

Statistical bulletin

GDP monthly estimate, UK: February 2019

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.



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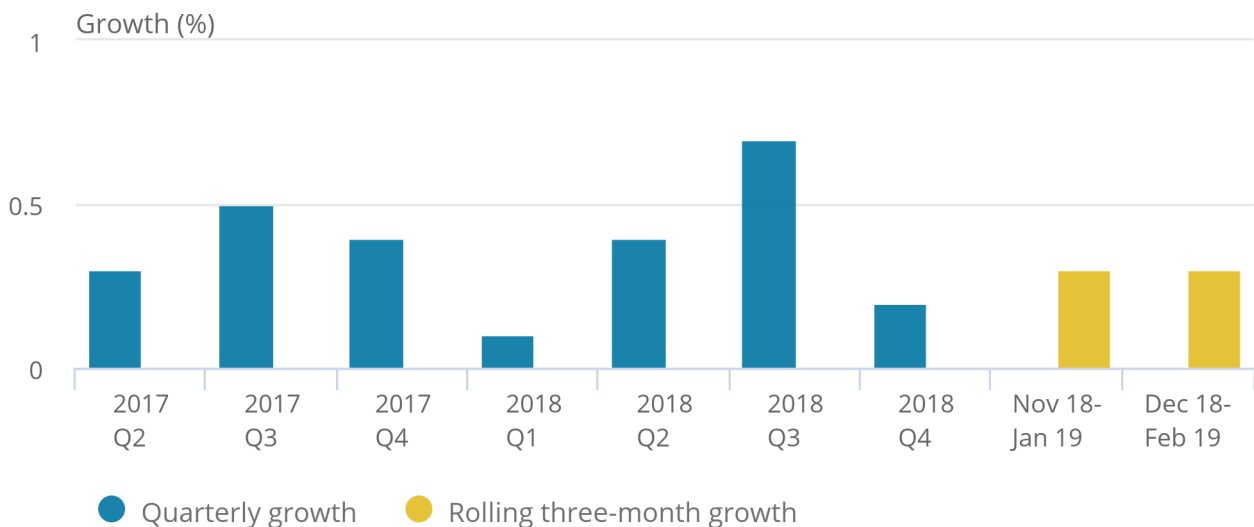
1 . UK gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.3% in the three months to February 2019

Figure 1: February's rolling three-month growth rate was in line with the previous period

UK GDP growth, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2017 until December 2018 to February 2019

Figure 1: February's rolling three-month growth rate was in line with the previous period

UK GDP growth, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2017 until December 2018 to February 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Q1 refers to Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar), Q2 refers to Quarter 2 (Apr to June), Q3 refers to Quarter 3 (July to Sept), Q4 refers to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec).
2. Rolling three-month estimates are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period. For example, GDP in December to February compared with the previous September to November.

Commenting on today's GDP figures, Head of GDP Rob Kent-Smith said:

"GDP growth remained modest in the latest three months. Services again drove the economy, with a continued strong performance in IT.

"Manufacturing also continued to recover after weakness at the end of last year with the often-erratic pharmaceutical industry, chemicals and alcohol performing well in recent months."

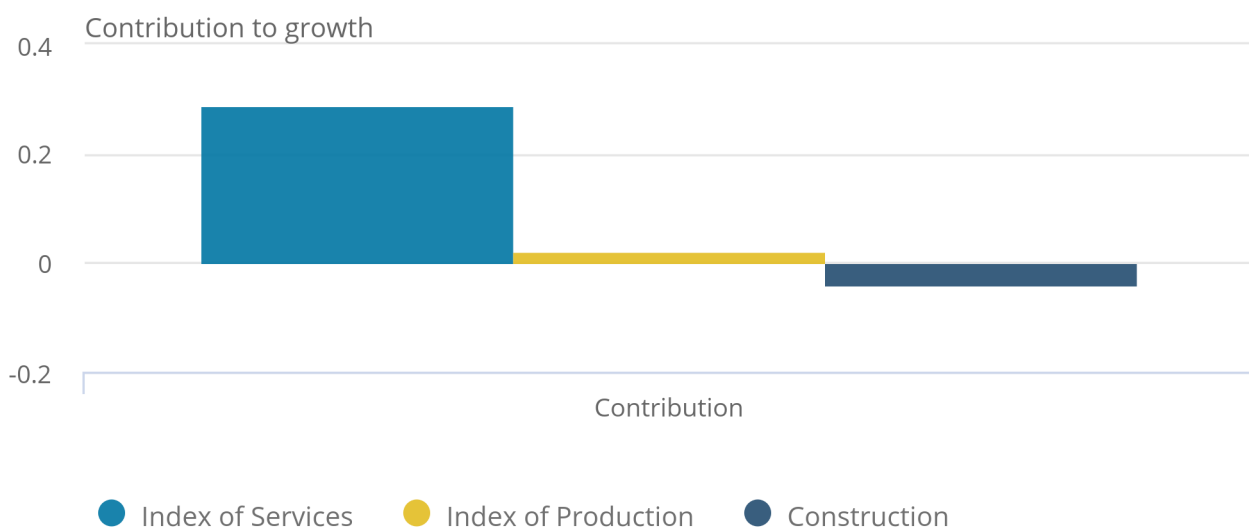
2 . The services and production sectors contributed positively to GDP growth, while construction had a negative contribution

