Office for National Statistics

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: December 2020

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

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Notice

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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

- Vacancies have continued to recover in September to November 2020, with an estimated quarterly increase of 110,000 vacancies to 547,000, but still remain below the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels and are 251,000 (31.5%) less than a year ago.

- The smallest businesses, with one to nine employees, have only 7,000 (5.9%) fewer vacancies than a year ago; compared to the largest businesses, with 2,500 or more employees, who have 114,000 (39.4%) fewer vacancies than a year ago.

- There were quarterly increases in estimated vacancies for all sectors in September to November 2020; although "Construction", "Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply" and "Real estate activities" are the only sectors with an estimated annual increase.

- The number of jobs had been generally increasing since 2013, but fell by 475,000 to an estimated 34.68 million jobs in the UK in September 2020; this was the largest quarterly fall since records began in June 1959.

- Most sectors have seen falls in the estimated number of jobs from June to September 2020, "Arts, entertainment and recreation" is one of the worst affected sectors by the pandemic with an estimated 9.7% fewer jobs in September 2020 compared to March 2020, with falls in June 2020 and September 2020.

- "Public administration and defence; compulsory social security" is the only sector to see an increase in jobs in both June 2020 and September 2020, with an estimated quarterly increase of 3,000 jobs in September 2020.

Because of social distancing measures leading to the temporary closure of businesses across the UK, there have been some difficulties in collecting data and producing estimates. More information can be found in Measuring the data.

3 . Vacancies for September to November 2020

The monthly Vacancy Survey asks businesses for the number of external vacancies on a specified count date used for three-month rolling averages. Count dates for the latest data, September to November 2020, are 4 September, 2 October and 6 November 2020. The count date for March was 6 March 2020, therefore the period January to March 2020 is prior to the start of coronavirus social distancing measures.

For the three-month rolling average of vacancies, the standard errors are around 10,000 (1.5% expressed as a coefficient of variation), giving a 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 20,000.

Figure 1: Vacancies continued to recover in September to November 2020 with an estimated quarterly increase of 110,000 vacancies but the level is still 31.5% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between September to November 2001 and September to November 2020

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Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between September to November 2001 and September to November 2020

Source: Office for National Statistics - Vacancy Survey

The estimated number of vacancies in the UK fell sharply during the recession of 2008 to 2009. Since 2013, it has generally increased, reaching a record high of 855,000 in November 2018 to January 2019. Vacancies remained at a high level until the start of coronavirus social distancing measures, where they fell more sharply than during the recession.

For September to November 2020, there were an estimated 547,000 vacancies, which is a quarterly increase of 110,000 vacancies and an increase of 203,000 vacancies from the record low in April to June 2020. The estimated vacancies for the smallest businesses, with one to nine employees, are closest to vacancy levels of a year ago at 5.9% lower, compared with 39.4% lower for larger businesses with 2,500 or more employees. Despite the increase, vacancies remain below the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels and are 251,000 (31.5%) less than a year ago.

The vacancy headline estimate is based on a seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average and has National Statistics status. Single-month vacancy estimates are available in Dataset X06. They should be used with caution as they are experimental, non-seasonally adjusted statistics and should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months, because of the high volatility caused by the survey sample design (see Strengths and limitations).

Figure 2: The experimental single-month series indicate that estimated vacancies in November 2020 are approximately 30% lower than a year ago

Moving three-month averages of vacancies and single-month vacancies in the UK, both non-seasonally adjusted Experimental Statistics, between September to November 2001 and September to November 2020

Figure 2: The experimental single-month series indicate that estimated vacancies in November 2020 are approximately 30% lower than a year ago

Moving three-month averages of vacancies and single-month vacancies in the UK, both non-seasonally adjusted Experimental Statistics, between September to November 2001 and September to November 2020

