

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: August 2026

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

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1 . Other pages in this release

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- [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 May to July 2026 suggesting a decrease of 6,000 (0.8%) vacancies to 707,000, compared with February to April 2026.
- Vacancy estimates decreased in 9 of the 18 industry sectors on the quarter; the largest decreases were in human health and social work activities (down 5,000 vacancies) and education (down 4,000 vacancies).
- Vacancy estimates decreased in 3 of the 5 employment size bands on the quarter; the largest decrease was for businesses with 1 to 9 employees (down 8,000 vacancies).
- Total estimated vacancies were down by 19,000 (2.7%) in May to July 2026 from the level of a year ago, decreasing in 11 of the 18 industry sectors, and in the three smallest employment size bands.
- There were 2.5 unemployed people per vacancy in April to June 2026; this ratio has remained at 2.5 since July to September 2025, after previously increasing quarter on quarter since July to September 2024.

3 . Vacancies for May to July 2026

Figure 1: The estimated number of vacancies has seen a quarterly decrease of 6,000, to 707,000

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, May to July 2007, to May to July 2026

Figure 1: The estimated number of vacancies has seen a quarterly decrease of 6,000, to 707,000

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, May to July 2007, to May to July 2026



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

The early estimate of the number of vacancies in the UK decreased by 6,000 (0.8%) to 707,000 in May to July 2026, compared with February to April 2026. Estimates have remained broadly flat since the start of the year, only decreasing by 11,000 since January to March 2026. These changes are both within our [confidence interval](#) for estimates of approximately plus or minus 32,000 vacancies (more information is available in [Section 7: Data sources and quality](#)).

On the year, vacancies have decreased by 19,000 (2.7%), with total estimated vacancies now 81,000 (10.3%) below their pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic January to March 2020 level. Outside of the coronavirus pandemic period, the last time there were 707,000 or fewer vacancies was in September to November 2014, when there were 703,000 vacancies.

Feedback from our Vacancy Survey suggests that some firms may not be recruiting because of increases in labour costs and other operating expenses.

The headline vacancy estimates are based on three-month averages, which naturally involve some time lag. We provided insights into trends in July 2026 in our [Dataset X06: Single month vacancies estimates](#) (more information is available in [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.

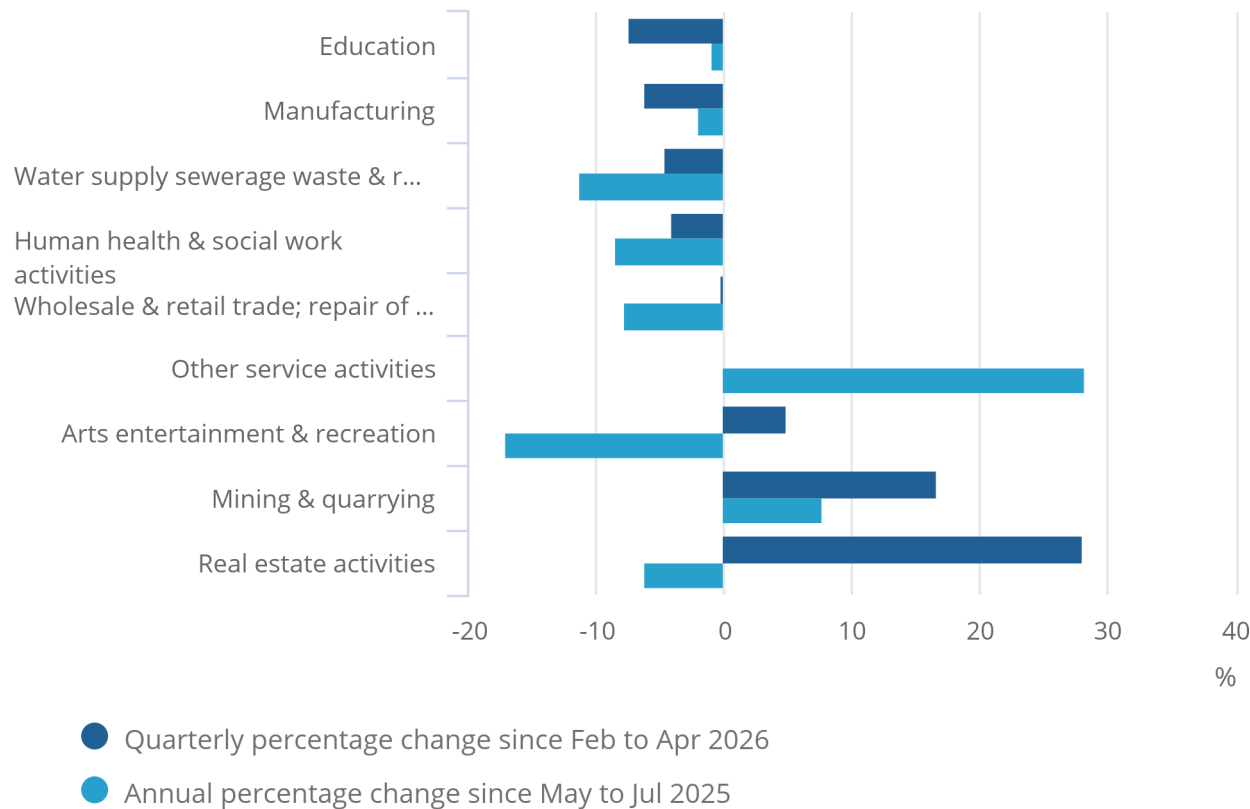
There were 2.5 unemployed people per vacancy in April to June 2026. The ratio has remained at 2.5 since July to September 2025, after previously increasing quarter on quarter since July to September 2024, and is up from 2.3 in the same period a year ago.

