Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: October 2026

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

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17 November 2026

Notice

20 October 2026

We are planning to shorten future editions of this publication to a headline summary, as part of our ongoing programme of website improvements. All data will remain available in our datasets.

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1 . Other pages in this release

- Labour market overview, UK
- Average weekly earnings in Great Britain
- Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK
- Employment in the UK

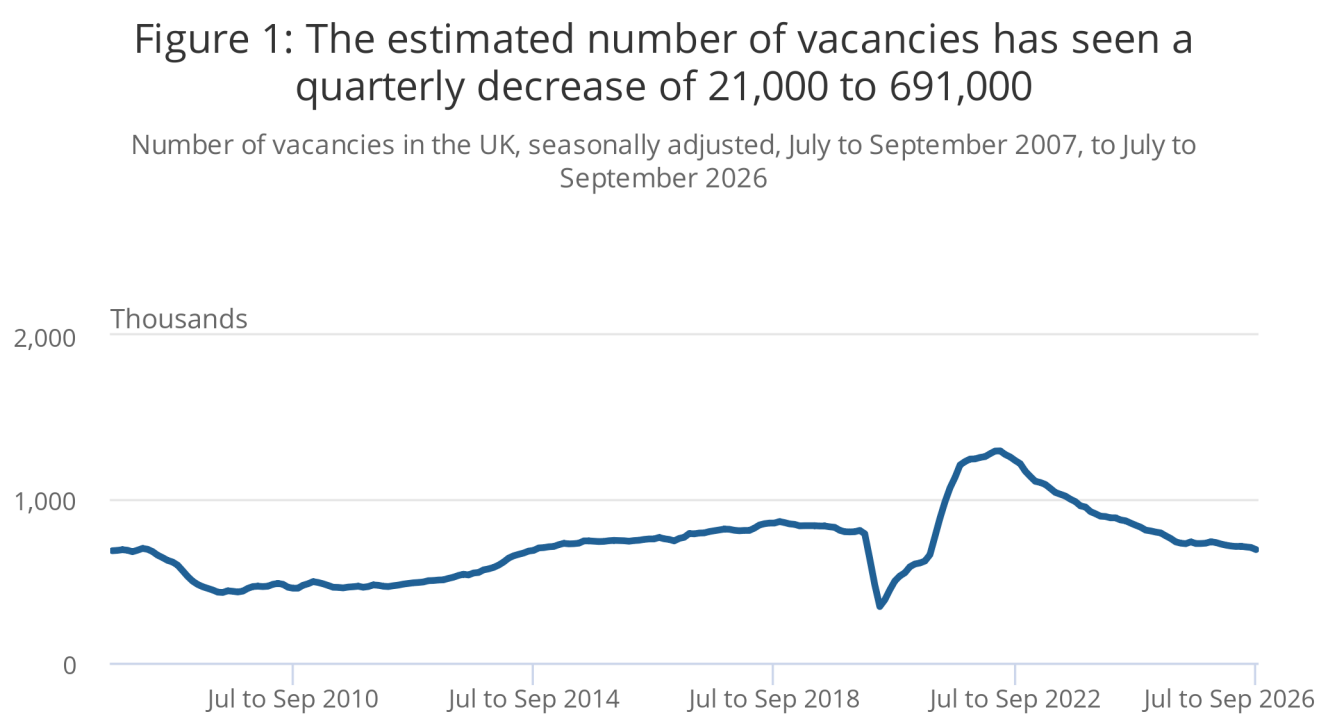
2 . Main points

- Vacancy estimates decreased on the quarter, with early estimates for July to September 2026 suggesting a decrease of 21,000 (2.9%) vacancies to 691,000, compared with April to June 2026; this is the first time the total has been below 700,000 since February to April 2021.
- Vacancy estimates decreased in 14 of the 18 industry sectors, compared with April to June 2026; the largest industry decrease was in construction (down 7,000 vacancies).
- Vacancy estimates decreased in 4 of the 5 employment size bands, compared with April to June 2026; the largest decrease was for businesses with 1 to 9 employees (down 21,000 vacancies).
- There were 2.4 unemployed people per vacancy in June to August 2026, down from 2.5 in March to May 2026, a level at which the ratio has remained since July to September 2025.
- The UK vacancy rate (the proportion of unfilled jobs to total jobs in the economy) was 2.1% in July to September 2026, down 0.1 percentage points since April to June 2026.

