

Statistical bulletin

Vacancies and jobs in the UK: May 2020

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



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16 June 2020

Notice

19 May 2020

The effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on our capacity means we have reviewed the existing labour market releases and will be suspending some publications.

This will protect the delivery and quality of our remaining labour market outputs as well as ensuring we can respond to new demands as a direct result of COVID-19. More details about the impact on labour market outputs can be found in our [statement](#).

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1 . Other pages in this release

Other commentary from the latest labour market data can be found on the following pages:

- [Labour market overview](#)
- [Employment in the UK](#)
- [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain](#)

2 . Main points

- Vacancy estimates presented in this bulletin are based on specific count dates each month; in April 2020, this was the 3rd, after the implementation of the coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.
- There were an estimated 637,000 vacancies in the UK in February to April 2020; this is 170,000 fewer than the previous quarter and 210,000 fewer than a year earlier.
- The quarterly fall of 170,000 vacancies is the largest quarterly change since the current time series started in 2001, eclipsing the decrease of 106,000 vacancies in the three months to January 2009.
- The fall of 210,000 is the largest annual decrease since the year to April to June 2009.
- For December 2019, there were an estimated 35.83 million jobs in the UK; this is an increase of 67,000 jobs compared with September 2019 and an increase of 541,000 jobs when compared with the same period the previous year.
- The increase of 67,000 jobs was caused by self-employed jobs, which increased by 74,000 when compared with September 2019; employee jobs fell by 13,000 over the same period.

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.

3 . Vacancies for February to April 2020

The monthly Vacancy Survey asks businesses for the number of external vacancies on a specified count date. The headline series is based on three-month rolling averages. The latest data are for the period February to April 2020, and the latest count date was 3 April 2020. The responses sought from businesses for April 2020 are therefore following the commencement of UK social distancing measures. Due to social distancing measures leading to the temporary closure of businesses across the UK, there have been some difficulties in collecting data using the Vacancy Survey in April 2020, more information can be found in Section 7: [Measuring the data](#).

For the three-month rolling average of vacancies, the standard errors are around 10,000 (1.5% expressed as a [coefficient of variation](#)), giving a 95% [confidence interval](#) of plus or minus 20,000.

Figure 1: February to April 2020 saw the largest quarterly decrease to the vacancies total since the current time series started in 2001

Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between February to April 2002 and February to April 2020

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Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between February to April 2002 and February to April 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

The estimated [number of vacancies](#) in the UK fell sharply during the recession of 2008 to 2009. Since 2012, it has generally increased, reaching a record high of 855,000 in November 2018 to January 2019. For February to April 2020, there were an estimated 637,000 vacancies in the UK; this is 170,000 fewer than in the previous quarter (November 2019 to January 2020) and 210,000 fewer than a year earlier, both of which are [statistically significant](#) changes. This is the lowest total vacancies figure since there were an estimated 617,000 in January to March 2014.

The vacancy headline estimate is based on a seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average and has National Statistic status. Single month vacancy estimates are available in [dataset X06](#). They should be used with caution as they are experimental, non-seasonally adjusted statistics and should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months, due to the high volatility caused by the survey sample design (see [Strengths and limitations](#) section).

Figure 2: The estimated decrease in vacancies for February to April 2020 is driven by the vacancies in April, which was after the implementation of coronavirus social distancing measures

Moving three-month averages of vacancies and single month vacancies in the UK, both non-seasonally adjusted experimental statistics, between February to April 2002 and February to April 2020

Figure 2: The estimated decrease in vacancies for February to April 2020 is driven by the vacancies in April, which was after the implementation of coronavirus social distancing measures

Moving three-month averages of vacancies and single month vacancies in the UK, both non-seasonally adjusted experimental statistics, between February to April 2002 and February to April 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – X06 dataset