Figure 2: Quarterly estimates decreased in 9 of the 18 industry sectors in May to July 2026

Vacancies in the UK in May to July 2026, quarterly percentage growth from February to April 2026, and annual percentage growth from May to July 2025

Figure 2: Quarterly estimates decreased in 9 of the 18 industry sectors in May to July 2026

Vacancies in the UK in May to July 2026, quarterly percentage growth from February to April 2026, and annual percentage growth from May to July 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 6,000 (0.8%) in May to July 2026 compared with February to April 2026, falling in 9 of the 18 industry sectors. The industry with the largest percentage decrease was education, down 7.3% (4,000 vacancies). The largest volume decrease was in human health and social work activities, down 5,000 vacancies (4.1%).

Total vacancies decreased by 19,000 (2.7%) in May to July 2026, compared with the same period a year ago. There were declines in 11 of the 18 industry sectors.

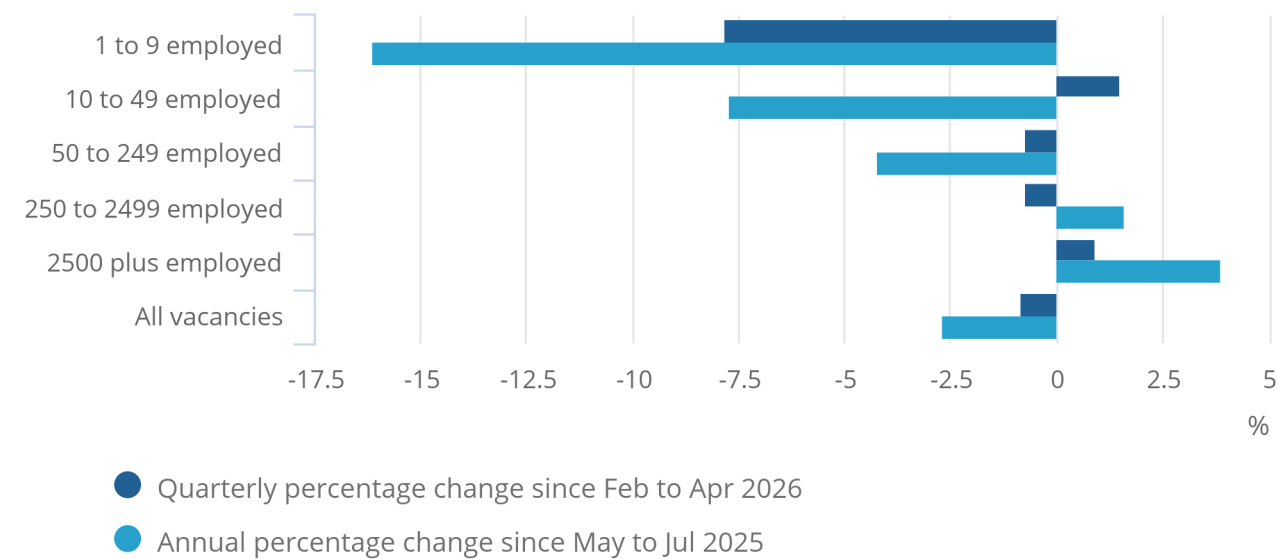
The industries with the largest annual percentage decreases in vacancies were the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, down 17.0% (3,000 vacancies) and water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities, down 11.3% (1,000 vacancies). Human health and social work activities had the largest annual volume decrease, down 11,000 vacancies (8.5%), followed by wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles, down 7,000 vacancies (7.8%).

