

Statistical bulletin

Public sector employment, UK: December 2024

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

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2 . Main points

- Employment in the public sector was estimated at 6.14 million in December 2024, an increase of 19,000 (0.3%) compared with September 2024, and an increase of 53,000 (0.9%) compared with December 2023.
- Employment in central government was a record high, at an estimated 4.00 million in December 2024, an increase of 23,000 (0.6%) compared with September 2024 and an increase of 105,000 (2.7%) compared with December 2023; the main contributors to this increase were the NHS, some local authority schools becoming academies, and the Civil Service.
- The NHS employed an estimated record high of 2.05 million people in December 2024, an increase of 11,000 (0.5%) compared with September 2024 and an increase of 48,000 (2.4%) compared with December 2023.
- Employment in local government was a record low, at an estimated 1.99 million in December 2024, a decrease of 4,000 (0.2%) compared with September 2024 and a decrease of 13,000 (0.7%) compared with December 2023; some local authority schools becoming academies contributed to this decrease.
- The estimated employment changes between local government and central government because of academy conversions is 7,000 on the quarter and 34,000 on the year; this conversion is contributing towards the gains and losses in these sectors.
- Employment in public corporations was an estimated 157,000 in December 2024, which was unchanged compared with September 2024, but a decrease of 39,000 (19.9%) compared with December 2023; part of the annual decrease is the result of a reclassification between March 2024 and June 2024.
- The Civil Service employed 548,000 people in December 2024, which was unchanged compared with September 2024 but an increase of 13,000 (2.4%) compared with December 2023.

3 . Data on public sector employment

[Public sector employment](#)

Dataset | Released 20 March 2025

Quarterly estimates of UK and regional public sector employment, made up of central government, local government, and public corporations.

[Public sector employment time series](#)

Dataset | Dataset ID: PSE | Released 20 March 2025

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

4 . Data sources and quality

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

We have conducted a seasonal adjustment review of Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates, resulting in revisions to LFS estimates from January to March 2019 onwards. Estimates of total employment and private sector employment derived from the LFS will be affected by this.

As stated on 3 December 2024 in our [Impact of reweighting on LFS key indicators: December 2024 article](#), from 17 December, we have reinstated reweighted LFS estimates into our monthly publication. These LFS estimates are official statistics in development.

LFS reweighting does not address the volatility we have seen in recent periods and that we expect to see to some extent in the future. We would advise caution when interpreting changes in headline rates and recommend using them as part of our suite of labour market indicators, alongside workforce jobs (WFJ), Claimant Count data, and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) estimates.

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](#).

More quality and methodology information

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

Accredited official statistics

These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in April 2022. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in [the Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and should be labelled "accredited official statistics".

5 . Related links

[Civil Service statistics](#)

Statistical release | Released 31 July 2024

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 20 March 2025

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 20 March 2025

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.

6 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), published 20 March 2025, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Public sector employment. UK: December 2024](#)

Index of Tables

Date of Publication: 20 March 2025 Date of Next Publication: 10 June 2025

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
Sep 2022	3,711	1,995	5,706	194	5,900	513
Dec 2022	3,741	1,995	5,736	194	5,930	515
Mar 2023	3,774	1,999	5,773	193	5,966	521
Jun 2023	3,808	2,000	5,808	192	6,000	522
Sep 2023	3,860	1,999	5,859	196	6,055	529
Dec 2023 [r]	3,895	1,998	5,893	196	6,089	535
Mar 2024	3,927	1,997	5,924	192	6,116	544
Jun 2024	3,945	1,994	5,939	153	6,092	546
Sep 2024 [r]	3,977	1,989	5,966	157	6,123	548
Dec 2024	4,000	1,985	5,985	157	6,142	548
Change on quarter	23	-4	19	0	19	0
Change %	0.6	-0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
Change on year	105	-13	92	-39	53	13
Change %	2.7	-0.7	1.6	-19.9	0.9	2.4

