

Statistical bulletin

Public sector employment, UK: March 2024

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 March 2024 compared with the previous quarter and the previous year; the March 2024 level is the highest since March 2012.
- There were an estimated 5.95 million employees in the public sector in March 2024, which is 24,000 (0.4%) more than in December 2023 and 125,000 (2.1%) more than in March 2023.
- Employment in central government was an estimated 3.76 million in March 2024, up 27,000 (0.7%) compared with December 2023 and up 129,000 (3.5%) compared with March 2023; the main contributors to this increase were the NHS, the Civil Service, and local authority schools becoming academies.
- The NHS employed an estimated 2.02 million people in March 2024, an increase of 12,000 (0.6%) compared with December 2023 and an increase of 79,000 (4.1%) compared with March 2023.
- There were 543,000 employees in the Civil Service in March 2024, up 8,000 (1.5%) compared with December 2023 and up 22,000 (4.2%) compared with March 2023.
- Employment in local government was an estimated 1.99 million in March 2024, which is 3,000 (0.2%) less than in December 2023 and 5,000 (0.3%) less than in March 2023.

2 . Public sector employment data

[Public sector employment](#)

Dataset | Released 11 June 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 11 June 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) were revised following the reintroduction of reweighted LFS estimates in our [Public sector employment, UK: December 2023 bulletin](#). LFS periods from July to September 2022 onwards were reweighted to incorporate estimates of the size and composition of the UK population, published in November 2023. The reweighting exercise created a discontinuity in the non-seasonally adjusted UK and regional private sector series between June 2022 and September 2022. Users should take this discontinuity into consideration when looking at long-term movements in the series. However, we modelled the seasonally adjusted UK levels of total 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](#). These LFS estimates are [official statistics in development](#).

An issue was detected in the weighting of the LFS for Northern Ireland in our December 2023 publication, for the November 2023 to January 2024 quarter only. While only Northern Ireland data were affected, as a consequence, we were not able to publish regional estimates of private sector employment for December 2023. This has been corrected for this release, but has resulted in revisions for December 2023 in the [Public sector employment dataset](#) and [Public sector employment time series](#).

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 11 June 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 11 June 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 11 June 2024, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Public sector employment, UK: March 2024](#)

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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	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	3,635 †	1,999 †	5,634 †	193	5,827 †	521
	Jun	3,670	2,002	5,672	194	5,866	522
	Sep	3,705	2,000	5,705	194	5,899	529
	Dec	3,737	1,997	5,734	194	5,928	535
2024	Mar	3,764	1,994	5,758	194	5,952	543
Change on quarter:		27	-3	24	0	24	8
Change %:		0.7	-0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	1.5
Change on year:		129	-5	124	1	125	22
Change %:		3.5	-0.3	2.2	0.5	2.1	4.2

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	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	1,502 †	1,938	210	551 †	5,827 †
	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	148 †	281	1,196 †	1,504	2,005 †	208	555	5,928
2024	Mar	35	148	280	1,209	1,499	2,017	207	558	5,952
Change on quarter:		1	0	-1	13	-5	12	-1	3	24
Change %:		2.9	0.0	-0.4	1.1	-0.3	0.6	-0.5	0.5	0.4
Change on year:		1	-4	0	50	-3	79	-3	7	125
Change %:		2.9	-2.6	0.0	4.3	-0.2	4.1	-1.4	1.3	2.1

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	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	3,196 †	1,569	4,765 †	184	4,949 †	489
	Jun	3,229	1,573	4,802	185	4,987	489
	Sep	3,248	1,574	4,822	185	5,007	496
	Dec	3,289	1,575 †	4,864	185	5,049	502 †
2024	Mar	3,315	1,575	4,890	184	5,074	511
Change on quarter:		26	0	26	-1	25	9
Change %:		0.8	0.0	0.5	-0.5	0.5	1.8
Change on year:		119	6	125	0	125	22
Change %:		3.7	0.4	2.6	0.0	2.5	4.5

