Weekly briefing on ONS COVID-19 data and analysis

17 August – 21 August 2020

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Contents

This pack provides a brief overview of key facts and figures from the latest content from ONS between 17 and 21 August 2020 relating to COVID-19. It includes published ONS data on aspects of the economy and society impacted by COVID-19, summarising the latest information from this week covering the following themes: Mortality and deaths, Infection, Preventative measures, Personal well-being, Social impacts, Public sector finance, UK inflation, Retail sales, UK Trade, Business impact, Company impact, Consumer behaviour, Road traffic and Labour market.

Further information, including strengths and limitations, about the statistics contained in this pack can be found by clicking through on the source links on the relevant pages.

Information on ONS publications and statistics relating to COVID-19 included in this pack can be found on ONS' COVID-19 landing page where all articles, statistical bulletins and data relating to COVID-19 are published. ONS' Coronavirus Roundup page provides a summary of 'what we know about COVID-19' and you can receive email alerts on the latest updates. Our National Statistical Blog provides news and insight from across ONS.

We are constantly seeking to improve this product, please provide feedback on how you use it and what additional information would be useful via COVID19Analysis@ons.gov.uk.

Main Points

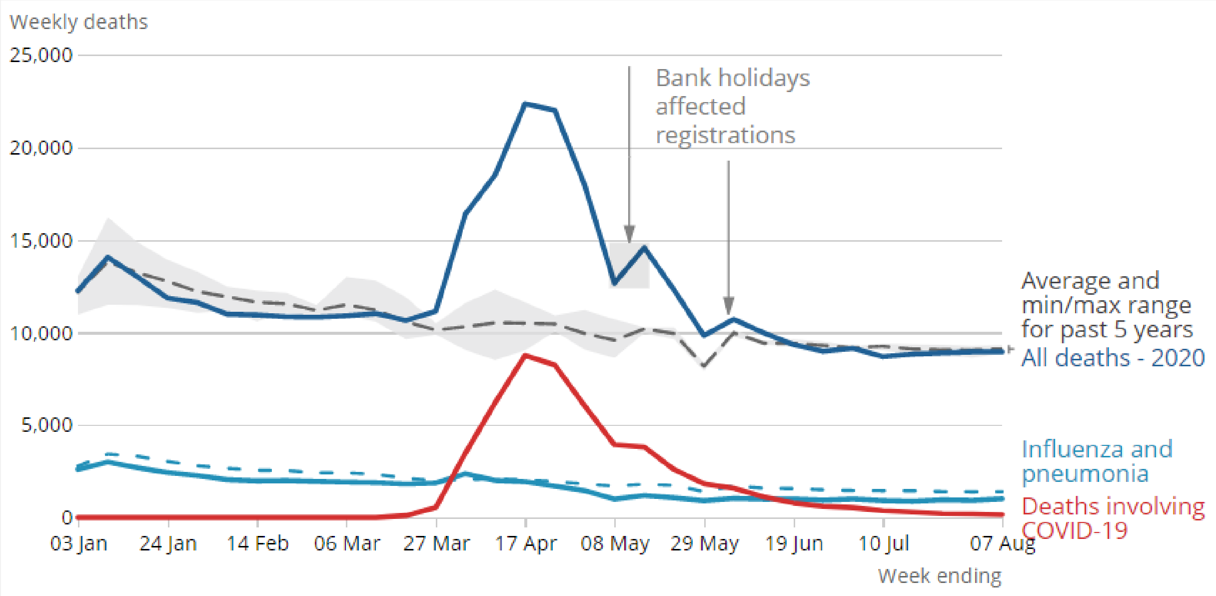
- Eighth consecutive week that deaths have been below 5-year average.
- The COVID-19 mortality rate declined for the third consecutive month in both England and Wales.
- Evidence of a small increase in percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 in July 2020 however this appears to have levelled off.
- Over the most recent 8-week period of the study, those of Asian or British Asian ethnicity were more likely to test positive for COVID-19 than those of White ethnicity.
- Almost all adults said they wore a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at some point whilst outside their home this week.
- Anxiety levels have decreased this week for the first time since June.
- Almost one in five adults were likely to be experiencing some form of depression during the pandemic; almost double pre-pandemic levels.
- Over half of adults said they had visited other households indoors that were not part of their support bubble.
- Disabled people most concerned about the impacts of COVID-19 on their well-being and access to healthcare in July 2020.
- At the end of July 2020, debt (public sector net debt excluding public sector banks, PSND ex) exceeded £2 trillion for the first time.
- Over half of businesses report lower turnover than expected for this time of year; whilst 10% report facing a moderate risk of insolvency.
- Overall footfall reaches highest level since mid-March and road traffic has been gradually returning to pre-lockdown levels.
- The total volume of online job adverts fell between 7 and 14 August 2020.

Eighth consecutive week that deaths have been below 5-year average

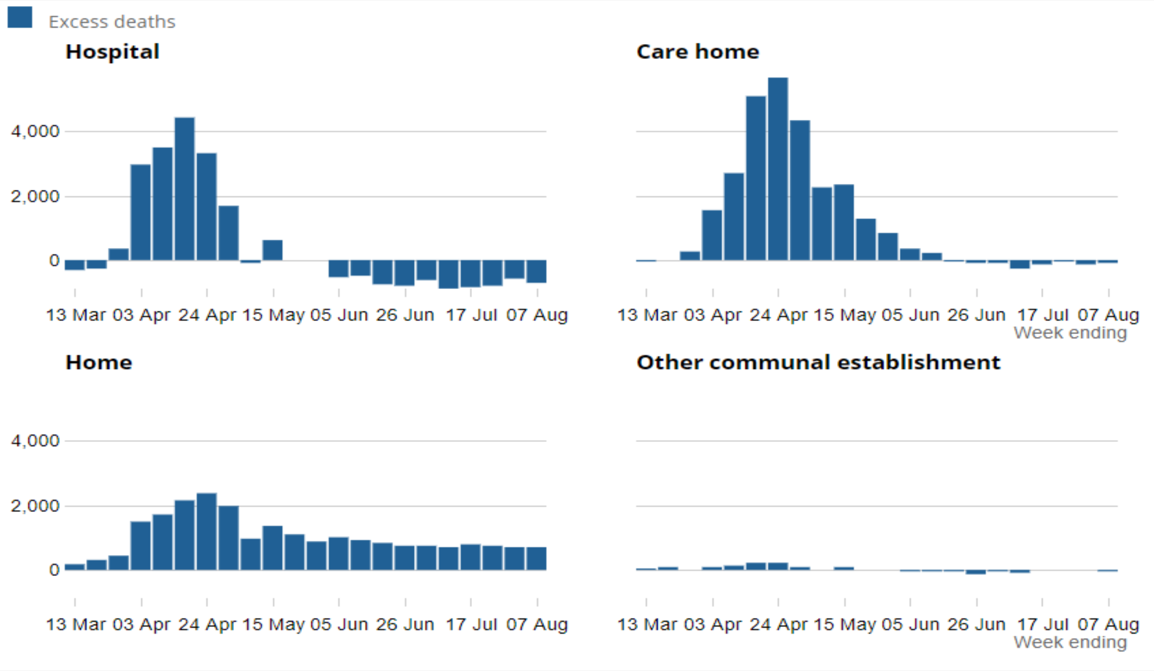
Death registrations during w/e 7 August 2020 in England & Wales:

- Total deaths were 8,945; down 1 on previous week and 1.7% (157) below the 5-year average.
- Deaths related to COVID-19 were 152 (1.7% of all deaths): down 41 (21.2%) on previous week; the lowest number of COVID-19 deaths since w/e 20 March and 51,879 COVID-19 deaths in total.

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased for the 16th consecutive week
Number of deaths registered by week, England & Wales, 28 Dec 2019 to 7 Aug 2020



Deaths in private homes remained above the five-year average in latest week
Number of deaths registered by place of occurrence, England & Wales, 28 Dec 2019 to 7 Aug 2020



- Private homes remained the only setting to record any (702) excess deaths (deaths above the five-year average).
- 55.0% of all deaths involving COVID-19 to w/e 7 August were males.
- 89.3% of all deaths involving COVID-19 to w/e 7 August were aged 65 and over.