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

2 Public sector employment by industry; Headcount

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		
	G7ER	G7EU	G7EX	G7F2	G7F5	G7FG	G7FJ	G7FM	G7AU
Sep 2022	34	156	274	1,148	1,624	1,899	212	554	5,900
Dec 2022	34	154	276	1,153	1,628	1,916	211	555	5,930
Mar 2023	34	153	280	1,159	1,634	1,938	210	555	5,966
Jun 2023	33	151	280	1,175	1,637	1,963	212	552	6,000
Sep 2023	34	150	281	1,184	1,657	1,983	209	559	6,055
Dec 2023 [r]	34	149	281	1,195	1,656	2,004	208	562	6,089
Mar 2024	35	149	282	1,208	1,654	2,017	206	563	6,116
Jun 2024	35	147	282	1,216	1,654	2,028	205	527	6,092
Sep 2024 [r]	35	148	282	1,222	1,660	2,041	205	530	6,123
Dec 2024	35	148	282	1,230	1,656	2,052	204	533	6,142
Change on quarter	0	0	0	8	-4	11	-1	3	19
Change %	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	-0.2	0.5	-0.5	0.6	0.3
Change on year	1	-1	1	35	0	48	-4	-29	53
Change %	2.9	-0.7	0.4	2.9	0.0	2.4	-1.9	-5.2	0.9

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

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
Sep 2022	3,241	1,561	4,802	185	4,987	481
Dec 2022	3,260	1,562	4,822	185	5,007	483
Mar 2023	3,291	1,569	4,860	183	5,043	489
Jun 2023	3,329	1,573	4,902	183	5,085	489
Sep 2023	3,348	1,575	4,923	187	5,110	496
Dec 2023 [r]	3,391	1,577	4,968	187	5,155	502
Mar 2024	3,420	1,576	4,996	183	5,179	511
Jun 2024	3,434	1,576	5,010	145	5,155	513
Sep 2024 [r]	3,456	1,574	5,030	149	5,179	515
Dec 2024	3,485	1,572	5,057	150	5,207	514
Change on quarter	29	-2	27	1	28	-1
Change %	0.8	-0.1	0.5	0.7	0.5	-0.2
Change on year	94	-5	89	-37	52	12
Change %	2.8	-0.3	1.8	-19.8	1.0	2.4

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

6 Regional public sector employment

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																
Region																
All employees	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Area Code	K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002
Sep 2022	5,890	5,900	5,659	4,750	256	682	510	380	476	454	798	703	493	317	592	221
Dec 2022	5,930	5,930	5,694	4,779	257	686	513	382	479	456	807	705	495	321	594	226
Mar 2023	5,979	5,966	5,742	4,820	261	693	516	386	484	459	813	710	498	323	599	226
Jun 2023	5,998	6,000	5,760	4,838	262	697	517	389	487	461	817	710	499	323	599	226
Sep 2023	6,045	6,055	5,808	4,884	264	705	522	391	491	466	825	718	503	324	600	225
Dec 2023 [r]	6,090	6,089	5,850	4,917	266	708	524	393	494	470	834	722	506	328	605	227
Mar 2024	6,130	6,116	5,891	4,955	269	712	530	394	499	471	841	728	510	330	607	228
Jun 2024	6,089	6,092	5,851	4,927	267	706	527	394	496	469	834	724	509	329	596	227
Sep 2024 [r]	6,110	6,123	5,874	4,950	269	711	527	395	499	472	840	728	508	329	595	226
Dec 2024	6,144	6,142	5,905	4,976	270	715	530	397	502	473	845	733	511	331	597	230
Change on year:	54	53	54	59	5	7	6	5	8	3	11	11	5	2	-8	3
Change %:	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.7	1.4	1.5	0.9	0.7	-1.2	1.5
% of total employment Dec 2024	18.1	18.1	18.0	17.3	22.5	19.1	20.0	16.7	17.5	15.9	16.0	15.7	17.0	24.3	22.5	26.2

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

6a Regional public sector employment excluding effects of major reclassifications

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																
Region																
All employees	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Area Code	K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002
Sep 2022	5,616	5,625	5,386	4,501	246	643	484	364	450	431	753	662	468	312	573	219
Dec 2022	5,656	5,653	5,421	4,530	248	647	487	366	453	433	762	663	471	316	575	224
Mar 2023	5,703	5,689	5,468	4,570	251	654	490	369	458	436	768	669	474	318	580	225
Jun 2023	5,720	5,728	5,484	4,586	251	657	491	372	461	438	772	669	474	318	579	225
Sep 2023	5,768	5,777	5,532	4,632	254	665	495	374	465	444	779	677	479	319	580	224
Dec 2023	5,812	5,809	5,574	4,665	256	669	498	376	469	448	789	680	481	323	585	225
Mar 2024	5,849	5,835	5,613	4,701	258	672	503	378	473	449	796	686	485	325	587	226
Jun 2024	5,851	5,860	5,613	4,703	257	673	502	379	475	450	799	684	485	324	586	227
Sep 2024 [r]	5,869	5,879	5,633	4,724	258	677	503	379	477	452	804	688	485	324	585	226
Dec 2024	5,901	5,897	5,661	4,748	260	681	505	382	480	454	809	692	486	326	587	230
Change on year:	89	88	88	83	4	12	7	6	11	6	20	12	5	3	2	5
Change %:	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.5	2.4	1.4	2.5	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.3	2.0
% of total employment Dec 2024	17.4	17.4	17.3	16.5	21.7	18.2	19.0	16.1	16.7	15.3	15.3	14.8	16.2	23.9	22.1	26.2

