

Statistical bulletin

Public sector employment, UK: December 2023

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



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1 . Main points

- Total public sector employment increased in December 2023 compared with the previous quarter and the previous year; the December 2023 level is the highest since March 2012.
- There were an estimated 5.93 million employees in the public sector in December 2023, which is 32,000 (0.5%) more than in September 2023 and 138,000 (2.4%) more than in December 2022.
- Employment in central government was an estimated 3.74 million in December 2023, up 33,000 (0.9%) compared with September 2023 and up 134,000 (3.7%) compared with December 2022; the main contributors to this increase were the NHS, the Civil Service, and local authority schools becoming academies.
- The NHS employed an estimated 2.01 million people in December 2023, an increase of 23,000 (1.2%) compared with September 2023 and an increase of 89,000 (4.6%) compared with December 2022.
- Employment in local government was an estimated 2.00 million in December 2023, little changed on the previous quarter; it was 1,000 (0.1%) less than in September 2023 and 3,000 (0.2%) more than in December 2022 with an increase in employment in the police contributing to the increase from a year ago.
- There were 535,000 employees in the Civil Service in December 2023, up 6,000 (1.1%) compared with September 2023 and up 20,000 (3.9%) compared with December 2022.

2 . Public sector employment data

[Public sector employment](#)

Dataset | Released 12 March 2024

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 12 March 2024

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

3 . Measuring the data

Labour Force Survey reweighting and revisions to total and private sector employment estimates

Estimates of total employment and private sector employment derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) have been revised in this release following the reintroduction of reweighted LFS estimates. These LFS estimates are [official statistics in development](#). The seasonally adjusted UK series have been revised from September 2011 onwards, while the non-seasonally adjusted UK and regional series have been revised from September 2022 onwards.

The new reweighted LFS estimates incorporate our latest estimates of the size and composition of the UK population, improving the representativeness of our LFS estimates. Given time constraints, we have only been able to reweight LFS data from July to September 2022 onwards. Therefore, this reweighting exercise creates a discontinuity between the June 2022 and September 2022 non-seasonally adjusted UK and regional series where there will be a step change in LFS estimates. However, we have modelled the seasonally adjusted UK levels of employment back to June to August 2011, to ensure that headline levels of total and private sector employment can be assessed without a discontinuity.

For further information, please see our [Impact of reweighting on Labour Force Survey key indicators article](#).

An issue has been detected in the weighting of the Labour Force Survey for Northern Ireland for the November 2023 to January 2024 quarter only. While only Northern Ireland data are affected, as a consequence we are not able to publish any regional private sector estimates for December 2023 as part of this release. Publication of the public sector data is not affected. We intend to publish full regional data as part of the next scheduled PSE release.

Reclassification of further education institutions in England

On 29 November 2022, we announced the reclassification of further education corporations, sixth form college corporations, and designated institutions in England from the non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sector to the central government sector. Our [Economic statistics sector classification – classification update and forward work plan: November 2022 article](#) has more information on this classification decision.

This reclassification will be reflected in the public sector employment statistics in due course.

Coronavirus

For more information on how labour market data sources were affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, see our [Coronavirus and the effects on UK labour market statistics article](#).

View our [Comparison of labour market data sources and the main differences article](#).

Sources

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

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 our [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. This is 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 our [Public sector employment QMI](#).

4 . Related links

[Civil Service statistics](#)

Statistical release | Released 2 August 2023

Detailed information on the UK Civil Service workforce, including pay, diversity, and location. Responsibility for the collection and publication of this annual release was transferred from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to the Cabinet Office with effect from 1 October 2018.

[Public sector employment in Scotland](#)

Statistical release | Released 12 March 2024

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 12 March 2024

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 | Released quarterly

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.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), published 12 March 2024, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Public sector employment, UK: December 2023](#)

Index of Tables

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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 |
| 2021 | Sep | 3,503 | 2,001 | 5,504 | 195 | 5,699 | 505 |
| | Dec | 3,523 | 2,001 | 5,524 | 195 | 5,719 | 507 |
| 2022 | Mar | 3,545 | 1,997 | 5,542 | 193 | 5,735 | 512 |
| | Jun | 3,564 | 1,995 | 5,559 | 189 | 5,748 | 512 |
| | Sep | 3,578 | 1,995 | 5,573 | 193 | 5,766 | 513 |
| | Dec | 3,604 † | 1,996 | 5,600 † | 193 | 5,793 † | 515 |
| 2023 | Mar | 3,636 | 2,000 | 5,636 | 193 | 5,829 | 521 |
| | Jun | 3,670 | 2,002 | 5,672 | 194 | 5,866 | 522 |
| | Sep | 3,705 | 2,005 † | 5,705 | 194 | 5,899 | 529 |
| | Dec | 3,738 | 1,999 | 5,737 | 194 | 5,931 | 535 |
| Change on quarter: | | 33 | -1 | 32 | 0 | 32 | 6 |
| Change %: | | 0.9 | -0.1 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 1.1 |
| Change on year: | | 134 | 3 | 137 | 1 | 138 | 20 |
| Change %: | | 3.7 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 3.9 |