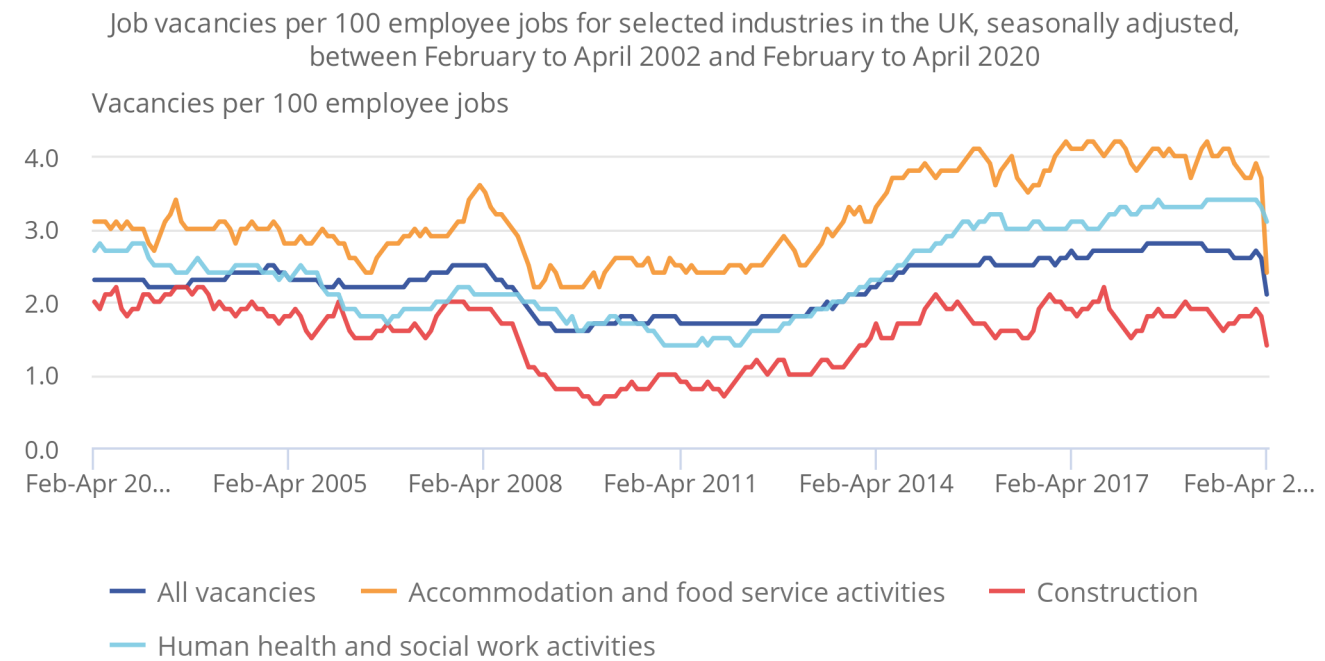
The three-month average non-seasonally adjusted series, in Figure 2, is more volatile than the seasonally adjusted series shown in Figure 1. Therefore, Figure 2 does not exhibit all monthly series volatility compared with the headline National Statistic.

Whilst the experimental single-month estimates should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months, it does indicate a decrease of approximately 50% of vacancies compared with the estimate in March 2020.

Figure 3: The vacancy rate for human health and social work activities is higher than in other sectors, following a significant fall in the vacancy rate of accommodation and food service activities

Job vacancies per 100 employee jobs for selected industries in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between February to April 2002 and February to April 2020

Figure 3: The vacancy rate for human health and social work activities is higher than in other sectors, following a significant fall in the vacancy rate of accommodation and food service activities



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

For February to April 2020, it is estimated that:

- the sector showing the largest quarterly fall was “accommodation and food service activities”, with a record quarterly decrease of 32,000; recruitment in this sector was heavily impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures leading to the closure of restaurants, hotels and pubs
- there was a record quarterly level decrease for the sector of “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles”, which fell by 31,000; despite UK supermarkets recruiting for temporary workers, evidence suggests the vast majority of this had taken place before the survey count date of 3 April
- the sector with the second largest quarterly fall in vacancies, in terms of percentage change (after only “accommodation and food service activities” down negative 36.4%), was “arts, entertainment and recreation” which saw a decrease of 29.3% following the postponement of sporting events, as well as the closure of amusement parks and fitness facilities
- there were 126,000 vacancies in the “human health and social work activities” sector (making it the largest sector for the twelfth consecutive period), however there was an estimated decrease of 11,000 on a quarter earlier; despite vacancy level increases in some areas of this sector, there were significant decreases in others, such as childcare businesses and dental practices
- the sectors showing the largest annual decreases were “accommodation and food service activities” and “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles”, both decreasing by 39,000 compared with the previous year
- there were 2.1 job vacancies per 100 employee jobs across the economy, down 0.6 from the previous quarter and 0.7 from the previous year
- the sector showing the highest vacancy rate was “human health and social work activities”, with 3.1 vacancies per 100 employee jobs, making this sector the largest in terms of both vacancy level and rate
- there was a significant decrease in the vacancy rate of “accommodation and food service activities”, down 1.4 to a total of 2.4 vacancies per 100 employee jobs; the sector previously had the largest vacancy rate since August to October 2018
- the sector showing the lowest vacancy rate was “construction” at 1.4 job vacancies per 100 employee jobs

4 . Jobs for December 2019 (first published on 17 March 2020)