Figure 3: Businesses with 1 to 9 employees continue to be the biggest contributor to the quarterly and annual falls in total vacancies

Vacancies in the UK in May to July 2026, quarterly percentage growth from February 2026 to April 2026, and annual percentage growth from May to July 2025

Figure 3: Businesses with 1 to 9 employees continue to be the biggest contributor to the quarterly and annual falls in total vacancies

Vacancies in the UK in May to July 2026, quarterly percentage growth from February 2026 to April 2026, and annual percentage growth from May to July 2025



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

Of the 5 employment size bands, 3 saw decreases in the number of vacancies on the quarter to May to July 2026. The largest quarterly decrease was in businesses with 1 to 9 employees, down 8,000 (7.8%) to 95,000 vacancies. Outside of the pandemic, this is the lowest level for this employment size band since January to March 2014, when there were 94,000 vacancies.

The number of vacancies decreased over the year in the three smallest employment size bands. The largest decreases were for businesses with 1 to 9 employees, down 18,000 (16.1%) vacancies, and 10 to 49 employees, down 8,000 (7.7%) vacancies.

4 . Jobs for March 2026

Workforce jobs (WFJ) estimates are provided by various sources and our latest estimates for March 2026 were published in June 2026. Estimates of employee jobs in the private sector are from business surveys with a reference date of 13 March 2026. Estimates of self-employment jobs are drawn from our Labour Force Survey (LFS), which covers a three-month period from the start of February 2026 to the end of April 2026.

Before publishing our Vacancies and jobs in the UK June bulletin, we undertook additional analysis on our headline workforce jobs series as part of our quality assurance processes. Our analysis indicated mixed and emerging evidence of evolving seasonal patterns in both our headline employee jobs and self-employment jobs. These seasonal patterns are more evident in self-employment jobs. More information on this can be found in [Section 7: Data sources and quality](#).

Early estimates suggest there were 36.8 million WFJ in the UK in March 2026. This is a quarterly increase of 256,000 (0.7%) since December 2025. The quarterly increase was caused by an increase of 177,000 (4.4%) in self-employment jobs and 81,000 (0.3%) in employee jobs. Estimates of government-supported trainees decreased by 3,000 (5.7%) on the quarter, and HM Forces were broadly flat on the quarter.

The estimated number of WFJ decreased by 98,000 (0.3%) in March 2026 from the level of a year ago. This was caused by a decrease of 127,000 (2.9%) in the self-employment jobs component. However, there was an increase of 30,000 (0.1%) in the employee jobs component. The other components are broadly flat, with HM Forces up 1,000 (0.7%), and government-supported trainees down 2,000 (3.3%) over the year.

The number of WFJ increased in 16 of the 20 industry sectors on the quarter. The industries with the biggest percentage increase on the quarter were:

- people employed by households, up by 32.8%
- mining and quarrying, up by 7.3%
- agriculture, forestry and fishing, up by 5.1%

The industries with the largest volume increases on the quarter were human health and social work activities, which was up 61,000 (1.2%), and professional, scientific and technical activities, which was up 43,000 (1.3%). There were increases in both employee jobs and self-employment jobs in these sectors, however, there were larger increases in the self-employment component. On the quarter, there was an increase of 51,000 self-employment jobs in human health and social work activities, and 31,000 in professional, scientific and technical activities.