162 UK COVID-19 deaths (w/e 7 August): 56,357 total UK COVID-19 deaths.

Source: Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: w/e 7 August 2020

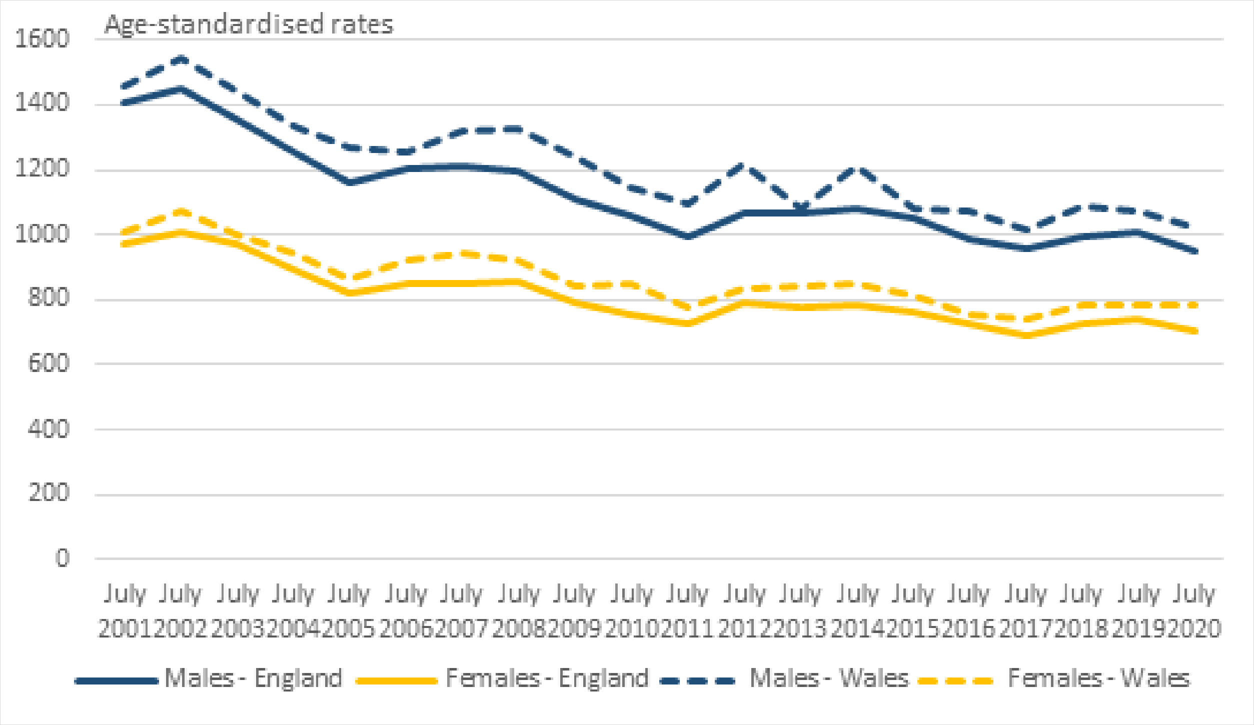
The COVID-19 mortality rate declined for the third consecutive month in both England and Wales

In July 2020:

- 38,179 deaths were registered in England, 576 more than July's five-year average. Wales, with 2,548 deaths registered, were 69 deaths higher than the five-year average.
- Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death in England (10.6% of all deaths) with Ischaemic Heart Disease the leading cause in Wales (11.7% of all deaths).
- In England, COVID-19 was the eighth most frequent underlying cause of death accounting for 2.6% of all deaths (976 deaths). In Wales, it did not feature in the top ten leading causes.
- The age-standardised mortality rate (ASMR) of death due to COVID-19 for England and Wales was 21.0 and 16.7 per 100,000 persons respectively. In both countries, the COVID-19 mortality rate declined for the third consecutive month.

Mortality rates for the month of July have fallen between 2001 and 2020

ASMR rates by sex, England and Wales, deaths registered in July 2001 to 2020



330,590 deaths have occurred in England so far in 2020 (that were registered up to 8 August), 35,123 more than the five-year average for January to July. In Wales, 20,967 deaths occurred in the same period, 1,096 more than the five-year average.

For deaths occurring between January and July 2020 that were registered by 8 August, COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death in 13.7% of all deaths in residents of England ((45,439 deaths) and 10.8% of all deaths in Wales (2,274 deaths).

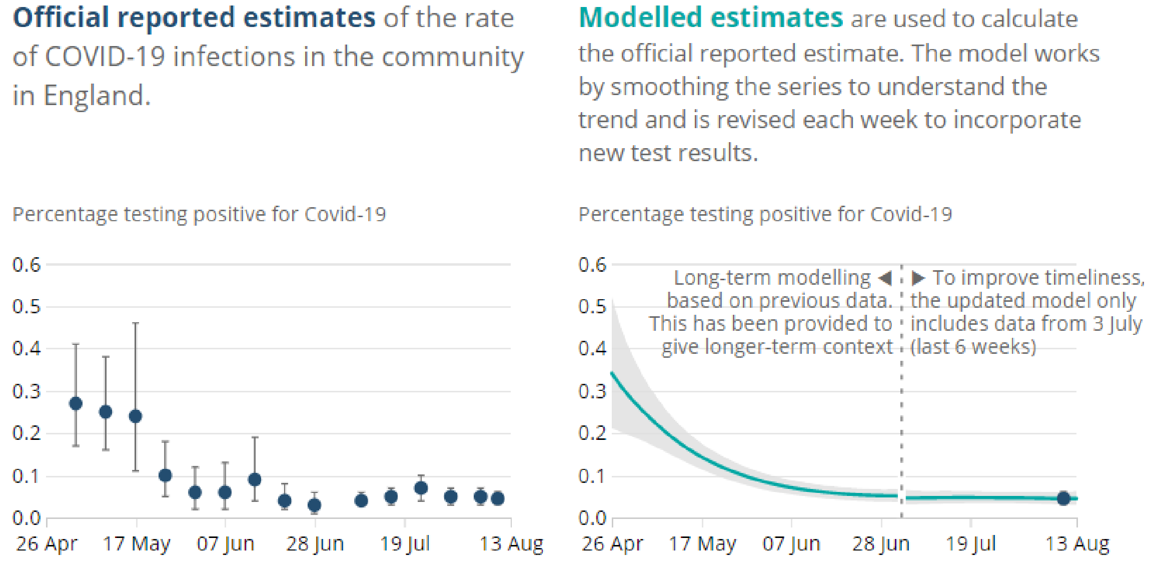
Source: *Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: July 2020*

Evidence of a small increase in percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 in July 2020 however this appears to have levelled off

- An estimated 24,600 people (95% credible interval: 16,900 to 33,800) within the community population in England had COVID-19 during the most recent week, (7 to 13 August 2020), equating to around 1 in 2,200 individuals.
- There is some evidence of a small increase in the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 in July, following a low point in June, but this appears to have now levelled off.
- There is no evidence from this survey to say that there is a difference in COVID-19 infection rates between regions in England.
- During the most recent week, there were an estimated 0.44 (95% credible interval: 0.22 to 0.76) new COVID-19 infections for every 10,000 people in the community population in England, equating to around 2,400 new cases per day (95% credible interval: 1,200 to 4,200).
- There is not enough evidence to say at this point that there has been a fall in incidence in the most recent week, therefore it continues to be reported that the incidence rate for England has levelled off.
- During the most recent week an estimated 1,300 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 400 to 2,900); around 1 in 2,400 people.

There is some evidence of a small increase in people testing positive for COVID-19 in July 2020 after a low point in June, which appears to have now levelled off

Estimated percentage of the population in England testing positive on nose and throat swabs for the coronavirus (COVID-19) daily since 3 July 2020’

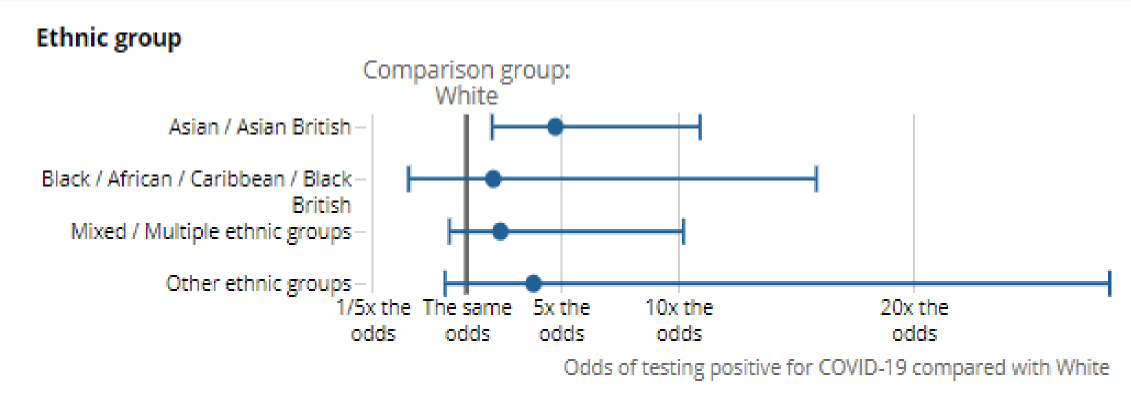


Source: *[Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey pilot: England and Wales, 21 August 2020]*

Over the most recent 8-week period of the study, those of Asian or British Asian ethnicity were more likely to test positive for COVID-19 than those of White ethnicity.

