

Statistical bulletin

Small area gross value added estimates, UK: 1998 to 2023

Breaking down local authority level gross value added to lower levels of geography.
These are official statistics in development.

Contact:
Regional Accounts team
regionalaccounts@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 456878

Release date:
22 September 2025

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Data on small area gross value added](#)
3. [Data sources and quality](#)
4. [Related links](#)
5. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Main points

- This release is a secondary breakdown of gross value added (GVA) data published in April 2025 to provide granular data for Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA), Data Zone (DZ) and Super Output Area (SOA) levels, called "building blocks".
- These building blocks can be aggregated to build larger geographical areas for analysis and comparison; we have provided a range of additional areas in common use across the UK, and a small number of bespoke areas.
- We have also included labour productivity estimates (GVA per job filled) for towns, cities and travel to work areas.
- We have replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) with Sub-Integrated Care Board Locations (SICBL), following the restructuring of health areas in England in July 2022.
- These statistics are based on 2011 Census geography codes, because not all input datasets have been updated to Census 2021 geography codes.
- All estimates are in current prices because the principal use for these data lies in aggregating the building blocks to larger areas, including the effect of price inflation; constant price chained volume measures are non-additive, so cannot be aggregated in this way.

2 . Data on small area gross value added

[UK small area gross value added \(GVA\) estimates](#)

Dataset | Released 22 September 2025

Breaking down local authority level annual gross value added (GVA) statistics to lower levels of geography. These are official statistics in development.

[UK gross value added \(GVA\) and productivity estimates for other geographies](#)

Dataset | Released 22 September 2025

GVA estimates for middle layer super output areas, travel to work areas (TTWA), towns and cities, integrated care board and health board areas, parliamentary and devolved government constituencies, highlands and islands area offices, and bespoke areas. Productivity estimates are for TTWA, and towns and cities.

3 . Data sources and quality

Value Added Tax (VAT) turnover data

Turnover from Value Added Tax (VAT) administrative returns, collected by HM Revenue and Customs, provides the main dataset used for apportioning gross value added (GVA) from local authorities to smaller areas. Revisions and annual updates of the VAT turnover data affect both the local authority and small area GVA statistics. Revisions can apply to the whole time series, which may cause discrepancies with previous publications.

Other data sources

VAT records do not include turnover for households with employees and own-account production, imputed rental of owner-occupied dwellings, and non-market activities of public sector industries. To fill these gaps and provide a complete economic picture, additional data sources are used. These are:

- mid-year population estimates (households with employees and own-account production)
- dwelling stock estimates (imputed rental of owner-occupied dwellings)
- Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) public sector employment estimates (non-market activities of public sector industries)
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) armed forces employment estimates (public administration and defence)

To calculate the jobs data used in our productivity (GVA per job filled) estimates, local authority productivity jobs data, published along with our [Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2023 bulletin](#) are apportioned to the building block geographies based on proportions of employment calculated from the BRES. This approach ensures consistency with the jobs data used in our regional and subregional productivity calculations.

Quality

We perform quality checks, outlier detection and treatment, and statistical disclosure testing and treatment on the GVA statistics, to produce stable and non-disclosive series at Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA), Data Zone (DZ) and Super Output Area (SOA) levels.

We advise a degree of caution when making comparisons between data at the most granular (building block) level, such as for neighbourhood analysis within a local authority. This is because data at the lowest levels are more volatile than larger aggregated geographies. The economic composition of these small areas varies hugely, from largely residential areas to areas of heavy industry. They may also have been adjusted to deal with the perceived risk of statistical disclosure. When these building blocks data are used to construct larger geographies for analysis and comparison, these risks lessen because larger areas will tend to contain a more balanced mix of activities.

Caution is also advised when using the smoothed productivity data because of the extra volatility created by using labour market data within the calculations for each town or Travel to Work Area, in addition to the GVA data. Because the productivity data are smoothed, analysis of year-on-year changes is not advised, and the data are best utilised for either cross-sectional comparisons or for investigating longer-term trends.

In some cases, it will not be possible to perfectly match the boundaries of the area required and a "best fit" approach must be used. This involves aggregating all building blocks whose centroid lies within the target area. For larger areas, relatively small inaccuracies tend to balance out, leaving results that are still mostly reliable. For smaller aggregate areas, like wards, these approximations can result in significant GVA activity being assigned to the wrong ward. Because the results for wards are of low quality across the UK, we have not included them in this publication.

Our methodology constrains the LSOA, DZ and SOA data to local authority GVA totals. These data are consistent with our [Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2023 bulletin](#) and the [UK National Accounts, The Blue Book: 2024](#).

Geography

The current statistics are based on 2011 Census geography codes. We have not updated to Census 2021 geography codes because some input datasets, like the BRES employment data, still reflect the 2011 Census geography codes. We plan to update to Census 2021 codes before the next release of these data.

As part of this publication, we have reviewed the additional geographies that we publish in our [UK gross value added \(GVA\) and productivity estimates for other geographies dataset](#).

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) have been replaced with Sub-Integrated Care Board Locations (SICBL), following the restructuring of health areas in England in July 2022. We have also added Integrated Care Boards (ICB), which have replaced Strategic Information Partnerships (STP).

Towns and cities have been updated based upon population data from the 2021 Census. Only towns and cities with a population above 25,000 have been published.

For quality reasons, we have decided to remove wards from this publication. We have added Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) for England and Wales and Intermediate Zones (IZ) for Scotland to provide users with additional larger building blocks that are comparable in size to wards.

Managing the perceived risk of statistical disclosure

Granular GVA data at lower levels of geography have a perceived risk of statistical disclosure. This arises because of differences in the distribution of economic activities in small geographical areas, and the economic dominance of some industries or enterprises in local areas. We comply with regulations governing statistical disclosure of data in line with our [Statistical disclosure control strategy](#).

We assess all LSOA, DZ and SOA for the presence of dominant enterprises and treat the data for the perceived risk by averaging the GVA of each disclosive building block with another area in the same MSOA, IZ, or District Electoral Area. This method allows the entire set of UK building blocks to be made available, without the suppression of any data.

4 . Related links

[Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2023](#)

Statistical Bulletin | Released 17 April 2025

Annual estimates of economic activity by UK country, region and local area using gross domestic product (GDP). Estimates are available in current market prices and in chained volume measures and include a full industry breakdown of balanced regional gross value added (GVA(B)).

[Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2023](#)

Statistical Bulletin | Released 19 June 2025

Regional and subregional output per hour and output per job performance levels. These are official statistics in development.

[Explore local statistics](#)

Interactive tool

Find, compare and visualise statistics about places in the United Kingdom.

[Open Geography Portal](#)

Portal

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Open Geography Portal provides free access to our definitive source of geographic products, web applications, story maps, services, and APIs. All content is available under the Open Government Licence version 3.0, unless stated otherwise.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 22 September 2025, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Small area gross value added estimates, UK: 1998 to 2023](#)