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	G7K2	G7G3
2021 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	1,130 †	1,722 †	161	485	4,949 †
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	-	148 †	270	1,036	1,132	1,788	160	489 †	5,049
2024 Mar	-	148	270	1,052	1,130	1,799	160	492	5,074
Change on quarter:	-	0	0	16	-2	11	0	3	25
Change %:	-	0.0	0.0	1.5	-0.2	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.5
Change on year:	-	-4	0	47	0	77	-1	7	125
Change %:	-	-2.6	0.0	4.7	0.0	4.5	-0.6	1.4	2.5

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	MFY5
2021 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	5,827 †	17.5	27,499 †	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	5,928	17.9	27,179	82.1	33,107 †	5,791 †	17.5	27,316 †	82.5
2024 Mar	5,952	18.1	27,015	81.9	32,967	5,814	17.6	27,153	82.4
Change on quarter:	24	0.2	-164	-0.2	-140	23	0.1	-163	-0.1
Change %:	0.4	..	-0.6	..	-0.4	0.4	..	-0.6	..
Change on year:	125	0.6	-484	-0.6	-359	126	0.5	-485	-0.5
Change %:	2.1	..	-1.8	..	-1.1	2.2	..	-1.8	..

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

† Indicates earliest revision

8 Civil Service employment by department ^{1 2}

Headcount, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	March 2024						Total	December 2023	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female					
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
Permanent Employees									
Attorney General's departments	3,385	315	3,700	5,340	2,040	7,380	11,080	10,955	120
Business and Trade	4,290	240	4,530	4,085	960	5,045	9,575	9,480	95
Cabinet Office	2,845	155	3,000	2,970	475	3,445	6,445	6,300	145
Other Cabinet Office agencies	1,985	40	2,020	2,050	150	2,200	4,225	4,270	-45
Charity Commission	170	15	180	220	60	280	465	465	..
Competition and Markets Authority	500	30	530	445	95	535	1,065	1,045	20
Culture, Media and Sport ³	390	10	400	460	95	555	955	1,770	-815
Defence	33,080	1,825	34,905	20,235	4,435	24,670	59,575	59,610	-35
Education	3,165	160	3,325	4,025	1,095	5,120	8,445	8,305	140
Energy Security and Net Zero	2,095	80	2,175	1,910	270	2,180	4,355	4,230	130
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	5,320	440	5,760	5,695	1,865	7,555	13,320	12,990	325
Estyn	50	10	55	65	15	85	140	140	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department	295	5	300	215	25	235	535	530	5
Food Standards Agency	730	65	795	675	85	765	1,555	1,550	5
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	4,510	130	4,640	3,980	445	4,425	9,065	8,945	120
Health and Social Care	3,320	200	3,515	5,255	1,135	6,390	9,905	9,390	515
HM Land Registry	2,225	505	2,730	2,500	1,755	4,255	6,985	6,940	50
HM Revenue and Customs	29,670	3,580	33,250	23,855	12,125	35,980	69,230	69,430	-200
HM Treasury	1,300	75	1,375	1,160	195	1,355	2,735	2,775	-45
Chancellor's other departments	210	10	225	130	45	175	395	435	-40
Home Office	21,465	1,685	23,155	19,330	6,095	25,420	48,575	46,280	2,295
Justice	36,395	3,980	40,375	42,975	11,905	54,885	95,260	94,105	1,155
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	2,090	175	2,270	1,935	495	2,430	4,700	4,530	170
The National Archives	250	15	265	235	60	300	565	570	..
National Crime Agency	2,940	165	3,105	2,250	415	2,665	5,770	5,680	90
Northern Ireland Office	75	..	75	90	5	95	170	165	5
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	600	35	635	1,120	235	1,355	1,990	2,045	-55
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	1,020	30	1,050	795	85	875	1,925	1,820	105
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	110	5	115	190	35	225	340	335	..
Office of Rail and Road	190	20	210	145	25	170	375	370	5
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland	50	..	50	65	10	80	130	135	-5
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	30	0	30	20	..	20	50	50	..
Ofwat	155	10	165	140	30	170	335	315	20
Science, Innovation and Technology ³	3,270	335	3,605	2,500	620	3,120	6,725	5,720	1,000
Transport	7,890	930	8,820	5,180	2,395	7,575	16,395	16,120	275
UK Statistics Authority	1,920	505	2,420	1,950	1,165	3,115	5,535	5,685	-150
UK Supreme Court	20	..	20	20	..	25	45	45	..
Work and Pensions	29,840	4,765	34,600	32,280	25,940	58,220	92,820	90,110	2,710
Central Government Departments Total	207,825	20,545	228,370	196,490	76,885	273,375	501,745	493,630	8,115
Scottish Government	11,430	1,165	12,595	11,815	3,395	15,210	27,800	27,495	310
Welsh Government	2,180	230	2,410	2,715	945	3,660	6,070	6,110	-40
TOTAL	221,435	21,940	243,375	211,020	81,225	292,245	535,615	527,235	8,380

