

Statistical bulletin

# Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 24 September 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 8 to 19 September 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

Throughout the period of 8 to 19 September 2021, based on adults in Great Britain:

- A high proportion of adults felt that measures to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) were either very important or important; including wearing a face covering (86% in this period, 87% in the previous period between 25 August and 5 September 2021) and socially distancing from others not in their household (86% in this period, 87% in the previous period).
- A high proportion of adults reported they wore a face covering when outside their home (88% in this period, 89% in the previous period) although a smaller proportion reported they always or often maintained social distancing when meeting with people outside their household (45% in this period, 46% in the previous period).
- When friends and family had come into their home, the most common actions adults reported taking to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 were opening windows or doors (37%), washing hands regularly (35%), maintaining social distancing (19%) and cleaning touch points (14%); 4 in 10 adults (40%) reported friends and family had not come into their homes in the past seven days.
- The proportion of adults that reported self-isolating in the last seven days remained stable (3% in both this period and the previous period).
- The main reasons adults self-isolated in the last seven days were because of testing positive for COVID-19 (26%), being worried about catching COVID-19 (25%), or being in contact with someone who have tested positive for COVID-19 (20%).
- Personal well-being measures of life satisfaction (7.0 in this period, 7.1 in the previous period), feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (7.3 in both this period and in the previous period), happiness (7.1 in both this period and the previous period) and anxiety (4.0 in this period, 3.9 in the previous period) remained stable.
- Among working adults, 65% reported travelling to work (either exclusively or in combination with working from home) in the past seven days, which is an increase of 8 percentage points compared with the previous period (57%); 29% of working adults reported working from home in the past seven days (either exclusively or in combination with travelling to work) which is a slight decrease of 3 percentage points compared with the previous period (32%).

In this period, for the first time, we also asked adults in Great Britain about if they had experienced shortages of any goods at any time in the past two weeks<sup>1</sup>:

- Around 1 in 6 (18%) adults reported they had not been able to buy essential food items as they were not available at some point during the past two weeks; a quarter (25%) reported they had not been able to buy other non-essential food items, and a smaller proportion reported they had not been able to buy medicine (4%) or fuel (4%); around 6 in 10 (61%) reported that everything they needed had been available to buy.
- Around 2 in 10 (22%) adults who had tried to buy medicine or get a prescription reported experiencing some differences compared with the usual; the most commonly reported were that they had to wait longer for their prescriptions (13%), that items they needed were not available but they could find a replacement (5%), that items needed were not available and they could not find a replacement (4%), or that they had to go to more pharmacies than usual to find what they needed (4%).
- When food shopping, around 6 in 10 (58%) of adults reported experiencing some differences compared with the usual; the most commonly reported were that there was less variety in the shops than usual (40%), that items they needed were not available but they could find a replacement (20%), that items they needed were not available and they could not find a replacement (20%), or that they had to go to more shops than usual to get what they needed (13%).
- 85% of adults reported their food shopping habits had not changed in the past two weeks, 6% reported buying more and 8% buying less.

## Notes for: Main points

1. Totals for estimates regarding adults' experiences of shortages of goods may not sum to 100%, as respondents were able to choose more than one option. Please see the datasets provided with this bulletin for further detail.

## 2 . Social impacts on Great Britain data

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

Dataset | Released 24 September 2021

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

### [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: Proof of vaccination status or negative test result, worries about returning to school and perceived risk of catching COVID-19](#)

Dataset | Released on 24 September 2021

Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) on whether and where someone has had to prove they have received a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine or had a negative test result, on worries about children returning to school including the reasons why and peoples perceptions of their risk of catching COVID-19, covering the period 8 to 19 September 2021.

### [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: Personal experience of shortage of goods](#)

Dataset | Released on 24 September 2021

Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) on whether people experienced shortage of goods such as food, medicine and fuel when shopping, covering the period 8 to 19 September 2021.

## 3 . Measuring the data

This release 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.

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.

As we have moved to a period where restrictions have been lifted across Great Britain, from September 2021, the OPN has moved to a fortnightly data collection. This brings us into line with data collection on the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS). The next bulletin will be published on 8 October 2021.

