

Statistical bulletin

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 16 April 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the periods 31 March to 4 April and 7 April to 11 April 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

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1 . Main points

This week, over the period 7 to 11 April 2021, based on adults in Great Britain:

- Compliance with most measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) remained high, with 87% (88% last week) of adults reporting handwashing when returning home, 97% (96% last week) using a face covering and 88% (87% last week) always or often maintaining social distancing when meeting up with people outside their support bubble.
- The proportion of adults avoiding physical contact when outside their home was 85% (87% last week); this proportion appears to have gradually decreased since before the easing of lockdown restrictions began in early March (91% in the period 3 to 7 March).
- 95% of adults reported leaving home in the last seven days for reasons such as: to visit a park or local green space (30% among adults who left home compared with 25% last week); to visit a beauty spot, beach or landmark (10% compared with 6%); or to collect takeaway food or drinks (15% compared with 16%).
- Almost 6 in 10 (57%) adults met up with someone outside their household, childcare or support bubble in the last seven days (49% last week), continuing the increase in this proportion seen in recent weeks following easing to lockdown restrictions; this 57% was made up of: 2% who met indoors only; 46% who met outdoors only; and 9% who met both indoors and outdoors.
- Over half (53%) of working adults reported leaving home for work in the past seven days, the same as last week but a notable increase since mid-February (44% in the period 10 to 14 February 2021).
- Personal well-being levels were relatively stable for most measures including: life satisfaction (6.9 this week, 7.3 in February 2020 before first coronavirus lockdown), feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (7.3 this week, 7.6 in February 2020), and anxiety (3.9 this week, 3.5 in February 2020); happiness reached its highest level since summer 2020 last week (7.2) before decreasing this week (6.9).
- Positive sentiment towards the COVID-19 vaccines remained high; 94% of adults reported they had now either received a vaccine or would be likely to have a vaccine if offered – the same as last week.
- 9 in 10 (90%) people aged 30 to 49 years reported positive vaccine sentiment – the same as last week after this proportion had fallen slightly from a recent high of 93% in the period 24 to 28 March; almost 9 in 10 (88%) people aged 16 to 29 years reported similarly; this proportion has been relatively stable in recent weeks (the proportions were 74% among those aged 30 to 49 years, and 63% among those aged 16 to 29 years at the start of the vaccination programme in December 2020).

2 . Understanding the impact on society

This bulletin contains data and indicators from a module being undertaken through the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

The bulletin presents a summary of the results. Breakdowns by age, sex, region and country, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

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

This release provides data for the last two weeks. The latest statistics in this release are based on a survey of 6,030 adults aged 16 years and over in Great Britain conducted between 7 and 11 April 2021 (inclusive). Results from this period are based on 4,079 responding adults (68% response rate). Statistics are also provided based on data collected between 31 March to 4 April 2021 (inclusive) from a survey of 6,029 adults aged 16 years and over in Great Britain, with 4,309 responding adults (71% response rate).

Throughout the bulletin:

- “this week” refers to responses collected during the period 7 to 11 April 2021
- “last week” refers to responses collected during the period 31 March to 4 April 2021

The estimates presented in this bulletin are based on data collected after the "rule of 6" was introduced in England from 29 March and "stay local" restrictions were lifted in Wales from 27 March. Rule changes in Scotland from "stay home" to "stay local" on April 2 took place during the data collection period (31 March to 4 April) covered in this bulletin. Both collection periods covered in this bulletin took place before the further easing of lockdown restrictions that were introduced across Great Britain from April 12. For more information please see the [Glossary](#).

3 . Main indicators

Compliance with most measures to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) remained high this week (Table 1), with 87% (88% last week) of adults reporting always or often handwashing after returning home, 97% (96% last week) using a face covering and 88% (87% last week) always or often maintaining social distancing when meeting up with people outside their support bubble.

This week the proportion of adults avoiding physical contact when outside their home was 85% (87% last week). This proportion appears to have gradually decreased since the easing of lockdown restrictions began in early March (91% in the period 3 to 7 March).

