Office for National Statistics

Statistical bulletin

GDP, London: April to June 2019

Quarterly economic activity for London including the construction, production and services industrial sectors.

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Next release:
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Notice

3 June 2020

This bulletin has been discontinued and this is not the latest analysis. The latest regional analysis for gross domestic product (GDP) is published in the GDP, UK regions and countries bulletin. The latest data are available in the Quarterly country and regional GDP dataset.

Table of contents

1 . Other pages in this release

- [Regions of the UK](#)

- [Methodology used to produce these estimates](#)

- [GDP in the North East](#)

- [GDP in the North West](#)

- [GDP in Yorkshire and The Humber](#)

- [GDP in the East Midlands](#)

- [GDP in the West Midlands](#)

- [GDP in the East of England](#)

- [GDP in London](#)

- [GDP in the South West](#)

- [GDP in the South East](#)

- [GDP in Wales](#)

- [GDP in Scotland](#), published by the Scottish Government

- [GDP in Northern Ireland](#), published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

2 . GDP growth in London was 1.0% in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019

Figure 1: Quarter on quarter GDP growth between Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2017 and Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 in London

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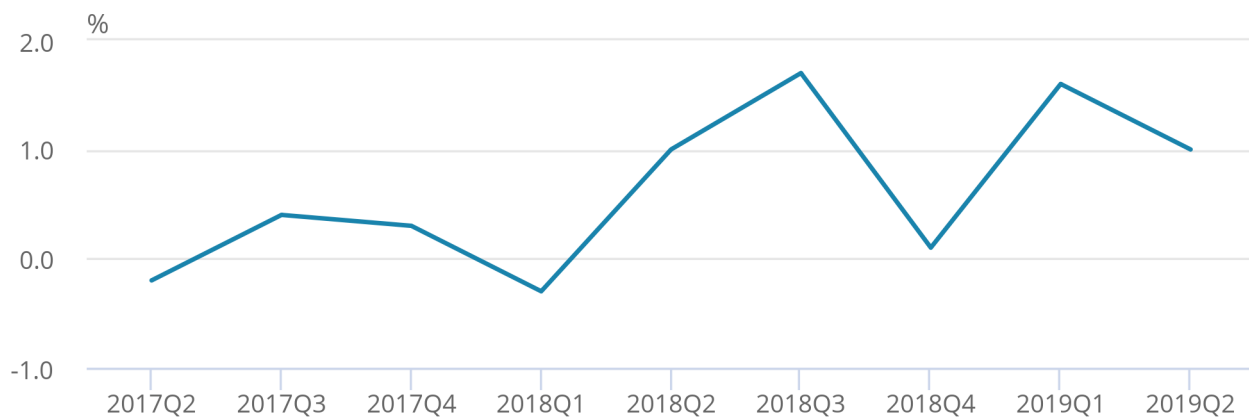
Source: Office for National Statistics – Regional GDP estimate
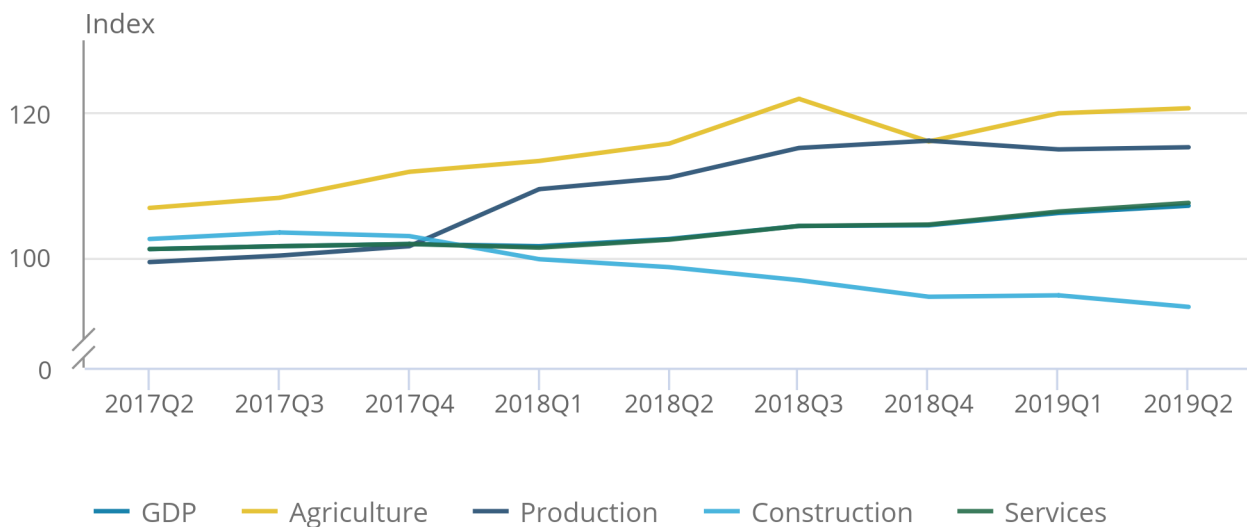
Notes:

