

Statistical bulletin

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 1 September 2022

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

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1 . Main points

- The System Average Price (SAP) of gas rose by 30% in the week to 28 August 2022 to a new peak level for this year, this is 8% higher than the previous peak seen on 10 March 2022 (National Grid).
- In late August 2022, 21% of businesses with 10 or more employees reported they were on a variable rate for electricity, while 10% reported their fixed prices would expire by 31 December 2022; for gas, these percentages were 15% and 6%, respectively (initial results from Wave 64 of the [Business Insights and Conditions Survey](#) (BICS)).
- Business and workforce metrics were mostly down in the latest period, with an 8% decrease in company incorporations and a very slight fall in total online job adverts; the value of sales by small businesses in July fell 10% from the previous month, which was the largest monthly fall since April 2020 when it decreased by 24% (Adzuna, Companies House, Xero).
- Consumer behaviour indicators showed mostly increased activity in the latest week, with rises in UK seated diners (up by 4 percentage points) and “retail and recreation” and “transit station” location visits, by 3% and 2%, respectively; meanwhile UK credit and debit card purchases remained broadly unchanged (OpenTable, Google Mobility, Bank of England CHAPS data).
- Heathrow Air Passenger numbers were up in July 2022, with an increase of 6% when compared with the previous month; this was 82% of the volume when compared with July 2019 (Civil Aviation Authority).
- Transport indicators show a varied picture this week, with UK daily flights broadly unchanged from the previous week and traffic camera activity for “cars” and “vans” in London both down by 3% (EUROCONTROL, Transport for London).

Results presented in this bulletin are experimental and may be subject to revision. Data sources used to compile these indicators are regularly reviewed to ensure representativity and relevance which may mean indicators change at short notice.

2 . Latest indicators at a glance

Notes:

1. Revolut adjustments to user count are at an aggregate level and as such, age bands may not adjust evenly.
2. Users should note that card spending over-time is pushed upwards by the impacts of both inflation on value of transactions, and cash-to-card conversion.
3. Users should take caution when interpreting week-on-week falls in Road Traffic (DfT) data, due to the comparison period including the latest summer bank holiday on 29 August 2022.

3 . Data

[Advanced notification of potential redundancies](#)

Dataset | Released 1 September 2022

Weekly dataset showing the number of potential redundancies and employers proposing redundancies, submitted to Insolvency Service via HR1 forms.

[Company incorporations, voluntary dissolutions and compulsory dissolutions](#)

Dataset | Released 1 September 2022

Weekly dataset showing the number of Companies House incorporations and voluntary dissolutions accepted, and companies placed into compulsory dissolution.

[Revolut spending on debit cards](#)

Dataset | Released 1 September 2022

Insight into the spending patterns of UK consumers from financial technology company Revolut.

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

Dataset | Released 1 September 2022

Daily and rolling average System Average Price (SAP) of gas traded in the UK.

[Transactions at Pret A Manger](#)

Dataset | Released 1 September 2022

Weekly transactional data from approximately 400 Pret A Manger stores around the UK.

[UK spending on credit and debit cards](#)

Dataset | Released 1 September 2022

Experimental indicator for monitoring UK retail purchases derived from the Bank of England's CHAPS data.

Users should note that this section lists a selection of the data available with this publication. For the full list of available datasets please see the [accompanying dataset page](#).

4 . 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 Statistics, which represent useful economic and social concepts.

5 . Measuring the data

Information on the methodology used to produce the indicators in this bulletin is available in the [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology](#).

6 . 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 Experimental Statistics.

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.

UK coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

A full overview of coronavirus restrictions for each of the four UK constituent countries can be found:

- [coronavirus in England](#)
- [coronavirus in Scotland](#)
- [coronavirus in Wales](#)
- [coronavirus in Northern Ireland](#)

These restrictions should be considered when interpreting the data featured throughout this bulletin.

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.

7 . Related Links

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Webpage | Updated as and when data become available

Latest data on the coronavirus in the UK and its effect on the economy and society.

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

Bulletin | Released fortnightly

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

[Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional](#)

Bulletin | Released weekly

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving coronavirus, in the latest weeks for which data are available.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, UK](#)

Bulletin | Released weekly

Percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in private residential households in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, including regional and age breakdowns.

8 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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