Statistical bulletin

Index of Services, UK: September 2026

Movements in the volume of output for the UK services industries. Figures are seasonally adjusted.

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1 . Main points

- Services output for Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2026 was estimated to have increased by 0.9% compared with Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2026; this follows quarterly growth in both Quarter 2 and Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2026 of 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively.
- There was a rise in 11 of the 14 sectors in Quarter 3 2026, with the main positive contributing sectors being “administrative, support and service activities’’ (up by 4.1%), “information and communication” (up by 2.1%) and “professional, scientific and technical activities’’ (up by 1.6%).
- There was a fall in 3 of the 14 sectors in Quarter 3 2026, with the main contributing sectors being “education” and “accommodation and food”, with both decreasing by 0.5%.
- Monthly services output was estimated to have increased by 0.2% in September 2026; this follows a fall in August 2026 (down by 0.1%) and a rise in July 2026 (up by 0.5%).
- There were monthly increases in 9 of the 14 sectors in September 2026, with the largest positive contributions on the month coming from “real estate activities” (up by 0.4%) and ‘’transportation and storage’’ (up by 1.4%).
- There were monthly decreases in 3 of the 14 sectors in September 2026 (two sectors saw no growth, or 0.0%), with the largest negative contributions coming from “professional, scientific and technical activities’’ (down by 0.7%) and “information and communication” (down by 0.6%).

2 . Data on Index of Services

Index of Services time series
Dataset | Dataset ID: IOS1 | Released 12 November 2026
Monthly movements in output for the services industries: distribution,hotelsand restaurants; transport,storageand communication; business services and finance; and government and other services.

Monthly Business Survey turnover of services industries
Dataset | Released12 November 2026
Monthly Business Survey services industries’ total turnover incurrent price and non-seasonally adjusted, UK.

Index of Services, main components and sectors to four decimal places
Dataset | Released12 November 2026
Monthly historical movements in output for services and their industry components, by chained volume indices of gross value added, UK.

Index of Services revisions triangles
Dataset | Released12 November 2026
Monthly chained volume indices in gross value added for services and its main components.

All data related to the Index of Services are available onourRelated data page.

3 . Data sources and quality

Response rates for September 2026

The response rates for September 2026 were 71.0%, based on forms returned. This accounted for 87.0% of total turnover coverage of the sample population. More information is available in our Current and historical Monthly Business Survey (MBS) (services) response rates dataset.

Data sources and collection

The Index of Services (IoS) is compiled using data from several different sources (share of overall economy based on latest gross value added (GVA) weights).

These include the:

- Office for National Statistics (ONS) MBS (36.0%)
- ONS Retail Sales Inquiry (4.4%)
- ONS Government Expenditure (15.9%)
- ONS Households' Expenditure (12.2%)
- ONS Finance Expenditure (7.3%)
- ONS Households and non-profit institutions serving households (1.7%)
- Other (1.6%)

The MBS data are published alongside this release in our MBS turnover of services industries dataset.

More information on what is included within "other" is available in our Gross domestic product (GDP(o)) data sources catalogue.

The percentage of each data source is based on their gross value added weight.

Our IoS methodology provides more information on the data that underpin these statistics; of particular note is our GDP(o) data sources catalogue.

Value Added Tax (VAT) data are also included for small and medium-sized businesses to help inform estimates. More information is available in our VAT turnover data in National Accounts: background and methodology.

Quality and methodology

The data reported in IoS bulletins and datasets are estimates that are subject to uncertainty, for example, sampling variability and non-sampling error. More information on these is available in Section 2 of our Uncertainty and how we measure it for our surveys methodology.

More quality and methodology information (QMI) on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our Index of Services quality and methodology information (QMI).

Accredited official statistics

These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in May 2014 . They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should be labelled "accredited official statistics".

Revisions to Index of Services

This release gives data for September 2026 for the first time. This release also includes revisions to July 2026 and August 2026. More details are available in our National Accounts Revisions Policy: updated January 2026.

Table 1 shows the revisions to Index of Services and its main sectors for July 2026 to August 2026 since our last release on 15 October 2026.

Table 1: Revisions to month-on-month growth for Index of Services and its sectors

	IoS	Sections G & I - Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants	Sections H & J - Transport, Storage and Communications	Sections K to N - Business Services and Finances	Sections O to T - Government and other services
Jul 2026	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1
Aug 2026	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1

Source: Index of Services estimate from the Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. Revisions are rounded to one decimal place and calculated based on the one decimal place indexe
2. Further information on current and past revisions can be found in ourIndex of Production revisions triangles dataset.

Seasonal adjustment

The monthly estimates of IoS are seasonally adjusted. Seasonal adjustment is the process of removing the variations associated with the time of year, or the arrangement of the calendar, from a data time series.

IoS estimates, as for many data time series, are difficult to analyse using raw data because seasonal effects dominate short-term movements. Identifying and removing the seasonal component leaves the trend and irregular components.

We use the X-13-ARIMA-SEATS approach to seasonal adjustment. Seasonal adjustment parameters are monitored closely and regularly reviewed. More information is available in our seasonal adjustment methodology.

In our IoS estimates, seasonal adjustment is applied at the industry level, and the seasonally adjusted series are aggregated to create estimates by sector and total IoS output. As part of our quality assurance approach, residual seasonality checks are regularly completed by our time series analysis team on both the directly seasonally adjusted series and also the indirectly derived aggregate time series.

Based on our quality assurance as part of this publication, there is no statistically significant residual seasonality in our aggregate estimates for IoS in the period from January 1997 to September 2026.

This topic is explored further in our methodology on assessing residual seasonality, published on 12 May 2026.

Since June 2026, we have published non-seasonally adjusted chained volume measure series in our updated Monthly GDP low level industry dataset. There are conceptual differences between indirect and direct seasonal adjustment. Indirect seasonal adjustment is the sum of the directly seasonally adjusted component series, typically chosen at an optimal level and depending on user needs.

For the National Accounts, GDP aggregates are created with indirect seasonal adjustment. Because of processing, which includes benchmarking and chain-linking, direct seasonal adjustment of the non-seasonally adjusted GDP aggregate will not give the same results as the indirect seasonally adjusted output.

4 . Related links

GDP monthly estimate, UK: September 2026
Bulletin | Released 12 November 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.

GDP quarterly national accounts, UK: July to September 2026
Bulletin | Released 12 November 2026
First quarterly estimate of gross domestic product (GDP). Contains current and constant price data on the value of goods and services to indicate the economic performance of the UK.

Index of Production, UK: September 2026
Bulletin | Released 12 November 2026
Movements in the volume of production for the UK production industries: manufacturing, mining and quarrying, energy supply, and water and waste management.

Producer price inflation, UK: September 2026
Bulletin | Released 21 October 2026
Changes in the prices of goods bought and sold by UK manufacturers, including price indices of materials and fuels purchased (input prices), and factory gate prices (output prices).

Comparing ONS UK economic growth data with diffusion indices: 2012 to 2025
Article | Released 30 July 2026
Comparing ONS short-term UK economic data and S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index surveys (PMI). These are official statistics in development.

5 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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