

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: January 2021

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



Contact:
Laura Caldwell
labour.market@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)1633 455955

Release date:
26 January 2021

Next release:
23 February 2021

Notice

26 January 2021

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.

Table of contents

1. [Other pages in this release](#)
2. [Main points](#)
3. [Vacancies for October to December 2020](#)
4. [Jobs for September 2020 \(first published on 15 December 2020\)](#)
5. [Vacancies and jobs data](#)
6. [Glossary](#)
7. [Measuring the data](#)
8. [Strengths and limitations](#)
9. [Related links](#)

1 . Other pages in this release

- [Labour market overview](#)
- [Employment in the UK](#)
- [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain](#)

2 . Main points

- The vacancies recovery has slowed in October to December 2020, with an estimated quarterly increase of 81,000 vacancies to 578,000, the quarterly increase is half of that in July to September 2020.
- The smallest businesses, with one to nine employees, have only 1,000 (0.8%) fewer vacancies than a year ago; despite a quarterly increase of 35,000 (22.3%) vacancies for the largest businesses with 2,500 or more employees, estimated vacancies are still 95,000 (33.0%) less than a year ago.
- Accommodation and food services has been impacted by the further lockdowns and restrictions across the UK at the end of 2020, with an estimated quarterly decrease of 7,000 vacancies and estimated vacancies 68.9% lower than a year ago
- Public administration and defence; compulsory social security and construction are the only sectors with an estimated annual increase in vacancies.
- Human health and social work activities remains the largest sector in terms of both vacancy level (128,000) and ratio (3.1) and accounts for 22.2% of all vacancies.
- 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 - these job figures were first published on the 15 December 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 October to December 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, October to December 2020, are 2 October, 6 November and 4 December 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: The vacancies recovery has slowed in October to December 2020 with an estimated 578,000 vacancies, the quarterly increase of 81,000 is half of that in July to September 2020

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between October to December 2001 and October to December 2020

Figure 1: The vacancies recovery has slowed in October to December 2020 with an estimated 578,000 vacancies, the quarterly increase of 81,000 is half of that in July to September 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.

The sharp decline in vacancies at the start of the pandemic was initially followed by signs of a quick and sustained recovery, however the recovery slowed in the autumn as further restrictions and national lockdowns were introduced. In October to December there were an estimated 578,000 vacancies, which is a quarterly increase of 81,000 vacancies. This was the smallest quarterly increase since July to September. The estimated vacancies for the smallest businesses, with one to nine employees, are almost back to vacancy levels of a year ago at 0.8% lower. The largest businesses with 2,500 or more employees had the largest quarterly increase of 35,000 vacancies since July to September. Despite the increase, estimated vacancies remain below the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels for larger businesses and are 95,000 (33.0%) less than a year ago and estimated total vacancies are 224,000 (27.9%) 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 at the end of 2020 were impacted by second national lockdowns and further restrictions with a fall of around 10% from October to December

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

Figure 2: The experimental single-month series indicate that estimated vacancies at the end of 2020 were impacted by second national lockdowns and further restrictions with a fall of around 10% from October to December

