

Statistical bulletin

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 13 June 2024

Early data on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and innovative methods. These are official statistics in development.

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Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Latest indicators at a glance](#)
3. [Consumer behaviour](#)
4. [Business and workforce](#)
5. [Energy](#)
6. [Transport](#)
7. [Data](#)
8. [Glossary](#)
9. [Measuring the data](#)
10. [Strengths and limitations](#)
11. [Related links](#)
12. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Main points

- The seasonally adjusted total Direct Debit failure rate increased by 2% in May 2024 when compared with April 2024, and increased by 12% when compared with May 2023 (Vocalink and Pay.UK). [Section 3: Consumer behaviour](#).
- The seasonally adjusted monthly average Direct Debit transaction amount spent on electricity and gas continued to decrease, falling to 17% below the level seen in May 2023 (Vocalink and Pay.UK). [Section 3: Consumer behaviour](#).
- Following the May Bank holiday and school half term, overall retail footfall decreased by 6% in the week to 9 June 2024 when compared with the previous week, and was 1% below the level in the equivalent week of 2023 (MRI OnLocation). [Section 3: Consumer behaviour](#).
- The total number of online job adverts on 7 June 2024 increased by 1% from the level in the previous week but was 20% below the equivalent period of 2023 (Adzuna). [Section 4: Business and workforce](#).
- In the week to 9 June 2024, the System Price of electricity and the System Average Price (SAP) of gas decreased by 29% and 1%, respectively, when compared with the previous week; the System Price of electricity was 44% lower, while the SAP of gas was 20% higher when compared with the equivalent week of 2023 (Elexon, National Gas Transmission). [Section 5: Energy](#).
- In the week to 9 June 2024, the daily average number of UK flights remained broadly unchanged when compared with the previous week, and was 4% higher than the equivalent week of 2023 (EUROCONTROL). [Section 6: Transport](#).

These are official statistics in development, and we advise caution when using the data. The data sources used to compile these indicators are regularly reviewed to ensure they are representative and relevant, which may mean indicators change at short notice. Read more in [Section 9: Measuring the data. section](#).

2 . Latest indicators at a glance

Notes:

1. Card spending over time is pushed upwards by the impacts of both inflation on value of transactions and cash-to-card conversion.
2. Revolut adjustments to user count are at an aggregate level and as such age bands may not adjust evenly.
3. Indicators with SA in the title have been seasonally adjusted.

3 . Consumer behaviour

Monthly Direct Debit average transaction amount and failure rate

The monthly Direct Debit failure rate and average transaction amount are anonymised and aggregated datasets made available to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by Pay.UK and Vocalink. The data are unadjusted for inflation and reflect economic activity in nominal terms.

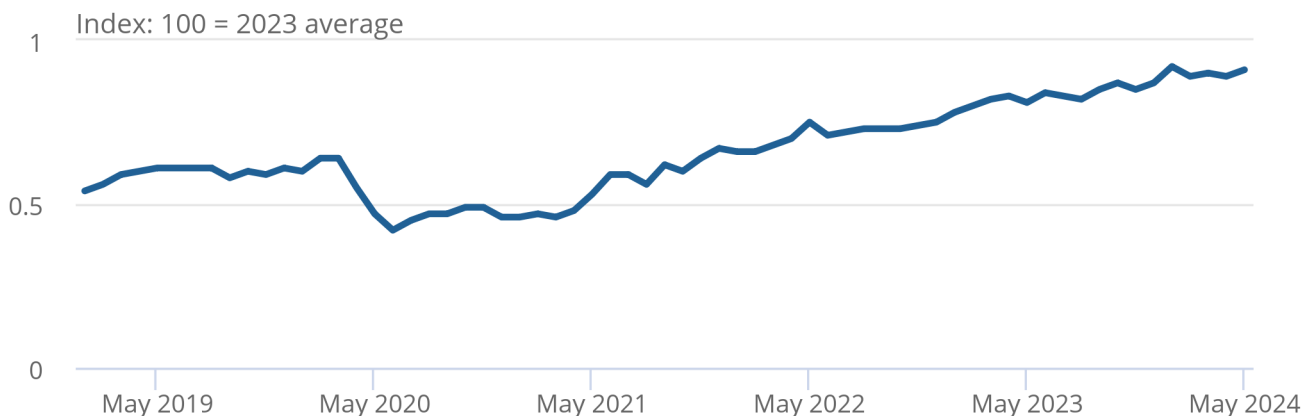
For further details on what is covered within this indicator, see our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology](#).