- Over the most recent 8-week period of the study, those of Asian or British Asian ethnicity were more likely to test positive for COVID-19 than those of White ethnicity. Additionally, individuals in one-person households were more likely to test positive on a nose and throat swab than those in two-person households.
- It is not possible to say whether those in patient-facing healthcare roles were more likely to test positive for COVID-19 on a nose and throat swab than others over the most recent 8-week period of study, although there was evidence that they were more at risk than others earlier on in the study.
- A higher percentage of those in patient-facing healthcare roles or resident-facing social care roles tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies, indicating past infection, than individuals working in other roles. This is based on blood tests taken over the whole study period.
- There is no difference in the likelihood of males and females testing positive for COVID-19, either for current or past infection.
- It is not possible to say whether there were differences in the likelihood of testing positive for current or past COVID-19 infection based on working location.

Modelled likelihood of testing positive for COVID-19 by ethnic group
The odds ratios of any individual testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on a nose and throat swab by ethnic groups, England, 8 June to 2 August 2020



Symptoms:

- Out of those who have ever tested positive for COVID-19 on nose and throat swabs over the whole period of study, just 28% reported any evidence of symptoms around time of their positive swab.

Note: The presented outcomes relate to COVID-19 infections within the community population i.e. those in private residential households. Those in hospitals, care homes or other institutional settings in England are excluded.

Source: [Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey: characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 in England, August 2020]

Lead analyst: Emily Connors; James Cooper
(Infection.Survey.Analysis@ons.gov.uk)

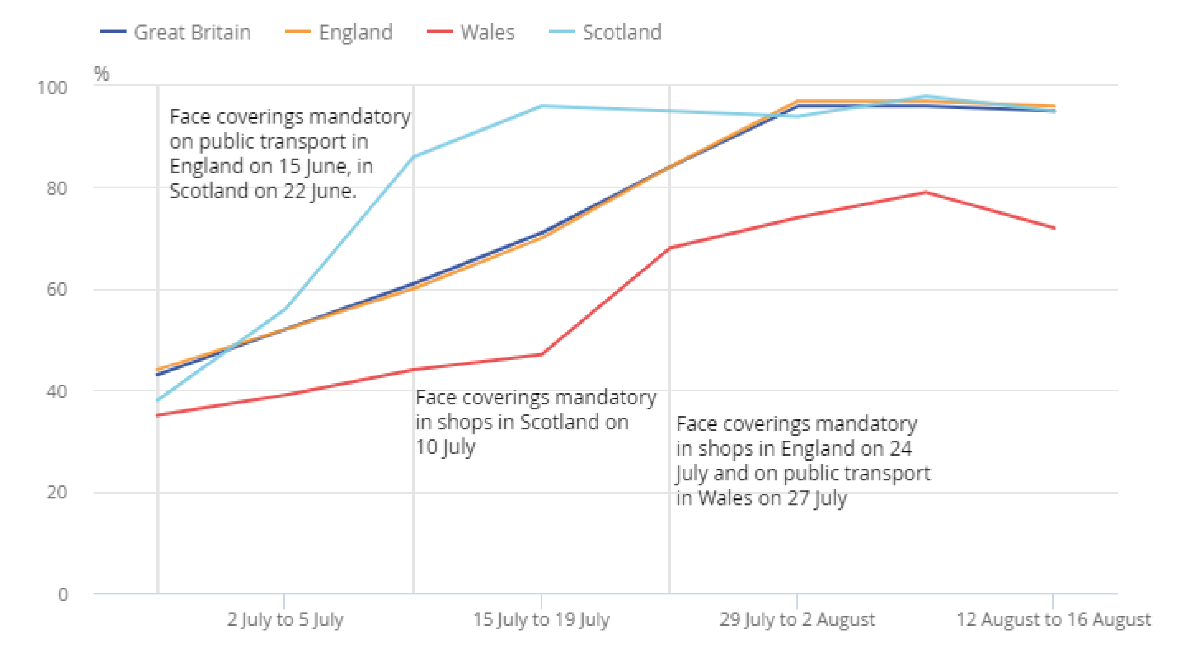
Almost all adults said they wore a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at some point whilst outside their home this week

- For a third week, nearly all adults (95%) that have left their home said they had worn a face covering at some point to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- This proportion was 28% at the end of May but increased gradually through June and July as more countries mandated the wearing of face coverings on public transport and in retail settings.

Key trends on leaving home	22-26 Jul	29 Jul – 2 Aug	5-9 Aug	12-16 Aug
Percentage of adults that left their home in the past 7 days	94	92	95	94
Percentage of adults that feel safe or very safe outside their home due to COVID-19	32	34	33	35
Percentage of adults that have left their home and worn a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19*	84	96	96	95

Almost all adults in Great Britain who left home this week reported wearing a face covering at least once, but this varies by country

Great Britain, June to August 2020



Note: These estimates are based on adults who have worn a face covering at least once, over the past seven days, and does not give an indication of how frequently people are wearing a face covering over the whole duration of the period.

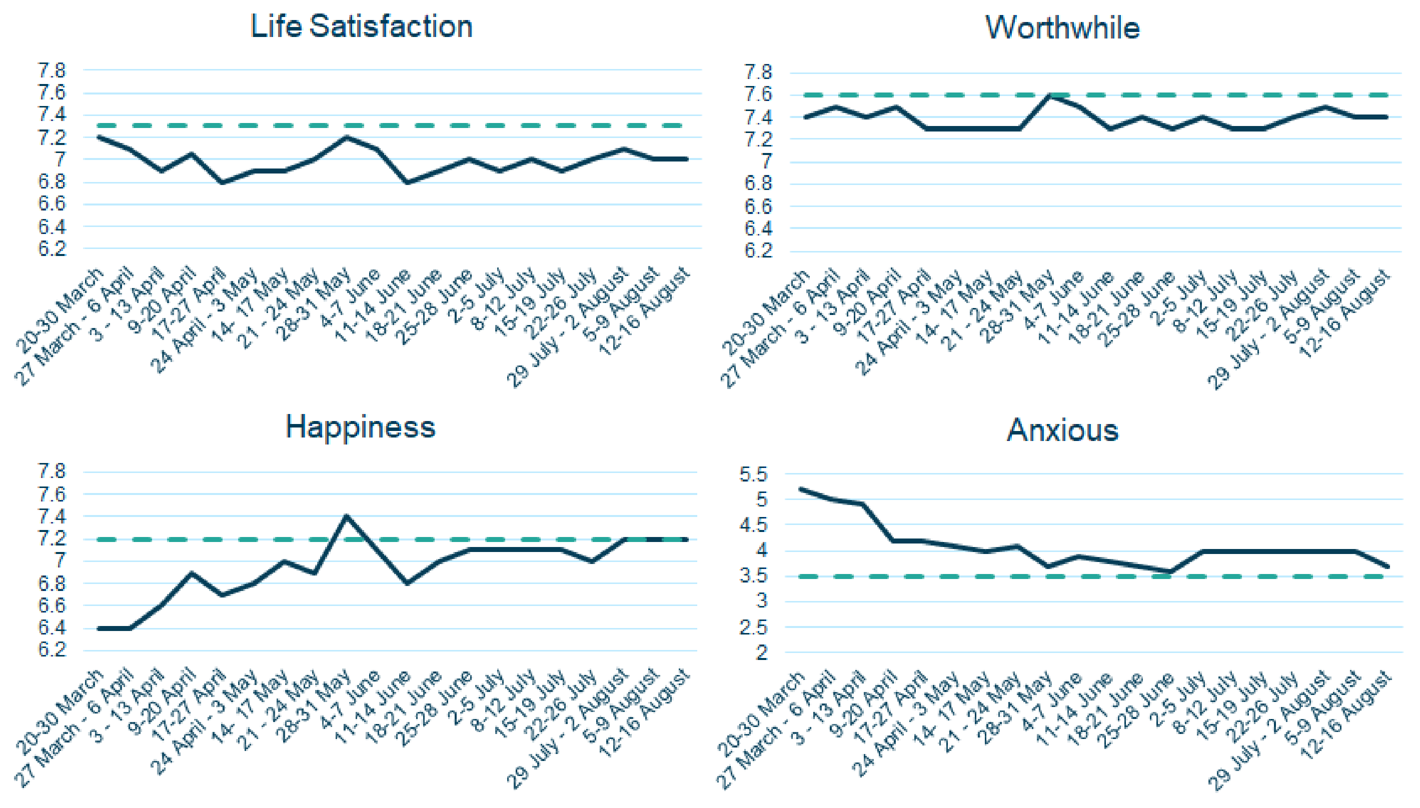
Source: Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 21 August 2020

Anxiety levels have decreased this week for the first time since June

Mean scores for personal well-being ratings
Great Britain, March to August 2020 with February 2020 reference point (dashed line)

Question: "Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?", "Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?", "Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?", "Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?".