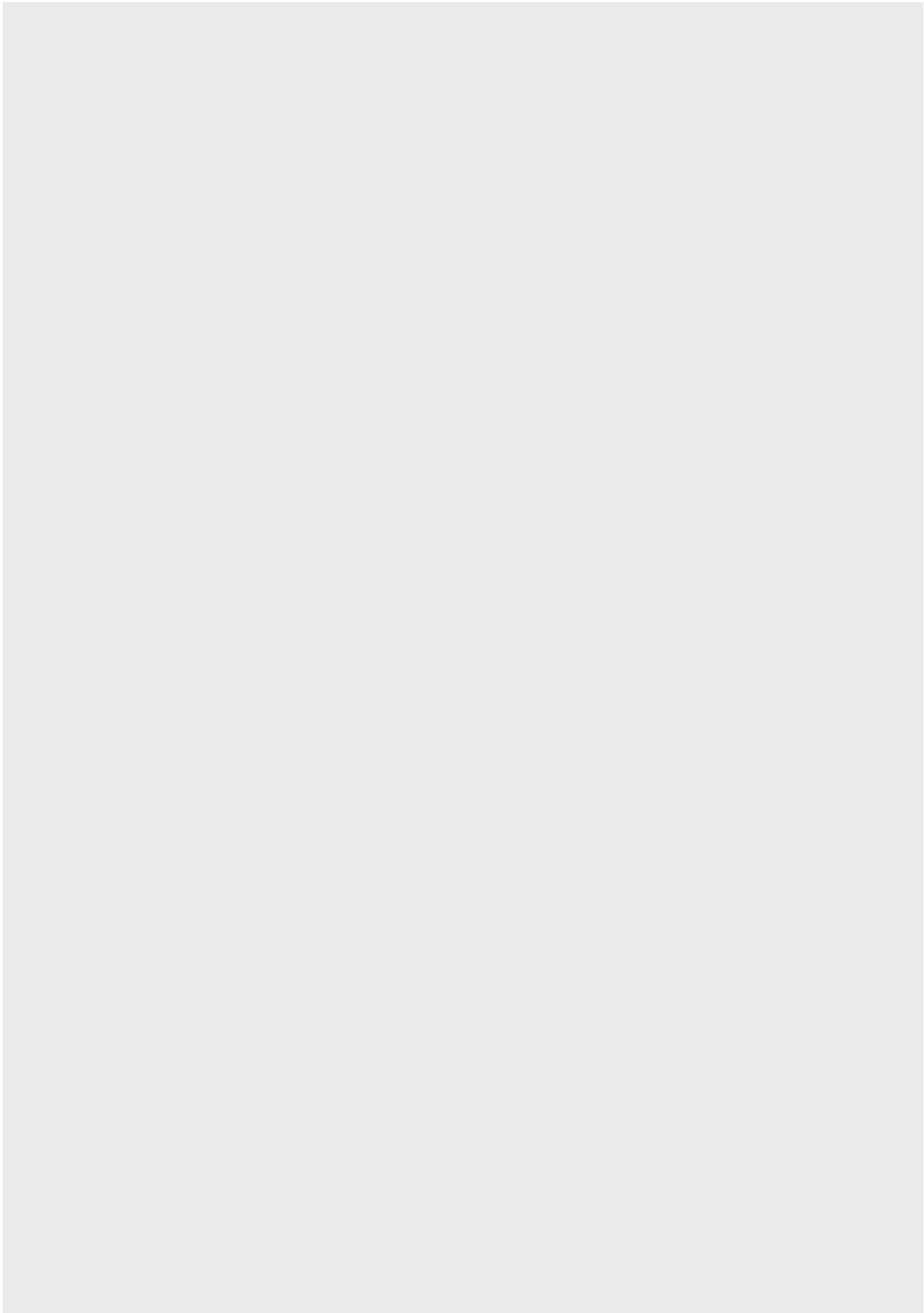
### Sampling and weighting

From the period between 4 and 8 August 2021 onwards, the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) sample size was reduced to around 5,000 households in each period to help ensure the survey remains sustainable. In this period between 8 and 19 September 2021, we sampled 4,994 households. These were randomly selected from those that had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample contained 3,576 individuals, representing a 72% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on September 2021 population estimates). Further information on the survey design and quality can be found in the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Quality and Methodology Information](#).



## 4 . Related links



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

Web page | Updated as data become available

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

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

An interactive tool to explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and other sources.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) harmonisation guidance](#)

Webpage | Updated frequently

This page provides harmonisation guidance on how best to collect data about the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Users can also find a bank of questions from multiple Office for National Statistics (ONS) surveys related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to be used in other surveys to further support harmonisation and questionnaire development. This bank also provides users with an understanding of what data ONS has in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) certification: 10 September 2021](#)

Article | Released 10 September 2021

Data and analysis on the percentage of adults in Great Britain who have been asked to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative coronavirus (COVID-19) test, to be let into a venue or event.

### [Exploring the changing impact of COVID-19 on our lives](#)

Blog | Released 3 September 2021

In March 2020, as the nation was urged to stay at home and only to leave for essential reasons, our lives were turned upside down. At the ONS, most staff moved to homeworking, and those of us with children found ourselves, in common with millions of others, trying to combine childcare and home-schooling with working in new ways. Here Tim Vizard looks back over the impact we've seen the pandemic having on people's lives.

### [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 23 September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 23 September 2021

Early experimental data and analysis on economic activity and social change in the UK. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and experimental methods.

### [Coronavirus and the impact on household finances and living standards](#)

Article | Released 13 September 2021

Analysis of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on household and individuals' financial health, considering changes in spending, income and economic well-being. This article combines findings from the Living Costs and Food Survey, the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, the Survey of Living Conditions, and the Wealth and Assets Survey.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19, UK: 22 September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 22 September 2021

Characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This survey is being delivered in partnership with University of Oxford, University of Manchester, Public Health England and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse Laboratories to collect and test samples.

### [Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 September 2021

Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes deaths due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and leading causes of death.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) restrictions and household emissions](#)

Article | Released 21 September 2021

Looks at emissions by Standard Industrial Classification at the Section level, to show the impact of the measures to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and the long-term story of emissions levels in the UK.

### [Remote schooling through the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, England: April 2020 to June 2021](#)

Article | Released 22 September 2021

How remote learning has affected the amount of learning materials covered by pupils and the dependence of remote learning on parental input over the course of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: antibody and vaccination data, UK: 16 September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 16 September 2021

Antibody and vaccination data by UK country and regions in England from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This analysis has been produced in partnership with the University of Oxford, the University of Manchester, Public Health England, and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse Laboratories to collect and test samples.

[Coronavirus and vaccine hesitancy, Great Britain: 23 June to 18 July 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 9 August 2021 Hesitancy towards a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, based on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) covering the period 23 June to 18 July 2021. Additional analysis examines hesitancy in areas of Great Britain between 7 January to 28 March and 28 April to 18 July 2021.

[Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection in the UK: 2 September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 2 September 2021

Estimates of the prevalence of self-reported "long COVID" and associated activity limitation, using UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey data.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts of "long COVID" on people's lives in Great Britain: 7 April to 13 June 2021](#)

Article | Released 21 July 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 7 April to 13 June 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people by their self-reported COVID-19 status.