1. Q1 refers to Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar), Q2 refers to Quarter 2 (Apr to June), Q3 refers to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) and Q4 refers to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec).

Gross domestic product (GDP) in London had growth of 1.0% in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, following growth of 1.6% in Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2019. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, GDP grew by 4.5%.

3 . In Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, the service industry had growth of 1.1% while construction fell by 1.7%

Figure 2: Chained volume indices (2016=100) in GDP in London, between Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2017 and Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019

Figure 2: Chained volume indices (2016=100) in GDP in London, between Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2017 and Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019

Source: Office for National Statistics – Regional GDP estimate

Notes:

1. Q1 refers to Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar), Q2 refers to Quarter 2 (Apr to June), Q3 refers to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) and Q4 refers to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec).

In Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, the services, agriculture and production sectors grew by 1.1%, 0.6% and 0.3% respectively, while the construction sector fell by 1.7%.

Relative to 2017, London has experienced strong growth in the production sector, while construction has continued to fall since Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2017.

4 . The finance industry was the strongest positive contributor to growth in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019

Figure 3: Contributions to GDP in London in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, by industry section

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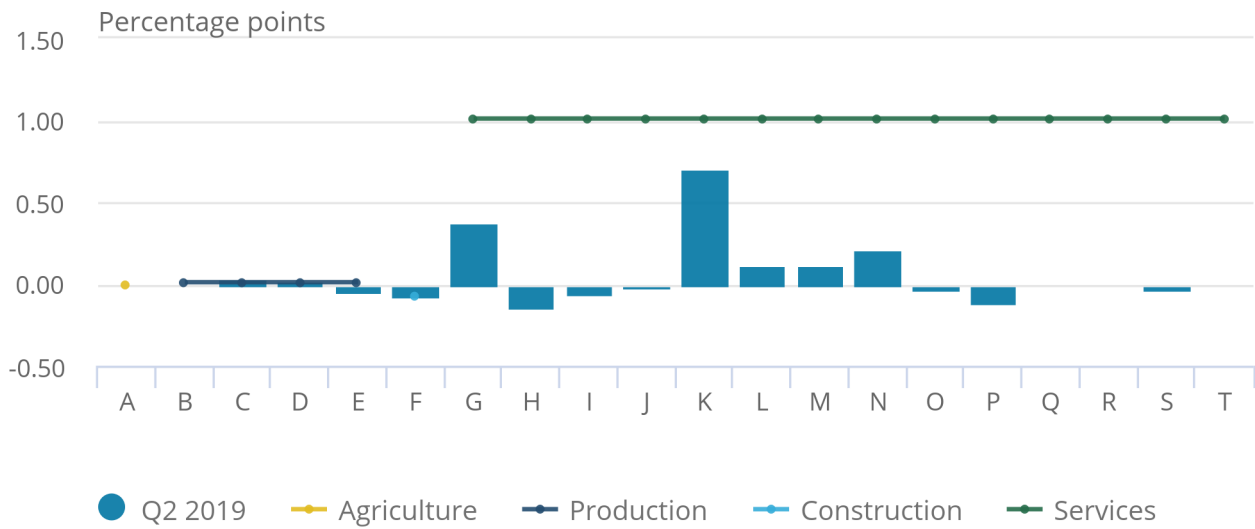
Notes:

Sector names
A. Agriculture
B - E. Production
F. Construction
G - T. Services

Industry names
A. Agriculture
B. Mining and quarrying
C. Manufacturing
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F. Construction
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H. Transportation and storage
I. Accommodation and food service activities
J. Information and communication
K. Financial and insurance activities
L. Real estate activities
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities
N. Administrative and support service activities
O. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P. Education
Q. Human health and social work activities
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation
S. Other service activities
T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services, producing activities of households for own use

The service industry is the main driver to growth within this region. The wholesale and retail trade and finance industries grew by 5.2% and 4.7%, contributing 0.38 and 0.71 percentage points respectively. The transportation and storage industry fell by 3.5% and was a negative contributor in the region, at negative 0.15 percentage points. The services sector made a positive contribution to London's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, at 1.01 percentage points. The construction sector made a negative contribution, at 0.08 percentage points.