3 . Vacancies for July to September 2026

Figure 1: The estimated number of vacancies has seen a quarterly decrease of 21,000 to 691,000

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



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

The early estimate of the number of vacancies in the UK decreased by 21,000 (2.9%) to 691,000 in July to September 2026, compared with April to June 2026. This is the largest quarterly fall since January to March 2026, which was also a fall of 21,000 vacancies. This change remains within our confidence interval for estimates of approximately plus or minus 32,000 vacancies (read more in Section 7: Data sources and quality).

On the year, vacancies decreased by 37,000 (5.1%). The last time the estimated number of vacancies was 691,000 or fewer was in February to April 2021, when there were 660,000 vacancies. Outside of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic period, the last time there were 691,000 or fewer vacancies was in July to September 2014, when there were 686,000 vacancies.

The headline vacancy estimates are based on three-month averages, which naturally involve some time lag. We provide insights into trends in September 2026 in our X06: Single month vacancies estimates dataset (read more in Section 7: Data sources and quality). We advise caution when comparing data sources, because the single month data are not seasonally adjusted.

We provide further insights in our Labour demand volumes by Standard Occupation Classification (SOC 2020), UK dataset, which includes official statistics in development sourced from Textkernel data. We will update these estimates regularly as part of our Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators bulletins. We advise caution when using these alternative data sources because the data are not seasonally adjusted or directly comparable.

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.

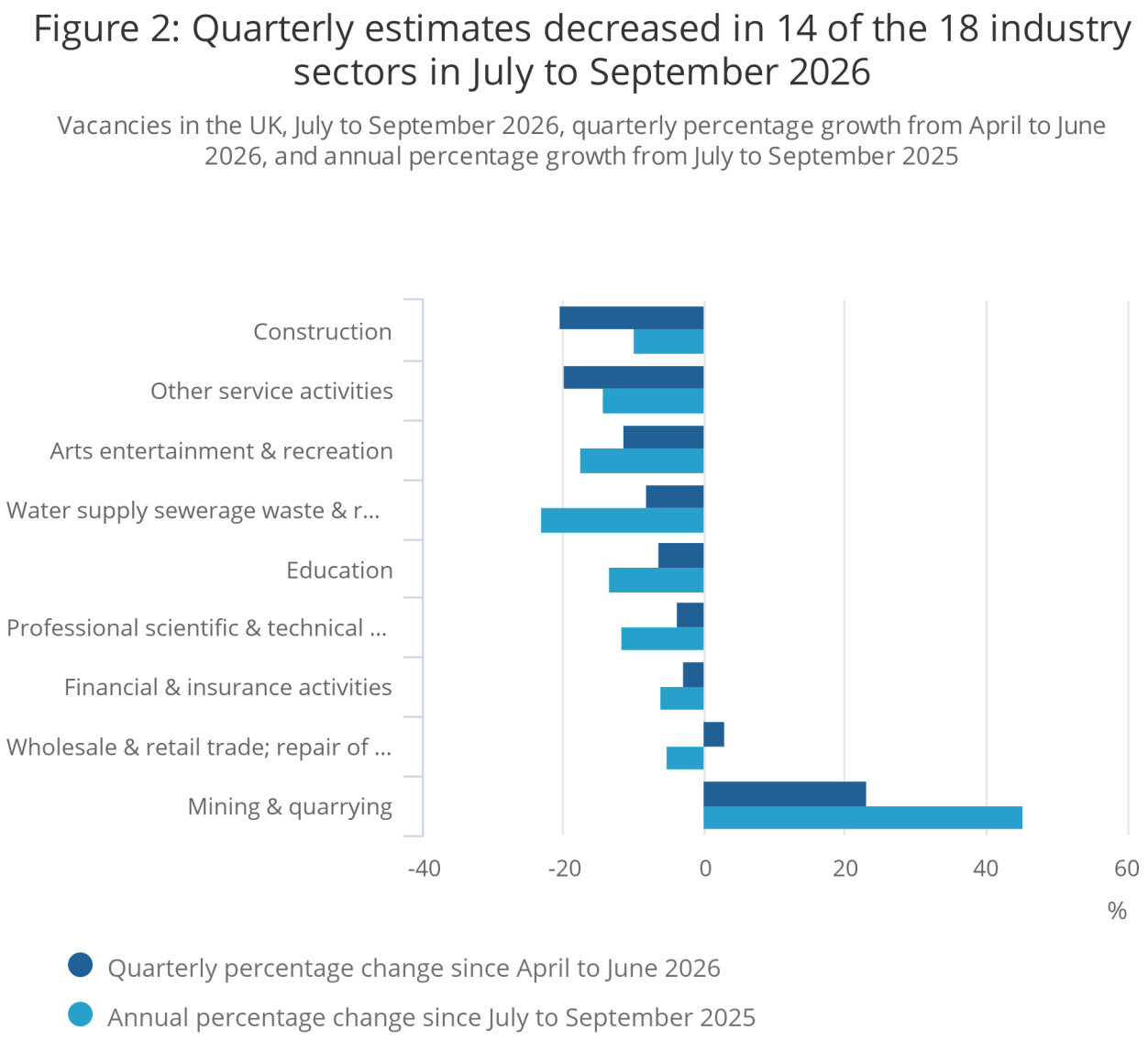
There were 2.4 unemployed people per vacancy in June to August 2026. This is down from 2.5 in March to May 2026, a level at which the ratio has remained since July to September 2025. The ratio was also 2.4 in the same period a year ago.