	March 2024						Total	December 2023	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female					
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
Temporary/Casual Employees									
Attorney General's departments	65	0	65	115	10	125	190	210	-25
Business and Trade	35	0	35	30	..	30	65	70	-5
Cabinet Office	5	0	5	5	0	5	10	10	..
Other Cabinet Office agencies	..	0	..	..	0	..	10	15	-5
Charity Commission	..	..	..	5	0	5	10	15	-5
Competition and Markets Authority	5	0	5	5	..	5	15	20	-5
Culture, Media and Sport ³	5	0	5	15	0	15	20	25	-10
Defence	10	..	10	..	..	5	20	70	-50
Education	50	0	50	95	15	110	160	160	..
Energy Security and Net Zero	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	185	20	205	190	50	240	445	460	-10
Estyn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	-15
Export Credits Guarantee Department	10	..	10	5	..	10	15	15	..
Food Standards Agency	10	0	10	15	..	15	25	20	10
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	175	0	175	190	10	200	375	405	-30
Health and Social Care	205	35	240	300	75	375	615	630	-15
HM Land Registry	5	0	5	..	..	..	10	10	..
HM Revenue and Customs	275	5	280	135	15	145	430	420	10
HM Treasury	25	..	30	15	0	15	45	55	-10
Chancellor's other departments	35	..	35	20	..	25	60	5	55
Home Office	845	365	1,210	1,025	210	1,235	2,450	2,470	-25
Justice	280	35	315	520	95	615	930	880	50
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	10	0	10	10	0	10	15	10	5
The National Archives	..	..	5	5	..	10	15	25	-5
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 Skills	..	0	..	5	0	5	5	10	..
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	70	..	75	65	5	70	145	150	-5
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	..	..	..	10	..	10	15	15	0
Office of Rail and Road	..	0	..	0	..	..	..	5	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	0	0	0	..	0	..	..	0	..
Ofwat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	-5
Science, Innovation and Technology ³	10	0	10	5	..	5	20	20	..
Transport	125	15	140	120	35	155	295	280	15
UK Statistics Authority	30	5	40	15	5	20	60	105	-45
UK Supreme Court	10	0	10	10	0	10	15	15	..
Work and Pensions	445	5	450	485	45	530	980	605	375
Central Government Departments Total	2,940	505	3,445	3,420	600	4,015	7,460	7,220	240
Scottish Government	175	10	185	150	25	175	360	410	-45
Welsh Government	10	..	10	20	..	25	35	40	..
TOTAL	3,120	515	3,640	3,590	625	4,215	7,855	7,670	185

	March 2024						Total	December 2023	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female					
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
All Employees	224,555	22,455	247,010	214,610	81,850	296,460	543,475	534,905	8,570

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 "..". Data not available are represented by "-".

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

³ 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 (810 FTE) from DCMS transferred to the DSIT payroll in March 2024, having previously been paid from the DCMS payroll and therefore counted by DCMS for periods prior to March 2024 in these statistics.

