

# Information paper

## Quality and Methodology Information

### General details

Title of output:	Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach)
Abbreviated title:	GVA(I)
Designation:	National Statistics
Geographic coverage:	UK (NUTS)
Date of last SQR or QMI:	April 2014
Contact details:	regionalaccounts@ons.gsi.gov.uk

### Executive summary

Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) is a legal requirement of the European Union (EU) statistical body, [Eurostat](#). Estimates are compiled in compliance with the [European System of Accounts 2010 \(ESA10\)](#) and are consistent with the standards set out in the United Nations [System of National Accounts 2008 \(SNA08\)](#).

Regional Gross Value Added is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services. It is measured at current basic prices, excluding taxes (less subsidies) on products. GVA plus taxes (less subsidies) on products is equivalent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Regional GVA is measured using the income approach (GVA(I)), which involves adding up the income generated by resident individuals or corporations in the production of goods and services. It is calculated gross of deductions for consumption of fixed capital, which is the amount of fixed assets used up in the process of production in any period.

The GVA(I) estimates cover the UK as a whole and are broken down to [Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics \(NUTS\)](#) regions. NUTS is a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics which are comparable across the EU. Regional GVA estimates are compiled at 3 levels of NUTS geography:

- NUTS1: 12 regions - Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the 9 English regions, can be collectively referred to as regions. There is a thirteenth region known as Extra-Regio which accounts for economic activity that cannot be assigned to any specific region. For UK GVA(I) this consists mainly of oil and gas extraction on the continental shelf and the activities of UK embassies and forces overseas
- NUTS2: 37 regions - mainly groups of counties and unitary authorities; can be referred to as sub-regions
- NUTS3: 139 regions - principally individual counties and unitary authorities; also known as local areas

National totals are allocated to regions using the most appropriate available regional indicators. A regional indicator is a dataset which provides regional proportions which in turn are used to allocate national totals. They can be acquired from administrative sources and structural surveys. The national totals are consistent with those in the latest published [UK National Accounts](#).

Estimates are produced annually in December and are published on the ONS website in the form of a statistical bulletin. The GVA(I) Statistical Bulletin can be downloaded free from the National Statistics website at 9.30am on the day of publication. ONS policy allows a list of agreed officials, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer and stakeholders such as the devolved administrations

of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to have access 24 hours prior to domestic publication. These GVA(I) estimates are then delivered to [Eurostat](#) at the end of December.

This document contains the following sections:

- Output quality
- About the output
- How the output is created
- Validation and quality assurance
- Concepts and definitions
- Other information, relating to quality trade-offs and user needs
- Sources for further information or advice

## Output quality

This document provides a range of information that describes the quality of the data and details any points that should be noted when using the output.

ONS has developed [Guidelines for Measuring Statistical Quality](#); these are based upon the 5 European Statistical System (ESS) Quality Dimensions. This document addresses these quality dimensions and other important quality characteristics, which are:

- Relevance
- Timeliness and punctuality
- Accuracy
- Coherence and comparability
- Output quality trade-offs
- Assessment of user needs and perceptions
- Accessibility and clarity

More information is provided about these quality dimensions in the sections below.

## About the output

### Relevance

(The degree to which the statistical outputs meet users' needs.)

### User needs

Current price estimates are published for the variables: total GVA(I), GVA(I) per head of population and GVA per head index at NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3 levels. GVA(I) per head of population is not, however, a measure of regional productivity as the population estimates used to calculate it include the economically inactive population. GVA(I) per head of population is a useful way of comparing areas of different sizes and is an important indicator for both domestic and European policy purposes.

Data on the components of income are available at NUTS1 (Compensation of Employees (CoE) and gross operating surplus/mixed income (GOS/MI)) and NUTS2 (just CoE).

Previous publications contained estimates published on both a workplace and residence basis at NUTS1 level, to reflect the impact of commuting. The publication released in December 2014 contains estimates on a workplace basis only.

