

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: May 2026

Estimates of the number of vacancies and jobs for the UK.

Contact:
Labour Market team
labour.market@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 455400

Release date:
19 May 2026

Next release:
18 June 2026

Table of contents

1. [Other pages in this release](#)
2. [Main points](#)
3. [Vacancies for February to April 2026](#)
4. [Jobs for December 2025](#)
5. [Data on vacancies and jobs](#)
6. [Glossary](#)
7. [Data sources and quality](#)
8. [Related links](#)
9. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Other pages in this release

- [Labour market overview, UK](#)
- [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain](#)
- [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK](#)
- [Employment in the UK](#)

2 . Main points

- Vacancy estimates decreased on the quarter, with early estimates for February to April 2026 suggesting a decrease of 28,000 (3.9%) vacancies to 705,000, compared with November 2025 to January 2026; this is the lowest level of vacancies since February to April 2021.
- Vacancies estimates decreased in 11 of the 18 industry sectors and 4 of the 5 employment size bands compared with November 2025 to January 2026; the largest industry decrease was in Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (down 7,000) and the largest size band decrease was for businesses with 1 to 9 employees (down 19,000).
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 54,000 (7.1%) in February to April 2026 from the level of a year ago, decreasing in 13 of the 18 industry sectors and in 4 of the 5 employment size bands.
- There were 2.5 unemployed people per vacancy in January to March 2026; this has remained unchanged since July to September 2025, after previously increasing quarter on quarter since July to September 2024.

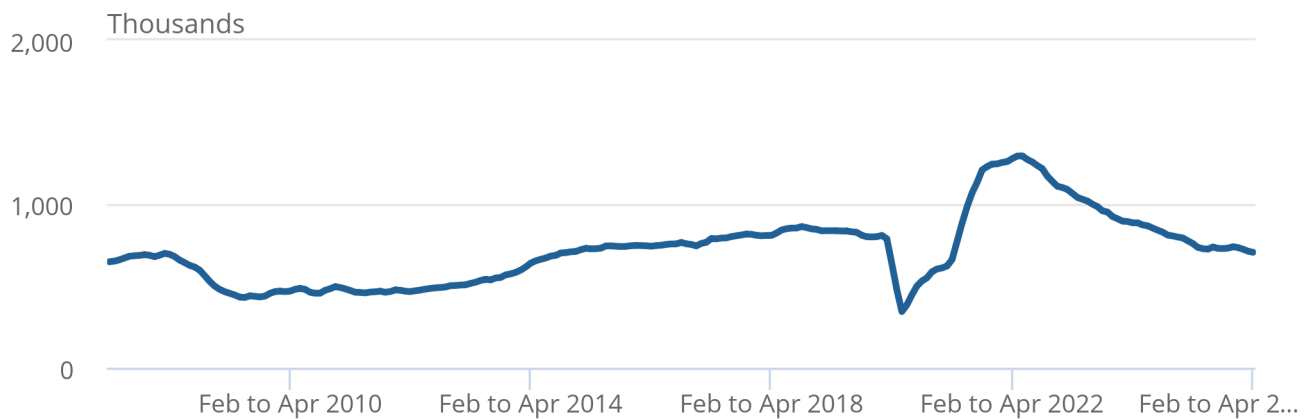
3 . Vacancies for February to April 2026

Figure 1: The estimated number of vacancies has seen a quarterly decrease of 28,000, following broadly flat estimates between March to May 2025 and December 2025 to February 2026

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, February to April 2007, to February to April 2026

Figure 1: The estimated number of vacancies has seen a quarterly decrease of 28,000, following broadly flat estimates between March to May 2025 and December 2025 to February 2026

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, February to April 2007, to February to April 2026



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

The early estimate of the number of vacancies in the UK decreased by 28,000 (3.9%) to 705,000 in February to April 2026, compared with November 2025 to January 2026. This follows a period of broadly flat estimates between March to May 2025 and December 2025 to February 2026. This change remains within our confidence interval for estimates of approximately plus or minus 32,000 vacancies (see [Section 7: Data sources and quality](#)).

On the year, vacancies have decreased by 54,000 (7.1%), with total estimated vacancies now 83,000 (10.6%) below their pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic January to March 2020 level. The last time the estimated number of vacancies was 705,000 or fewer was in February to April 2021, when they were 660,000. Outside of the coronavirus pandemic period, the last time there were fewer than 705,000 vacancies was in September to November 2014, when there were 703,000 vacancies.

The headline vacancy estimates are based on three-month averages, which naturally involve some time lag. We provided insights into trends in April 2026 in our [Dataset X06: Single month vacancies estimates](#) (see [Section 7: Data sources and quality](#)). We advise caution when comparing data sources because the single-month data are not seasonally adjusted.

The unemployment-to-vacancy ratio is a measure of labour market "tightness", meaning that it shows how many unemployed people there are for each available unfilled job. An increase in the unemployment-to-vacancy ratio implies that the labour market is less tight, as there are more available workers to fill those vacant jobs.

