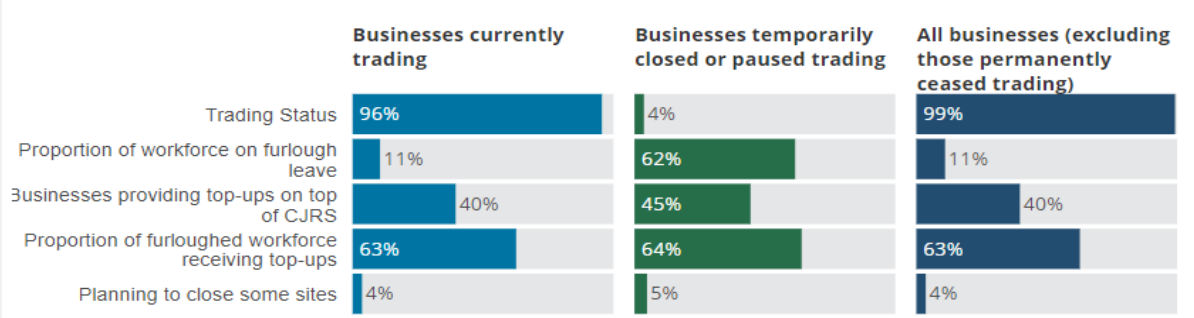
The number of monthly domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies from January 2019 to June 2020 ranged from 37 to 178
The monthly profile of completed domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions shows a considerable reduction in the number of transactions from April 2020



Source: [Mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies: April to June 2020](#)

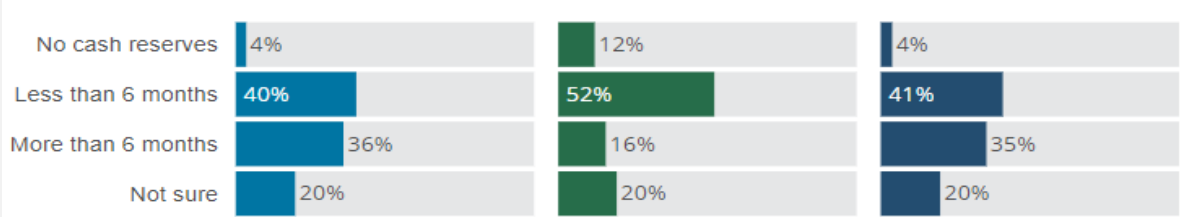
11% of the workforce remain on furlough leave, with 63% of furloughed employees receiving top ups to their pay

Proportion of businesses by trading status, and proportions of workforce on furlough leave and receiving wage top-ups, 10 Aug to 23 Aug 2020, UK

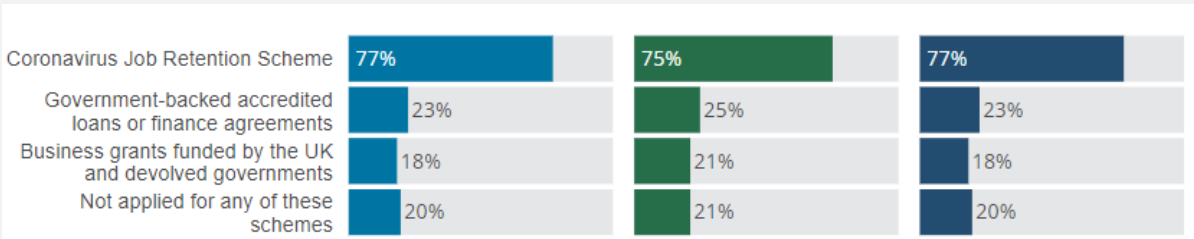


- 77% of all responding businesses had applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS); 11% of the workforce in all businesses had been furloughed.
- 40% of businesses who had furloughed staff were providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, covering 63% of the furloughed workforce.
- Of businesses currently trading, 40% reported that they had less than six months of cash reserves and 4% reported they had no cash reserves. The corresponding figures for businesses who had paused trading were 52% and 12% respectively.

Cash reserves, 10 Aug to 23 Aug 2020, UK



Proportion of businesses applying to government schemes, 10 Aug to 23 Aug 2020, UK