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



Source: Office for National Statistics – X06 dataset

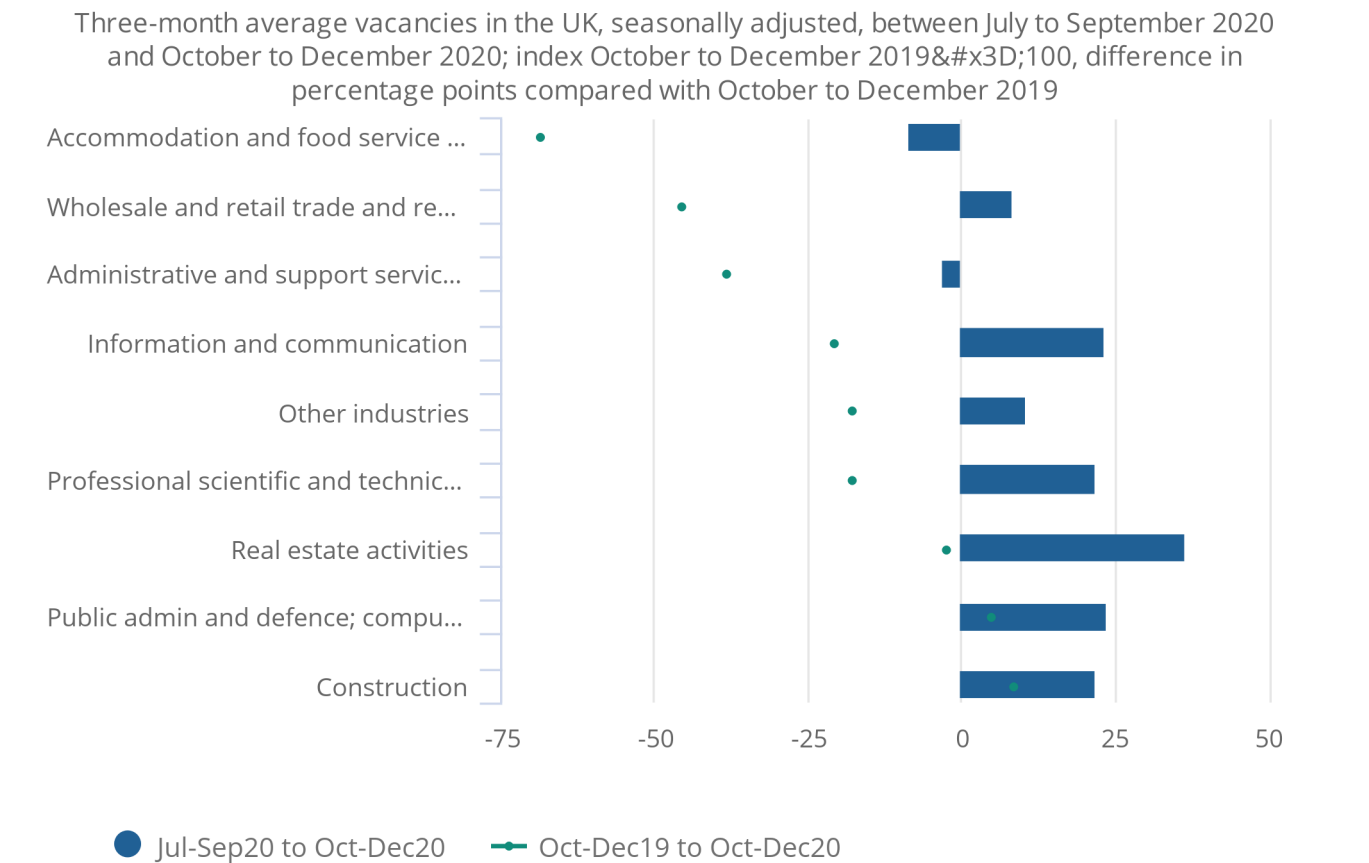
The three-month average non-seasonally adjusted series in Figure 2 is more volatile than the seasonally adjusted series shown in Figure 1.

While the experimental single-month estimates should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months, they do indicate estimated vacancies at the end of 2020 were impacted by second national lockdowns and further restrictions, with a fall of around 10% from October to December.

Figure 3: Whilst some sectors have recovered well, second national lockdowns and further restrictions have particularly impacted vacancies in accommodation and food service activities

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between July to September 2020 and October to December 2020; index October to December 2019=100, difference in percentage points compared with October to December 2019

Figure 3: Whilst some sectors have recovered well, second national lockdowns and further restrictions have particularly impacted vacancies in accommodation and food service activities



Source: Office for National Statistics - Vacancy Survey

Accommodation and food services has been impacted by the further lockdowns and restrictions across the UK at the end of 2020; it had the largest quarterly decrease across all sectors of 8.5% when indexed to October to December 2019 levels. Estimated vacancies are 68.9% lower than a year ago. The small quarterly decrease in administrative and support service activities was partly driven by recruitment drives at the end of the summer increasing the number of vacancies in the previous quarter.

Whilst wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles had a quarterly increase in estimated vacancies in October to December 2020 it is still one of the sectors that has been impacted the most by the pandemic, with estimated vacancies 45.7% lower than a year ago. Within that sector, retail has been particularly impacted by the pandemic, with vacancies 48.3% less than a year ago.

