

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: February 2021

Estimates of the number of vacancies and jobs for the UK.



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Notice

23 February 2021

The effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on our capacity means we have reviewed the existing labour market releases and will be suspending some publications.

This will protect the delivery and quality of our remaining labour market outputs as well as ensuring we can respond to new demands as a direct result of the coronavirus. More details about the [impact on labour market outputs](#) can be found in our statement.

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1 . Other pages in this release

- [Labour market overview](#)
- [Employment in the UK](#)
- [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain](#)

2 . Main points

- The number of job vacancies in November 2020 to January 2021 was 26% lower than a year ago; this is an improvement on the position in summer 2020 when vacancies were down by nearly 60% year-on-year, but the rate of improvement has slowed in the most recent few months; further restrictions and national lockdowns recently have affected vacancies in some industries more than others, most notably the accommodation and food services industry.
- In November 2020 to January 2021 there were an estimated 599,000 vacancies, a growth of 64,000 from a quarter earlier; this growth compares with a quarterly increase of 93,000 in the three months to December 2020 and more than 100,000 in each of the three previous periods.
- The rate of recovery in vacancies varies by industry; while construction now has more vacancies than it did a year ago, accommodation and food services saw a further quarterly decrease of 11,000 vacancies in the three months to January 2021 and estimated vacancies in this industry are now 75.6% lower than a year ago.
- In comparison with other-sized business, the smallest businesses (with one to nine employees), cut their vacancies relatively little in 2020 and in November 2020 to January 2021 had only 5,000 (4%) fewer vacancies than a year ago; there are recent signs that the largest employers, particularly those with 2,500 or more employees, are starting to increase their vacancies although these remain at 78,000 (26.8%) fewer than a year ago.

3 . Vacancies for November 2020 to January 2021

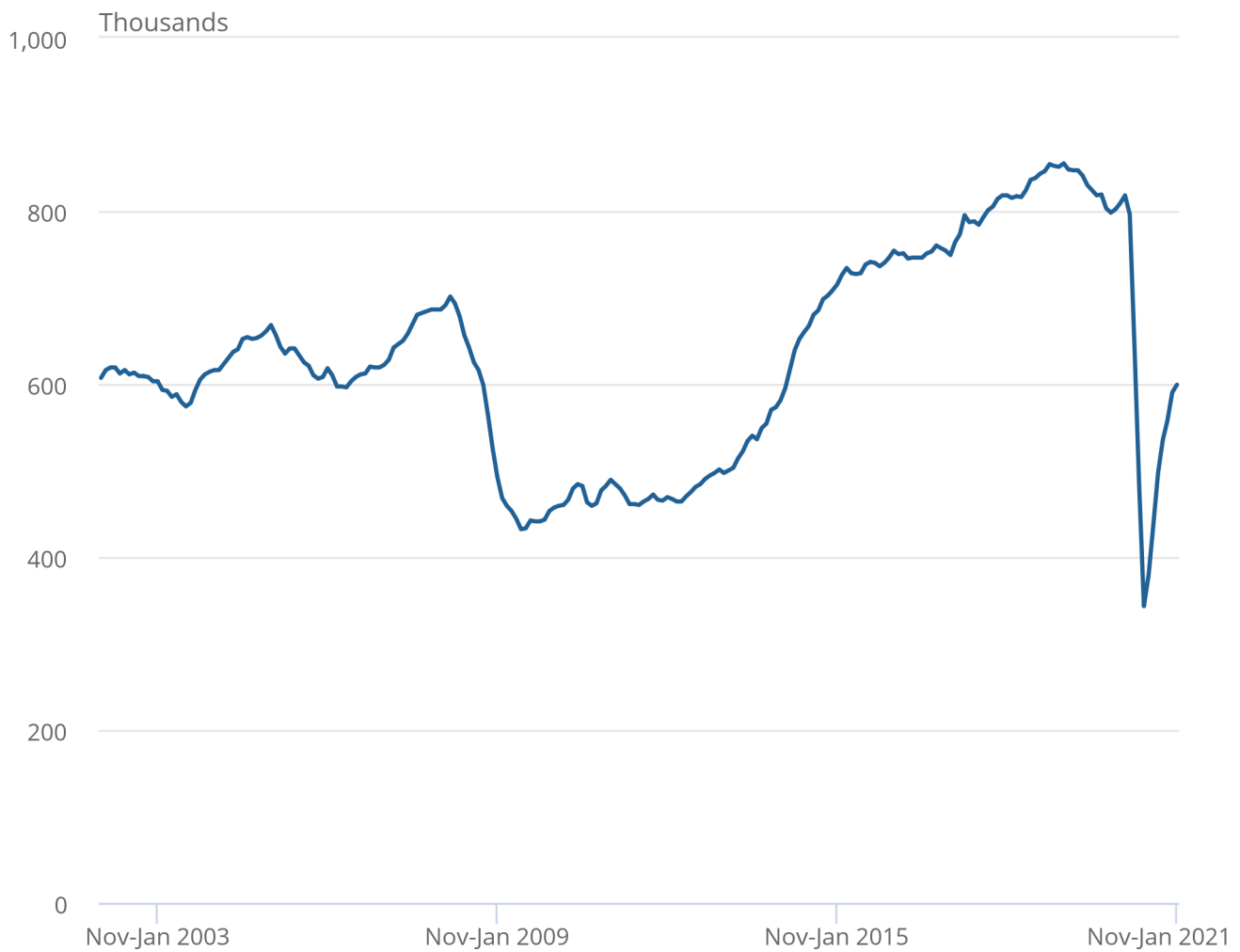
The monthly Vacancy Survey asks businesses for the number of external vacancies on a specified count date (always a Friday) that falls in the first eight days of each month.