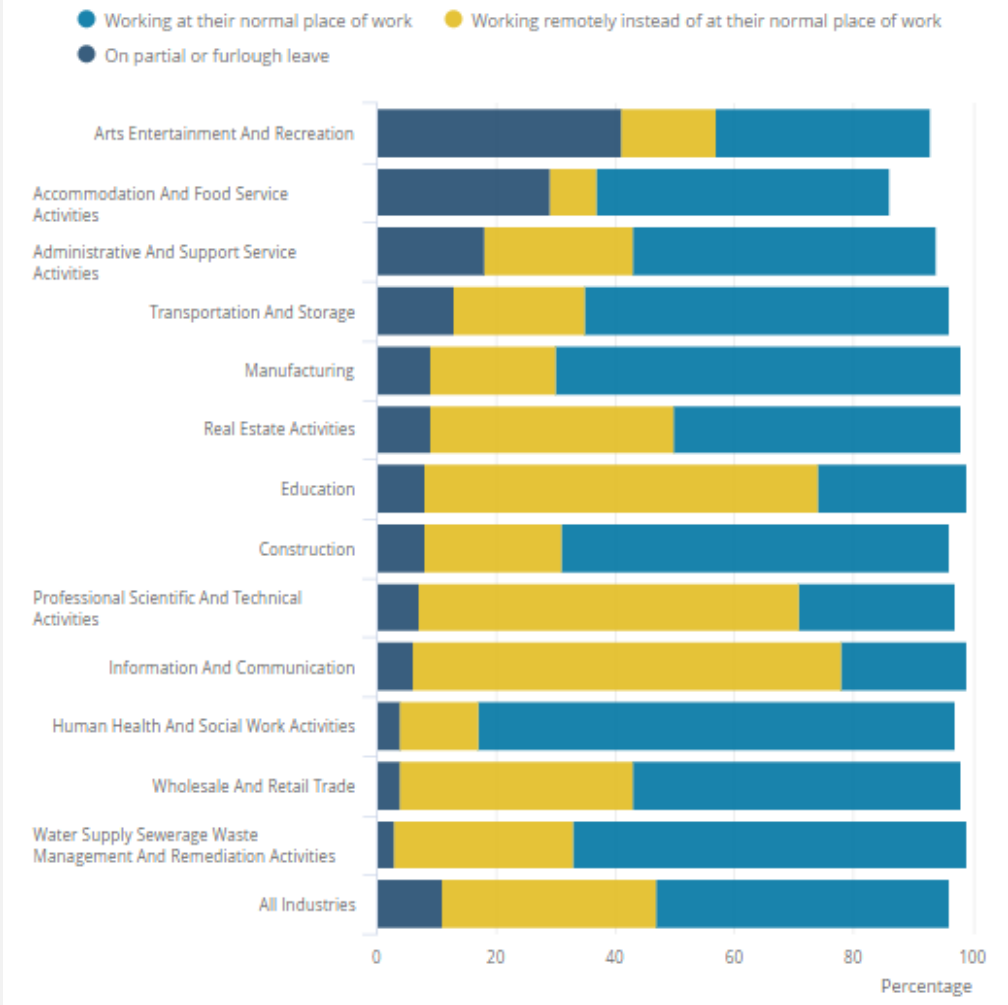


Source: [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

Over a third of the workforce are working remotely

- 11% of the workforce were on partial or full furlough leave, 36% of the workforce were working remotely, and 49% of the workforce were working at their normal place of work.
- The arts, entertainment and recreation industry had the highest proportion of their workforce on partial leave or full furlough leave under the terms of the UK Government’s Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) at 41%.
- This was followed by the accommodation and food service activities industry (29%) and the administrative and support service activities industry (18%).

Of those businesses who had not permanently ceased trading, 36% of the workforce were working remotely
 Working arrangements, businesses who have not permanently stopped trading apportioned by workforce, UK, 10 August to 23 August 2020



Note: Bars may not sum to 100% because of rounding, percentages less than 1% being removed for disclosure purposes, and responses for other categories being removed.

Source: [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

15% of trading businesses report that operating costs exceed turnover

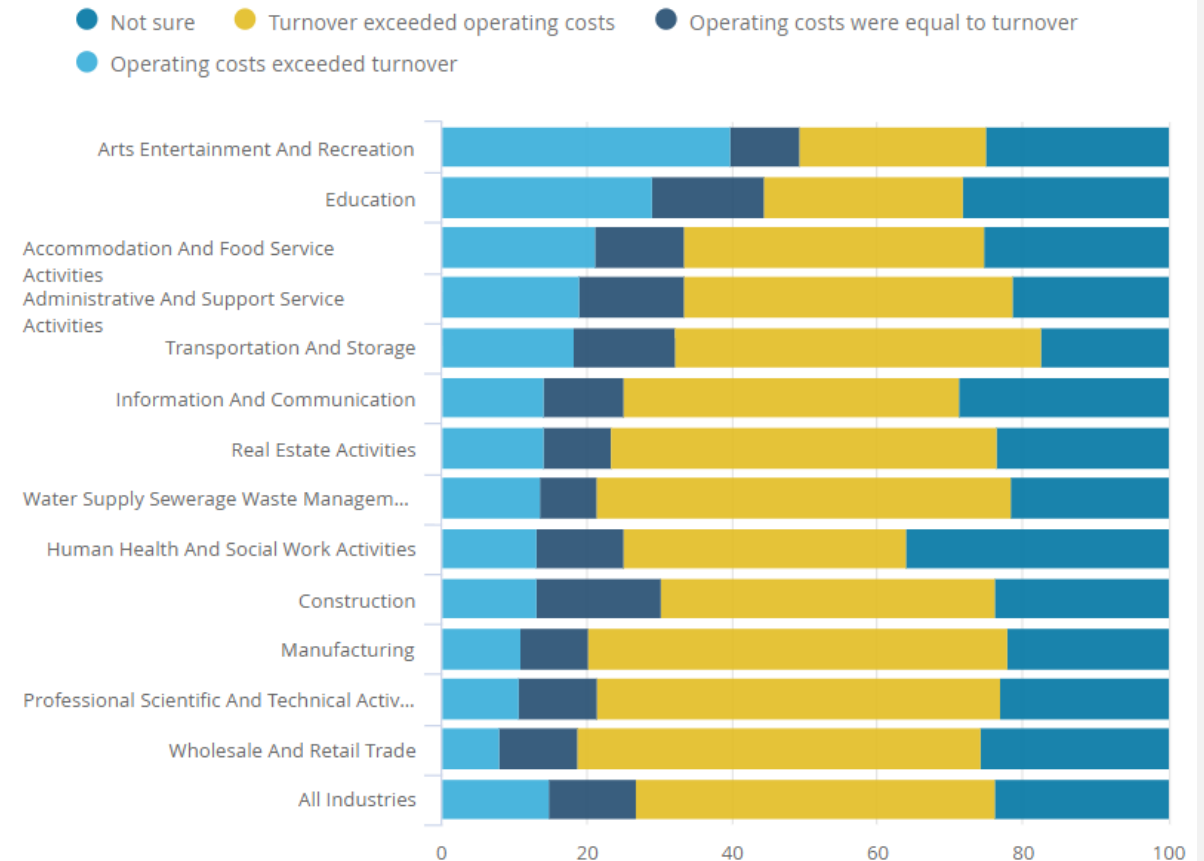
- Across all industries, of businesses currently trading: 15% reported that operating costs exceeded turnover; and 49% reported that turnover exceeded operating costs.
- The arts, entertainment and recreation industry reported the highest percentages of businesses indicating that operating costs had exceeded turnover (40%).
- Conversely, the manufacturing industry (58%), the water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities industry (57%), and the wholesale and retail trade industry (56%) reported the highest share of businesses indicating that turnover had exceeded operating costs.

