Statistical bulletin

Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2024

Regional and subregional output per hour worked and output per job performance levels. These are official statistics in development.

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Release date:
24 November 2026

Next release:
To be announced

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1 . Main points

- Estimates within this bulletin are produced using the same methods as previous editions, except that the data has now been constrained to the new headline measures of hours and jobs for the UK, calculated using the component methodology for productivity published in our Labour productivity, UK: July to September 2026 bulletin.
- A second stage of implementing the component approach for regional and subregional productivity numbers will involve a review of the apportionment methodology; this will be completed next year and users should be aware this may lead to some further revisions to the data.
- Labour productivity, whether measured by output per hour worked or by output per job, was higher in London and the South East than the UK average in the latest 2024 figures; in London, output per hour worked was 28.2% above that of the UK average (represented by 0.0%), and output per job was 36.0% above that of the UK average.
- The South East made the largest positive contribution (0.9%) to output per hour productivity growth in 2024 when compared with 2019 (pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic), while London and Scotland made the smallest contribution (0.0%).
- The North West showed a cumulative average annual growth rate of 1.8% for output per hour from 2019 to 2024, the largest of any region.
- Among International Territorial Level 2 (ITL2) regions, the West of England had the highest labour productivity increase from 2019 to 2024.
- The highest level of gross value added (GVA) per hour worked among ITL3 regions in 2024 was in Tower Hamlets in London (74% above UK average).

2 . Regional productivity relative to the UK

This bulletin uses productivity hours and jobs data from our Labour productivity, UK: July to September 2026 release. It is based on output for 2024, as reported in our most recent annual estimates of economic activity by UK country, region and local area. More information is available in our Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2024 bulletin.

For the devolved nations of the UK and English regions, this is the fifth annual publication of relative labour productivity since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic period (2020 to 2024). The data report the labour productivity performance levels of UK regions relative to the UK overall. Our headline measure of productivity is output per hour worked.

London had the highest productivity level of any UK region in 2024. Its output per hour was 28.2% higher than the UK average, maintaining its relative strength, a continuing trend since records began in 1998.

Output per hour worked levels for the South East were also above the UK average by 8.7%. All the other regions showed output per hour worked levels below the UK average:

- East Midlands (16.8% below)
- North East (13.5% below)
- Wales (13.5% below)
- Northern Ireland (12.7% below)

Figure 1: London was 28.2% more productive than the UK average in terms of output per hour worked

Output per hour worked by International Territorial Level 1 (ITL1) region relative to the UK average, UK, 2024

Notes:

1. The baseline (0.0%) in the figure is overall productivity level for the UK.

2. The measure of output used is gross value added (GVA) in current prices (CP).

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Shifts of economic activity from one region to another (the allocation effect) can be an important factor for productivity growth. Figure 2 shows the growth (dots) and the contribution (bars) of each region to the total output per hour growth. It also shows the allocation, extra regional contribution (0.3%), and the relative size of gross value added (GVA) output in current price (bubbles) of the region.

Growth differs from contributions, as they measure the region's growth weighted by the relative size of GVA output in current price. In 2024, the South East contributed the most to UK output per hour growth compared with 2019 and showed the strongest growth.

In contrast, Scotland made the smallest contribution to UK output per hour growth in 2024, compared with 2019.

Figure 2: The South East made the largest positive contribution to productivity growth in 2024 when compared with 2019

Contributions to UK growth in output per hour by International Territorial Level (ITL1) region, UK, 2024 compared with 2019

Notes:

1. The allocation effect includes shifts in the proportion of economic activity across regions, as well as economic activity that cannot be assigned to any specific region. The size shown in the graph for the allocation and Extra-regio refers to economic activity that cannot be assigned to any specific region only.

