

Statistical bulletin

Public sector employment, UK: March 2021

Estimates of people employed in the public and private sectors in the UK.



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1 . Main points

- Total public sector employment (PSE) continued to rise in March 2021 after increasing throughout 2020, partly because of the response of the National Health Service (NHS) and the Civil Service to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- There were an estimated 5.67 million employees in the public sector for March 2021, an increase of 72,000 (1.3%) compared with December 2020 and an increase of 206,000 (3.8%) compared with March 2020; excluding the transfer of train operating companies to the public sector in June 2020, total PSE increased by 160,000 (3.0%) compared with March 2020.
- Employment in central government increased to an estimated 3.47 million for March 2021, up 77,000 (2.3%) compared with December 2020 and up 169,000 (5.1%) compared with March 2020; the main contributors to this increase were the NHS, the Civil Service and local authority schools becoming academies.
- The NHS employed an estimated 1.84 million people in March 2021, an increase of 44,000 (2.5%) compared with December 2020 and an increase of 92,000 (5.3%) compared with March 2020; the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has driven this increase on the previous quarter and the previous year.
- Employment in the Home Civil Service continued to increase in March 2021, partly in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and partly because of recruitment for the 2021 Census; at 505,000 the Home Civil Service was up 32,000 (6.8%) compared with December 2020 and 49,000 (10.7%) compared with March 2020.
- Employment in the Department for Work and Pensions increased by 5,910 compared with December 2020 and 12,650 compared with March 2020 to meet demand for Universal Credit during the coronavirus pandemic; from December 2020 to March 2021 the UK Statistics Authority employed an additional 19,000 temporary staff to undertake the 2021 Census.
- Employment in local government was an estimated 2.01 million and little changed on the previous quarter and previous year; this was down 4,000 (0.2%) compared with December 2020 and down 6,000 (0.3%) compared with March 2020.

2 . Public sector employment data

[Public sector employment](#)

Dataset | Released 15 June 2021

Quarterly estimates of UK and regional public sector employment, made up of central government (including Civil Service), local government and public corporations. The estimates also include a breakdown by industry.

[Public sector employment time series](#)

Dataset | Dataset ID: PSE | Released 15 June 2021

Seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted quarterly time series of UK public sector employment, containing the latest estimates.

3 . Measuring the data

Coronavirus

View [more information on how labour market data sources are affected by the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#), published on 6 May 2020.

View a [comparison of our labour market data sources and the main differences](#), published on 11 December 2020.

Impact on production of public sector employment estimates

The collection of the data contained in this release was unaffected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Comments provided by survey respondents suggested the estimates were partly affected by coronavirus planning and response.

Sources

The main source of public sector employment (PSE) is the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey, which is supplemented by data from external sources. Further information can be found in the [PSE Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\)](#).

The total employment and private sector series included in this publication are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). LFS responses are weighted to official 2018-based population projections on demographic trends that pre-date the coronavirus pandemic. In [Coronavirus and the impact on payroll employment](#) 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.

Full-time equivalents

While this bulletin focuses on headcount estimates of PSE, full-time equivalent estimates (based on the number of hours worked divided by the standard full-time hours) are available in the [accompanying PSE datasets](#).

Seasonal adjustment

All [PSE data time series](#) in this release, with the exception of the regional series, are seasonally adjusted to aid interpretation. Relationships that hold in the unadjusted series do not necessarily hold for the seasonally adjusted series. For example, total PSE equals the total of all public sector industry estimates before seasonal adjustment, but this is not necessarily true after seasonal adjustment.

Reclassifications between the public and private sectors

Comparisons of public and private sector employment over time are complicated by several major reclassifications, where bodies employing large numbers of people have moved between the public and private sectors. We produce estimates of public and private sector employment excluding the effects of major reclassifications to help you understand underlying trends in employment. We publish these alongside estimates of total public and private sector employment in [Tables 5, 6a and 7a of the PSE datasets](#).

Quality

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

Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) publishing review

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is undertaking a review into whether the 9:30am release time stated in the Code of Practice for Statistics meets the needs of users. During the pandemic, exemptions were granted to allow the release of market sensitive statistics at 7:00am. The OSR welcomes views about the release time of official statistics by Friday 25 June 2021, please send comments to: regulation@statistics.gov.uk.

4 . Related links

[EMP13: Employment by industry](#)

Dataset | Released 18 May 2021

Estimates of public and private sector employment sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). These estimates differ from our headline estimates of public sector employment derived from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES), because the QPSES estimates follow national accounts definitions of public and private sector employment, whilst the LFS estimates are based on survey respondents' perceptions of whether they are employed in the public or private sector.

[Civil Service statistics](#)

Statistical release | Released 26 August 2020

Detailed information on the UK Civil Service workforce, including on pay, diversity and location.

Responsibility for the collection and publication of this annual release was transferred from the ONS to the Cabinet Office with effect from 1 October 2018.

[Public sector employment in Scotland](#)

Statistical release | Released 15 June 2021

Estimates of public sector employment (PSE) in Scotland, published quarterly by the Scottish Government on the same day as this bulletin.

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Statistical release | Released 15 June 2021

Estimates of short-term employee jobs in Northern Ireland, including public and private sector employment estimates, published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on the same day as this bulletin.

[Local government employment](#)

Dataset

Estimates of employment for each local authority in England and Wales, sourced from the ONS Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and published quarterly by the Local Government Association.