Figure 2: The services sector was the main contributor to growth, at 0.29 percentage points

Contribution to GDP growth, UK, December 2018 to February 2019

Figure 2: The services sector was the main contributor to growth, at 0.29 percentage points

Contribution to GDP growth, UK, December 2018 to February 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

The services sector was the largest contributor to rolling three-month growth, expanding by 0.4% in the three months to February 2019. The production sector had a small positive contribution, growing by 0.2%. However, the construction sector contracted by 0.6%, resulting in a small negative contribution to GDP growth.

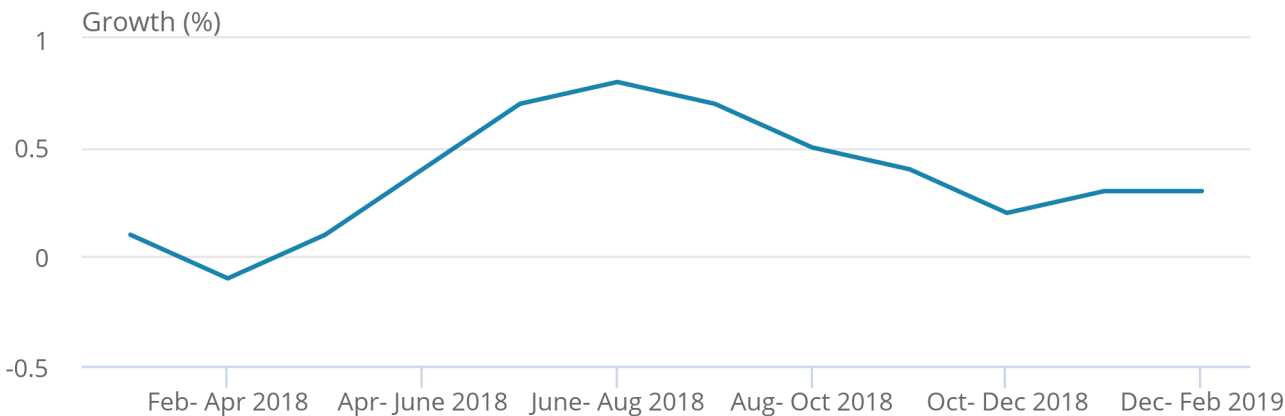
3 . Rolling three-month growth was 0.3% in the three months to February 2019

Figure 3: After a strong summer, rolling three-month growth has slowed to moderate levels

Growth, three-months on three-months, January to March 2018 until December 2018 to February 2019

Figure 3: After a strong summer, rolling three-month growth has slowed to moderate levels

Growth, three-months on three-months, January to March 2018 until December 2018 to February 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Rolling three-month estimates are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period. For example, GDP in December to February compared with the previous September to November.

Rolling three-month growth was 0.3% in February 2019, the same as an upwardly-revised January 2019. This is slightly higher than the 0.2% growth seen in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018.

Rolling three-month growth is based on output gross value added (GVA) and so there will be discrepancies in the time series with our quarterly estimates of gross domestic product (GDP), which include information on the expenditure and income approaches to measuring GDP.

