Statistical bulletin

Household Satellite Account, UK: 2024 (and provisional 2025) estimates

Measures the value of unpaid household services, such as caring for adults and children, clothing and laundry, transport, and volunteering.

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1 . Main points

- The value of unpaid household services was £1.5 trillion in 2024 and is provisionally estimated to have risen to £1.6 trillion in 2025.
- Household services were equivalent to 52% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024, with provisional estimates indicating that this will remain unchanged in 2025.
- Transport services represented the highest value of unpaid household services in 2024, valued at £458 billion in current prices.
- The value of nutrition services has fallen from its peak relative size of 8.1% of GDP during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to 4.4% in 2024, and an estimated 4.1% in 2025, largely reflecting lower household calorie consumption.

Provisional 2025 estimates are included for the first time in this release and are partially based on modelled data.

2 . The value of unpaid services and the total economy

The Household Satellite Account (HHSA) extends the System of National Accounts (SNA) to include the value of unpaid household service work, providing a more complete view of economic activity. It recognises all contributions, especially those from households, providing users with comprehensive data on total output. These activities are not captured in the core national accounts production boundary so are not typically reflected in gross domestic product (GDP). For example, unpaid:

- childcare
- adult care
- cooking
- gardening
- repair work in the home
- transport
- other services provided by individuals outside of business or government

However, by quantifying the contribution of these unpaid services, the HHSA supports better policymaking by providing a more comprehensive understanding of the nation's economic activity. It also highlights the significance of household production in everyday life.

In this release, data have been updated to include the reference year, 2024. Some revisions back to 2005 have been made because of methodological and input data improvements, where data are more readily available. As part of this process, we have revised our intermediate consumption estimates back to 2005, following a broader review of how we value goods used up in providing unpaid household services. These revisions result in lower estimates of gross value added (GVA), reflecting different criteria for determining which goods qualify as inputs to unpaid household services. Data are now considered comparable from 2005 to the latest reference year. However, some small revisions may still be made to transport estimates prior to 2014 so care should be taken when comparing pre-2014 transport estimates with later estimates.

To improve timeliness, a new provisional estimate for reference year "t-1" has been produced. Where some data are not yet available for the provisional year, some of the estimates are partially or fully modelled. Those services include:

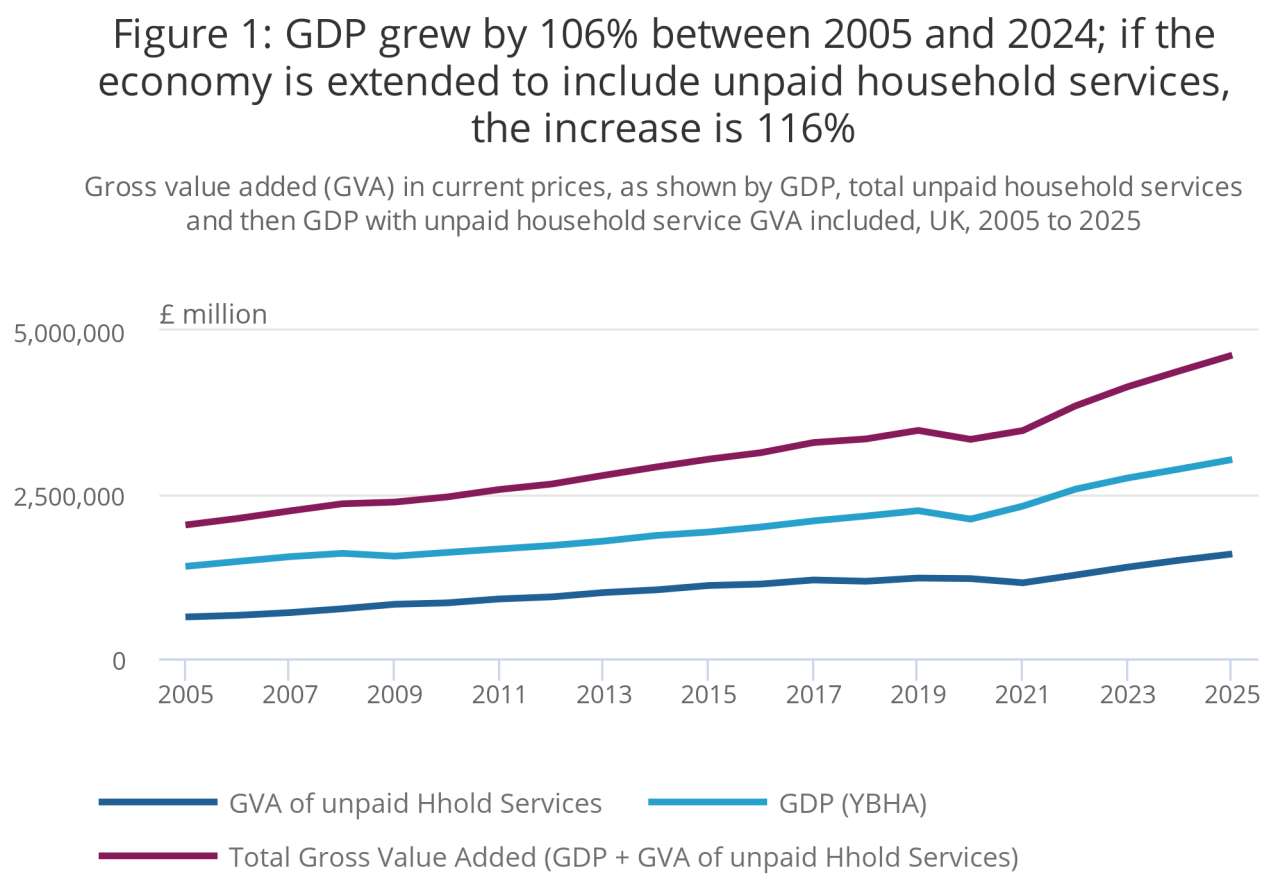
- unpaid household transport services
- adult care services
- housing services
- nutrition services

Using this approach, the total value of unpaid work was found to be within 1% of the final estimates in testing.

More information on the provisional data, data revisions and the review of our intermediate consumption methodology can be found in Section 5: Data sources and quality, in the Quality and methodology subsection.

Figure 1: GDP grew by 106% between 2005 and 2024; if the economy is extended to include unpaid household services, the increase is 116%

Gross value added (GVA) in current prices, as shown by GDP, total unpaid household services and then GDP with unpaid household service GVA included, UK, 2005 to 2025



Source: UK Household Satellite Account from the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Unpaid Household Service output is not seasonally adjusted.
2. Analyses are based on monetary values in current prices.
3. Gross domestic product YBHA (GDP YBHA) is UK GDP at current market prices.
4. GDP data are based on the first quarterly estimate of GDP as of 13 August 2026. For the latest GDP data, please refer to the ONS website.
5. Estimates have been partially revised back to 2005.
6. Results for 2025 are provisional and may be partially or fully modelled. All estimates are subject to revision.

The value of unpaid household services rose to £1.5 trillion in 2024, with a provisional estimate of £1.6 trillion for 2025. Figure 1 adds the GVA of unpaid household services to GDP to provide a broader measure of economic activity. The combined value of GVA and GDP was £4.4 trillion in 2024, compared with the value of GDP (£2.9 trillion). Both the combined value of GVA and GDP and the non-combined value were measured in current prices.

Figure 2: Transport services represented the highest value in unpaid household services in 2024, valued at £458 billion in current prices

The value of individual unpaid household services, gross value added (GVA) in current prices, UK, 2005 to 2025