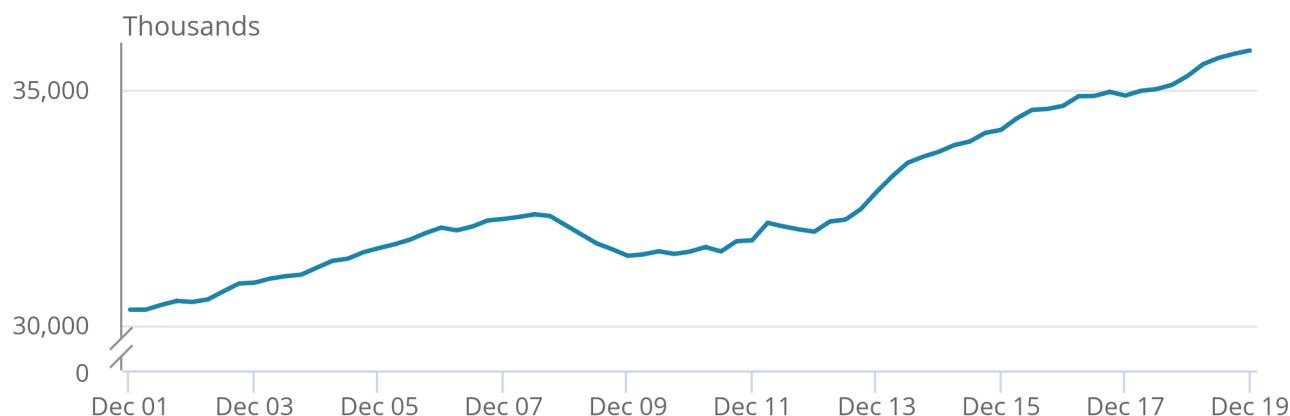
The jobs data and accompanying datasets relate to the December 2019 period before reported cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK.

Figure 4: Between September 2019 and December 2019, the total number of jobs in the UK increased by 67,000 to reach an estimated 35.83 million

Number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, December 2019

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Number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, December 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Workforce jobs

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. Estimates for the number of people in employment are available in Employment in the UK.

It is estimated that:

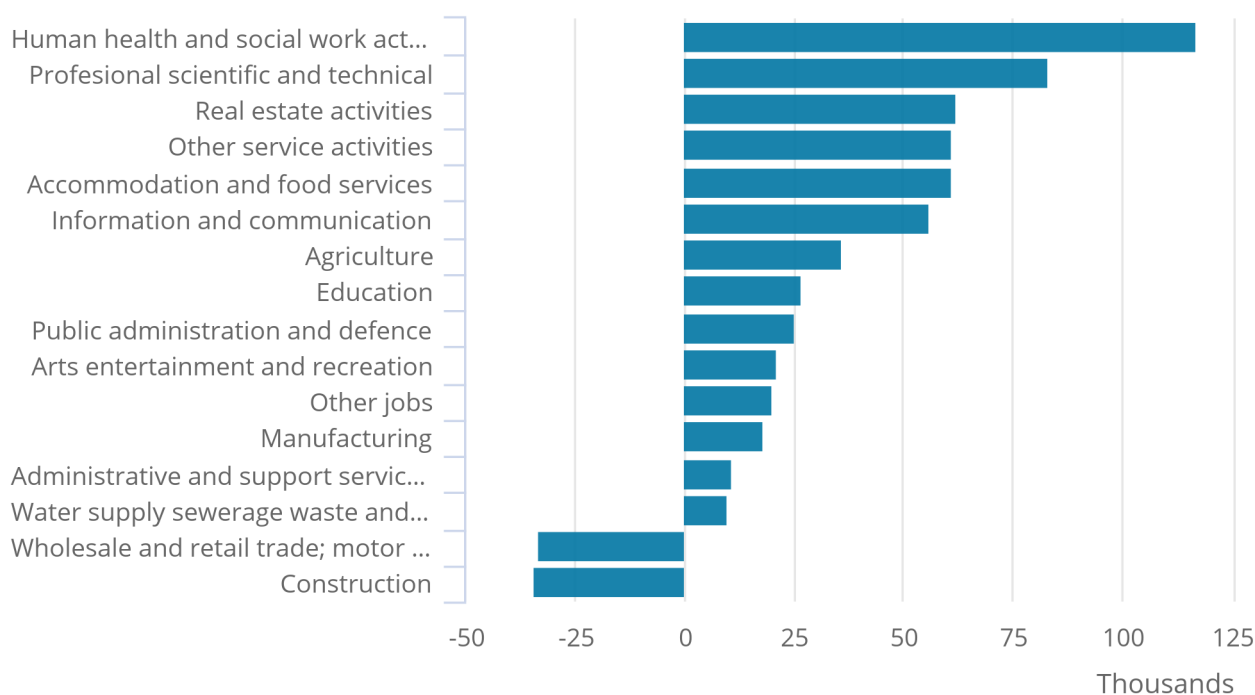
- the number of jobs has been generally increasing since 2013
- there were a record high 35.83 million jobs in the UK in December 2019; this is 67,000 more than in September 2019 and 541,000 higher than in December 2018
- the largest sector, with an estimated 4.97 million jobs, was the “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles” sector in December 2019; this represents 13.9% of total jobs in December 2019
- the next largest sector was “human health and social work”, with 4.48 million jobs in December 2019
- several sectors were at a record high in December 2019, including “education” (2.98 million jobs), “accommodation and food service activities” (2.51 million jobs), “information and communication” (1.54 million jobs) and “other service activities” (1.01 million jobs)