5 . GDP, UK regions and countries data

[Quarterly country and regional GDP](#)
Dataset | Released 07 February 2020
Quarterly economic activity within Wales and the nine English regions (North East, North West, Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East, South West).

6 . Glossary

GDP

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.

Production

Production is the process of combining various materials or other inputs in order to generate a product for consumption. It includes output in the manufacturing (the largest component of production), mining and quarrying, energy supply, and water supply and waste management industries.

Services

Services are activities that people or businesses provide for a consumer or other businesses. The main components of the service industries are: wholesale and retail; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communication; business services and finance; and government and other services.

7 . Measuring the data

The main data for these estimates are turnover data from approximately 1.9 million Value Added Tax (VAT) returns. Information from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) on workplace employment allows us to apportion the VAT turnover for each business based on its employment share within a region. The quality assurance of administrative data (QAAD) report for VAT turnover data is available.

Other volume measure data are used where appropriate or where VAT data have insufficient coverage. A full list of other data sources is included in the methodology article.

A detailed analysis of these new data was published in the Economic Review on 21 October 2019.

Additional analysis has allowed us to now publish a longer back series. This includes data from Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2012. This publication includes a consistent time series of growth rates and indices back to 2012; these data are consistent with the Blue Book 2019-consistent regional accounts estimates published in December 2019. We use a statistical algorithm to automatically align our datasets, to ensure consistency.

We welcome feedback and comments on this publication, including on presentation and further development of other data sources.

8 . Strengths and limitations

These data are designated as Experimental Statistics. These are statistics that are in the testing phase. We will continue to develop these statistics and seek users' views on their uses and needs for these data.

While the data sources and methods used in both our regional and national estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) are broadly similar, there are some clear differences. For example, in the extent to which Value Added Tax (VAT) data are used in the compliation of these estimates.

These estimates aim to produce the best estimates at a subnational level. However, the sum of the UK regions may not equal the national total, reflecting that there are some differences in data sources and methods. We have constrained our regional GDP estimates in such a way that minimises the changes to the region by industry quarterly growth rates using automated statistical methods. While the overall impact of this constraining on the regional estimates is small, we will continue to examine the impact of this method and consider options to determine which one is best suited to these data in advance of applying to be assessed as National Statistics.

Following the announcement by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) in March 2019, Construction Output Price Indices (OPIs), UK; Construction output in Great Britain; and construction new orders were re-designated as National Statistics. It was noted, however, that the subnational and subsector breakdowns were excluded from consideration because of concerns around the path of the subnational estimates of construction output. We have worked closely with the Construction Statistics Steering Group and Consultative Committee on Construction Industry Statistics (CCCIS) on improving these estimates. While these users have acknowledged the improvements in the modelling of these estimates, there is ongoing development work to improve these lower-level estimates as we ultimately look to regain National Statistic status in due course. Any developments in this area will in turn lead to improved accuracy in the regional GDP estimates.

9 . Related links

GDP monthly estimate, UK: November 2019
Statistical bulletin | Released 13 January 2020
Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK.

Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2018
Statistical bulletin | Released 19 December 2019
Annual estimates of economic activity by UK country, region and local area using GDP. Estimates are available in current market prices and in chained volume measures and include a full industry breakdown of balanced regional gross value added (GVA(B)).

GDP in Scotland
Statistical publication | Released 18 December 2019
This publication includes the updated second estimate of onshore GDP growth in real terms, additional breakdowns of GDP in nominal (cash) terms, and the main household sector statistics.

Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index
Release | Released 16 January 2020
The Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI) is an experimental quarterly measure of the performance of the Northern Ireland economy, based on available official statistics.

Welsh short-term output indicators
Report | Released 23 January 2020
Data showing the short-term movements in the output of industries in the production, construction and market services sectors.