Business resilience

- Across all industries, of businesses currently trading: 10% had a severe or moderate risk of insolvency; 48% had a low risk of insolvency; and 30% had no risk of insolvency
- The accommodation and food service activities industry had the highest percentage of businesses reporting their risk of insolvency was severe to moderate (23%).

The arts, entertainment and recreation industry reported the largest percentage of businesses indicating that operating costs had exceeded turnover, at 40%

Operating costs comparison with turnover, businesses who are currently trading, broken down by industry, UK, 10 August to 23 August 2020



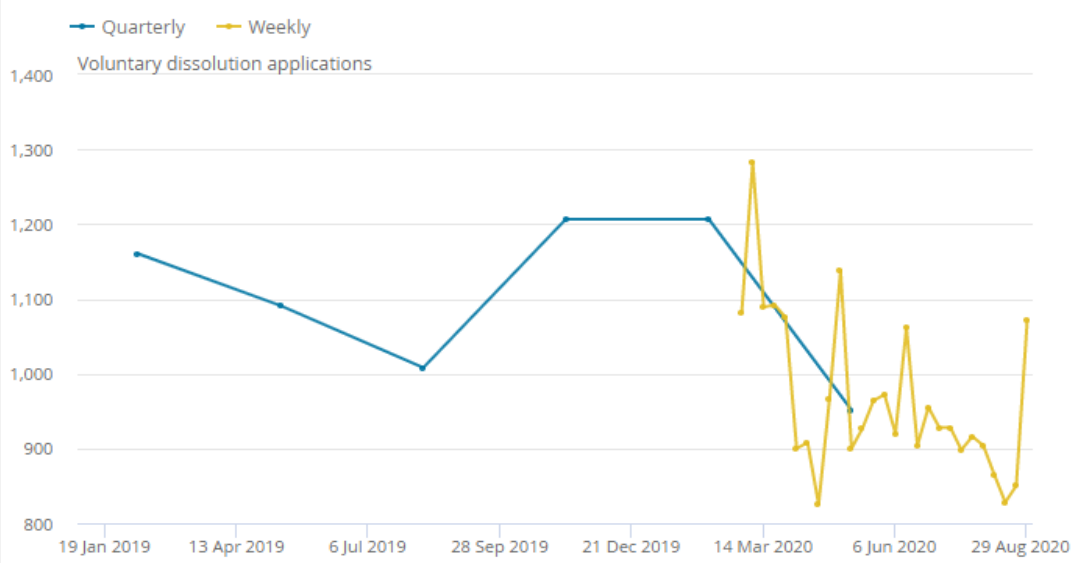
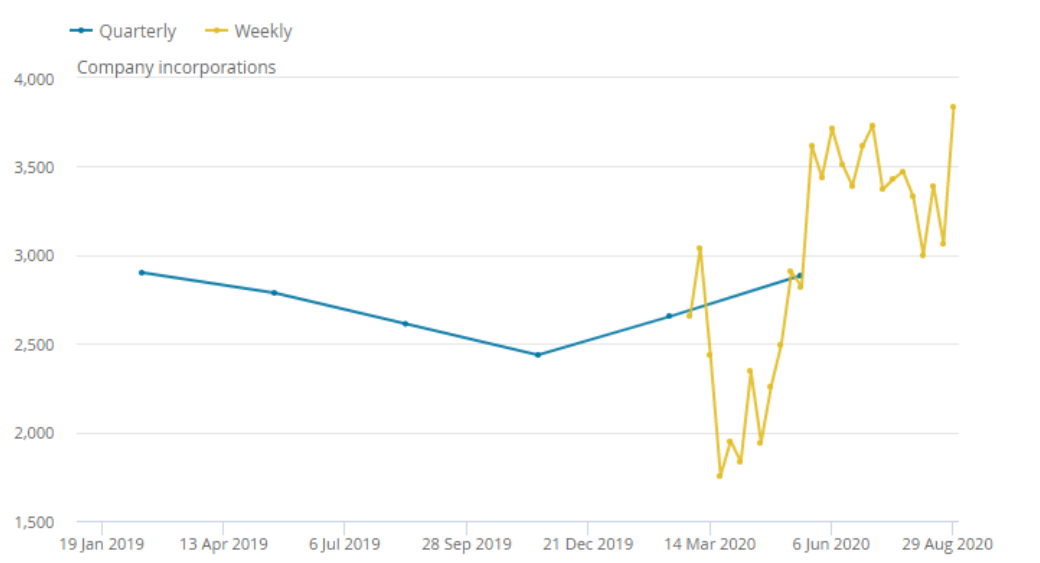
Note: Bars may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: [Coronavirus and the economic impacts on the UK: 10 September 2020](#)