Index of Tables

Date of Publication: 15 June 2021 Date of Next Publication: 14 September 2021

These tables show data for the last two years, and to improve the readability of these tables on the printed page, most of the footnotes have been removed. A complete time series including footnotes are available from the PSE Datasets (Excel Spreadsheet) at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/datasets/publicsectoremploymentreferencetable>

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1 Public sector employment by sector classification; Headcount

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted							
		General government			Total public corporations	Total public sector	Of which: Civil Service
		Central government	Local government	Total general government			
		G6NQ	G6NT	G6NW	G7AR	G7AU	G7D6
2018	Dec	3,168	2,037	5,205	155	5,360	440
	2019 Mar	3,197	2,025	5,222	153	5,375	446
2019	Jun	3,218	2,021	5,239	154	5,393	448
	Sep	3,245	2,017	5,262	155	5,417	451
2020	Dec	3,270	2,011	5,281	154	5,435	453
	Mar	3,299	2,011	5,310	154	5,464	456
2020	Jun	3,344	2,006	5,350	202	5,552	459
	Sep	3,354	2,012	5,366	199	5,565	463
2021	Dec	3,391 [†]	2,009	5,400 [†]	198	5,598 [†]	473
	Mar	3,468	2,005	5,473	197	5,670	505
Change on quarter:		77	-4	73	-1	72	32
Change %:		2.3	-0.2	1.4	-0.5	1.3	6.8
Change on year:		169	-6	163	43	206	49
Change %:		5.1	-0.3	3.1	27.9	3.8	10.7
					Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey; Office for National Statistics		

[†] Indicates earliest revision

2 Public sector employment by industry; Headcount

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted										
		Public administration, defence, compulsory social security				Health and social work				
		Construction	HM Forces	Police (including civilians)	Public administration	Education	National Health Service	Other health and social work	Other public sector	Total public sector
		G7ER	G7EU	G7EX	G7F2	G7F5	G7FG	G7FJ	G7FM	G7AU
2018	Dec	35	151	247	1,039	1,495	1,672	215	505	5,360
	2019 Mar	36	153	249	1,050	1,493	1,683	214	498	5,375
	Jun	36	152	249	1,054	1,495	1,695	215	498	5,393
	Sep	35	153	252	1,055	1,492	1,711	214	507	5,417
	Dec	35	153	253	1,064	1,487	1,727	212	502	5,435
	2020 Mar	36	155	258	1,067 †	1,486	1,744	210 †	506	5,464
	Jun	36	156	261	1,073	1,482	1,783	208	554	5,552
	Sep	36	157	264	1,083	1,494	1,776	210	546	5,565
	Dec	35	157	264	1,097	1,493 †	1,792	211	544	5,598 †
	2021 Mar	35	157	267	1,125	1,491	1,836	211	544	5,670
Change on quarter:		0	0	3	28	-2	44	0	0	72
Change %:		0.0	0.0	1.1	2.6	-0.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.3
Change on year:		-1	2	9	58	5	92	1	38	206
Change %:		-2.8	1.3	3.5	5.4	0.3	5.3	0.5	7.5	3.8

Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey; Office for National Statistics

† Indicates earliest revision

[†] Indicates earliest revision

3 Public sector employment by sector classification; Full-time equivalent

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted							
		General government					
		Central government	Local government	Total general government	Total public corporations	Total public sector	Of which: Civil Service
		G7FP	G7FS	G7FV	G7FY	G7G3	G7G6
2018	Dec	2,749	1,556	4,305	146	4,451	409
	2019 Mar	2,774	1,550	4,324	144	4,468	414
2019	Jun	2,791	1,550	4,341	145	4,486	416
	Sep	2,817	1,547	4,364	146	4,510	419
2020	Dec	2,838	1,545	4,383	145	4,528	421
	Mar	2,865 †	1,547	4,412 †	145	4,557 †	423
2020	Jun	2,909	1,548	4,457	191	4,648	426
	Sep	2,919	1,553	4,472	188	4,660	431
2021	Dec	2,958	1,554 †	4,512	188	4,700	441
	Mar	3,024	1,554	4,578	188	4,766	468
Change on quarter:		66	0	66	0	66	27
Change %:		2.2	0	1.5	0.0	1.4	6.1
Change on year:		159	7	166	43	209	45
Change %:		5.5	0.5	3.8	29.7	4.6	10.6
					Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey; Office for National Statistics		

[†] Indicates earliest revision

4 Public sector employment by industry; Full-time equivalent

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted										
		Public administration, defence, compulsory social security				Health and social work			Total public sector	
		Construction	HM Forces	Police (including civilians)	Public administration	Education	National Health Service	Other health and social work		Other public sector
		G9BC	G7G9	G7GC	G7GF	G7GI	G7GL	G7GR		G7K2
2018	Dec	-	151	237	879	1,101	1,461	159	433	4,451
2019	Mar	-	153	238	893	1,100	1,473	159	426	4,468
	Jun	-	152	238	896	1,103	1,483	161	428	4,486
	Sep	-	153	241	896	1,100	1,498	159	434	4,510
	Dec	-	153	243	904	1,098	1,512	158	431	4,528
2020	Mar	-	155	248	910	1,097	1,531 †	157	434	4,557 †
	Jun	-	156	250	914	1,098	1,569	156	480	4,648
	Sep	-	157	253	921	1,104	1,564	157	474	4,660
	Dec	-	157	254	938	1,105	1,585	158	475 †	4,700
2021	Mar	-	157	256	967	1,105	1,621	160	475	4,766
Change on quarter:		-	0	2	29	0	36	2	0	66
Change %:		-	0.0	0.8	3.1	0.0	2.3	1.3	0.0	1.4
Change on year:		-	2	8	57	8	90	3	41	209
Change %:		-	1.3	3.2	6.3	0.7	5.9	1.9	9.4	4.6
Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey; Office for National Statistics										