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 | | | Other public sector | Total public sector |
|--------------------|-----|--|------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | Construction | HM Forces | Police (including civilians) | Public administration | Education | National Health Service | Other health and social work | | |
| | | G7ER | G7EU | G7EX | G7F2 | G7F5 | G7FG | G7FJ | G7FM | G7AU |
| 2021 | Sep | 35 | 160 | 271 | 1,127 | 1,497 | 1,850 | 212 | 550 | 5,699 |
| | Dec | 35 | 159 | 270 | 1,132 | 1,498 | 1,862 | 211 | 551 | 5,719 |
| 2022 | Mar | 35 | 158 | 272 | 1,143 | 1,497 | 1,874 | 212 | 543 | 5,735 |
| | Jun | 34 | 157 | 272 | 1,143 | 1,500 | 1,884 | 213 | 545 | 5,748 |
| | Sep | 34 | 156 | 274 | 1,148 | 1,496 | 1,898 | 213 | 549 | 5,766 |
| | Dec | 34 | 154 | 276 | 1,152 † | 1,498 | 1,917 | 212 † | 550 | 5,793 † |
| 2023 | Mar | 34 | 152 | 280 | 1,159 | 1,501 | 1,938 | 210 | 552 | 5,829 |
| | Jun | 33 | 150 | 280 | 1,175 | 1,501 | 1,962 | 211 | 551 | 5,866 |
| | Sep | 34 | 150 | 281 † | 1,185 | 1,507 † | 1,983 † | 209 | 553 † | 5,899 |
| | Dec | 34 | 150 | 281 | 1,194 | 1,505 | 2,006 | 208 | 554 | 5,931 |
| Change on quarter: | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | -2 | 23 | -1 | 1 | 32 |
| Change %: | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 | -0.1 | 1.2 | -0.5 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Change on year: | | 0 | -4 | 5 | 42 | 7 | 89 | -4 | 4 | 138 |
| Change %: | | 0.0 | -2.6 | 1.8 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 4.6 | -1.9 | 0.7 | 2.4 |

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

† Indicates earliest revision

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

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

| | | General government | | | Total public corporations | Total public sector | Of which: Civil Service |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Central government | Local government | Total general government | | | |
| | | G7FP | G7FS | G7FV | G7FY | G7G3 | G7G6 |
| 2021 | Sep | 3,071 | 1,558 | 4,629 | 185 | 4,814 | 473 |
| | Dec | 3,088 | 1,560 | 4,648 | 186 | 4,834 | 475 |
| 2022 | Mar | 3,108 | 1,558 | 4,666 | 184 | 4,850 | 480 |
| | Jun | 3,125 | 1,558 | 4,683 | 181 | 4,864 | 479 |
| | Sep | 3,146 | 1,560 | 4,706 | 183 | 4,889 | 481 |
| | Dec | 3,163 † | 1,563 | 4,726 † | 183 | 4,909 † | 483 |
| 2023 | Mar | 3,198 | 1,569 | 4,767 | 184 | 4,951 | 489 |
| | Jun | 3,229 | 1,573 | 4,802 | 185 | 4,987 | 489 |
| | Sep | 3,248 | 1,574 † | 4,822 | 185 | 5,007 | 496 |
| | Dec | 3,288 | 1,576 | 4,864 | 185 | 5,049 | 503 |
| Change on quarter: | | 40 | 2 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 7 |
| Change %: | | 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| Change on year: | | 125 | 13 | 138 | 2 | 140 | 20 |
| Change %: | | 4.0 | 0.8 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 2.9 | 4.1 |