Company incorporations rise sharply in the latest week

- In the week starting Saturday 29 August, there was an average of 3,836 company incorporations per working day, a rise from the previous week's average of 3,066.
- The observed fluctuations in weekly incorporations per working day between April to early May 2020 and June to the end of July 2020 coincide with government instigated lockdown measures and the subsequent easing of them in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in line with official statistics published by Companies House on 30 July 2020.
- In the week starting Saturday 29 August, voluntary dissolution applications increased to 1071 per working day, rising above the Quarter 3 2019 average (1,008)

In the week starting 29 August, there was an average of 3,836 incorporations and 1,071 voluntary dissolutions applications per working day
Company incorporations and voluntary dissolutions per working day, UK, quarterly and weekly, Q1 2019 to Q2 2020, and w/c 29 Feb 2020 to w/c 29 Aug 2020



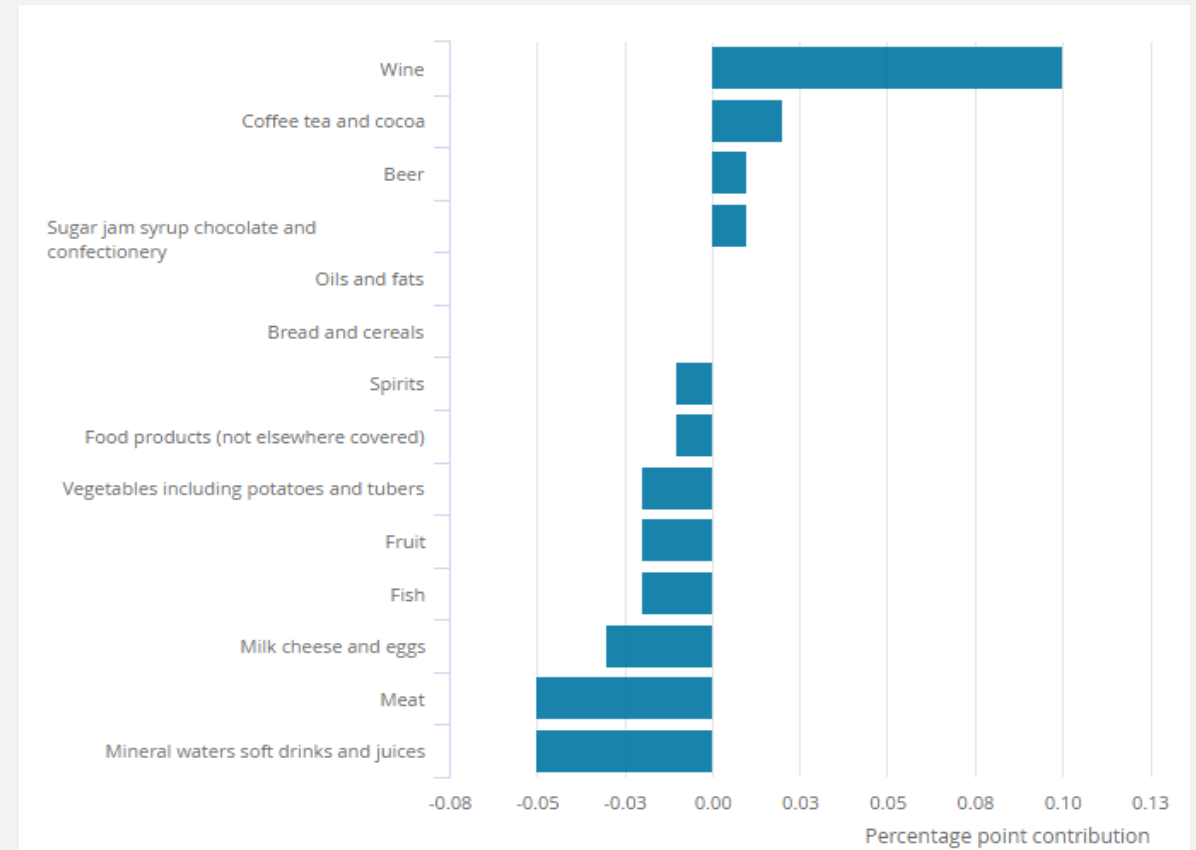
Source: Companies House; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

