

Statistical bulletin

# Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 24 October 2024

Early data on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and innovative methods. These are official statistics in development.

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# 1 . Main points

- Overall retail footfall in the week to 20 October 2024 decreased by 1% when compared with the previous week but was 2% higher than the equivalent week of 2023 (MRI OnLocation).
- The annual growth rate in average automotive fuel prices remained broadly unchanged when compared with the previous week but decreased by 8 percentage points when compared with the equivalent week of 2023 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)).
- The total number of online job adverts on 18 October 2024 decreased by 3% from the level in the previous week and was 18% below the equivalent period of 2023 (Adzuna).
- Approximately one in seven (15%) trading businesses reported that their turnover had increased in September 2024 compared with August 2024, broadly stable with the previous month; in contrast, almost one in four (24%) reported that their turnover had decreased from August 2024, with 22% citing economic uncertainty as a challenge ([final results from Wave 118 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey](#)).
- The System Average Price (SAP) of gas remained broadly unchanged in the week to 20 October 2024 when compared with the previous week, while the System Price of electricity increased by 16%; when compared with the equivalent week of 2023, the SAP of gas decreased by 14% and the System Price of electricity decreased by 19% (National Gas Transmission, Elexon).
- The daily average number of UK flights in the week to 20 October 2024 decreased by 2% when compared with the previous week but was 2% higher than the equivalent week of 2023 (EUROCONTROL).
- The total number of Energy Building Performance Certificates (EPCs) for new dwellings across England and Wales in the week to 20 October 2024 was 3% lower when compared with the equivalent period of 2023 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).

These are [official statistics in development](#), and we advise caution when using the data. The data sources used to compile these indicators are regularly reviewed to ensure they are representative and relevant, which may mean indicators change at short notice. Read more in [Section 5: Data sources and quality](#).

## 2 . Latest indicators at a glance

### Notes

1. Card spending over time is pushed upwards by the impacts of both inflation on value of transactions and cash-to-card conversion.
2. Revolut adjustments to user count are at an aggregate level and as such age bands may not adjust evenly.
3. Indicators with SA in the title have been seasonally adjusted.

## 3 . Data

### [Online job advert estimates](#)

Dataset | Released 24 October 2024

Weekly snapshot of online job advert indices covering the UK job market. These are official statistics in development. Source: Adzuna

### [System Average Price \(SAP\) of gas](#)

Dataset | Released 24 October 2024

Daily data showing System Average Price (SAP) of gas, and rolling seven-day average, traded in Great Britain over the On-the-Day Commodity Market (OCM). These are official statistics in development. Source: National Gas Transmission.

### [System Price of electricity](#)

Dataset | Released 24 October 2024

Daily data showing the System Price of electricity, and rolling seven-day average, in Great Britain. These are official statistics in development. Source: Elexon

This section lists a selection of the data available in this publication. For the full list of available datasets, please see our [accompanying dataset page](#).

## 4 . Glossary

### Real-time indicator

A real-time indicator provides insights into economic activity using close-to-real-time big data, administrative data sources, rapid response surveys or experimental estimates, which represent useful economic and social concepts.

### Seasonal adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is the identification and removal of consistent and systematic variation in time series associated with the time of year. For more information on seasonal variation, and how we implement seasonal adjustment, see Section 2 of our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology article](#).

## 5 . Data sources and quality

### Official statistics in development

These statistics are labelled as [official statistics in development](#). Until September 2023, these were called "experimental statistics". Read more about the change in our [Guide to official statistics in development](#).

We are developing how we collect and produce the data to improve the quality of these statistics. Find out more in our [Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators methodology article](#).

Once the developments are complete, we will review the statistics with the Statistics Head of Profession. We will decide if the statistics are of sufficient quality and value to be published as official statistics, or if further development is needed. Production may be stopped if they are not of sufficient quality or value. Users will be informed of the outcome and any changes.

We value your feedback on these statistics. If you would like to get in touch, please email [realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk](mailto:realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk).

## Dataset release dates and intended release frequency

Latest release dates and intended release frequency of our associated datasets are available in this section. Please note that there may be some change to the intended release frequency for a variety of reasons, such as data availability. If you would like further information about any of these datasets, or previous release dates, please email [realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk](mailto:realtime.indicators@ons.gov.uk).

### Weekly data release

- The [UK spending on credit and debit cards dataset](#) was last updated on 16 May 2024.
- The [Revolut spending on debit cards dataset](#) was last updated on 1 February 2024.
- The [Automotive fuel spending dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.
- The [Online job advert estimates dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.
- The [Company incorporations, voluntary dissolutions and compulsory dissolutions dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.
- The [Advanced notification of potential redundancies dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.
- The [System Average price of gas dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.
- The [System Price of electricity dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.
- The [Weekly shipping indicators dataset](#) was last updated on 5 April 2024.
- The [Daily UK flights dataset](#) was last updated on 24 October 2024.

### Fortnightly data release

- The [Transactions at Pret A Manger dataset](#) was last updated on 10 October 2024.

### Monthly data release

- The [Monthly Direct Debit failure rate and average transaction amount dataset](#) was last updated on 17 October 2024.
- The [Value Added Tax \(VAT\) flash estimates dataset](#) was last updated on 17 October 2024.
- The [Renter affordability for new tenancies dataset](#) was last updated on 10 October 2024.

### Quarterly data release

- The [Sales and jobs in small businesses dataset](#) was last updated on 1 August 2024.

### Strengths and limitations

These statistics have been produced to provide timely indicators of the effect of developing world events on the UK economy and society, using close-to-real-time big data, administrative data sources, rapid response surveys, or [official statistics in development](#).

The data presented in this bulletin are reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis. Indicators are swapped in and out of the publication based on their suitability and availability.

## Seasonality

Seasonal fluctuations are likely to be present in many of these indicators, so caution must be applied when interpreting changes in series that are not seasonally adjusted.

## 6 . Related links

### [GDP monthly estimate, UK](#)

Bulletin | Released monthly

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of and growth in the economy.

### [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain](#)

Bulletin | Released monthly

Social insights on daily life and events, including important issues, cost of living, and artificial intelligence from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).

### [Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#)

Bulletin | Released fortnightly

The impact of challenges facing the economy and other events on UK businesses. Based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) to deliver real-time information to help assess issues affecting UK businesses and economy, including financial performance, workforce, trade, and business resilience.

## 7 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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