5 Public and private sector employment; Headcount

United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted										
		Public sector		Private sector		Total employment (thousands)	Public sector excluding effects of major reclassifications		Private sector excluding effects of major reclassifications	
		Headcount (thousands)	Percentage	Headcount (thousands)	Percentage		Headcount (thousands)	Percentage	Headcount (thousands)	Percentage
		G7AU	G9BZ	G7K5	G9C2	G7GO	MFY7	MFY9	MFZ2	MFY5
2018	Dec	5,360	16.4	27,354	83.6	32,714	5,271	16.1	27,443	83.9
2019	Mar	5,375	16.4	27,371	83.6	32,746	5,285	16.1	27,461	83.9
	Jun	5,393	16.5	27,384	83.5	32,777	5,303	16.2	27,474	83.8
	Sep	5,417	16.5	27,384	83.5	32,801	5,330	16.2	27,471	83.8
	Dec	5,435	16.5	27,550	83.5	32,985	5,346	16.2	27,639	83.8
2020	Mar	5,464	16.6	27,376	83.4	32,840	5,372 †	16.4	27,468 †	83.6
	Jun	5,552	17.0	27,113	83.0	32,665	5,413	16.6	27,252	83.4
	Sep	5,565	17.1	26,957	82.9	32,522	5,431	16.7	27,091	83.3
	Dec	5,598 †	17.3	26,776 †	82.7	32,374	5,465	16.9	26,909	83.1
2021	Mar	5,670	17.5	26,817	82.5	32,487	5,532	17.0	26,955	83.0
Change on quarter:		72	0.2	41	-0.2	113	67	0.1	46	-0.1
Change %:		1.3	..	0.2	..	0.3	1.2	..	0.2	..
Change on year:		206	0.9	-559	-0.9	-353	160	0.6	-513	-0.6
Change %:		3.8	..	-2.0	..	-1.1	3.0	..	-1.9	..
Sources: Labour Force Survey and estimates from public sector organisations; Office for National Statistics										
† Indicates earliest revision										

6 Regional public sector employment

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																	
Region																	
All employees																	
	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
Area Code	K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002	
2018 Dec	5,361	5,360	5,134	4,290	230	610	459	345	436	420	729	628	432	292	552	211	
2019 Mar	5,385	5,375	5,157	4,308	230	612	462	348	437	417	735	631	436	293	555	212	
Jun	5,391	5,393	5,162	4,311	231	611	464	351	436	417	732	633	436	293	558	213	
Sep	5,408	5,417	5,183	4,329	233	616	464	352	438	419	735	635	439	294	560	211	
Dec	5,436	5,435	5,207	4,351	235	617	466	353	439	419	739	638	443	295	561	214	
2020 Mar	5,475	5,464	5,247	4,387	236	623	469	354	443	422	747	645	447	297	563	214	
Jun	5,550	5,552	5,320	4,446	238	629	471	357	450	428	762	658	454	303	572	216	
Sep	5,552	5,565	5,326	4,454	238	629	473	358	451	428	761	661	456	302	570	211	
Dec	5,596	5,598	5,366	4,487	239	633	477	360	454	431	767	668	458	306	573	215	
2021 Mar	5,682	5,670	5,448	4,557	243	643	483	366	461	439	780	676	465	311	579	216	
Change on year:	207	206	201	170	7	20	14	12	18	17	32	31	18	14	17	2	
Change %:	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.1	4.6	3.0	0.9	
% of total employment	17.5	17.5	17.3	16.6	20.8	18.7	18.6	16.4	16.7	15.7	14.8	15.3	17.1	22.1	21.9	26.3	
Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey; Office for National Statistics																	

6a Regional public sector employment excluding effects of major reclassifications

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																	
Region																	
All employees																	
	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
Area Code	K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002	
2018 Dec	5,273	5,271	5,050	4,221	229	598	453	342	429	414	712	616	428	290	539	206	
2019 Mar	5,296	5,285	5,073	4,239	228	600	456	344	429	412	718	619	431	291	543	207	
Jun	5,302	5,303	5,078	4,245	230	601	458	348	429	412	713	622	432	291	542	208	
Sep	5,319	5,330	5,099	4,263	232	605	458	349	431	414	717	624	434	292	544	206	
Dec	5,348	5,346	5,124	4,285	234	607	461	350	433	414	721	627	439	293	546	209	
2020 Mar	5,386	5,372	5,163	4,318	235	612	463	351	436	416	730	633	442	295	550	209	
Jun	5,412	5,413	5,187	4,335	237	615	464	351	438	418	733	635	444	298	553	211	
Sep	5,417	5,431	5,193	4,344	237	614	466	352	439	419	732	639	446	298	551	210	
Dec	5,462	5,465	5,234	4,377	237	619	470	355	442	422	738	645	448	301	555	214	
2021 Mar	5,547	5,532	5,315	4,447	242	629	475	361	449	430	751	654	456	307	561	215	
Change on year:	161	160	152	129	7	18	13	10	13	14	21	21	13	12	11	5	
Change %:	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.3	3.0	4.0	2.0	2.4	
% of total employment	17.1	17.0	16.9	16.2	20.6	18.3	18.3	16.2	16.3	15.4	14.2	14.8	16.8	21.8	21.2	26.1	
Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey; Office for National Statistics																	