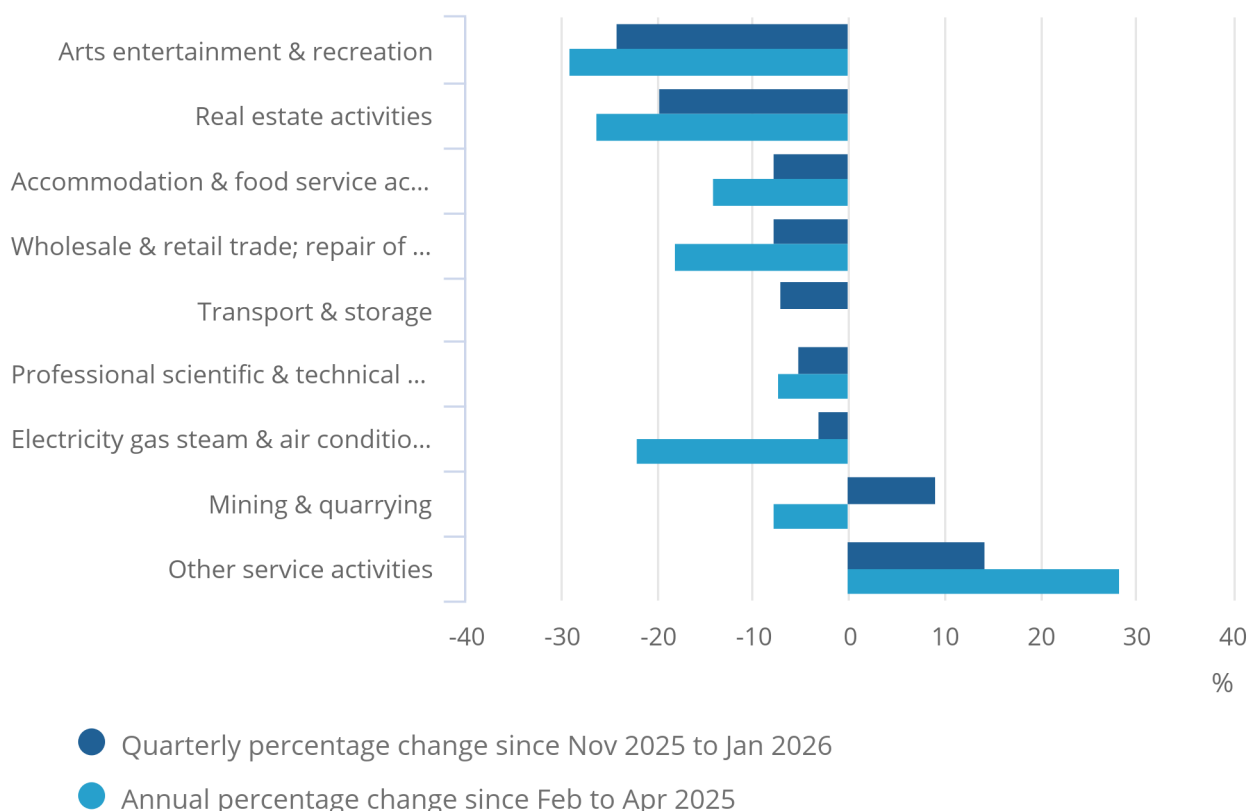
There were 2.5 unemployed people per vacancy in January to March 2026. This is unchanged from the previous quarter (October to December 2025), and up from 2.1 in the same period a year ago. The ratio has remained at 2.5 since July to September 2025, after previously increasing quarter on quarter since July to September 2024.

Figure 2: Quarterly estimates decreased in 11 of the 18 industry sectors in February to April 2026

Three-month average vacancies in the UK from February to April 2026, quarterly percentage growth from November 2025 to January 2026, and annual percentage growth from February to April 2025

Figure 2: Quarterly estimates decreased in 11 of the 18 industry sectors in February to April 2026

Three-month average vacancies in the UK from February to April 2026, quarterly percentage growth from November 2025 to January 2026, and annual percentage growth from February to April 2025



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. This chart only displays 9 of the 18 industry sectors. Full breakdowns for all industry sectors are available in our [Vacancies by industry dataset](#).

The estimated total number of vacancies decreased by 28,000 (3.9%) in February to April 2026 compared with November 2025 to January 2026, falling in 11 of the 18 industry sectors. The industries with the largest percentage decreases in vacancies were the Arts, entertainment and recreation sector, down 24.0%, and Real estate activities, down 19.7%.