Prices of items in the food and drink basket fall by 0.1% in the latest week

- Online prices of items in the food and drink basket decreased overall by 0.1% between Week 13 and Week 14.
- The largest contributions to the weekly change were seen in mineral water, soft drinks and juices (-0.8%); meat (-0.4%); and wine (1.3%). The was driven by an increase in all items in this category, particularly red wine (contributing 0.6 percentage points) and white wine (contributing 0.4 percentage points)
- The all item index remains 1.2% below its level of 1 June. Oils and fats have had the largest reduction in price since the beginning of June, now 3.7% lower. Wine has shown the largest increase over this period.

Prices of items in the food and drink basket decreased by 0.1% in the latest week, driven by fruit juices and meat

Contributions to the weekly online price change of a selection of food and drink products, UK, percentage point contributions to the percentage change between Week 13 (24 to 30 August) and Week 14 (31 August to 6 September)



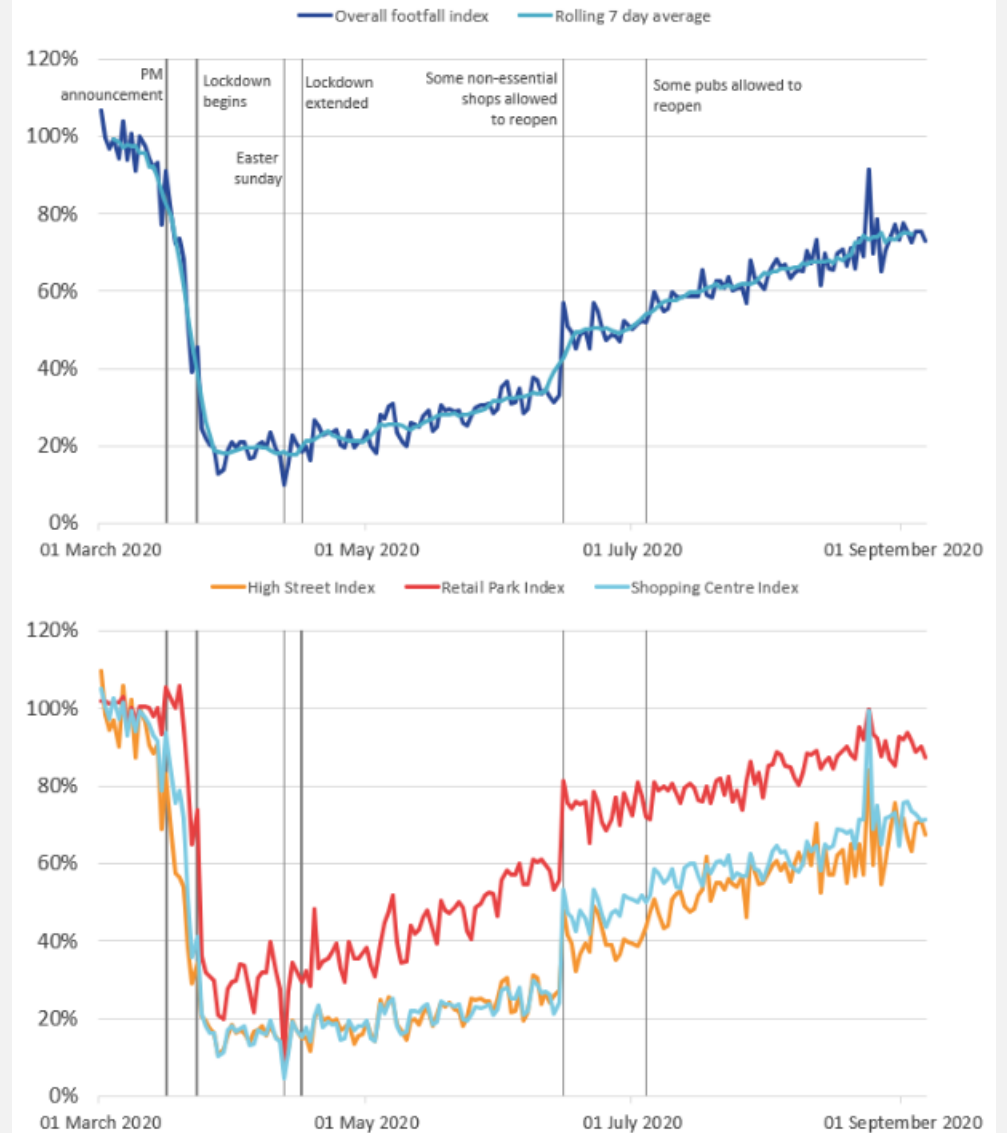
Note: A timely indication of weekly price change for a selection of food and drink products from several, large UK retailers has been developed, covering the period 1 June (week 1) to 6 September (week 14) 2020. This analysis is experimental and should not be compared with our regular consumer price statistics.

