

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: March 2021

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



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Next release:
20 April 2021

Notice

23 March 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.

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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

- The number of job vacancies in December 2020 to February 2021 remained more than 200,000 lower than a year previously, and the number of jobs fell by 1.2 million jobs in the year to December 2020; the arts, entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services industries continue to be hit hardest on both measures.
- In December 2020 to February 2021 there were an estimated 601,000 job vacancies, which is a 26.8% (220,000) fall compared with a year ago; growth in the number of vacancies has slowed and experimental single-month statistics indicate a fall in early February, although experimental statistics of online job adverts provided by Adzuna suggest a potential acceleration into March.
- The weakening in job vacancies to February 2021 is more evident among smaller companies; businesses employing one to nine employees had increased vacancies at a faster rate than other-sized businesses in the second half of 2020, but they had 10.7% fewer vacancies in December 2020 to February 2021 compared with a quarter ago.
- Lockdown restrictions continue to affect jobs and vacancies in two industry sectors more than others, with the number of vacancies in accommodation and food services industry down 79.8% (73,000) from a year ago and 45.1% from the previous quarter; vacancies in arts, entertainment and recreation are down 72.6% (16,000) from a year ago and 37.1% from the previous quarter.
- The total number of workforce jobs in the UK in December 2020 was estimated at 34.4 million, down by 1.2 million from a year ago, with employee jobs down 722,000; between September and December the quarterly fall in jobs slowed to 196,000, which is less than a half of the fall observed in each of the previous two quarters.

3 . Vacancies for December 2020 to February 2021

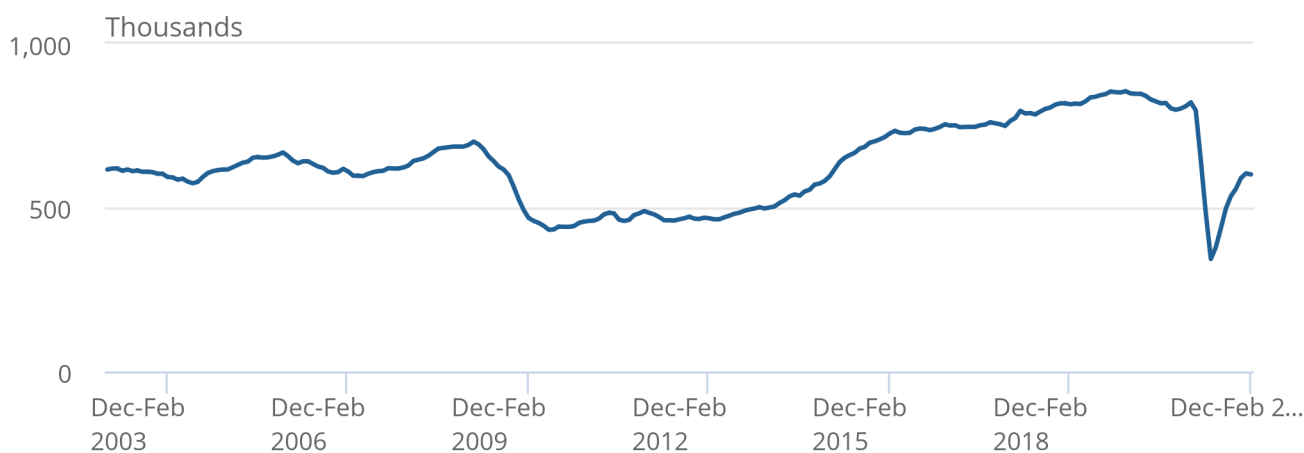
The monthly Vacancy Survey asks businesses for the number of external vacancies on a specified count date (always a Friday) that falls in the first eight days of each month.

Figure 1: The vacancies recovery has stalled in recent months, and the estimated 601,000 vacancies in December 2020 to February 2021 is 26.8% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between December 2001 to February 2002 and December 2020 to February 2021

Figure 1: The vacancies recovery has stalled in recent months, and the estimated 601,000 vacancies in December 2020 to February 2021 is 26.8% lower than a year ago

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between December 2001 to February 2002 and December 2020 to February 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

In December 2020 to February 2021, there were an estimated 601,000 vacancies. This is 220,000 (26.8%) fewer than the estimated 821,000 vacancies a year earlier, prior to the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.