2. The measure of output used is gross value added (GVA) in chain volume measure (CVM).

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UK output per hour worked has grown at a cumulative average annual rate of 0.8% from 2019 to 2024. Figure 3 shows the North West experiencing growth of 1.8% annually, which is the largest of any region. London shows the smallest growth of any region, at 0.0%.

Figure 3: The North West showed a cumulative average annual growth rate of 1.8% from 2019 to 2024, the largest of any region

Cumulative average annual growth rates between 2019 and 2024 for total hours worked, output per hour worked, gross value added, UK

Notes:

1. Holding other factors constant, an increase in hours worked will reduce output per hour, while a decrease in hours worked will lift output per hour.

2. Growth rates are calculated as cumulative average annual growth rates.

3. The measure of output used is gross value added (GVA) in chained volume measures (CVM).

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3 . Labour Productivity in ITL2 and ITL3 subregions

Subregional labour productivity

Subregional labour productivity data can be examined both in terms of growth rates in productivity and to compare levels of productivity. This bulletin demonstrates both of these concepts, as well as some of the different geographies available. It does this by showing recent growth trends from 2019 to 2024 using International Territorial Level 2 (ITL2) data, and cross-country comparisons of 2024 labour productivity levels using ITL3 data.

Subregional labour productivity uses two different productivity measures: GVA per hour worked and GVA per job filled. GVA per hour worked is usually the preferred measure, and we use this to show the ITL3 cross-country comparisons. However, for this year's growth analysis we have shown the GVA per job filled measure, reflecting that the hours measure is currently in a transitional state as we implement new "component approach" methods (see Section 6: Data sources and quality).

Labour productivity growth in ITL2 subregions

Labour productivity, measured by gross value added (GVA) per job filled, increased in 30 out of the 46 International Territorial Level 2 (ITL2) subregions between 2019 to 2024. Of these ITL2 subregions, 26 also experienced a rise in total GVA over the period.

The ITL2 subregion with the highest productivity increase was the West of England. This area also had the highest increase in GVA over the period. Other ITL2 subregions with high productivity growth between 2019 and 2024 included:

- Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- South Yorkshire
- Greater Manchester

Labour productivity declined in 16 ITL2 areas over the 2019 to 2024 period, with 5 of these subregions also experiencing a decline in total GVA. The ITL2 regions with the largest declines in productivity were Suffolk and Southern Scotland.

Figure 4 shows the growth in labour productivity between 2019 to 2024 for ITL2 subregions of the UK. For each ITL2 area, the chart shows the growth of GVA in chain volume measure (CVM) and the growth in jobs filled. The regions with an increase in productivity are those above the diagonal line, as these subregions displayed higher growth rates in GVA than in jobs filled over the period. Therefore, ITL2 subregions above the line increased in labour productivity.

Figure 4: West of England had the highest increase in labour productivity between 2019 and 2024

Total growth of gross value added (GVA), chained volume measure (CVM), and of jobs filled, International Territorial Level (ITL2) subregions, UK, 2019 to 2024

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Labour productivity levels of ITL3 subregions in 2024

Figure 5 shows labour productivity (GVA per hour worked) for all 182 ITL3 subregions in the UK in 2024, grouped by ITL1 countries and regions.

In 2024, Tower Hamlets in London had the highest productivity level, 74% higher than the UK average. Outside of London, the highest productivity level was recorded in North Hampshire, in the South East, and Swindon, in the South West, at 53% and 46% above the UK average, respectively. In Scotland, the City of Edinburgh had the highest productivity, exceeding the UK average by 33%. In the North of England, Cheshire East had the highest productivity level, 17% higher than the UK average.

There were 25 ITL3 regions with labour productivity more than 20% below the UK average in 2024. Torbay, in the South West of England, and Gwynedd, in Wales, had the lowest productivity levels, at 34% below the UK average.