Figure 1: The seasonally adjusted total Direct Debit failure rate increased by 2% in May 2024 when compared with April 2024, and increased by 12% when compared with May 2023

Direct Debit failure rate, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2019 to May 2024

Figure 1: The seasonally adjusted total Direct Debit failure rate increased by 2% in May 2024 when compared with April 2024, and increased by 12% when compared with May 2023

Direct Debit failure rate, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2019 to May 2024



Source: Pay.UK and Vocalink

Notes:

1. Data include both individual and business Direct Debit transactions.
2. The total series covers all Direct Debit failure comprising data beyond the five categories published.
3. The underlying failure rates are low, so month-to-month volatility is expected within this series.

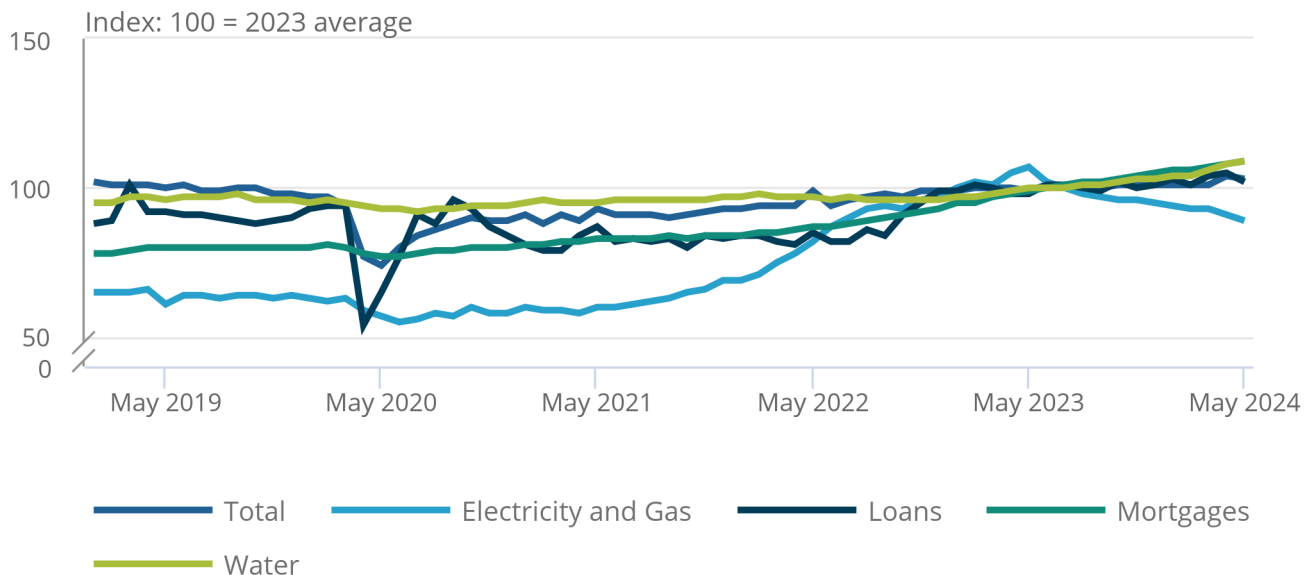
The seasonally adjusted total Direct Debit failure rate in May 2024 increased by 2% when compared with the previous month. The main contribution to this came from increases in the "Electricity and gas" and "Water" spending categories, rising by 4% and 2%, respectively. When compared with May 2023, the total Direct Debit failure rate increased by 12%, influenced by year-on-year increases in the "Electricity and Gas" and "Water" spending categories, which rose by 29% and 26%, respectively.

Figure 2: The seasonally adjusted value of the total monthly Direct Debit transaction amount increased by 5% in May 2024 when compared with May 2023

Average transaction amount, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2019 to May 2024

Figure 2: The seasonally adjusted value of the total monthly Direct Debit transaction amount increased by 5% in May 2024 when compared with May 2023

Average transaction amount, seasonally adjusted, UK, January 2019 to May 2024



Source: Pay.UK and Vocalink

Notes:

1. Data include both individual and business Direct Debit transactions.
2. The total series covers all Direct Debit transactions and consists of data beyond the five categories published.
3. Data are not adjusted for inflation.

In May 2024, the seasonally adjusted total monthly average Direct Debit transaction amount remained broadly unchanged when compared with April 2024, however we continued to see increases in the "Water" and "Mortgages" spending categories.

When compared with May 2023, the seasonally adjusted total monthly average Direct Debit transaction amount increased by 5%. The main contribution to this increase came from annual growth in the "Water" and "Mortgages" spending category. However, the seasonally adjusted monthly average Direct Debit transaction amount spent on "Electricity and gas" in May 2024 continued to follow the month-on-month decline since the peak a year ago, falling to 17% below the level seen in May 2023.