4 . GDP grew by 0.2% in February 2019

Table 1: Breakdown of GDP growth rates by month

	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019
GDP	-0.3%	0.5%	0.2%
Index of Services	-0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Index of Production	-0.3%	0.7%	0.6%
Manufacturing	-0.5%	1.1%	0.9%
Construction	-2.5%	3.5%	0.4%
Agriculture	-0.8%	-1.3%	-1.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

Monthly GDP growth was 0.2% in February 2019, after contracting by 0.3% in December 2018 and growing by 0.5% in January 2019. January growths for production, manufacturing, and construction have all been upwardly revised due to late survey returns.

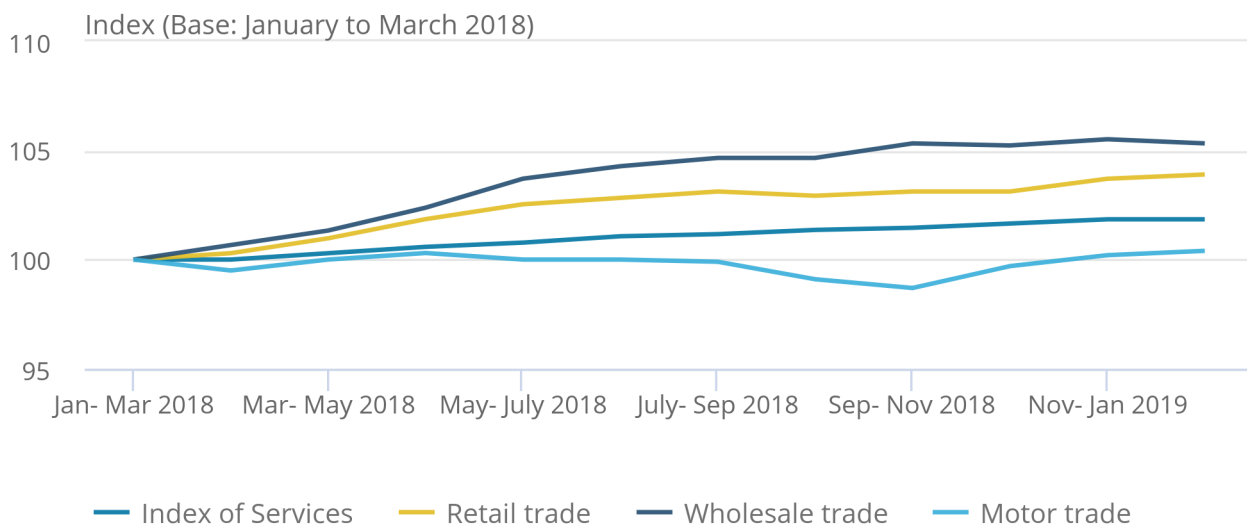
5 . Rolling three-month growth in the services sector was 0.4% in February 2019

Figure 4: Wholesale and retail trade have performed better than the services sector as a whole for the past year, while motor trade has underperformed

Rolling three-month index, January to March 2018 until December 2018 to February 2019, base period: January to March 2018

Figure 4: Wholesale and retail trade have performed better than the services sector as a whole for the past year, while motor trade has underperformed

Rolling three-month index, January to March 2018 until December 2018 to February 2019, base period: January to March 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

Over the past year, wholesale and retail trade output has grown faster than the services sector as a whole. However, growth in motor trade output has remained persistently below the services sector, despite recovering somewhat in October and November 2018. There are a number of reasons for the weakening in the motor trade industry, including the introduction of emissions testing in September 2018.

The services sector grew by 0.1% in the month of February 2019, with broad-based growth across its subsectors. The largest positive contributor to monthly growth was legal activities, which recovered from a fall in January. This was offset by a decline in advertising in February.

Rolling three-month growth in the services sector was 0.4% in February 2019. The largest contributor to growth was computer programming, which has performed strongly in recent months.