Regional GVA estimates are published using the [Standard Industrial Classification 2007 \(SIC 2007\)](#), in keeping with EU regulations. For workplace estimates at NUTS1 and NUTS2 levels, data are provided for 20 industries plus 13 manufacturing sub-sections. For residence NUTS1 estimates data are published at a 20 industry breakdown. At the NUTS3 level, GVA(I) data by 10 industries (plus manufacturing total separately) are available.

The annual provision of regional and sub-regional GVA at NUTS2 level is an EU requirement. The statistical body of the EU, [Eurostat](#), collates regional GVA from all member states, which is used in the allocation of Objective 1 structural funding. The structural funds account for approximately one-third of the EU budget.

Regional GVA(I) estimates are used by the UK Government and the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to formulate and monitor economic policy and allocate resources.

These statistics are used in Northern Ireland in the development of the [Programme for Government](#) and the [Economic Strategy for Northern Ireland](#). They are also used in respect of Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets for several Northern Ireland government departments. The Scottish Government uses regional GVA estimates in the compilation of the national indicator 'Grow exports at a faster rate than GDP'. They are also used in the Scottish Quarterly gross domestic product GDP(I) system which is part of the [Scottish National Accounts Project \(SNAP\)](#). GVA(I) estimates are also used by the Welsh Government as an economic measure in its [Programme for Government](#), which sets out and monitors economic policy for Wales.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) uses regional and sub-regional GVA(I) estimates in monitoring regional economic performance. They are currently used in the BIS publication [Regional Economic Performance Indicators](#). Local authorities and regional observatories use these statistics to facilitate evidence-based policy making and economic intervention, for example, assisting Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) applications and regional growth funding bids.

The GVA statistics inform the general public about the state of the economy and provide insight into the relative economic positions of local areas and issues such as the 'North-South divide'. The House of Commons Library produces a standard note about these statistics and they are frequently the subject of parliamentary questions raised by Members of Parliament.

### **Meeting future needs**

A Regional Accounts Government User Group (RAGUG) is held twice a year to discuss the needs of stakeholders in the devolved administrations and other government departments. At the last meeting of the group, held in February 2015, the following needs were raised: an increase in the statistics available for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); more timely data; a longer time series of data; and an increase in the level of industry breakdown available.

Regional Accounts are investigating the plausibility of meeting these needs.

### **Reviews and changes**

UK Regional Accounts were subject to an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority in 2011. The regional GVA(I) publication was awarded National Statistics status as a result of this [review \(143\)](#) and the actions taken following the recommendations of the review.

The UK, along with all other European Union Member States, has begun a programme of work to introduce the changes to data and methods required by the new [ESA 10](#). These changes are many and varied, and will be implemented in the UK National Accounts over a number of years. The UK Regional Accounts aim to implement any relevant changes (those requiring a different treatment to be implemented in order to allocate the national total across regions of the UK) in the first regional publication following their introduction to the National Accounts.

The most notable ESA10 changes implemented this year are:

- Changes to the treatment of [research and development \(R&D\)](#) activities carried out by businesses, government and educational institutions for their own use (as distinct from such activities carried out by enterprises classified to the R&D industry itself). The activity, formerly counted as part of intermediate consumption, is now counted as capital formation. For the regional allocation of R&D we have used data from the Business Expenditure on Research and Development (BERD) survey, and its subsidiary surveys for government and higher education R&D (GovERD and HERD). The R&D change has had the greatest impact on regional GVA of all changes implemented this year
- Changes to the treatment of government expenditure on [weapon systems](#). Similarly to R&D, the activity was formerly treated as current spending (intermediate consumption) but is now treated as investment (capital formation) instead. For the regional GVA income measure this investment appears as non-market capital consumption. The regional allocation is done separately for 3 product categories: weapons and ammunition; ships and boats; and aircraft. All 3 are allocated according to the regional distribution of armed forces personnel, with ships and aircraft being restricted to only the bases with such equipment

In keeping with the UK National Accounts commitment to meeting the European Commission definition of [Gross National Income](#), estimates of the value added to the economy of [illegal activity relating to drugs and prostitution](#) have been included in regional GVA for the first time. Some regional data sources are available that provide information on seizures of illegal drugs by police forces and on crimes related to prostitution. However, the inconsistencies in these data sources over time and between regions of the UK, have meant that reliable estimates of the regional variation in these activities have not been possible at this time, therefore the UK total figure for each activity is allocated across the regions according to the adult population in each area.