7 Regional private sector employment

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																	
Region																	
All employees		United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Area Code		K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002
	2018 Dec	27,376	27,354	26,528	23,251	961	2,855	2,154	1,877	2,326	2,417	4,579	3,702	2,379	1,179	2,098	632
	2019 Mar	27,310	27,371	26,466	23,205	937	2,861	2,112	1,892	2,306	2,469	4,526	3,704	2,397	1,140	2,121	639
	Jun	27,374	27,384	26,513	23,264	942	2,821	2,126	1,897	2,366	2,488	4,478	3,744	2,401	1,142	2,107	639
	Sep	27,407	27,384	26,534	23,353	954	2,893	2,139	1,904	2,359	2,405	4,602	3,720	2,375	1,125	2,056	641
	Dec	27,596	27,550	26,706	23,499	958	2,917	2,118	1,908	2,354	2,399	4,700	3,761	2,386	1,128	2,079	648
	2020 Mar	27,355	27,376	26,474	23,295	981	2,909	2,114	1,905	2,290	2,381	4,606	3,792	2,316	1,113	2,067	628
	Jun	27,078	27,113	26,273	23,127	954	2,889	2,070	1,867	2,306	2,339	4,650	3,787	2,264	1,091	2,056	620
	Sep	26,961	26,957	26,162	22,990	935	2,823	2,085	1,849	2,356	2,332	4,561	3,780	2,267	1,085	2,087	623
	Dec	26,839	26,776	26,057	22,906	932	2,802	2,084	1,875	2,315	2,377	4,508	3,740	2,273	1,091	2,059	615
	2021 Mar	26,806	26,817	26,036	22,871	929	2,792	2,117	1,868	2,294	2,361	4,505	3,751	2,253	1,097	2,069	607
	Change on year:	-549	-559	-438	-424	-53	-118	4	-37	4	-20	-102	-41	-63	-16	2	-21
	Change %:	-2.0	-2.0	-1.7	-1.8	-5.4	-4.0	0.2	-1.9	0.2	-0.8	-2.2	-1.1	-2.7	-1.5	0.1	-3.4
	% of total employment	82.5	82.5	82.7	83.4	79.2	81.3	81.4	83.6	83.3	84.3	85.2	84.7	82.9	77.9	78.1	73.7
Sources: Labour Force Survey and estimates from public sector organisations; Office for National Statistics																	

7a Regional private sector employment excluding effects of major reclassifications

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																	
Region																	
All employees		United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Area Code		K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002
	2018 Dec	27,464	27,443	26,612	23,320	963	2,867	2,160	1,880	2,334	2,422	4,596	3,714	2,384	1,181	2,110	637
	2019 Mar	27,399	27,461	26,550	23,274	939	2,873	2,118	1,896	2,313	2,474	4,544	3,716	2,402	1,142	2,133	644
	Jun	27,463	27,474	26,596	23,330	944	2,831	2,132	1,900	2,373	2,493	4,497	3,755	2,405	1,144	2,123	644
	Sep	27,496	27,471	26,618	23,419	955	2,903	2,145	1,907	2,366	2,410	4,621	3,731	2,380	1,127	2,072	646
	Dec	27,684	27,639	26,790	23,565	959	2,927	2,123	1,911	2,361	2,404	4,718	3,772	2,390	1,130	2,094	653
	2020 Mar	27,444	27,468	26,558	23,363	983	2,921	2,120	1,908	2,297	2,387	4,624	3,804	2,321	1,115	2,079	633
	Jun	27,216	27,252	26,406	23,237	956	2,903	2,077	1,872	2,318	2,348	4,679	3,810	2,274	1,095	2,074	625
	Sep	27,096	27,091	26,295	23,100	937	2,837	2,092	1,855	2,368	2,341	4,590	3,803	2,277	1,090	2,106	625
	Dec	26,973	26,909	26,190	23,016	933	2,816	2,092	1,880	2,326	2,386	4,537	3,762	2,283	1,095	2,078	617
	2021 Mar	26,941	26,955	26,169	22,981	930	2,806	2,125	1,874	2,306	2,370	4,534	3,773	2,263	1,101	2,087	609
	Change on year:	-503	-513	-389	-383	-52	-115	5	-35	9	-16	-90	-31	-58	-14	8	-24
	Change %:	-1.8	-1.9	-1.5	-1.6	-5.3	-3.9	0.2	-1.8	0.4	-0.7	-1.9	-0.8	-2.5	-1.3	0.4	-3.9
	% of total employment	82.9	83.0	83.1	83.8	79.4	81.7	81.7	83.8	83.7	84.6	85.8	85.2	83.2	78.2	78.8	73.9
Sources: Labour Force Survey and estimates from public sector organisations; Office for National Statistics																	