8 ..continued, Civil Service employment by department

Full-time equivalents, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	March 2024			December 2023	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Permanent Employees					
Attorney General's departments	3,600	6,780	10,380	10,270	105
Business and Trade	4,460	4,770	9,230	9,145	85
Cabinet Office	2,955	3,315	6,270	6,125	145
Other Cabinet Office agencies	2,005	2,155	4,160	4,220	-60
Charity Commission	180	265	440	445	..
Competition and Markets Authority	520	515	1,035	1,015	20
Culture, Media and Sport ³	400	525	925	1,735	-810
Defence	34,255	23,360	57,615	57,650	-35
Education	3,290	4,845	8,135	8,005	130
Energy Security and Net Zero	2,160	2,110	4,270	4,145	125
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	5,640	7,050	12,690	12,375	315
Estyn	55	75	130	130	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	300	230	530	525	5
Food Standards Agency	770	740	1,510	1,505	10
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	4,590	4,295	8,885	8,760	125
Health and Social Care	3,455	6,065	9,520	9,005	520
HM Land Registry	2,560	3,760	6,320	6,295	30
HM Revenue and Customs	32,110	32,295	64,405	64,605	-200
HM Treasury	1,350	1,300	2,645	2,695	-50
Chancellor's other departments	220	160	380	420	-40
Home Office	22,625	23,605	46,225	44,005	2,220
Justice	38,660	50,650	89,305	88,240	1,065
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	2,220	2,300	4,520	4,355	165
The National Archives	260	280	540	545	-5
National Crime Agency	3,050	2,545	5,595	5,515	80
Northern Ireland Office	75	90	170	160	5
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	625	1,290	1,915	1,970	-55
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	1,040	855	1,900	1,795	105
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	115	215	330	325	..
Office of Rail and Road	200	160	365	360	5
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland	50	75	125	130	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	30	20	50	50	..
Ofwat	160	160	325	305	20
Science, Innovation and Technology ³	3,515	2,955	6,470	5,485	985
Transport	8,500	6,775	15,275	15,005	270
UK Statistics Authority	2,245	2,755	4,995	5,150	-155
UK Supreme Court	20	20	45	45	..
Work and Pensions	33,175	50,405	83,585	80,990	2,595
Central Government Departments Total	221,425	249,790	471,215	463,500	7,715
Scottish Government	12,180	14,245	26,420	26,120	305
Welsh Government	2,335	3,400	5,735	5,770	-35
TOTAL	235,935	267,430	503,370	495,385	7,980

	March 2024			December 2023	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Temporary/Casual Employees					
Attorney General's departments	65	120	185	210	-20
Business and Trade	35	30	65	70	-5
Cabinet Office	5	5	10	10	..
Other Cabinet Office agencies	..	..	10	15	-5
Charity Commission	..	5	10	15	-5
Competition and Markets Authority	5	5	15	20	-5
Culture, Media and Sport ³	5	15	20	25	-10
Defence	10	5	20	70	-50
Education	50	105	155	155	..
Energy Security and Net Zero	0	0	0	0	0
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	200	225	425	435	-10
Estyn	0	0	0	10	-10
Export Credits Guarantee Department	10	10	15	15	..
Food Standards Agency	10	15	25	20	5
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	175	195	370	400	-30
Health and Social Care	220	340	560	585	-25
HM Land Registry	5	..	10	10	..
HM Revenue and Customs	280	145	425	415	10
HM Treasury	30	15	40	55	-10
Chancellor's other departments	35	25	55	5	50
Home Office	1,000	1,130	2,130	2,080	50
Justice	295	580	875	820	55
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	10	10	15	10	5
The National Archives	..	10	15	20	-5
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	5	10	..
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	70	70	145	150	-5
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	..	10	15	15	0
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	..
Ofwat	0	0	0	5	-5
Science, Innovation and Technology ³	10	5	15	20	..
Transport	135	140	275	265	10
UK Statistics Authority	35	15	50	85	-30
UK Supreme Court	10	10	15	15	..
Work and Pensions	450	515	965	600	370
Central Government Departments Total	3,170	3,770	6,940	6,630	310
Scottish Government	180	170	350	395	-45
Welsh Government	10	20	30	35	-5
TOTAL	3,360	3,960	7,320	7,065	260