Table 1: Main indicators

Great Britain, 31 March to 11 April 2021

Notes:

1. "This week" refers to responses collected during the period 7 to 11 April 2021.
2. "Last week" refers to responses collected during the period 31 March to 4 April 2021.

[Download the data](#)

Further statistics on compliance with measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus, including trends over time, can be found in Tables 1a to 6 of the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

More about coronavirus

- Find the latest on [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK](#).
- [Explore the latest coronavirus data](#) from the ONS and other sources.
- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [coronavirus roundup](#).
- View [all coronavirus data](#).
- Find out how we are [working safely in our studies and surveys](#).

Reasons for leaving home

Over 9 in 10 (95%) adults in Great Britain reported leaving home this week (94% last week). This was during what for many people was the Easter holiday period but was before the further easing of lockdown restrictions that were introduced across Great Britain from April 12.

Figure 1 shows some of the reasons adults have reported for leaving home. This week, of adults who reported leaving home:

- 9% did so to take children or young people to or from school, college, or nursery; this was less than last week (15%) and likely because of the Easter holiday period
- 30% did so to visit a park or local green space (25% last week)
- 10% did so to visit a beauty spot, beach, landmark, or heritage site (6% last week)
- 14% did so to shop for things other than basic necessities such as food and medicine (the same as last week)
- 14% did so for any medical need, including to get a COVID-19 vaccine (16% last week)
- 15% did so to collect takeaway food or drinks from a restaurant, bar or pub (16% last week)

Figure 1: Leaving home to visit a local park or green space or to visit a beauty spot, beach or landmark increased this week

Of adults who reported they had left home in the past seven days for any reason, Great Britain, December 2020 to April 2021

Notes:

1. Question: "In the past seven days, for what reasons have you left your home?"
2. Base: all adults who reported having in the past seven days left their home for any reason.
3. Not all possible response categories are shown on this chart. For information on response options to these questions, please see Table 6 of the dataset associated with this bulletin.

[Download the data](#)

Leaving home to meet others

This week, we found that 57% of adults reported meeting up with someone outside their household, childcare or support bubble in the last seven days (49% last week). This continues the increase in this proportion seen in recent weeks following easings to lockdown restrictions (Figure 2).

Of these adults:

- 46% met outdoors only (40% last week)
- 9% met both indoors and outdoors (6% last week)
- 2% met indoors only (3% last week)

Figure 2 shows the proportion of adults who:

- met up indoors, either exclusively or in combination with meeting up outdoors (12% this week)
- met up outdoors, either exclusively or in combination with meeting up indoors (55% this week)

It should be noted that changes to the questions from the period 17 to 21 March onwards may have contributed to the changes seen when comparing with periods prior to this and should be treated with caution.

Figure 2: Over half (55%) of adults met up outdoors with someone outside their household, childcare or support bubble in the last seven days

Adults in Great Britain, January to April 2021

Notes:

1. Question: "Excluding work or education, in the past seven days, have you met up or socialised with anyone from outside your household, support or childcare bubble?"
2. Base: all adults.
3. Questions asked about meeting indoors and outdoors changed from the period 17 to 21 onwards so interpretation of this time series should be made with caution. For more information please see the datasets associated with this bulletin.

[Download the data](#)

When looking at those who had met up with others outside their household or support bubble (either indoors or outdoors), 88% of adults reported always or often maintaining social distance this week (87% last week).

It is worth noting that there may be valid, essential reasons why people are unable to maintain social distancing and it does not necessarily mean that adults are breaking lockdown rules.

Leaving home for work

This week, just over half (53%) of working adults reported leaving home for work in the past seven days (the same as last week). This proportion has been gradually increasing since mid-February (44% in the period 10 to 14 February 2021).