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 | | | | Education | Health and social work | | | Other public sector | Total public sector |
|--------------------|--|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Construction | HM Forces | Police (including civilians) | Public administration | | National Health Service | Other health and social work | | | |
| | G9BC | G7G9 | G7GC | G7GF | | G7GI | G7GL | G7GR | | |
| 2021 Sep | - | 160 | 260 | 968 | 1,116 | 1,639 | 160 | 483 | 4,814 | |
| Dec | - | 159 | 260 | 975 | 1,120 | 1,648 | 160 | 483 | 4,834 | |
| 2022 Mar | - | 158 | 262 | 988 | 1,119 | 1,659 | 161 | 475 | 4,850 | |
| Jun | - | 157 | 262 | 987 | 1,123 | 1,669 | 162 | 478 | 4,864 | |
| Sep | - | 156 | 264 | 989 | 1,122 | 1,686 | 162 | 482 | 4,889 | |
| Dec | - | 154 | 265 | 996 | 1,124 | 1,700 † | 162 † | 483 | 4,909 † | |
| 2023 Mar | - | 152 | 270 | 1,005 | 1,129 | 1,723 | 161 | 485 | 4,951 | |
| Jun | - | 150 | 270 | 1,018 | 1,129 | 1,746 | 163 | 485 | 4,987 | |
| Sep | - | 150 | 271 † | 1,023 | 1,132 † | 1,757 | 162 | 486 | 5,007 | |
| Dec | - | 150 | 270 | 1,036 | 1,132 | 1,786 | 160 | 488 | 5,049 | |
| Change on quarter: | - | 0 | -1 | 13 | 0 | 29 | -2 | 2 | 42 | |
| Change %: | - | 0.0 | -0.4 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 | -1.2 | 0.4 | 0.8 | |
| Change on year: | - | -4 | 5 | 40 | 8 | 86 | -2 | 5 | 140 | |
| Change %: | - | -2.6 | 1.9 | 4.0 | 0.7 | 5.1 | -1.2 | 1.0 | 2.9 | |

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

† Indicates earliest revision

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 |
| 2021 Sep | 5,699 | 17.4 | 26,987 | 82.6 | 32,686 | 5,559 | 17.0 | 27,127 | 83.0 |
| Dec | 5,719 | 17.5 | 26,938 | 82.5 | 32,657 | 5,578 | 17.1 | 27,079 | 82.9 |
| 2022 Mar | 5,735 | 17.5 | 27,122 | 82.5 | 32,857 | 5,595 | 17.0 | 27,262 | 83.0 |
| Jun | 5,748 | 17.5 | 27,172 | 82.5 | 32,920 | 5,609 | 17.0 | 27,311 | 83.0 |
| Sep | 5,766 | 17.5 | 27,185 | 82.5 | 32,951 | 5,626 | 17.1 | 27,325 | 82.9 |
| Dec | 5,793 † | 17.5 | 27,306 | 82.5 | 33,099 | 5,653 | 17.1 | 27,446 | 82.9 |
| 2023 Mar | 5,829 | 17.5 | 27,497 | 82.5 | 33,326 | 5,688 | 17.1 | 27,638 | 82.9 |
| Jun | 5,866 | 17.7 | 27,216 | 82.3 | 33,082 | 5,726 | 17.3 | 27,356 | 82.7 |
| Sep | 5,899 | 17.8 | 27,297 | 82.2 | 33,196 | 5,762 † | 17.4 | 27,434 | 82.6 |
| Dec | 5,931 | 17.9 | 27,244 | 82.1 | 33,175 | 5,793 | 17.5 | 27,382 | 82.5 |
| Change on quarter: | 32 | 0.1 | -53 | -0.1 | -21 | 31 | 0.1 | -52 | -0.1 |
| Change %: | 0.5 | .. | -0.2 | .. | -0.1 | 0.5 | .. | -0.2 | .. |
| Change on year: | 138 | 0.4 | -62 | -0.4 | 76 | 140 | 0.4 | -64 | -0.4 |
| Change %: | 2.4 | .. | -0.2 | .. | 0.2 | 2.5 | .. | -0.2 | .. |

Sources: Labour Force Survey and estimates from public sector organisations; Office for National Statistics