8 Civil Service employment by department ^{1 2}

Headcount, Great Britain, not seasonally adjusted

	March 2021						December 2020	Change on Quarter	
	Male			Female			Total	Total	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
Permanent Employees									
Attorney General's departments	3,080	260	3,340	4,170	1,960	6,140	9,480	9,290	190
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	6,180	480	6,670	5,030	1,460	6,500	13,160	12,710	450
Cabinet Office	4,270	130	4,400	4,490	540	5,030	9,430	9,230	190
Other Cabinet Office agencies	460	10	480	410	70	480	960	910	50
Charity Commission	170	20	190	180	70	250	440	420	20
Competition and Markets Authority	390	20	410	350	80	430	840	830	10
Defence	33,300	1,710	35,000	18,550	4,400	22,950	57,950	57,240	710
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	760	20	770	820	100	920	1,690	1,560	130
Education	3,070	120	3,190	3,590	910	4,500	7,690	7,620	80
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	4,400	310	4,720	4,380	1,610	5,990	10,710	10,360	350
Estyn	40	10	50	50	20	70	110	120	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department	240	10	240	140	10	150	390	380	10
Food Standards Agency	720	50	770	460	60	520	1,290	1,260	30
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	4,260	130	4,380	3,760	430	4,190	8,570	8,630	-60
Health and Social Care	3,260	210	3,470	5,040	1,330	6,360	9,830	9,460	370
HM Land Registry	2,110	420	2,530	2,220	1,590	3,810	6,330	5,980	360
HM Revenue and Customs	27,380	3,910	31,290	21,440	13,520	34,960	66,260	66,890	-640
HM Treasury	1,320	50	1,370	1,130	180	1,300	2,670	2,620	50
Chancellor's other departments	200	20	220	140	40	180	400	400	0
Home Office	15,050	1,550	16,590	12,400	5,610	18,010	34,600	34,150	460
Housing, Communities and Local Government	1,550	150	1,690	1,320	340	1,660	3,360	3,210	150
International Trade	1,400	20	1,420	1,190	80	1,270	2,690	2,640	50
Justice	31,880	3,060	34,940	32,310	10,130	42,440	77,380	76,280	1,100
The National Archives	230	20	250	230	50	280	530	520	10
National Crime Agency	2,960	80	3,040	2,060	390	2,450	5,480	5,240	240
Northern Ireland Office	70	..	70	90	10	90	160	180	-10
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and	570	30	590	980	200	1,190	1,780	1,790	-10
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	530	10	540	410	60	470	1,010	980	30
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	100	..	100	120	30	140	240	220	20
Office of Rail and Road	170	20	190	110	30	140	330	320	..
Ofwat	110	10	120	100	30	130	250	240	10
Scotland Office	50	..	50	70	10	80	140	130	..
Transport	7,680	830	8,520	4,610	2,490	7,100	15,620	15,370	250
UK Statistics Authority ³	1,770	570	2,340	1,900	1,160	3,060	5,400	5,190	200
UK Supreme Court	20	0	20	20	10	30	40	40	0
Wales Office	30	0	30	20	..	20	40	50	-10
Work and Pensions	23,220	4,610	27,830	26,220	27,690	53,910	81,740	81,990	-250
Central Government Departments Total	182,970	18,840	201,810	160,490	76,680	237,170	438,970	434,440	4,530
Scottish Government	9,520	940	10,460	8,630	2,700	11,330	21,790	21,180	610
Welsh Government	2,170	170	2,340	2,470	910	3,370	5,710	5,720	..
TOTAL	194,660	19,940	214,600	171,580	80,290	251,870	466,480	461,340	5,140

	March 2021						Total	December 2020	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female				Total	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
Temporary/Casual Employees									
Attorney General's departments	110	10	120	240	10	250	360	370	-10
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	10	0	10	10	..	10	20	30	-10
Cabinet Office	20	0	20	20	..	20	30	40	-10
Other Cabinet Office agencies	30	..	30	20	..	20	50	60	-10
Charity Commission	20	0	20	20	..	20	30	10	30
Competition and Markets Authority	..	0	..	..	0	..	10	20	-10
Defence	50	..	60	10	..	10	70	70	..
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	40	0	40	40	..	40	80	80	..
Education	60	..	60	100	20	120	180	100	80
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	160	10	180	200	30	240	410	450	-40
Estyn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	..	0	..	..	..	10	10	10	..
Food Standards Agency	..	10	10	10	..	10	20	30	-10
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	20	10	30	20	..	30	50	40	10
Health and Social Care	490	120	610	900	410	1,310	1,930	1,390	540
HM Land Registry	20	..	20	20	10	30	50	30	20
HM Revenue and Customs	120	20	140	70	20	80	220	190	40
HM Treasury	10	0	10	10	..	10	20	20	..
Chancellor's other departments	10	0	10	..	0	..	10	..	10
Home Office	150	290	440	160	100	260	690	580	110
Housing, Communities and Local Government	10	..	20	30	..	30	40	60	-10
International Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Justice	630	50	680	1,150	140	1,290	1,970	1,520	450
The National Archives	..	..	..	10	10	10	20	20	..
National Crime Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and	0	0	0	10	..	10	10	10	..
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	100	..	100	70	..	70	170	180	-10
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	10	..	10	10	..	10	20	30	-10
Office of Rail and Road	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	0
Ofwat	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scotland Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport	150	30	180	130	50	180	370	350	20
UK Statistics Authority ³	5,340	4,450	9,790	3,620	6,060	9,680	19,460	430	19,030
UK Supreme Court	10	0	10	10	..	10	10	10	..
Wales Office	..	0	..	0	0	0	..	..	0
Work and Pensions	4,770	90	4,860	6,280	650	6,930	11,790	5,540	6,240
Central Government Departments Total	12,340	5,100	17,440	13,150	7,520	20,670	38,100	11,660	26,440
Scottish Government	190	20	210	180	60	240	450	400	50
Welsh Government	10	10	20	30	10	40	60	40	30
TOTAL	12,540	5,130	17,670	13,360	7,580	20,940	38,620	12,100	26,520

	March 2021							December 2020	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female			Total	Total	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
All Employees	207,200	25,070	232,280	184,940	87,870	272,820	505,090	473,440	31,660

Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics

1 Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by "...". Data not available are represented by "-".
2 Department totals include Executive Agencies, Ministerial and Non-Ministerial Departments.
3 March 2021 estimates of employment for the UK Statistics Authority include temporary staff employed to undertake the 2021 Census.