There was a decrease in the number of WFJ in 8 of the 20 industry sectors on the year. The industries with the biggest percentage annual decreases are the information and communication sector, which was down 3.6%, and manufacturing, which was down 3.2%. The industries with the largest volume decrease in WFJ between March 2025 and March 2026 were wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, which was down 86,000 (1.8%), and manufacturing, which was down 81,000 (3.2%). The fall in wholesale and retail trade is because of the self-employment jobs component, which was down 86,000. The fall in manufacturing is because of the employee jobs component, which was down 58,000.

5 . Data on vacancies and jobs

[Vacancies by industry](#)

Dataset VACS02 | Released 18 August 2026

Vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[Workforce jobs summary](#)

Dataset JOBS01 | Released 18 June 2026

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 18 June 2026

Workforce jobs by industry, employee jobs by industry and self-employment jobs by industry. UK, published quarterly.

[X06: Single month vacancies estimates](#)

Dataset X06 | Released 18 August 2026

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

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](#). More information is available in 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). More information is available in 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

We have introduced a new method for calculating the vacancy ratios published in our [VACS02: Vacancies by industry dataset](#). This method uses a job openings rate, instead of the number of vacancies per 100 employee jobs. As part of the transition, we also improved the timeliness of the denominator, which was previously an annual average of the previous calendar year, until the relevant full calendar year was available. The new method will use a rolling average of the four most recently published quarters and will take on any revisions to jobs data as soon as they become available. This improvement will ensure our denominators are timely and aid our understanding and interpretation of this metric and changes in the measure.

Both the old and new methods are published in our [VACS02: Vacancies by industry dataset](#) on 21 July 2026 and 18 August 2026. This will enable users to review the changes and provide feedback. Our aim is to transition to publishing the revised method only from 15 September 2026 onwards.

More information is available in our [Vacancy Survey quality and methodology information \(QMI\)](#). Please email us at vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk if you have any questions or feedback on this improvement.

Upcoming revisions to workforce jobs

In our [June 2026 Vacancies and jobs in the UK bulletin](#), we announced our intention to bring forward our annual seasonal adjustment review, in response to emerging evidence of evolving seasonal patterns, and include revisions of estimates of WFJ back to 1981 in our September 2026 Vacancies and jobs in the UK bulletin. However, we require more time to undertake further analysis and implement any solutions required. Therefore, the estimates due to be published in September 2026 will remain on our current seasonal adjustment basis and we aim to implement the outcomes of the review alongside our regular annual revisions in December 2026.

In the meantime, 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 workforce jobs as part of our suite of labour market indicators, alongside Labour Force Survey estimates and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) estimates.

More information is outlined in our [Workforce jobs in the UK quality and methods guide](#) and [Labour market statistics revisions policy \(PDF, 36.7KB\)](#).

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 the QBS; they were removed from the MBS and the CON from December 2025. Businesses in sectors that were only previously sampled in the MBS or the CON have now been included in an expanded QBS universe instead, 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 were 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, because methods remain 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 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. These biases 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 quality and methodology information \(QMI\)](#) and our [Workforce jobs in the UK quality and methods guide](#).

Response rates

The Vacancy Survey response rate was 75.6% in July 2026.

The Quarterly Business Survey response rate was 71.8% in March 2026.

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 March 2026 [Note 1]	Sampling variability of estimate [Note 2]
A Agriculture, forestry & fishing	355	±46
B Mining & quarrying	55	±4
C Manufacturing	2,482	±40
D Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	147	±12
E Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	244	±8
F Construction	2,321	±61
G Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,629	±63
H Transport & storage	1,918	±48
I Accommodation & food service activities	2,614	±61
J Information & communication	1,577	±58
K Financial & insurance activities	1,112	±37
L Real estate activities	728	±42
M Professional scientific & technical activities	3,492	±71
N Administrative & support service activities	2,995	±61
O Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	1,794	±16
P Education	3,137	±42
Q Human health & social work activities	5,090	±65
R Arts, entertainment & recreation	1,104	±45
S Other service activities/Private Households	1,041	±56
IT		
All jobs	36,834	±209

Source: Workforce jobs from the Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. The estimates for March 2026 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 24 July 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 18 August 2026, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Vacancies and jobs in the UK: August 2026](#)