Figure 1: The vacancies recovery has slowed in recent months, and the estimated 599,000 vacancies in November 2020 to January 2021 is 26% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between November 2001 to January 2002 and November 2020 to January 2021

Figure 1: The vacancies recovery has slowed in recent months, and the estimated 599,000 vacancies in November 2020 to January 2021 is 26% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between November 2001 to January 2002 and November 2020 to January 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics - Vacancy Survey

In November 2020 to January 2021, there were an estimated 599,000 vacancies. This is 211,000 (26%) fewer than the estimated 809,000 vacancies a year earlier, prior to the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.

Vacancies declined sharply from April 2020, at the start of the pandemic. This was initially followed by signs of a quick recovery, but the recovery slowed in the autumn as further restrictions and national lockdowns were introduced. The increase in vacancies over the latest quarter was 64,000, which is a slowdown relative to recent periods. There had been a quarterly increase of 93,000 in the three months to December 2020 and more than 100,000 in each of the three previous periods.

The headline vacancy estimates relate to three-month averages, which naturally involve some time lag. Insight into trends in January 2021 alone is provided by two experimental sources, which both indicate that the trend in vacancies was broadly similar through each of the months of [November](#), [December](#) and [January](#). Single-month vacancy estimates (see [Strengths and limitations](#)), available in [Dataset X06](#), indicate that there were 26% fewer vacancies in January 2021 than in January 2020, which is a similar annual percentage difference to those witnessed in each of the previous three months. Adzuna [Online job advert estimates](#) in our [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy](#) release show a similar picture.

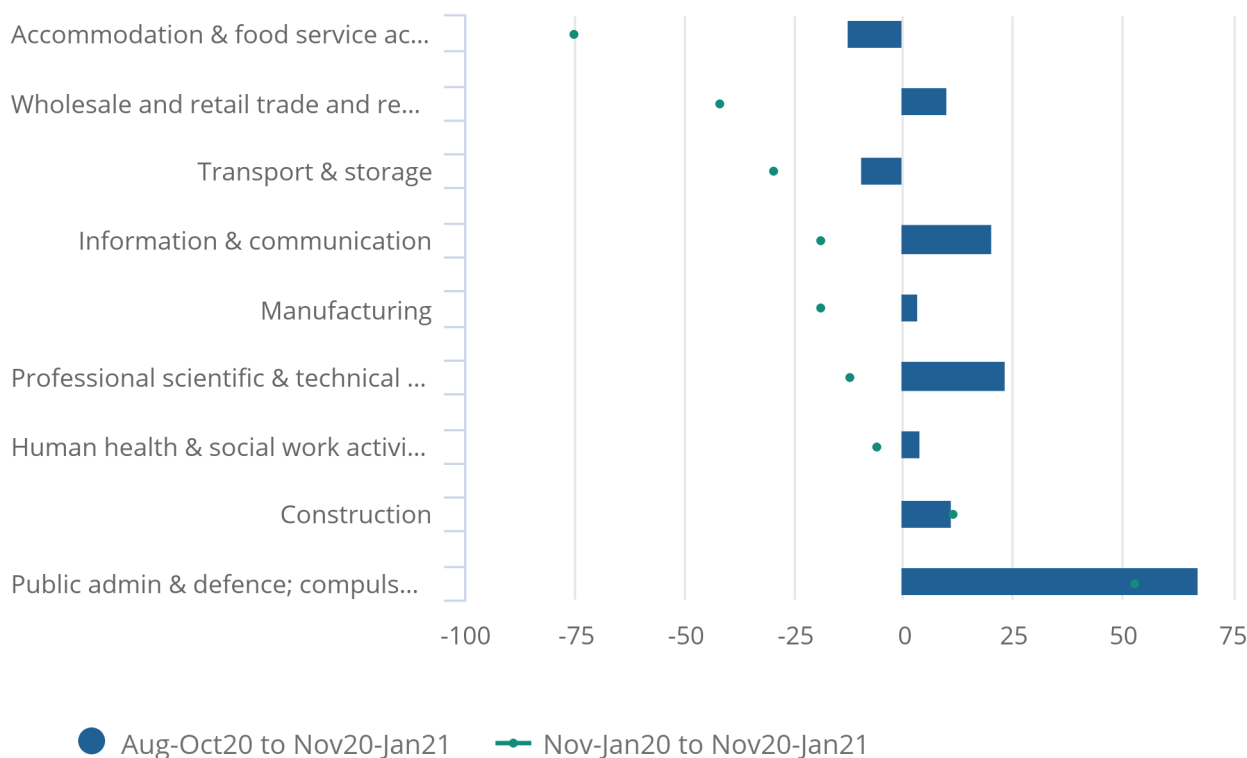
The [Adzuna estimates](#) also provide an early insight into a possible strengthening of vacancies into the first two weeks of February 2021. However, the Adzuna estimates are experimental and should be interpreted with caution, most notably because they cover vacancies advertised online only.