Three-month average NSA — Single month NSA
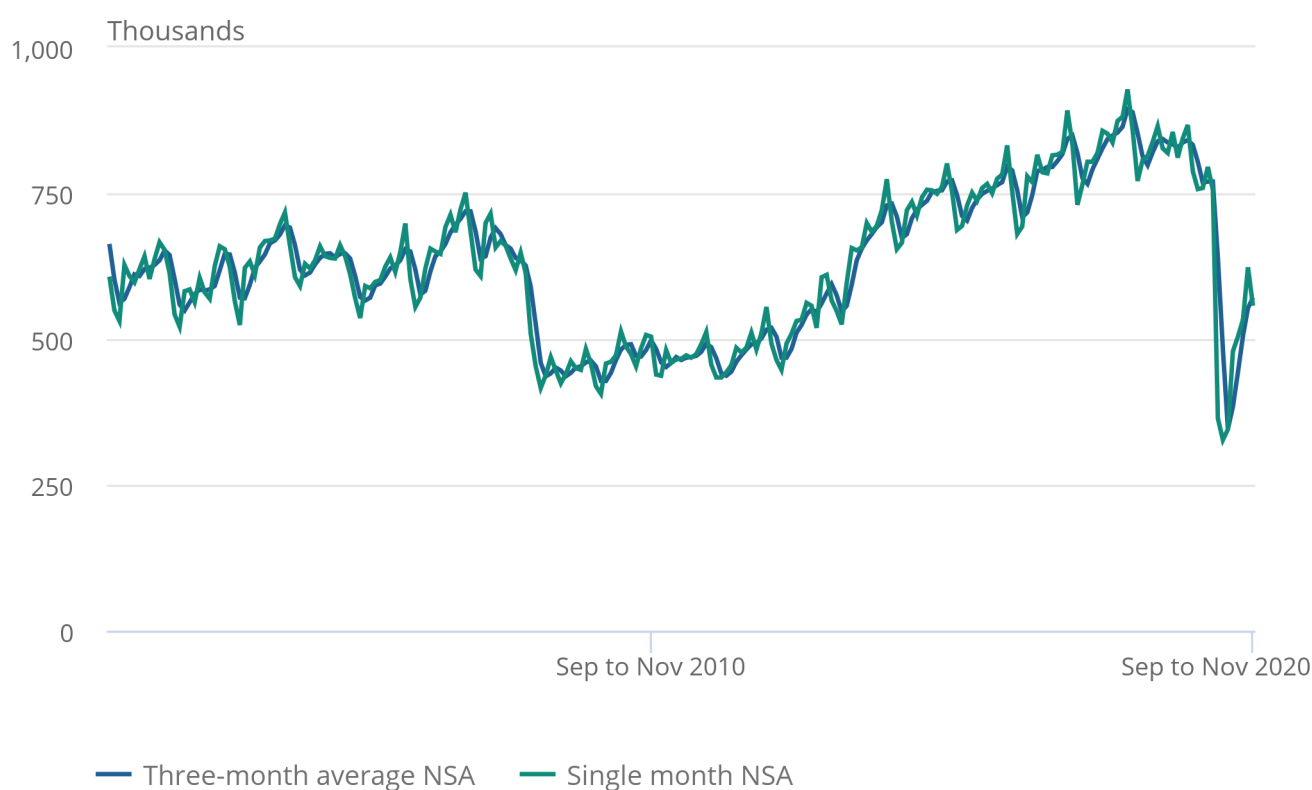
Source: Office for National Statistics – X06: Single month vacancies estimates (not designated as National Statistics

The three-month average non-seasonally adjusted series in Figure 2 is more volatile than the seasonally adjusted series shown in Figure 1.

While the experimental single-month estimates should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months, they do indicate estimated vacancies for November 2020 are still around 30% less than a year ago.

Figure 3: Whilst there were estimated quarterly increases in vacancies for all sectors in September to November 2020 only three sectors had an estimated annual increase

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between June to August 2020 and September to November 2020; index September to November 2019=100, difference in percentage points compared to September to November 2019

Figure 3: Whilst there were estimated quarterly increases in vacancies for all sectors in September to November 2020 only three sectors had an estimated annual increase

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between June to August 2020 and September to November 2020; index September to November 2019=100, difference in percentage points compared to September to November 2019

Source: Office for National Statistics - Vacancy Survey

The sectors with an estimated annual increase in vacancies are "Real estate", "Construction" and "Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply". These sectors saw large increases in vacancies between June to August 2020 and September to November 2020, when indexed to September to November 2019 levels.