Each of these questions is answered on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”.



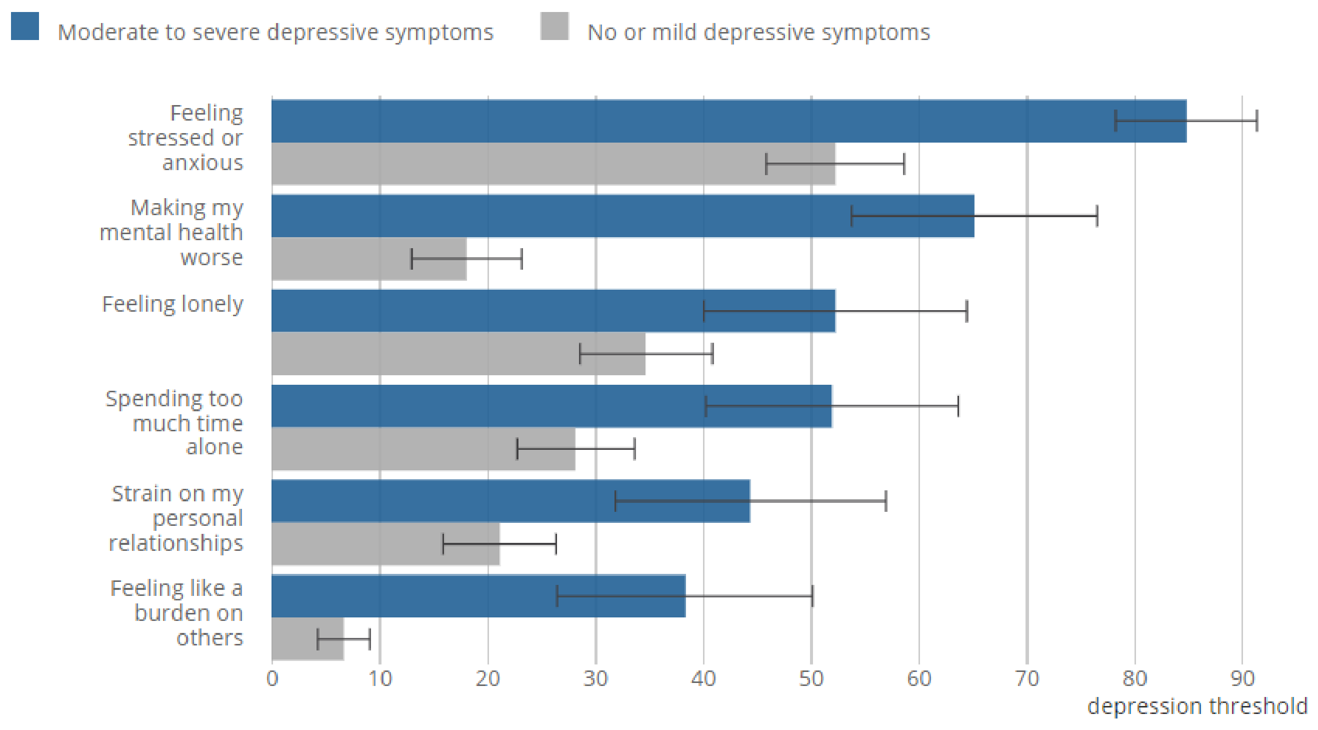
Key trends on well-being	22-26 July	29 July – 2 Aug	5-9 August	12-16 August
Percentage of adults that say they are somewhat or very worried about the effect COVID-19 is having on their life right now	65	70	67	67
Percentage of adults that say their well-being is affected	43	41	40	41
Percentage of adults that say they are often/always or sometimes lonely	24	20	24	23

Source: Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 21 August 2020

Almost one in five adults were likely to be experiencing some form of depression during the pandemic; almost double pre-pandemic levels.

- Almost one in five adults (19.2%) were likely to be experiencing some form of depression during the COVID-19 pandemic in June 2020. This is almost double the pre-pandemic level where around 1 in 10 (9.7%) experienced some form of depression.
- One in eight adults (12.9%) developed moderate to severe depressive symptoms during the pandemic. Around 1 in 25 adults (3.5%) saw an improvement over this period.
- Adults aged 16 to 39, females, those unable to afford an unexpected expense or those with a disabled were the most likely to experience some form of depression during the pandemic.
- Feeling stressed or anxious was the most common way adults experiencing some form of depression felt their well-being was being affected, with 84.9% stating this.
- Over two in five (42.2%) adults experiencing some form of depression during the pandemic said their relationships were being affected, compared with one in five (20.7%) adults with no or mild depressive symptoms.

Feeling stressed or anxious was the most common way adults experiencing some form of depression felt their well-being was being affected
Great Britain, July 2019 to June 2020



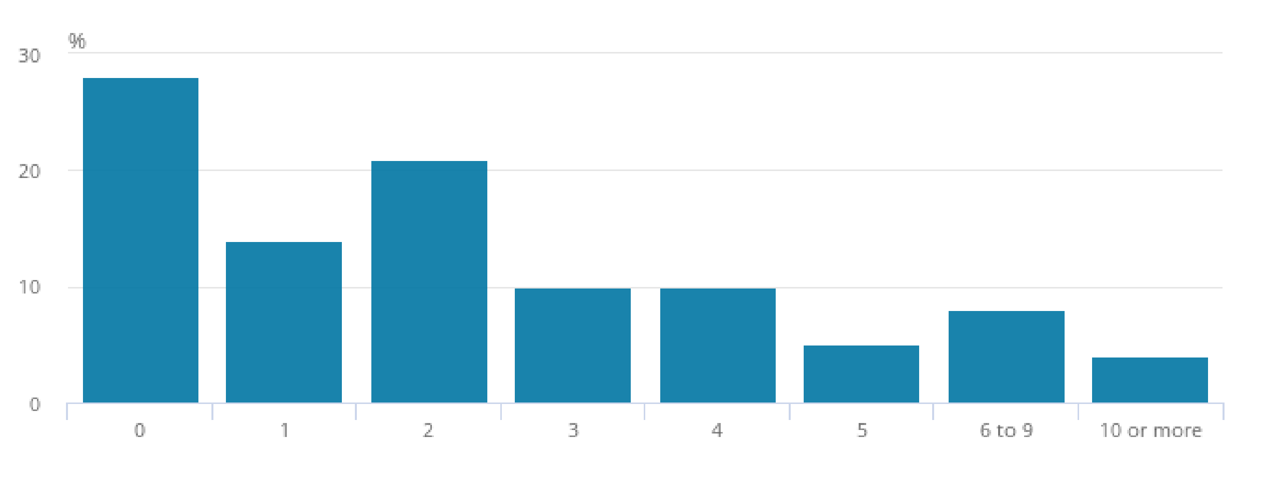
Source: *Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain: June 2020*

Over half of adults said they had visited other households indoors that were not part of their support bubble

- Over four in ten (43%) adults reported that they had not visited any other households indoors that were not part of their support bubble.
- An additional 38% reported socialising indoors with one other household, and a further 17% reported socialising with more than one other household.
- When asked about the maximum number of people from outside their household they have socialised with (excluding people who are part of their support bubble), over one in four (28%) adults reported that they had not met with any people from outside their household.
- An additional 60% reported they have met with up between one and five people at the same time from outside their household.