Real estate has seen the largest increase in vacancies across all sectors between July to September 2020 and October to December 2020, when indexed to October to December 2019 levels, due to the stamp duty relief and built up demand during the first lockdown. Professional, scientific and technical activities has also seen a large increase in vacancies in the latest quarter, driven by an increase in consultancy and accountants in the build up to the end of the financial year.

The sectors with an estimated annual increase in vacancies are public administration and defence; compulsory social security and construction. The increase in public administration and defence; compulsory social security is being driven by temporary recruitment for the 2021 Census. Construction was one of the sectors to see a large quarterly fall in vacancies at the start of the pandemic in April to June 2020, with a consistent recovery since the summer.

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 the start of December, followed by decreases at the end of December 2020 and start of January 2021. The online job advert estimates for the first week in December are 26.3% lower than a year ago, very similar to 27.1% lower than a year ago in our Vacancy Survey, however the Vacancy Survey had shown stronger growth up to October followed by decreases in November and December.

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 in the slower continued growth in online job advert estimates to the faster growth in the Vacancy Survey to October. A delay in removing the online job adverts after filling vacancies could also explain the lag in the decrease in online job advert estimates compared with the Vacancy Survey.

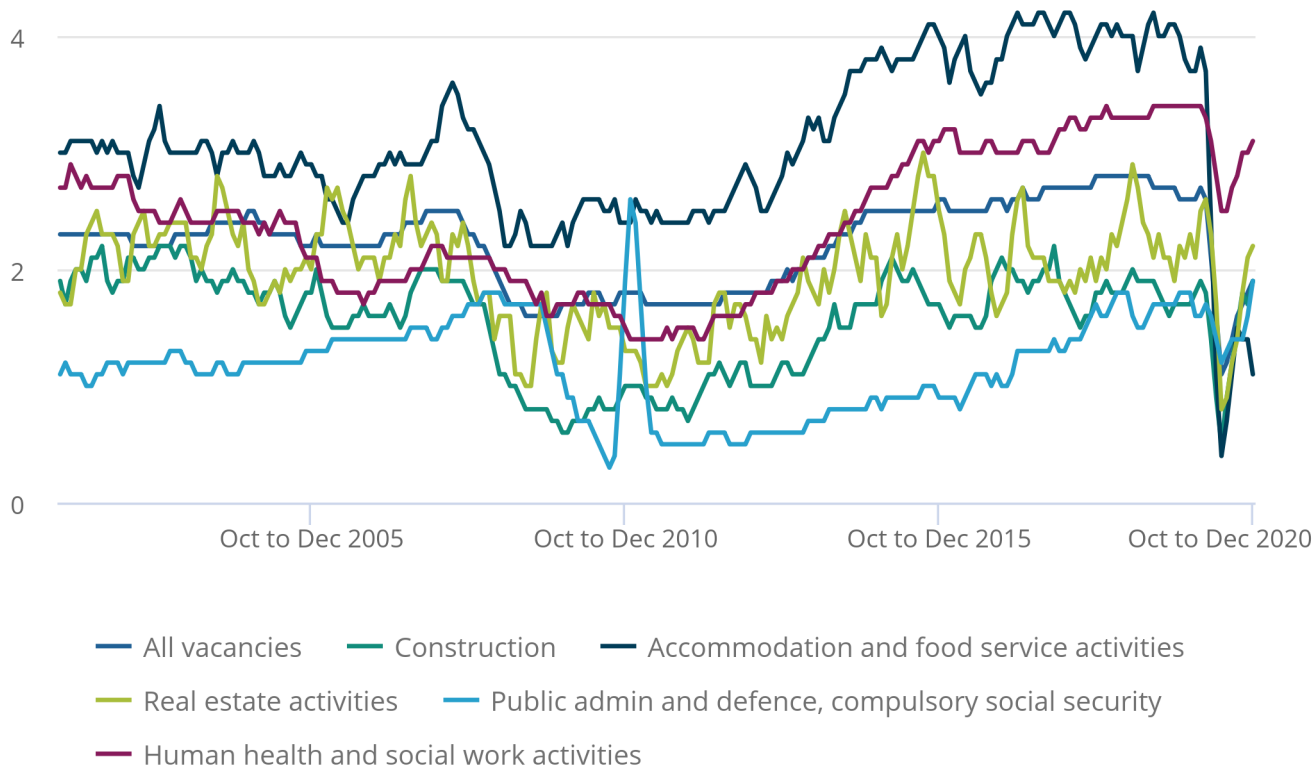
The latest weekly online job adverts publish vacancies with a lag of six days and include regional estimates of vacancies.