This quarter, we saw the largest level decreases in the UK's lowest paying sectors; Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (down 7,000), the Accommodation and food service activities sector (down 6,000) and the Arts, entertainment and recreation sector (down 4,000). Feedback from our Vacancy Survey suggests that some firms may not be recruiting because of economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

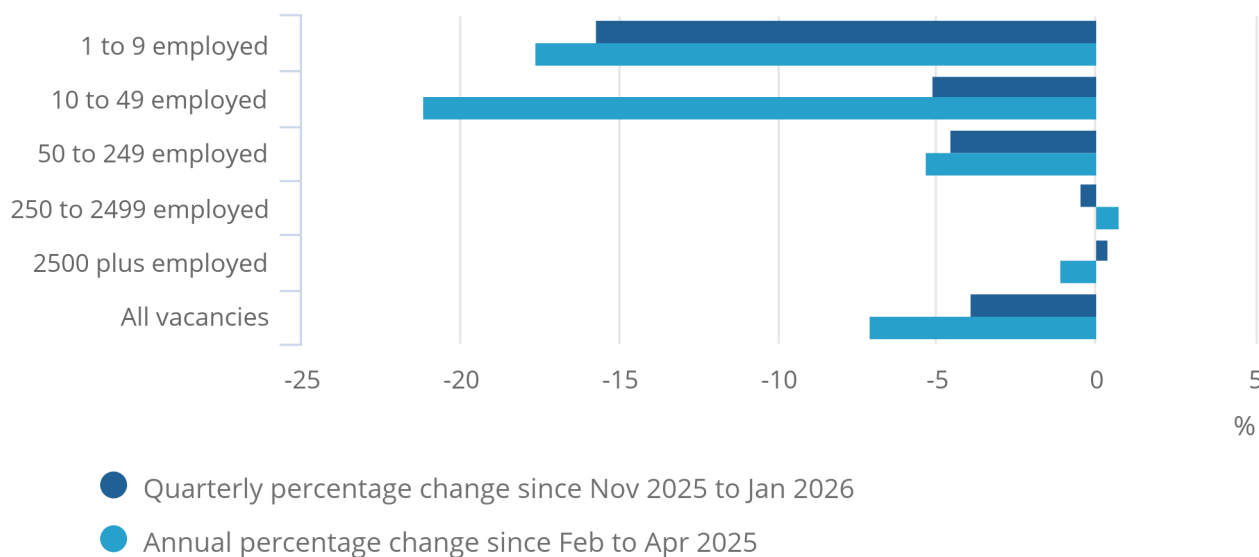
Total vacancies decreased by 54,000 (7.1%) in February to April 2026, compared with the same period a year ago. There were declines in 13 of the 18 industry sectors. The industries with the largest annual percentage decreases in vacancies were the Arts, entertainment and recreation sector, down 29.1%, Real estate activities, down 26.3%, and Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, down 22.0%. The Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles sector had the largest annual volume decrease, down 18,000 vacancies.

Figure 3: The three smallest employment size bands continue to contribute the most to the overall quarterly and annual decreases in vacancies in February to April 2026

Three-month average vacancies in the UK from February to April 2026, quarterly percentage growth from November 2025 to January 2026, and annual percentage growth from February to April 2025

Figure 3: The three smallest employment size bands continue to contribute the most to the overall quarterly and annual decreases in vacancies in February to April 2026

Three-month average vacancies in the UK from February to April 2026, quarterly percentage growth from November 2025 to January 2026, and annual percentage growth from February to April 2025



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

Of the 5 employment size bands, 4 saw decreases in the number of vacancies on the quarter to February to April 2026. The largest quarterly decrease was in businesses with 1 to 9 employees, which accounted for 19,000 of the overall 28,000 decrease in vacancies since November 2025 to January 2026. The only employment size band to show a quarterly increase was businesses with 2,500 or more employees, with a slight increase of 1,000 (0.4%) vacancies.

The number of vacancies decreased over the year in 4 out of 5 employment size bands. The largest decreases were for businesses with 10 to 49 employees, down 26,000 (21.1%) vacancies, and 1 to 9 employees, down 21,000 (17.6%) vacancies. Businesses with between 250 and 2,499 employees displayed a slight annual increase of 1,000 (0.8%) vacancies.

4 . Jobs for December 2025

Workforce jobs (WFJ) estimates are provided by various sources, our latest estimates for December 2025 were published in March 2026. Estimates of employee jobs in the private sector are from business surveys with a reference date of 12 December 2025. Estimates of self-employment jobs are drawn from our Labour Force Survey (LFS), which covers a three-month period from the start of November 2025 to the end of January 2026.

Early estimates suggest there were 36.6 million WFJ in the UK in December 2025. This is a quarterly increase of 33,000 (0.1%) since September 2025. The quarterly increase was caused by an increase of 60,000 (0.2%) in employee jobs. However, there was a decrease of 28,000 (0.7%) in self-employment jobs. Estimates of government-supported trainees and HM Forces were broadly flat on the quarter.

The estimated number of WFJ was down by 266,000 (0.7%) in December 2025 from the level of a year ago; this was caused by decreases of 242,000 (5.6%) in the self-employment jobs component and 25,000 (0.1%) in the employee jobs component. The other components are broadly flat, with HM Forces up 1,000 (0.8%), and government-supported trainees down 1,000 (2.0%) over the year.