Another indicator of labour demand is the vacancy rate, also referred to as the job openings rate. The rate captures the number of unfilled jobs (or vacancies) that an employer is actively recruiting workers to fill, as a proportion of the total number of jobs (including filled and unfilled jobs) in the economy. An increase in the vacancy rate implies a higher demand for workers in roles that are currently not filled.

The UK vacancy rate was 2.1% in July to September 2026, down 0.1 percentage points both on the quarter and on the year.

Figure 2: Quarterly estimates decreased in 14 of the 18 industry sectors in July to September 2026

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



Source: 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.

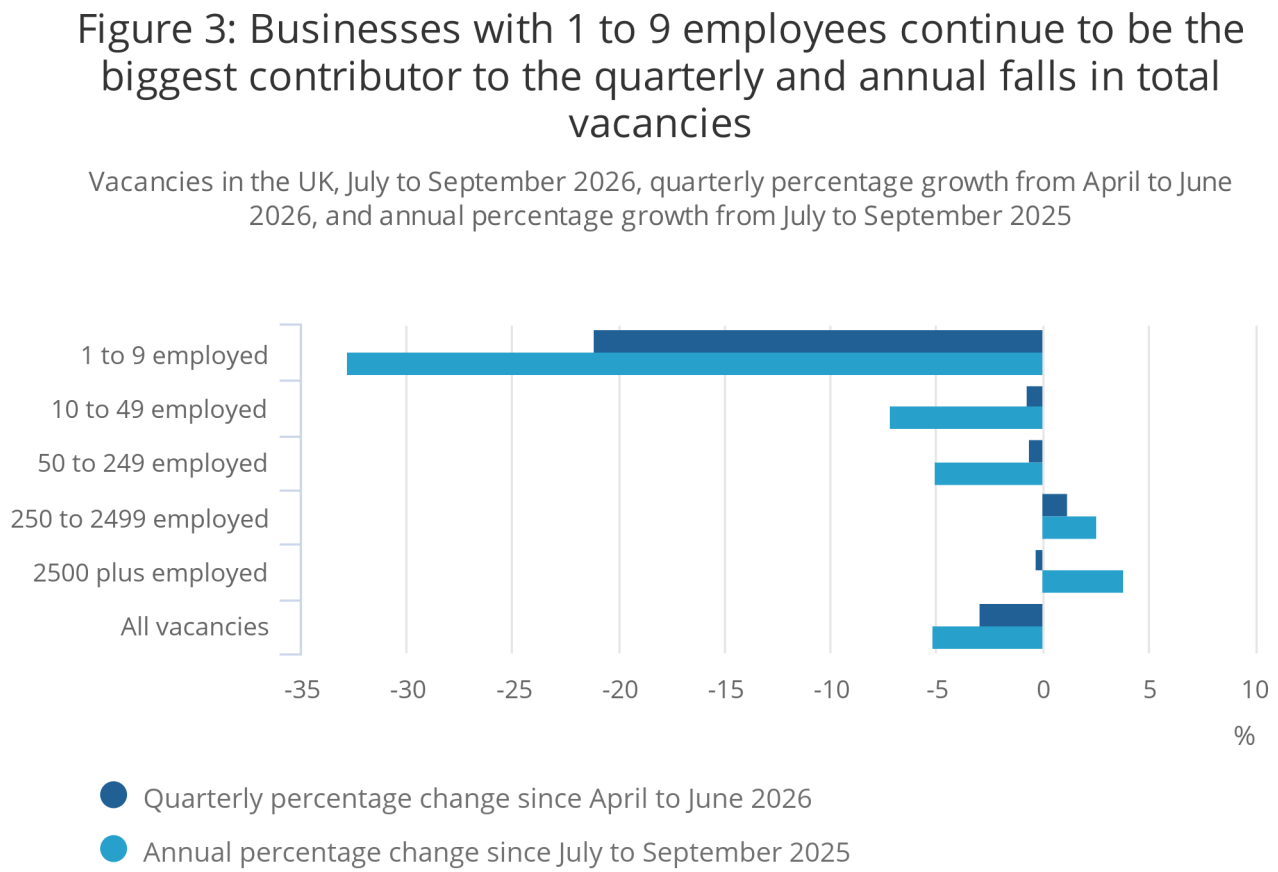
The estimated total number of vacancies decreased by 21,000 (2.9%) in July to September 2026, compared with April to June 2026, falling in 14 of the 18 industry sectors. The industry with the largest percentage decrease in vacancies was construction, which was down 20.5%. This industry also had the largest volume decrease of 7,000 vacancies. This was followed by other service activities, which was down 19.9% (3,000 vacancies).

Total vacancies decreased by 37,000 (5.1%) in July to September 2026, compared with the same period a year ago. There were declines in 13 of the 18 industry sectors. The industry with the largest annual percentage decrease in vacancies was water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities, down 23.0% (2,000 vacancies). Professional scientific and technical activities had the largest annual volume decrease of 9,000 vacancies (11.6%). This was followed by education, which was down 7,000 vacancies (13.3%).

The industry with the highest demand for workers was mining and quarrying, with a vacancy rate of 3.3% in July to September 2026. This was followed by financial and insurance activities, which has a vacancy rate of 2.9%. The industries with the lowest demand for workers were the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, and education, with vacancy rates of 1.4% and 1.5%, respectively.

