

Statistical bulletin

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 2 September 2021

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

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Next release:
9 September 2021

Notice

2 September 2021

This week's release (2 September 2021) is reduced to main points and data only because of the Summer Bank Holiday. The full release will resume as normal from next week (9 September 2021).

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) has moved to a fortnightly collection so does not feature in this week's release. It will feature in next week's release and fortnightly thereafter.

Data for Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) lodgements for the latest week were unavailable at the time of this publication.

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1 . Main points

- In the week ending 29 August 2021, the seven-day average number of UK daily flights was 3,405, a 5% increase from the previous week (3,256); this is the highest seven-day average number of UK daily flights since Saturday 21 March 2020 and is around half (51%) of the level seen in the equivalent week in 2019 (EUROCONTROL). See the [accompanying dataset](#).
- In the week to 30 August 2021, the seven-day average estimate of UK seated diners increased by 22 percentage points from the previous week to 156% of the level in the equivalent week of 2019; this is the highest week-on-week increase since the week ending 31 May 2021, which was also a Bank Holiday (OpenTable).
- On 27 August 2021, the total volume of online job adverts fell by 3% from the previous week to 125% of its February 2020 average level; this was driven by a week-on-week decline in job adverts in all UK countries and English regions (Adzuna). See the [accompanying dataset](#).
- In the week to 26 August 2021, the aggregate CHAPS-based indicator of credit and debit card purchases was broadly stable at 1 percentage point below the previous week, and was at 93% of its February 2020 average; all spending categories remained broadly stable during the same period (Bank of England CHAPS data). See the [accompanying dataset](#).
- In late August 2021, a net 22% of businesses reported a decrease in turnover, compared with normal expectations for this time of year, broadly unchanged from the previous wave (initial results from Wave 38 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS)). See [Section 3](#).
- In the week to 28 August 2021, overall retail footfall in the UK increased by 5%, and was at 84% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2019 (Springboard).
- There was an average of 296 daily ship visits in the week to 29 August 2021, broadly similar to the 298 visits in the previous week, while the average number of daily cargo ship visits were also stable at 90 visits (exactEarth). See the [accompanying dataset](#).
- On Monday 30 August 2021, the volume of all motor vehicle traffic was 84% of the volume seen on the first Monday of February 2020, a decrease of 15 percentage points from the previous week; Monday 30 August 2021 was the Summer Bank Holiday and a decrease in the volume of road traffic on this day is consistent with previous bank holidays ([Department for Transport](#)).
- In the week ending 29 August 2021, the seasonally adjusted average count of traffic camera activity for cars in London increased by 3% from the previous week to 116% of its pre-pandemic level (Transport for London). See the [accompanying dataset](#).
- There were 13,796 company incorporations in the week to 27 August 2021; this was an increase of 13% from the previous week and is 29% higher than the equivalent week of 2019 (10,701) (Companies House). See the [accompanying dataset](#).
- There were 5,814 voluntary dissolution applications in the week to 27 August 2021, an increase of 20% from the previous week and 40% higher than the equivalent week of 2019 (4,152); the large difference compared with the equivalent 2019 figure is in part attributed to reduced processing activity as the week in 2019 fell on a bank holiday (Companies House). See the [accompanying dataset](#).

Results presented in this bulletin are experimental and may be subject to revision.

2 . Latest indicators at a glance

Notes:

1. Data for one CHAPS sub-sector with 15% weight in the “social” spending category has been imputed for the period of 12 to 26 August 2021 because of data availability issues.

3 . Business impacts and insights

Table 1: In Wave 38, a net 22% of businesses reported a decrease in turnover, compared with normal expectations for this time of year, broadly unchanged from the previous wave
Impact on turnover, businesses currently trading, weighted by count, UK, 9 to 22 August 2021

All industries	
Turnover has increased by more than 50%	Less than 1%
Turnover has increased between 20% and 50%	2%
Turnover has increased by up to 20%	5%
Turnover has not been affected	51%
Turnover has decreased by up to 20%	12%
Turnover has decreased between 20% and 50%	10%
Turnover has decreased by more than 50%	6%
Not sure	13%

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

Notes

1. Initial weighted results Wave 38 of the Office for National Statistics' Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).
2. Table may not sum to 100% because of rounding.
3. Businesses were asked for their experiences for the reference period 9 to 22 August 2021. However, for questions regarding the last two weeks, businesses may respond from the point of completion of the questionnaire (23 to 31 August 2021).
4. Net turnover balances are the percentage of businesses reporting a decrease in turnover minus the percentage reporting an increase.

As previously announced, as part of our regular and ongoing quality assessment of our methods, we have recently improved methods to the weighting of smaller businesses within the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) sample where we use employment and turnover to do so (first published [26 August 2021](#)).

4 . Data

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

Dataset | Released 2 September 2021

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

[Shipping indicators](#)

Dataset | Released 2 September 2021

Experimental weekly and daily ship visits dataset covering UK ports.

[Traffic camera activity](#)

Dataset | Released 2 September 2021

Experimental daily traffic camera counts data for busyness indices covering the UK.

[Online job advert estimates](#)

Dataset | Released 2 September 2021

Experimental job advert indices covering the UK online job market.

[Company incorporations and voluntary dissolutions](#)

Dataset | Released 2 September 2021

The number of weekly Companies House Incorporations and Voluntary Dissolution applications accepted.

[Daily UK flights](#)

Dataset | Released 2 September 2021

Experimental daily UK flight numbers and rolling seven-day average, including flights to, from, and within the UK.

[Online weekly price changes](#)

Dataset | Released 1 July 2021

Experimental estimates of online price changes for a selection of food and drink products from several large UK retailers.

5 . Measuring the data

UK coronavirus restrictions

A full overview of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions for each of the four UK constituent countries can be found here:

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

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

6 . Related links

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

Webpage | Updated as and when data become available

Latest data on the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effect on the economy and society.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 27 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | 27 August 2021

Latest indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

[Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 20 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 1 September 2021

Provisional counts of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving COVID-19, in the latest weeks for which data are available.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, UK: 27 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 27 August 2021

Initial data from the COVID-19 Infection Survey (delivered in partnership with IQVIA, the University of Oxford and Lighthouse laboratories).