Six in ten adults (60%) said they have met with between one and five people at the same time from outside their household

Great Britain, 12 to 16 August 2020



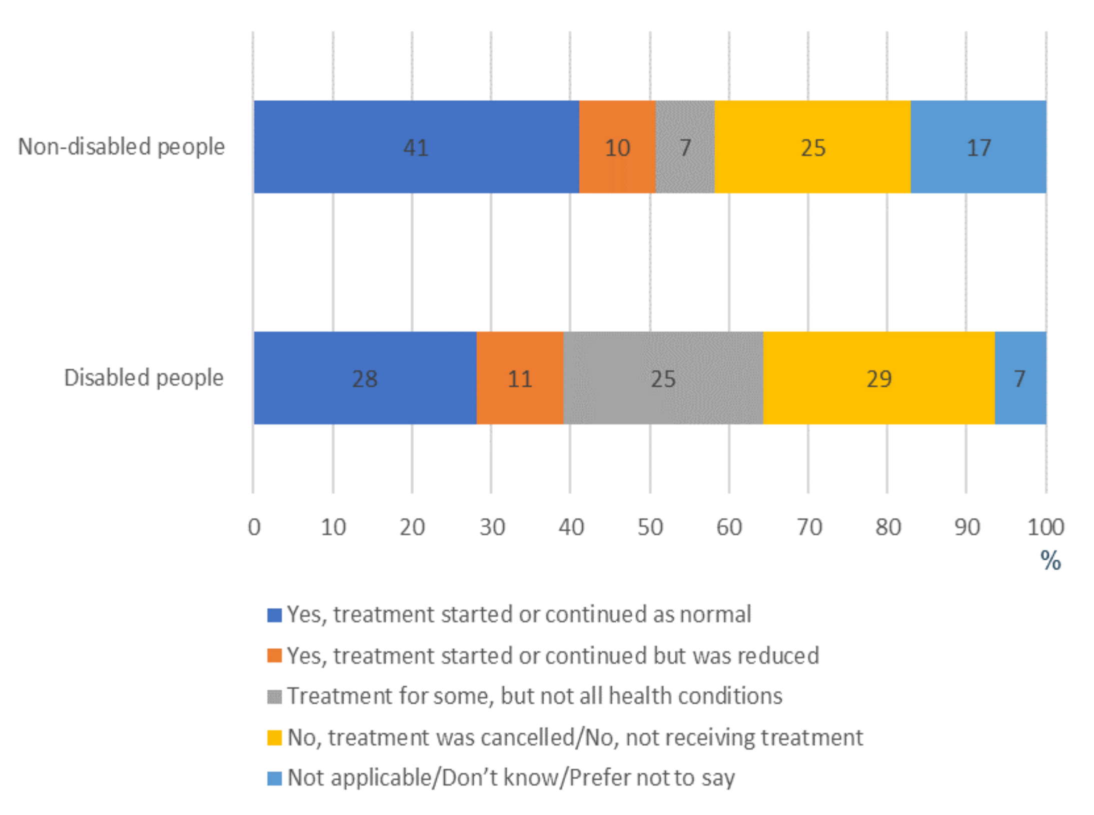
Note: “Support bubbles” in England, or “extended households” in Scotland and Wales, is where your household can choose to join together with one other household to provide support and help avoid loneliness. We refer to both as “support bubbles” here.

Source: Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 21 August 2020

Disabled people were most concerned about the impacts of COVID-19 on their well-being and access to healthcare in July 2020

- 24% of disabled people were most concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their well-being; next most frequently, 13% reported being most concerned about access to healthcare and treatment (13% and 3% for non-disabled people).
- Disabled people continue to experience poorer well-being ratings than before the pandemic started. 45% of disabled people reported high anxiety, compared to 29% of non-disabled people.
- Disabled people more frequently than non-disabled people indicated that COVID-19 is affecting their well-being because it makes their mental health worse, they are feeling lonely, spending too much time alone, and feeling like a burden on others.
- Disabled people were more likely to report leaving their homes for medical needs or to provide care to a vulnerable person (19%) than non-disabled people (7%) but less likely to report leaving their home to eat or a drink at a restaurant, café, bar or pub.
- More disabled people (37%) had still not met up with other people outside their home than non-disabled people (29%). 9% of disabled people indicated feeling very unsafe when outside their home because of the COVID-19 outbreak, compared with 3% of non-disabled people.

25% of disabled people who were receiving medical care before the pandemic reported now receiving treatment for only some of their conditions (7% for non-disabled people in a similar situation).
Great Britain, July 2020 – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey



Source: Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain: July 2020

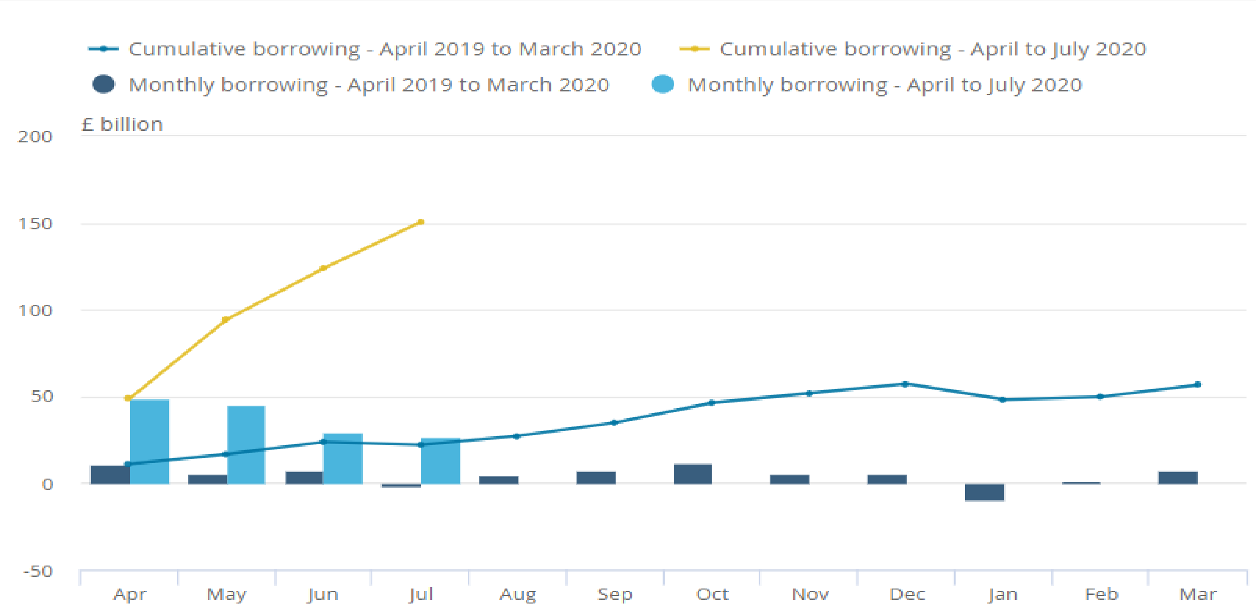
Lead analyst: Josephine Foubert; David Ainslie
(life.course@ons.gov.uk)

Public debt hits £2 trillion for the first time

- Debt (public sector net debt excluding public sector banks, PSND ex) has exceeded £2 trillion for the first time; at the end of July 2020, debt was £2,004.0 billion, £227.6 billion more than at the same point last year.
- Debt at the end of July 2020 was 100.5% of GDP, the first time it has been above 100% since the financial year ending March 1961.

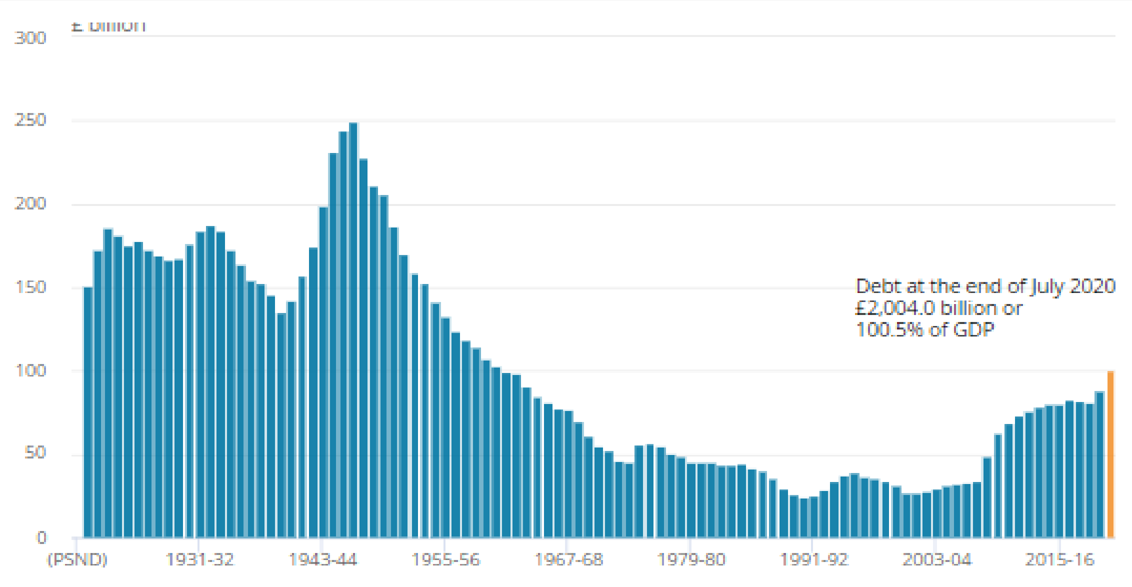
Borrowing in the current financial year-to-date is substantially higher than in the same period last year