Following the development of an [Oil and Gas Model](#) by Scottish Government statisticians, we have made use of the model to improve the measurement of onshore oil and gas extraction in regional GVA. The model provides more up-to-date estimates of the output and costs associated with oil and gas extraction and provides a split between offshore and onshore activity. We have used the onshore figures from the Scottish model and have allocated them to regions using data from the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on the actual production by each onshore oilfield. As before, all offshore activity is assigned to the Extra-Regio category (see background note 1) in accordance with European guidance.

### Main data sources

The primary input datasets for the compilation of regional GVA are listed in the table below. They include administrative data and data from structural surveys. The data are acquired from both internal (ONS) and external sources.

**Table 1: Summary of main data sources for indicators used in Regional apportionment**

Data source	Nature of data	Use in Regional Accounts
<a href="#">Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)</a>	An ONS workplace-based sample survey of wages and salaries	Allocates CoE
<a href="#">Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)</a>	An ONS structural business survey, a sample survey of enterprises	Allocates CoE
<a href="#">Annual Business Survey (ABS)</a>	An ONS structural business survey, a sample survey of enterprises	Allocates mixed income, CoE and gross trading profits of other corporations
<a href="#">Agricultural Accounts from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)</a>	Structural business survey of the agricultural sector, a sample survey	Used to allocate rental income, CoE, mixed income, gross trading profits of partnerships, and holding gains, all in the agricultural sector
<a href="#">Labour Force Survey (LFS)</a>	An ONS residence-based sample survey answered by employees	Used to apportion CoE data for the activities of households industry
<a href="#">(Defence Analytical Systems and Advice (DASA)</a>	Administrative data about the number and location of armed forces personnel	Used to apportion national estimates of forces pay by region and Extra-Regio
<a href="#">Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)</a>	Administrative data about onshore gas and oil profits	Used to apportion gross operating surplus
<a href="#">Self-Assessment income tax data from HMRC</a>	Administrative data provided by HMRC, the national tax authority. Derived from self-assessment tax returns completed by self-employed sole traders and partners	Used to apportion gross trading profits or partnerships, and mixed income

## Timeliness and punctuality

(Timeliness refers to the lapse of time between publication and the period to which the data refer. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.)

ONS currently publishes estimates of regional GVA(I) at NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3 levels annually in December. All estimates are constrained to the latest [UK National Accounts Blue Book](#).

At NUTS1 level, estimates of the main variables (total GVA(I), GVA(I) per head and GVA(I) per head indices) and component of income (CoE & GOS) are published around 12 months after the end of the reference period. Data for 20 industries (plus 13 manufacturing sub-sections) are published 24 months after the end of the reference period. Estimates are available from 1997.

At NUTS2 level, estimates of the main variables and CoE data are available at 12 months after the reference period as of the 2012 publication. Industrial data continue to be published 24 months after the reference period. Estimates are available from 1997.

At NUTS3 level, estimates of the main variables are released 12 months after the reference period and industrial (10 industry plus manufacturing total) data are released 24 months after the reference period. No component data are published at this level. Estimates are available from 1997.

Regional Accounts are investigating the possibility of increasing the timeliness of these industry data at all NUTS level to around 12 months after the end of the reference period.

The availability of datasets in the production process is a factor in the publication timetable. For example, HMRC self assessment data becomes available at the end of October. The availability of balanced Blue Book UK totals dictates the provision of industrial estimates published 24 months after the reference period. Regional GVA estimates have never missed publication deadlines because of data unavailability or any other factors.