Figure 5: The number of human health and social work activities jobs increased by 117,000 between December 2018 and December 2019

Changes in the number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, December 2018 to December 2019

Figure 5: The number of human health and social work activities jobs increased by 117,000 between December 2018 and December 2019

Changes in the number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, December 2018 to December 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Workforce jobs

The sectors showing the largest estimated annual increase in jobs were “human health and social work” (up 117,000 on the year) and “professional, scientific and technical” (up 83,000 on the year).

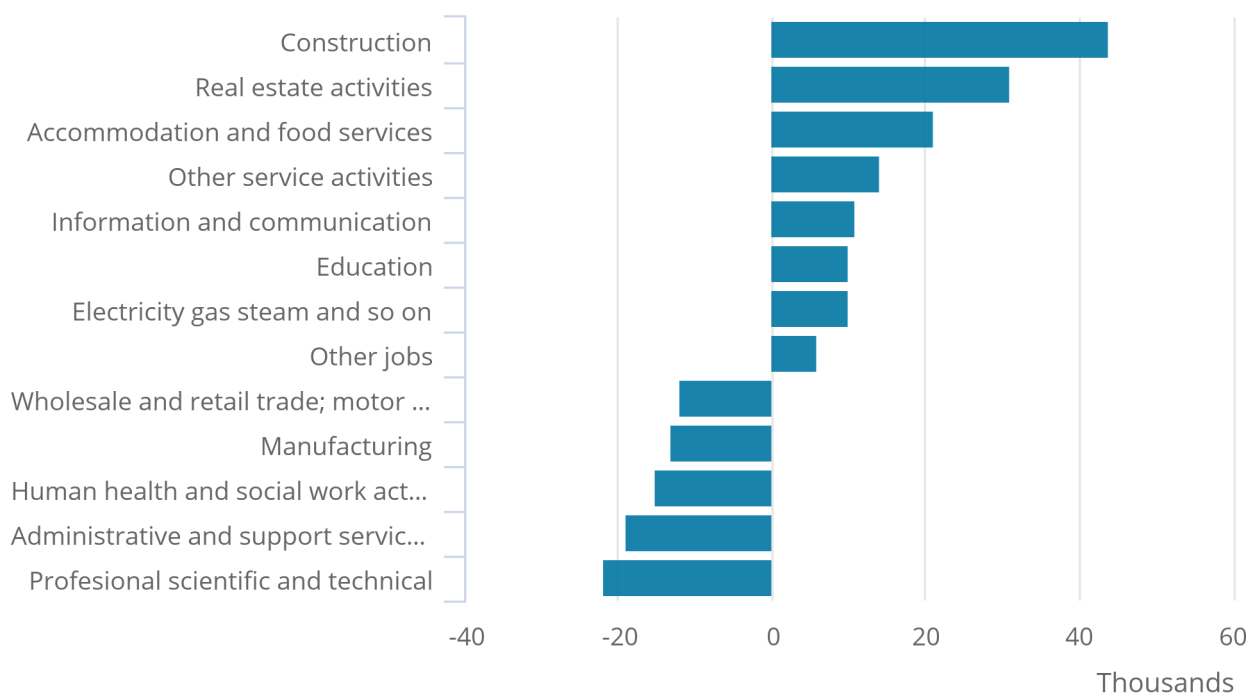
There were two sectors showing annual decreases in jobs; these were “construction” (down 34,000 on the year) and “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles” (down 33,000 on the year).

Figure 6: The number of construction jobs increased by 44,000 between September and December 2019

Changes in the number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, September to December 2019

Figure 6: The number of construction jobs increased by 44,000 between September and December 2019

Changes in the number of jobs in the UK, seasonally adjusted, September to December 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Workforce jobs

The sector showing the largest estimated quarterly increase in jobs was “construction”. Total construction jobs increased by 44,000. Of this, self-employed jobs increased by 31,000 and employee jobs increased by 14,000.

