

Statistical bulletin

# Energy, goods and services used by UK businesses: 2023

Expenditure on energy, goods and services used as inputs to UK business processes by product type and industry. Estimates from the 2023 Annual Purchases Survey. These are official statistics in development.

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Release date:  
10 April 2025

Next release:  
To be announced

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# 1 . Main points

- Intermediate consumption, or expenditure on energy, goods and services used as inputs to UK business processes, showed a slight increase between 2022 and 2023.
- Energy expenditure was still an important cost to businesses, particularly the category including petrol and diesel.
- The products with the highest expenditure (excluding energy related ones) included: "computer programming, consultancy and related services", "construction of buildings", "advertising and market research" and "renting, buying or selling property"; these groupings made up just under a fifth of total intermediate consumption.

These are [official statistics in development](#), and we advise caution when using the data. The data source is currently under development, which means the estimates are likely to be revised.

## 2 . Data on energy, goods and services used by UK businesses

[Energy, goods and services used by UK businesses](#)

Dataset | Released 10 April 2025

High-level and detailed table of intermediate consumption proportions and values by industry group, UK. These are official statistics in development.

## 3 . Data sources and quality

The product values in the dataset are constrained to [Annual Business Survey](#) estimates of intermediate consumption, where equivalent industries are available.

Data collections for the Annual Purchases Survey ran for 2019 and 2020 but, because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there were high levels of non-response and internal resource issues, which meant processing was deprioritised and publication was delayed. Data for these years are now being published alongside revisions to the 2021 and 2022 datasets. However, caution should still be taken with industries – or products – affected by coronavirus – for example, tourism, accommodation and catering.

As in previous years, industry groupings that contain a mix of different types of businesses should also be treated with caution. Survey methodology assumes a level of similarity between companies in the same groupings. These "catch all" groupings within the [Standard Industrial Classification \(SIC\)](#) can give volatile product patterns depending on which companies happen to be selected. Some such groupings include:

- division 32 – other manufacturing
- division 96 – other personal service activities
- division 74 – other professional, scientific and technical activities

Since 2020, there have been changes to the questionnaire to allow for the reporting of wood and wood products under energy consumption. Caution should therefore be taken when comparing with earlier releases of the datasets for the following product groupings of the [Statistical Classification of Products by Activity \(CPA\)](#):

- 01 – products of agriculture, hunting and related services
- 02 – products of forestry, logging and related services
- 06 – crude petroleum and natural gas
- 16 – wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture; articles of straw and plaiting materials
- 19 – coke and refined petroleum products and other potentially related categories

For SIC Section K Financial and insurance activities – industries 64 to 66, as with other business surveys, there are reporting issues with industry groupings that contain trusts because the survey is based on the [Inter-Departmental Business Register \(IDBR\)](#). Trusts are not listed on the IDBR and therefore the coverage of the financial industries is problematic. Our intention is to drop Section K in future – please contact us at [abaps@ons.gov.uk](mailto:abaps@ons.gov.uk) if you have views on this.

## 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](#).

These statistics are based on information from the Annual Purchases Survey. We are developing how we collect and produce the data to improve the quality of these statistics.

Once the developments are complete, we will review the statistics with the Statistics Head of Profession. We will decide whether the statistics are of sufficient quality and value to be published as official statistics, or whether 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. Contact us at [abaps@ons.gov.uk](mailto:abaps@ons.gov.uk).

## 4 . Related links

### [Non-financial business economy, UK \(Annual Business Survey\): 2023 results](#)

Bulletin | Released 10 April 2025

Size and growth within the UK non-financial sectors as measured by the Annual Business Survey.

### [Annual Purchases Survey: technical report](#)

Methodology | Released 8 August 2023

Detailed information about the methodological and technical procedures used to produce the Annual Purchases Survey (APS) estimates.

### [Annual Purchases Survey QMI](#)

Methodology | Released 8 August 2023

Quality and Methodology Information for the Annual Purchases Survey, detailing the strengths and limitations of the data, methods used and data uses and users.

### [Annual Business Survey QMI](#)

Methodology | Released 9 January 2024

Quality and Methodology Information for the Annual Business Survey, detailing the strengths and limitations of the data, methods used and data uses and users.

### [Annual Business Survey technical report: January 2024](#)

Methodology | Released 9 January 2024

Background information to the Annual Business Survey (ABS).

## 5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 10 April 2025, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Energy, goods and services used by UK businesses: 2023](#)