For more details on related releases, the [UK National Statistics Publication Hub](#) is available online and provides 12 months' advance notice of release dates. In the unlikely event of a change to the pre-announced release schedule, public attention will be drawn to the change and the reasons for the change will be explained fully at the same time, as set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

## How the output is created

The production of regional NUTS2 Gross Value Added is a legal requirement of [Eurostat](#).

A detailed description of the methodology used to compile Regional GVA estimates can be found in the [Regional Accounts Methodology guide](#).

Regional GVA(I) estimates are produced at current basic prices and measured using the income approach. This involves adding up the income generated by resident individuals or corporations in the production of goods and services. It is calculated gross of deductions for consumption of fixed capital, which is the amount of fixed assets used up in the process of production in any given period.

The main components of income based GVA are:

- Compensation of Employees
- Gross Operating Surplus (the sum of self employment income, gross trading profits and surpluses, non-market capital consumption, rental income less holding gains)
- Taxes (less subsidies) incurred as a result of engaging in production, independently of the quantity or value of goods and services produced (for example, business rates)

The UK Regional GVA estimates are constrained to the latest published UK [Blue Book](#) totals. The Blue Book is the annual publication of United Kingdom National Accounts by ONS.

Data sources used as regional indicators are collated, analysed and validated. Outliers are identified using graphical analysis and quality adjustments are assigned where necessary. Where appropriate, issues are referred back to the suppliers. The resulting validated datasets are then subject to a peer review process so that their impact can be assessed, prior to their inclusion in the compilation of GVA(I).

The remaining datasets are fed directly into the output production system following analysis and validation. The production system then creates "near final" output estimates (including published variables and components) which are submitted to peer reviewers for feedback, prior to the publication phase. Any changes resulting from this feedback are implemented via further production runs.

## **National totals**

National aggregates (national control totals) for components are split and allocated to NUTS1 regions using appropriate regional indicators. The control totals are consistent with those in the latest published UK National Accounts. They are supplied to Regional Accounts branch by National Accounts branches in ONS. Industry totals are obtained from [UK Supply and Use Tables](#) (except for the latest years). These estimates are then revised in the following year's publication.

The national aggregates are split and re-allocated to regions using the most appropriate regional indicator available. A "top-down" approach is used whereby the national total is allocated to the NUTS1 regions, then NUTS1 totals are split and allocated to NUTS2 sub-regions, and finally NUTS2 totals are split and allocated to the NUTS3 local areas.

## **Validation and quality assurance**

### **Accuracy**

(The degree of closeness between an estimate and the true value.)

All regional GVA estimates are constrained to the [Blue Book](#) totals. Below the UK level, NUTS1 to NUTS3 estimates are constrained to sum to the UK totals.

As mentioned in the How the output is created section, national totals for GVA components (consistent with the latest Blue Book publication) are collated and allocated to regions using the most appropriate regional indicators. Consistency checks are built into the processing system to ensure that regional aggregates tally with national totals.

The main regional indicators are acquired from published administrative data and structural business surveys. These data are subject to a rigorous validation process that entails a peer review process and a mechanism for referral back to data suppliers where appropriate.

Sample sizes can vary from 100% (HMRC Self assessment data) to 1% (HMRC PAYE data). These variations are unavoidable in the collation of reliable time series data for the calculation of GVA. Improvements in the GVA methodology or changes in administrative source data allows for reviewing the available sources for higher quality datasets or more timely publications. This is an ad hoc and continuous process which does not include major revisions to the methodology of GVA.

The vast majority of source data are annually updated, however, some datasets are published biennially or on an ad hoc basis. These missing values are imputed, using other available information. As with sample size, potential improvements to the methodology are reviewed whenever new data become available or when significant changes to the source data affect the final values. Where no recent estimate is available, the previous year's data may be used. It is important to note however, that these issues are rare because of the completeness of the main source data.

### **The peer review process**

Input datasets are compared to the data received for each variable in previous years deliveries. Large fluctuations against previous years are investigated using regional intelligence compiled within the branch supplemented by information received from peer reviewers. Following this investigative procedure, any anomalous data that remain unexplained are followed up where appropriate with the relevant data providers for clarification.