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

7 Regional private sector employment

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																
Region																
All employees	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Area Code	K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002
Sep 2022 [r]	27,132	27,076	26,288	23,162	906	2,866	2,121	1,935	2,299	2,558	4,280	3,802	2,394	1,062	2,064	631
Dec 2022 [r]	27,218	27,226	26,313	23,196	911	2,902	2,126	1,913	2,290	2,544	4,223	3,836	2,450	1,049	2,068	637
Mar 2023	27,506	27,507	26,586	23,537	962	2,939	2,110	1,951	2,402	2,532	4,461	3,814	2,367	1,048	2,000	639
Jun 2023 [r]	27,274	27,275	26,449	23,335	969	2,896	2,088	1,975	2,388	2,491	4,350	3,815	2,364	1,074	2,041	627
Sep 2023 [r]	27,373	27,316	26,510	23,428	909	2,937	2,164	1,946	2,374	2,530	4,244	3,866	2,458	1,076	2,006	647
Dec 2023 [r]	27,204	27,225	26,292	23,226	921	2,829	2,092	1,911	2,322	2,447	4,469	3,850	2,384	1,073	1,993	650
Mar 2024 [r]	27,231	27,228	26,321	23,321	929	2,868	2,121	1,942	2,396	2,425	4,336	3,921	2,384	1,042	1,965	657
Jun 2024 [r]	27,496	27,497	26,631	23,539	915	2,911	2,124	1,895	2,377	2,537	4,394	3,949	2,436	1,034	2,058	656
Sep 2024 [r]	27,715	27,655	26,842	23,771	911	2,999	2,130	1,944	2,392	2,529	4,498	3,914	2,453	1,036	2,035	647
Dec 2024	27,754	27,780	26,873	23,782	930	3,025	2,124	1,977	2,366	2,502	4,427	3,932	2,499	1,033	2,058	649
Change on year:	550	555	581	556	9	196	32	66	44	55	-43	82	114	-40	65	-1
Change %:	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.4	1.0	6.9	1.5	3.5	1.9	2.3	-1.0	2.1	4.8	-3.7	3.3	-0.1
% of total employment Dec 2024	81.9	81.9	82.0	82.7	77.5	80.9	80.0	83.3	82.5	84.1	84.0	84.3	83.0	75.7	77.5	73.8

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

7a Regional private sector employment excluding effects of major reclassifications

Headcount (thousands), not seasonally adjusted																
Region																
All employees	United Kingdom	United Kingdom (seasonally adjusted)	Great Britain	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Area Code	K02000001	K02000001	K03000001	E92000001	E12000001	E12000002	E12000003	E12000004	E12000005	E12000006	E12000007	E12000008	E12000009	W92000004	S92000003	N92000002
Sep 2022 [r]	27,406	27,351	26,560	23,411	916	2,905	2,147	1,951	2,324	2,581	4,324	3,844	2,418	1,067	2,082	633
Dec 2022 [r]	27,492	27,503	26,586	23,445	921	2,941	2,152	1,929	2,316	2,567	4,268	3,878	2,474	1,054	2,087	639
Mar 2023 [r]	27,782	27,784	26,860	23,788	972	2,978	2,135	1,967	2,428	2,554	4,506	3,856	2,392	1,053	2,019	641
Jun 2023 [r]	27,552	27,547	26,725	23,587	980	2,935	2,114	1,991	2,413	2,514	4,395	3,856	2,388	1,078	2,060	628
Sep 2023 [r]	27,650	27,594	26,786	23,680	919	2,977	2,190	1,963	2,400	2,552	4,289	3,907	2,483	1,081	2,025	648
Dec 2023 [r]	27,482	27,505	26,568	23,478	931	2,869	2,118	1,927	2,347	2,470	4,515	3,891	2,409	1,078	2,012	651
Mar 2024 [r]	27,512	27,509	26,607	23,575	939	2,908	2,147	1,958	2,421	2,448	4,382	3,963	2,409	1,047	1,984	659
Jun 2024 [r]	27,734	27,729	26,870	23,763	926	2,945	2,149	1,910	2,399	2,556	4,429	3,989	2,460	1,039	2,068	656
Sep 2024 [r]	27,956	27,899	27,083	23,997	921	3,033	2,155	1,960	2,414	2,549	4,534	3,954	2,477	1,041	2,045	647
Dec 2024	27,997	28,025	27,116	24,010	941	3,059	2,149	1,993	2,388	2,522	4,463	3,973	2,523	1,038	2,068	649
Change on year:	515	520	548	532	9	190	30	65	41	52	-52	81	114	-40	55	-2
Change %:	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.0	6.6	1.4	3.4	1.7	2.1	-1.1	2.1	4.7	-3.7	2.7	-0.3
% of total employment Dec 2024	82.6	82.6	82.7	83.5	78.3	81.8	81.0	83.9	83.3	84.7	84.7	85.2	83.8	76.1	77.9	73.8