Public sector net borrowing excluding public sector banks, UK, the current financial year-to-date (April to July 2020) compared with the financial year ending March 2020



Debt expressed as a percentage of GDP has reached levels last seen in the early 1960s

Public sector net debt excluding public sector banks, UK, financial year ending March 1921 to July 2020



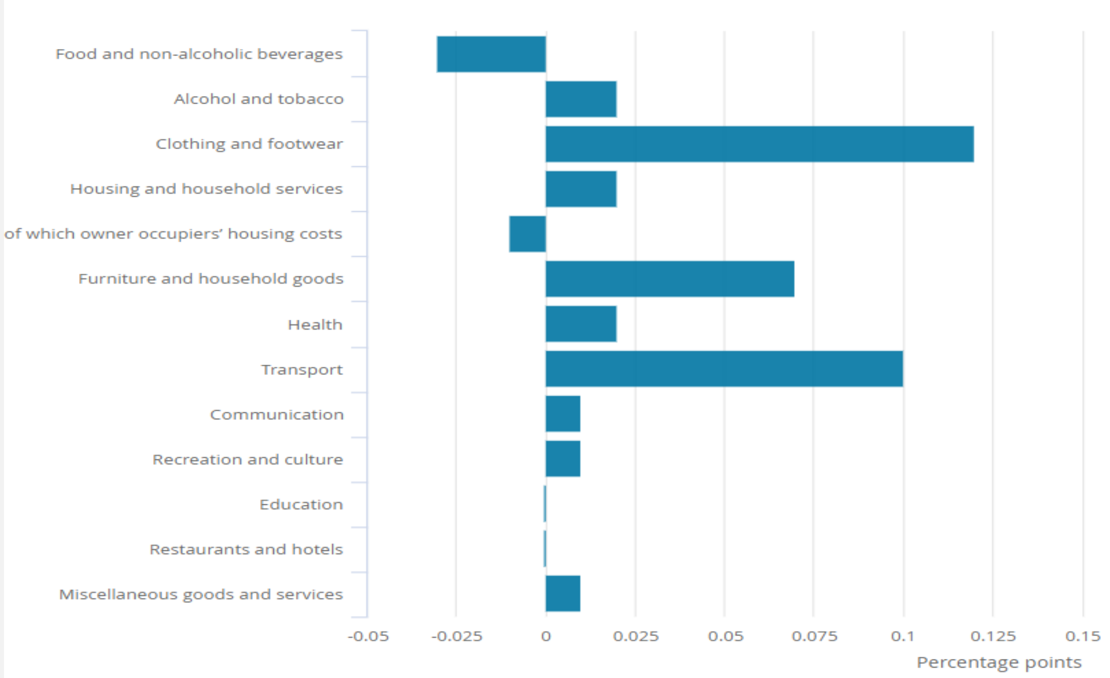
- Borrowing (public sector net borrowing excluding public sector banks, PSNB ex) in July 2020 is estimated to have been £26.7 billion, £28.3 billion more than in July 2019 and the fourth highest borrowing in any month on record
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on borrowing. Provisional estimates indicate that the £150.5 billion borrowed in the first four months of the current financial year (April to July 2020) was almost three times the £56.6 billion borrowed in the whole of the latest full financial year (April 2019 to March 2020).

Source: Public sector finances, UK: July 2020

The annual CPIH inflation rate rose to 1.1% in July

- The annual Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) inflation rate was 1.1% in July 2020, up from 0.8% in June 2020. The 12-month Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation rate was 1.0% in July 2020, up from 0.6% in June.
- The largest contribution to the CPIH 12-month inflation rate in July 2020 came from recreation and culture (0.33 percentage points).
- Ordinarily, prices for clothing and footwear experience a larger fall each year between June and July with items being placed on sale in preparation for the arrival of autumn product ranges. Throughout 2020, we have seen clothing and footwear prices follow a different trend. Whilst rises in petrol prices reflect the ease on movement restrictions.
- Falling food prices resulted in a partially offsetting small downward contribution to the change.
- Experimental analysis to reweight the consumer prices basket to reflect changing expenditure patterns suggests CPIH and CPI, both being on average 0.1 percentage points above the official rate in Q2 2020.
- Experimental analysis found that in the latest week (9th – 16th August 2020), prices in the overall High-Demand Products basket remained static, though the all food index increased by 0.3%, driven by an increase in dried pasta and kitchen rolls.

Upward contributions from clothing, fuels, and furniture and household goods increase the headline rate
Contributions to change in the CPIH 12-month inflation rate, UK, between June and July 2020



Source: Consumer price inflation and Re-weighted consumer prices basket – adjusting for consumption changes during lockdown

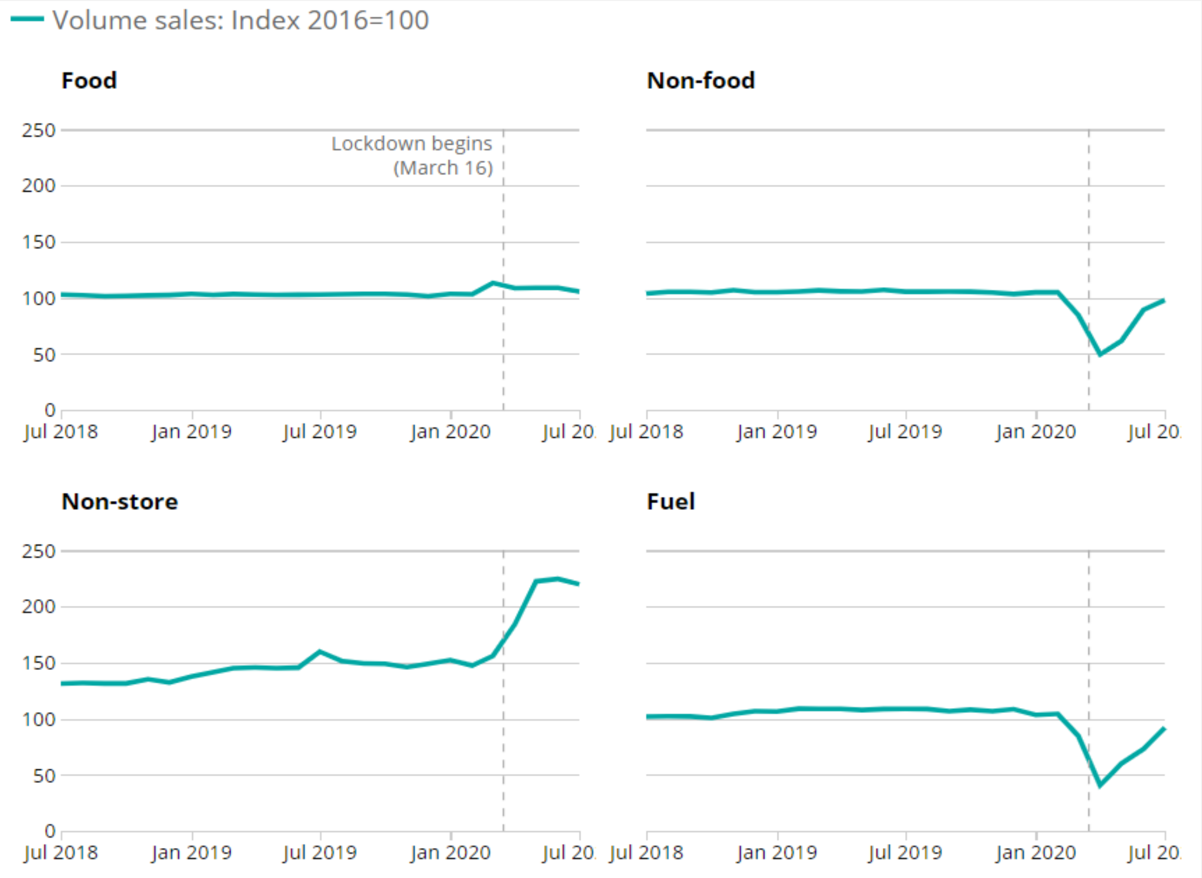
Lead analyst: Andy King; Kathryn Keane
(cpi@ons.gov.uk)