Vacancies declined sharply from April 2020, at the start of the pandemic. This was initially followed by signs of a quick recovery, but the recovery slowed in late autumn as further restrictions and national lockdowns were introduced. The increase in vacancies over the latest quarter was 44,000, which is a slowdown relative to recent periods. There had been a quarterly increase of 69,000 in the three months to January 2021, 93,000 in the previous period and more than 100,000 in each of the three periods prior to that.

The headline vacancy estimates are based on three-month averages, which naturally involve some time lag. Insight into trends in February 2021 alone is provided by two experimental sources. Firstly, single-month vacancy estimates (see [Strengths and limitations](#)), available in [Dataset X06](#), indicate that there were 31% fewer vacancies in February 2021 (reference date 5 February) than in February 2020, which is the weakest monthly figure since September 2020. Meanwhile, Adzuna [Online job advert estimates](#) in our [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy](#) release showed some strengthening in online job adverts at the start of February (the number being 20% lower than a year earlier, compared with 28% in the first week in January). The differing pattern between the Vacancy Survey and Adzuna reflects, in part, that smaller companies (whose vacancies are less likely to be advertised online or feature in the Adzuna estimates) reduced their vacancies at the start of the year, as described under Figure 3.

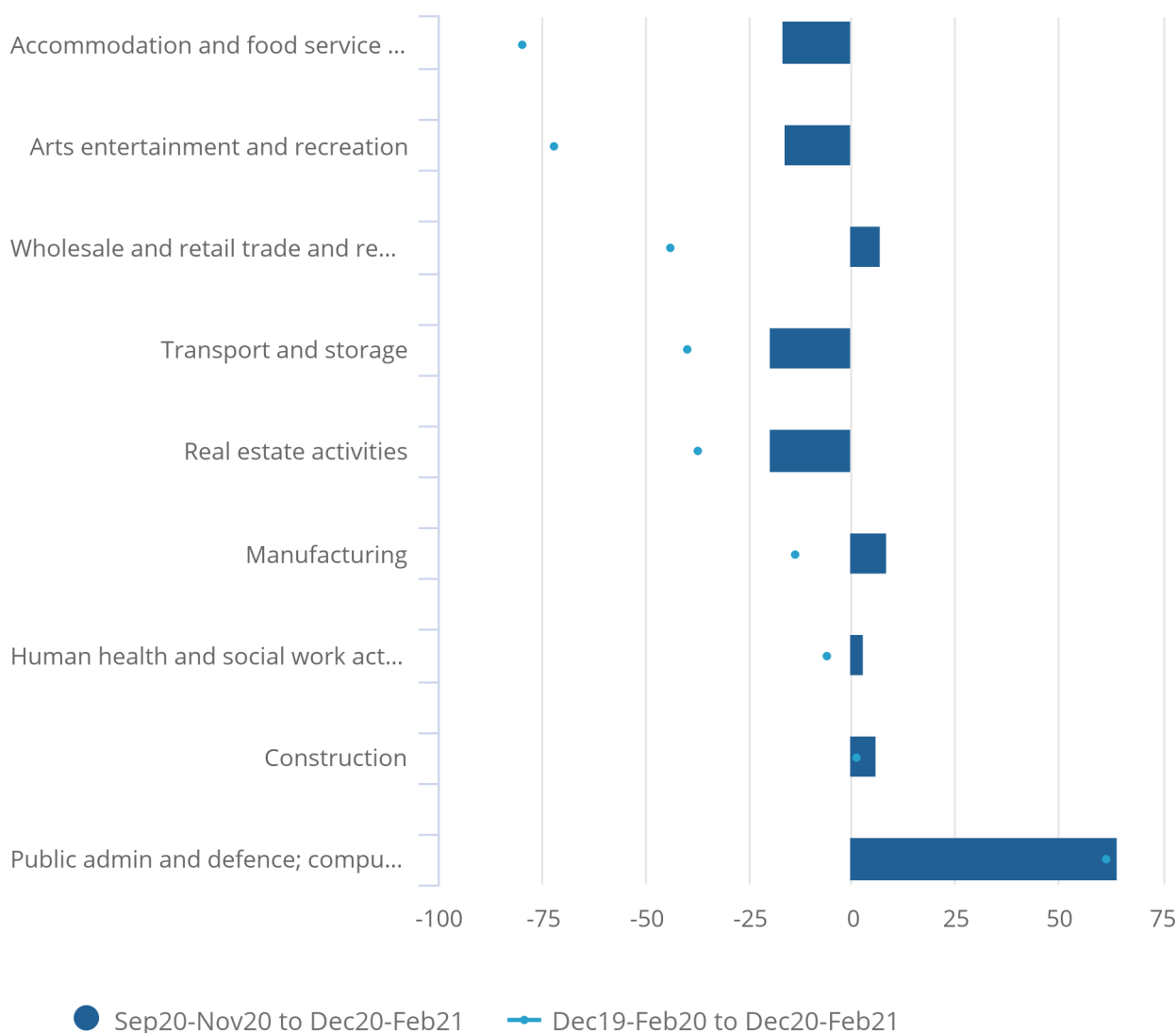
The [Adzuna estimates](#) also provide an early insight into a possible strengthening of vacancies later in February and into the first two weeks of March 2021. However, the Adzuna estimates are experimental and should be interpreted with caution, most notably because they cover vacancies advertised online only.