Source: [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

Overall footfall remains stable in the latest week

- In the week commencing 31 August, overall footfall remained around 75% of its level the same day a year ago. This indicates a flattening off from the gradual but steady increase in footfall since the reopening of non-essential shops and businesses in England on 15 June.
- The volume of footfall in all three categories of high streets, retail parks and shopping centres saw very little change from the previous week. Footfall in retail parks remained around 90% of its level the same day a year ago, while footfall in high streets and shopping centres remained a little below 75%.
- The spike on Monday 24 August was caused by the comparison with 26 August 2019 last year, which was a Bank Holiday Monday with good weather. The Bank Holiday this year was a week later on 31 August.

Volume of footfall, year-on-year percentage change between footfall on the same day, UK, 1 March to 6 September 2020



Source: Springboard and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

Total online job adverts fall to half of their 2019 average

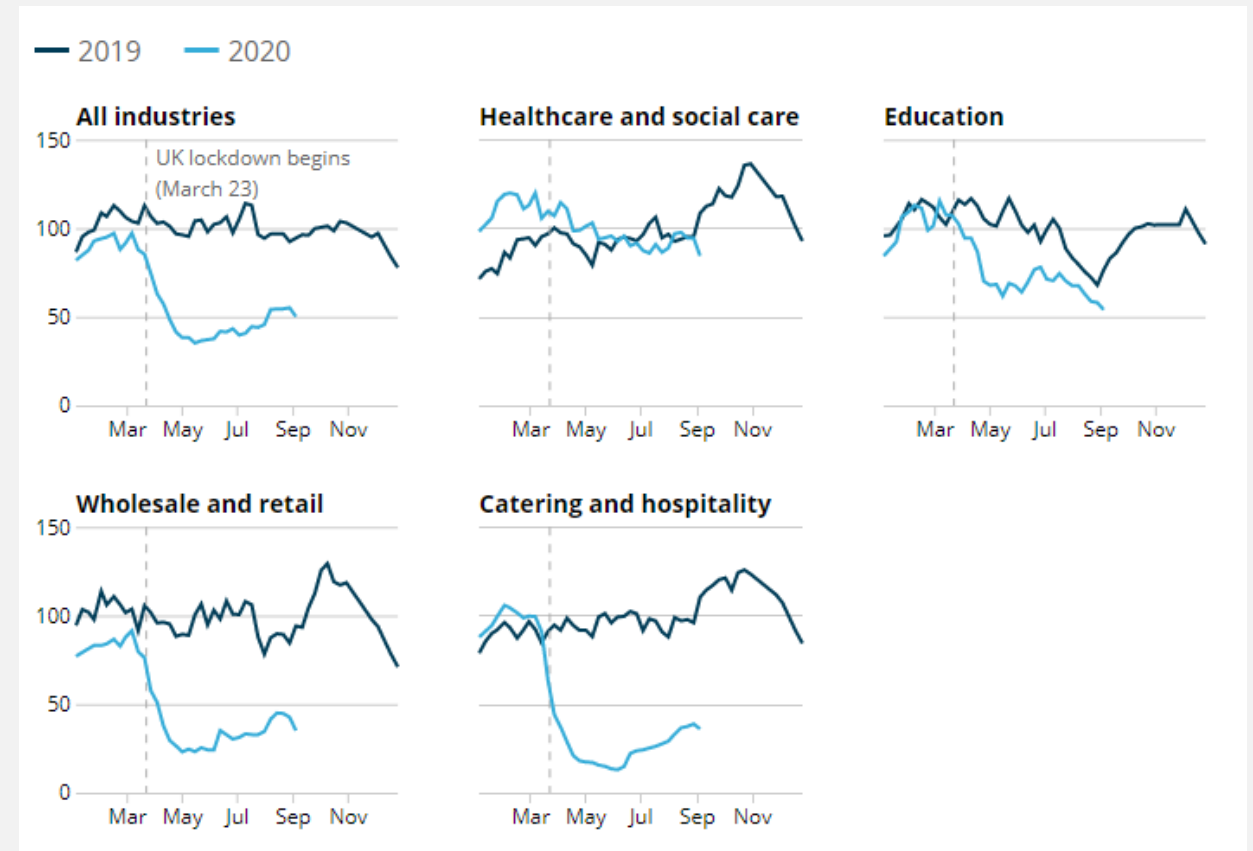
- Between 28 August and 4 September, total online job adverts fell from 55% to 50% of their 2019 average. The fall in the volume of online job adverts in the last week was spread quite evenly across the Adzuna categories.
- In particular, the volume of online job adverts in the category of healthcare and social care decreased by 10 percentage points, bringing it to 84% of its 2019 average, its lowest level in 2020. Online job adverts in wholesale and retail also decreased 7 percentage points, bringing them close to their levels throughout June and July.

Regional variations

- In the latest week every region and country of the UK saw a decline in the volume of online job adverts.
- The largest fall was in Northern Ireland, which saw a decline of 11 percentage points of the 2019 average, followed by a 9 percentage point decrease in Wales. The least affected regions were Scotland (decreased 1 percentage point) and London (decreased 4 percentage points).