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 na	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
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15	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Regular pay	Dataset EARN01
16	Average Weekly Earnings real and nominal (summary table)	Dataset EARN01
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17	International comparisons of employment and unemployment	Dataset A10
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18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
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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
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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/labourmarketstatistics>

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
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	36,530	32,263	4,065	148	54
Dec 25 (r)	36,578	32,337	4,038	148	55
Mar 26 (p)	36,834	32,419	4,214	149	52
Change on quarter	256	81	177	0	-3
Change %	0.7	0.3	4.4	0.3	-5.7
Change on year	-98	30	-127	1	-2
Change %	-0.3	0.1	-2.9	0.7	-3.3

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	JWS6
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	2,268	4,657	1,904	2,629	1,600
Sep 25	36,530	380	51	2,509	143	240	2,233	4,630	1,905	2,615	1,599
Dec 25 (r)	36,578	338	51	2,519	141	241	2,294	4,645	1,897	2,625	1,594
Mar 26 (p)	36,834	355	55	2,482	147	244	2,321	4,629	1,918	2,614	1,577
Change on quarter	256	17	4	-38	6	3	27	-16	21	-11	-17
Change %	0.7	5.1	7.3	-1.5	4.5	1.3	1.2	-0.3	1.1	-0.4	-1.1
Change on year	-98	7	-2	-81	4	0	8	-86	6	23	-58
Change %	-0.3	2.0	-3.0	-3.2	2.9	-0.1	0.3	-1.8	0.3	0.9	-3.6

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	JWT8
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	1,110	717	3,454	2,944	1,762	3,122	5,018	1,081	958	59	30,974
Dec 25 (r)	1,100	723	3,448	2,991	1,775	3,101	5,029	1,071	949	46	30,994
Mar 26 (p)	1,112	728	3,492	2,995	1,794	3,137	5,090	1,104	980	61	31,230
Change on quarter	11	5	43	3	19	36	61	34	31	15	236
Change %	1.0	0.7	1.3	0.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	3.1	3.2	32.8	0.8
Change on year	-29	1	23	-22	52	19	24	25	-12	0	-33
Change %	-2.5	0.2	0.7	-0.7	3.0	0.6	0.5	2.3	-1.2	0.4	-0.1

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

		Number of employees					
		All Vacancies	1-9	10-49	50-249	250-2499	2500+
		AP2Y	ALY5	ALY6	ALY7	ALY8	ALY9
Levels							
May-Jul 2024		867	145	130	128	187	276
May-Jul 2025	(r)	727	113	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		734	119	101	108	171	235
Dec-Feb 2026		725	113	100	107	171	235
Jan-Mar 2026		718	106	100	108	170	236
Feb-Apr 2026	(r)	713	103	99	105	169	238
Mar-May 2026	(r)	710	98	99	107	167	239
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	711	99	101	105	168	239
May-Jul 2026	(p)	707	95	100	104	168	240
Change on quarter	*	-6	-8	2	-1	-1	2
Change %	*	-0.8	-7.8	1.5	-0.7	-0.7	0.9
Change on year		-19	-18	-8	-5	3	9
Change %		-2.7	-16.1	-7.7	-4.2	1.6	3.9

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

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

1. The survey covers all sectors of the economy with the exception of agriculture, forestry and fishing (SIC07 section A), activities of households as employers (SIC07 section T), and employment agencies (SIC07 division 78).

* 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				
Apr-Jun 2024		872	1,470	1.7
Apr-Jun 2025		730	1,684	2.3
Jul-Sep 2025		729	1,787	2.5
Oct-Dec 2025		739	1,875	2.5
Jan-Mar 2026		718	1,808	2.5
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	711	1,772	2.5
Change on quarter		-7	-36	0.0
Change %		-1.0	-2.0	
Change on year		-19	88	0.2
Change %		-2.6	5.2	

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey/ Labour Force Survey

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

1. The survey covers all sectors of the economy with the exception of agriculture, forestry and fishing (SIC07 section A), activities of households as employers (SIC07 section T), and employment agencies (SIC07 division 78).