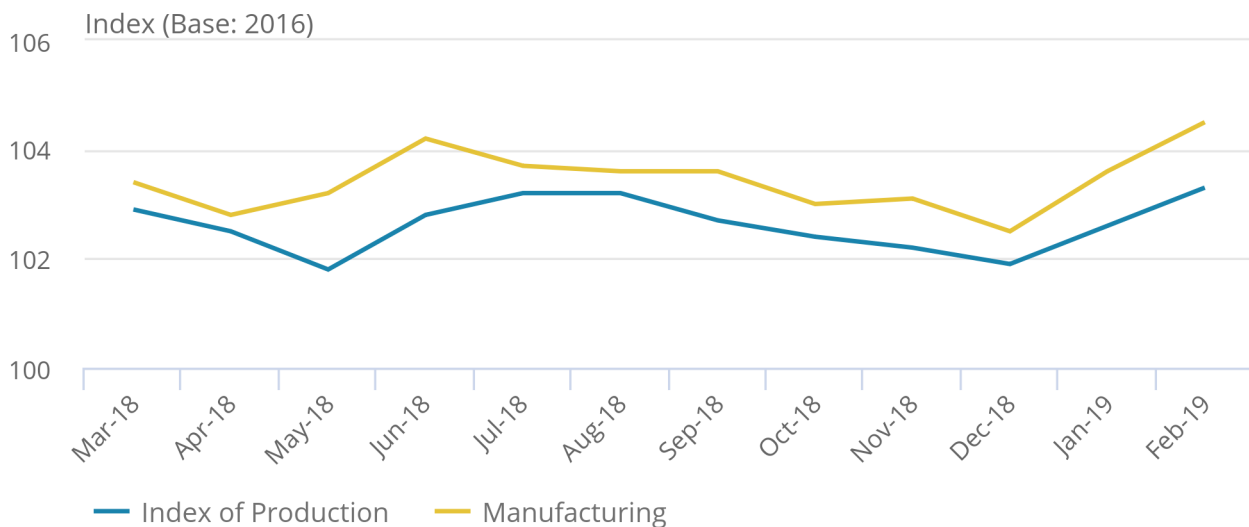
6 . Production industries grew by 0.2% in the three months to February 2019

Figure 5: Output in production and manufacturing has risen for the second month in a row

Monthly index, March 2018 to February 2019, base period: 2016

Figure 5: Output in production and manufacturing has risen for the second month in a row

Monthly index, March 2018 to February 2019, base period: 2016



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

Following a period of contraction, output in production and manufacturing has risen for the second month in a row, the latter driven by domestic demand. Manufacturing is now at its highest level since April 2008.

Month-on-month growth in the production sector was 0.6% in February 2019. Widespread growth led to a 0.9% increase in manufacturing, with 11 out of 13 manufacturing subsectors increasing. Electricity and gas production declined, as warmer than usual temperatures resulted in lower demand.

Production industries grew by 0.2% in the three months to February 2019. This was the first positive three-month growth since October 2018. Manufacturing grew by 0.4%, the first positive rolling three-month growth since September 2018. This was driven by pharmaceuticals, food products (including beverages) and chemicals, although it was partially offset by a fall in motor vehicle production.

There has been external evidence that [some manufacturing businesses have changed the timing of their activity](#) as we approached the original planned date for the UK's departure from the European Union. Although the ONS does not routinely collect detailed data on the reasons behind the behaviour of businesses, as part of our survey validation we have found some qualitative evidence that supported this view but were unable to quantify its impact.

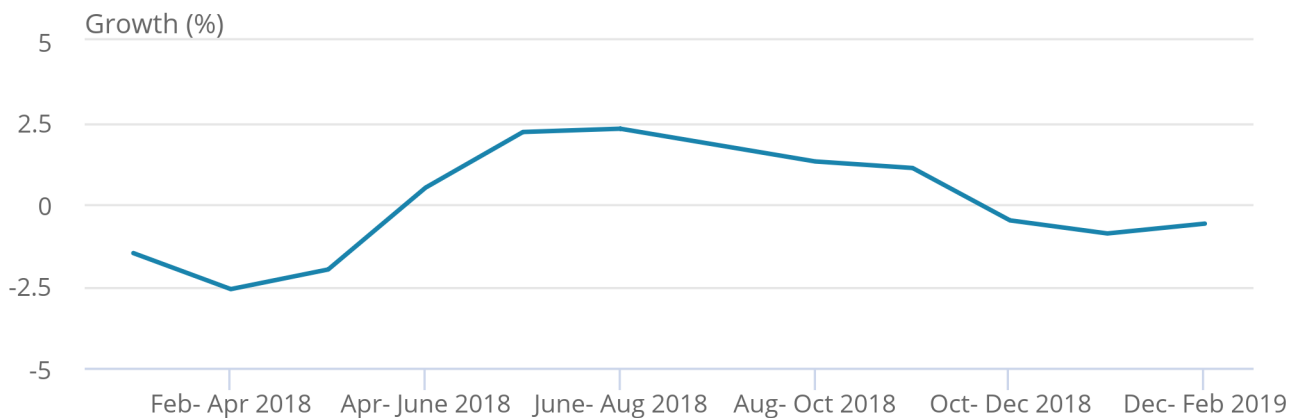
7 . Construction output decreased by 0.6% in the three months to February 2019