† Indicates earliest revision

8 ..continued, Civil Service employment by department

Full-time equivalents, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

| | December 2023 | | | September 2023 | Change on Quarter |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Total | Total |
| Permanent Employees | | | | | |
| Attorney General's departments | 3,560 | 6,710 | 10,270 | 10,245 | 25 |
| Business and Trade | 4,440 | 4,705 | 9,145 | 8,995 | 150 |
| Cabinet Office | 2,870 | 3,255 | 6,125 | 5,750 | 375 |
| Other Cabinet Office agencies | 2,040 | 2,175 | 4,220 | 4,140 | 80 |
| Charity Commission | 180 | 260 | 445 | 445 | .. |
| Competition and Markets Authority | 500 | 515 | 1,015 | 960 | 50 |
| Culture, Media and Sport ⁴ | 795 | 940 | 1,735 | 1,700 | 35 |
| Defence | 34,350 | 23,300 | 57,650 | 57,355 | 295 |
| Education | 3,250 | 4,755 | 8,005 | 7,835 | 170 |
| Energy Security and Net Zero | 2,090 | 2,060 | 4,145 | 4,135 | 10 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 5,550 | 6,825 | 12,375 | 12,180 | 195 |
| Estyn | 55 | 75 | 130 | 130 | .. |
| Export Credits Guarantee Department | 290 | 235 | 525 | 535 | -10 |
| Food Standards Agency | 775 | 730 | 1,505 | 1,495 | 10 |
| Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | 4,540 | 4,225 | 8,760 | 8,590 | 170 |
| Health and Social Care | 3,285 | 5,720 | 9,005 | 8,815 | 190 |
| HM Land Registry | 2,555 | 3,735 | 6,295 | 6,220 | 75 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | 32,110 | 32,490 | 64,605 | 65,125 | -525 |
| HM Treasury | 1,360 | 1,335 | 2,695 | 2,725 | -30 |
| Chancellor's other departments | 255 | 170 | 420 | 410 | 10 |
| Home Office | 21,625 | 22,380 | 44,005 | 41,340 | 2,665 |
| Justice | 38,120 | 50,385 | 88,505 | 87,995 | 510 |
| Levelling Up, Housing and Communities | 2,125 | 2,230 | 4,355 | 4,145 | 215 |
| The National Archives | 265 | 280 | 545 | 550 | -10 |
| National Crime Agency | 3,030 | 2,485 | 5,515 | 5,485 | 30 |
| Northern Ireland Office | 75 | 85 | 160 | 165 | .. |
| Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills | 640 | 1,335 | 1,970 | 1,975 | -5 |
| Office of Gas and Electricity Markets | 985 | 810 | 1,795 | 1,700 | 95 |
| Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation | 115 | 210 | 325 | 330 | .. |
| Office of Rail and Road | 205 | 155 | 360 | 355 | .. |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland | 45 | 85 | 130 | 130 | 0 |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Wales | 30 | 20 | 50 | 45 | 5 |
| Ofwat | 150 | 155 | 305 | 295 | 10 |
| Science, Innovation and Technology ⁴ | 3,045 | 2,440 | 5,485 | 5,180 | 305 |
| Transport | 8,390 | 6,610 | 15,005 | 14,950 | 55 |
| UK Statistics Authority | 2,295 | 2,855 | 5,150 | 5,255 | -100 |
| UK Supreme Court | 25 | 20 | 45 | 40 | .. |
| Work and Pensions | 31,915 | 49,075 | 80,990 | 79,305 | 1,685 |
| Central Government Departments Total | 217,920 | 245,845 | 463,765 | 457,035 | 6,730 |
| Scottish Government | 12,010 | 14,110 | 26,120 | 26,115 | .. |
| Welsh Government | 2,365 | 3,405 | 5,770 | 5,720 | 50 |
| TOTAL | 232,295 | 263,360 | 495,650 | 488,875 | 6,780 |
| Temporary/Casual Employees | | | | | |
| Attorney General's departments | 70 | 140 | 210 | 195 | 10 |
| Business and Trade | 35 | 35 | 70 | 35 | 35 |
| Cabinet Office | 5 | .. | 10 | 25 | -15 |
| Other Cabinet Office agencies | 10 | 5 | 15 | 15 | .. |
| Charity Commission | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | .. |
| Competition and Markets Authority | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | .. |
| Culture, Media and Sport ⁴ | 10 | 15 | 25 | 25 | .. |
| Defence | 50 | 20 | 70 | 70 | 0 |
| Education | 50 | 105 | 155 | 125 | 30 |
| Energy Security and Net Zero | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 205 | 230 | 435 | 405 | 30 |
| Estyn | .. | 10 | 10 | .. | 10 |
| Export Credits Guarantee Department | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 10 |
| Food Standards Agency | 10 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | 190 | 210 | 400 | 405 | .. |
| Health and Social Care | 230 | 355 | 585 | 730 | -145 |
| HM Land Registry | 5 | .. | 10 | 5 | .. |
| HM Revenue and Customs | 275 | 140 | 415 | 495 | -80 |
| HM Treasury | 40 | 15 | 55 | 60 | -10 |
| Chancellor's other departments | .. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Home Office | 965 | 1,115 | 2,080 | 2,325 | -245 |
| Justice | 290 | 530 | 820 | 800 | 25 |
| Levelling Up, Housing and Communities | 5 | 5 | 10 | 20 | -10 |
| The National Archives | 5 | 10 | 20 | 15 | .. |
| 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 | .. | 5 | 10 | 15 | .. |
| Office of Gas and Electricity Markets | 80 | 70 | 150 | 180 | -30 |
| Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation | .. | 10 | 15 | 15 | .. |
| Office of Rail and Road | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | .. | .. |
| Ofwat | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. |
| Science, Innovation and Technology ⁴ | 10 | 10 | 20 | 25 | .. |
| Transport | 130 | 135 | 265 | 275 | -10 |
| UK Statistics Authority | 50 | 30 | 85 | 100 | -15 |
| UK Supreme Court | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| Work and Pensions | 290 | 310 | 600 | 400 | 200 |
| Central Government Departments Total | 3,060 | 3,575 | 6,635 | 6,845 | -210 |
| Scottish Government | 205 | 190 | 395 | 385 | 10 |
| Welsh Government | 10 | 25 | 35 | 25 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 3,275 | 3,790 | 7,065 | 7,255 | -190 |
| All Employees | | | | | |
| | 235,570 | 267,150 | 502,710 | 496,115 | 6,595 |

