

Statistical bulletin

Index of Services, UK: March 2021

Movements in the volume of output for the UK services industries. Figures are seasonally adjusted.



Contact:
David Beckett
ios.enquiries@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)1633 456980

Release date:
12 May 2021

Next release:
11 June 2021

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Index of Services data](#)
3. [Measuring the data](#)
4. [Related links](#)

1 . Main points

- Monthly services grew by 1.9% between February 2021 and March 2021 but remained 7.2% below its February 2020 level, the last month of "normal" trading conditions prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- The growth in services was driven by a rise in 10 out of the 14 sectors in the index of services, the largest contributions to the growth being from education, wholesale and retail trade, and professional scientific and technical activities.
- Services output for the three months to March 2021 (Quarter one 2021) fell by 2.0% compared with the three months to December 2020 (Quarter four 2020); this was led by education which fell by 11.8%.
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant negative impact on output of the services industries, although each sector has been affected differently; for further and detailed analysis of the effect on our monthly Index of Services estimate, please see our article [Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy, UK: March 2021](#), published today (12 May 2021).

2 . Index of Services data

[Index of Services time series](#)

Dataset | Dataset ID: IOS1 | Released 12 May 2021

Monthly movements in output for the services industries: distribution, hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communication; business services and finance; and government and other services.

[Monthly Business Survey turnover of services industries](#)

Dataset | Released 12 May 2021

Monthly Business Survey services industries' total turnover; current price and non-seasonally adjusted, UK.

[Index of Services, main components and sectors to four decimal places](#)

Dataset | Released 12 May 2021

Monthly historical movements in output for services and their industry components, by chained volume indices of gross value added, UK.

[Index of Services revisions triangles](#)

Dataset | Released 12 May 2021

Monthly chained volume indices in gross value added for services and its main components.

All data related to the Index of Services are available on the [Related data page](#).

3 . Measuring the data

Data sources and collection

The Index of Services (IoS) is compiled using data from several different sources:

- ONS: Monthly Business Survey (44.4%)
- ONS: Retail Sales Inquiry (6.4%)
- ONS: Government Expenditure (20.1%)
- ONS: Households' Expenditure (15.3%)
- ONS: Finance Expenditure (7.8%)
- Other (5.9%)

The Monthly Business Survey (MBS) data are published alongside this release in [MBS turnover in services industries](#).

Data relating to the retail industry are broadly comparable with [Retail sales, Great Britain: March 2021](#), published on 23 April 2021.

For further information on what is included within Other, please see the [GDP\(o\) data sources catalogue](#).

Percentage of each data source is based on their gross value added weight. The [GDP\(o\) methods and sources pages](#) provide more information on the data that underpin these statistics; of particular note is the [GDP\(o\) data sources catalogue](#).

From February 2018, Value Added Tax (VAT) data have also been included across 64 production industries for small- and medium-sized businesses. For more information, see [VAT turnover data in national accounts: background and methodology](#).

Quality and methodology

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [Index of Services QMI](#).

Leaving the EU

As the transition period ends and 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.

Additionally, the Withdrawal Agreement outlines a need for UK gross national income (a fundamental component of the national accounts, which includes GDP) statistics to remain in line with those of other EU countries until EU budget contributions are finalised for the years in which we were a member, and making budget contributions during the transition period. To ensure this comparability during this period, the national accounts will continue to be produced according to European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010 definitions and standards until at least 2024.

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Monthly Business Survey is fully online, meaning that business owners can log on from any location and submit their data at an appropriate time. Most other data in the Index of Services comes from within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and therefore will be less impacted than survey data.

Our latest data and analysis on the [impact of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) on the UK economy and population](#) is now available on a new webpage. This will be the hub for all special virus-related publications, drawing on all available data.

The ONS has released a [public statement](#) on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the production of statistics. Specific queries must be directed to the [Media Relations Office](#).

4 . Related links

[Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy, UK: March 2021](#)

Article | Released 12 May 2021

Analysis of monthly growth for the production, services and construction industries in the UK economy between September and October 2020, highlighting the early impact from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[A comparison between official estimates of UK output and diffusion indices](#)

Article | Released 21 October 2019

The level of correlation between Office for National Statistics (ONS) data and IHS Markit and Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Purchasing Managers' Indices.