There were several sectors showing estimated quarterly decreases in jobs. The largest sectors were “professional, scientific and technical activities” (down by 22,000 on the quarter) and “administrative and support service activities” (down by 19,000 on the quarter).

5 . Vacancies and jobs data

[Vacancies by industry](#)

Dataset VACS02 | Released 19 May 2020

Estimates of vacancies by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[Workforce jobs summary](#)

Dataset JOBS01 | Released 17 March 2020

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 17 March 2020

Estimates of jobs by industry (Standard Industrial Classification 2007)

Table 1: Sampling variability for estimates of jobs in the UK, thousands

UK			
	SIC 2007 section	Estimate for Dec 2019	Sampling variability of estimate ¹
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	411	±41
B	Mining and quarrying	58	±5
C	Manufacturing	2,700	±39
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	154	±11
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities	241	±9
F	Construction	2,309	±59
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5,046	±59
H	Transport and storage	1,819	±47
I	Accommodation and food service activities	2,506	±55
J	Information and communication	1,532	±48
K	Financial and insurance activities	1,127	±27
L	Real estate activities	659	±36
M	Professional scientific and technical activities	3,225	±75
N	Administrative and support service activities	3,064	±61
O	Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	1,531	±13
P	Education	2,980	±41
Q	Human health and social work activities	4,474	±65
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,026	±43
S/T	Other service activities and private households	1,059	±43
	All jobs	35,920	±194

Source: Office for National Statistics – Workforce jobs

Notes

1. The sampling variability estimates are for 95% confidence intervals and are calculated on data for June 2019 that are not seasonally adjusted. [Back to table](#)

6 . Glossary

Vacancies

[Vacancies](#) are defined as positions for which employers are actively seeking recruits from outside their business or organisation. The estimates are based on the Vacancy Survey; this is a survey of businesses designed to provide estimates of the stock of vacancies across the economy, excluding “agriculture, forestry and fishing” (a small sector for which the collection of estimates would not be practical).

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 release.

A [more detailed glossary](#) is available.

7 . Measuring the data

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic presents challenges to accurate measurement of the labour market, as outlined in this [article](#). Data in this statistical bulletin and accompanying datasets relate to specific survey count dates, for vacancies in April 2020 this was 3 April. The April 2020 period of the vacancy estimates for February to April 2020 are, therefore, impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures.

Because of social distancing measures leading to the temporary closure of businesses across the UK, there have been some difficulties in collecting data using the Vacancy Survey in April 2020. Survey response rates for the period of April 2020 were lower than is typical. To protect the quality of our output, we have used alternative sources where possible to inform data. We have used Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) section level indications from the Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS), as well as survey contributor-level comments provided to us over the telephone or electronically, as a guide on whether businesses are operational and likely, or not, to be actively recruiting.

In response to the developing situation, we are working to ensure that we continue to publish economic statistics. For more information, please see [COVID-19 and the production of statistics](#).

We have reviewed all publications and data published as part of the labour market release in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This has led to the postponement of some publications and datasets to ensure that we can continue to publish our main labour market data. This will protect the delivery and quality of our remaining outputs as well as ensuring we can respond to new demands as a direct result of COVID-19.

David Freeman, head of labour market statistics at the Office for National Statistics (ONS), has looked at how the ONS is responding to the pressing need for new information in his blog, [Measuring the labour market during coronavirus](#).

For more information on how labour market data sources, among others, will be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, see the [statement](#) published on 27 March 2020.

Workforce jobs estimates for December 2019 are largely unaffected by recent developments.

Our latest data and analysis on the impact of the coronavirus on the UK economy and population is now available on our dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#). This will be the hub for all special coronavirus-related publications, drawing on all available data.

8 . Strengths and limitations

Accuracy of the statistics: estimating and reporting uncertainty

The figures in this bulletin mainly come from surveys of businesses, which gather information from a [sample](#) rather than from the whole population. The samples are designed to be as accurate as possible given practical limitations such as time and cost constraints. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This can have an impact on how changes in the estimates should be interpreted, especially for short-term comparisons.

As the number of people available in the sample gets smaller, the variability of the estimates that we can make from that sample size gets larger. Estimates for small groups (for example, vacancies in the construction industry), which are based on small subsets of the Vacancy Survey sample, are less reliable and tend to be more volatile than for larger aggregated groups (for example, total vacancies in the UK).