8 ..continued, Civil Service employment by department

Full-time equivalents, Great Britain, not seasonally adjusted					
	March 2021			December 2020	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Permanent Employees					
Attorney General's departments	3,260	5,560	8,820	8,630	190
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	6,520	6,070	12,590	12,150	440
Cabinet Office	4,370	4,880	9,250	9,060	190
Other Cabinet Office agencies	470	460	930	880	50
Charity Commission	180	240	420	400	20
Competition and Markets Authority	400	410	810	800	10
Defence	34,400	21,620	56,020	55,330	690
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	770	890	1,660	1,530	130
Education	3,160	4,260	7,430	7,340	90
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	4,630	5,520	10,150	9,810	340
Estyn	50	60	100	110	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department	240	150	390	370	10
Food Standards Agency	750	500	1,260	1,230	30
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	4,340	4,050	8,390	8,450	-60
Health and Social Care	3,410	5,980	9,390	9,060	330
HM Land Registry	2,390	3,360	5,750	5,390	350
HM Revenue and Customs	30,050	30,800	60,860	61,170	-310
HM Treasury	1,350	1,250	2,600	2,550	50
Chancellor's other departments	220	170	390	390	..
Home Office	16,110	16,300	32,410	31,980	430
Housing, Communities and Local Government	1,650	1,570	3,220	3,080	140
International Trade	1,420	1,250	2,660	2,610	50
Justice	33,620	38,860	72,490	71,410	1,080
The National Archives	240	260	500	490	10
National Crime Agency	3,010	2,340	5,350	5,110	240
Northern Ireland Office	70	90	160	170	-10
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	590	1,130	1,720	1,730	-10
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	540	450	990	960	30
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	100	130	230	220	20
Office of Rail and Road	190	130	320	310	..
Ofwat	120	120	240	230	10
Scotland Office	50	80	130	130	..
Transport	8,240	6,250	14,490	14,230	260
UK Statistics Authority ³	2,130	2,680	4,810	4,610	200
UK Supreme Court	20	20	40	40	0
Wales Office	30	20	40	50	-10
Work and Pensions	26,530	45,730	72,260	72,460	-190
Central Government Departments Total	195,610	213,640	409,250	404,450	4,800
Scottish Government	10,090	10,540	20,630	20,040	590
Welsh Government	2,290	3,120	5,410	5,410	0
TOTAL	207,980	227,300	435,280	429,890	5,390
	March 2021			December 2020	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Temporary/Casual Employees					
Attorney General's departments	110	240	350	360	-10
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	10	10	20	30	-10
Cabinet Office	20	20	30	40	-10
Other Cabinet Office agencies	30	20	40	50	-10
Charity Commission	20	20	30	10	30
Competition and Markets Authority	..	..	10	20	-10
Defence	60	10	70	70	..
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	40	40	80	80	..
Education	60	110	180	100	70
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	170	230	400	440	-40
Estyn	0	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	..	..	10	10	..
Food Standards Agency	10	10	20	30	-10
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	20	20	50	40	10
Health and Social Care	550	1,110	1,660	970	690
HM Land Registry	20	30	50	30	20
HM Revenue and Customs	130	80	210	170	40
HM Treasury	10	10	20	20	0
Chancellor's other departments	10	..	10	..	10
Home Office	210	190	400	410	-10
Housing, Communities and Local Government	10	30	40	60	-10
International Trade	0	0	0	0	0
Justice	650	1,230	1,880	1,460	420
The National Archives	..	10	10	20	..
National Crime Agency	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	0	10	10	10	..
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	100	70	170	180	-10
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	10	10	20	30	-10
Office of Rail and Road	..	..	..	..	..
Ofwat	..	..	..	..	0
Scotland Office	0	0	0	0	0
Transport	170	160	330	320	20
UK Statistics Authority ³	7,830	6,860	14,690	400	14,290
UK Supreme Court	10	10	10	10	..
Wales Office	..	0	..	..	0
Work and Pensions	4,840	6,730	11,570	5,470	6,100
Central Government Departments Total	15,100	17,280	32,370	10,820	21,550
Scottish Government	210	220	420	370	50
Welsh Government	20	40	50	40	20
TOTAL	15,320	17,530	32,850	11,220	21,620
	March 2021			December 2020	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
All Employees	223,300	244,830	468,130	441,120	27,000

Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics

1 Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by "...". Data not available are represented by "-".

2 Department totals include Executive Agencies, Ministerial and Non-Ministerial Departments.

3 March 2021 estimates of employment for the UK Statistics Authority include temporary staff employed to undertake the 2021 Census.