"Human health and social work activities" had a relatively small increase in vacancies in the latest quarter (6.5%), when indexed to September to November 2019 levels, compared with other sectors. However, estimated vacancies are only 13.2% lower in the latest quarter compared to a year ago, compared to 31.5% lower for all vacancies, as the sector experienced lower falls in vacancies at the start of the pandemic.

The "Arts, entertainment and recreation" sector has seen one of the strongest recoveries in the latest quarter, when indexed to September to November 2019 levels, but estimated vacancies are still 37.4% lower in the latest quarter compared with a year ago.

For "Accommodation and food services" and "Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles" the recovery in these sectors in the latest quarter has been limited, after showing signs of some recovery over the summer, as COVID-19 restrictions were eased. Estimated vacancies are 64.0% and 50.7% lower than a year ago.

We publish a weekly Adzuna Online job advert estimates dataset as part of the Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy release. The online job advert estimates show a decline of around 60% in total vacancies from early March to early May generally followed by an increase in vacancies through to October. There was a small decrease in the online job advert estimates at the start of September, which may be due to a seasonal component of the data.
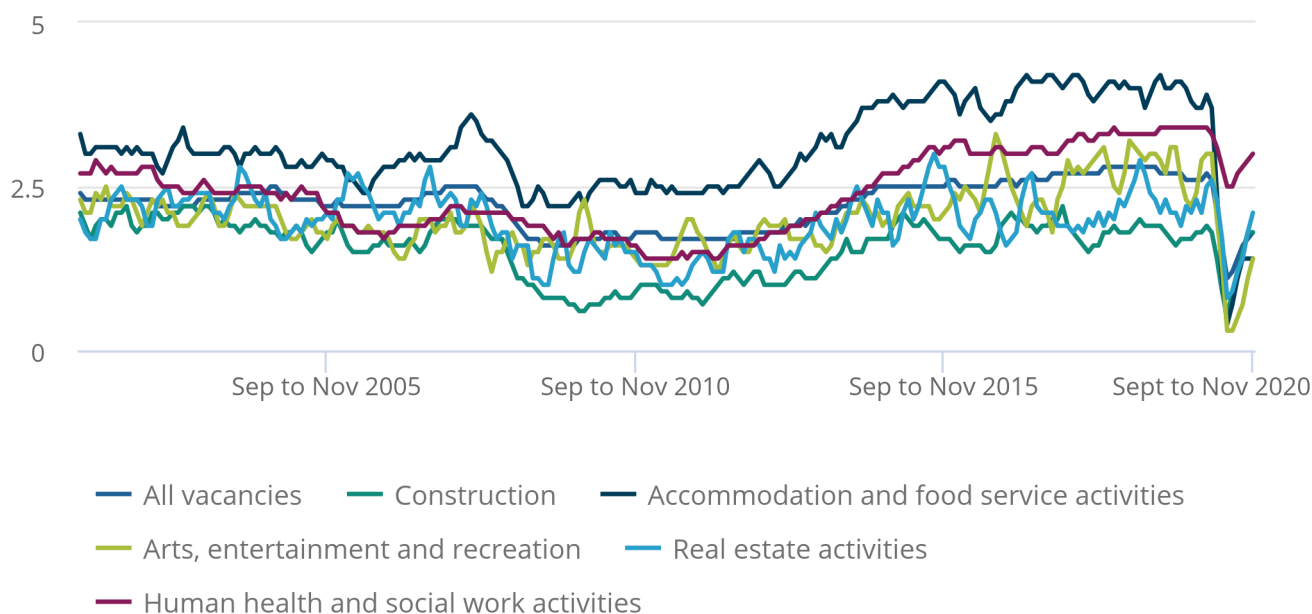
The online job advert estimates for the first week in November are 34% lower than a year ago, compared to 30% lower than a year ago in our Vacancy Survey. In our Vacancy Survey estimates, the recovery for smaller businesses has been stronger than for larger businesses. Any vacancies that are not advertised online would not be included in the online job advert estimates; if small businesses are advertising vacancies through alternative methods this could explain the difference between our Vacancy Survey and the online job advert estimates. The latest weekly online job adverts publish vacancies with a lag of six days and include regional estimates of vacancies.