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

- Numbers are rounded to the nearest five, and numbers less than five are represented by "..". Data not available are represented by "-".
- In the December 2023 release, numbers in this table are rounded to the nearest five for the first time. In previous releases of this table, numbers were rounded to the nearest ten. This has been introduced to align with the Annual Civil Service Employment Statistics published by Cabinet Office.
- Department totals include Executive Agencies, Ministerial and Non-Ministerial Departments.
- The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) was formed in February 2023 from parts of the former Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Around 815 FTE staff from DCMS have transferred to DSIT, but are still being paid from the DCMS payroll and therefore counted by DCMS in these statistics. These staff will be reported under DSIT in due course once they transfer fully to the DSIT payroll.

9 Civil Service employment by department and agency ^{1 2}

| | December 2023 | | September 2023 | | Change on Quarter | |
|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent |
| Attorney General's departments | | | | | | |
| Attorney General's Office | 55 | 55 | 50 | 50 | .. | .. |
| Crown Prosecution Service | 7,725 | 7,245 | 7,770 | 7,285 | -45 | -45 |
| Government Legal Department | 2,865 | 2,665 | 2,810 | 2,630 | 55 | 35 |
| HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate | 30 | 25 | 25 | 25 | .. | .. |
| Serious Fraud Office | 500 | 490 | 465 | 455 | 35 | 35 |
| Business and Trade | | | | | | |
| Department for Business and Trade (excluding agencies) | 5,450 | 5,360 | 5,380 | 5,295 | 70 | 70 |
| Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service | 1,000 | 920 | 985 | 910 | 15 | 15 |
| Companies House | 1,395 | 1,310 | 1,340 | 1,255 | 60 | 55 |
| The Insolvency Service | 1,705 | 1,620 | 1,655 | 1,575 | 50 | 50 |
| Cabinet Office | | | | | | |
| Cabinet Office (excluding agencies) ³ | 6,310 | 6,135 | 5,945 | 5,775 | 365 | 360 |
| Other Cabinet Office agencies | | | | | | |
| Central Civil Service Fast Stream | 1,745 | 1,740 | 1,580 | 1,575 | 165 | 165 |
| Crown Commercial Service | 695 | 670 | 715 | 690 | -20 | -15 |
| Government Commercial Organisation | 1,450 | 1,430 | 1,525 | 1,510 | -80 | -80 |
| Government Property Agency | 395 | 385 | 385 | 380 | 10 | 5 |
| Charity Commission | | | | | | |
| Charity Commission | 480 | 455 | 480 | 460 | .. | .. |
| Competition and Markets Authority | | | | | | |
| Competition and Markets Authority | 1,065 | 1,030 | 1,015 | 985 | 50 | 50 |
| Culture, Media and Sport | | | | | | |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport (excluding agencies) ⁴ | 1,800 | 1,760 | 1,755 | 1,720 | 45 | 40 |
| Defence | | | | | | |
| Ministry of Defence (excluding trading funds) | 37,930 | 36,715 | 37,930 | 36,685 | 0 | 30 |
| Defence Electronics and Components Agency | 435 | 405 | 435 | 405 | 0 | 0 |
| Defence Equipment and Support | 10,975 | 10,560 | 10,840 | 10,425 | 135 | 135 |
| Defence Science and Technology Laboratory | 5,385 | 5,200 | 5,345 | 5,165 | 40 | 35 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary | 1,670 | 1,670 | 1,675 | 1,675 | -5 | -5 |
| Submarine Delivery Agency | 2,290 | 2,225 | 2,215 | 2,150 | 75 | 70 |
| UK Hydrographic Office | 995 | 945 | 965 | 920 | 30 | 30 |
| Education | | | | | | |