In general, short-term changes in the growth rates reported in this bulletin are not usually greater than the level that can be explained by sampling variability. Short-term movements in reported rates should be considered alongside longer-term patterns in the series and corresponding movements in other sources to give a fuller picture.

The vacancy headline estimate is based on a seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average and has national statistic status. Further information about how single estimates have impacted the three-month estimates is available in the [x06 dataset](#). These experimental estimates are non-seasonally adjusted and should not be considered accurate estimates of vacancies in the reported months due to the high volatility caused by the survey sample design. They can be used to indicate that the quarterly decrease of vacancies for February to April 2020 is driven by a decrease in vacancies in April.

Further information is available in [A guide to labour market statistics](#).

Sampling variability information for jobs is available in Table 1 in this bulletin and in [dataset JOBS07: Workforce jobs sampling variability](#).

The sampling variability of the three-month average vacancies level is around plus or minus 1.5% of that level.

9 . Related links

[Coronavirus and the effects on UK labour market statistics](#)

Article | Released 6 May 2020

This article looks at the expected impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) upon the UK labour market and some of the practical challenges that the Office for National Statistics is likely to face in collecting data.

[Employees in the UK: 2018](#)

Bulletin | Released 26 September 2019

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry.

[Public sector employment](#)

Bulletin | Released 17 March 2020

Estimates of people employed in the public and private sectors in the UK.

[Revisions to workforce jobs](#)

Article | Released 17 December 2019

This article explains the revisions that have been made to the workforce jobs series since December 2018.

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 at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/january2020/related-data>

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
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 nationality	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
Dec 17	34,874	30,206	4,481	155	31
Mar 18	34,975	30,293	4,500	154	28
Jun 18	35,012	30,295	4,537	153	28
Sep 18	35,101	30,444	4,481	153	23
Dec 18	35,291	30,530	4,589	152	21
Mar 19	35,542	30,705	4,658	153	27
Jun 19	35,676	30,810	4,673	152	41
Sep 19 (r)	35,764	30,965	4,618	153	29
Dec 19 (p)	35,832	30,952	4,692	153	35
Change on quarter	67	-13	74	0	6
Change %	0.2	0.0	1.6	-0.1	21.0
Change on year	541	423	103	1	14
Change %	1.5	1.4	2.2	0.9	64.2

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	Accommodation & food service activities I	Information & communication J
	DYDC	JWR5	JWR6	JWR7	JWR8	JWR9	JWS2	JWS3	JWS4	JWS5	JWS6
Dec 17	34,874	422	59	2,697	144	228	2,330	4,994	1,690	2,353	1,461
Mar 18	34,975	413	62	2,697	147	226	2,315	4,996	1,696	2,398	1,478
Jun 18	35,012	407	63	2,713	150	227	2,310	4,997	1,733	2,432	1,478
Sep 18	35,101	410	61	2,695	154	227	2,322	4,998	1,741	2,419	1,462
Dec 18	35,291	375	59	2,686	149	231	2,343	5,000	1,799	2,452	1,480
Mar 19	35,542	386	60	2,717	143	241	2,344	5,017	1,784	2,456	1,508
Jun 19	35,676	391	58	2,709	145	243	2,305	5,010	1,825	2,495	1,513
Sep 19 (r)	35,764	408	57	2,717	144	246	2,265	4,979	1,805	2,492	1,524
Dec 19 (p)	35,832	411	58	2,704	154	241	2,310	4,967	1,799	2,513	1,536
Change on quarter	67	3	1	-13	10	-5	44	-12	-6	21	11
Change %	0.2	0.7	2.0	-0.5	7.2	-2.0	2.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.8	0.7
Change on year	541	36	0	18	5	10	-34	-33	1	61	56
Change %	1.5	9.7	-0.1	0.7	3.3	4.3	-1.4	-0.7	0.0	2.5	3.7

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
Dec 17	1,114	589	3,028	3,018	1,482	2,917	4,358	1,019	914	56	28,993
Mar 18	1,125	591	3,031	3,014	1,486	2,939	4,359	1,006	937	59	29,115
Jun 18	1,111	564	3,037	3,030	1,493	2,935	4,335	1,005	925	68	29,143
Sep 18	1,123	587	3,093	3,046	1,495	2,937	4,350	1,000	919	60	29,231
Dec 18	1,118	597	3,143	3,031	1,506	2,954	4,359	1,014	947	49	29,448
Mar 19	1,126	582	3,210	3,036	1,513	2,963	4,413	1,026	960	59	29,652
Jun 19	1,123	593	3,251	3,042	1,511	2,952	4,463	1,016	967	63	29,826
Sep 19 (r)	1,128	627	3,247	3,062	1,523	2,971	4,491	1,026	994	56	29,927
Dec 19 (p)	1,127	659	3,225	3,042	1,531	2,981	4,477	1,035	1,008	54	29,954
Change on quarter	-2	31	-22	-19	8	10	-15	9	14	-2	26
Change %	-0.2	5.0	-0.7	-0.6	0.5	0.3	-0.3	0.9	1.4	-3.3	0.1
Change on year	9	62	83	11	25	27	117	21	61	5	505
Change %	0.8	10.3	2.6	0.4	1.7	0.9	2.7	2.1	6.5	10.6	1.7