Figure 6: Rolling three-month growth in construction was negative for the third month in a row

Growth, three-months on three-months, January to March 2018 until December 2018 to February 2019

Figure 6: Rolling three-month growth in construction was negative for the third month in a row

Growth, three-months on three-months, January to March 2018 until December 2018 to February 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – GDP monthly estimate

Notes:

1. Rolling three-month estimates are calculated by comparing GDP in a three-month period with GDP in the previous three-month period. For example, GDP in December to February compared with the previous September to November.

The construction sector grew by 0.4% in February 2019. The main drivers to this were private housing new work and infrastructure. Rolling three-month growth in construction was negative 0.6%.

8 . Quality and methodology

The [Gross domestic product \(GDP\) Quality and Methodology Information report](#) contains important information on:

- the strengths and limitations of the data and how it compares with related data
- uses and users of the data
- how the output was created
- the quality of the output including the accuracy of the data

9 . Related links

[Index of Services](#)

[Index of Production](#)

[Construction output in Great Britain](#)

Section	Industry sections (SIC2007)																						
	Total GVA at basic prices	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Total production industries	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity gas, steam and air	Water supply, sewerage etc	Construction	Total service industries	Wholesale and retail: motor vehicles and motorcycles	Transport and storage	Accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Administrative and support service activities	Public administration and defence	Education	Human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment and recreation	Other service activities	Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services
	A-T	A	B-E	B	C	D	E	F	G-T	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
2016 weights	1000	7	138	10	100	17	10	60	796	104	43	30	63	73	138	75	48	47	59	75	15	21	4