Figure 4: "Arts, entertainment and recreation" has one of the lowest vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio of 1.4, whilst "Human health and social work activities" has the largest at 3.0

Job vacancies per 100 employee jobs for selected industries in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between September to November 2001 and September to November 2020

Figure 4: "Arts, entertainment and recreation" has one of the lowest vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio of 1.4, whilst "Human health and social work activities" has the largest at 3.0

Job vacancies per 100 employee jobs for selected industries in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between September to November 2001 and September to November 2020

Legend:
- All vacancies
- Construction
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Arts, entertainment and recreation
- Real estate activities
- Human health and social work activities

Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

For September to November 2020, it is estimated that:

- the vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio has increased from the record low of 1.1 in April to June 2020 to 1.8 in September to November 2020, although it is still 0.8 lower than a year ago

- the sector with the lowest vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio of 1.2 is "Mining and quarrying"; six sectors have a vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio of 1.4, including "Arts, entertainment and recreation"

- all sectors are showing signs of recovery, with quarterly increases; the sector with the largest quarterly increases is "Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles" with an estimated increase of 13,000 vacancies

- "Human health and social work activities" remains the largest sector in terms of both vacancy level (121,000) and ratio (3.0) and accounts for 22.1% of all vacancies

- most sectors show negative annual movements; the two sectors contributing the most to the 251,000 decrease in all vacancies are "Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles" (down 66,000) and "Accommodation and food service activities" (down 57,000)

4 . Jobs for September 2020

Workforce jobs estimates are a combination of estimates of employee jobs mainly sourced from employer surveys, self-employment jobs from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), HM Forces personnel and government-supported trainees.

The majority of the latest employee jobs data were sought on a specified count date, 11 September 2020. The March 2020 data were from 13 March 2020 before the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures. Latest self-employment estimates from the Labour Force Survey are based on interviews from the start of August to the end of October 2020. The March 2020 data were based on interviews from the start of February to the end of April 2020, so only around half of these relate to the period prior to the start of social distancing, while interviews in the final week of March and the whole of April relate to the lockdown period.

Employment status on the LFS is self-reported, with people classifying themselves as being either an employee or self-employed. Labour market flows estimates show that the recent decreases in the number of self-employed people have been driven, in part, by a movement of people from self-employed to employee status. Between April to June 2020 and July to September 2020, the number of people who changed from reporting themselves as self-employed to an employee was 277,000, the highest level since records began in 2005. Of these, the number who had changed jobs had not increased from normal levels. Consequently, some of the fall in self-employment comes from an increase in the number of people who have changed to classifying themselves as an employee, even though they have not changed jobs. There is evidence that this has continued between May to July 2020 and August to October 2020

On 13 October 2020, data from our Labour Force Survey (LFS) was reweighted, as detailed in an article on the ONS website. The Workforce Jobs (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.

Figure 5: Between June 2020 and September 2020, the total number of jobs in the UK fell by 475,000, the largest fall since records began in June 1959

Number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, September 2002 to September 2020

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Number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, September 2002 to September 2020

Source: Office for National Statistics - Workforce jobs

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. Estimates for the number of people in employment are available in Employment in the UK.

It is estimated that:

- the number of jobs had been generally increasing since 2013, but fell by 475,000 to an estimated 34.68 million jobs in the UK in September 2020; this was the largest quarterly fall since records began in June 1959

- the 475,000 decline in jobs comprises a fall of 378,000 in employee jobs, a fall of 97,000 in self-employment jobs, a rise of 1,000 in HM Forces personnel and a fall of 1,000 in government-supported trainees

- sectors have not been equally impacted during the coronavirus pandemic; most sectors have seen falls in the number of jobs from June to September 2020, however, some of the sectors have seen a rise in estimated jobs

- the estimated number of jobs in "Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles", the largest sector, fell by 110,000 from June to September 2020; driven by a fall in jobs in retail.

- "Arts, entertainment and recreation" is one of the worst affected sectors by the pandemic with 9.7% fewer jobs in September 2020 compared to March 2020, with falls in June 2020 and September 2020.