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, July to September 2026, quarterly percentage growth from April to June 2026, and annual percentage growth from July to September 2025



Source: Vacancy Survey from the Office for National Statistics

Of the five employment size bands, four saw decreases in the number of vacancies on the quarter to July to September 2026. The largest quarterly decrease was in businesses with 1 to 9 employees, down 21,000 (21.1%) to 77,000 vacancies. Outside of the pandemic, this is the lowest level for this employment size band since June to August 2013, when there were 77,000 vacancies.

The only employment size band with an increase on the quarter was businesses with 250 to 2,499 employees, up 2,000 (1.2%) vacancies. All other size bands were down 1,000 vacancies.

The number of vacancies decreased over the year in the three smallest employment size bands. The largest decrease was for businesses with 1 to 9 employees, down 38,000 (32.8%) vacancies.

Feedback from our Vacancy Survey continues to suggest that smaller firms may not be recruiting because of increases in labour costs.

4 . Jobs for June 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 series. These seasonal patterns are more evident in self-employment jobs. More information can be found in Section 7: Data sources and quality.

Workforce jobs (WFJ) estimates are provided by various sources, and our latest estimates for June 2026 were published in September 2026. Estimates of employee jobs in the private sector are from business surveys with a reference date of 12 June 2026. Estimates of self-employment jobs are drawn from our Labour Force Survey (LFS), which covers a three-month period from the start of May 2026 to the end of July 2026.

