

Statistical bulletin

Index of Services, UK: April 2021

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



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1 . Main points

- Monthly services grew by 3.4% between March 2021 and April 2021 but was still 4.1% 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 12 out of the 14 sectors in the Index of Services, the largest contributions to growth being from wholesale and retail trade, education, and accommodation and food service activities.
- Services output for the three months to April 2021 rose by 1.4% compared with the three months to January 2021; this was led by wholesale and retail trade, which rose by 2.7%.
- 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: April 2021](#), published today (11 June 2021).

2 . Index of Services data

[Index of Services time series](#)

Dataset | Dataset ID: IOS1 | Released 11 June 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 11 June 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 11 June 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 11 June 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: April 2021](#), published on 21 May 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](#).

Blue Book 2021

In Blue Book 2021, [a new framework](#) will be introduced to improve how we produce volume estimates of GDP for balanced years as part of the supply use process. This framework includes the implementation of double-deflated industry-level gross value added for the first time. This improvement will be reflected in the September quarterly national accounts and October monthly GDP estimates. On 28 June we will publish [Blue Book 2021 indicative impacts](#) of this change to industry level gross value added volume.

Consultation to the release time

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) currently has a [consultation](#) to get feedback as to the release time of these statistics. This consultation closes on 25 June 2021. If you have any comments about the release time of official statistics, please contact the OSR at regulation@statistics.gov.uk.

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 come from within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and therefore will be less affected than survey data.

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

The ONS has released a [public statement](#) on coronavirus and the production of statistics. Specific queries must be directed to media.relations@ons.gov.uk.

4 . Related links

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

Article | Released 11 June 2021

Analysis of growth for the production, services and construction industries in the UK economy between February 2020 and April 2021, highlighting the 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: April 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 11 June 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: April 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 11 June 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	KI7B	KI7L	KI7T
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	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
	Apr	97.9	96.8	99.5	97.9	97.8
Percentage change, latest year on previous year						
		S222	S243	KI77	KI7G	KI7O
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
Percentage change, latest month on same month a year ago						
		S26Q	S28R	KI7A	KI7I	KI7Q
2020	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
	Apr	24.9	80.1	19.5	9.6	31.4

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

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	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
Feb		0.6	2.8	-0.6	0.5	0
Mar		1.9	2.4	1.6	1.3	2.6
Apr		3.4	12.7	1.1	0.1	4.4

Percentage change, latest 3 months on same 3 months a year ago

		S2G6	S2I7	KI7C	KI7J	KI7R
2020	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
Feb		-8.5	-17.1	-6.9	-4.4	-10
Mar		-6.1	-14	-4.6	-3.3	-6.5
Apr		4.1	9.6	3.1	1.2	6.1

Percentage change, latest 3 months on previous 3 months

		S2BG	S2DH	KI7D	KI7K	KI7S
2020	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
Feb		-2.1	-8.8	-0.2	0.6	-3.1
Mar		-2	-7.4	-0.5	0.4	-3.4
Apr		1.4	3.8	0.7	1.2	0.8

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