Looking at this week in more detail:

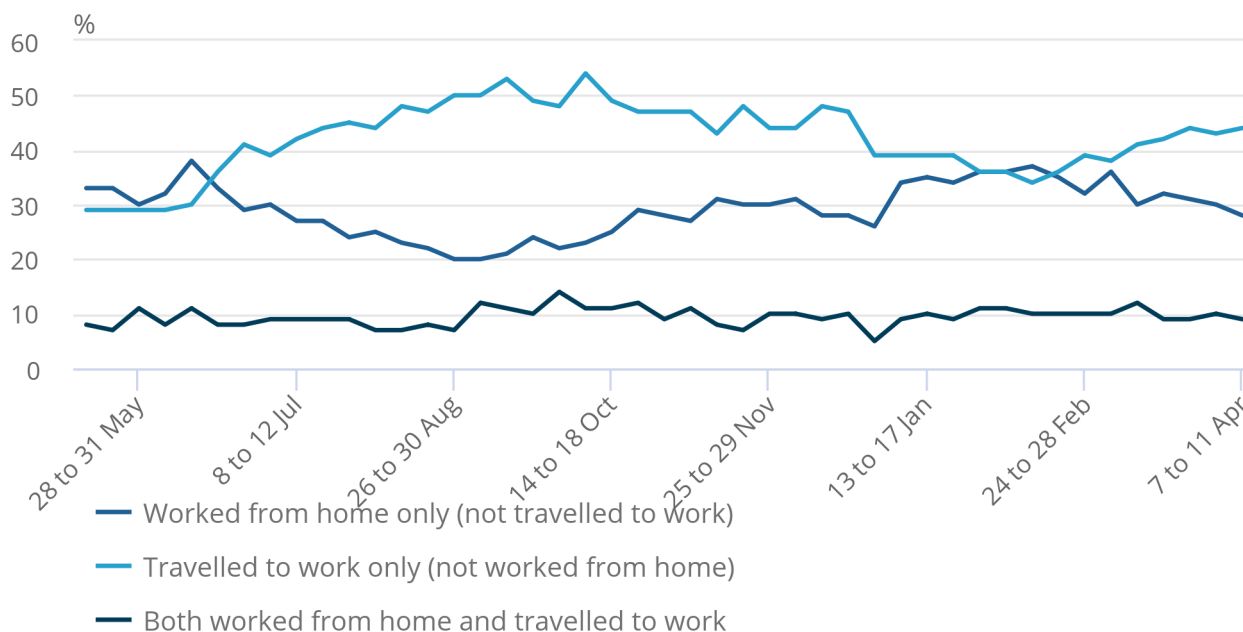
- the proportion of working adults travelling to work exclusively in the past seven days was 44% (43% last week)
- the proportion of working adults reporting working from home exclusively in the past seven days was 28% (30% last week)
- just under 1 in 10 (9%) working adults reported both working from home and travelling to work (10% last week) (Figure 3)

Figure 3: The proportion of working adults reporting working from home exclusively in the past seven days is gradually decreasing

Working adults, Great Britain, May 2020 to April 2021

Figure 3: The proportion of working adults reporting working from home exclusively in the past seven days is gradually decreasing

Working adults, Great Britain, May 2020 to April 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics — Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes:

1. Question: "In the past seven days, have you worked from home because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?"
2. Base: all adults.
3. Over the Christmas period, there were lower numbers of adults who said they had either travelled to work or worked from home in the last seven days. This was most likely because of changing work plans over the Christmas break.
4. A person is "working" if they had a paid job, either as an employee or self-employed; or they did any casual work for payment; or they did any unpaid or voluntary work in the previous week.

4 . Personal well-being

This week, personal well-being levels were relatively stable for life satisfaction (6.9 this week and last week), feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (7.3 this week and last week) and anxiety (3.9 this week and 3.8 last week). Levels of these measures remain poorer than in February 2020 before the first UK-wide coronavirus lockdown.

Having last week reached its highest level since summer 2020 (7.2), the happiness level decreased this week (6.9).

Figure 4: Happiness reached its highest level since summer 2020 last week before decreasing this week

Adults in Great Britain, March 2020 to April 2021

Notes:

1. Questions: "Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?", "Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?", "Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?" and "Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?".
2. These questions are answered on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is "not at all" and 10 is "completely".
3. Base: all adults.

[Download the data](#)

5 . Perceptions of the future

This week, 3 in 10 (30%) adults reported they felt it will take more than a year for life to return to normal. This proportion appears to be gradually increasing in recent weeks (27% last week).