The number of WFJ increased in 11 of the 20 industry sectors on the quarter. The industries with the biggest percentage increase on the quarter are construction, up 2.9%, and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, up 2.0%. The industries with the largest volume increases on the quarter were construction, up 65,000 (2.9%), and administrative and support service activities, up 42,000 (1.4%).

There was a decrease in WFJ in 12 of the 20 industry sectors on the year. The industry with the largest annual decrease in WFJ was financial and insurance activities, which was down 78,000 (6.6%) between December 2024 and December 2025.

5 . Data on vacancies and jobs

[Vacancies by industry](#)

Dataset VACS02 | Released 19 May 2026

Vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[Workforce jobs summary](#)

Dataset JOBS01 | Released 19 March 2026

Workforce jobs summary, UK, published quarterly, seasonally adjusted. Estimates of jobs by type of job (including employee jobs, self-employment jobs, HM Forces and government-supported trainees).

[Workforce jobs by industry](#)

Dataset JOBS02 | Released 19 March 2026

Workforce jobs by industry, employee jobs by industry and self-employment jobs by industry. UK, published quarterly, both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted.

[X06: Single month vacancies estimates](#)

Dataset X06 | Released 19 May 2026

Vacancies by industry and size of business, UK, single month, not seasonally adjusted. Vacancy Survey. These are official statistics in development.

6 . Glossary

Jobs

A job is an activity performed for an employer or customer by a worker in exchange for payment, usually in cash, or in kind, or both. The number of jobs is not the same as the number of people in employment. This is because a person can have more than one job. The number of jobs is the sum of employee jobs from employer surveys, self-employment jobs from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), those in HM Forces, and government-supported trainees. The number of people in employment is measured by the LFS. These estimates are available in our [Employment in the UK bulletins](#). For more information, see Section 10: Jobs in our [Guide to labour market statistics methodology](#).

Vacancies

Vacancies are positions for which employers are actively seeking recruits from outside of their business or organisation. The estimates are based on our Vacancy Survey, a survey of employers designed to provide estimates of the stock of vacancies across the economy, excluding agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and activities of households as employers (small sectors for which the collection of estimates would not be practical). For more information, see [Section 11: Vacancies in our Guide to labour market statistics methodology](#).

A [more detailed glossary](#) is available

7 . Data sources and quality

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".

Latest changes to vacancies

In June 2025, we published the [ONS Survey Improvement and Enhancement Plan for Economic Statistics](#). In this report, we set out our intentions to improve the foundations of Business Surveys including sampling, collection, and processing of our surveys. We have now completed a full sample review of the Vacancy Survey, a survey of employers designed to provide estimates of the stock of vacancies across the economy. We made the recommended changes in April 2026. This means that this Vacancies and jobs in the UK: May 2026 bulletin includes the first data collected since those changes were introduced.

The changes have not affected the overall results. However, in some areas we have added more new businesses to the survey, which could slightly affect response rates. To minimise any impact, we have worked closely with our survey teams to support new businesses joining the survey, and to follow up where responses are missing.

Latest changes to workforce jobs

Up until December 2025, employee jobs data for the private sector were collected through three surveys: the Monthly Business Survey (MBS), Quarterly Business Survey (QBS), and Construction Survey (CON).

To improve and streamline processes, the data collection platform for these three surveys was upgraded and went live throughout Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2025. Alongside this, employment questions have been consolidated into a single questionnaire under QBS; they were removed from MBS and CON from December 2025. Businesses in sectors previously sampled only in MBS or CON have moved into an expanded QBS universe, which samples approximately 37,000 businesses.

The core QBS methodology remains unchanged, but the sample is larger and unified. Forced inclusions (large businesses that must be included) will only apply where required for QBS. For the remaining sample, there will be an overlap of around 50% between the old MBS and CON samples and the new QBS sample in December 2025. There will be full overlap for forced inclusions to ensure a smooth transition. In March 2026, the forced inclusions in the overlap will be withdrawn and replaced by newly sampled businesses, but the forced inclusions for large businesses will remain. Normal QBS rotation will resume from June 2026.

There has been no impact from the platform upgrade itself, owing to methods remaining consistent. However, sampling a large number of new businesses has affected response rates and the number of responses available for imputation link factors.

We have worked hard with our survey teams to reduce the impact of these changes, supporting the onboarding of newly selected businesses and prioritising follow-up where needed. However, there are small known biases between newly sampled and existing businesses within the existing rotation, construction, and imputation methods, that have been amplified during this period because of the volume of newly sampled businesses.

More information is available in our [Workforce jobs in the UK quality and methods guide](#), which was published on 19 March 2026.

Discontinuities in workforce jobs

Read more about discontinuities in workforce jobs in Section 7: Data sources and quality of our [Vacancies and jobs in the UK: November 2025 bulletin](#).