Figure 2: Accommodation and food services saw a further decline in vacancies in the three months to January 2021

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between August to October 2020 and November 2020 to January 2021 when both indexed to November 2019 to January 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to November 2019 to January 2020

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Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between August to October 2020 and November 2020 to January 2021 when both indexed to November 2019 to January 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to November 2019 to January 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics - Vacancy Survey

The pandemic has led to particularly large falls in vacancies in the following industries:

- accommodation and food services (down 76% from a year ago)
- arts, entertainment and recreation (down 56%)
- wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (down 42%)

During November 2020 to January 2021, most industries saw an increase in vacancies compared with August to October 2020, but accommodation and food services was negatively affected by the additional lockdowns and restrictions across the UK at the end of the year. This industry registered a decrease of 12.6 percentage points over the quarter when indexed to November 2019 to January 2020.

This is based on seasonally adjusted estimates and therefore represents a decline over and above any seasonal patterns in vacancies. Vacancies in this industry now run at 0.9 per 100 employee jobs, which is the lowest of any industry profiled in the Vacancy Survey; in the same period a year ago, the ratio was 3.8, the highest of any industry.

The other industry that saw a clear fall in vacancies over the quarter was transport and storage. This is likely to have been affected by stronger growth in vacancies in the previous three months to facilitate deliveries associated with more online shopping at Christmas in 2020.

Among industries that saw a growth in vacancies over the quarter, the most notable was public administration and defence; compulsory social security (up 67.3 percentage points indexed to November 2019 to January 2020). This was driven by temporary recruitment for the 2021 Census. Vacancies in wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles rose to recoup some of the losses seen earlier in the year, and more notable short increases were seen in information and communications, and professional, scientific and technical activities.

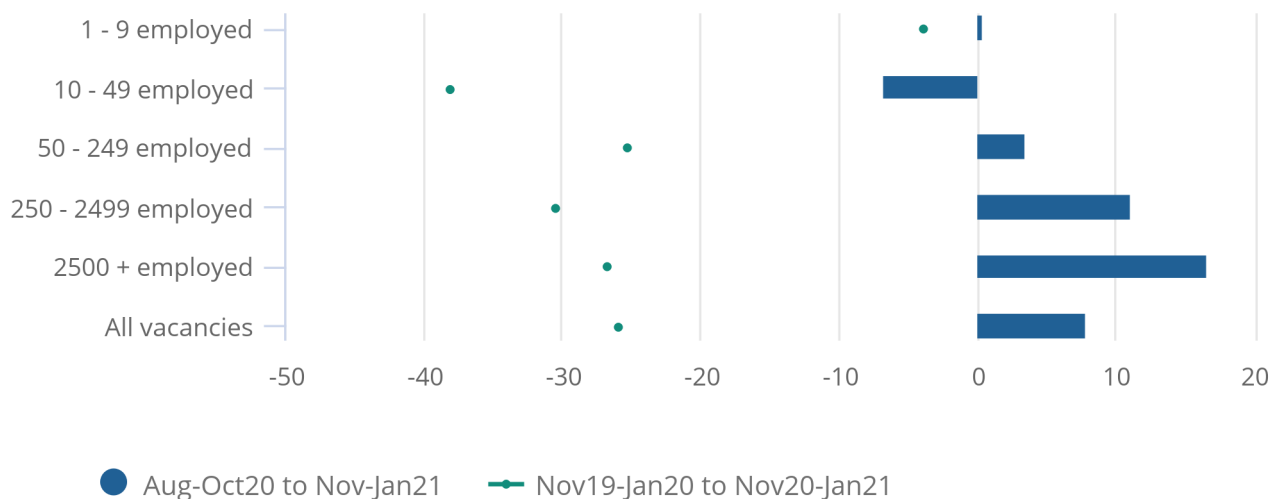
The 10.8% annual increase in vacancies within construction reflects a strong turnaround in the sector, which saw a notable downturn in vacancies during early summer. While the ratio of vacancies to employee jobs was 0.5 in construction in April to June 2020, it is now 2.0.

Figure 3: Vacancies in larger employers are down substantially on the year but have shown signs of recovery in the latest quarter

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between August to October 2020 and November 2020 to January 2021 when both indexed to November 2019 to January 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to November 2019 to January 2020

Figure 3: Vacancies in larger employers are down substantially on the year but have shown signs of recovery in the latest quarter

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between August to October 2020 and November 2020 to January 2021 when both indexed to November 2019 to January 2020=100; difference in percentage points compared to November 2019 to January 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics - Vacancy Survey

In 2020, vacancies fell least in the smallest companies – those employing one to nine employees. In November 2020 to January 2021, vacancies within this group were down 4% from a year ago, which is far less than companies employing more staff.

However, in recent months larger companies have started to increase their vacancies. Most notably, companies employing 2,500 or more employees increased vacancies by 48,000, to 213,000 between August to October 2020 and November 2020 to January 2021. This was a 29.3% increase, or 16.6 percentage points when indexed to November 2019 to January 2020.