Workforce jobs enquiries 01633 456776

Sources: Employer surveys, Labour Force Survey and administrative sources

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							
Feb-Apr 2018		816	123	116	120	164	294
Feb-Apr 2019	(r)	847	126	122	115	190	295
Mar-May 2019		841	131	120	111	187	292
Apr-Jun 2019		831	118	121	114	185	293
May-Jul 2019		824	114	121	112	185	291
Jun-Aug 2019		818	112	121	111	184	290
Jul-Sept 2019		820	121	122	105	182	290
Aug-Oct 2019		803	113	119	102	178	290
Sept-Nov 2019		797	110	118	101	178	291
Oct-Dec 2019		801	110	119	103	180	290
Nov-Jan 2020	(r)	807	112	121	108	176	290
Dec-Feb 2020	(r)	817	117	121	113	171	296
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	794	110	110	109	167	298
Feb-Apr 2020	(p)	637	80	78	88	135	257
Change on quarter	*	-170	-32	-43	-20	-42	-33
Change %	*	-21.0	-28.6	-35.6	-18.5	-23.5	-11.5
Change on year		-210	-46	-44	-27	-55	-38
Change %		-24.8	-36.3	-36.1	-23.3	-29.1	-13.0

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777

* 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				
Jan-Mar 2018		817	1,417	1.7
Jan-Mar 2019		847	1,298	1.5
Apr-Jun 2019		831	1,329	1.6
Jul-Sep 2019		820	1,306	1.6
Oct-Dec 2019		801	1,290	1.6
Jan-Mar 2020	(r)	794	1,348	1.7
Change on quarter		-8	58	0.1
Change %		-1.0	4.5	
Change on year		-54	50	0.2
Change %		-6.3	3.8	

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey/ Labour Force Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

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

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

United Kingdom (thousands), seasonally adjusted

SIC 2007 sections	All vacancies ¹ B-S	Mining & quarrying B	Manufacturing C	Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply ² 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)										
Feb-Apr 2018	816	1	61	3	5	23	132	41	88	46
Feb-Apr 2019 (r)	847	2	57	4	4	27	137	41	95	47
Mar-May 2019	841	2	57	4	4	27	135	41	98	46
Apr-Jun 2019	831	2	56	4	4	27	135	41	93	44
May-Jul 2019	824	2	54	3	4	25	135	38	93	42
Jun-Aug 2019	818	2	54	3	4	24	128	35	95	42
Jul-Sept 2019	820	2	52	3	3	25	131	33	97	44
Aug-Oct 2019	803	2	51	3	3	24	128	32	92	43
Sept-Nov 2019	797	1	50	3	4	26	131	33	88	41
Oct-Dec 2019	801	2	52	3	4	26	130	35	86	40
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	807	2	55	3	4	26	129	36	87	42
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	817	2	56	3	3	28	133	35	90	43
Jan-Mar 2020 (r)	794	2	52	3	4	27	129	35	86	42
Feb-Apr 2020 (p)	637	1	42	3	4	21	99	28	56	31
Change on quarter *	-170	0	-13	0	0	-6	-31	-8	-32	-11
Change % *	-21.0	-12.5	-24.1	0.0	-2.8	-22.1	-23.6	-22.8	-36.4	-26.7
Change on year	-210	0	-15	-1	0	-7	-39	-13	-39	-16
Change %	-24.8	-6.7	-26.8	-16.7	-10.3	-24.9	-28.2	-32.2	-41.5	-34.5
	AP2Z	JPA2	JPA3	JPA4	JPA5	JPA6	JPA7	JPA8	JPA9	JPB2
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Feb-Apr 2018	2.7	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.8	2.8	3.8	3.6
Feb-Apr 2019 (r)	2.8	2.9	2.3	2.6	1.7	1.9	3.0	2.7	4.1	3.5
Mar-May 2019	2.7	3.1	2.3	2.6	1.7	1.9	2.9	2.7	4.2	3.5
Apr-Jun 2019	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.7	1.9	1.8	2.9	2.7	4.0	3.3
May-Jul 2019	2.7	2.9	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.7	2.9	2.5	4.0	3.2
Jun-Aug 2019	2.7	3.1	2.2	2.4	1.7	1.6	2.8	2.3	4.1	3.2
Jul-Sept 2019	2.7	3.1	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.7	2.8	2.2	4.1	3.3
Aug-Oct 2019	2.6	2.9	2.0	2.3	1.5	1.7	2.8	2.1	3.9	3.2
Sept-Nov 2019	2.6	2.7	2.0	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.2	3.8	3.1
Oct-Dec 2019	2.6	2.9	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.3	3.7	3.0
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	2.6	3.1	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.4	3.7	3.2
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.3	1.4	1.9	2.9	2.4	3.9	3.2
Jan-Mar 2020 (r)	2.6	2.9	2.1	2.4	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.3	3.7	3.1
Feb-Apr 2020 (p)	2.1	2.7	1.7	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.3
Change on quarter *	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5	-1.4	-0.8
Change on year	-0.7	-0.2	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.5	-0.8	-0.9	-1.7	-1.2