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 industry¹

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All vacancies ²	Mining & quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply ³	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)										
May-Jul 2024	867	2	64	4	7	38	110	39	96	41
May-Jul 2025 (r)	727	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	734	1	52	3	6	29	91	34	75	38
Dec-Feb 2026	725	1	50	3	6	27	88	35	73	40
Jan-Mar 2026	718	1	49	3	6	28	90	34	72	37
Feb-Apr 2026 (r)	713	1	50	3	7	30	87	33	70	39
Mar-May 2026 (r)	710	1	50	3	7	32	86	34	70	40
Apr-Jun 2026 (r)	711	1	48	3	6	33	86	33	71	40
May-Jul 2026 (p)	707	1	47	3	6	31	87	35	71	39
Change on quarter *	-6	0	-3	0	0	2	0	2	1	-1
Change % *	-0.8	16.7	-6.2	0.0	-4.5	5.7	-0.1	6.3	1.9	-1.3
Change on year	-19	0	-1	0	-1	1	-7	5	-4	5
Change %	-2.7	7.7	-1.9	-8.8	-11.3	2.3	-7.8	16.8	-5.4	13.2
	AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
May-Jul 2024	2.7	3.1	2.7	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.4	3.9	2.9
May-Jul 2025 (r)	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	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	3.1	2.7
Dec-Feb 2026	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.8
Jan-Mar 2026	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.6
Feb-Apr 2026 (r)	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.8
Mar-May 2026 (r)	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.8	2.8
Apr-Jun 2026 (r)	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.9	2.8
May-Jul 2026 (p)	2.2	3.0	2.0	2.3	2.7	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.9	2.7
Change on quarter *	0.0	0.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Change on year	-0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.3
	JP9Q	JP9R	JP9S	JP9T	JP9U	JP9V	JP9W	JP9X	JP9Y	JP9Z
Levels (thousands)										
May-Jul 2024	31	14	88	59	31	57	154	17	16	753
May-Jul 2025 (r)	33	13	74	50	29	46	132	15	11	637
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	32	12	75	50	29	50	125	17	13	641
Dec-Feb 2026	32	11	75	51	29	47	125	16	15	636
Jan-Mar 2026	32	12	75	49	30	48	125	13	15	631
Feb-Apr 2026 (r)	32	10	72	51	29	49	126	12	15	623
Mar-May 2026 (r)	31	10	69	53	28	49	124	11	14	618
Apr-Jun 2026 (r)	32	11	71	53	29	47	121	14	14	620
May-Jul 2026 (p)	30	12	70	51	30	45	120	13	15	619
Change on quarter *	-1	3	-2	0	1	-4	-5	1	0	-5
Change % *	-4.1	28.1	-2.1	-0.4	3.8	-7.3	-4.1	5.0	0.0	-0.7
Change on year	-3	-1	-4	1	1	0	-11	-3	3	-18
Change %	-7.6	-6.1	-5.5	1.8	4.5	-0.9	-8.5	-17.0	28.3	-2.8
	JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
May-Jul 2024	2.9	2.3	3.0	2.2	2.1	2.0	3.3	2.2	2.5	2.7
May-Jul 2025 (r)	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	3.0	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.3
Dec-Feb 2026	3.0	1.8	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.7	2.0	2.3	2.3
Jan-Mar 2026	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.7	1.7	2.3	2.3
Feb-Apr 2026 (r)	3.0	1.5	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.7	1.5	2.3	2.2
Mar-May 2026 (r)	2.9	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.7	1.4	2.2	2.2
Apr-Jun 2026 (r)	3.0	1.7	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.6	1.7	2.2	2.2
May-Jul 2026 (p)	2.9	1.9	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.6	1.6	2.3	2.2
Change on quarter *	-0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Change on year	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.5	-0.1

1. In July 2026, we introduced a new vacancy ratio method, moving from the number of vacancies per 100 jobs to a job openings rate, incorporating timelier estimates of employee jobs in the denominator. We have published the new estimates in [VACS02: Vacancies by industry](#), in the 'job openings rate' sheet.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

For more information, including how to give feedback on these new estimates, please see [Vacancies and jobs in the UK: August 2026](#). We plan to move to publishing these improved ratio estimates only from 15 September 2026.

2. The survey covers all sectors of the economy with the exception of agriculture, forestry and fishing (SIC07 section A), activities of households as employers (SIC07 section T), and employment agencies (SIC07 division 78).

3. 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