Companies employing 10 to 49 employees had a further fall in vacancies, which are now down by 38.2% from a year ago.

4 . Jobs, vacancies and wider labour market measures

Vacancies represent one element of labour demand, and a more complete understanding of the health of the labour market should also consider number of jobs and number of people looking for work.

The latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate of number of (filled) [workforce jobs is for September 2020, published in December 2020](#). This shows a fall of 935,000 jobs compared with March 2020, before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Over the same period vacancies dropped by 299,000, giving a combined fall in labour demand of a little over 1.2 million. Since then, vacancies have increased by approximately just 0.1 million.

Workforce jobs estimates for December 2020 will be published in March 2021.

Given the fall in labour demand, the number of people in work has naturally dropped, as reported in [ONS employment estimates](#) based on the Labour Force Survey, and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimates of number of employees from [Pay As You Earn Real Time Information](#). The additional excess labour supply has resulted in the rate of unemployment increasing, and once that increase in unemployment is considered, the rate of recovery in vacancies at the back end of 2020 is less positive.

5 . Vacancies and jobs data

[Vacancies by industry](#)

Dataset VACS02 | Released 23 February 2021

Estimates of vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[Workforce jobs summary](#)

Dataset JOBS01 | Released 15 December 2020

Estimates of jobs by type of job (including employee jobs, self-employment jobs, HM Forces and government-supported trainees).

[Workforce jobs by industry](#)

Dataset JOBS02 | Released 15 December 2020

Estimates of jobs by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

6 . Glossary

Vacancies

[Vacancies](#) are defined as positions for which employers are actively seeking recruits from outside their business or organisation. The estimates are based on the Vacancy Survey; this is a survey of businesses designed to provide estimates of the stock of vacancies across the economy, excluding agriculture, forestry and fishing (a small sector for which the collection of estimates would not be practical).

Jobs

A [job](#) is an activity performed for an employer or customer by a worker in exchange for payment, usually in cash, or in kind, or both. The number of jobs is not the same as the number of [people in employment](#). This is because a person can have more than one job. The number of jobs is the sum of employee jobs from employer surveys, self-employment jobs from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), those in HM Forces and government-supported trainees. The number of people in employment is measured by the LFS; these estimates are available in our [Employment in the UK](#) release.

A [more detailed glossary](#) is available.

7 . Measuring the data

Coronavirus

For more information on how labour market data sources are affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, see the article published on 6 May 2020, which details [some of the challenges that we have faced in producing estimates](#) at this time.

An article, published on 11 December 2020, [compares our labour market data sources and discusses some of the main differences](#).

Our latest data and analysis on the impact of the coronavirus on the UK economy and population are available on our dedicated [coronavirus page](#). This is the hub for all special coronavirus-related publications, drawing on all available data. In response to the developing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are working to ensure that we continue to publish economic statistics. For more information, please see [COVID-19 and the production of statistics](#).

Impact on production of vacancy and workforce job estimates

Because of social distancing measures leading to the temporary closure of businesses across the UK, there have been some difficulties in collecting data using the Vacancy Survey and the Short-Term Employment Surveys.

Survey response rates were lower than is typical. To protect the quality of our output, we have used alternative sources where possible to inform data. We have used Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) section-level indications from the Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS), as well as survey contributor-level comments provided to us over the telephone or electronically, as a guide on whether businesses are operational and likely, or not, to be actively recruiting and to confirm employment figures.

End of EU Exit Transition period

As the transition period ends and the UK enters into a new Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the EU, the UK statistical system will continue to produce and publish our wide range of economic and social statistics and analysis. We are committed to continued alignment with the highest international statistical standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally, and ensuring the general public, statistical users and decision-makers have the data they need to be informed.

As the shape of the UK's future statistical relationship with the EU becomes clearer over the coming period, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is making preparations to assume responsibilities that as part of our membership of the EU, and during the transition period, were delegated to the statistical office of the EU, Eurostat. This includes responsibilities relating to international comparability of economic statistics, deciding what international statistical guidance to apply in the UK context and to provide further scrutiny of our statistics and sector classification decisions.

In applying international statistical standards and best practice to UK economic statistics, we will draw on the technical advice of experts in the UK and internationally, and our work will be underpinned by the UK's well-established and robust framework for independent official statistics, set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Further information on our proposals will be made available later this year.

We will continue to produce our labour market statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) definitions and agreed international statistical guidance.

Sources

The data in this bulletin come from surveys of businesses. It is not feasible to survey every business in the UK, so these statistics are estimates based on samples, not precise figures.

Vacancies

Estimates of vacancies are obtained from the [Vacancy Survey](#), a survey of employers. Adzuna [Online job advert estimates](#) are also published as part of the [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy](#) release.

Jobs

Estimates of jobs are compiled from a number of sources, including Short-Term Employment Surveys (STES), the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and the [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#). STES is a group of surveys that collect employment and turnover information from private sector businesses. In December of each year, the jobs estimates are "benchmarked" to the latest estimates from the [Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#).

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [Vacancy Survey QMI](#) and [Workforce jobs QMI](#).