SIC 2007 sections	Financial & insurance activities K	Real estate activities ² L	Professional scientific & technical activities M	Administrative & support service activities 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)										
Feb-Apr 2018	40	10	76	53	20	47	127	22	22	723
Feb-Apr 2019 (r)	35	12	81	51	22	52	136	22	22	753
Mar-May 2019	34	11	80	49	22	52	138	21	21	749
Apr-Jun 2019	34	12	79	50	23	53	138	20	20	739
May-Jul 2019	34	11	80	48	22	52	139	23	19	736
Jun-Aug 2019	33	11	80	52	23	51	139	23	19	731
Jul-Sept 2019	32	10	84	54	22	49	139	20	20	734
Aug-Oct 2019	31	12	83	54	23	48	138	17	19	720
Sept-Nov 2019	31	11	79	52	23	51	138	16	19	714
Oct-Dec 2019	32	12	77	55	24	51	138	18	19	716
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	31	11	75	53	22	53	137	22	19	717
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	31	13	77	54	22	51	137	22	18	726
Jan-Mar 2020 (r)	29	14	73	51	22	50	136	23	17	706
Feb-Apr 2020 (p)	26	12	57	41	21	41	126	15	14	566
Change on quarter *	-5	1	-18	-12	-1	-11	-11	-6	-4	-151
Change % *	-16.6	7.0	-24.4	-23.0	-3.7	-21.6	-8.2	-29.3	-23.1	-21.1
Change on year	-8	0	-24	-10	-1	-11	-11	-7	-8	-187
Change %	-24.3	-0.8	-29.3	-20.4	-2.3	-21.0	-7.7	-30.9	-35.3	-24.8
	JPB3	JPB4	JPB5	JPB6	JPB7	JPB8	JPB9	JPC2	JPC3	JPC4
Vacancies per 100 employee jobs										
Feb-Apr 2018	3.8	1.9	2.9	2.0	1.5	1.8	3.2	2.9	3.6	2.8
Feb-Apr 2019 (r)	3.3	2.3	3.0	1.9	1.6	2.0	3.3	3.0	3.4	2.9
Mar-May 2019	3.2	2.1	3.0	1.8	1.7	1.9	3.4	2.9	3.2	2.9
Apr-Jun 2019	3.2	2.3	2.9	1.8	1.7	2.0	3.4	2.7	3.0	2.8
May-Jul 2019	3.2	2.1	3.0	1.8	1.7	2.0	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.8
Jun-Aug 2019	3.2	2.1	3.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.8
Jul-Sept 2019	3.0	1.9	3.1	2.0	1.7	1.9	3.4	2.7	3.1	2.8
Aug-Oct 2019	3.0	2.2	3.1	2.0	1.8	1.8	3.4	2.3	2.9	2.7
Sept-Nov 2019	2.9	2.1	2.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	3.4	2.2	2.9	2.7
Oct-Dec 2019	3.0	2.3	2.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	3.4	2.4	2.9	2.7
Nov-Jan 2020 (r)	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.0	1.6	2.0	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.7
Dec-Feb 2020 (r)	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.0	1.6	1.9	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.8
Jan-Mar 2020 (r)	2.8	2.6	2.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.7
Feb-Apr 2020 (p)	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.5	3.1	2.0	2.2	2.2
Change on quarter *	-0.5	0.2	-0.7	-0.5	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.8	-0.7	-0.6
Change on year	-0.8	0.0	-0.9	-0.4	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-1.2	-0.7

1. Excludes Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

2. 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.

Source: ONS Vacancy Survey

Vacancy Survey enquiries: vacancy.survey@ons.gov.uk, 01633 456777