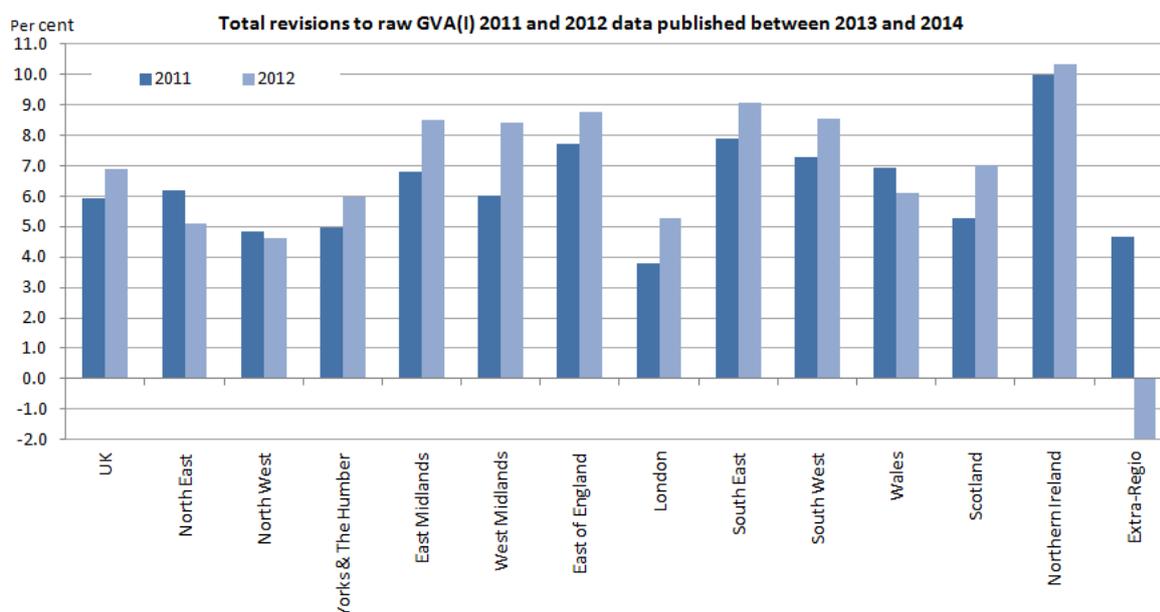
The Regional Accounts team then make adjustments to the source datasets where necessary. These are discussed with the peer reviewers. The regional knowledge of these statisticians can help to explain or contest deviations from trend within their particular regions.

The output variables for publication are subject to rigorous scrutiny, including looking at growth and shares, graphical depictions and comparisons with previous data. These data are then sent for peer review. Resulting queries are investigated and rectified where necessary. Feedback from this process is documented on the Regional Accounts database and any actions implemented within the results.

The Regional Accounts team has developed links with the peer reviewer network. This includes the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, BIS, the ONS London regional presence stationed at the Greater London Authority (GLA) and an ONS economist. Regular dialogue has resulted in significant refinements to the peer review process. Regional intelligence is shared and we are able to keep peer reviewers informed of any significant developments.

## Revisions

The complex process by which the GVA estimates are produced means that it is not currently possible to define the accuracy of the estimates in terms of detailed statistical properties, for example through their standard errors. Therefore, the reliability of the estimates is measured by the extent of revisions. Headline UK estimates will be affected by revisions to the [Blue Book](#) control totals, while revisions to NUTS1 and lower level estimates will come from revisions to the data used to apportion the UK GVA(I) estimates and revisions to the Blue Book. The chart below illustrates the revisions to GVA(I) 2011 and 2012 estimates between the publication in December 2014 and the data published in December 2013.



The regional accounts revisions policy mirrors that of [Blue Book](#) where national totals are subject to revision in 'open' years. The whole time series is open to revisions from the Blue Book. In addition, revisions to the regional indicator datasets will impact upon the regional GVA estimates.