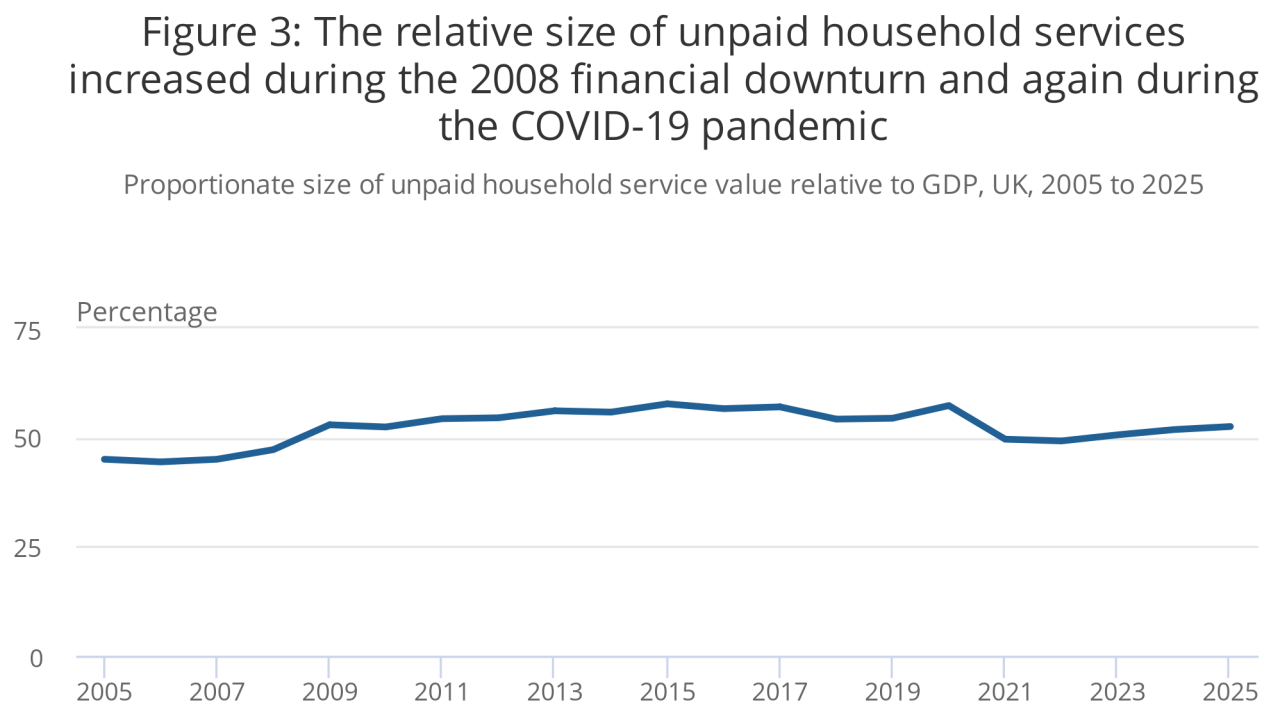
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Figure 2 shows that transport and childcare were consistently the highest-value unpaid household services between 2005 and 2024. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 led to school and childcare closures, and therefore increased unpaid childcare services, while movement restrictions reduced unpaid transport services. Transport and childcare unpaid household services were of equal value in 2023 and transport became the highest-value unpaid household service in 2024, reaching £458 billion.

Figure 3: The relative size of unpaid household services increased during the 2008 financial downturn and again during the COVID-19 pandemic

Proportionate size of unpaid household service value relative to GDP, UK, 2005 to 2025



Source: UK Household Satellite Account from the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Unpaid Household Service output is not seasonally adjusted.
2. Analyses are based on monetary values in current prices.
3. Gross domestic product YBHA (GDP YBHA) is UK GDP at current market prices.
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The value of unpaid household services has exceeded 40% of GDP since 2005. During the 2008 financial downturn, the falling value of GDP and growth in unpaid household services increased its relative size from 45% of the size of GDP in 2007 to 53% in 2009.

The value of unpaid household services continued to grow to 58% of the size of GDP at its peak in 2015. Its value was the equivalent of 57% of the size of GDP in 2020, and would have set a new peak, but falling transport services offset growth in other unpaid household services. Since 2020, the relative size has fallen to around 50% of the size of GDP, mostly because of lower volumes of:

• nutrition

• childcare

• volunteering services

Although transport services have increased in value since the coronavirus pandemic, this growth has not offset declines in the value of these other services. In 2024, the value of unpaid household services was the equivalent to 52% of GDP.