Around 2 in 10 (22%) adults reported they felt life would return to normal in six months or less (26% last week).

Figure 5: The proportion of adults who feel it will take more than a year for life to return to normal appears to be gradually increasing

Adults in Great Britain, March 2020 to April 2021

Notes:

1. Question: "How long do you think it will be before your life returns to normal?".
2. Base: all adults.
3. Response categories of "7 to 12 months", "Never", "Not sure" and "Prefer not to say" are not shown on this chart.

[Download the data](#)

Further statistics on well-being, loneliness, perceptions of the future and worries, including trends over time, can be found in Table 1b, Table 7 and Table 8 of the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

6 . Attitudes to COVID-19 vaccination

This week, 94% of adults (the same as last week) reported positive vaccine sentiment; they had now either received at least one dose of a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine or would be likely (very or fairly likely) to have a vaccine if offered. This includes adults who have accepted and are waiting to receive a vaccine.

This week, as the vaccination programme now progresses to younger age groups, we have looked at how vaccination sentiment by age has changed since early December:

- 9 in 10 (90%) people aged 30 to 49 years reported positive vaccine sentiment, the same as last week after having slightly fallen from a recent high of 93% in the period 24 to 28 March; this proportion was 74% at the start of the vaccination programme in December 2020.
- Almost 9 in 10 (88%) people aged 16 to 29 years reported positive vaccine sentiment – the proportion has been relatively stable in recent weeks; this proportion was 63% at the start of the vaccination programme in December 2020 (Figure 6).

The estimates presented here are from a sample of adults, and may differ from the latest official administrative data on the number of adults in Great Britain and its constituent countries who have received a COVID-19 vaccination.

Figure 6: Over 9 in 10 (94%) adults have received or would be likely to accept a COVID-19 vaccine if offered

Adults in Great Britain, December 2020 to April 2021

Notes:

1. Questions: "Have you received a vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19)?", "Have you been offered the vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19)?" and "If a vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19) was offered to you, how likely or unlikely would you be to have the vaccine?".
2. Base: all adults.
3. Questions asked about attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccination have changed over the survey periods shown so interpretation of this time series should be made with caution. For more information please see the datasets associated with this bulletin.
4. Response categories of "Adults who have been offered and declined the vaccine or would be very or fairly unlikely to have the vaccine if offered", "Neither", "Don't know" and "Prefer not to say" are not shown on this chart.
5. For the period 10 to 14 February, the 99% indicated on the chart for those aged 70 years and above represent a proportion of greater than 99% but less than 100%.

[Download the data](#)

The 94% of adults in Great Britain this week who reported positive vaccine sentiment¹ is made up of those who reported that they either:

- had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (63%); a similar proportion was reported in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey release](#)
- had been offered a vaccine and were awaiting it (1%)
- had not yet been offered a vaccine but were likely (very or fairly likely) to have one when offered (30%) (Figure 7)

Our survey does not include adults living in care homes or other establishments, so will not capture vaccinations in these settings. Because of small sample sizes, the percentage of adults who have declined the vaccine should be treated with caution. For more information please see the [Glossary](#).

Figure 7: 88% of adults aged 16 to 29 years said they had received at least one dose of a vaccine, were awaiting one or would be likely to accept one

Adults in Great Britain, 7 to 11 April 2021

Notes:

1. Questions: "Have you received a vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19)?", "Have you been offered the vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19)?" and "If a vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19) was offered to you, how likely or unlikely would you be to have the vaccine?".
2. Base: all adults.
3. Totals may not sum to 100% because of rounding and because proportions of less than 1% are not included in this chart.