	March 2024			December 2023	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
All Employees	239,300	271,395	510,665	502,445	8,220

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 "-".
- 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 810 FTE staff from DCMS transferred to the DSIT payroll in March 2024, having previously been paid from the DCMS payroll and therefore counted by DCMS for periods prior to March 2024 in these statistics.

9 Civil Service employment by department and agency ¹

	March 2024		December 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	55	55	..	..
Crown Prosecution Service	7,705	7,215	7,725	7,245	-20	-25
Government Legal Department	2,975	2,765	2,865	2,665	110	100
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	20	20	30	25	-5	-5
Serious Fraud Office	510	500	500	490	15	15
Business and Trade						
Department for Business and Trade (excluding agencies)	5,515	5,425	5,450	5,360	65	65
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	1,000	920	1,000	920	..	0
Companies House	1,400	1,310	1,395	1,310	..	..
The Insolvency Service	1,725	1,640	1,705	1,620	20	20
Cabinet Office						
Cabinet Office (excluding agencies)	6,455	6,280	6,310	6,135	145	145
Other Cabinet Office agencies						
Central Civil Service Fast Stream	1,675	1,670	1,745	1,740	-70	-70
Crown Commercial Service	695	660	695	670	..	-10
Government Commercial Organisation	1,470	1,455	1,450	1,430	25	20
Government Property Agency	390	385	395	385	..	..
Charity Commission						
Charity Commission	475	450	480	455	-5	-5
Competition and Markets Authority						
Competition and Markets Authority	1,080	1,045	1,065	1,030	15	15
Culture, Media and Sport						
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (excluding agencies) ²	975	940	1,800	1,760	-825	-820
Defence						
Ministry of Defence (excluding trading funds)	37,865	36,645	37,930	36,715	-70	-70
Defence Electronics and Components Agency	440	410	435	405	5	..
Defence Equipment and Support	11,015	10,605	10,975	10,560	40	40
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	5,270	5,080	5,385	5,200	-115	-120
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	1,655	1,655	1,670	1,670	-15	-15
Submarine Delivery Agency	2,345	2,280	2,290	2,225	55	60
UK Hydrographic Office	1,005	955	995	945	10	10
Education						
Department for Education (excluding agencies)	7,300	7,025	7,175	6,915	120	110
Education and Skills Funding Agency	740	715	725	700	15	15
Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	325	320	330	325	-5	-5
Standards and Testing Agency	135	130	135	125	..	..
Teaching Regulation Agency	100	100	95	95	5	5
Energy Security and Net Zero						
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	4,355	4,270	4,230	4,145	130	125
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs						
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	6,975	6,740	6,735	6,505	240	235
Animal and Plant Health Agency	3,130	2,965	3,065	2,910	65	55
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	645	610	645	605	..	..
Rural Payments Agency	2,845	2,625	2,835	2,620	5	..
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	170	170	175	170	..	..
Estyn						
Estyn	140	130	155	145	-15	-10
Export Credits Guarantee Department						
Export Credits Guarantee Department	555	545	545	540	5	5
Food Standards Agency						
Food Standards Agency	1,580	1,535	1,565	1,520	15	15
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office						
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (excluding agencies)	8,165	8,035	8,080	7,945	85	90
FCDO Services	1,180	1,140	1,175	1,135	5	5
Wilton Park Executive Agency	90	85	90	85	0	0
Health and Social Care						
Department of Health and Social Care (excluding agencies)	3,255	3,145	3,185	3,075	70	75
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	1,315	1,280	1,285	1,250	30	30
UK Health Security Agency	5,955	5,660	5,550	5,265	405	395
HM Land Registry						
HM Land Registry	6,995	6,330	6,950	6,300	50	25
HM Revenue and Customs						
HM Revenue and Customs (excluding agencies)	65,780	61,185	66,000	61,415	-220	-225
Valuation Office Agency	3,880	3,640	3,850	3,605	30	35
HM Treasury						
HM Treasury (excluding agencies)	2,025	1,980	2,070	2,025	-45	-45
Government Internal Audit Agency	510	480	520	490	-10	-10
National Infrastructure Commission	45	40	45	40	..	..
Office for Budget Responsibility	50	50	55	50	..	..
UK Debt Management Office	145	135	145	145	0	-5
Chancellor's other departments						
Government Actuary's Department	225	210	220	205	5	..
National Savings and Investments	230	230	225	220	10	10
Home Office						
Home Office	51,020	48,355	48,750	46,090	2,270	2,270
Justice						
Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	7,650	7,455	7,435	7,245	220	215
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	320	295	330	310	-10	-15
HM Courts and Tribunals Service	16,065	14,545	15,965	14,445	95	100
HM Prison and Probation Service	69,055	65,015	68,215	64,250	840	765
Legal Aid Agency	1,270	1,175	1,275	1,175	..	..
Office of the Public Guardian	1,830	1,690	1,765	1,635	65	55