9 Civil Service employment by department and agency ¹

	March 2021		December 2020		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Attorney General's departments						
Attorney General's Office	50	50	50	50	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	6,750	6,270	6,590	6,120	150	150
Government Legal Department	2,530	2,360	2,510	2,330	20	20
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	30	20	30	30	..	..
Serious Fraud Office	490	480	480	470	10	10
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy						
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (excluding agencies)	5,330	5,210	5,110	5,000	210	210
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	1,060	990	1,040	970	20	20
Companies House	1,090	1,010	1,100	1,010	..	..
The Insolvency Service	1,810	1,730	1,710	1,630	100	100
Intellectual Property Office	1,520	1,440	1,440	1,360	80	80
Met Office	2,120	1,990	2,090	1,970	20	20
UK Space Agency	250	250	240	240	10	10
Cabinet Office						
Cabinet Office (excluding agencies)	9,460	9,280	9,270	9,100	190	180
Other Cabinet Office agencies						
Crown Commercial Service	790	770	750	730	40	30
Government Property Agency	220	210	210	200	10	10
Charity Commission						
Charity Commission	480	450	430	400	50	50
Competition and Markets Authority						
Competition and Markets Authority	850	820	840	820	..	..
Defence						
Ministry of Defence (excluding trading funds)	39,440	38,130	38,830	37,540	610	600
Defence Electronics and Components Agency	440	410	430	410	..	..
Defence Equipment and Support	10,740	10,380	10,760	10,400	-20	-30
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	4,420	4,270	4,420	4,270	0	..
Submarine Delivery Agency	2,160	2,110	2,030	1,990	120	120
UK Hydrographic Office	840	800	830	800	10	10
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport						
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (excluding agencies)	1,770	1,740	1,640	1,620	130	130
Education						
Department for Education (excluding agencies)	5,650	5,440	5,550	5,350	100	100
Education and Skills Funding Agency	1,810	1,760	1,780	1,720	40	40
Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	210	210	200	190	10	20
Standards and Testing Agency	130	120	120	120	..	..
Teaching Regulation Agency	70	70	70	70	..	..
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs						
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	5,470	5,270	5,220	5,030	250	250
Animal and Plant Health Agency	2,680	2,530	2,650	2,510	30	20
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	620	580	610	570	10	10
Rural Payments Agency	2,190	2,000	2,160	1,980	30	20
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	170	160	170	160	0	..
Estyn						
Estyn	110	100	120	110	..	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department						
Export Credits Guarantee Department	400	390	380	380	20	20
Food Standards Agency						
Food Standards Agency	1,310	1,280	1,290	1,260	20	10
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office						
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (excluding agencies)	7,460	7,320	7,510	7,370	-50	-60
FCDO Services	1,080	1,040	1,070	1,030	..	10
Wilton Park Executive Agency	90	80	90	80	..	..
Health and Social Care						
Department of Health and Social Care (excluding agencies)	3,520	3,440	3,110	3,030	410	410
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	1,340	1,300	1,320	1,280	20	20
Public Health England	6,890	6,320	6,420	5,720	470	590
HM Land Registry						
HM Land Registry	6,380	5,790	6,000	5,420	380	380
HM Revenue and Customs						
HM Revenue and Customs (excluding agencies)	62,940	57,790	63,650	58,170	-710	-380
Valuation Office Agency	3,540	3,280	3,430	3,170	110	110
HM Treasury						
HM Treasury (excluding agencies)	2,040	1,990	1,990	1,950	40	40
Government Internal Audit Agency	460	440	460	440	..	10
National Infrastructure Commission	40	40	40	40	..	..
Office for Budget Responsibility	40	40	40	30	..	..
UK Debt Management Office	110	110	110	110	0	0
Chancellor's other departments						
Government Actuary's Department	210	200	200	190	10	10
National Savings and Investments	200	200	200	200	0	0
Home Office						
Home Office	35,300	32,810	34,730	32,390	570	420
Housing, Communities and Local Government						
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (excluding agencies)	2,500	2,440	2,380	2,320	120	120
Planning Inspectorate	860	780	840	770	10	10
Queen Elizabeth II Centre	40	40	50	50	..	..