Early estimates suggest there were 36.7 million WFJ in the UK in June 2026. This is an annual increase of 60,000 (0.2%) from the level of a year ago; this was caused by an increase of 46,000 (0.1%) in the employee jobs component, and an increase in the number of government-supported trainees, which was up 23,000 (66.2%). However, there was a decrease of 10,000 (0.2%) in the self-employment jobs component, and the number of HM Forces jobs was slightly up by 2,000 jobs (1.2%) on the year.

The estimated number of WFJ decreased by 48,000 (0.1%) since March 2026. The quarterly decrease was caused by a fall of 43,000 (1.0%) in self-employment jobs and 10,000 (0.0%) in employee jobs. Estimates of government-supported trainees increased by 6,000 jobs (11.3%) on the quarter and estimates of HM Forces were unchanged on the quarter.

There was an increase in the number of WFJ in 13 of the 20 industry sectors on the year. The industries with the biggest annual percentage increase were the mining and quarrying sector (up 7.7%), and the people employed by households sector, (up 5.5%).

The industries with the largest volume increase in WFJ between June 2025 and June 2026 were professional scientific and technical activities (up by 51,000 jobs), and public administration and defence; compulsory social security, (up by 45,000 jobs). The increase in professional scientific and technical activities is because of the self-employment jobs component, which was up by 37,000 jobs. The increase in public administration and defence; compulsory social security is because of the employee jobs component, which was up by 30,000 jobs.

The number of WFJ decreased in 11 of the 20 industry sectors on the quarter. The industries with the biggest percentage decreases on the quarter were people employed by households (down 3.6%), and human health and social work activities (down 1.3%).

The industries with the largest volume decreases on the quarter were human health and social work activities (down by 67,000 jobs), and construction (down by 23,000 jobs). The overall decreases were largely because of falls in the self-employment jobs component, where, on the quarter, there was a decrease of 38,000 self-employment jobs in human health and social work activities, and a decrease of 32,000 in construction.

5 . Data on vacancies and jobs

Vacancies by industry
Dataset VACS02 | Released 20 October 2026
Vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

Workforce jobs summary
Dataset JOBS01 | Released 15 September 2026
Workforce jobs summary, UK, published quarterly, seasonally adjusted. 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 15 September 2026
Workforce jobs by industry, employee jobs by industry and self-employment jobs by industry. UK, published quarterly, both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted.

X06: Single month vacancies estimates
Dataset X06 | Released 20 October 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 of 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 of our Guide to labour market statistics methodology.

A more detailed glossary is available.

7 . Data sources and quality

Review of release times for market-sensitive releases

We are reviewing the release times for our market-sensitive economic statistics, such as Vacancies and jobs. This review will consider whether the current arrangements continue to best serve the public good, support user needs and align with the principles set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

We are running a consultation to gather evidence on the impact of different release times. The consultation asks how you use market-sensitive economic statistics, your views on potential release time options, and any other considerations. Please note that this consultation will be closing on Friday 30 October 2026.

Upcoming revisions to workforce jobs

In our Vacancies and jobs in the UK: June 2026 bulletin, we announced our intention to bring forward our annual seasonal adjustment review, in response to emerging evidence of evolving seasonal patterns, and to implement the new seasonal parameters in our Vacancies and jobs in the UK: September 2026 bulletin.

We have now completed our standard annual seasonal adjustment review, which has highlighted the need for a more in-depth review of our indirect, bottom-up approach to seasonal adjustment. We require more time to undertake this in-depth review and implement any solutions required.

Therefore, the estimates published in October 2026 will remain on our current seasonal adjustment basis. More information on the current seasonal adjustment method is available in our Workforce jobs (WFJ) quality and methods guide.

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 WFJ 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.

In December each year, we make regular adjustments to WFJ estimates to improve quality and coherence with other Office for National Statistics (ONS) business surveys, resulting in revisions to the series. The main adjustment is benchmarking the private sector employee jobs series to the latest estimates from the annual Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), which has a larger sample and wider coverage of small businesses.