Rounding

Published data accompanying this release are presented as rounded figures. All changes presented in this bulletin are calculated from unrounded estimates. Therefore, users may calculate slightly different changes when using our accompanying data tables.

Sources

The data in this bulletin come from surveys of businesses. It is not feasible to survey every business in the UK, so these statistics are estimates based on samples, not precise figures.

Estimates of vacancies are obtained from our Vacancy Survey, which is a survey of employers.

Estimates of jobs are compiled from a number of sources, including the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS), the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Surveys (QPSES), and the [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#).

More quality and methodology information on sources, strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our [Vacancy Survey QMI report](#) and our [Workforce jobs in the UK quality and methods guide](#).

A comparison of our labour market data sources and the main differences, is available in our [Comparison of labour market data sources methodology](#).

Response Rates

The Vacancy Survey response rate was 74.8% in April 2026.

The Quarterly Business Survey response rate was 71.5% in December 2025.

Sampling variability

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level is plus or minus 1.3% of that level expressed as a [coefficient of variation](#), giving a 95% [confidence interval](#) for estimates of approximately plus or minus 32,000.

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level for a typical industrial sector is around plus or minus 6% of that level.

Table 1: Sampling variability for estimates of jobs in the UK, thousands

SIC 2007 Section	United Kingdom		
		Estimate for December 2025 [Note 1]	Sampling variability of estimate [Note 2]
A	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	337	±46
B	Mining & quarrying	52	±4
C	Manufacturing	2,524	±40
D	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	146	±12
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	242	±8
F	Construction	2,297	±61
G	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,645	±63
H	Transport & storage	1,894	±48
I	Accommodation & food service activities	2,618	±61
J	Information & communication	1,591	±58
K	Financial & insurance activities	1,098	±37
L	Real estate activities	724	±42
M	Professional scientific & technical activities	3,439	±71
N	Administrative & support service activities	2,986	±61
O	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	1,774	±16
P	Education	3,098	±42
Q	Human health & social work activities	5,030	±65
R	Arts, entertainment & recreation	1,076	±45
S/T	Other service activities/Private Households	994	±56
	All jobs	36,563	±209

Source: Workforce jobs from the Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. The estimates for December 2025 are seasonally adjusted.
2. The sampling variability estimates are for 95% confidence intervals and are calculated on data for June 2025 that are not seasonally adjusted.

Further information is available in Section 8: Strengths and limitations of our [Vacancies and jobs in the UK: April 2021 bulletin](#).

8 . Related links

[Employees in Great Britain](#)

Related data | Released 28 October 2025

Number of employees in the UK, full-time and part-time, by sector, industry, country and English region, from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES).

[Revisions to workforce jobs, UK: December 2025](#)

Article | Released 16 December 2025

Impact of regular annual adjustments to workforce jobs estimates, published in our Vacancies and jobs in the UK bulletin.

[Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification \(SOC 2020\), UK](#)

Dataset | Released 30 March 2026

These tables contain the number of online job adverts split by local authority and occupation (SOC 2020).

9 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 19 May 2026, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Vacancies and jobs in the UK](#)

)

Index of Tables

The table below provides an index of the tables appearing in this Statistical Bulletin and it shows how these table numbers [match up with the Excel spreadsheet datasets which are available on the website.](#)"

Statistical Bulletin table number	Table description	Dataset
SUMMARY		
1	Labour Force Survey Summary	Dataset A02 SA
2 (*)	Labour market status by age group	Dataset A05 SA
EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS		
3	Full-time, part-time & temporary workers	Dataset EMP01 SA
4	Public and private sector employment	Dataset EMP02
4(1)	Public sector employment by industry	Dataset EMP03
4(2)	Public sector employment by sector classification: Headcount	Dataset PSE
5	Workforce jobs summary	Dataset JOBS01
6 (**)	Workforce jobs by industry	Dataset JOBS02
7	Actual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR01 SA
7(1)	Usual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR02 SA
NON-UK WORKERS		
8	Employment by country of birth and nationality	Dataset EMP06
8(1)	Unemployment and economic inactivity by country of birth and n	Dataset A12
UNEMPLOYMENT		
9	Unemployment by age and duration	Dataset UNEM01 SA
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY		
10(*)	Economic activity by age	Dataset A05 SA
11	Economic inactivity by reason	Dataset INAC01 SA
12	Labour market and educational status of young people	Dataset A06 SA
EARNINGS		
13	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Total pay	Dataset EARN01
14	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Bonus pay	Dataset EARN01
15	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Regular pay	Dataset EARN01
16	Average Weekly Earnings real and nominal (summary table)	Dataset EARN01
INTERNATIONAL SUMMARY		
17	International comparisons of employment and unemployment	Dataset A10
LABOUR DISPUTES		
18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
VACANCIES		
19	Vacancies by size of business	Dataset VACS03
20	Vacancies and unemployment	Dataset VACS01
21	Vacancies by industry	Dataset VACS02
REDUNDANCIES		
22	Redundancies levels and rates	Dataset RED01 SA
REGIONAL SUMMARY		
23	Regional labour market summary	Dataset A07

(*) Tables 2 and 10 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file have been amalgamated into one spreadsheet (Dataset A05 SA).