Figure 2: Accommodation and food services saw a further decline in vacancies in the three months to February 2021

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted difference between December 2020 to February 2021 and both September to November 2020 and December 2019 to February 2020 when both indexed to December 2019 to February 2020=100

Figure 2: Accommodation and food services saw a further decline in vacancies in the three months to February 2021

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted difference between December 2020 to February 2021 and both September to November 2020 and December 2019 to February 2020 when both indexed to December 2019 to February 2020=100



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

Of the 19 industries for which the Office for National Statistics publishes vacancy estimates, all but three (construction, public administration and defence and compulsory social security, and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning) have seen an annual fall in number of vacancies since the start of the pandemic. Particularly large falls in vacancies have been seen in the following industries:

- accommodation and food services (down 80% from a year ago)
- arts, entertainment and recreation (down 73%)
- wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (down 44%)

During December 2020 to February 2021, most industries saw an increase in vacancies compared with a quarter earlier, but each of accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment and recreation, real estate activities, and transport and storage experienced a fall. The additional lockdowns and restrictions across the UK at the end of the year will have affected these falls, although in the case of transport and storage the fall is also affected by increased vacancies in the previous quarter in the run-up to Christmas.

Among industries that saw a growth in vacancies over the quarter, the most notable was public administration and defence and compulsory social security (to be up by over 60% from a year ago). This was driven by temporary recruitment for the 2021 Census.

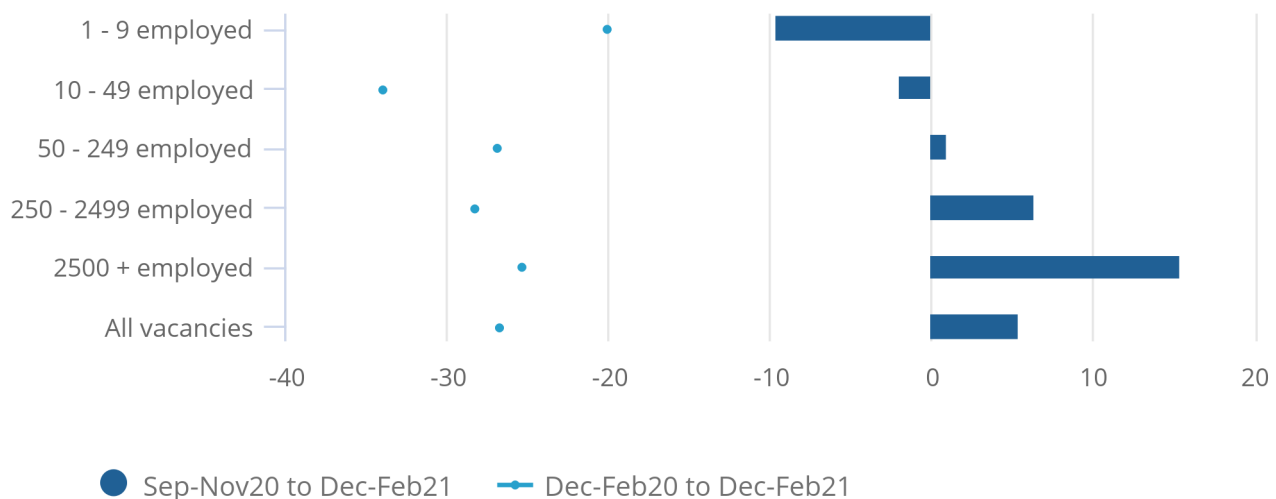
The ratio of vacancies to employee jobs is highest (3.1 per 100) in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning industry, and human health and social work activities. It is now lowest (0.8) in each of accommodation and food services, and arts, entertainment and recreation, both of which had a rate of over 3.0 prior to the pandemic.