Figure 4: Accommodation and food service activities has the lowest vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio at 1.1, whilst human health and social work activities has the largest at 3.1

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

Figure 4: Accommodation and food service activities has the lowest vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio at 1.1, whilst human health and social work activities has the largest at 3.1

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



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

For October to December 2020, it is estimated that:

- the vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio is 1.9, although it is still 0.7 lower than a year ago
- the sector with the lowest vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio of 1.1 is accommodation and food service activities, which has been impacted by further lockdowns and restrictions at the end of 2020
- construction and public administration and defence; compulsory social security are the only sectors the vacancies per 100 employee jobs ratio have increased on the year, both by 0.1
- human health and social work activities remains the largest sector in terms of both vacancy level (128,000) and ratio (3.1) and accounts for 22.2% of all vacancies
- most sectors show negative annual movements; the two sectors contributing the most to the 224,000 decrease in all vacancies are wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (down 59,000) and accommodation and food service activities (down 59,000)

4 . Jobs for September 2020 (first published on 15 December 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](#). 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

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



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:

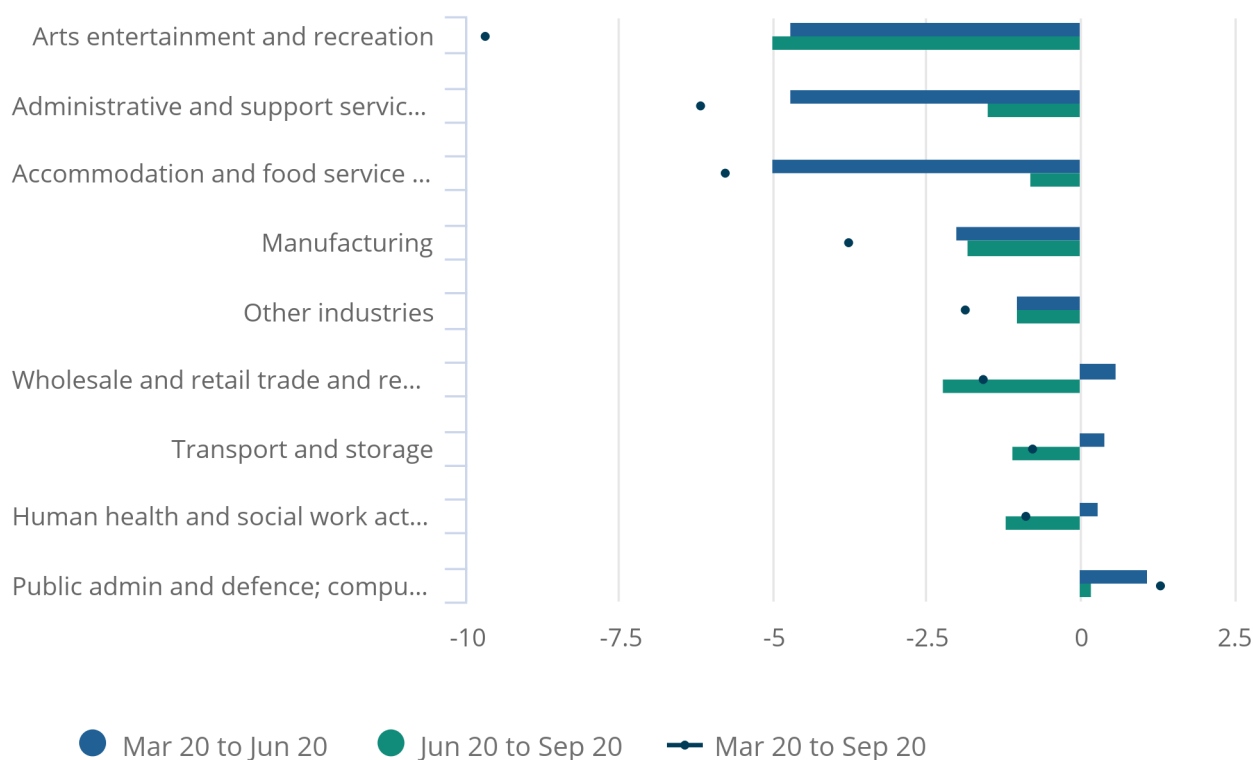
- the number of jobs had been generally increasing since 2013, but fell by 475,000 to an estimated 34.68 million jobs in the UK in September 2020; this was the largest quarterly fall since records began in June 1959
- the 475,000 decline in jobs comprises a fall of 378,000 in employee jobs, a fall of 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 with 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 2020=100, difference in percentage points compared with 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 2020=100, difference in percentage points compared with March 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics - Workforce jobs