(**) Table JOBS02 provides more detail than Table 6 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file.

The following symbols are used in the tables: p provisional, r revised, .. Not available, * suppressed due to small sample size.

The four-character identification codes appearing in the tables are the ONS references for the data series appearing in the Labour Market Statistics dataset which is available on the website at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/labourmarketstatistic>

EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

5 Workforce jobs

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	Workforce jobs	Employee jobs	Self-employment jobs ¹	HM Forces	Government-supported trainees ¹
	1	2	3	4	5
	DYDC	BCAJ	DYZN	LOJX	LOJU
Dec 23	36,470	32,144	4,137	151	38
Mar 24	36,711	32,203	4,329	148	31
Jun 24	36,635	32,216	4,236	149	34
Sep 24	36,672	32,216	4,266	148	42
Dec 24	36,829	32,348	4,279	147	55
Mar 25	36,931	32,388	4,342	148	53
Jun 25	36,673	32,306	4,186	147	34
Sep 25 (r)	36,530	32,263	4,065	148	54
Dec 25 (p)	36,563	32,323	4,037	148	54
Change on quarter	33	60	-28	0	0
Change %	0.1	0.2	-0.7	0.6	0.2
Change on year	-266	-25	-242	1	-1
Change %	-0.7	-0.1	-5.6	0.8	-2.0

Relationship between columns: 1=2+3+4+5

See footnotes under table 6

6 Workforce jobs by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All jobs A-T	Agriculture, forestry & fishing A	Mining & quarrying B	Manufacturing C	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply D	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities E	Construction F	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles G	Transport & storage H	Accommodation & food service activities I	Information & communication J
		DYDC	JWR5	JWR6	JWR7	JWR8	JWR9	JWS2	JWS3	JWS4	JWS5
Dec 23	36,470	401	52	2,583	131	239	2,230	4,779	1,899	2,632	1,628
Mar 24	36,711	371	51	2,567	133	244	2,265	4,761	1,906	2,634	1,622
Jun 24	36,635	350	54	2,555	136	241	2,203	4,751	1,896	2,616	1,625
Sep 24	36,672	355	52	2,557	142	242	2,285	4,722	1,898	2,628	1,657
Dec 24	36,829	358	54	2,576	142	247	2,295	4,713	1,919	2,618	1,668
Mar 25	36,931	348	57	2,563	143	245	2,313	4,715	1,911	2,591	1,635
Jun 25	36,673	358	50	2,524	146	240	2,288	4,657	1,904	2,629	1,600
Sep 25 (r)	36,530	380	51	2,509	143	240	2,233	4,630	1,905	2,615	1,599
Dec 25 (p)	36,563	337	52	2,524	146	242	2,297	4,645	1,894	2,618	1,591
Change on quarter	33	-43	1	14	3	2	65	15	-12	4	-8
Change %	0.1	-11.4	1.9	0.6	2.0	0.7	2.9	0.3	-0.6	0.1	-0.5
Change on year	-266	-21	-2	-53	4	-5	2	-68	-25	0	-77
Change %	-0.7	-5.8	-3.8	-2.0	3.1	-2.2	0.1	-1.5	-1.3	0.0	-4.6

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities K	Real estate activities L	Professional scientific & technical activities M	Administrative & support service activities N	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security ² O	Education P	Human health & social work activities Q	Arts, entertainment & recreation R	Other service activities S	People employed by households, etc. T	Total services G-T
		JWS7	JWS8	JWS9	JWT2	JWT3	JWT4	JWT5	JWT6	JWT7	KW78
Dec 23	1,155	697	3,388	3,011	1,690	3,069	4,864	1,068	902	53	30,835
Mar 24	1,143	698	3,467	2,994	1,705	3,076	4,939	1,088	976	70	31,079
Jun 24	1,147	710	3,481	3,008	1,721	3,069	5,002	1,070	937	64	31,095
Sep 24	1,151	689	3,503	2,984	1,724	3,075	4,987	1,038	943	38	31,039
Dec 24	1,176	719	3,484	2,995	1,733	3,054	5,001	1,056	974	47	31,158
Mar 25	1,141	727	3,469	3,017	1,742	3,118	5,066	1,080	992	61	31,263
Jun 25	1,139	703	3,453	2,987	1,757	3,113	5,048	1,058	983	56	31,088
Sep 25 (r)	1,110	717	3,454	2,944	1,762	3,122	5,018	1,081	958	59	30,974
Dec 25 (p)	1,098	724	3,439	2,986	1,774	3,098	5,030	1,076	948	46	30,966
Change on quarter	-12	6	-15	42	12	-24	13	-6	-9	-13	-8
Change %	-1.1	0.9	-0.4	1.4	0.7	-0.8	0.3	-0.5	-1.0	-22.4	0.0
Change on year	-78	4	-45	-9	41	43	29	20	-25	-1	-192
Change %	-6.6	0.6	-1.3	-0.3	2.3	1.4	0.6	1.9	-2.6	-3.2	-0.6