[Download the data](#)

Of all adults who said they would be unlikely to have a COVID-19 vaccine if offered, or had decided not to have a vaccine when offered, people appeared to be more worried about the long-term effects than whether the vaccine was safe. The most commonly reported reasons were:

- feeling worried about the long-term effects on their health (50% this week, 35% last week)
- feeling worried about the side effects (40% this week, 27% last week)
- wanting to wait to see how well the vaccine works (38% this week, 29% last week)
- not thinking it will be safe (29% this week, 26% last week)
- preferring someone in more need of the vaccine to receive it before them (28% this week, 13% last week)

Please note that changes in reasons from last week may not be statistically significant because of small sample sizes. The proportions of all possible reasons why not, as well as further statistics on attitudes to vaccines this week can be found in Table 12 of the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

For more information on attitudes to COVID-19 vaccines among different sub-groups of the population, including breakdowns by age, sex, ethnic group and disability status, see:

- [Coronavirus and vaccine hesitancy by sub-group, Great Britain: 17 February to 14 March 2021](#)
- [Coronavirus and vaccine attitudes and behaviours in England: over 80s population, 15 February to 20 February 2021](#)

Notes for: Attitudes to COVID-19 vaccination

1. Totals for the combined category of “positive vaccine sentiment” or “vaccine hesitancy” may appear to be different than if combining the individual category estimates shown in Figure 7 because of rounding.

7 . Social impacts on Great Britain data

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)

Dataset | Released 16 April 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. Includes breakdowns by at-risk age, sex and underlying health condition.

8 . Glossary

Lockdown

On 5 January 2021, the UK government announced a further national lockdown for [England](#). Similar rules applied for [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#), particularly the message to “stay at home” meaning that adults in Great Britain were under a national lockdown at the start of the year in 2021.

On 22 February 2021, the UK government published a four-step [roadmap](#) for easing lockdown restrictions in England. On 23 February, the Scottish government published an update to the [strategic framework](#) for easing lockdown restrictions in Scotland.

In England, as per the first step of easing outlined in the roadmap, it was confirmed from 29 March people could meet outdoors in a group of six ([among other changes to restrictions](#)). In Wales, from 13 March, “stay at home” restrictions were replaced with [stay local restrictions](#). In Scotland, “stay local” replaced “stay at home” from 2 April.

Further easing of lockdown restrictions from April 12 have been confirmed in [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Scotland](#). The data presented in this release were collected prior to this.

Personal well-being

Personal well-being measures ask people to evaluate, on a scale of 0 to 10, how satisfied they are with their life overall, whether they feel the things they do in life are worthwhile, and happiness and anxiety yesterday.

For the latest estimates of personal well-being available from the Annual Population Survey (APS), and more information on the comparability of estimates of personal well-being between the APS and the estimates provided in this bulletin from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN), see [Personal well-being in the UK, quarterly: April 2011 to September 2020](#).

Vaccination for COVID-19

Following the first coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine being given in the UK on 8 December 2020, COVID-19 vaccination is now being provided in various locations across the country. The vaccines are currently being offered in some hospitals and pharmacies, at local vaccination centres run by GPs and at larger vaccination centres.

[National Health Service \(NHS\) guidance on the COVID-19 vaccines](#) is available.

More information on the [number of people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine to date](#) is available.

Working adults

For this survey, a person is said to be a “working adult” if:

- they had a paid job, either as an employee or self-employed
- they did any casual work for payment
- they did any unpaid or voluntary work in the previous week

9 . Measuring the data

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) is a monthly omnibus survey. In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we have adapted the OPN to become a weekly survey used to collect data on the impact of the coronavirus on day-to-day life in Great Britain. This release provides data for the last two weeks. In the latest week (7 to 11 April 2021), 6,030 individuals were sampled, with a response rate of 68% (or 4,079 individuals). In the previous week (31 March to 4 April 2021), 6,029 individuals were sampled with a response rate of 71% (or 4,309 individuals).

The survey results are weighted to be a nationally representative sample for Great Britain, and data are collected using an online self-completion questionnaire. Individuals who did not want to or were unable to complete the survey online had the opportunity to take part over the phone. Survey estimates may be subject to non-response bias, which could result in some groups of the population being less likely to take part. Steps have been taken to minimise the impact of non-response bias, which can be found in published information about the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey QMI](#).

Where changes in results from previous weeks or differences between groups are presented in this bulletin, associated [confidence intervals](#), which are included in the [associated datasets](#), indicate their significance.