We also make adjustments to incorporate revisions to public sector employment estimates, Northern Ireland employee jobs estimates, and government-supported trainees (GST) administrative data. Our adjustments also incorporate late returns to our Quarterly Business Survey. This is an annual process which is outlined in full in our Workforce jobs quality and methods guide.

Alongside our upcoming Vacancies and jobs in the UK: December 2026 bulletin, we aim to take on these improvements and update our annual Revisions to workforce jobs: December 2025 article to provide further information on these regular annual adjustments. More information is available in our Labour market statistics revisions policy (PDF, 36.7KB).

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".

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 datasets.

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.

We obtain estimates of vacancies from our Vacancy Survey, which is a survey of employers.

We compile estimates of jobs 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 (QMI) on sources, strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our Vacancy Survey QMI report, and our Workforce jobs in the UK quality methods guide.

A comparison of our labour market data sources and the main differences is available in our Comparison of labour market data sources methodology.

Response Rates

The Vacancy Survey response rate was 76.3% in September 2026.

The QBS response rate was 73.4% in June 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 June 2026 [Note 1]	Sampling variability of estimate [Note 2]
A	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	372	±48
B	Mining & quarrying	54	±7
C	Manufacturing	2,460	±35
D	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	147	±11
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste & remediation activities	247	±7
F	Construction	2,293	±55
G	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,597	±54
H	Transport & storage	1,924	±47
I	Accommodation & food service activities	2,616	±63
J	Information & communication	1,606	±48
K	Financial & insurance activities	1,124	±31
L	Real estate activities	728	±42
M	Professional scientific & technical activities	3,504	±70
N	Administrative & support service activities	2,971	±58
O	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security	1,802	±19
P	Education	3,127	±44
Q	Human health & social work activities	5,028	±65
R	Arts, entertainment & recreation	1,098	±46
S/T	Other service activities/Private Households	1,035	±49
	All jobs	36,734	±197

Source: Workforce jobs from the Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. The estimates for June 2026 are seasonally adjusted.

2. The sampling variability estimates are for 95% confidence intervals and are calculated on data for June 2026 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 Great Britain, full-time and part-time, by sector, industry, country and English region, from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES).

Revisions to workforce jobs: 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 25 September 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 20 October 2026, ONS website, statistical bulletin, Vacancies and jobs in the UK: October 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
	EARNINGS	
13	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Total pay	Dataset EARN01
14	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Bonus pay	Dataset EARN01
15	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Regular pay	Dataset EARN01
16	Average Weekly Earnings real and nominal (summary table)	Dataset EARN01
	INTERNATIONAL SUMMARY	
17	International comparisons of employment and unemployment	Dataset A10
	LABOUR DISPUTES	
18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
	VACANCIES	
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
	REGIONAL SUMMARY	
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
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	36,578	32,337	4,038	148	55
Mar 26 (r)	36,782	32,362	4,219	149	51
Jun 26 (p)	36,734	32,352	4,176	149	57
Change on quarter	-48	-10	-43	0	6
Change %	-0.1	0.0	-1.0	0.0	11.3
Change on year	60	46	-10	2	23
Change %	0.2	0.1	-0.2	1.2	66.2

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	Accommod-ation & food service activities I	Information & communic-ation J
	DYDC	JWR5	JWR6	JWR7	JWR8	JWR9	JWS2	JWS3	JWS4	JWS5	JWS6
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	36,578	338	51	2,519	141	241	2,294	4,645	1,897	2,625	1,594
Mar 26 (r)	36,782	355	55	2,478	146	246	2,316	4,616	1,914	2,618	1,579
Jun 26 (p)	36,734	372	54	2,460	147	247	2,293	4,597	1,924	2,616	1,606
Change on quarter	-48	17	-1	-18	1	1	-23	-19	9	-2	27
Change %	-0.1	4.8	-1.0	-0.7	0.9	0.5	-1.0	-0.4	0.5	-0.1	1.7
Change on year	60	15	4	-64	2	7	25	-60	20	-13	6
Change %	0.2	4.1	7.7	-2.5	1.2	3.0	1.1	-1.3	1.0	-0.5	0.4