9 Civil Service employment by department and agency ¹

	March 2024		December 2023		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities						
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (excluding agencies)	3,720	3,620	3,555	3,460	165	160
Planning Inspectorate	950	870	940	860	10	10
Queen Elizabeth II Centre	45	45	45	45	..	..
The National Archives						
The National Archives	580	550	590	560	-10	-10
National Crime Agency						
National Crime Agency	5,770	5,595	5,680	5,515	90	80
Northern Ireland Office						
Northern Ireland Office	170	170	165	160	5	5
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills						
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	1,995	1,925	2,055	1,980	-55	-60
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets						
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	2,070	2,040	1,970	1,945	100	95
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation						
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	355	340	350	340	..	..
Office of Rail and Road						
Office of Rail and Road	380	365	380	365	..	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland						
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (incl. Office of the Advocate General for Scotland)	130	125	135	130	-5	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales						
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	50	50	50	50	..	..
Ofwat						
Ofwat	335	325	320	310	15	15
Science, Innovation and Technology						
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (excluding agencies) ²	2,070	2,035	1,130	1,105	940	925
Building Digital UK	255	255	250	245	10	10
Intellectual Property Office	1,730	1,640	1,700	1,605	35	30
Met Office	2,370	2,255	2,365	2,250	5	..
UK Space Agency	310	305	295	295	15	15
Transport						
Department for Transport (excluding agencies)	3,860	3,755	3,830	3,725	30	30
Active Travel England	90	85	90	85	0	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,360	5,690	6,100	5,440	255	250
Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency	4,895	4,585	4,930	4,615	-30	-30
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,265	1,225	1,240	1,200	25	25
Vehicle Certification Agency	225	210	215	200	10	10
UK Statistics Authority						
UK Statistics Authority	5,590	5,050	5,790	5,235	-195	-185
UK Supreme Court						
UK Supreme Court	60	60	60	60	..	..
Work and Pensions						
Department for Work and Pensions (excluding agencies)	90,780	81,680	87,685	78,710	3,095	2,970
Health and Safety Executive	3,025	2,870	3,030	2,880	-5	-10
Scottish Government						
Scottish Government (excluding agencies)	9,220	8,840	9,200	8,825	20	20
Accountant in Bankruptcy	120	110	120	110	..	..
Consumer Scotland	35	30	35	35	..	..
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal	2,530	2,395	2,520	2,380	10	15
Disclosure Scotland	375	355	380	360	..	..
Education Scotland	365	350	360	350	..	..
Food Standards Scotland	280	270	280	270	..	..
Forestry and Land Scotland	1,140	1,090	1,150	1,100	-10	-10
National Records of Scotland	415	390	425	400	-10	-10
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	45	40	45	40	0	0
Registers of Scotland	1,155	1,105	1,160	1,110	..	..
Revenue Scotland	95	90	95	95	..	..
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service	2,010	1,845	2,020	1,850	-10	-5
Scottish Fiscal Commission	25	25	25	20	..	..
Scottish Forestry	230	220	230	220	0	0
Scottish Housing Regulator	55	55	60	55	..	..
Scottish Prison Service ³	4,950	4,665	4,640	4,360	310	305
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	365	340	370	350	-5	-5
Social Security Scotland	3,955	3,775	3,995	3,820	-40	-45
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	255	245	260	250	-5	-5
Transport Scotland	540	525	525	510	15	15
Welsh Government						
Welsh Government (excluding agencies)	6,025	5,685	6,070	5,730	-45	-40
Welsh Revenue Authority	80	80	80	80	..	0
Total employment	543,475	510,665	534,905	502,445	8,570	8,220