Between 28 August and 4 September, total online job adverts decreased from 55% to 50% of their 2019 average

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



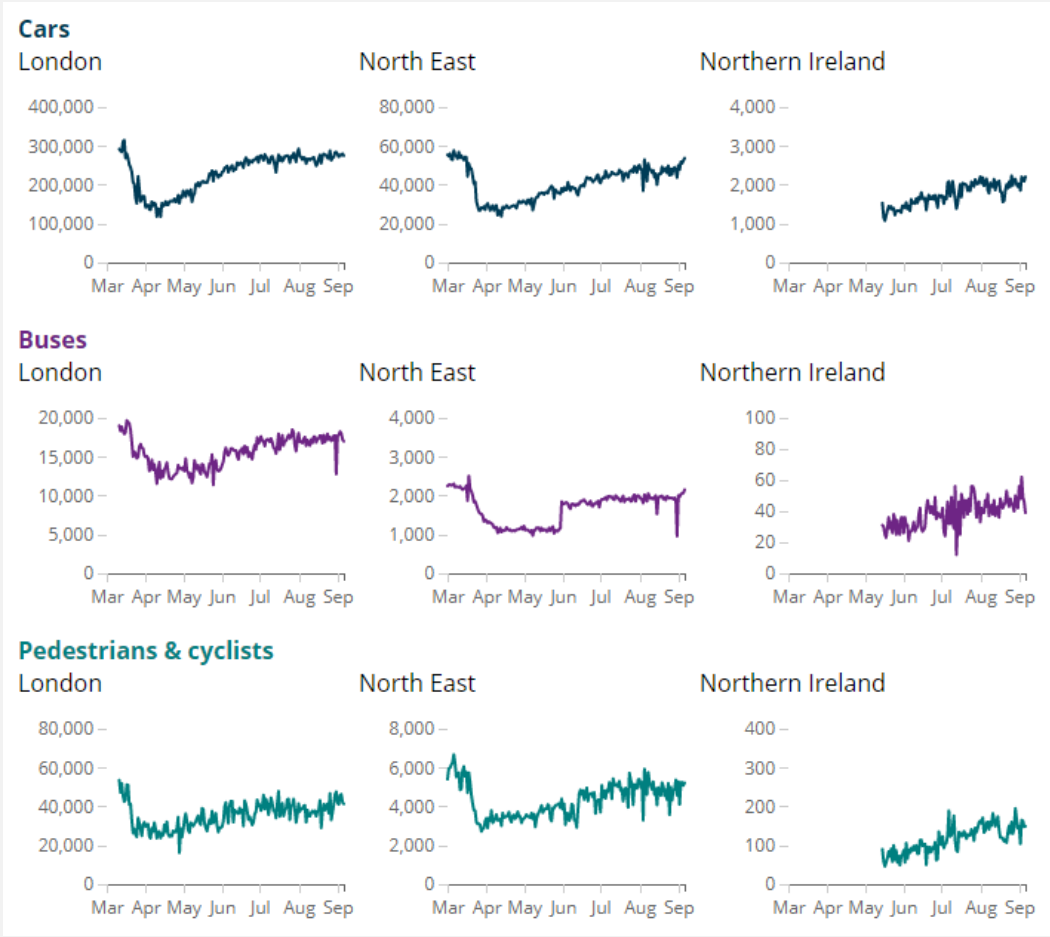
Source: Adzuna; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

Counts of cars in London recover towards pre-lockdown 'busyness'

- Average daily counts of cars in London for the latest week (31 August to 6 September) have returned to the level seen immediately pre-lockdown, whereas the North East remained at around 95% of their average pre-lockdown level. The counts for pedestrians and cyclists were at similar levels.
- In Northern Ireland, although data collection didn't start until 15 May 2020, the data continue to show a gradual increase in cars and pedestrians and cyclists.

Between 31 August and 6 September counts of cars in London have returned to the average level seen immediately pre-lockdown but the North East remained at around 95%.

(An average of 11 March to 22 March for London, and 1 March to 22 March for the North East, when each series began). Activity in selected areas, daily counts of cars, buses, pedestrians and cyclists, seasonally adjusted, March to September 2020.



Source: Transport for London, North East Traffic, TrafficWatchNI; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

Note: the chart shows selected regions from our published dataset which includes other regions as well.