In [Blue Book 2014](#), the totals for national GVA by industry were revised as far back as 1997 and included methodological changes to meet the European Commission definition of Gross National Income and the new [European System of Accounts \(ESA10\)](#)<sup>2</sup>. These changes led to larger than usual revisions in the regional estimates, which are constrained to sum to the national figures. More information about these changes can be found in the About the output section.

It is important to note that there are other aspects of accuracy, which revisions analysis cannot attempt to measure. A value can be reliable (as in not revised) without being accurate.

Regional accounts also publish comprehensive revisions triangles for NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3 estimates of regional GVA(I).

## Coherence and comparability

(Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain for example, geographic level.)

### Coherence

Estimates of approximate GVA are also published as part of the [ABS](#) release. These estimates are used in the production of annual [Supply and Use Tables](#) for the compilation of the UK GDP. The ABS GVA estimates differ from the UK Regional Accounts estimates in a number of ways:

- Regional Accounts GVA estimates are constrained to National Accounts Blue Book totals
- Regional Accounts GVA estimates are analysed and produced as a timeseries
- ABS estimates represent the UK business economy, this is around two-thirds of the UK economy but excludes agriculture, public sector and financial sector

A paper has been published on the ONS website elaborating on these differences.

The [Welsh Short Term Indicators \(WSTI\)](#) team is responsible for producing, on the behalf of the Welsh Government, quarterly estimates of Welsh market sector output growth. These estimates are presented as short term output indices. Estimates are not currently produced for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and the Public Administration, Education and Health sectors. These indicators at present cover 73% of the Welsh economy. The methodologies used for these indicators are different from those used to compile regional GVA. The main difference is that the WSTI are constant price indicators (deflated to remove the effects of price inflation) whereas regional GVA is a current price measure.

Alongside the GVA(I) publication, ONS Regional Accounts publish [experimental estimates of regional real Gross Value Added, compiled using the production approach \(GVA\(P\)\)](#). Estimates of both current price GVA(P) and constant price (GVA(P) (deflated to remove the effect of inflation) were published. Although conceptually identical, the different methods and data sources used to produce the GVA(I) and GVA(P) measures inevitably result in differences between the estimates. Where there is a marked difference between the current price GVA(I) and GVA(P) estimates, users are strongly advised to use the GVA(I) estimates. These are National Statistics and have satisfied the UK Statistics Authority requirements for quality and adherence to the National Statistics Code of Practice. The GVA(P) estimates are experimental and should therefore be considered less reliable. In the longer term a regional GVA balancing project will consider the viability of producing a single balanced measure of regional GVA. ONS is committed to deliver estimates of real GVA growth rates to [Eurostat](#) from 2017, in accordance with EU legislation.

### Comparability

Gross Value Added estimates published in December 2013 are available on a consistent basis at all NUTS levels back to 1997 on a [SIC 2007](#) basis. Data are available to download on a SIC 2003 basis covering years 1989-2009. Prior to 1989, data are not comparable as [ESA10](#) replaced previous accounting rules, resulting in conceptual, geographical and methodological changes.

The production of regional GVA is a legal requirement under the European System of Accounts. The sub-regional (NUTS2) estimates are used to inform EU structural funding decisions. GDP is calculated in the currencies of the Member States and converted initially into Euros and then into an artificial common currency called the Purchasing Power Standard (PPS). This makes it possible to compare the purchasing power of different national currencies. The resulting GDP per inhabitant estimates (expressed in terms of PPS) provide a measure of the total economic activity in a region and may be used to monitor and compare the economic development of regions over time. Since international standards such as [ESA10](#) are used in the production of the Regional Accounts, the figures should be directly comparable with the regional accounts of other EU countries. However, the revisions policies of these countries should be examined before comparing data for historic periods. It should also be noted that the UK produces estimates of GVA using the income approach (along with Ireland). All other EU countries use the production approach. This is measured by calculating total production in the economy and the total costs of that production (except labour costs) and subtracting the latter from the former.

## Concepts and definitions

(Concepts and definitions describe the legislation governing the output, and a description of the classifications used in the output.)