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
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	1,100	723	3,448	2,991	1,775	3,101	5,029	1,071	949	46	30,994
Mar 26 (r)	1,112	723	3,476	2,974	1,795	3,137	5,095	1,099	986	61	31,185
Jun 26 (p)	1,124	728	3,504	2,971	1,802	3,127	5,028	1,098	976	59	31,159
Change on quarter	11	5	29	-3	7	-10	-67	-2	-10	-2	-26
Change %	1.0	0.7	0.8	-0.1	0.4	-0.3	-1.3	-0.2	-1.0	-3.6	-0.1
Change on year	-16	24	51	-17	45	14	-19	39	-7	3	72
Change %	-1.4	3.5	1.5	-0.6	2.5	0.5	-0.4	3.7	-0.7	5.5	0.2

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 Vacancies[1] 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							
Jul-Sep 2024		840	138	131	126	181	265
Jul-Sep 2025	(r)	728	115	107	110	167	229
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		713	103	99	105	169	238
Mar-May 2026		710	98	99	107	168	239
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	711	98	100	105	169	239
May-Jul 2026	(r)	707	94	99	105	169	240
Jun-Aug 2026	(r)	704	89	99	104	170	241
Jul-Sep 2026	**(p)**	**691**	**77**	**100**	**104**	**171**	**238**
Change on quarter	*	-21	-21	-1	-1	2	-1
Change %	*	-2.9	-21.1	-0.7	-0.6	1.2	-0.3
Change on year		-37	-38	-8	-6	4	9
Change %		-5.1	-32.8	-7.1	-5.0	2.6	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 Vacancies[1] and Unemployment

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

		All Vacancies[1]	Unemployment[2]	Number of unemployed people per vacancy
		AP2Y	MGSC	JPC5
Levels				
Jun-Aug 2024		853	1,436	1.7
Jun-Aug 2025		738	1,738	2.4
Sep-Nov 2025		730	1,833	2.5
Dec-Feb 2026		725	1,777	2.5
Mar-May 2026		710	1,760	2.5
Jun-Aug 2026	(r)	704	1,712	2.4
Change on quarter		-6	-47	0.0
Change %		-0.9	-2.7	
Change on year		-35	-26	0.1
Change %		-4.7	-1.5	

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 industry[1]

Standard Industrial Classification (2007) — United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections		All vacancies[2] B-S	Mining & quarrying B	Manu-facturing C	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply[3] 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
		AP2Y	JP9H	JP9I	JP9J	JP9K	JP9L	JP9M	JP9N	JP9O	JP9P
Levels (thousands)											
Jul-Sep 2024		840	1	60	4	6	39	108	33	96	38
Jul-Sep 2025	(r)	728	1	47	3	7	30	95	29	75	37
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		713	1	50	3	7	30	87	33	70	39
Mar-May 2026		710	1	51	3	7	31	87	34	69	39
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	711	1	49	3	6	34	87	33	70	40
May-Jul 2026	(r)	707	1	48	3	6	31	87	35	71	38
Jun-Aug 2026	(r)	704	2	48	3	6	29	90	34	71	36
Jul-Sep 2026	**(p)**	**691**	**2**	**48**	**3**	**6**	**27**	**90**	**32**	**70**	**37**
Change on quarter	*	-21	0	0	0	-1	-7	3	-1	0	-4
Change %	*	-2.9	23.1	-0.6	-6.3	-8.1	-20.5	3.1	-2.5	0.0	-9.2
Change on year		-37	1	1	0	-2	-3	-5	2	-5	0
Change %		-5.1	45.5	2.8	-11.8	-23.0	-9.8	-5.2	7.8	-7.0	-0.8
		N4JE	N4JF	N4JG	N4JH	N4JI	N4JJ	N4JK	N4JL	N4JM	N4JN
Job openings rate											
Jul-Sep 2024		2.6	2.9	2.4	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.0	3.7	2.6
Jul-Sep 2025	(r)	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.5	3.0	1.8	2.1	1.8	3.0	2.5
Aug-Oct 2025		2.2	2.2	2.0	2.3	3.2	1.8	2.1	1.8	3.0	2.4
Sep-Nov 2025		2.2	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.9	1.7	2.1	1.9	3.0	2.3
Oct-Dec 2025		2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.9	1.8	2.1	2.0	3.0	2.6
Nov-Jan 2026		2.2	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.6	1.7	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.6
Dec-Feb 2026		2.2	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.9	2.8
Jan-Mar 2026		2.2	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.5	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.6
Feb-Apr 2026		2.2	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.8	2.7
Mar-May 2026		2.2	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.7
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	2.2	2.7	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.8
May-Jul 2026	(r)	2.2	2.9	2.0	2.3	2.5	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.8	2.6
Jun-Aug 2026	(r)	2.1	3.3	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.5
Jul-Sep 2026	**(p)**	**2.1**	**3.3**	**2.0**	**2.2**	**2.4**	**1.6**	**2.0**	**1.9**	**2.8**	**2.5**
Change on quarter	*	-0.1	0.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Change on year		-0.1	1.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0