- "Public administration and defence; compulsory social security" is the only sector to see an increase in jobs in both June 2020 and September 2020, with an estimated quarterly increase of 3,000 jobs in September 2020.

Figure 6: Sectors have not been equally impacted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from March to September 2020

Workforce Jobs, seasonally adjusted, between March 2020 to September 2020; index March 2020=100, difference in percentage points compared to March 2020

Figure 6: Sectors have not been equally impacted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from March to September 2020

Workforce Jobs, seasonally adjusted, between March 2020 to September 2020; index March 2020=100, difference in percentage points compared to March 2020

● Mar 20 to Jun 20   ● Jun 20 to Sep 20   ●— Mar 20 to Sep 20
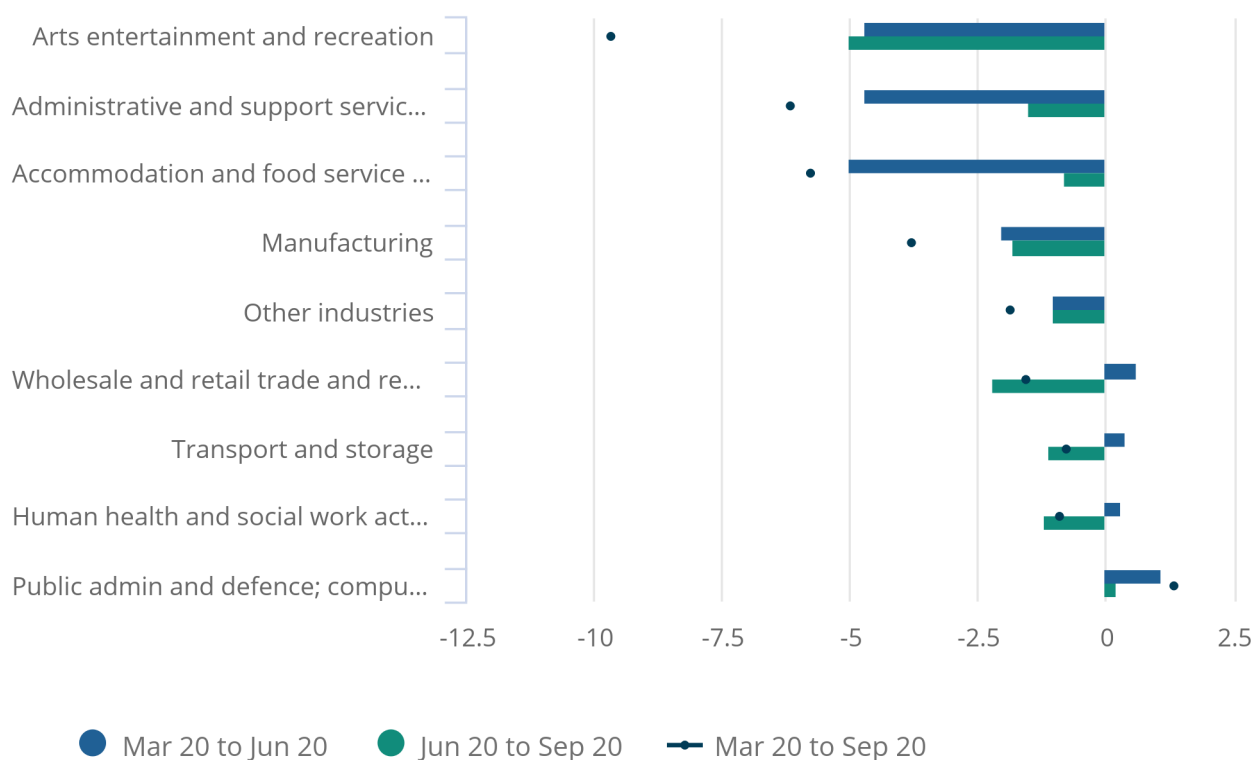
"Arts, entertainment and recreation" is one of the sectors worst affected by the pandemic with 9.7% fewer jobs in September 2020 compared to March 2020, with falls in June 2020 and September 2020.