| Department for Education (excluding agencies) | 7,175 | 6,915 | 6,970 | 6,715 | 205 | 200 |
| Education and Skills Funding Agency | 725 | 700 | 725 | 700 | .. | .. |
| Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education | 330 | 325 | 335 | 330 | .. | .. |
| Standards and Testing Agency | 135 | 125 | 130 | 125 | .. | .. |
| Teaching Regulation Agency | 95 | 95 | 95 | 90 | .. | .. |
| Energy Security and Net Zero | | | | | | |
| Department for Energy Security and Net Zero | 4,230 | 4,145 | 4,220 | 4,135 | 10 | 10 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | | | | | | |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies) | 6,735 | 6,505 | 6,515 | 6,295 | 220 | 210 |
| Animal and Plant Health Agency | 3,065 | 2,910 | 3,070 | 2,915 | -5 | -5 |
| Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science | 645 | 605 | 650 | 610 | .. | -5 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 2,835 | 2,620 | 2,810 | 2,595 | 30 | 30 |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate | 175 | 170 | 175 | 175 | .. | .. |
| Estyn | | | | | | |
| Estyn | 155 | 145 | 140 | 130 | 10 | 10 |
| Export Credits Guarantee Department | | | | | | |
| Export Credits Guarantee Department | 545 | 540 | 550 | 540 | .. | .. |
| Food Standards Agency | | | | | | |
| Food Standards Agency | 1,565 | 1,520 | 1,550 | 1,505 | 20 | 20 |
| Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | | | | | | |
| Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (excluding agencies) | 8,080 | 7,945 | 7,920 | 7,785 | 160 | 160 |
| FCDO Services | 1,175 | 1,135 | 1,170 | 1,130 | 10 | 5 |
| Wilton Park Executive Agency | 90 | 85 | 85 | 80 | .. | .. |
| Health and Social Care | | | | | | |
| Department of Health and Social Care (excluding agencies) | 3,185 | 3,075 | 3,305 | 3,185 | -120 | -115 |
| Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency | 1,285 | 1,250 | 1,255 | 1,225 | 30 | 25 |
| UK Health Security Agency | 5,550 | 5,265 | 5,430 | 5,135 | 125 | 130 |
| HM Land Registry | | | | | | |
| HM Land Registry | 6,950 | 6,300 | 6,860 | 6,225 | 90 | 80 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | | | | | | |
| HM Revenue and Customs (excluding agencies) | 66,000 | 61,415 | 66,635 | 62,015 | -640 | -605 |
| Valuation Office Agency | 3,850 | 3,605 | 3,855 | 3,610 | -5 | .. |
| HM Treasury | | | | | | |
| HM Treasury (excluding agencies) | 2,070 | 2,025 | 2,110 | 2,065 | -45 | -45 |
| Government Internal Audit Agency | 520 | 490 | 520 | 485 | .. | .. |
| National Infrastructure Commission | 45 | 40 | 45 | 45 | .. | .. |
| Office for Budget Responsibility | 55 | 50 | 50 | 50 | .. | .. |
| UK Debt Management Office | 145 | 145 | 150 | 140 | -5 | .. |
| Chancellor's other departments | | | | | | |
| Government Actuary's Department | 220 | 205 | 215 | 205 | .. | .. |
| National Savings and Investments | 225 | 220 | 215 | 210 | 10 | 10 |
| Home Office | | | | | | |
| Home Office | 48,750 | 46,090 | 46,320 | 43,665 | 2,430 | 2,425 |
| Justice | | | | | | |
| Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies) | 7,435 | 7,245 | 7,265 | 7,075 | 170 | 170 |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority | 330 | 310 | 325 | 300 | 10 | 10 |
| HM Courts and Tribunals Service | 15,965 | 14,445 | 16,030 | 14,490 | -60 | -45 |
| HM Prison and Probation Service | 68,515 | 64,515 | 68,125 | 64,170 | 390 | 350 |
| Legal Aid Agency | 1,275 | 1,175 | 1,230 | 1,140 | 45 | 35 |