Figure 3: Smaller companies reduced their vacancies again in December 2020 to February 2021

Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted difference between December 2020 to February 2021 and both September to November 2020 and December 2019 to February 2020 when both indexed to December 2019 to February 2020=100

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Three-month average vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted difference between December 2020 to February 2021 and both September to November 2020 and December 2019 to February 2020 when both indexed to December 2019 to February 2020=100



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

Following an initial fall in vacancies of over 50% in all company size bands during early summer 2020, the smallest companies (employing one to nine employees) started to increase their vacancies much more quickly than other size bands. However, vacancies in these smaller companies fell by 10.7% in December 2020 to February 2021 compared with the previous quarter, while larger companies continued to add vacancies. This may reflect greater flexibility among smaller companies in adjusting vacancies to the latest economic and social conditions.

4 . Jobs for December 2020

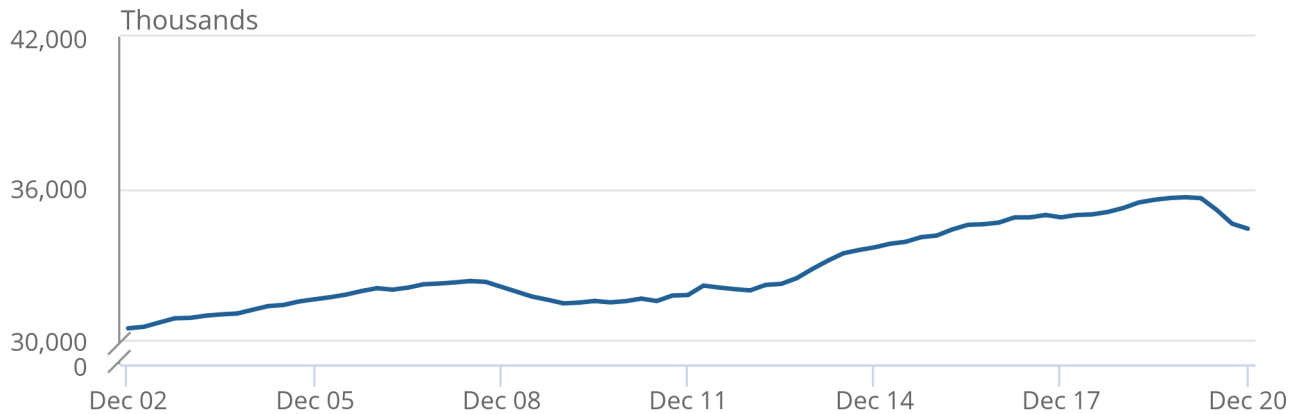
Figure 4 shows estimates of workforce jobs for December 2020. The estimates are provided from various sources. Those of employee jobs in the private sector are drawn from surveys relating to a reference date of 11 December 2021, whereas those of self-employment jobs are drawn from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which covers a three-month period from start of November 2020 to end of January 2021. As outlined in [Section 7: Measuring the data](#), LFS responses are weighted to official 2018-based population projections on demographic trends that pre-date the coronavirus pandemic. In our Coronavirus and the impact on payroll employment article we analyse the population totals used in the LFS weighting process and state our intention to make adjustments. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

Figure 4: The total number of jobs in December 2020 was 34.4 million, a fall of 1.2 million from a year earlier

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

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



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

In December 2020 there were an estimated 34.4 million jobs in the UK. This represents a fall of 196,000 from September 2020, following larger falls in workforce jobs in each of June 2020 (compared with March) of 460,000, and September 2020 (compared with June) of 548,000.

The December 2020 estimate represents a fall of 1,242,000 jobs from December 2019.