SIC 2007 sections		Financial & insurance activities K	Real estate activities[3] L	Professional scientific & technical activities M	Administrative & support service activities[4] N	Public admin & defence; compulsory social security O	Education P	Human health & social work activities Q	Arts, entertainment & recreation R	Other service activities S	Total services G-S
		JP9Q	JP9R	JP9S	JP9T	JP9U	JP9V	JP9W	JP9X	JP9Y	JP9Z
Levels (thousands)											
Jul-Sep 2024		34	12	86	58	29	55	147	18	15	730
Jul-Sep 2025	(r)	33	10	77	50	30	50	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		32	10	72	51	29	49	126	12	15	623
Mar-May 2026		31	10	68	52	28	49	125	12	14	617
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	32	11	70	52	29	46	123	13	14	619
May-Jul 2026	(r)	31	12	70	52	30	45	122	13	14	618
Jun-Aug 2026	(r)	31	12	69	50	31	44	123	13	13	616
Jul-Sep 2026	**(p)**	**31**	**12**	**68**	**50**	**29**	**43**	**122**	**12**	**11**	**605**
Change on quarter	*	-1	1	-3	-2	0	-3	0	-2	-3	-14
Change %	*	-2.8	13.3	-3.8	-3.8	-0.7	-6.3	-0.2	-11.2	-19.9	-2.2
Change on year		-2	2	-9	0	-1	-7	-5	-3	-2	-34
Change %		-6.1	14.4	-11.6	0.0	-2.7	-13.3	-3.8	-17.4	-14.2	-5.4
		N4JO	N4JP	N4JQ	N4JR	N4JS	N4JT	N4JU	N4JV	N4JW	N4JX
Job openings rate											
Jul-Sep 2024		3.0	1.9	2.9	2.1	1.9	1.9	3.1	2.2	2.3	2.6
Jul-Sep 2025	(r)	3.0	1.6	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.7	1.8	1.9	2.3
Aug-Oct 2025		3.1	1.6	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.3
Sep-Nov 2025		3.1	1.7	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.3
Oct-Dec 2025		3.1	1.7	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.3
Nov-Jan 2026		2.9	1.9	2.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.3
Dec-Feb 2026		2.9	1.7	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.2
Jan-Mar 2026		2.9	1.9	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.6	1.6	2.3	2.2
Feb-Apr 2026		2.9	1.5	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.6	1.5	2.2	2.2
Mar-May 2026		2.9	1.5	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.6	1.4	2.1	2.2
Apr-Jun 2026	(r)	2.9	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.6	1.6	2.1	2.2
May-Jul 2026	(r)	2.9	1.9	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.5	1.5	2.2	2.2
Jun-Aug 2026	(r)	2.9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.6	1.6	2.0	2.2
Jul-Sep 2026	**(p)**	**2.9**	**1.8**	**2.2**	**1.9**	**1.8**	**1.5**	**2.6**	**1.4**	**1.7**	**2.1**
Change on quarter	*	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	0.0
Change on year		-0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

1. From September 2026, we have 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. Comparisons between methods are available in VACS02 published 18 August 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.

4. The survey covers all sectors of administrative and support service activities, with the exception of employment agencies (SIC07 division 78).

* Change on previous non-overlapping three month rolling average time period.

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