Arts, entertainment and recreation is one of the sectors worst affected by the pandemic with 9.7% fewer jobs in September 2020 compared with 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. This resulted 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 26 January 2021

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

As the UK enters into a new Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU, the UK statistical system will continue to produce and publish our wide range of economic and social statistics and analysis. We are committed to continued alignment with the highest international statistical standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally, and ensuring the general public, statistical users and decision makers have the data they need to be informed.

As the shape of the UK's future statistical relationship with the EU becomes clearer over the coming period, the Office for National Statistics (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 early this year.

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. Adzuna [Online job advert estimates](#) are also published as part of the [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy](#) release.

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 Sep 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 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.](#)

Statistical Bulletin table number	Table description	Dataset
SUMMARY		
1	Labour Force Survey Summary	Dataset A02 SA
2 (*)	Labour market status by age group	Dataset A05 SA
EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS		
3	Full-time, part-time & temporary workers	Dataset EMP01 SA
4	Public and private sector employment	Dataset EMP02
4(1)	Public sector employment by industry	Dataset EMP03
4(2)	Public sector employment by sector classification: Headcount	Dataset PSE
5	Workforce jobs summary	Dataset JOBS01
6 (**)	Workforce jobs by industry	Dataset JOBS02
7	Actual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR01 SA
7(1)	Usual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR02 SA
NON-UK WORKERS		
8	Employment by country of birth and nationality	Dataset EMP06
8(1)	Unemployment and economic inactivity by country of birth and nat	Dataset A12
UNEMPLOYMENT		
9	Unemployment by age and duration	Dataset UNEM01 SA
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY		
10(*)	Economic activity by age	Dataset A05 SA
11	Economic inactivity by reason	Dataset INAC01 SA
12	Labour market and educational status of young people	Dataset A06 SA
EARNINGS		
13	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Total pay	Dataset EARN01
14	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Bonus pay	Dataset EARN01
15	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Regular pay	Dataset EARN01
16	Average Weekly Earnings real and nominal (summary table)	Dataset EARN01
INTERNATIONAL SUMMARY		
17	International comparisons of employment and unemployment	Dataset A10
LABOUR DISPUTES		
18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
VACANCIES		
19	Vacancies by size of business	Dataset VACS03
20	Vacancies and unemployment	Dataset VACS01
21	Vacancies by industry	Dataset VACS02
REDUNDANCIES		
22	Redundancies levels and rates	Dataset RED01 SA
REGIONAL SUMMARY		
23	Regional labour market summary	Dataset A07

(*) 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 jobs¹

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 industry¹

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	Accommodation & food service activities I	Information & communication 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 Vacancies¹ by size of business

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

		Number of employees					
		All Vacancies	1-9	10-49	50-249	250-2499	2500+
		AP2Y	ALY5	ALY6	ALY7	ALY8	ALY9
Levels							
Oct-Dec 2018		851	125	126	120	180	300
Oct-Dec 2019	(r)	802	109	120	104	180	289
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		437	89	65	58	75	152
Jul-Sept 2020	(r)	497	104	79	70	87	158
Aug-Oct 2020	(r)	533	105	83	76	102	167
Sept-Nov 2020	(r)	552	105	80	78	111	177
Oct-Dec 2020	(p)	578	109	77	79	120	194
Change on quarter	*	81	5	-1	9	33	35
Change %	*	16.3	4.7	-1.8	13.0	38.2	22.3
Change on year		-224	-1	-43	-25	-60	-95
Change %		-27.9	-0.8	-35.6	-23.9	-33.5	-33.0