Retail sales recover and are now 3% above pre-pandemic levels

- In July 2020, retail sales volumes rose by 3.6% when compared with June, and are 3.0% above pre-pandemic levels in February 2020.
- Despite a fall of 3.1% in July 2020 for food stores, volume sales were still 2.4% higher than February 2020. The monthly fall in food store sales could be explained by the re-opening of restaurants and bars from 4 July. For non-store retailing, there was a monthly fall of 2.1% in volume sales; possibly an impact of an increasing number of retail stores re-opening. Despite this, non-store volume sales are still 49.2% higher than pre-pandemic levels in February.
- In July, fuel sales continued to recover from low sales levels but were still 11.7% lower than February. Clothing store sales were the worst hit during the pandemic and volume sales in July remained 25.7% lower than February, even with a July 2020 monthly rise of 11.9%.
- Online retail sales fell by 7.0% in July when compared with June, but the strong growth experienced over the pandemic has meant that sales are still 50.4% higher than February's pre-pandemic levels.

Food and non-store retailing were at higher levels than before the pandemic, while non-food and fuel still remained lower than February 2020

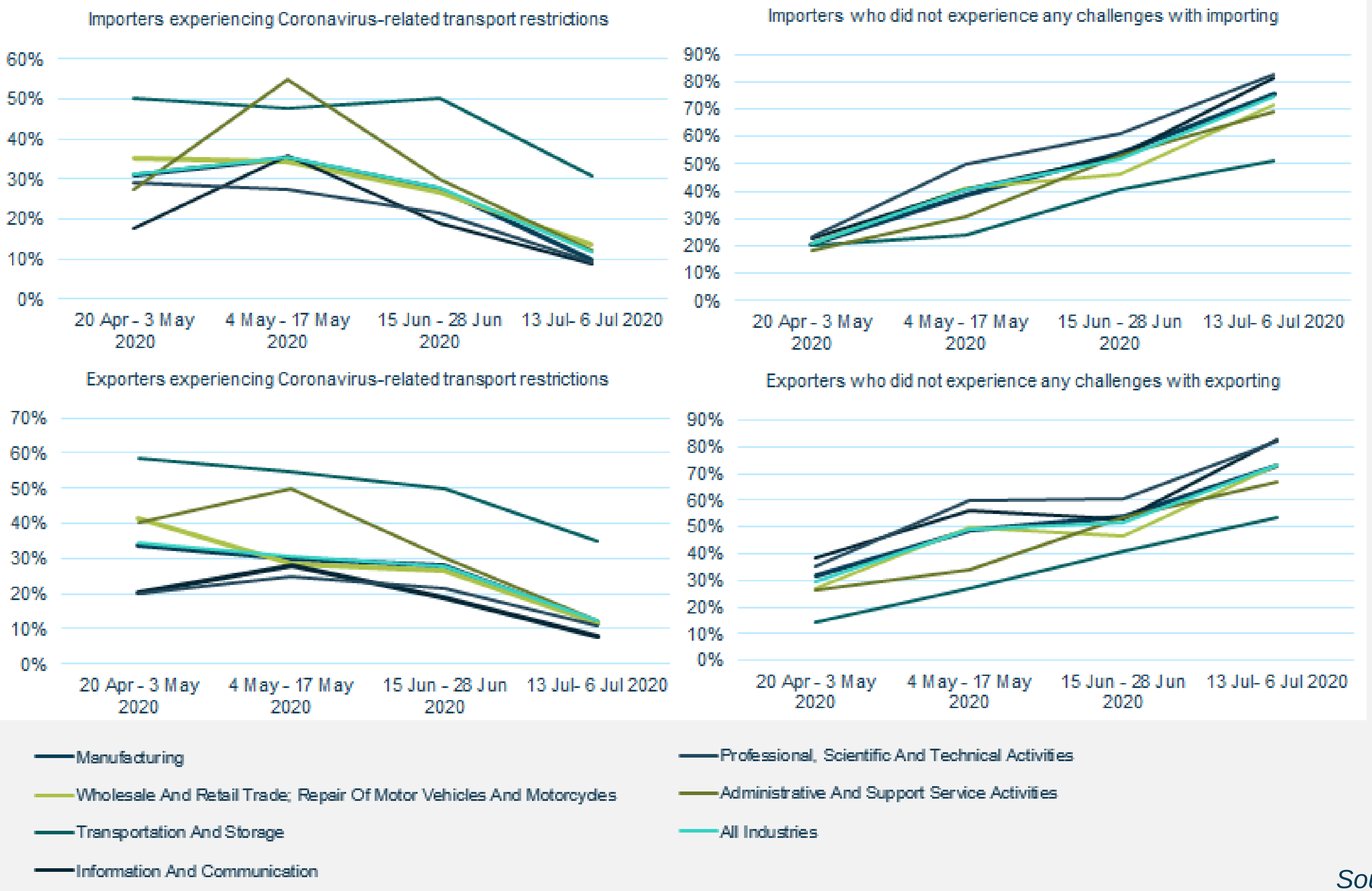
Volume sales, seasonally adjusted, Great Britain, July 2018 to July 2020



Source: *Retail sales, Great Britain*

Rising share of businesses reporting no importing/exporting challenges

Effect of COVID-19 on importing/exporting by industry, reported by businesses that experienced any of the listed challenges with importing/exporting in the two weeks prior to the survey, from 20 April to 9 August 2020 (excluding industries with incomplete data).

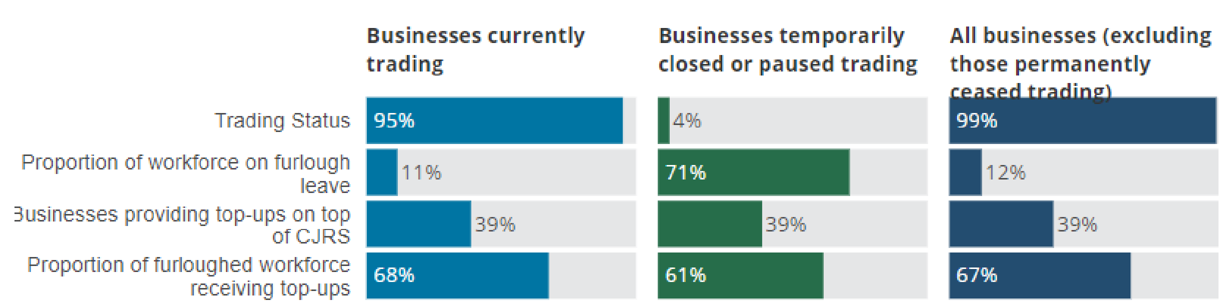


- For importers and exporters across all industries, the number of businesses reporting that they 'did not experience any challenges with importing' has been increasing since late April.
- Across most industries, for importers and exporters, the number of businesses reporting that they experienced 'Coronavirus-related transport restrictions' has been declining since late April.
- As a result, there has been an increase in the number of businesses reporting 'exporting has not been affected'. This has risen from 43.0% between 15 and 28 June 2020 (BICS wave 8), to 47.5% between 13 and 26 July 2020 (BICS wave 10).
- Importing has seen a similar trend as more businesses have been reporting 'importing has not been affected', increasing from 50.5% from 15 June to 28 June 2020 (BICS wave 8), to 53.2% in from 13 July to 26 July 2020 (BICS wave 10).

