

Statistical bulletin

Working and workless households in the UK: January to March 2026

The economic status of households in the UK and the people living in them, where at least one person is aged 16 to 64 years. Taken from the Labour Force Survey.

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Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Data on working and workless households](#)
3. [Data sources and quality](#)
4. [Related links](#)
5. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Main points

- Estimates from January to March 2025 include the full effect of recent improvements in Labour Force Survey (LFS) data collection and sampling methods, introduced from January 2024.
- Some volatility remains, particularly for estimates from mid-2023 and throughout 2024, and for granular breakdowns, in which sample sizes are smaller.
- We recommend using LFS estimates as part of our suite of labour market indicators, alongside workforce jobs, Claimant Count, and Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (PAYE RTI) estimates.
- Although LFS headline estimates have been reweighted to later population estimates, LFS household estimates remain weighted to population estimates published in November 2023 for periods from October to December 2023 onwards; a discontinuity has been introduced at this point, so users should account for this when considering movements in the series.
- Of the estimated 21.99 million households (where at least one member is aged 16 to 64 years) in the UK, 59.7% had all household members aged 16 years and over in employment during January to March 2026.
- There were an estimated 25.9% of households with a mix of at least one working and one workless adult, and an estimated 14.4% of households where no member of the household was in employment.

Labour market statistics based on both the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) are considered [official statistics in development](#). Read more in [Section 3: Data sources and quality](#).

2 . Data on working and workless households

[Households by combined economic activity status of household members: Table A](#)

Dataset | Released 3 June 2026

Quarterly and historical data on UK households by combined economic activity status of household members.

[People by age and combined economic activity status of household members: Table F](#)

Dataset | Released 3 June 2026

Quarterly and historical data on people living in UK households by age and combined economic activity status of household members.

[Children in households by combined economic activity status of household members: Table K](#)

Dataset | Released 3 June 2026

Quarterly and historical data on children living in UK households by combined economic activity status of household members.

[Employment rates of people by parental status: Table P](#)

Dataset | Released 3 June 2026

Quarterly and historical data on employment rates of people in the UK by parental status.

3 . Data sources and quality

Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets are used for analysis of family or household characteristics. For all analyses in this bulletin, a household is defined as containing at least one person aged 16 to 64 years. This bulletin focuses on the economic status of household members. For example:

- number of people in employment in the household
- number of people unemployed in the household
- number of people economically inactive in the household

We compare data sources and discuss some of the main differences between data sources in our [Comparison of labour market data sources methodology](#).

LFS headline estimates are weighted to 2022 mid-year population estimates for periods from January to March 2019. However, LFS household estimates from October to December 2023 onwards remain weighted to information on the size and composition of the UK population. These weighted estimates are consistent with the population estimates published in November 2023, creating a discontinuity from October to December 2023 onwards. Users should account for this discontinuity when considering movements in the series.

Household estimates for July to September 2023 are not available. All estimates in this release are not seasonally adjusted.

More information is available in our [Impact of reweighting on Labour Force Survey key indicators: December 2024 article](#).

Estimates from January to March 2025 include the full effect of the improvements in LFS data collection and sampling methods introduced from January 2024. However, some volatility remains, particularly for estimates from mid-2023 and throughout 2024, and for granular breakdowns, in which sample sizes are smaller. Caution should be taken when drawing conclusions from short-term changes, and we advise users to focus on long term movements in the data.

We recommend using LFS estimates as part of our suite of labour market indicators, alongside workforce jobs, Claimant Count, and Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (PAYE RTI) estimates.

We published an update of our [Labour Force Survey quality update: April 2026 article](#). This article provides users with information about current response rates and known biases in LFS data, to help them better understand the current quality of the data.

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 methodology](#). This is in line with the [letter from the Office for Statistics Regulation \(OSR\)](#), stating that LFS statistics should not be published as accredited official statistics until the OSR has reviewed them.

4 . Related links

[Workless households for regions across the UK: 2024](#)

Bulletin | Released 30 July 2025

Annual information at a local level about households and the adults and children living in them, by their economic activity status.

[Children living in long-term workless households in the UK: 2024](#)

Bulletin | Released 29 October 2025

Annual UK estimates of the number of children living in households where all adults have not worked for at least 12 months.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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