9 Civil Service employment by department and agency ¹

	March 2021		December 2020		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
International Trade						
Department for International Trade	2,690	2,660	2,640	2,610	50	50
Justice						
Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	5,470	5,320	5,380	5,240	90	80
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	300	280	320	290	-10	-10
HM Courts and Tribunals Service	16,660	15,060	16,270	14,670	390	390
HM Prison and Probation Service	54,300	51,270	53,180	50,190	1,110	1,080
Legal Aid Agency	1,190	1,120	1,200	1,130	..	-10
Office of the Public Guardian	1,430	1,320	1,460	1,350	-30	-30
The National Archives						
The National Archives	540	520	540	510	10	10
National Crime Agency						
National Crime Agency	5,480	5,350	5,240	5,110	240	240
Northern Ireland Office						
Northern Ireland Office	160	160	180	170	-10	-10
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills						
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	1,790	1,720	1,800	1,740	-10	-10
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets						
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	1,180	1,160	1,160	1,140	20	20
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation						
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	260	250	250	240	10	10
Office of Rail and Road						
Office of Rail and Road	330	320	330	320	..	..
Ofwat						
Ofwat	250	240	240	230	10	10
Scotland Office						
Scotland Office (incl. Office of the Advocate General for Scotland)	140	130	130	130	..	..
Transport						
Department for Transport (excluding agencies)	3,520	3,420	3,320	3,240	200	190
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,230	5,490	6,270	5,520	-40	-30
Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency	4,790	4,520	4,720	4,450	70	70
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,230	1,180	1,190	1,140	40	50
Vehicle Certification Agency	220	210	220	210	..	..
UK Statistics Authority						
UK Statistics Authority	5,550	4,960	5,310	4,720	240	240
Census Field ²	19,310	14,540	320	290	19,000	14,250
UK Supreme Court						
UK Supreme Court	60	50	60	50	..	..
Wales Office						
Wales Office	40	40	50	50	-10	-10
Work and Pensions						
Department for Work and Pensions (excluding agencies)	90,950	81,420	85,040	75,590	5,910	5,820
Health and Safety Executive	2,580	2,420	2,490	2,330	90	90
Scottish Government						
Scottish Government (excluding agencies)	7,820	7,490	7,590	7,270	230	220
Accountant in Bankruptcy	120	100	120	100	..	..
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal	2,020	1,880	1,960	1,820	60	60
Disclosure Scotland	310	290	290	270	30	20
Education Scotland	320	300	310	300	..	..
Food Standards Scotland	250	240	230	220	20	20
Forestry and Land Scotland	990	960	980	940	20	20
National Records of Scotland	440	410	430	400	10	10
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	50	50	50	50	0	0
Registers of Scotland	1,170	1,110	1,170	1,120	..	-10
Revenue Scotland	60	50	60	60	..	..
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service	1,800	1,640	1,770	1,600	30	30
Scottish Fiscal Commission	20	20	20	20	0	0
Scottish Forestry	190	180	180	170	10	10
Scottish Housing Regulator	50	50	50	50	0	0
Scottish Prison Service	4,490	4,210	4,460	4,190	20	20
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	290	260	290	260	0	..
Social Security Scotland	1,140	1,100	920	890	220	210
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	240	230	230	220	10	10
Transport Scotland	490	480	480	460	20	20
Welsh Government						
Welsh Government (excluding agencies)	5,700	5,390	5,680	5,380	20	20
Welsh Revenue Authority	70	70	70	70	..	..
Total employment	505,090	468,130	473,440	441,120	31,660	27,000

Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics

¹ Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by "...".

² Census Field staff (not recruited through UKSA) are included from September 2020.

10 Employment in Executive NDPBs ^{1 2 3}

Permanent Employees	March 2021		December 2020		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	11,430	11,040	11,240	10,860	190	180
Cabinet Office	810	750	890	830	-80	-80
Defence	460	400	470	410	-20	-10
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	11,170	10,260	11,280	10,360	-110	-100
Education	4,610	4,410	4,660	4,450	-50	-40
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴	14,720	13,800	14,690	13,750	30	50
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	1,340	1,300	1,370	1,330	-30	-30
Health and Social Care	14,430	13,830	13,820	13,220	610	610
Home Office	2,480	2,310	2,480	2,320	-10	-10
Housing, Communities and Local Government	1,380	1,350	1,340	1,310	40	40
Justice	2,510	2,380	2,440	2,320	70	60
Transport	2,050	2,000	1,930	1,890	110	110
Work and Pensions	990	970	970	950	20	20
Central Government Departments Total	68,370	64,800	67,580	64,000	790	800
Scottish Government	11,470	10,460	11,470	10,440	..	20
Welsh Assembly	3,340	3,080	3,350	3,090	-10	-10
TOTAL	83,180	78,350	82,400	77,540	790	810

Temporary Employees	March 2021		December 2020		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	130	130	140	140	-20	-10
Cabinet Office	60	60	40	40	30	30
Defence	90	10	110	10	-30	10
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	1,240	480	1,060	410	180	80
Education	170	170	160	160	10	10
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴	730	660	750	680	-20	-20
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	..	..	0	0	..	..
Health and Social Care	1,540	1,090	1,610	1,040	-70	60
Home Office	50	40	40	40	10	10
Housing, Communities and Local Government	140	130	120	120	20	20
Justice	80	80	70	60	10	20
Transport	20	20	20	20	..	..
Work and Pensions	90	80	90	90	-10	-10
Central Government Departments Total	4,330	2,960	4,200	2,790	120	170
Scottish Government	600	500	530	440	70	60
Welsh Assembly	510	220	520	220	-10	10
TOTAL	5,440	3,690	5,260	3,450	180	240

All NDPB Employees	88,620	82,030	87,650	80,980	970	1,050
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Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey, Office for National Statistics

1 Includes Executive NDPBs with an employment of greater than 20.

2 Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.

3 These figures do not include employees of ACAS, Health and Safety Executive, Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education, Office for Budget Responsibility. These are Crown NDPBs, the employees of which are included as part of Civil Service headcounts.

4 Environment Agency includes all regional divisions.

11 Employment in Academies

England (thousands), not seasonally adjusted

		Headcount	Full-time equivalent
2018	Dec	570	432
2019	Mar	580	439
	Jun	591	447
	Sep	597	452
	Dec	603	456
2020	Mar	606	459
	Jun	611	462
	Sep	616	465
	Dec	621	469
2021	Mar	626	473
<i>Change on quarter</i>		5	4
<i>Change %</i>		0.8	0.9
<i>Change on year</i>		20	14
<i>Change %</i>		3.3	3.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

1. Estimates of employment in academies are derived by matching the monthly Open Academies dataset with the annual School Workforce Census, both published by the Department for Education.
2. More detailed statistics on academies are available from the Department for Education: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-workforce>