

GDP, UK regions and countries: July to September 2021

Quarterly economic activity within the countries of the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) and the nine English regions (North East, North West, Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East, and South West).

Contact:
Laura Requena
regionalgdp@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 456417

Release date:
31 May 2022

Next release:
To be announced

Notice

31 July 2026

We will be introducing substantial methods and data changes to our existing quarterly regional gross domestic product (GDP) outputs. We will introduce the changes in our [Update on reinstating quarterly regional GDP estimates for England and Wales article series](#). When we fully reinstate the output we will start a new series for statistical articles, datasets, and a quality and methodology guide.

Table of contents

1. [Other pages in this release](#)
2. [Main points](#)
3. [GDP, UK regions and countries data](#)
4. [Glossary](#)
5. [Measuring the data](#)
6. [Strengths and limitations](#)
7. [Related links](#)

1 . Other pages in this release

- [Methodology used to produce these estimates](#)
- [GDP in Scotland](#), published by the Scottish Government
- [GDP in Northern Ireland](#), published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

2 . Main points

- In Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2021, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England showed positive quarter-on-quarter growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.4%, 0.9% and 0.6%, respectively, while Wales showed negative growth of 0.3%.
- Of the nine English regions, London, the North West and the South West experienced positive growth in Quarter 3 2021; the North East, East of England, West Midlands, East Midlands and the South East experienced negative growth; growth in Yorkshire and The Humber was flat, at 0.0%.
- The English regions with the largest percentage growth in Quarter 3 2021 were London at 2.3% and the North West at 1.2%.
- The North East recorded the largest negative growth in Quarter 3 2021, of 1.2%.
- In England and Wales, the industry with the largest percentage growth in Quarter 3 2021 was accommodation and food service activities; London was the region that recorded the largest growth for this industry, at 32.2%.
- Data are presented here from Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2020 to Quarter 3 2021; these do not contain any revisions to earlier data periods and are not aligned with the Blue Book 2021-consistent [regional accounts estimates](#) that were published on 30 May 2022.
- As part of the ongoing development of these experimental statistics, we are currently undertaking a project to refine constraining methods to further improve data quality; we will incorporate revisions to the historic data at the same time as introducing any improvements to methods, to minimise the frequency of revisions for our users; [see section 5 for more information](#).

3 . GDP, UK regions and countries data

[Quarterly country and regional GDP](#)

Dataset | Released 31 May 2022

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, and South West).

[Quarterly country and regional GDP – data source catalogue](#)

Dataset | Released 31 May 2022

A breakdown of all the data sources that feed into the output measure of quarterly country and regional gross domestic product (GDP).

4 . 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
- government and other services

5 . Measuring the data

Background and development

In this release, we have paused updating the historical timeseries between Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2012 and Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2021. This is because we are focusing on developing methods to improve data quality to minimise revisions for our users. The development of these statistics is part of our ongoing work programme on experimental statistics.

The main focus in this release is on Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2021. Data are not aligned to the most recently published [annual regional accounts](#) (the preferred source for annual gross domestic product (GDP) changes).

Percentage change data are presented in this release from Quarter 1 2020 to Quarter 3 2021. The data are included for each region at total industry level and within individual industries, in the [tables](#) published alongside this release.

Users who require quarterly region by industry data over a longer time period than presented in this bulletin could take historic data from our previous release and add on the latest data period. However, in doing so, users should be aware that the time series is subject to future revision.

Our work package for improvement includes a review of consistency between UK GDP and quarterly regional GDP, the processing methodology, and the constraints imposed as the datasets are compiled.

6 . 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. We welcome feedback to help inform our development work. You can send your feedback by email to regionalgdp@ons.gov.uk.

The main data source for these estimates is 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 their 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 has insufficient coverage. A full list of other related data sources is included in our [data sources catalogue](#).

While the data sources and methods used in both our regional and national estimates of GDP are broadly similar, there are some clear differences. For example, the extent to which VAT data is used in the compilation of these estimates. These estimates aim to produce the best estimates at a subnational level.

7 . Related links

[GDP monthly estimate, UK: March 2022](#)

Bulletin | Released 12 May 2022

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.

[Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 30 May 2022

Annual estimates of economic activity by UK country, region and local area using gross domestic product (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 Quarterly National Accounts: 2021 Quarter 4 \(October to December\)](#)

Publication | Released 4 May 2022

This publication includes gross domestic product (GDP) for Scotland produced by the Scottish Government.

[NI Composite Economic Index](#)

Publication | Released 31 March 2022

The NICEI is an experimental quarterly measure of the performance of the NI economy based on available official statistics. Published on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website.

[Welsh short-term output indicators](#)

Release | Updated 28 April 2022

Data showing the short-term movements in the output of industries in the production, construction and market services sectors. Published on the Welsh Government website.

[Model-based early estimates of regional gross value added in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland](#)

Bulletin | Updated quarterly

Experimental model-based estimates of quarterly regional Gross Value Added (GVA) output for the nine English regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.