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

Table 8: Civil Service employment by department, headcount ^{1 2}

Headcount, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted									
	December 2024							September 2024	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female			Total	Total	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
Permanent Employees									
Attorney General's departments	3,330	320	3,650	5,275	2,085	7,360	11,010	11,055	-45
Business and Trade	4,635	275	4,910	4,395	1,065	5,460	10,370	10,095	275
Cabinet Office	2,985	160	3,145	3,100	515	3,615	6,760	6,780	-20
Other Cabinet Office agencies	2,245	40	2,285	2,210	160	2,370	4,660	4,395	265
Charity Commission	165	15	180	210	75	280	460	460	..
Competition and Markets Authority	530	35	560	480	100	575	1,140	1,140	..
Culture, Media and Sport	400	10	410	515	95	615	1,025	970	55
Defence	31,995	1,800	33,790	19,550	4,475	24,025	57,820	58,325	-505
Education	3,030	180	3,210	3,845	1,120	4,970	8,180	8,240	-60
Energy Security and Net Zero	2,230	90	2,320	2,050	305	2,355	4,675	4,570	105
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	5,500	485	5,985	5,925	2,000	7,930	13,915	13,930	-20
Estyn	50	10	60	75	15	85	145	145	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department	305	5	310	210	35	245	555	545	10
Food Standards Agency	705	75	775	690	95	790	1,565	1,560	..
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	4,570	135	4,700	4,110	445	4,555	9,255	9,210	45
Health and Social Care	3,520	250	3,775	5,570	1,240	6,810	10,580	10,420	160
HM Land Registry	2,165	510	2,675	2,390	1,795	4,190	6,865	6,900	-40
HM Revenue and Customs	29,710	3,730	33,435	23,770	12,245	36,015	69,450	69,495	-45
HM Treasury	1,310	75	1,380	1,150	210	1,355	2,740	2,735	..
Chancellor's other departments	245	20	265	155	50	205	470	465	..
Home Office	21,800	1,810	23,610	19,680	6,300	25,980	49,595	49,500	95
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,185	185	2,365	2,095	540	2,635	5,000	4,990	15
Justice	36,370	4,075	40,445	43,005	12,045	55,055	95,495	95,770	-270
The National Archives	250	15	265	235	65	300	565	555	10
National Crime Agency	2,975	170	3,145	2,385	440	2,820	5,965	5,980	-10
Northern Ireland Office	70	..	75	85	5	90	165	165	..
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	585	40	625	1,145	230	1,375	2,000	1,975	25
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	1,140	30	1,170	895	95	990	2,160	2,155	5
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	115	10	125	195	35	230	350	350	..
Office of Rail and Road	190	20	210	145	25	170	375	380	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland	50	..	50	65	15	85	135	135	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	25	0	25	15	..	20	45	50	..
Ofwat	180	10	195	170	30	200	395	385	5
Science, Innovation and Technology	3,390	385	3,775	2,615	670	3,285	7,060	7,005	55
Transport	7,820	980	8,800	5,130	2,415	7,545	16,345	16,460	-120
UK Statistics Authority	1,865	545	2,410	1,850	1,155	3,005	5,415	5,335	85
UK Supreme Court	20	0	20	20	..	20	45	40	..
Work and Pensions	30,740	4,945	35,685	32,885	26,130	59,015	94,700	94,560	140
Central Government Departments Total	209,380	21,440	230,820	198,300	78,330	276,630	507,455	507,235	220
Scottish Government	11,560	1,185	12,750	12,010	3,450	15,465	28,210	28,235	-25
Welsh Government	2,085	230	2,315	2,685	910	3,595	5,910	5,905	5
TOTAL	223,030	22,855	245,885	213,000	82,695	295,690	541,575	541,375	200