Sampling variability

Sampling variability information for jobs is available in Table 1 in this bulletin and in [Dataset JOBS07: Workforce jobs sampling variability](#).

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level is around plus or minus 1.5% of that level expressed as a [coefficient of variation](#), giving a 95% [confidence interval](#) for estimates of approximately plus or minus 20,000.

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level, for a typical industrial sector is around plus or minus 6% of that level.

Table 1: Sampling variability for estimates of jobs in the UK, thousands

SIC 2007 Section	United Kingdom	
	Estimate for Sep 2020	Sampling variability of estimate 1
A Agriculture, forestry & fishing	434	±45
B Mining & quarrying	55	±7
C Manufacturing	2,579	±40
D Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	146	±9
E Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	211	±9
F Construction	2,222	±64
G Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,852	±57
H Transport & storage	1,768	±44
I Accommodation & food service activities	2,373	±55
J Information & communication	1,465	±53
K Financial & insurance activities	1,135	±31
L Real estate activities	632	±44
M Professional scientific & technical activities	3,165	±76
N Administrative & support service activities	2,820	±63
O Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	1,564	±16
P Education	2,912	±50
Q Human health & social work activities	4,368	±60
R Arts, entertainment & recreation	947	±49
S Other service activities/Private Households	971	±45
/T		
All jobs	34,620	±205

Source: Office for National Statistics - Workforce jobs

Notes

1. The sampling variability estimates are for 95% confidence intervals and are calculated on data for June 2020 that are not seasonally adjusted.

8 . Strengths and limitations

Accuracy of the statistics: estimating and reporting uncertainty

The figures in this bulletin mainly come from surveys of businesses, which gather information from a [sample](#) rather than from the whole population. The samples are designed to be as accurate as possible given practical limitations such as time and cost constraints. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This can have an impact on how changes in the estimates should be interpreted, especially for short-term comparisons.

As the number of people available in the sample gets smaller, the variability of the estimates that we can make from that sample size gets larger. Estimates for small groups (for example, vacancies in the construction industry), which are based on small subsets of the Vacancy Survey sample, are less reliable and tend to be more volatile than for larger aggregated groups (for example, total vacancies in the UK).

In general, short-term changes in the growth rates reported in this bulletin are not usually greater than the level that can be explained by sampling variability. Short-term movements in reported rates should be considered alongside longer-term patterns in the series and corresponding movements in other sources to give a fuller picture.

Vacancies

The vacancy headline estimate is based on a seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average and has [National Statistics status](#). Further information about how single estimates have impacted the three-month estimates is available in the [X06 dataset](#). These [experimental](#) estimates are non-seasonally adjusted and should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months because of the high volatility caused by the survey sample design. They can be used to indicate an approximate change in the level of total vacancies.

Approximately 80% of the rotational survey overlaps every three months, therefore a comparison of vacancy estimates for a given month to three months prior can provide a reasonable indication of the change in monthly vacancies.

Jobs

An annual [reconciliation report of job estimates](#) is published every March comparing the latest workforce jobs (WFJ) estimates with the equivalent estimates of jobs from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The concept of employment (measured by the LFS as the number of people in work) differs from the concept of jobs, since a person can have more than one job and some jobs may be shared by more than one person. The LFS, which collects information mainly from residents of private households, is the preferred source of statistics on employment. The WFJ series, which is compiled mainly from surveys of businesses, is the preferred source of statistics on jobs by industry, since it provides a more reliable industry breakdown than the LFS.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the LFS and WFJ series may have additional difference because a person's perception of their attachment to a job may differ from the business's perception of that job. It is also important to note that LFS is based on interviews throughout the coverage period, whereas WFJ series relate to a specific date. This difference can be significant in a labour market that is experiencing rapid changes.

9 . Related links

[Coronavirus and the effects on UK labour market statistics](#)

Article | Released 6 May 2020

This article looks at the expected impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) upon the UK labour market and some of the practical challenges that the Office for National Statistics is likely to face in collecting data.

[Employees in the UK: 2019](#)

Bulletin | Released 6 November 2020

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry.

[Revisions to workforce jobs](#)

Article | Released 15 December 2020

This article explains the revisions that have been made to the workforce jobs series

[Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: February 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 23 February 2021

Experimental monthly estimates of paid employees and their pay from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data.

Index of Tables

The table below provides an index of the tables appearing in this Statistical Bulletin and it shows how these table numbers [match up with the Excel spreadsheet datasets which are available on the website.](#)