Figure 4: Nutrition services recorded the largest decline in value relative to GDP, falling from a peak of 8.1% during the COVID-19 pandemic to 4.4% in 2024, and a provisional decline to 4.1% in 2025

Proportionate size of individual unpaid household services relative to GDP, UK, 2005 to 2025

Notes

1. Unpaid Household Service output is not seasonally adjusted.
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Downloac

Unpaid transport services have shown the greatest growth in value relative to GDP among unpaid household services since 2005. Its value rose from 9.8% of GDP in 2005 to 14.6% in 2009, following the 2008 financial downturn, and was 15.8% of GDP in 2024. Much of this growth reflects fuel prices rising faster than prices across the wider economy. Nutrition services have declined most in value relative to GDP, falling from its peak during the coronavirus pandemic of 8.1% to 4.4% in 2024, with a provisional estimate of 4.1% for 2025, despite rising food prices. This decline was mainly caused by fewer calories consumed in households, particularly following the coronavirus pandemic.

The value of unpaid childcare services relative to GDP remained at 15% between 2022 and 2024, with provisional results suggesting no change for 2025. Although informal care hours for children aged under five years have fallen between 2022 and 2024, this has been offset by increased hours of informal childcare for children aged over five years.

The value of volunteering services also fell relative to GDP, from 1.6% in 2005 to 0.7% in 2024, but has remained at 0.7% since 2020.

It is important to understand the overall growth in the value of different services over time, as shown in earlier figures. However, it is also useful to understand to what extent this is caused by underlying changes to the quantity of service production and consumption by households. This is rather than factors such as price rises (inflation) and changes to the size of the population. We do this by calculating volume estimates on an overall and per-head basis, which control these factors.

Figure 5: Of all the unpaid household services, the volume of adult care services has increased most between 2014 and 2024

Indexed volume series for each service, based on the number of units consumed or produced, UK, 2014 to 2025

Notes

1. A clothing series is not included as no volume series is currently available.
2. Unpaid household services must be measured in units of service either consumed or produced, depending on the method. These units represent volume changes and so are directly comparable over time.
3. Results for 2025 are provisional and may be partially or fully modelled. All estimates are subject to revision.

Downloac

Between 2014 and 2024, the volume of adult care services grew more than any other unpaid household service. However, provisional results suggest that growth in unpaid housing services, such as housework, gardening and do-it-yourself (DIY) to maintain homes, may have slightly exceeded that of unpaid adult care in 2025.

The UK's ageing population may partially explain why unpaid adult care hours received showed the greatest growth by 2024.

Figure 6: The volume per head of adult care services grew more than other unpaid household services between 2014 and 2024

Indexed volume series for each service, based on the number of units consumed or produced, per head, UK, 2014 to 2025

Notes

1. Population figures used in the per head calculations are based on the total UK population and not the underlying number of people consuming or producing a service.

Between 2014 and 2024, housing, adult care and laundry were the only unpaid household services whose volumes per head did not fall (Figure 6). Adult care hours saw the largest increase between 2014 and 2024, rising by 8 index points. Housework, gardening and do-it-yourself (DIY) increased by 3.8 index points, while laundry increased by 0.8 index points. In contrast, volunteering hours per head recorded the largest decline, falling by 47.2 index points over the same period. Provisional estimates for 2025 indicate a partial reversal of this decline, with volunteering increasing by 6.5 index points compared with 2024.

Downloac

3 . Data on the UK Household Satellite Account

Household Satellite Account, UK
Dataset | Released 24 November 2026
Annual data on the output, intermediate consumption and gross value added of home-produced services.

4 . Glossary

GDP

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of output in the economic territory, excluding the value of unpaid household service work as measured within the UK Household Satellite Accounts (HHSA). It is the balancing item on the production account for the whole economy. Domestic product can be measured as gross or net. It is presented in the core accounts at market (or purchasers') prices.

GVA

Gross value added (GVA) is the value generated by any unit engaged in production and the contributions of individual sectors or industries to GDP. It is measured at basic prices, excluding taxes and less subsidies on products.