	December 2024							September 2024	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female			Total	Total	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
Temporary/Casual Employees									
Attorney General's departments	90	10	95	220	15	230	330	255	75
Business and Trade	45	..	45	45	..	50	95	80	15
Cabinet Office	..	0	..	0	0	0	..	..	..
Other Cabinet Office agencies	5	0	5	10	..	15	20	10	5
Charity Commission	..	0	..	..	0	..	5	..	..
Competition and Markets Authority	10	0	10	5	0	5	20	25	-5
Culture, Media and Sport	5	0	5	..	..	..	10	20	-10
Defence	10	..	10	..	..	5	20	20	0
Education	25	0	25	55	10	65	90	115	-25
Energy Security and Net Zero	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	70	10	75	100	20	120	200	185	15
Estyn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	10	0	10	10	0	10	15	15	..
Food Standards Agency	10	..	10	15	..	20	30	30	0
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	165	..	165	135	5	140	305	355	-50
Health and Social Care	135	25	160	220	50	270	435	455	-20
HM Land Registry	..	0	..	..	0	..	..	5	..
HM Revenue and Customs	190	10	200	100	..	105	305	345	-40
HM Treasury	15	0	15	5	..	10	25	30	-5
Chancellor's other departments	0	..	..	0	0	0	..	..	..
Home Office	560	215	780	755	140	895	1,670	2,355	-685
Housing, Communities and Local Government	10	..	15	10	..	10	25	20	..
Justice	260	25	290	425	80	505	795	845	-45
The National Archives	25	..	25	30	..	35	60	60	..
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	5	0	5	10	..	10	15	15	..
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	40	..	40	35	..	35	75	100	-20
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	5	..	5	5	..	10	15	15	..
Office of Rail and Road	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
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	0	0	0	0
Ofwat	..	..	..	10	..	10	15	15	..
Science, Innovation and Technology	5	0	5	10	0	10	15	30	-15
Transport	85	10	95	50	15	65	160	170	-10
UK Statistics Authority	30	..	30	10	10	20	45	45	..
UK Supreme Court	10	0	10	5	..	10	15	15	0
Work and Pensions	465	10	475	485	50	535	1,005	980	25
Central Government Departments Total	2,290	330	2,620	2,775	430	3,205	5,825	6,615	-790
Scottish Government	140	15	155	135	30	165	320	345	-25
Welsh Government	..	..	..	5	0	5	10	15	-10
TOTAL	2,430	350	2,780	2,920	455	3,375	6,155	6,980	-820

	December 2024							September 2024	Change on Quarter
	Male			Female			Total	Total	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
All Employees	225,460	23,205	248,665	215,920	83,150	299,070	547,735	548,355	-620

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.