 "Administrative and support service activities" and "Accommodation and food service activities" were also initially impacted by the pandemic, seeing falls of 4.7% and 5% respectively from March 2020 to June 2020, followed by smaller falls from June 2020 to September 2020, resulting in 6.2% and 5.8% fewer jobs in September 2020 than March 2020.

"Manufacturing" was one of the sectors to have similar falls in jobs from March 2020 to June 2020 and June 2020 to September 2020, with jobs 3.8% lower in September 2020 than March 2020.

Some sectors, including "Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles", "Transport and storage" and "Human health and social work activities" had an increase in jobs from March 2020 to June 2020 but were then impacted by the pandemic in September 2020. The fall in "Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles" is driven by a fall in jobs in retail.

"Public administration and defence; compulsory social security" is the only sector to see an increase in jobs in both June and September, with 1.3% more jobs in September 2020 than March 2020. This was driven by an increase in the public sector employment.

The quarterly movement in "Professional scientific and technical activities" is an increase of 11,000, which is not significant, but it should be noted that the overall movement includes a 36,000 fall in employee jobs and an increase of 46,000 in self-employment jobs.

The quarterly movement in "Construction" is a fall of 104,000, but it should be noted that the overall movement includes a 99,000 fall in self-employment jobs and a fall of 2,000 employee jobs. This fall could be a result of people who have changed to classifying themselves as an employee, even though they have not changed jobs. Similarly, "Education" has fallen by 13,000 jobs, which is caused by a 14,000 decrease in self-employment jobs and an increase of 2,000 employee jobs.

5 . Vacancies and jobs data

Vacancies by industry
Dataset VACS02 | Released 15 December 2020
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 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

After the transition period ends on 31 December 2020, the UK statistical system will continue to collect and produce our wide range of economic and social statistics. We are committed to continued alignment with international statistical standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally and we will work with users of statistics to make sure they have the data they need to support the decisions they have to make.

As the shape of the UK's future statistical relationship with the EU becomes clearer over the coming period, the 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 in early 2021.

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.

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.

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

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."

(*) 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 jobs[1]

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 industry[1]

Standard Industrial Classification (2007) — United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All jobs A-T	Agriculture, forestry & fishing A	Mining & quarrying B	Manufacturing C	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply D	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities E	Construction F	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles G	Transport & storage H	Accommod-ation & food service activities I	Information & communic-ation 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 K	Real estate activities L	Professional scientific & technical activities M	Administrative & support service activities N	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security[4] O	Education P	Human health & social work activities Q	Arts, entertainment & recreation R	Other service activities S	People employed by households,etc. T	Total services 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   Vacancies[1] 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	ALY9
Levels							
Sept-Nov 2018		852	122	128	119	181	301
Sept-Nov 2019	(r)	798	111	118	101	178	290
Oct-Dec 2019		801	110	119	103	180	290
Nov-Jan 2020		807	112	121	108	176	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	(r)	437	89	65	58	75	152
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	494	103	79	70	84	157
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	529	104	83	76	100	166
Sept-Nov 2020	**(p)**	**547**	**104**	**81**	**77**	**109**	**176**
Change on quarter	*	110	16	16	20	34	24
Change %	*	25.1	17.6	24.6	34.0	45.8	16.0
Change on year		-251	-7	-37	-24	-69	-114
Change %		-31.5	-5.9	-31.7	-23.5	-38.8	-39.4

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   Vacancies[1] and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

| | | All Vacancies[1] | Unemployment[2] [3] | Number of unemployed people per vacancy |
		AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels				
Aug-Oct 2018		854	1,373	1.6
Aug-Oct 2019		803	1,281	1.6
Nov-Jan 2020		807	1,343	1.7
Feb-Apr 2020		644	1,367	2.1
May-Jul 2020		379	1,451	3.8
Aug-Oct 2020	**(r)**	**529**	**1,692**	**3.2**
Change on quarter		149	241	-0.6
Change %		39.4	16.6	
Change on year		-274	411	1.6
Change %		-34.2	32.1	

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. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, all face-to-face interviewing for the Labour Force Survey was suspended and replaced with telephone interviewing. This change in mode for first interviews has changed the non-response bias of the survey, affecting interviews from March 2020 onwards. More information can be found in an article on the ONS website (https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/coronavirusanditsimpactonthelabourforcesurvey/2020-10-13). Unemployment estimates presented in this table for March to May 2020 have been reweighted to account for this bias.