Figure 5: Most subregions with productivity above the UK average are located either in London or in the South East

Current price, output per hour worked, International Territorial Level (ITL3) subregions in Great Britain, grouped by ITL1 regions and countries, smoothed, UK equals 100, 2024

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Local authority districts

Local authority districts are the lowest geography level for which data are published in this release. Unlike for the larger ITL geographies, CVM data and unsmoothed current price data are not included for the local authority geography, as the amount of volatility in the data is considered too high. However, current price smoothed data are available in the attached reference tables, and this can be used for comparing productivity levels across different UK local authorities.

4 . Data on regional and subregional labour productivity

Annual regional labour productivity
Dataset PRODBYREG | Released 24 November 2026
Annual output per hour and output per job across 13 regions in the UK.

Regional productivity time series
Time series RPRD | Released 24 November 2026
Annual output per hour and output per job for the whole economy across 13 regions in the UK.

Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by combined authorities and economic enterprise regions
Dataset | Released 24 November 2026
Annual labour productivity (output per hour and output per job) indices by combined authorities and economic enterprise regions. These are official statistics in development.

Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district
Dataset | Released 24 November 2026
Annual labour productivity (output per hour and output per job) indices by local authority districts.

Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by UK ITL2 and ITL3 subregions
Dataset | Dataset ID: SRPROD01 | Released 24 November 2026
Annual labour productivity (output per hour and output per job) indices by UK ITL2 and ITL3 subregions.

5 . Glossary

Labour inputs

Labour inputs in this release are measured in terms of jobs ("productivity jobs") and hours worked ("productivity hours") for an industry within a geographic area.

Labour productivity

Labour productivity is calculated by dividing output by labour input.

Output

Output refers to gross value added (GVA), which is an estimate of the volume of goods and services produced by an industry within a geographic area, and in aggregate across industries for a geographic area.

Region

Regions or devolved nations of the UK distinguished by International Territorial Level 1 (ITL1) regions.

Subregion

Subregions refer to the ITL2 and ITL3 geographies.

6 . Data sources and quality

The gross value added (GVA) data used in the regional and subregional productivity statistics are taken from the most recent annual estimates of economic activity by UK country, region and local area, found in our Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2024 bulletin. These GVA figures were compiled to be consistent with UK data published in our UK National Accounts, The Blue Book: 2025 compendium.

Labour market data used in this bulletin are derived from business surveys, social surveys, and administrative data sources.

For estimates of regional productivity relative to the UK, productivity jobs are calculated by summing the numbers of employees, the self-employed and two smaller components, which are HM Armed Forces and government-supported trainees. These data come from two principal sources within the Office for National Statistics (ONS): Short-Term Employment Survey (STES) data and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Productivity hours are derived from estimates of average hours (derived from the LFS micro-dataset) and productivity jobs.

The subregional estimates are calculated in a similar manner, but also encompass data taken from annual surveys, including the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) and the Annual Population Survey (APS). Note that the subregional hours and jobs data are constrained to equal regional totals, which in turn are constrained to equal the UK totals derived from the new component approach.

Please note that regional productivity estimates always include some revisions to the data compared with the previous release. These revisions are typically largest for the previous year (2023) because of new input data, which leads to revisions to GVA and to labour market inputs, such as BRES, for that year. However, revisions can also occur for earlier years as well.

For the latest edition of regional productivity estimates output in 2024, there are more revisions than normal because of the introduction of the component approach to measuring UK productivity. This has led to revised (lower) growth rates for productivity hours and productivity jobs at the UK level. Constraining to these new UK totals means that all the regional jobs and hours totals have been revised. The net effect of these changes has been to raise the recent productivity growth rate across most regions and subregions in line with the upward revisions seen to UK productivity growth.

So far, the only change made to this release in respect to the introduction of our new component approach to productivity measurement has been the utilisation of the new UK productivity jobs and hours constraints. Ahead of our 2025's regional productivity estimates release, we intend to further examine our methods for producing regional and subregional hours estimates to see whether further component-approach-based methods changes can be adopted.