Road traffic has been gradually recovering towards pre-lockdown levels

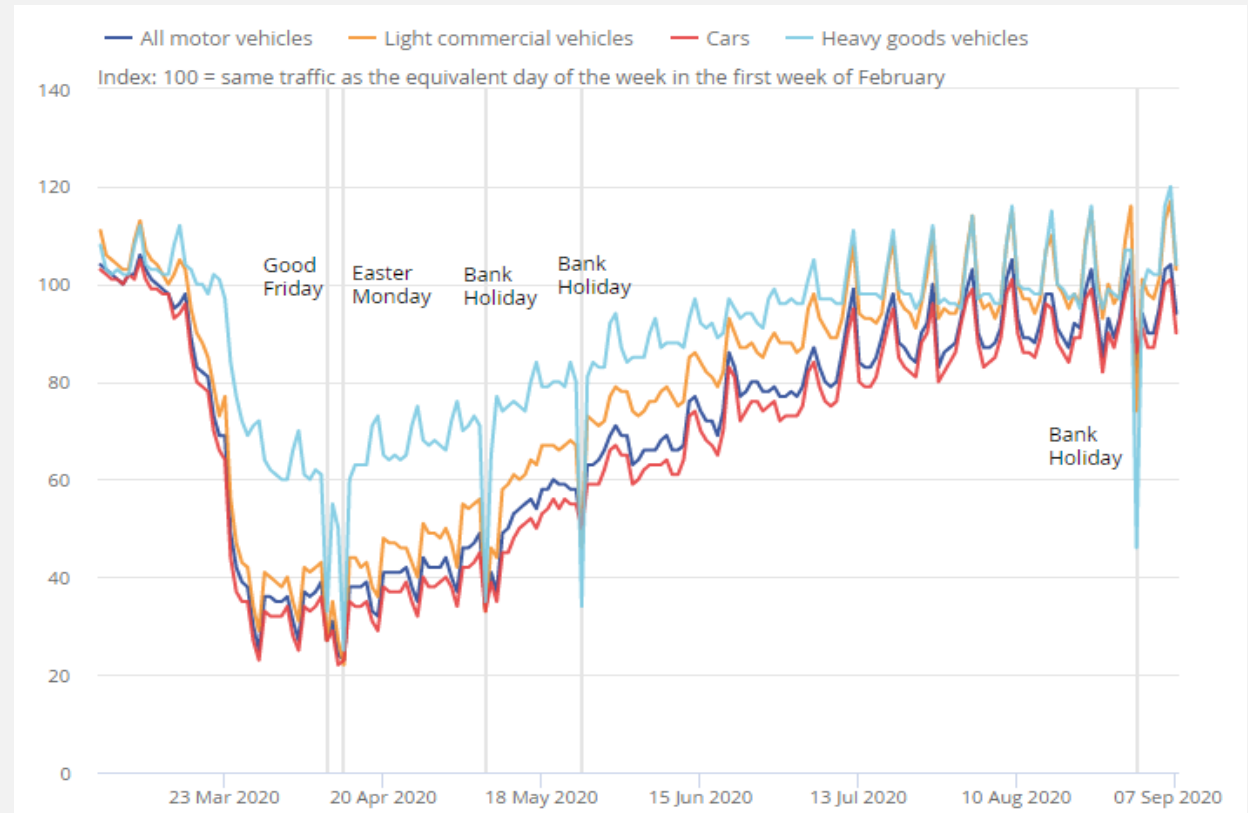
- On Monday 7 September 2020, all motor vehicle traffic was 6 percentage points lower than traffic seen on the equivalent Monday in the first week of February. This is mainly driven by reduced car traffic, which remains around ten percentage points lower than traffic seen in the first week of February.
- Road traffic across all motor vehicles has been gradually returning to levels seen in the first week of February 2020 following a lockdown low point around the end of March.

Shipping:

- Between 31 August and 6 September, the average volume of daily ship visits was 374, a large increase from the previous week's average of 324 daily visits.
- Between 31 August and 6 September, the average daily volume of visits for cargo ships was 98 ships a day, compared with an average of 96 in the previous week.

On Monday 7 September, heavy vehicle traffic was four percentage points above traffic seen in February, the highest recorded since the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 16 March'

Daily road traffic index: 100 = same traffic as the equivalent day of the week in the first week of February, 1 March 2020 to 7 September 2020, non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Department for Transport – Road traffic statistics: management information; [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 10 September 2020](#)

News

Government announcements:

- [Statement by the Prime Minister on Coronavirus](#): the PM outlined new measures in England including the rule of 6, and new guidance for premises and venues where people meet socially.
- [Coronavirus: what has changed – 9th September](#): summary of the new measures for England announced to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- [Changes to the Coronavirus travel corridors countries list](#): Portugal, Hungary, Reunion, French Polynesia and 7 Greek islands removed from the travel corridor exempt list.
- [New grants for businesses affected by local lockdowns](#): businesses in England that are required to shut because of local interventions will be able to claim up to £1,500 for a three week period.
- [Introduction of local measures across Caerphilly County Borough Council area to control coronavirus](#): measures include not leaving the area without a reasonable excuse.
- [New coronavirus restrictions in Wales](#): facemasks to be compulsory in shops and indoor spaces, and indoor meetings of more than 6 people from extended families to be illegal.

COVID-19 Guidance and related news:

- [New guidance on meeting with others safely in England](#): when meeting friends and family you do not live with, you must not meet in a group of more than 6, indoors or outdoors.
- [Working safely during Coronavirus](#): 14 guides to cover different types of work in England.
- [Guidance for universities ahead of reopening buildings and campuses](#): updated guidance for universities in England ahead of the new academic year.
- [Guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England](#): there is separate guidance for team sports.
- [Guidance for full opening of schools](#): updated guidance for the return to school in England. There is separate guidance for early years, further education colleges and special schools.
- [Guidance on local restrictions in the North of England](#): COVID-19 restrictions for people living in Greater Manchester, East Lancashire, Preston and West Yorkshire.
- [Oxford University COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial paused](#): trial put on hold after a potentially unexplained illness in one of the studies.