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 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 (810 FTE) from DCMS transferred to the DSIT payroll in March 2024, having previously been paid from the DCMS payroll and therefore counted by DCMS for periods prior to March 2024 in these statistics.

³ Reclassification within the Scottish Prison Service took place in March 2024, with one prison returning to public sector ownership.

10 Employment in Executive NDPBs ^{1 2 3}

Permanent Employees	March 2024		December 2023		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Business and Trade	600	580	610	590	-10	-10
Cabinet Office	210	200	210	200	..	..
Culture, Media and Sport	11,540	10,580	11,440	10,450	110	130
Defence	610	460	590	450	20	..
Education	4,970	4,760	4,980	4,770	-10	-10
Energy Security and Net Zero	4,610	4,500	4,480	4,380	130	120
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴	18,550	17,520	18,260	17,230	300	290
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	1,180	1,150	1,180	1,140	10	10
Health and Social Care	17,790	16,380	17,550	16,160	250	220
Home Office	2,810	2,600	2,840	2,630	-30	-30
Justice	2,720	2,590	2,720	2,580	..	..
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	1,950	1,920	1,910	1,880	40	40
Science, Innovation and Technology	9,290	8,950	9,120	8,780	170	170
Transport	2,700	2,660	2,720	2,680	-20	-30
Work and Pensions	1,760	1,700	1,760	1,690	10	10
Central Government Departments Total	81,310	76,530	80,350	75,620	950	910
Scottish Government	11,590	10,820	11,580	10,660	10	160
Welsh Government	3,740	3,460	3,740	3,470	0	-10
TOTAL	96,630	90,810	95,660	89,750	970	1,070

Temporary Employees	March 2024		December 2023		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Business and Trade	30	30	20	20	..	..
Cabinet Office	10	10	10	10	..	..
Culture, Media and Sport	1,570	610	1,540	590	30	20
Defence	40	20	50	20	-10	0
Education	80	80	90	90	-10	-10
Energy Security and Net Zero	120	120	100	100	20	20
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴	920	820	860	780	50	40
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	..	..	0	0	..	..
Health and Social Care	3,320	2,680	3,090	2,370	240	310
Home Office	50	40	50	40	..	..
Justice	80	80	80	70	..	..
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	130	80	130	80	..	..
Science, Innovation and Technology	190	170	260	250	-70	-80
Transport	30	30	30	30	0	0
Work and Pensions	50	50	60	60	..	..
Central Government Departments Total	6,620	4,810	6,370	4,520	250	290
Scottish Government	750	650	700	610	50	30
Welsh Government	490	190	510	210	-10	-20
TOTAL	7,860	5,650	7,570	5,340	280	310

All NDPB Employees	104,490	96,460	103,240	95,080	1,250	1,380
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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
2021	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
2024	Mar	674	517
<i>Change on quarter</i>		8	5
<i>Change %</i>		1.2	1.0
<i>Change on year</i>		25	18
<i>Change %</i>		3.9	3.6

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>