Statistical Bulletin table number	Table description	Dataset
SUMMARY		
1	Labour Force Survey Summary	Dataset A02 SA
2 (*)	Labour market status by age group	Dataset A05 SA
EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS		
3	Full-time, part-time & temporary workers	Dataset EMP01 SA
4	Public and private sector employment	Dataset EMP02
4(1)	Public sector employment by industry	Dataset EMP03
4(2)	Public sector employment by sector classification: Headcount	Dataset PSE
5	Workforce jobs summary	Dataset JOBS01
6 (**)	Workforce jobs by industry	Dataset JOBS02
7	Actual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR01 SA
7(1)	Usual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR02 SA
NON-UK WORKERS		
8	Employment by country of birth and nationality	Dataset EMP06
8(1)	Unemployment and economic inactivity by country of birth and nat	Dataset A12
UNEMPLOYMENT		
9	Unemployment by age and duration	Dataset UNEM01 SA
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY		
10(*)	Economic activity by age	Dataset A05 SA
11	Economic inactivity by reason	Dataset INAC01 SA
12	Labour market and educational status of young people	Dataset A06 SA
EARNINGS		
13	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Total pay	Dataset EARN01
14	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Bonus pay	Dataset EARN01
15	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Regular pay	Dataset EARN01
16	Average Weekly Earnings real and nominal (summary table)	Dataset EARN01
INTERNATIONAL SUMMARY		
17	International comparisons of employment and unemployment	Dataset A10
LABOUR DISPUTES		
18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
VACANCIES		
19	Vacancies by size of business	Dataset VACS03
20	Vacancies and unemployment	Dataset VACS01
21	Vacancies by industry	Dataset VACS02
REDUNDANCIES		
22	Redundancies levels and rates	Dataset RED01 SA
REGIONAL SUMMARY		
23	Regional labour market summary	Dataset A07

(*) Tables 2 and 10 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file have been amalgamated into one spreadsheet (Dataset A05 SA).

(**) Table JOBS02 provides more detail than Table 6 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file.

The following symbols are used in the tables: p provisional, r revised, .. Not available,* suppressed due to small sample size.

The four-character identification codes appearing in the tables are the ONS references for the data series appearing in the Labour Market Statistics dataset which is available on the website at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/labourmarketstatistics>

EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

5 Workforce jobs¹

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	Workforce jobs	Employee jobs	Self-employment jobs ²	HM Forces	Government-supported trainees ²
	1	2	3	4	5
	DYDC	BCAJ	DYZN	LOJX	LOJU
Sep 18 (r)	35,075	30,421	4,478	153	23
Dec 18 (r)	35,233	30,476	4,584	152	22
Mar 19 (r)	35,452	30,619	4,653	153	27
Jun 19 (r)	35,557	30,694	4,670	152	41
Sep 19 (r)	35,627	30,829	4,615	153	29
Dec 19 (r)	35,658	30,781	4,690	153	35
Mar 20 (r) ³	35,620	30,908	4,527	154	31
Jun 20 (r)	35,160	30,609	4,365	156	30
Sep 20 (p)	34,685	30,231	4,268	157	30
Change on quarter	-475	-378	-97	1	-1
Change %	-1.4	-1.2	-2.2	0.4	-3.1
Change on year	-942	-599	-347	3	0
Change %	-2.6	-1.9	-7.5	2.2	1.1

Relationship between columns: 1=2+3+4+5

See footnotes under table 6

6 Workforce jobs by industry¹

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All jobs	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	Transport & storage	Accommodation & food service activities	Information & communication
	A-T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	DYDC	JWR5	JWR6	JWR7	JWR8	JWR9	JWS2	JWS3	JWS4	JWS5	JWS6
Sep 18 (r)	35,075	411	61	2,699	154	227	2,322	4,995	1,742	2,427	1,460
Dec 18 (r)	35,233	383	59	2,683	149	224	2,352	5,005	1,798	2,455	1,470
Mar 19 (r)	35,452	389	62	2,705	142	228	2,365	5,037	1,783	2,453	1,491
Jun 19 (r)	35,557	397	61	2,689	144	223	2,338	5,016	1,822	2,513	1,494
Sep 19 (r)	35,627	404	61	2,692	142	220	2,312	5,004	1,805	2,517	1,500
Dec 19 (r)	35,658	411	62	2,676	148	216	2,341	4,993	1,795	2,528	1,507
Mar 20 (r) ³	35,620	385	67	2,680	149	213	2,319	4,970	1,790	2,531	1,531
Jun 20 (r)	35,160	372	62	2,626	146	209	2,327	5,000	1,796	2,404	1,491
Sep 20 (p)	34,685	433	55	2,579	146	211	2,223	4,890	1,776	2,384	1,466
Change on quarter	-475	61	-6	-48	0	2	-104	-110	-20	-20	-25
Change %	-1.4	16.3	-10.0	-1.8	-0.2	0.9	-4.5	-2.2	-1.1	-0.8	-1.7
Change on year	-942	29	-5	-114	4	-9	-89	-114	-29	-134	-34
Change %	-2.6	7.3	-9.0	-4.2	2.8	-4.1	-3.8	-2.3	-1.6	-5.3	-2.3