Workforce jobs enquiries 01633 455400

Sources: Employer surveys, Labour Force Survey and administrative sources

1. Workforce Jobs figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For this reason estimates of self-employment jobs and government supported trainee jobs differ from estimates of people in self-employment and in government supported training and employment programmes shown at Table 3. The estimates for government supported trainees shown in this table exclude trainees with contracts of employment as such people are included in the estimates of employee jobs.

2. This series is not exclusively a public sector series as it includes some private sector jobs. See table 4 for estimates of public and private sector employment.

VACANCIES

19 Vacancies¹ by size of business

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	All Vacancies	Number of employees				
		1-9	10-49	50-249	250-2499	2500+
		AP2Y	ALY5	ALY6	ALY7	ALY8
Levels						
Feb-Apr 2024	885	136	136	134	191	288
Feb-Apr 2025 (r)	759	121	121	109	169	239
Mar-May 2025	735	110	114	107	169	236
Apr-Jun 2025	727	107	113	109	166	232
May-Jul 2025	724	111	109	109	165	231
Jun-Aug 2025	737	117	111	110	168	232
Jul-Sep 2025	729	114	107	110	167	230
Aug-Oct 2025	728	116	106	109	168	228
Sep-Nov 2025	730	120	103	108	168	232
Oct-Dec 2025	739	122	104	106	173	234
Nov-Jan 2026 (r)	734	119	101	108	171	235
Dec-Feb 2026 (r)	724	113	100	107	171	234
Jan-Mar 2026 (r)	712	105	97	106	170	234
Feb-Apr 2026 (p)	705	100	96	103	170	236
Change on quarter *	-28	-19	-5	-5	-1	1
Change % *	-3.9	-15.7	-5.1	-4.5	-0.4	0.4
Change on year	-54	-21	-26	-6	1	-3
Change %	-7.1	-17.6	-21.1	-5.3	0.8	-1.1

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 455400

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

20 Vacancies¹ and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

	All Vacancies ¹	Unemployment ²	Number of unemployed people per vacancy
	AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels			
Jan-Mar 2024	893	1,513	1.7
Jan-Mar 2025	775	1,614	2.1
Apr-Jun 2025	727	1,672	2.3
Jul-Sep 2025	729	1,789	2.5
Oct-Dec 2025	739	1,883	2.5
Jan-Mar 2026 (r)	712	1,806	2.5
Change on quarter	-27	-77	0.0
Change %	-3.6	-4.1	
Change on year	-63	192	0.5
Change %	-8.1	11.9	

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey/ Labour Force Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 455400

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

2. Unemployment estimates are produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are always one period behind the ONS Vacancy Survey estimates. This table therefore shows estimates for the same periods as shown in table 1 (which shows LFS estimates).

VACANCIES

21 Vacancies by industry

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All vacancies ¹	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply ²	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	Transport & storage	Accommodation & food service activities	Information & communication
	B-S	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	AP2Y	JP9H	JP9I	JP9J	JP9K	JP9L	JP9M	JP9N	JP9O	JP9P
Levels (thousands)										
Feb-Apr 2024	885	2	62	5	6	36	112	34	104	37
Feb-Apr 2025 (r)	759	1	50	4	7	33	103	32	81	36
Mar-May 2025	735	1	48	4	7	33	98	32	79	35
Apr-Jun 2025	727	1	49	4	7	30	93	32	79	35
May-Jul 2025	724	1	48	3	7	31	94	30	76	34
Jun-Aug 2025	737	1	49	3	8	31	95	29	78	36
Jul-Sep 2025	729	1	47	3	7	30	95	30	76	36
Aug-Oct 2025	728	1	47	3	8	30	92	30	77	35
Sep-Nov 2025	730	1	49	3	7	29	95	32	77	34
Oct-Dec 2025	739	1	52	3	7	30	92	34	75	37
Nov-Jan 2026 (r)	734	1	52	3	6	29	91	34	75	38
Dec-Feb 2026 (r)	724	1	50	3	6	27	86	34	73	40
Jan-Mar 2026 (r)	712	1	50	3	6	27	87	33	71	36
Feb-Apr 2026 (p)	705	1	51	3	7	29	84	32	69	39
Change on quarter *	-28	0	-1	0	0	0	-7	-2	-6	1
Change % *	-3.9	9.1	-2.1	-3.0	3.2	0.7	-7.7	-7.0	-7.7	1.3
Change on year	-54	0	1	-1	0	-4	-18	0	-11	3
Change %	-7.1	-7.7	1.2	-22.0	-5.8	-12.5	-17.9	0.0	-14.0	8.7
	AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Feb-Apr 2024	2.8	3.5	2.6	3.7	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.1	4.2	2.6
Feb-Apr 2025 (r)	2.4	2.8	2.1	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.3	1.9	3.3	2.5
Mar-May 2025	2.3	2.8	2.1	3.0	2.9	2.0	2.2	1.9	3.2	2.5
Apr-Jun 2025	2.3	2.8	2.1	2.9	3.0	1.9	2.1	1.9	3.2	2.5
May-Jul 2025	2.3	2.8	2.0	2.5	3.0	1.9	2.1	1.8	3.1	2.4
Jun-Aug 2025	2.3	2.8	2.1	2.5	3.2	1.9	2.2	1.8	3.2	2.6
Jul-Sep 2025	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.4	3.1	1.8	2.2	1.8	3.1	2.6
Aug-Oct 2025	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.4	3.4	1.8	2.1	1.8	3.1	2.5
Sep-Nov 2025	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3	3.0	1.8	2.2	1.9	3.1	2.4
Oct-Dec 2025	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	3.0	1.8	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.6
Nov-Jan 2026 (r)	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	3.1	2.7
Dec-Feb 2026 (r)	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.7	1.6	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.8
Jan-Mar 2026 (r)	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.5	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.9	2.6
Feb-Apr 2026 (p)	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.7
Change on quarter *	-0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
Change on year	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.7	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	0.0	-0.5	0.2