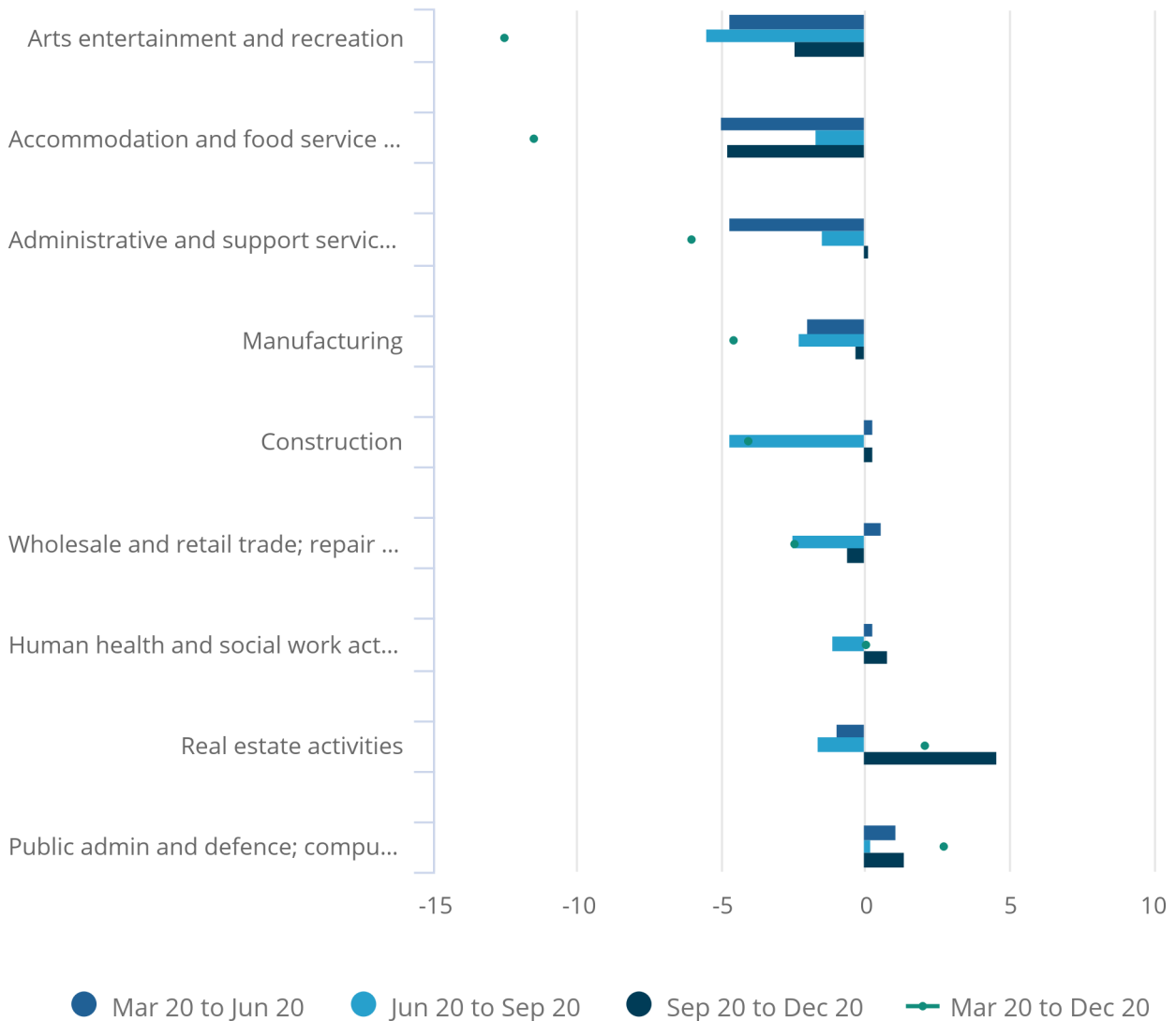
The total number of jobs includes both employee jobs and self-employment jobs. The employee jobs estimate fell by 100,000 from September and by 722,000 from December 2019. In comparison, the annual fall in number of employees on payroll reported in the [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted dataset](#) is 793,000. Although the two estimates are based on different definitions which reflect that any employee might have more than one paid job, the two series display general consistency.

Figure 5: Over 10% of jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services have been lost since the start of the pandemic

Workforce jobs, seasonally adjusted, between March 2020 to December 2020; index March 2020=100, difference in percentage points compared with March 2020

Figure 5: Over 10% of jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services have been lost since the start of the pandemic

Workforce jobs, seasonally adjusted, between March 2020 to December 2020; index March 2020=100, difference in percentage points compared with March 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Workforce jobs

The coronavirus pandemic has affected jobs differently across industries. In comparison with a year earlier, four industries had more jobs in December 2020, these being public administration and defence, compulsory social security (a rise of 54,000); real estate activities (a rise of 24,000); financial and insurance activities (up 5,000); and professional, scientific and technical services with a rise of under 2,000.

In contrast, most industries have seen a contraction in the number of jobs. In terms of number of jobs lost, the hardest-hit sectors have been accommodation and food services with a fall of 289,000 (11.4%) since December 2019; administration and support services activities with a fall of 212,000 (7.0%); and wholesale and retail trade with a fall of 149,000 (3%). However, the hardest-hit sector in terms of percentage of jobs lost has been arts, entertainment and recreation, down 13.3% (which equates to 141,000 jobs).