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional scientific & technical activities	Administrative & support service activities	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security ⁴	Education	Human health & social work activities	Arts, entertainment & recreation	Other service activities	People employed by households, etc.	Total services
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	G-T
	JWS7	JWS8	JWS9	JWT2	JWT3	JWT4	JWT5	JWT6	JWT7	KW78	JWT8
Sep 18 (r)	1,123	587	3,084	3,026	1,494	2,935	4,349	1,002	918	57	29,200
Dec 18 (r)	1,123	592	3,125	3,010	1,505	2,949	4,346	1,019	941	45	29,384
Mar 19 (r)	1,132	579	3,183	3,023	1,512	2,955	4,380	1,032	949	54	29,562
Jun 19 (r)	1,134	590	3,216	3,023	1,511	2,938	4,414	1,028	946	59	29,705
Sep 19 (r)	1,143	614	3,203	3,046	1,524	2,950	4,426	1,044	965	54	29,796
Dec 19 (r)	1,137	638	3,186	3,022	1,533	2,954	4,414	1,054	990	53	29,804
Mar 20 (r) ³	1,147	649	3,251	2,992	1,544	2,951	4,409	1,045	942	55	29,806
Jun 20 (r)	1,150	642	3,154	2,852	1,562	2,948	4,422	996	961	40	29,417
Sep 20 (p)	1,135	632	3,165	2,805	1,565	2,935	4,369	944	924	48	29,038
Change on quarter	-15	-10	11	-46	3	-13	-53	-53	-36	8	-380
Change %	-1.3	-1.6	0.4	-1.6	0.2	-0.4	-1.2	-5.3	-3.8	20.8	-1.3
Change on year	-8	18	-38	-241	41	-15	-57	-100	-41	-6	-758
Change %	-0.7	2.9	-1.2	-7.9	2.7	-0.5	-1.3	-9.6	-4.2	-11.0	-2.5

Workforce jobs enquiries 01633 456776

Sources: Employer surveys, Labour Force Survey and administrative sources

1. On 13 October 2020, data from our Labour Force Survey (LFS) was reweighted. The Workforce Job (WFJ) estimates include some data from the LFS. WFJ estimates have been revised to incorporate this reweighting as well as other revisions. More information can be found in the [revisions article](#).

2. Workforce Jobs figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For this reason estimates of self-employment jobs and government supported trainee jobs differ from estimates of people in self-employment and in government supported training and employment programmes shown at Table 3. The estimates for government supported trainees shown in this table exclude trainees with contracts of employment as such people are included in the estimates of employee jobs.

3. The employee jobs data relate to the March 2020 period before reported cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. Self-employment jobs relate to the period February-April 2020 which includes self-employment jobs before and after COVID-19 measures were implemented.

4. This series is not exclusively a public sector series as it includes some private sector jobs. See table 4 for estimates of public and private sector employment.

VACANCIES

19 Vacancies¹ by size of business

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	All Vacancies	Number of employees				
		1-9	10-49	50-249	250-2499	2500+
		AP2Y	ALY5	ALY6	ALY7	ALY8
Levels						
Nov-Jan 2019	855	127	128	117	182	301
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	809	112	121	108	177	290
Dec-Feb 2020	818	118	121	113	171	295
Jan-Mar 2020	796	112	110	109	167	298
Feb-Apr 2020	644	83	79	90	135	257
Mar-May 2020	482	62	52	64	103	201
Apr-Jun 2020	343	47	33	43	71	150
May-Jul 2020	379	69	50	46	69	145
Jun-Aug 2020	437	89	65	58	75	152
Jul-Sept 2020	497	104	79	70	87	158
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	535	107	83	77	103	164
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	558	108	82	80	112	176
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	590	117	77	81	120	195
Nov-Jan 2021 (p)	599	108	75	81	123	213
Change on quarter *	64	0	-8	4	20	48
Change % *	11.9	0.4	-10.0	4.9	19.0	29.3
Change on year	-211	-5	-46	-27	-54	-78
Change %	-26.0	-4.0	-38.2	-25.3	-30.6	-26.8

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

20 Vacancies¹ and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	All Vacancies ¹	Unemployment ² ₃	Number of unemployed people per vacancy
	AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels			
Oct-Dec 2018	851	1,363	1.6
Oct-Dec 2019	802	1,290	1.6
Jan-Mar 2020	796	1,365	1.7
Apr-Jun 2020	343	1,381	4.0
Jul-Sep 2020	497	1,624	3.3
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	590	1,744	3.0
Change on quarter	93	121	-0.3
Change %	18.7	7.4	
Change on year	-212	454	1.3
Change %	-26.4	35.2	

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey/ Labour Force Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

2. Unemployment estimates are produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are always one period behind the ONS Vacancy Survey estimates. This table therefore shows estimates for the same periods as shown in table 1 (which shows LFS estimates).

3. Labour Force Survey (LFS) responses are weighted to official population projections. As the current projections are 2018-based they are based on demographic trends that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. We are analysing the population totals used in the weighting process and may make adjustments if appropriate. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

VACANCIES

21 Vacancies by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All vacancies ¹	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply ²	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	Transport & storage	Accommodation & food service activities	Information & communication
	B-S	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	AP2Y	JP9H	JP9I	JP9J	JP9K	JP9L	JP9M	JP9N	JP9O	JP9P
Levels (thousands)										
Nov-Jan 2019	855	1	64	3	4	29	137	41	90	51
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	809	2	55	3	4	26	130	35	88	43
Dec-Feb 2020	818	2	56	3	3	28	133	35	90	43
Jan-Mar 2020	796	1	52	3	4	27	131	35	86	43
Feb-Apr 2020	644	1	42	3	4	21	100	28	55	32
Mar-May 2020	482	1	33	2	3	13	66	19	27	22
Apr-Jun 2020	343	1	26	2	2	8	39	10	8	13
May-Jul 2020	379	0	28	2	2	13	44	13	16	16
Jun-Aug 2020	437	0	31	3	3	18	52	21	25	18
Jul-Sept 2020	497	0	37	3	3	22	60	24	34	23
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	535	1	43	3	4	26	62	28	33	26
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	558	1	43	3	3	26	66	28	34	30
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	590	1	44	3	3	28	71	29	29	33
Nov-Jan 2021 (p)	599	1	45	4	3	29	75	25	22	35
Change on quarter *	64	0	2	0	0	3	13	-3	-11	9
Change % *	11.9	60.0	4.4	8.8	-11.4	10.8	20.9	-12.1	-33.9	33.6
Change on year	-211	-1	-11	1	-1	3	-55	-11	-67	-8
Change %	-26.0	-46.7	-19.0	23.3	-13.9	10.8	-42.1	-30.0	-75.6	-19.0