Table 8: Civil Service employment by department, full-time equivalents

Full-time equivalents, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted					
	December 2024			September 2024	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Permanent Employees					
Attorney General's departments	3,555	6,760	10,310	10,365	-55
Business and Trade	4,825	5,160	9,985	9,720	265
Cabinet Office	3,100	3,475	6,575	6,595	-20
Other Cabinet Office agencies	2,270	2,335	4,605	4,335	270
Charity Commission	175	260	435	435	..
Competition and Markets Authority	555	550	1,105	1,105	..
Culture, Media and Sport	410	585	995	940	55
Defence	33,150	22,705	55,855	56,365	-510
Education	3,170	4,690	7,860	7,920	-60
Energy Security and Net Zero	2,300	2,275	4,575	4,475	95
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	5,850	7,375	13,230	13,250	-20
Estyn	55	80	135	135	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department	310	235	545	535	10
Food Standards Agency	750	765	1,515	1,510	..
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	4,650	4,425	9,080	9,030	50
Health and Social Care	3,695	6,455	10,150	10,005	150
HM Land Registry	2,500	3,670	6,170	6,210	-40
HM Revenue and Customs	32,245	32,285	64,530	64,595	-65
HM Treasury	1,360	1,295	2,655	2,655	..
Chancellor's other departments	260	195	455	450	..
Home Office	23,045	24,120	47,165	47,085	80
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,315	2,500	4,815	4,800	10
Justice	38,690	50,780	89,470	89,770	-300
The National Archives	260	285	545	540	..
National Crime Agency	3,090	2,700	5,785	5,800	-15
Northern Ireland Office	70	90	160	165	..
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	615	1,315	1,930	1,905	25
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	1,165	970	2,135	2,130	5
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	120	220	340	340	..
Office of Rail and Road	200	160	365	365	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland	50	80	130	130	0
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	25	20	45	45	..
Ofwat	190	190	380	375	5
Science, Innovation and Technology	3,675	3,110	6,785	6,730	55
Transport	8,470	6,735	15,205	15,320	-115
UK Statistics Authority	2,215	2,645	4,865	4,790	75
UK Supreme Court	20	20	40	40	..
Work and Pensions	34,195	51,105	85,300	85,185	115
Central Government Departments Total	223,600	252,620	476,215	476,160	60
Scottish Government	12,330	14,500	26,825	26,830	..
Welsh Government	2,235	3,340	5,575	5,580	-5
TOTAL	238,160	270,460	508,620	508,570	50
	December 2024			September 2024	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Temporary/Casual Employees					
Attorney General's departments	95	230	320	250	70
Business and Trade	45	50	95	80	15
Cabinet Office	..	0	..	..	..
Other Cabinet Office agencies	5	15	20	10	5
Charity Commission	..	..	5	..	..
Competition and Markets Authority	10	5	20	20	..
Culture, Media and Sport	5	..	10	20	-10
Defence	10	5	20	20	0
Education	25	60	85	110	-25
Energy Security and Net Zero	0	0	0	0	0
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	75	115	190	175	15
Estyn	0	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	10	10	15	15	..
Food Standards Agency	10	20	30	30	..
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	165	135	300	350	-50
Health and Social Care	150	250	400	415	-15
HM Land Registry	..	..	..	5	..
HM Revenue and Customs	195	105	300	340	-40
HM Treasury	15	10	25	30	-5
Chancellor's other departments	0	0	0	0	0
Home Office	640	815	1,455	2,040	-580
Housing, Communities and Local Government	15	10	25	20	..
Justice	275	475	750	795	-45
The National Archives	25	35	60	40	20
National Crime Agency	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	5	10	15	15	..
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	40	35	75	100	-20
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	5	10	15	15	..
Office of Rail and Road	0	..	..	..	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland	0	0	0	0	0
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	0	0	0	0	0
Ofwat	..	10	15	15	..
Science, Innovation and Technology	5	10	15	30	-15
Transport	90	60	150	160	-10
UK Statistics Authority	30	15	45	40	..
UK Supreme Court	10	10	15	15	0
Work and Pensions	470	520	990	965	25
Central Government Departments Total	2,435	3,030	5,460	6,120	-655
Scottish Government	150	155	305	330	-25
Welsh Government	..	5	10	15	-10
TOTAL	2,585	3,190	5,775	6,465	-690
	December 2024			September 2024	Change on Quarter
	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
All Employees	240,745	273,650	514,395	515,030	-635

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.