Some industries have shown stronger signs of recent recovery than others. Both construction, and administrative and support service activities showed some growth in job numbers from September 2020 to December 2020, following notable falls earlier in 2020. However, quarterly falls were seen in both accommodation and food services (down 122,000 or 5.2%) and arts, entertainment and recreation (down 25,000 or 2.7%). Figure 5 plots quarterly changes indexed to March, immediately prior to COVID-19-related restrictions.

Note that detail about employment in the public sector is provided in our separate publication [Public Sector Employment](#).

5 . Vacancies and jobs data

[Vacancies by industry](#)

Dataset VACS02 | Released 23 March 2021

Estimates of vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[Workforce jobs summary](#)

Dataset JOBS01 | Released 23 March 2021

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 23 March 2021

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 employers 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 on 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 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 Co-operation 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 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 later 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.

Upcoming changes

The next vacancies and jobs bulletin (20 April 2021) will include revisions to estimates of vacancies back to the start of the series in 2001. Revisions will result from a review of the seasonal adjustment parameters and from taking on updated sources of additional information. This is an annual process, as outlined in the [Vacancy Survey QMI](#).

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 \(BRES\)](#).

The STES estimates are drawn for a specified date early in the last month of each calendar quarter. The March 2020 data were from 13 March 2020 before the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.

Self-employment estimates from the LFS are based on interviews from the three months that include the estimated month, and each month either side. So, for example, the self-employment estimates for each December will be based on LFS estimates for the period November to January. Given this, 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. For example, 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.

LFS responses are weighted to official 2018-based population projections on demographic trends that pre-date the coronavirus pandemic. In our [Coronavirus and the impact on payroll employment](#) article we analyse the population totals used in the LFS weighting process and state our intention to make adjustments. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

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 expressed as a [coefficient of variation](#), giving a 95% [confidence interval](#) for estimates of approximately plus or minus 20,000.

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		UK	
		Estimate for Dec 2020	Sampling variability of estimate ¹
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	386	±45
B	Mining and quarrying	55	±7
C	Manufacturing	2,553	±40
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	148	±9
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities	208	±9
F	Construction	2,225	±64
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,922	±57
H	Transport and storage	1,735	±44
I	Accommodation and food service activities	2,232	±55
J	Information and communication	1,459	±53
K	Financial and insurance activities	1,142	±31
L	Real estate activities	662	±44
M	Professional scientific and technical activities	3,188	±76
N	Administrative and support service activities	2,829	±63
O	Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	1,586	±16
P	Education	2,915	±50
Q	Human health and social work activities	4,404	±60

R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	906	±49
S/T	Other service activities /Private Households	946	±45
	All jobs	34,500	±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). However, in 2021 this article will be delayed because of our intention to make adjustments in LFS weighting where appropriate.

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

[Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: March 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 23 March 2021

Experimental monthly estimates of paid employees and their pay from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data.

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 na	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

	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
Dec 18	35,233	30,476	4,584	152	22
Mar 19	35,452	30,619	4,653	153	27
Jun 19	35,557	30,694	4,670	152	41
Sep 19	35,627	30,829	4,615	153	29
Dec 19	35,658	30,781	4,690	153	35
Mar 20 ³	35,620	30,908	4,527	154	31
Jun 20	35,160	30,609	4,365	156	30
Sep 20 (r)	34,612	30,159	4,267	157	30
Dec 20 (p)	34,417	30,059	4,166	158	34
Change on quarter	-196	-100	-101	1	4
Change %	-0.6	-0.3	-2.4	0.7	13.5
Change on year	-1,242	-722	-523	5	-1
Change %	-3.5	-2.3	-11.2	3.1	-4.3