[GDP monthly estimate, UK: March 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 12 May 2021

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of and growth in the economy and includes the Index of Production (IoP), Index of Services (IoS) and construction output in Great Britain.

[Services sector performance, UK: 2008 to 2018](#)

Article | Released 2 April 2019

The article details the changes that have taken place in the UK services sector from 2008 to 2018. It also looks at the differences between public sector-dominated sectors and the rest of the Index of Services (IoS) and compares the growth of individual IoS sectors in more detail.

[Index of Production, UK: March 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 12 May 2021

Movements in the volume of production for the UK production industries: manufacturing, mining and quarrying, energy supply, and water and waste management.

		Industry sections (SIC2007)				
		Total service industries	Distribution hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Business services and finance	Government and other services
Section		G-T	G and I	H and J	K-N	O-T
2018 weights		1000	169	134	420	276
		S2KU	S2MV	K17B	K17L	K17T
2016		97.1	95.5	93.8	97.9	98.7
2017		98.5	97.3	96.7	98.9	99.4
2018		100	100	100	100	100
2019		101.8	102.5	105.2	100.6	101.7
2020		92.7	87.6	95.5	95.3	90.5
2020	Q1	99.5	97.5	102.3	100.1	98.5
	Q2	81.6	64.9	86.2	90.2	76.6
	Q3	94.3	97.5	95.5	94.5	91.7
	Q4	95.3	90.5	98	96.4	95.4
2021	Q1	93.4	83.8	97.6	96.8	92.1
2020	Jan	102.4	102.9	104.3	101	103.3
	Feb	102.1	102.5	104.2	100.8	102.6
	Mar	94.1	87	98.5	98.4	89.6
	Apr	78.4	53.8	83.3	89.3	74.4
	May	79.9	60.8	84.2	89	75.6
	Jun	86.5	80.2	91	92.2	79.6
	Jul	92.5	94.4	95.2	93.8	87.8
	Aug	94.6	100.3	95.2	94.2	91.5
	Sep	96	97.7	96	95.5	95.6
	Oct	96.8	96.4	98.8	96.4	96.8
	Nov	93.9	85.7	97.7	95.8	94.2
	Dec	95.2	89.6	97.6	96.9	95.1
2021	Jan	92.5	81.6	97.5	96	91.4
	Feb	93	83.9	96.9	96.5	91.3
	Mar	94.7	85.9	98.4	97.8	93.7
Previous year						
		S222	S243	K177	K17G	K17O
2016		1.6	3.1	2.4	2.4	-0.8
2017		1.4	1.8	3.1	1	0.7
2018		1.6	2.8	3.4	1.1	0.6
2019		1.8	2.5	5.2	0.6	1.7
2020		-9	-14.5	-9.2	-5.3	-11
12 months ago						
		S26Q	S28R	K17A	K17I	K17Q
2020	Jan	1.2	0.9	-0.2	0.9	2.7
	Feb	0.7	0.4	-0.1	0.5	1.8
	Mar	-7.2	-15	-5.5	-1.8	-11.4
	Apr	-22.7	-47.5	-20.7	-10.7	-26.4
	May	-21.2	-40.6	-19.5	-11.1	-25.3
	Jun	-15	-21.8	-13.7	-8.2	-21.6
	Jul	-9.4	-8.1	-10.2	-7.1	-13.5
	Aug	-7.4	-2.2	-9.6	-6.9	-10.3
	Sep	-6	-4.7	-9.6	-5.2	-6.3
	Oct	-5.5	-6.4	-7.4	-4.7	-5.4
	Nov	-8.1	-16.4	-7	-4.8	-8.4
	Dec	-6.9	-12.4	-7.2	-4.1	-7.6
2021	Jan	-9.7	-20.7	-6.5	-5	-11.6
	Feb	-8.9	-18.2	-7.1	-4.3	-11
	Mar	0.7	-1.2	-0.1	-0.7	4.6

1 The IOS output is designated as a National Statistic.

2 Indices reflect values measured at basic prices, which exclude "taxes less subsidies on products".

3 Estimates cannot be regarded as accurate to the last digit shown.

4 Any apparent inconsistencies between the index numbers and the percentage changes shown in these tables are due to rounding.

