

Statistical bulletin

Working and workless households in the UK: January to March 2024

The economic status of households in the UK and the people living in them, where at least one person is aged 16 to 64 years. Taken from the Labour Force Survey.



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Next release:
28 August 2024

Correction

31 May 2024 14:19

The figure for the number of households where at least one member is aged 16 to 64 years in the UK was incorrectly given in thousands instead of millions. This has now been corrected. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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1 . Main points

- Labour Force Survey (LFS) household estimates have been weighted to population estimates published in November 2023 for periods from October to December 2023 onwards; a discontinuity has been introduced at this point, so comparisons before this point are not possible.
- Increased volatility of the LFS estimates, resulting from smaller achieved sample sizes, means that estimates of quarterly change should be treated with additional caution.
- Of the estimated 21.4 million households (where at least one member is aged 16 to 64 years) in the UK, 58.9% had all household members aged 16 years and over in employment during January to March 2024.
- There were an estimated 26.7% of households with a mix of at least one working and one workless adult.
- There were an estimated 14.4% of households where no member of the household was in employment.

2 . Working and workless household data

[Households by combined economic activity status of household members](#)

Dataset | Released 29 May 2024

Quarterly and historical data on UK households by combined economic activity status of household members.

[People by age and combined economic activity status of household members](#)

Dataset | Released 29 May 2024

Quarterly and historical data on people living in UK households by age and combined economic activity status of household members.

[Children in households by combined economic activity status of household members](#)

Dataset | Released 29 May 2024

Quarterly and historical data on children living in UK households by combined economic activity status of household members.

[Employment rates of people by parental status](#)

Dataset | Released 29 May 2024

Quarterly and historical data on employment rates of people in the UK by parental status.

3 . Measuring the data

Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets are used for analysis of family or household characteristics. For all analysis in this bulletin, a household is defined as containing at least one person aged 16 to 64 years. This bulletin focuses on the economic status of household members. For example:

- number of people in employment in the household
- number of people unemployed in the household
- number of people economically inactive in the household

All estimates in this release are not seasonally adjusted and all comparisons should be carried out on an annual basis (for example, by comparing April to June periods with April to June periods, or October to December periods with October to December periods).

Our [Comparison of labour market data sources article](#) published on 27 April 2022 compares our labour market data sources and discusses some of the main differences.

LFS household estimates from October to December 2023 onwards have been reweighted to information on the size and composition of the UK population, consistent with the population estimates published in November 2023. This reweighting creates a discontinuity between July to September 2023 and October to December 2023. Users should account for this discontinuity when considering long-term movements in the series.

Reweightings the LFS does not address the volatility seen in recent periods and that may be seen to some extent in the future. Therefore, we advise increased caution when interpreting short-term changes in the series.

LFS estimates are currently not considered National Statistics and are designated as [official statistics in development](#).

For further information, please see our [Impact of reweighting on Labour Force Survey key indicators article](#).

4 . Related links

[Workless households for regions across the UK: 2022](#)

Bulletin | Released 28 September 2023

Annual information at a local level about households and the adults and children living in them, by their economic activity status.

[Children living in long-term workless households in the UK: 2022](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 October 2023

Annual UK estimates of the number of children living in households where all adults have not worked for at least 12 months.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), published 29 May 2024, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Working and workless households in the UK: January to March 2024](#).