9 Civil Service employment by department and agency ^{1 2}

| | December 2023 | | September 2023 | | Change on Quarter | |
|---|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 1,765 | 1,635 | 1,745 | 1,620 | 20 | 15 |
| Levelling Up, Housing and Communities | | | | | | |
| Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (excluding agencies) | 3,555 | 3,460 | 3,355 | 3,270 | 195 | 195 |
| Planning Inspectorate | 940 | 860 | 930 | 850 | 15 | 10 |
| Queen Elizabeth II Centre | 45 | 45 | 50 | 50 | .. | .. |
| The National Archives | | | | | | |
| The National Archives | 590 | 560 | 595 | 570 | -5 | -5 |
| National Crime Agency | | | | | | |
| National Crime Agency | 5,680 | 5,515 | 5,640 | 5,480 | 35 | 30 |
| Northern Ireland Office | | | | | | |
| Northern Ireland Office | 165 | 160 | 165 | 165 | .. | .. |
| Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills | | | | | | |
| Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills | 2,055 | 1,980 | 2,060 | 1,990 | -5 | -5 |
| Office of Gas and Electricity Markets | | | | | | |
| Office of Gas and Electricity Markets | 1,970 | 1,945 | 1,905 | 1,880 | 65 | 65 |
| Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation | | | | | | |
| Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation | 350 | 340 | 355 | 345 | -5 | -5 |
| Office of Rail and Road | | | | | | |
| Office of Rail and Road | 380 | 365 | 375 | 360 | 5 | 5 |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland | | | | | | |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (incl. Office of the Advocate General for Scotland) | 135 | 130 | 135 | 130 | .. | 0 |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Wales | | | | | | |
| Office of the Secretary of State for Wales | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 5 | 5 |
| Ofwat | | | | | | |
| Ofwat | 320 | 310 | 305 | 295 | 10 | 10 |
| Science, Innovation and Technology | | | | | | |
| Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (excluding agencies) ^{3 4} | 1,130 | 1,105 | 915 | 895 | 215 | 215 |
| Building Digital UK | 250 | 245 | 245 | 240 | .. | .. |
| Intellectual Property Office | 1,700 | 1,605 | 1,695 | 1,600 | .. | 5 |
| Met Office | 2,365 | 2,250 | 2,295 | 2,180 | 70 | 70 |
| UK Space Agency | 295 | 295 | 290 | 290 | 5 | 5 |
| Transport | | | | | | |
| Department for Transport (excluding agencies) | 3,830 | 3,725 | 3,870 | 3,765 | -40 | -35 |
| Active Travel England | 90 | 85 | 80 | 80 | 10 | 5 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 6,100 | 5,440 | 6,030 | 5,360 | 75 | 80 |
| Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency | 4,930 | 4,615 | 4,920 | 4,620 | 10 | .. |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 1,240 | 1,200 | 1,245 | 1,205 | -5 | -5 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 215 | 200 | 210 | 195 | 5 | .. |
| UK Statistics Authority | | | | | | |
| UK Statistics Authority | 5,790 | 5,235 | 5,925 | 5,355 | -135 | -120 |
| UK Supreme Court | | | | | | |
| UK Supreme Court | 60 | 60 | 60 | 55 | .. | .. |
| Work and Pensions | | | | | | |
| Department for Work and Pensions (excluding agencies) | 87,685 | 78,710 | 85,940 | 76,930 | 1,740 | 1,780 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 3,030 | 2,880 | 2,920 | 2,775 | 110 | 105 |
| Scottish Government | | | | | | |
| Scottish Government (excluding agencies) | 9,200 | 8,825 | 9,145 | 8,770 | 50 | 55 |
| Accountant in Bankruptcy | 120 | 110 | 125 | 115 | -5 | -5 |
| Consumer Scotland | 35 | 35 | 35 | 30 | .. | .. |
| Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal | 2,520 | 2,380 | 2,515 | 2,370 | 10 | 10 |
| Disclosure Scotland | 380 | 360 | 380 | 360 | .. | .. |
| Education Scotland | 360 | 350 | 360 | 345 | .. | .. |
| Food Standards Scotland | 280 | 270 | 275 | 265 | .. | .. |
| Forestry and Land Scotland | 1,150 | 1,100 | 1,165 | 1,110 | -10 | -10 |
| National Records of Scotland | 425 | 400 | 435 | 410 | -10 | -10 |
| Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator | 45 | 40 | 45 | 40 | .. | .. |
| Registers of Scotland | 1,160 | 1,110 | 1,170 | 1,120 | -10 | -10 |
| Revenue Scotland | 95 | 95 | 95 | 90 | .. | .. |
| Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service | 2,020 | 1,850 | 2,000 | 1,830 | 20 | 20 |
| Scottish Fiscal Commission | 25 | 20 | 25 | 25 | .. | .. |
| Scottish Forestry | 230 | 220 | 230 | 220 | .. | .. |
| Scottish Housing Regulator | 60 | 55 | 55 | 55 | .. | .. |
| Scottish Prison Service | 4,640 | 4,360 | 4,635 | 4,355 | 5 | .. |
| Scottish Public Pensions Agency | 370 | 350 | 380 | 355 | -5 | -5 |
| Social Security Scotland | 3,995 | 3,820 | 4,025 | 3,850 | -30 | -30 |
| Student Awards Agency for Scotland | 260 | 250 | 265 | 255 | .. | .. |
| Transport Scotland | 525 | 510 | 535 | 520 | -10 | -10 |
| Welsh Government | | | | | | |
| Welsh Government (excluding agencies) | 6,070 | 5,730 | 6,000 | 5,665 | 70 | 60 |
| Welsh Revenue Authority | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | .. | .. |
| Total employment | 535,205 | 502,710 | 528,610 | 496,115 | 6,595 | 6,595 |

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

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

² In the December 2023 release, numbers in this table are rounded to the nearest five for the first time. In previous releases of this table, numbers were rounded to the nearest ten. This has been introduced to align with the Annual Civil Service Employment Statistics published by Cabinet Office.