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities	Real estate activities ²	Professional scientific & technical activities	Administrative & support service activities	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	Education	Human health & social work activities	Arts, entertainment & recreation	Other service activities	Total services
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	G-S
	JP9Q	JP9R	JP9S	JP9T	JP9U	JP9V	JP9W	JP9X	JP9Y	JP9Z
Levels (thousands)										
Feb-Apr 2024	35	16	88	65	31	57	162	17	18	775
Feb-Apr 2025 (r)	33	13	77	52	29	47	134	18	11	665
Mar-May 2025	33	14	74	49	28	44	133	16	11	644
Apr-Jun 2025	32	13	73	49	28	42	135	16	11	636
May-Jul 2025	33	13	74	50	29	46	131	15	11	634
Jun-Aug 2025	34	12	77	51	29	47	129	14	13	644
Jul-Sep 2025	33	10	76	51	30	49	127	14	13	640
Aug-Oct 2025	34	10	77	49	30	49	126	16	13	638
Sep-Nov 2025	34	11	77	49	30	50	122	16	13	640
Oct-Dec 2025	34	11	77	49	30	51	124	17	14	645
Nov-Jan 2026 (r)	32	12	75	50	29	50	125	17	13	641
Dec-Feb 2026 (r)	32	12	75	50	29	47	125	16	15	636
Jan-Mar 2026 (r)	32	13	74	48	29	47	126	14	15	626
Feb-Apr 2026 (p)	32	10	71	49	29	48	126	13	15	615
Change on quarter *	1	-2	-4	-1	-1	-2	1	-4	2	-26
Change % *	1.9	-19.7	-5.2	-2.0	-1.7	-4.2	0.6	-24.0	14.2	-4.0
Change on year	-1	-4	-6	-3	0	1	-9	-5	3	-49
Change %	-2.4	-26.3	-7.3	-6.0	-1.0	2.4	-6.3	-29.1	28.3	-7.4
	JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Feb-Apr 2024	3.2	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.1	2.0	3.5	2.1	2.9	2.8
Feb-Apr 2025 (r)	3.1	2.1	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.9	2.2	1.8	2.4
Mar-May 2025	3.1	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.8	2.0	1.7	2.3
Apr-Jun 2025	3.1	2.0	2.5	1.8	1.8	1.5	2.9	1.9	1.7	2.3
May-Jul 2025	3.1	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.8	1.9	1.8	2.3
Jun-Aug 2025	3.2	1.9	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.8	1.8	2.0	2.3
Jul-Sep 2025	3.1	1.6	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.7	1.8	2.0	2.3
Aug-Oct 2025	3.2	1.6	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.3
Sep-Nov 2025	3.2	1.7	2.6	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.6	2.0	2.1	2.3
Oct-Dec 2025	3.2	1.7	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.3
Nov-Jan 2026 (r)	3.0	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.3
Dec-Feb 2026 (r)	3.0	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.7	2.0	2.3	2.3
Jan-Mar 2026 (r)	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.7	1.7	2.3	2.3
Feb-Apr 2026 (p)	3.0	1.6	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.7	1.6	2.3	2.2
Change on quarter *	0.1	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.5	0.3	-0.1
Change on year	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.6	0.5	-0.2

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

2. Not seasonally adjusted. These series do not display seasonality. Therefore the unadjusted series is the best estimate of a 'seasonally adjusted' series.

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 455400