SIC 2007 sections	Vacancies per 100 employee jobs									
	AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Nov-Jan 2019	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.2	1.8	2.0	3.0	2.8	4.0	4.0
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	2.6	2.9	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.4	3.8	3.2
Dec-Feb 2020	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.3	1.4	1.9	2.9	2.4	3.9	3.2
Jan-Mar 2020	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.4	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.3	3.7	3.2
Feb-Apr 2020	2.1	2.3	1.7	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.2	1.8	2.4	2.4
Mar-May 2020	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.7
Apr-Jun 2020	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.0
May-Jul 2020	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.2
Jun-Aug 2020	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3
Jul-Sept 2020	1.6	0.8	1.5	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.7
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	1.7	1.0	1.7	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.4	1.9
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	1.8	1.2	1.7	2.5	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.4	2.3
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	1.9	1.4	1.7	2.3	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.2	2.5
Nov-Jan 2021 (p)	2.0	1.6	1.8	2.7	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.6	0.9	2.6
Change on quarter *	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.5	0.6
Change on year	-0.7	-1.4	-0.4	0.5	-0.2	0.2	-1.2	-0.7	-2.9	-0.6

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities	Real estate activities ²	Professional scientific & technical activities	Administrative & support service activities	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	Education	Human health & social work activities	Arts, entertainment & recreation	Other service activities	Total services
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	G-S
	JP9Q	JP9R	JP9S	JP9T	JP9U	JP9V	JP9W	JP9X	JP9Y	JP9Z
Levels (thousands)										
Nov-Jan 2019	37	15	80	52	21	49	133	22	24	755
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	31	11	75	53	22	53	136	22	19	719
Dec-Feb 2020	31	13	77	54	22	51	137	22	18	726
Jan-Mar 2020	29	14	72	51	22	50	136	23	17	709
Feb-Apr 2020	26	12	57	43	21	42	128	15	14	573
Mar-May 2020	22	9	45	39	18	31	115	10	9	430
Apr-Jun 2020	18	4	33	30	16	22	103	2	5	304
May-Jul 2020	17	5	38	32	17	22	104	2	5	333
Jun-Aug 2020	17	7	43	31	18	29	112	4	7	383
Jul-Sept 2020	19	7	47	36	19	34	116	5	9	432
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	18	10	48	35	19	39	122	9	11	460
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	20	11	51	38	21	39	123	11	11	483
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	20	12	65	35	25	42	130	12	11	512
Nov-Jan 2021 (p)	21	10	66	40	34	43	127	10	9	516
Change on quarter *	3	1	18	5	15	4	5	1	-2	56
Change % *	16.0	6.3	36.4	14.4	78.7	10.3	4.3	11.6	-17.7	12.3
Change on year	-10	-1	-9	-13	12	-10	-9	-12	-10	-203
Change %	-32.9	-11.4	-12.3	-24.1	52.7	-19.4	-6.5	-55.6	-50.5	-28.2

SIC 2007 sections	Vacancies per 100 employee jobs									
	JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Nov-Jan 2019	3.6	2.9	3.1	2.0	1.6	1.9	3.3	3.0	3.9	2.9
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.0	1.7	2.0	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.7
Dec-Feb 2020	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.0	1.6	1.9	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.8
Jan-Mar 2020	2.8	2.6	2.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.7
Feb-Apr 2020	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.6	3.1	2.0	2.1	2.2
Mar-May 2020	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	2.8	1.3	1.4	1.6
Apr-Jun 2020	1.7	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.8	2.5	0.3	0.8	1.2
May-Jul 2020	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.2	1.3	0.8	2.5	0.3	0.8	1.3
Jun-Aug 2020	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.1	2.7	0.5	1.1	1.5
Jul-Sept 2020	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.3	2.8	0.7	1.4	1.6
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	3.0	1.2	1.7	1.8
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.5	3.0	1.4	1.7	1.8
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.3	1.9	1.6	3.2	1.6	1.7	2.0
Nov-Jan 2021 (p)	2.0	1.9	2.4	1.5	2.5	1.6	3.1	1.3	1.4	2.0
Change on quarter *	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.3	0.2
Change on year	-1.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	0.9	-0.4	-0.2	-1.6	-1.5	-0.8

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

2. Not seasonally adjusted. These series do not display seasonality. Therefore the unadjusted series is the best estimate of a 'seasonally adjusted' series.

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy_survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777