

Statistical bulletin

# Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: 22 March to 2 April 2023

Social insights on daily life and events, including the cost of living, industrial action, and energy savings in the home from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

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# 1 . Main points

The following information is for the latest survey period 22 March to 2 April 2023, based on adults in Great Britain.

- When asked about the important issues facing the UK today, the most commonly reported issues continue to be the cost of living (92%), the NHS (87%), the economy (77%), and climate change and the environment (61%).
- Around three-quarters (76%) of adults reported their cost of living had increased compared with a month ago (70% in the previous period from 8 to 19 March 2023).
- The most common reasons reported by adults who said their cost of living had increased compared with a month ago were an increase in the price of food shopping (96%), an increase in gas or electricity bills (73%), and an increase in the price of fuel (41%).
- Around a quarter (27%) of adults had been affected by industrial action in the last month; the most reported impacts were dependent children unable to attend school (27%), not being able to attend school, college or university (17%), and being unable to take part in leisure activities (16%).
- Around 3 in 10 (30%) of adults were considering making changes in their homes to improve energy efficiency; this was 25% when we last asked the question between 8 to 19 June 2022.
- The most common actions considered included improving insulation in the home (51%), switching energy suppliers (21%), and installing solar panels (20%).
- Around a third (35%) of adults reported that cost was a barrier stopping them from improving energy efficiency in the home, and around 1 in 7 (15%) said that making energy efficiency improvements would not give them value for money.

This release has been published as a headline bulletin because of the Good Friday bank holiday. The next Public opinions and social trends bulletin, covering the period 5 April to 16 April 2023, will be published on 21 April 2023.

## 2 . Public opinions and social trends data

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: household finances](#)

Dataset | Released 6 April 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of people's experiences of changes in their cost of living and household finances in Great Britain.

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: personal well-being and loneliness](#)

Dataset | Released 6 April 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of worries, personal well-being, and loneliness in Great Britain.

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: working arrangements](#)

Dataset | Released 6 April 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) related to the working arrangements of people in Great Britain.

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: personal experiences of shortages of goods](#)

Dataset | Released 6 April 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) of whether people experienced shortages of goods such as food, medicine, or fuel when shopping in Great Britain.

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and other illnesses](#)

Dataset | Released 6 April 2023

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) related to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and other illnesses on people, households, and communities in Great Britain.

## 3 . Measuring the data

This release contains data and indicators from a module being undertaken through the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

Breakdowns by age and sex, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in our [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain datasets](#).

Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this bulletin, or comparisons between estimates are made, associated confidence intervals should be used to assess the [statistical significance](#) of the differences.

### Sampling and weighting

In the latest period (22 March to 2 April 2023), we sampled 4,973 households. This sample was randomly selected from people who had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample for the latest period contained 2,663 individuals, representing a 54% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on ONS population estimates). Further information on the survey design and quality can be found in our [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\)](#).

## 4 . Related links

### [The impact of winter pressures on different population groups in Great Britain: 15 to 26 February 2023](#)

Article | Released 30 March 2023

In-depth analysis on how increases in the cost of living and difficulty accessing NHS services have impacted people's lives across the winter period.

### [Tracking the impact of winter pressures in Great Britain: 18 to 29 January 2023](#)

Article | Released 27 February 2023

Insights from our Winter Survey, examining how cost-of-living rises, and difficulty accessing NHS services are affecting people during the winter months.

### [Characteristics of adults experiencing energy and food insecurity in Great Britain: 22 November to 18 December 2022](#)

Article | Released 13 February 2023

Understanding the characteristics associated with experiencing energy and food insecurity; logistic regression analysis using data from the Winter Survey.

### [Cost of living insights](#)

Web page | Updated frequently

The latest data and trends about the cost of living. Explore changes in the cost of everyday items and how this is affecting people.

### [Impact of increased cost of living on adults across Great Britain: September 2022 to January 2023](#)

Article | Released 20 February 2023

Analysis of the proportion of the population that are affected by an increase in their cost of living, and of the characteristics associated with financial vulnerability, using data from the Opinions and Lifestyle survey.

### [How increases in housing costs impact households](#)

Article | Released 9 January 2023

Mortgage interest rates started to increase during 2022, this is likely to make borrowing more expensive for those with fixed rates deals coming to an end in 2023. Those with variable rate mortgages and private renters are also facing higher housing costs.

### [Census 2021: how homes are heated in your area](#)

Article | Released 5 January 2023

As more than half of adults report worry about keeping warm this winter, we explore how homes are heated across England and Wales.

### [Cost of living and depression in adults, Great Britain: 29 September to 23 October 2022](#)

Article | Released 6 December 2022

Analysis into the prevalence of depression among adults in Great Britain in autumn 2022. Exploring this in the context of the rising cost of living.

### [Quality of life in the UK: February 2023](#)

Bulletin | Released 10 February 2023

An update on the UK's progress across 10 domains of national well-being: personal well-being, relationships, health, what we do, where we live, personal finance, economy, education and skills, governance, and the environment.

## 5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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