21 Vacancies by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)　　　　　　　　　　United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections		All vacancies[1]	Mining & quarrying	Manu-facturing	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)											
Sept-Nov 2018		852	1	62	3	4	27	137	41	92	50
Sept-Nov 2019	(r)	798	1	50	3	4	25	131	34	89	41
Oct-Dec 2019		801	2	52	3	4	26	130	35	86	40
Nov-Jan 2020		807	2	55	3	4	26	129	36	87	42
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	(r)	437	0	31	3	3	18	52	21	25	18
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	494	0	36	3	3	22	60	24	33	23
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	529	1	41	3	4	26	61	29	32	25
Sept-Nov 2020	**(p)**	**547**	**1**	**40**	**4**	**3**	**26**	**64**	**30**	**32**	**29**
Change on quarter	*	110	0	9	1	1	8	13	9	7	11
Change %	*	25.1	50.0	29.2	25.0	28.0	43.3	24.3	42.5	26.1	62.4
Change on year		-251	-1	-10	0	-1	0	-66	-4	-57	-12
Change %		-31.5	-57.1	-19.9	12.9	-13.5	1.6	-50.7	-12.5	-64.0	-29.5
		AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs											
Sept-Nov 2018		2.8	2.5	2.5	2.3	1.8	1.8	3.0	2.8	4.0	3.9
Sept-Nov 2019	(r)	2.6	2.7	2.0	2.3	1.6	1.7	2.8	2.2	3.8	3.1
Oct-Dec 2019		2.6	2.9	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.3	3.7	3.0
Nov-Jan 2020		2.6	3.1	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.4	3.7	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	(r)	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	1.6	0.8	1.4	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.7
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	1.7	1.0	1.6	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.4	1.9
Sept-Nov 2020	**(p)**	**1.8**	**1.2**	**1.6**	**2.6**	**1.4**	**1.8**	**1.4**	**2.0**	**1.4**	**2.2**
Change on quarter	*	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.8
Change on year		-0.8	-1.6	-0.4	0.3	-0.2	0.0	-1.4	-0.3	-2.4	-0.9

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)											
Sept-Nov 2018		38	12	79	54	24	50	131	24	24	756
Sept-Nov 2019	(r)	31	11	79	52	23	51	139	16	19	714
Oct-Dec 2019		32	12	77	55	24	51	138	18	19	716
Nov-Jan 2020		31	11	75	53	22	53	137	22	19	717
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	(r)	17	7	43	31	18	29	112	4	7	383
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	19	7	47	36	19	34	115	5	8	430
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	18	10	49	35	19	39	119	8	11	456
Sept-Nov 2020	**(p)**	**19**	**11**	**51**	**37**	**22**	**39**	**121**	**10**	**10**	**474**
Change on quarter	*	2	5	9	7	4	9	9	6	3	92
Change %	*	10.1	73.8	20.1	21.6	19.1	31.3	8.1	161.5	39.7	23.9
Change on year		-12	0	-27	-15	-2	-12	-18	-6	-9	-240
Change %		-40.1	1.8	-34.7	-28.1	-6.4	-23.7	-13.2	-37.4	-46.6	-33.6
		JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs											
Sept-Nov 2018		3.6	2.4	3.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	3.3	3.2	3.9	2.9
Sept-Nov 2019	(r)	2.9	2.1	2.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	3.4	2.2	2.9	2.7
Oct-Dec 2019		3.0	2.3	2.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	3.4	2.4	2.9	2.7
Nov-Jan 2020		3.0	2.1	2.8	2.0	1.6	2.0	3.4	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	(r)	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.1	2.7	0.5	1.1	1.5
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.3	2.8	0.7	1.3	1.6
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.9	1.1	1.7	1.7
Sept-Nov 2020	**(p)**	**1.8**	**2.1**	**1.9**	**1.4**	**1.6**	**1.4**	**3.0**	**1.4**	**1.6**	**1.8**
Change on quarter	*	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.3
Change on year		-1.2	0.0	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	-0.8	-1.4	-0.9

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