Our accompanying [Monthly Direct Debit failure rate and average transaction amount dataset](#) is available.

Automotive fuel spending

The annual growth rate in the estimated demand for fuel per transaction was negative 2% in the week to 2 June 2024. This was a decrease of 1 percentage point when compared with the previous week and was 7 percentage points lower than in the equivalent week of 2023.

The annual growth rate in average fuel prices was 4% in the week to 2 June 2024. This was broadly unchanged compared with the previous week and was 21 percentage points higher than in the equivalent week of 2023.

Our accompanying [Automotive fuel spending dataset](#) is available.

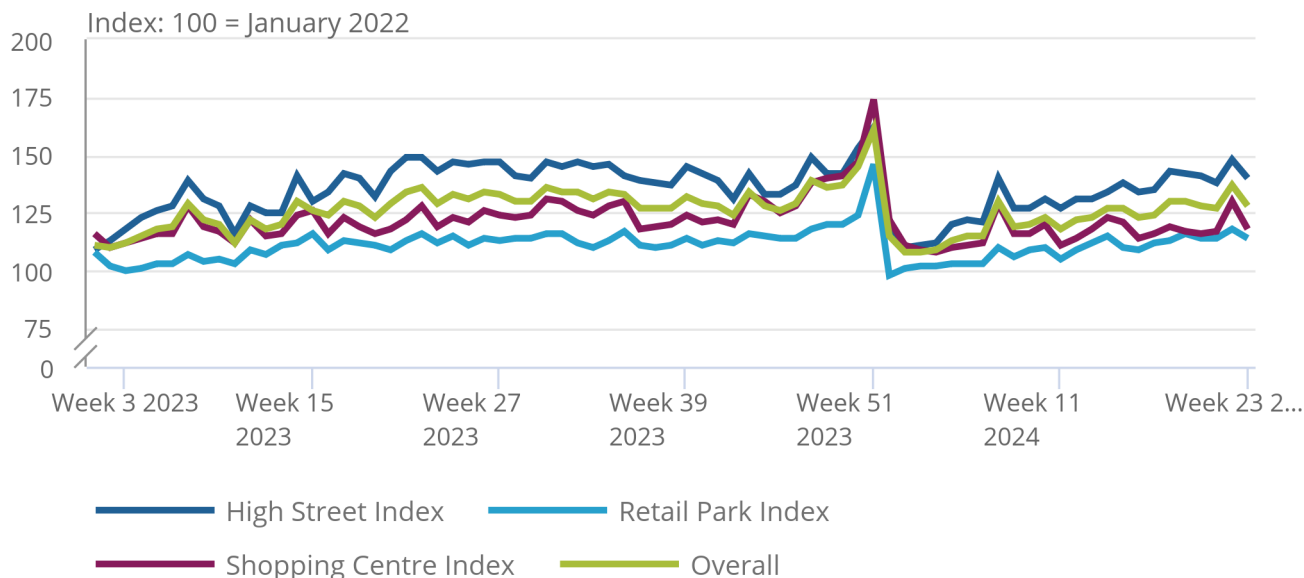
National retail footfall

Figure 3: Overall retail footfall in the week to 9 June 2024 decreased by 6% when compared with the previous week, and was 1% below the level in the equivalent week of 2023

Index of daily retail footfall volumes, non-seasonally adjusted, UK, 1 January 2023 to 9 June 2024

Figure 3: Overall retail footfall in the week to 9 June 2024 decreased by 6% when compared with the previous week, and was 1% below the level in the equivalent week of 2023

Index of daily retail footfall volumes, non-seasonally adjusted, UK, 1 January 2023 to 9 June 2024



Source: MRI OnLocation

Notes:

1. Peaks in footfall correspond to bank holidays and school holidays: Week 7 2023, February school half term; Week 15 2023, Easter bank holidays and school holidays; Week 21 2023, late May bank holiday and school half term; Week 51 2023, Christmas bank holidays and school holidays; Week 21 2024, late May bank holiday and school half term.

In the week to 9 June 2024, overall retail footfall decreased by 6% when compared with the previous week, returning to normal levels after the May bank holiday and school half term. This was 1% below the level in the equivalent week of 2023.

All three location categories saw decreased footfall when compared with the previous week, with the largest decrease seen in shopping centres, which fell by 9%. When compared with the equivalent week in 2023, the largest decrease was seen in high streets, which fell by 2%. Retail parks was the only location category to see increased footfall, with a 1% rise when compared with the equivalent period last year.