Relationship between columns: 1=2+3+4+5

See footnotes under table 6

6 Workforce jobs by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All jobs	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	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
	A-T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	DYDC	JWR5	JWR6	JWR7	JWR8	JWR9	JWS2	JWS3	JWS4	JWS5	JWS6
Dec 18	35,233	383	59	2,683	149	224	2,352	5,005	1,798	2,455	1,470
Mar 19	35,452	389	62	2,705	142	228	2,365	5,037	1,783	2,453	1,491
Jun 19	35,557	397	61	2,689	144	223	2,338	5,016	1,822	2,513	1,494
Sep 19	35,627	404	61	2,692	142	220	2,312	5,004	1,805	2,517	1,500
Dec 19	35,658	411	62	2,676	148	216	2,341	4,993	1,795	2,528	1,507
Mar 20 ³	35,620	385	67	2,680	149	213	2,319	4,970	1,790	2,531	1,531
Jun 20	35,160	372	62	2,626	146	209	2,327	5,000	1,796	2,404	1,491
Sep 20 (r)	34,612	432	55	2,564	144	211	2,217	4,876	1,766	2,361	1,470
Dec 20 (p)	34,417	387	55	2,556	148	208	2,225	4,844	1,718	2,239	1,461
Change on quarter	-196	-45	0	-8	4	-4	8	-31	-48	-122	-9
Change %	-0.6	-10.4	0.3	-0.3	3.1	-1.7	0.4	-0.6	-2.7	-5.2	-0.6
Change on year	-1,242	-24	-7	-120	0	-9	-116	-149	-77	-289	-45
Change %	-3.5	-5.9	-11.5	-4.5	0.0	-4.0	-4.9	-3.0	-4.3	-11.4	-3.0

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional scientific & technical activities	Administrative & support service activities	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security ⁴	Education	Human health & social work activities	Arts, entertainment & recreation	Other service activities	People employed by households, etc.	Total services
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	G-T
	JWS7	JWS8	JWS9	JWT2	JWT3	JWT4	JWT5	JWT6	JWT7	KW78	JWT8
Dec 18	1,123	592	3,125	3,010	1,505	2,949	4,346	1,019	941	45	29,384
Mar 19	1,132	579	3,183	3,023	1,512	2,955	4,380	1,032	949	54	29,562
Jun 19	1,134	590	3,216	3,023	1,511	2,938	4,414	1,028	946	59	29,705
Sep 19	1,143	614	3,203	3,046	1,524	2,950	4,426	1,044	965	54	29,796
Dec 19	1,137	638	3,186	3,022	1,533	2,954	4,414	1,054	990	53	29,804
Mar 20 ³	1,147	649	3,251	2,992	1,544	2,951	4,409	1,045	942	55	29,806
Jun 20	1,150	642	3,154	2,852	1,562	2,948	4,422	996	961	40	29,417
Sep 20 (r)	1,134	632	3,163	2,806	1,565	2,932	4,374	939	923	48	28,989
Dec 20 (p)	1,142	662	3,188	2,809	1,587	2,917	4,408	914	906	42	28,837
Change on quarter	9	30	24	3	22	-15	35	-25	-17	-5	-152
Change %	0.8	4.7	0.8	0.1	1.4	-0.5	0.8	-2.7	-1.9	-11.2	-0.5
Change on year	5	24	2	-212	54	-37	-6	-141	-84	-10	-966
Change %	0.5	3.8	0.1	-7.0	3.5	-1.3	-0.1	-13.3	-8.5	-19.4	-3.2

Workforce jobs enquiries 01633 456776

Sources: Employer surveys, Labour Force Survey and administrative sources

1. Workforce Jobs estimates include data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). LFS responses are weighted to official population projections. As the current projections are 2018-based they are based on demographic trends that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. We are analysing the population totals used in the weighting process and intend to make adjustments where appropriate. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

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

	All Vacancies	Number of employees				
		1-9	10-49	50-249	250-2499	2500+
		AP2Y	ALY5	ALY6	ALY7	ALY8
Levels						
Dec-Feb 2019	848	128	125	115	181	299
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	821	118	122	112	172	298
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	497	104	79	70	87	158
Aug-Oct 2020	535	107	83	77	103	164
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	557	105	83	81	112	176
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	590	113	80	81	120	197
Nov-Jan 2021 (r)	604	106	78	81	123	216
Dec-Feb 2021 (p)	601	94	80	82	123	222
Change on quarter *	44	-11	-2	1	11	46
Change % *	8.0	-10.7	-2.8	1.4	9.8	26.0
Change on year	-220	-24	-41	-30	-49	-76
Change %	-26.8	-20.1	-34.0	-27.0	-28.4	-25.4

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 Vacancies¹ and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	All Vacancies ¹	Unemployment ² ₃	Number of unemployed people per vacancy
	AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels			
Nov-Jan 2019	855	1,338	1.6
Nov-Jan 2020	809	1,343	1.7
Feb-Apr 2020	644	1,367	2.1
May-Jul 2020	379	1,451	3.8
Aug-Oct 2020	535	1,692	3.2
Nov-Jan 2021 (r)	604	1,703	2.8
Change on quarter	69	11	-0.3
Change %	12.9	0.7	
Change on year	-205	360	1.2
Change %	-25.3	26.8	

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. Labour Force Survey (LFS) responses are weighted to official population projections. As the current projections are 2018-based they are based on demographic trends that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. We are analysing the population totals used in the weighting process and intend to make adjustments where appropriate. Rates published from the LFS remain robust; however, levels and changes in levels should be used with caution.