Table 9: Civil Service employment by department and agency ¹

	December 2024		September 2024		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	45	45	10	10
Crown Prosecution Service	7,565	7,070	7,575	7,090	-10	-15
Government Legal Department	3,175	2,975	3,135	2,935	40	35
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	20	20	20	20	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	525	515	535	525	-10	-10
Business and Trade						
Department for Business and Trade (excluding agencies)	5,825	5,725	5,715	5,615	110	110
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	1,090	1,000	1,065	980	25	25
Companies House	1,725	1,625	1,635	1,540	85	85
The Insolvency Service	1,825	1,730	1,760	1,665	70	65
Cabinet Office						
Cabinet Office (excluding agencies)	6,760	6,575	6,780	6,595	-20	-20
Other Cabinet Office agencies						
Central Civil Service Fast Stream	2,065	2,060	1,810	1,810	250	250
Crown Commercial Service	695	675	695	665	..	5
Government Commercial Organisation	1,530	1,510	1,525	1,500	10	10
Government Property Agency	385	380	375	370	10	10
Charity Commission						
Charity Commission	465	440	465	440	..	..
Competition and Markets Authority						
Competition and Markets Authority	1,155	1,125	1,160	1,125	..	..
Culture, Media and Sport						
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (excluding agencies)	1,035	1,005	990	960	45	45
Defence						
Ministry of Defence (excluding trading funds)	36,575	35,350	36,940	35,715	-360	-365
Defence Equipment and Support	11,085	10,645	11,210	10,770	-125	-125
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	5,080	4,900	5,140	4,960	-60	-60
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	1,640	1,640	1,635	1,635	..	..
Submarine Delivery Agency	2,485	2,410	2,430	2,360	55	50
UK Hydrographic Office	975	930	990	945	-20	-20
Education						
Department for Education (excluding agencies) ²	7,265	6,975	7,115	6,835	145	140
Education and Skills Funding Agency ²	480	465	715	690	-230	-225
Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	280	270	280	275	..	..
Standards and Testing Agency	140	135	140	135	0	0
Teaching Regulation Agency	100	100	100	95	..	..
Energy Security and Net Zero						
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	4,675	4,575	4,570	4,475	105	100
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs						
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	6,955	6,705	7,030	6,785	-75	-75
Animal and Plant Health Agency	3,365	3,195	3,300	3,125	70	65
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	665	630	650	615	15	15
Rural Payments Agency	2,945	2,710	2,955	2,720	-10	-10
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	180	175	180	175	..	..
Estyn						
Estyn	145	135	145	135	..	..
Export Credits Guarantee Department						
Export Credits Guarantee Department	575	560	560	550	10	10
Food Standards Agency						
Food Standards Agency	1,595	1,545	1,590	1,540	..	..
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office						
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (excluding agencies)	8,275	8,140	8,265	8,130	5	10
FCDO Services	1,200	1,155	1,205	1,165	-10	-10
Wilton Park Executive Agency	90	80	90	85	..	..
Health and Social Care						
Department of Health and Social Care (excluding agencies)	3,660	3,545	3,545	3,430	115	110
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	1,430	1,395	1,400	1,370	25	30
UK Health Security Agency	5,925	5,610	5,930	5,620	-5	-5
HM Land Registry						
HM Land Registry	6,870	6,175	6,910	6,215	-40	-45
HM Revenue and Customs						
HM Revenue and Customs (excluding agencies)	65,780	61,105	65,850	61,190	-70	-85
Valuation Office Agency	3,975	3,725	3,995	3,745	-15	-20
HM Treasury						
HM Treasury (excluding agencies)	2,045	2,000	2,050	2,010	-5	-5
Government Internal Audit Agency	495	460	495	460	0	..
National Infrastructure Commission	45	45	45	45	..	..
Office for Budget Responsibility	50	50	50	50	..	..
UK Debt Management Office	125	120	125	120	..	..
Chancellor's other departments						
Government Actuary's Department	230	215	225	210	..	5
National Savings and Investments	240	240	245	240	..	..
Home Office						
Home Office	51,265	48,620	51,855	49,120	-590	-500
Housing, Communities and Local Government						
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (excluding agencies)	4,020	3,905	3,990	3,880	30	25
Planning Inspectorate	960	885	970	895	-10	-10
Queen Elizabeth II Centre	50	50	50	50	..	..
Justice						
Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	8,175	7,970	8,010	7,805	165	165
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	330	305	325	300	5	5

Table 9: Civil Service employment by department and agency ¹

	December 2024		September 2024		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
HM Courts and Tribunals Service	15,950	14,430	15,845	14,330	105	100
HM Prison and Probation Service	68,700	64,605	69,265	65,200	-570	-595
Legal Aid Agency	1,300	1,205	1,305	1,205	-5	..
Office of the Public Guardian	1,840	1,705	1,865	1,725	-20	-20
The National Archives						
The National Archives	625	605	615	580	10	25
National Crime Agency						
National Crime Agency	5,965	5,785	5,980	5,800	-10	-15
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	2,020	1,945	1,990	1,915	30	30
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets						
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	2,235	2,210	2,255	2,225	-15	-15
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation						
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	370	355	365	355	..	..
Office of Rail and Road						
Office of Rail and Road	380	365	380	370	..	..
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	..	..
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales						
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales	45	45	50	45	..	..
Ofwat						
Ofwat	405	395	400	385	5	5
Science, Innovation and Technology						
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (excluding agencies)	2,265	2,220	2,235	2,190	30	30
Building Digital UK	260	260	255	250	5	5
Intellectual Property Office	1,740	1,645	1,760	1,665	-20	-20
Met Office	2,475	2,350	2,455	2,330	15	15
UK Space Agency	330	325	325	320	10	5
Transport						
Department for Transport (excluding agencies)	3,875	3,760	3,930	3,815	-50	-55
Active Travel England	85	80	90	85	..	..
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,220	5,555	6,270	5,605	-50	-45
Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency	4,860	4,540	4,840	4,525	20	15
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,225	1,185	1,265	1,225	-40	-40
Vehicle Certification Agency	235	225	240	230	-5	..
UK Statistics Authority						
UK Statistics Authority	5,465	4,905	5,375	4,835	85	75
UK Supreme Court						
UK Supreme Court	60	55	60	55	..	..
Work and Pensions						
Department for Work and Pensions (excluding agencies)	92,645	83,380	92,490	83,250	155	130
Health and Safety Executive	3,065	2,910	3,055	2,900	10	10
Scottish Government						
Scottish Government (excluding agencies)	9,350	8,975	9,390	9,015	-40	-40
Accountant in Bankruptcy	115	105	120	110	..	..
Consumer Scotland	35	35	35	35	..	..
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal	2,490	2,355	2,490	2,355	0	0
Disclosure Scotland	370	350	370	355	..	..
Education Scotland	365	350	355	345	10	10
Food Standards Scotland	280	270	285	275	-5	-5
Forestry and Land Scotland	1,105	1,055	1,105	1,055	..	..
National Records of Scotland	420	395	430	400	-5	-5
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	40	40	40	40	0	0
Registers of Scotland	1,145	1,095	1,145	1,095	..	0
Revenue Scotland	95	95	95	90	..	..
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service	2,050	1,885	2,065	1,900	-15	-15
Scottish Fiscal Commission	25	25	25	25	0	0
Scottish Forestry	235	225	240	230	..	..
Scottish Housing Regulator	55	55	55	55	0	0
Scottish Prison Service	5,055	4,765	5,040	4,745	15	20
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	365	340	370	340	..	..
Social Security Scotland	4,110	3,925	4,100	3,910	10	15
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	250	240	250	240	..	..
Transport Scotland	565	550	570	555	..	..
Welsh Government						
Welsh Government (excluding agencies)	5,825	5,490	5,830	5,505	..	-15
Welsh Revenue Authority	95	95	95	95	..	..
Total employment	547,735	514,395	548,355	515,030	-620	-635