The geographies used in the output include the latest 2025 International Territorial Levels (ITL) geographies. These are unchanged from last year's bulletin. Additionally, data are provided for combined authorities in England and other enterprise regions across the UK. Certain data are also available for local authorities.

Strengths and limitations

This release reports regional and subregional labour productivity estimates. The index levels reported in the data are based on GVA per unit of labour input, in current prices published as indices (UK equals 100) on an annual basis. We also publish official statistics in development for output per hour and output per job that use chain volume measures (CVM) GVA as indices (2023 equals 100).

The release also includes labour productivity estimates for ITL2 and ITL3 regions, together with local authority districts, and combined authorities and selected other enterprise regions. Please note that at smaller geographies, volatility within the data will increase. Therefore, for subnational productivity data, we recommend using the smoothed values provided in the datasets.

The data will be affected by unmeasured differences in regional prices, which might affect the relative rankings of regions once adjustments are made for unmeasured differences.

The LFS and the APS are used in this bulletin. They are not the main source of labour market information, but they are used to deliver some aspects of the productivity jobs and hours estimates. Users should be aware that from mid-2023 and throughout 2024, the quality of these surveys was reduced because of issues with sample sizes.

The introduction of the “component approach” to the measurement of UK productivity is seen as an improvement to how productivity data are calculated. In this bulletin, we have used the new UK totals for productivity jobs and hours arising from the component method, but no additional methods changes have been made. Work to investigate and implement any “component approach” methods that are suitable for allocating productivity hours to regions and subregions will take place ahead of next year's release.

Our overall approach to producing regional and subregional productivity aims to use direct data and modelled data to estimate activity at the local level. For example, when firms operate from multiple sites, the data used will be measured or estimated at the local-branch level, to reflect local economic activity, rather than being allocated at head-office level.

While this approach is possible for almost all firms, there are a few limitations to be aware of. For example, there are some types of firms, such as umbrella companies, where it can be difficult to accurately allocate the activity down to local level. In such cases, data may be allocated at the level of the reporting unit within the data. While these cases are unlikely to impact overall productivity narratives at larger geographies, such as ITL1 or ITL2, they can have some impact at smaller geographies, for example, at local-authority level.

The second limitation is that GVA data are ultimately allocated through economic ownership, which can mean that foreign activity of UK companies producing output abroad can be included in the UK GVA data. Recent revisions to UK data in the pharmaceutical sector provide an example of this. These revisions provided an improvement in national GVA data, as they are better at capturing the output of capital services of UK intellectual property products.

However, this bulletin does not separate the impacts of capital and labour on productivity. Therefore, these upward revisions will show up in this bulletin as higher labour productivity, with the activity allocated across UK branch locations.

Looking ahead, we continue to investigate new methods and approaches to further improve regional and subregional economic statistics. We are also working with the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE) on the topic.

Comparability and consistency

The output statistics in this release are consistent with the latest analysis in our Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2024 bulletin. These output statistics are then compiled to be consistent with data published in our UK National Accounts, The Blue Book: 2025 compendium. Productivity in this release uses measures of labour derived from the working population, unlike measures of regional GVA per head.

The labour input measures used in this release are estimated based on a number of ONS surveys, including the latest data from;

- STES
- BRES
- LFS
- APS

7 . Related links

Labour market overview, UK: November 2026
Bulletin |Released 17 November 2026
Estimates of employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, and other employment-related statistics for the UK.

Labour productivity, UK: July to September 2026
Article | Released 17 November 2026
Labour productivity estimates for Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2026, based on the gross domestic product (GDP) first quarterly estimate and labour market statistics.

Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2024
Bulletin | Released 23 September 2026
Annual estimates of economic activity by UK country, region and local area using gross domestic product (GDP). Estimates are available in current market prices and in chained volume measures and include a full industry breakdown of balanced regional gross value added (GVA(B)).

8 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 24 November 2026, ONS website, statistical bulletin, Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2024