Percentage change, latest month on same month a year ago

	ED2R	ED2S	ED2T	ED2U	ED2V	ED2W	ED2X	ED2Y	ED2Z	ED32	ED33	ED34	ED35	ED36	ED37	ED38	ED39	ED3A	ED3B	ED3C	ED3D	ED3E	ED3F
2017 Feb	2.3	1.8	2.2	-0.2	2.6	-1.3	7.0	7.8	1.9	2.9	2.8	4.2	6.4	2.6	-0.2	4.0	2.4	-0.7	0.1	-0.5	0.7	2.3	-5.8
Mar	2.9	2.9	1.6	1.6	2.7	-7.3	7.3	11.0	2.5	3.1	4.6	3.5	7.6	2.4	0.0	5.3	5.0	-0.2	0.9	-0.5	0.5	5.1	-7.4
Apr	2.1	3.1	-0.6	-0.8	0.4	-8.3	4.2	6.7	2.2	2.8	2.1	5.1	8.7	1.9	0.6	2.5	1.7	0.2	1.1	-0.2	4.9	6.5	-11.0
May	2.6	3.1	0.9	0.8	1.5	-2.8	1.9	7.9	2.5	1.7	2.7	3.4	8.9	1.1	1.3	4.2	5.9	0.6	0.4	0.0	2.5	7.0	-13.0
Jun	2.9	3.3	1.8	2.6	2.3	-2.6	2.8	8.2	2.6	3.2	1.3	1.6	10.7	0.4	1.3	5.0	5.4	0.5	0.5	-0.2	2.3	6.4	-10.9
Jul	2.5	3.8	1.8	-6.8	3.2	-0.4	2.3	6.2	2.3	2.8	2.5	6.0	7.0	-0.8	1.5	4.5	5.2	0.3	0.7	-0.2	0.6	5.3	-9.7
Aug	2.5	4.1	1.7	-5.3	2.7	0.5	2.0	9.0	2.1	2.5	1.4	1.9	5.6	-1.1	1.6	4.3	5.7	0.2	0.8	-0.4	5.3	7.3	-8.2
Sep	2.2	4.1	3.0	0.5	3.1	4.2	2.4	6.2	1.8	1.5	1.2	0.5	5.1	-1.8	1.6	5.0	4.0	0.3	0.9	-0.5	3.6	7.6	-6.0
Oct	2.2	3.8	4.4	10.7	5.0	-2.1	2.9	4.6	1.6	0.5	1.2	1.1	4.5	-1.5	1.5	4.4	5.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	4.7	3.6	-4.5
Nov	2.0	3.2	2.2	2.3	3.5	-4.9	1.1	4.8	1.7	1.3	-1.8	1.5	5.6	-1.7	1.5	4.7	5.1	0.7	0.5	-0.1	2.6	-0.5	-3.2
Dec	1.5	2.6	0.1	-14.1	1.1	2.0	1.2	4.0	1.5	0.3	0.8	2.1	5.9	-1.2	1.5	4.4	5.3	0.8	0.1	-0.1	2.0	-2.2	2.9
2018 Jan	1.5	0.3	1.2	2.3	2.4	-4.2	-2.8	0.8	1.6	1.7	0.8	1.5	6.2	-2.0	1.2	5.0	4.9	0.8	-0.5	0.2	1.5	-3.8	3.0
Feb	1.4	-1.3	2.3	3.6	2.5	3.7	-3.1	0.3	1.3	1.9	-0.3	-0.9	5.3	-1.9	1.2	4.7	2.9	0.8	-0.6	0.2	2.7	-2.5	3.7
Mar	1.3	-2.1	2.5	-1.6	2.1	11.7	-3.7	-2.0	1.3	1.0	-1.4	1.2	6.1	-1.9	1.2	5.0	2.7	0.7	-0.2	0.1	3.8	-3.6	7.3
Apr	1.4	-2.3	1.8	7.6	1.4	3.5	-3.0	-1.4	1.6	1.9	1.0	1.1	4.5	-1.8	0.9	6.5	5.6	0.6	0.3	-0.2	1.2	-4.5	5.2
May	1.4	-2.4	0.5	1.5	1.5	-4.0	-2.2	0.6	1.7	4.0	-1.5	2.4	5.2	-1.8	0.8	5.1	2.6	0.7	0.6	-0.5	2.4	-5.2	2.0
Jun	1.5	-2.9	1.1	-1.5	2.2	-3.2	-0.2	0.9	1.6	2.8	3.2	4.7	3.6	-1.7	0.6	4.4	3.4	1.0	0.6	-0.4	2.5	-3.9	-2.6
Jul	1.8	-3.2	1.3	4.8	1.4	-0.4	0.0	1.6	1.9	4.0	3.1	3.0	4.4	-1.5	0.7	5.6	3.0	1.4	0.4	-0.3	2.9	-3.6	-3.8
Aug	1.6	-3.4	1.3	7.7	1.2	-1.2	0.7	-0.3	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.3	5.8	-1.4	0.5	5.3	1.8	1.6	0.3	0.3	1.6	-4.4	-3.0
Sep	1.5	-3.0	-0.4	1.5	0.0	-4.0	0.0	2.2	1.8	2.7	2.6	3.1	6.2	-1.5	0.9	4.9	0.3	1.6	0.4	1.1	0.9	-3.5	-2.2
Oct	1.8	-2.6	-0.7	2.5	-1.0	-0.2	-1.3	3.2	2.1	3.2	3.3	3.7	4.8	-1.5	1.2	6.1	1.1	1.3	0.7	1.6	-0.3	-1.3	0.8
Nov	1.6	-2.3	-1.0	2.3	-1.1	-2.7	-0.5	0.8	2.1	3.8	3.4	3.5	4.7	-1.8	1.2	5.0	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.4	0.1	5.5
Dec	1.1	-2.5	-0.4	24.0	-1.8	-4.6	-0.2	-3.1	1.8	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	-2.2	1.6	4.3	-0.6	1.0	1.3	1.8	-0.7	-1.3	4.4
2019 Jan	1.5	-2.9	-0.3	2.9	-0.7	0.0	0.2	2.2	1.8	4.4	2.7	3.6	6.0	-2.4	1.6	1.6	-1.1	1.0	1.6	1.6	-1.2	0.6	3.3
Feb	2.0	-3.4	0.1	4.9	0.6	-4.9	-0.8	3.3	2.3	3.8	3.9	5.0	6.7	-2.5	1.7	3.1	0.8	1.0	1.7	1.5	0.1	1.9	2.5

1 The GVA output is designated as a National Statistic.
 2 Indices reflect values measured at basic prices, which exclude "taxes less subsidies on products".
 3 Estimates cannot be regarded as accurate to the last digit shown.
 4 Any apparent inconsistencies between the index numbers and the percentage changes shown in these tables are due to rounding.
 5 A complete run of data is available on the ONS website.