5 A complete run of data is available on the ONS website as a [Time series dataset](#)

continued

		Industry sections (SIC2007)				
Section		Total service industries	Distribution hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Business services and finance	Government and other services
		G-T	G and I	H and J	K-N	O-T
2018 weights		1000	167	135	426	272
Percentage change, latest month on previous month						
		S222	S243	KI77	KI7G	KI7O
2020	Jan	0.1	0.7	-0.9	0.1	0.4
	Feb	-0.3	-0.4	0	-0.2	-0.7
	Mar	-7.8	-15.1	-5.5	-2.4	-12.7
	Apr	-16.7	-38.2	-15.5	-9.3	-16.9
	May	1.9	13	1.1	-0.3	1.5
	Jun	8.3	32	8	3.6	5.3
	Jul	6.8	17.7	4.7	1.8	10.3
	Aug	2.3	6.3	0	0.4	4.2
	Sep	1.4	-2.7	0.8	1.4	4.5
	Oct	0.9	-1.3	2.9	0.9	1.2
	Nov	-3	-11.1	-1.1	-0.6	-2.7
	Dec	1.4	4.5	-0.1	1.1	0.9
2021	Jan	-2.9	-8.9	-0.1	-0.9	-3.9
	Feb	0.6	2.8	-0.6	0.5	0
	Mar	1.9	2.4	1.6	1.3	2.6
a year ago						
		S2G6	S2I7	KI7C	KI7J	KI7R
2020	Jan	1.2	0.9	1.3	0.5	2.5
	Feb	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.7	2.3
	Mar	-1.7	-4.6	-1.9	-0.1	-2.3
	Apr	-9.7	-20.8	-8.8	-4	-12
	May	-17	-34.4	-15.2	-7.9	-21
	Jun	-19.6	-36.7	-18	-10	-24.4
	Jul	-15.2	-23.5	-14.4	-8.8	-20.1
	Aug	-10.6	-10.7	-11.2	-7.4	-15.1
	Sep	-7.6	-5	-9.8	-6.4	-10
	Oct	-6.3	-4.4	-8.8	-5.6	-7.3
	Nov	-6.5	-9.1	-8	-4.9	-6.7
	Dec	-6.8	-11.7	-7.2	-4.5	-7.1
2021	Jan	-8.2	-16.5	-6.9	-4.6	-9.2
	Feb	-8.5	-17.1	-6.9	-4.4	-10
	Mar	-6.1	-14	-4.6	-3.3	-6.5
3 months						
		S2BG	S2DH	KI7D	KI7K	KI7S
2020	Jan	0	-0.1	-1.1	-0.1	0.9
	Feb	0	-0.1	-1.3	0.1	0.5
	Mar	-2.7	-4.9	-3.1	-0.8	-4.1
	Apr	-10.5	-20.9	-9.1	-4.7	-13.7
	May	-17.7	-34.5	-15.2	-8.6	-22.4
	Jun	-18	-33.4	-15.8	-9.9	-22.3
	Jul	-5.7	-3.2	-5.4	-4.7	-8.8
	Aug	8.5	36.5	5.8	1.3	8.1
	Sep	15.6	50.2	10.8	4.8	19.7
	Oct	11	25.1	7.2	4	16.8
	Nov	4.8	1.7	3.9	2.7	10.7
	Dec	1	-7.1	2.7	2	4.1
2021	Jan	-2	-12.7	1	0.9	-1.2
	Feb	-2.1	-8.8	-0.2	0.6	-3.1
	Mar	-2	-7.4	-0.5	0.4	-3.4

1 The IOS output is designated as a National Statistic.

2 Indices reflect values measured at basic prices, which exclude "taxes less subsidies on products".

3 Estimates cannot be regarded as accurate to the last digit shown.

4 Any apparent inconsistencies between the index numbers and the percentage changes shown in these tables are due to rounding.

5 A complete run of data is available on the ONS website as a [Time series dataset](#)

Sources: For further information on these data please telephone 01633 456387; fax 01633 455300 or e-mail ios.enquiries@ons.gov.uk