VACANCIES

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	Accomoda- tion & food service activities	Information & communica- tion
	B-S	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	AP2Y	JP9H	JP9I	JP9J	JP9K	JP9L	JP9M	JP9N	JP9O	JP9P
Levels (thousands)										
Dec-Feb 2019	848	1	60	3	4	28	139	42	87	51
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	821	1	56	3	3	27	134	35	91	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	497	0	37	3	3	22	60	24	34	23
Aug-Oct 2020	535	1	43	3	4	26	62	28	33	26
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	557	1	43	4	3	26	66	28	34	31
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	590	1	44	3	3	28	71	29	28	34
Nov-Jan 2021 (r)	604	1	46	4	3	29	76	25	22	35
Dec-Feb 2021 (p)	601	1	48	4	3	28	75	21	18	37
Change on quarter *	44	0	5	1	0	2	9	-7	-15	6
Change % *	8.0	50.0	11.2	20.0	-3.1	6.2	14.0	-24.6	-45.1	20.9
Change on year	-220	-1	-8	1	0	0	-59	-14	-73	-6
Change %	-26.8	-35.7	-14.2	35.5	-3.1	0.7	-44.1	-40.2	-79.8	-14.0
	AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Dec-Feb 2019	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.5	1.8	1.9	3.0	2.8	3.7	3.8
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	2.7	2.7	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	1.6	0.8	1.5	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.7
Aug-Oct 2020	1.7	1.0	1.7	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.4	1.9
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	1.8	1.2	1.7	2.6	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.4	2.3
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	1.9	1.4	1.8	2.3	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.2	2.5
Nov-Jan 2021 (r)	2.0	1.6	1.8	2.7	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.6	0.9	2.6
Dec-Feb 2021 (p)	2.0	1.7	1.9	3.1	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.4	0.8	2.8
Change on quarter *	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	-0.5	-0.6	0.5
Change on year	-0.7	-1.0	-0.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	-1.3	-0.9	-3.1	-0.4
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	G-S
Levels (thousands)										
Dec-Feb 2019	36	14	81	50	20	50	134	21	24	750
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	31	13	77	55	22	52	136	22	18	729
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	19	7	47	36	19	34	116	5	9	432
Aug-Oct 2020	18	10	48	35	19	39	122	9	11	460
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	20	11	51	37	21	39	123	10	11	481
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	21	11	65	33	25	42	130	11	12	511
Nov-Jan 2021 (r)	22	10	66	39	34	44	127	9	11	519
Dec-Feb 2021 (p)	23	8	67	41	36	43	127	6	12	515
Change on quarter *	3	-3	16	5	14	4	4	-4	1	34
Change % *	14.6	-24.1	31.0	13.2	65.9	10.2	3.2	-37.1	7.1	7.0
Change on year	-8	-5	-10	-14	14	-8	-9	-16	-5	-214
Change %	-25.5	-37.4	-13.0	-25.2	61.4	-16.1	-6.5	-72.6	-30.9	-29.4
	JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Dec-Feb 2019	3.4	2.7	3.0	1.9	1.5	1.9	3.3	2.9	3.7	2.9
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.1	1.7	1.9	3.3	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	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.3	2.8	0.7	1.4	1.6
Aug-Oct 2020	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.5	3.0	1.2	1.7	1.8
Sept-Nov 2020 (r)	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.5	3.0	1.3	1.7	1.8
Oct-Dec 2020 (r)	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.2	1.9	1.6	3.2	1.4	1.8	1.9
Nov-Jan 2021 (r)	2.1	1.9	2.5	1.5	2.6	1.6	3.1	1.2	1.7	2.0
Dec-Feb 2021 (p)	2.2	1.5	2.5	1.5	2.7	1.6	3.1	0.8	1.9	2.0
Change on quarter *	0.3	-0.5	0.6	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	-0.5	0.1	0.1
Change on year	-0.7	-0.9	-0.4	-0.5	1.0	-0.3	-0.2	-2.2	-0.8	-0.8

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

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.

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777