Regional GVA is a legal requirement under EU law and supplied to [Eurostat](#) consistent with the standards set out in the European System of Accounts [ESA10](#). The sub-regional NUTS2 estimates are used to inform EU structural funding decisions. GVA(I) estimates are produced at current prices which do not allow for inflation.

From December 2011, Regional GVA(I) estimates have been published using [SIC 2007](#), in keeping with EU regulations.

The GVA estimates cover the UK as a whole and are broken down to [NUTS](#) regions. NUTS are a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics which are comparable across the Union. Regional GVA estimates are compiled at 3 levels of NUTS.

Geography:

- NUTS1: 12 regions - Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the 9 English regions, can be collectively referred to as regions. There is a thirteenth region known as Extra-Regio which accounts for economic activity that cannot be assigned to any specific region. For the UK this consists mainly of oil and gas extraction on the continental shelf and the activities of UK embassies and forces overseas
- NUTS2: 37 regions - mainly groups of counties and unitary authorities; can be referred to as sub-regions
- NUTS3: 139 regions - principally individual counties and unitary authorities; also known as local areas

## Other information

### Output quality trade-offs

(Trade-offs is the extent to which different dimensions of quality are balanced against each other.)

GVA provisional results are published 12 months after the reference period. The time lag between publication and the period to which the data refer is the minimum required to produce estimates of a high enough quality to meet all user needs. These results are revised 24 months after the reference period and can be considered more reliable in that they include balanced Blue Book figures that were not available for the provisional release.

Further information on release dates can be found in the Timeliness and punctuality section of this paper.

### Assessment of user needs and perceptions

(The processes for finding out about uses and users, and their views on the statistical products.)

In July 2011, the UK Regional Accounts team met with [Eurostat](#) as part of a quality initiative aimed at encouraging harmonisation of compilation methods for regional statistics. Regional Accounts have participated in a [Eurostat](#) Task Force of Member States, to develop a regional accounts methodology manual, which is now complete and published. The team regularly communicates with [Eurostat](#).

The Regional Accounts team has developed links with the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the ONS London regional presence stationed at the GLA and an ONS economist. As previously mentioned, these are the main domestic users of the regional GVA statistics. Regional Accounts generally meet these users on an annual basis to share views on methodology and ongoing developments.

A Regional Accounts Government User Group (RAGUG) is held twice a year to discuss the needs of stakeholders in the devolved administrations and other government departments. At the last meeting of the group, held in February 2015, the following needs were raised: an increase in the statistics available for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); more timely data; a longer time series of data; and an increase in the level of industry breakdown available.

## Sources for further information or advice

### Accessibility and clarity

(Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the release details, illustrations and accompanying advice.)

The GVA Statistical Bulletin and [Time Series](#) datasets are available for download after 9.30 a.m. on the day of publication.

[UK Government policy on pre-release](#) of data allows a list of agreed officials to have access to data 24 hours before publication.

The GVA Statistical Bulletin conforms to the standards set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) for the protocol on release practices.

For queries on the GVA series, compilation methods, quality information or if you are experiencing difficulties in finding the latest figures, contact the GVA team by e-mail: [regionalaccounts@ons.gov.uk](mailto:regionalaccounts@ons.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01633 456878.

ONS's recommended format for accessible content is a combination of HTML webpages for narrative, charts and graphs, with data being provided in usable formats such as CSV and Excel files. The ONS website also offers users the option to download the narrative in PDF format. In some instances other software may be used, or may be available on request. Available formats for content published on the ONS website but not produced by the ONS, or referenced on the ONS website but stored elsewhere, may vary. For further information please refer to the contact details at the beginning of this document.

For information regarding conditions of access to data, please refer to the links below:

- [Terms and conditions \(for data on the website\)](#)
- [Copyright and reuse of published data](#)
- [Pre-release access \(including conditions of access\)](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

### Useful links

In addition to this Quality and Methodology Information, Basic Quality Information relevant to the GVA publication can be found in the background notes of the [Statistical Bulletin](#).