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 Around 230 staff (220 full-time equivalents) moved from the Education and Skills Funding Agency to the Department for Education (excluding agencies) between September and December 2024.

Table 10: Employment in Executive NDPBs ^{1 2 3}

Permanent Employees	December 2024		September 2024		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Business and Trade	610	590	620	590	-10	..
Cabinet Office	190	180	200	180	-10	-10
Culture, Media and Sport	11,650	10,650	11,700	10,700	-50	-50
Defence	590	460	580	460	10	0
Education	5,000	4,800	5,020	4,820	-20	-20
Energy Security and Net Zero	4,710	4,600	4,770	4,650	-60	-50
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴	18,720	17,670	18,720	17,670	..	..
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	1,200	1,160	1,200	1,160	..	..
Health and Social Care	18,560	17,100	18,420	16,990	140	120
Home Office	2,840	2,620	2,790	2,580	50	40
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,070	2,030	2,040	2,000	30	30
Justice	2,730	2,600	2,720	2,580	10	20
Science, Innovation and Technology	9,540	9,190	9,550	9,190	..	..
Transport	2,680	2,640	2,680	2,640	0	..
Work and Pensions	1,800	1,740	1,750	1,680	60	60
Central Government Departments Total	82,900	78,030	82,750	77,900	150	130
Scottish Government	11,650	10,730	11,680	10,900	-30	-160
Welsh Government	3,450	3,190	3,620	3,360	-160	-170
TOTAL	98,010	91,960	98,050	92,150	-40	-200

Temporary Employees	December 2024		September 2024		Change on Quarter	
	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent
Business and Trade	30	30	20	20	10	10
Cabinet Office	10	10	10	10	..	..
Culture, Media and Sport	1,570	640	1,580	660	-10	-20
Defence	60	20	60	30	..	-10
Education	110	100	90	90	10	10
Energy Security and Net Zero	70	70	60	60	10	10
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ⁴	750	680	810	720	-60	-40
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	0	0	..	..	..	..
Health and Social Care	1,660	1,090	1,650	1,070	20	20
Home Office	60	60	50	50	10	10
Housing, Communities and Local Government	140	80	130	80	10	10
Justice	80	80	80	80	0	0
Science, Innovation and Technology	160	160	150	150	10	10
Transport	20	20	20	20	..	..
Work and Pensions	90	90	70	70	20	20
Central Government Departments Total	4,810	3,130	4,790	3,100	10	30
Scottish Government	620	550	730	640	-100	-90
Welsh Government	570	270	480	160	100	100
TOTAL	6,000	3,950	6,000	3,910	..	40

All NDPB Employees	104,010	95,900	104,050	96,060	-40	-160
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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.

Table 11: Employment in Academies

England (thousands), not seasonally adjusted		
	Headcount	Full-time equivalent
Sep 2022	641	494
Dec 2022	645	497
Mar 2023	649	499
Jun 2023	654	503
Sep 2023	677	506
Dec 2023	683	510
Mar 2024	690	515
Jun 2024	700	522
Sep 2024	710	529
Dec 2024	717	533
Change on quarter	7	4
Change %	1.0	0.8
Change on year	34	23
Change %	5.0	4.5

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>