Overall retail footfall decreased in 11 out of 12 UK countries and English regions when compared with the previous week. The largest decrease was seen in South West England, which fell by 11%, followed by Wales at 9%.

When compared with the equivalent week of 2023, 8 out of 12 UK countries and English regions saw a decrease in overall retail footfall, with four remaining broadly unchanged. The largest decrease was seen in Wales, which fell to 7% below the level seen in the equivalent week of 2023.

Transactions at Pret A Manger

In the week to 30 May 2024, the number of transactions at Pret A Manger stores decreased in 8 of the 10 location categories when compared with the previous week. The largest decreases were seen in the Manchester and London City Worker stores, with both location categories falling by 20%.

Compared with the equivalent week of 2023, the number of in-store transactions at Pret A Manger decreased in 9 of the 10 location categories. The location categories with the largest decreases were the Scotland and Manchester stores, with both location categories falling by 20%.

Our accompanying [Transactions at Pret A Manger dataset](#) is available.

4 . Business and workforce

Online job adverts

Figure 4: In the latest week, the total number of online job adverts increased by 1% when compared with the previous week, but was 20% lower than in the equivalent period of 2023

Volume of online job adverts, non-seasonally adjusted, UK, 7 February 2018 to 7 June 2024

Notes:

1. These estimates of online job adverts are provided by Adzuna, an online job search engine, and are an indicator for the demand of labour.
2. Week-on-week changes in online job advert volumes are outlined as percentages, rather than as percentage-point changes. Percentage-change figures quoted in the commentary will therefore not necessarily match the percentage-point changes observed in the chart and in our [Online job advert estimates dataset](#).
3. Further category breakdowns are available in our [Online job advert estimates dataset](#), and more details on the methodology are in our [Using Adzuna data to derive an indicator of weekly vacancies methodology](#).

The total number of online job adverts on 7 June 2024 increased by 1% when compared with the previous week, with increases seen in 11 of the 12 UK countries and English regions. The largest week-on-week increase was in the North East, rising by 3%.

The total number of online job adverts fell by 20% when compared with the equivalent period of 2023, with the figure for all UK countries and English regions decreasing. The largest year-on-year decrease was in Scotland, falling by 31%.

When compared with the equivalent period of 2023, the total number of online job adverts fell in 25 of the 28 job categories. The categories with the largest decreases were "Admin, clerical and secretarial" and "Construction and trades", which fell by 51% and 49%, respectively.

Our accompanying [Online job advert estimates dataset](#) is available.

Business impact and insights

Initial results from Wave 110 of our [Business Insights and Conditions Survey](#) (BICS) statistical bulletin were collected from 3 June to 11 June 2024, with a response rate of 22.9% (8,917 responses).

Table 1: Of trading businesses, 17% experienced an increase in turnover in May 2024 compared with the previous month, this figure is 2 percentage points lower than in April 2024

Business turnover, businesses currently trading, weighted by count, UK, 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2024

	Turnover increased	Turnover stayed the same	Turnover decreased	Not sure
June 2023	14.5%	52.9%	23.6%	9.0%
July 2023	16.7%	50.1%	25.0%	8.2%
August 2023	14.7%	51.6%	26.6%	7.2%
September 2023	14.0%	53.3%	23.6%	9.2%
October 2023	14.2%	53.3%	24.0%	8.5%
November 2023	15.1%	53.7%	22.8%	8.5%
December 2023	14.3%	48.2%	28.7%	8.8%
January 2024	15.6%	50.0%	26.0%	8.4%
February 2024	15.8%	54.5%	21.5%	8.2%
March 2024	16.4%	53.3%	21.8%	8.5%
April 2024	18.9%	51.6%	21.3%	8.2%
May 2024	16.5%	53.7%	21.0%	8.8%

Source: Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) from the Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. Final weighted results, Wave 108 and initial weighted results, Wave 110 of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).
2. Rows may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Advanced notification of potential redundancies

Calculated as a four-week rolling average, the number of potential redundancies in the week to 2 June 2024 was 34% higher than the level in the equivalent week of 2023. The number of employers proposing redundancies was 18% higher when compared with the same period.

Comparisons with the equivalent period a year ago help account for any seasonal impacts. For more information, our accompanying [Advanced notification of potential redundancies dataset](#) is available.

5 . Energy

System Average Price of gas

In the week to 9 June 2024, the System Average Price (SAP) of gas decreased by 1% when compared with the previous week, from a seven-day average price of 2.86 pence per kilowatt hour to 2.82 pence per kilowatt hour. This was 20% higher than the equivalent week of 2023, which had an SAP of 2.35 pence per kilowatt hour.