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 Vacancies¹ and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

		All Vacancies ¹	Unemployment ^{2,3}	Number of unemployed people per vacancy
		AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels				
Sep-Nov 2018		852	1,370	1.6
Sep-Nov 2019		798	1,306	1.6
Dec-Feb 2020		818	1,364	1.7
Mar-May 2020		482	1,384	2.9
Jun-Aug 2020		437	1,522	3.5
Sep-Nov 2020	(r)	552	1,724	3.1
Change on quarter		115	202	-0.4
Change %		26.2	13.3	
Change on year		-246	418	1.5
Change %		-30.8	32.0	

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.

VACANCIES

21 Vacancies by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All vacancies ¹	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	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)										
Oct-Dec 2018	851	1	62	3	4	27	138	40	92	51
Oct-Dec 2019 (r)	802	1	52	3	4	25	130	35	86	41
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	437	0	31	3	3	18	52	21	25	18
Jul-Sept 2020 (r)	497	0	37	3	3	22	60	24	34	23
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	533	1	42	3	4	26	62	29	33	25
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	552	1	41	3	3	26	65	30	32	29
Oct-Dec 2020 (p)	578	1	42	3	3	28	71	30	27	32
Change on quarter *	81	0	5	0	0	6	11	5	-7	10
Change % *	16.3	75.0	13.6	-6.1	6.7	25.0	18.7	22.1	-21.5	42.0
Change on year	-224	-1	-10	0	0	2	-59	-5	-59	-9
Change %	-27.9	-50.0	-19.1	0.0	-11.1	8.3	-45.7	-13.9	-68.9	-20.9

	AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Oct-Dec 2018	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.9	3.0	2.8	4.0	4.0
Oct-Dec 2019 (r)	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.7	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	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	1.5	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.7
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	1.7	1.0	1.7	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.3	2.0	1.4	1.9
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	1.8	1.2	1.6	2.5	1.4	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.2
Oct-Dec 2020 (p)	1.9	1.4	1.7	2.3	1.4	1.9	1.5	2.0	1.1	2.4
Change on quarter *	0.3	0.6	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.7
Change on year	-0.7	-1.4	-0.4	0.0	-0.2	0.1	-1.3	-0.3	-2.5	-0.6

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)										
Oct-Dec 2018	38	13	78	51	23	51	132	23	24	753
Oct-Dec 2019 (r)	31	12	77	56	24	51	138	18	19	717
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	17	7	43	31	18	29	112	4	7	383
Jul-Sept 2020 (r)	19	7	47	36	19	34	116	5	9	432
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	18	10	49	35	19	39	121	9	12	459
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	20	11	51	38	21	39	123	10	11	480
Oct-Dec 2020 (p)	20	12	63	34	25	40	128	11	11	503
Change on quarter *	1	4	17	-2	6	6	12	6	2	70
Change % *	4.8	59.5	35.8	-4.5	29.3	16.7	10.3	118.0	23.9	16.3
Change on year	-12	0	-14	-21	1	-11	-10	-7	-8	-214
Change %	-36.7	-2.5	-17.8	-38.6	4.7	-22.1	-7.4	-38.8	-42.9	-29.9
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Oct-Dec 2018	3.6	2.6	3.0	1.9	1.8	1.9	3.3	3.1	3.9	2.9
Oct-Dec 2019 (r)	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	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	1.4	1.3	2.8	0.7	1.4	1.6
Aug-Oct 2020 (r)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	3.0	1.2	1.8	1.8
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.5	3.0	1.4	1.7	1.8
Oct-Dec 2020 (p)	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.3	1.9	1.5	3.1	1.5	1.7	1.9
Change on quarter *	0.1	0.8	0.6	-0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3
Change on year	-1.1	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.9	-1.3	-0.8

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