Estimates in this bulletin are rounded to the nearest whole number. Where individual answer categories for a question have been combined to provide an estimate, this total may not appear to sum to the total of individual categories because of this rounding.

Estimates of attitudes towards vaccination provided since 13 to 17 January should be used with caution when compared with any weeks prior to this. In the weeks prior to this, adults were asked their likelihood of having a vaccine if offered but were not specifically asked if they had already been offered or received a vaccine.

Sampling

For the latest week (7 to 11 April 2021), a sample of 6,030 households was randomly selected from those that had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) (6,029 in the week 31 March to 4 April 2021). From each household, one adult was selected at random but with unequal probability. Younger people were given higher selection probability than other people because of under-representation in the sample available for the survey. The survey also includes a boosted sample for England, to allow more detailed analysis at a regional level, which are available in the [datasets](#).

Weighting

The responding sample in the week 7 to 11 April 2021 contained 4,079 individuals with a 68% response rate (4,309 individuals with a 71% response rate in the week 31 March to 4 April 2021). Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population.

Weights were first adjusted for non-response and attrition. Subsequently, the weights were calibrated to satisfy population distributions considering the following factors: sex by age, region, tenure, highest qualification and employment status. For age, sex and region, population totals based on projections of mid-year population estimates for April 2021 were used. The resulting weighted sample is therefore representative of the Great Britain adult population by a number of socio-demographic factors and geography.

For more information, see the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey QMI](#).

10 . Strengths and limitations

The main strengths of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) include:

- it allows for timely production of data and statistics that can respond quickly to changing needs
- it meets data needs: the questionnaire is developed with customer consultation, and design expertise is applied in the development stages
- robust methods are adopted for the survey's sampling and weighting strategies to limit the impact of bias
- quality assurance procedures are undertaken throughout the analysis stages to minimise the risk of error

The main limitations of the OPN include:

- analysis of estimates in Wales and Scotland are based on low sample sizes, and therefore caution should be used with these estimates
- comparisons between periods and groups must be done with caution as estimates are provided from a sample survey; as such, confidence intervals are included in the datasets to present the sampling variability, which should be taken into account when assessing differences between periods, as true differences may not exist

11 . Related links

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

Latest data and analysis on the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effects on the economy and society.

[Coronavirus and compliance with government guidance, UK: April 2021](#)

Article | Released 12 April 2021

Exploring the attitudes and behaviours of different social groups in relation to compliance with coronavirus (COVID-19) government guidance across the UK.

[Coronavirus and vaccine hesitancy by sub-group, Great Britain: 13 January to 7 February 2021](#)

Article | Released 8 March 2021

Analysis of differences in hesitancy to the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine between sub-groups of the population in Great Britain, based on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 13 January to 7 February 2021.

[Coronavirus and vaccine attitudes and behaviours in England: over 80s population, 15 February to 20 February 2021](#)

Article | Released 4 March 2021

Analysis of people aged over 80 years in England during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including attitudes, behaviours and well-being in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain: February 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 9 April 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey on the social impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on disabled people in Great Britain. This release uses three waves of survey results covering dates between the 3 to 28 February 2021 and includes indicators broken down by impairment type.

[Comparing behaviours and economic activity during lockdown periods: March 2021](#)

Article | Released 19 March 2021

Understanding how the coronavirus has affected society, work, mobility and consumer consumption during the different lockdown periods.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on behaviours during different lockdown periods, Great Britain: up to February 2021](#)

Article | Released 5 February 2021

Attitudes towards staying and working at home, meetings in personal and public places, compliance with lockdown rules, well-being and when life will return to normal.

[Quarterly estimates of personal well-being in the UK: April 2011 to September 2020](#)

Article | Released 4 February 2021

Quarterly estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK level, created using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Covering the periods from Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2011 through to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2020.

[Personal and economic well-being in Great Britain: January 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 January 2021

Estimates looking across personal and economic well-being covering the period from March to December 2020, to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on people and households in Great Britain.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roundup](#)

Blog | Updated as data become available

Catch up on the latest data and analysis related to the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on our economy and society.