Input method and output method

The input method values services by assessing the resources used in production, such as labour hours, intermediate consumption, and, when relevant, an imputed profit. Unpaid service valuations typically use labour hours at a comparable market wage, choosing rates for jobs that could substitute unpaid work without much loss in quality.

The output method estimates value by applying a relevant market price to each unit of service consumed. Market prices are typically inclusive of wages, inputs, and profits. It is essential to subtract intermediate consumption to avoid inflating value added. This approach is generally more aligned with how market services are valued in the core UK National Accounts.

Imputed rental and owner-occupier rent

The System of National Accounts (SNA) specifies that an imputed rental on owner-occupied housing should be included in the production boundary and form part of household consumption. Imputed rental is therefore the rental value of housing that is owner occupied. The SNA considers this imputed rental value as the value of the housing being consumed by owner-occupiers.

Intermediate consumption

The consumption of goods and services in the production process. It may be contrasted with final consumption and capital formation.

Organisation-based volunteering

This is volunteering through an organisation set up to perform volunteer services. For example, a charity that relies on volunteers to raise funds or carry out services in the local area.

SNA

The SNA is an internationally agreed standard system for macroeconomic accounts. The latest version is described in SNA 2008.

Unpaid adult care services

Unpaid adult care services for those aged 16 years and over, regardless of whether unpaid care is provided by household members, family, or others. This definition covers activities that may be considered direct volunteering in international guidelines. Care hours may include activities such as helping with household tasks, finances, personal care and supervision.

Unpaid childcare services

Unpaid childcare services refer to care given to children aged 15 years and under by anyone outside a formal setting, including family or others, regardless of whether the caregiver is from the same household. This includes situations where, if the caregiver left, another carer would need to be arranged. Some of this care may be seen as direct volunteering under international guidelines.

Unpaid clothing services

Unpaid services producing or repairing clothing.

Unpaid household service work

The HHSA defines unpaid household service work using the "Third Party Criterion" (Reid, 1934; Hawrylyshyn, 1977) which describes activities that should be valued as: "those economic services produced in the household and outside the market, but which could be produced by a third person hired on the market without changing their utility to the members of the household". The types of activities that meet that definition are those such as:

- unpaid household transport services (for example, driving yourself or others somewhere)
- childcare
- cooking
- cleaning
- adult care

Unpaid housing services

Unpaid household upkeep, including unpaid do-it-yourself (DIY), gardening and cleaning.

Unpaid transport services

Unpaid transport services involve individuals transporting themselves or others without payment. This includes activities such as driving (even with self-driving cars, as supervision is required), walking, or cycling, when these substitute for paid transport options.

Unpaid nutrition services

Unpaid cooking, and preparing meals and drinks.

Unpaid laundry services

Unpaid washing of fabrics or clothes, drying and ironing.

5 . Data sources and quality

Data sources

The UK Household Satellite Account (HHSA) has a wide range of input data sources, including both administrative data and survey data. Some Office for National Statistics (ONS) data sources are used repeatedly within the accounts, including our:

- United Kingdom population mid-year estimate time series
- Consumer Price Indices dataset
- Families and Households datasets
- Consumer trends: current price, not seasonally adjusted dataset
- Gross Domestic Product estimates time series

Beyond these core sources, each unpaid household service usually has a bespoke mix of input data selected on the basis that it will optimise output data.

The following subsection lists the main data sources we use in our UK HHSA, categorised by unpaid household service type.

For housing services, we use:

- the Understanding Society Survey for household upkeep labour hours
- our Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings for wage rates

For transport, we use:

- the National Travel Survey for miles travelled
- our Inflation and Price Indices dataset for private vehicles and taxi prices
- local taxi prices taken from various local authorities, where available

For nutrition, we use

- our Living Costs and Food Survey for weight of food purchased
- the Family food datasets for expenditure on food

For clothing, we use:

- our Consumer trends datasets for expenditure estimates for haberdashery materials
- estimates, which are marked up to create market value estimates

For laundry, we use:

- the number of washes per household per year, which is taken from market research data and triangulated and tested using other data sources over time. The number of five-kilogram wash-loads per year has stayed relatively stable over time and annual volume estimates are largely caused by changes in the number of households
- the price per wash, which has been benchmarked from market research data for specific years, with growth then modelled on changes in our Inflation and price indices statistics

For childcare, we use wide-ranging administrative data sources and published statistics from across the devolved administrations, including:

- childcare and early years providers and parents surveys
- hospital admissions data
- boarding school headcount data
- school census data
- social service statistics
- childminder prices per child, per hour from the Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2026 (PDF, 3.2MB)

For adult care, we use:

- the Family Resources Survey to estimate hours of unpaid care received
- published costs statistics for residential care facilities to derive prices

For organisation-based volunteering, we use:

- the Community Life Survey to estimate the number of hours volunteered by frequent volunteers
- our Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) to derive different wage rates, depending on the type of volunteering being performed

Time-use data

Time-use data provide a complete record of household activities over a 24-hour period and is internationally recognised as the best source for measuring unpaid household labour. Since April 2020, the ONS, in collaboration with the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), has collected 10 waves of such data. We plan to use it to improve UK HHSA estimates, with further analysis on unpaid household service work in the future.

Quality and methodology

This release includes methodological improvements to the measurement of intermediate consumption and unpaid adult care hours. Input data have also been updated leading to some revised estimates for transport and nutrition. Estimates for nutrition were most affected by changes in input data, from 2019 onwards.

Data used in the release were the latest available at the time the data were processed. Therefore, if you require the most recent values of gross domestic product, please refer to our gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices - real-time database (YBHA) dataset.

Intermediate consumption and the presentation of the data tables

We have revised our estimates of household intermediate consumption following a review of the goods and services used as inputs to unpaid household production. The updated framework draws on international statistical guidance and approaches used in other countries and captures a wider range of inputs than previously included. It also provides a more consistent and transparent basis for distinguishing intermediate consumption from final consumption and capital.

Actual rentals and imputed rentals are now also included within intermediate consumption, rather than deducted separately in the final tables. This change contributes to the increase in reported intermediate consumption but replaces an existing deduction rather than introducing an additional one. The revised estimates therefore reflect both the broader coverage of household production inputs and this change in accounting presentation. Revisions result in a 30% increase in total intermediate consumption in 2023.

Provisional estimates of the value of unpaid household service work

For the latest year in this release, nowcast modelling has been used for selected components of unpaid household service work where data availability would otherwise delay the estimates. The modelling estimates underlying volumes and prices or costs using alternative data sources before applying the standard calculations used to derive output, intermediate consumption and gross value added (GVA). The resulting figures should be viewed as provisional and more likely to be revised next year when new data become available.

More information on the nowcast modelling process has been published and is available in section 4 of our Inclusive income and wealth, UK quality and methods guide.

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our UK Household Satellite Account quality and methodology information (QMI) planned for publication in 2027. Should you require more information about the compilation of the accounts before the release of the QMI, please email HHSA@ons.gov.uk.

6 . Related links

Household Satellite Account, UK
Bulletin | Released 5 December 2025
Estimates of the value of unpaid household services between 2014 and 2023.

Household satellite account, UK
Bulletin | Released 2 October 2018
Estimates of the value of unpaid household services between 2005 and 2016.

Household satellite accounts: 2005 to 2014
Bulletin | Released 27 April 2016
Estimates of the value of unpaid household services between 2005 and 2014.

Household Satellite Account (experimental)
Bulletin | Released April 2002
Estimates of the value of unpaid household services for the year 2000.

Time use in the UK
Dataset | Released 22 October 2026
Average daily time spent by adults on activities including paid work, unpaid household work, unpaid care, travel and entertainment. Experimental statistics.

Previous releases for GDP monthly estimate, UK
Bulletin | Released 13 August 2026
Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the value of goods and services produced in the UK. It estimates the size of the economy and its growth.

Previous releases for Consumer trends, UK
Bulletin | Released 30 June 2026
Household final consumption expenditure (HHFCE) for the UK, as a measure of economic growth. Includes spending on goods and services by UK households as defined in the UK National Accounts.

7 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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