³ Around 70 staff transferred from Cabinet Office (excluding agencies) to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (excluding agencies) between September and December 2023.

⁴ The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) was formed in February 2023 from parts of the former Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Around 820 staff (815 FTE) from DCMS have transferred to DSIT, but are still being paid from the DCMS payroll and therefore counted by DCMS in these statistics. These staff will be reported under DSIT in due course once they transfer fully to the DSIT payroll.

10 Employment in Executive NDPBs ^{1 2 3}

| Permanent Employees | December 2023 | | September 2023 | | Change on Quarter | |
|--|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent |
| Business and Trade | 610 | 590 | 600 | 580 | 10 | 10 |
| Cabinet Office | 210 | 200 | 210 | 200 | 0 | .. |
| Culture, Media and Sport | 11,440 | 10,450 | 11,260 | 10,300 | 170 | 150 |
| Defence | 590 | 450 | 590 | 450 | .. | .. |
| Education | 4,980 | 4,770 | 4,920 | 4,710 | 50 | 60 |
| Energy Security and Net Zero | 4,480 | 4,380 | 4,430 | 4,330 | 50 | 50 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴ | 18,260 | 17,230 | 18,010 | 16,970 | 250 | 260 |
| Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | 1,180 | 1,140 | 1,170 | 1,140 | .. | .. |
| Health and Social Care | 17,550 | 16,160 | 17,700 | 16,330 | -150 | -170 |
| Home Office | 2,840 | 2,630 | 2,830 | 2,620 | 10 | 10 |
| Justice | 2,720 | 2,580 | 2,700 | 2,560 | 20 | 20 |
| Levelling Up, Housing and Communities | 1,910 | 1,880 | 1,870 | 1,840 | 40 | 40 |
| Science, Innovation and Technology | 9,120 | 8,780 | 9,040 | 8,690 | 90 | 90 |
| Transport | 2,490 | 2,450 | 2,490 | 2,460 | .. | -10 |
| Work and Pensions | 1,760 | 1,690 | 1,760 | 1,690 | .. | 0 |
| Central Government Departments Total | 80,120 | 75,390 | 79,570 | 74,870 | 550 | 520 |
| Scottish Government | 11,600 | 10,690 | 11,570 | 10,770 | 30 | -80 |
| Welsh Government | 3,740 | 3,470 | 3,670 | 3,400 | 70 | 70 |
| TOTAL | 95,450 | 89,540 | 94,810 | 89,030 | 650 | 510 |

| Temporary Employees | December 2023 | | September 2023 | | Change on Quarter | |
|--|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent | Headcount | Full Time Equivalent |
| Business and Trade | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | .. | .. |
| Cabinet Office | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | .. | .. |
| Culture, Media and Sport | 1,600 | 650 | 1,640 | 680 | -50 | -30 |
| Defence | 50 | 20 | 50 | 20 | .. | .. |
| Education | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 10 | 10 |
| Energy Security and Net Zero | 100 | 100 | 80 | 80 | 20 | 20 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴ | 860 | 780 | 910 | 820 | -50 | -40 |
| Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | 0 | 0 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Health and Social Care | 3,090 | 2,370 | 3,240 | 2,450 | -150 | -80 |
| Home Office | 50 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 10 |
| Justice | 80 | 70 | 70 | 70 | .. | .. |
| Levelling Up, Housing and Communities | 130 | 80 | 150 | 100 | -10 | -10 |
| Science, Innovation and Technology | 260 | 250 | 240 | 230 | 20 | 20 |
| Transport | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | .. | .. |
| Work and Pensions | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | -10 | -10 |
| Central Government Departments Total | 6,430 | 4,570 | 6,630 | 4,700 | -210 | -130 |
| Scottish Government | 670 | 590 | 710 | 630 | -40 | -40 |
| Welsh Government | 510 | 210 | 530 | 230 | -20 | -30 |
| TOTAL | 7,600 | 5,370 | 7,870 | 5,560 | -270 | -190 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| All NDPB Employees | 103,060 | 94,910 | 102,680 | 94,590 | 380 | 320 |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|

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 |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2021 | Sep | 631 | 483 |
| | Dec | 633 | 484 |
| 2022 | Mar | 638 | 488 |
| | Jun | 641 | 490 |
| | Sep | 641 | 494 |
| | Dec | 645 | 497 |
| 2023 | Mar | 649 | 499 |
| | Jun | 654 | 503 |
| | Sep | 660 | 507 |
| | Dec | 666 | 512 |
| <i>Change on quarter</i> | | 6 | 5 |
| <i>Change %</i> | | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| <i>Change on year</i> | | 21 | 15 |
| <i>Change %</i> | | 3.3 | 3.0 |

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>