Our accompanying [System Average Price of gas dataset](#) is available.

System Price of electricity

In the week to 9 June 2024, the System Price of electricity decreased by 29% when compared with the previous week, from a seven-day average price of 7.03 pence per kilowatt hour to 5.01 pence per kilowatt hour. This is 44% below the equivalent week of 2023, which had a System Price of 8.88 pence per kilowatt hour.

Our accompanying [System Price of electricity dataset](#) is available.

6 . Transport

Daily UK flights

In the week to 9 June 2024, the daily average number of UK flights remained broadly unchanged when compared with the previous week and was 4% higher than the equivalent week of 2023.

Our accompanying [Daily UK flights dataset](#) is available.

7 . Data

[Online job advert estimates](#)

Dataset | Released 13 June 2024

Weekly snapshot of online job advert indices covering the UK job market. These are official statistics in development. Source: Adzuna

[System Average Price \(SAP\) of gas](#)

Dataset | Released 13 June 2024

Daily data showing System Average Price (SAP) of gas, and rolling seven-day average, traded in Great Britain over the On-the-Day Commodity Market (OCM). These are official statistics in development. Source: National Gas Transmission.

[System Price of electricity](#)

Dataset | Release 13 June 2024

Daily data showing the System Price of electricity, and rolling seven-day average, in Great Britain. These are official statistics in development. Source: Elexon

This section lists a selection of the data available in this publication. For the full list of available datasets, please see our [accompanying dataset page](#).

8 . Glossary

Real-time indicator

A real-time indicator provides insights into economic activity using close-to-real-time big data, administrative data sources, rapid response surveys or experimental estimates, which represent useful economic and social concepts.

Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is the identification and removal of consistent and systematic variation in time series that is associated with the time of year. For more information on seasonal variation, and how we implement seasonal adjustment, see section 2 of our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology](#).

9 . Measuring the data

Official statistics in development

These statistics are labelled as "official statistics in development". Until September 2023, these were called "experimental statistics". Read more about the change in our [Guide to official statistics in development](#).

We are developing how we collect and produce the data to improve the quality of these statistics. Read more in our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology](#).

Once the developments are complete, we will review the statistics with the Statistics Head of Profession. We will decide whether the statistics are of sufficient quality and value to be published as official statistics, or whether further development is needed. Production may be stopped if they are not of sufficient quality or value. Users will be informed of the outcome and any changes.

We value your feedback on these statistics. Contact us at realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk.

Dataset release dates and intended release frequency

Latest release dates and intended release frequency of our associated datasets are available in the following list. Please note that there may be some change to the intended release frequency because of a variety of reasons, such as data availability. If you would like further information about any of these datasets or previous release dates, please email: realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk.

Weekly data release

- The [UK spending on credit and debit cards dataset](#) was last updated on 16 May 2024.
- The [Revolut spending on debit cards dataset](#) was last updated on 1 February 2024.
- The [Automotive Fuel spending dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [Online job advert estimates dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [Company incorporations, voluntary dissolutions and compulsory dissolutions dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [Advanced notification of potential redundancies dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [System Average Price \(SAP\) of gas dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [System Price of electricity dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [Traffic camera activity dataset](#) was last updated on 16 May 2024.
- The [Weekly shipping indicators dataset](#) was last updated on 5 April 2024.
- The [Daily UK flights dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.

Fortnightly data release

- The [Transactions at Pret A Manger dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.

Monthly data release

- The [Monthly Direct Debit failure rate and average transaction amount dataset](#) was last updated on 13 June 2024.
- The [Value Added Tax \(VAT\), flash estimates dataset](#) was last updated on 18 April 2024.
- The [Renter affordability for new tenancies dataset](#) was last updated on 6 June 2024.
- The [Sales and jobs in small businesses dataset](#) was last updated on 2 May 2024.

10 . Strengths and limitations

These statistics have been produced to provide timely indicators of the effect of developing world events on the UK economy and society, using close-to-real-time big data, administrative data sources, rapid response surveys, or official Statistics in development.

The data presented in this bulletin are reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis. Indicators are swapped in and out of the publication based on their suitability and availability.

Seasonality

Seasonal fluctuations are likely to be present in many of these indicators, so caution must be applied when interpreting changes in series that are not seasonally adjusted.

11 . Related links

[GDP monthly estimate, UK](#)

Bulletin | Released monthly

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of and growth in the economy.

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

Bulletin | Released monthly

Social insights on daily life and events from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) relating to the biggest issues facing society today.

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

Bulletin | Released fortnightly

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. These are official statistics in development.

12 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), published 13 June 2024, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 13 June 2024](#)