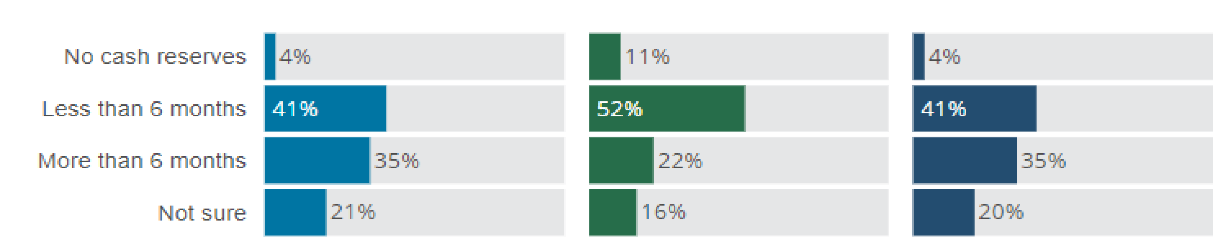
Source: Business Impact of COVID-19 (BICS) results: BICS Wave (all waves)

12% of the workforce remain on furlough leave, with 67% of furloughed employees receiving top ups to their pay

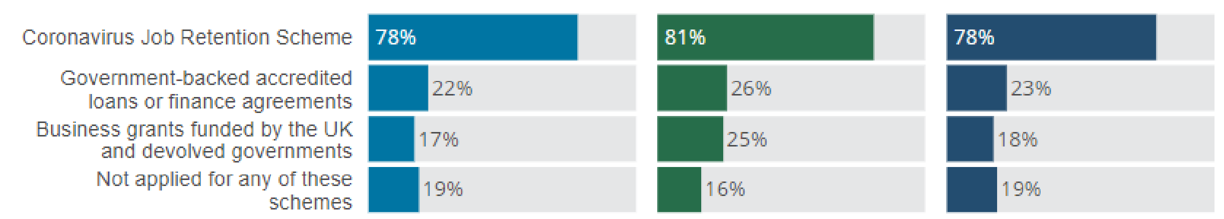
Proportion of businesses by trading status, and proportions of workforce on furlough leave and receiving wage top-ups, 27 Jul to 9 Aug, UK



Cash reserves, 27 Jul to 9 Aug, UK



Proportion of businesses applying to government schemes, 27 Jul to 9 Aug, UK



- 78% of all responding businesses had applied for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS); 12% of the workforce in all businesses had been furloughed.
- 39% of businesses who had furloughed staff were providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, covering 67% of the furloughed workforce.
- Of businesses currently trading, 41% reported that they had less than six months of cash reserves and 4% reported they had no cash reserves. The corresponding figures for businesses who had paused trading were 52% and 11% respectively.

Source: *Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 20 August 2020*

Over half of businesses report lower turnover than expected for this time of year; whilst 10% report facing a moderate risk of insolvency

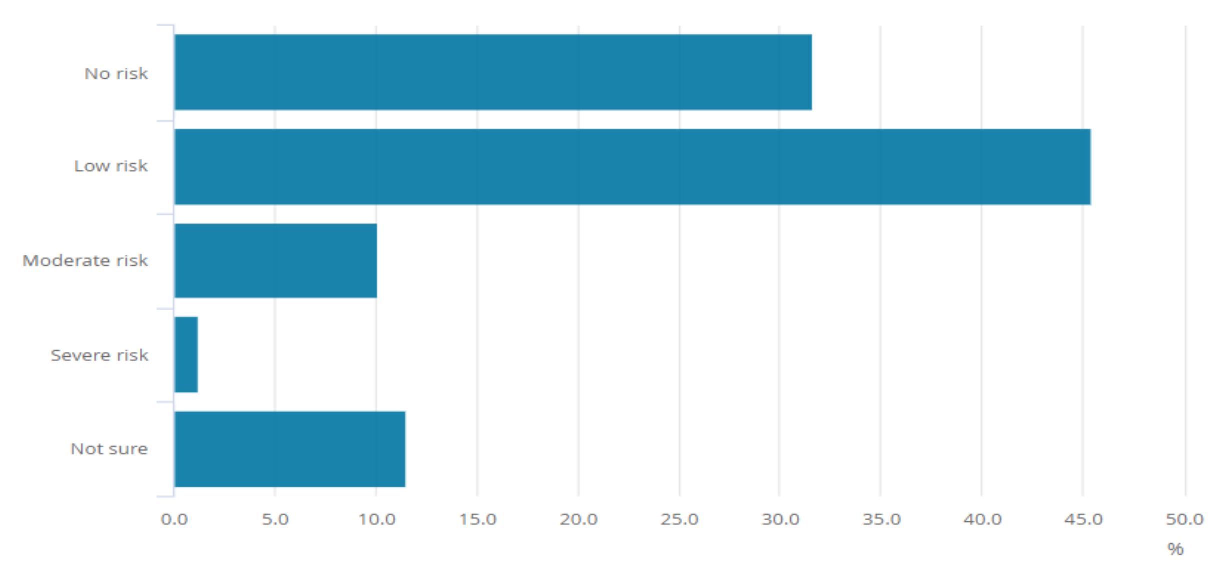
- Over half of currently trading businesses reported that their turnover had decreased below what is normally expected for this time of year.
- 10% of businesses said that their risk of insolvency was ‘moderate’, and 1% said it was ‘severe’.

Over half of currently trading businesses reported that their turnover had decreased below what is normally expected for this time of year
Percentage of businesses currently trading, 27 July to 9 August 2020, UK

Turnover has increased by more than 50%	<1%
Turnover has increased between 20% and 50%	3%
Turnover has increased by up to 20%	7%
Turnover has not been affected	32%
Turnover has decreased by up to 20%	23%
Turnover has decreased between 20% and 50%	17%
Turnover has decreased by more than 50%	11%
Not sure	6%

Note: The percentages in this chart might not sum to 100% due to rounding.

10% of businesses said that their risk of insolvency was ‘moderate’, and 1% said it was ‘severe’
Percentage of businesses not permanently stopped trading, UK, 27 Jul to 9 Aug 2020



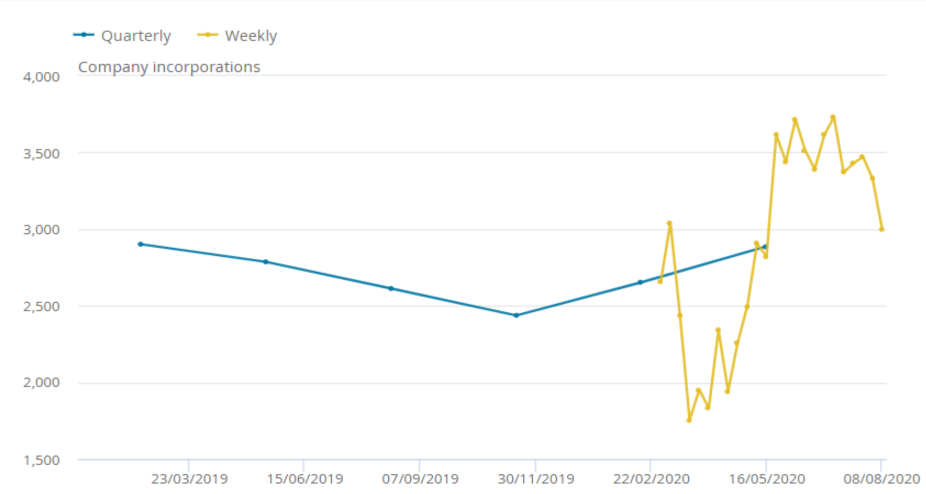
Source: *Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 20 August 2020*

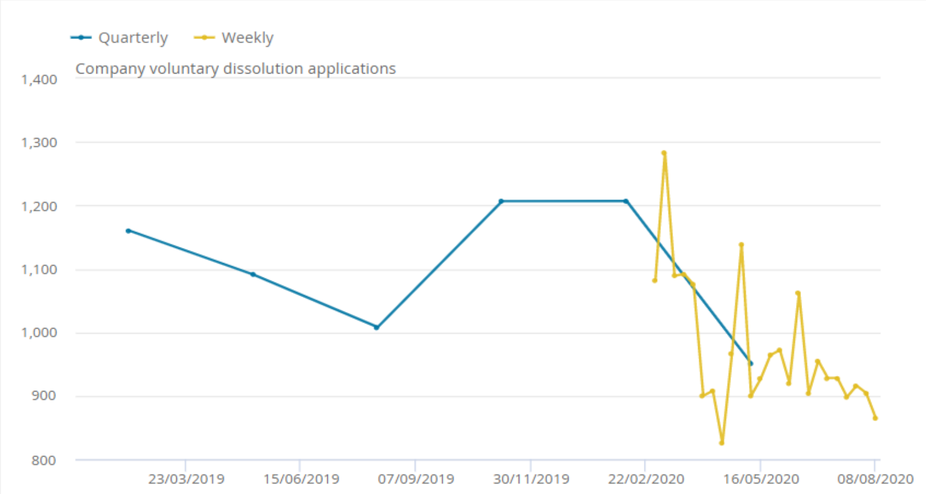
Company incorporations per working day remained above the Quarter 3 2019 average; voluntary dissolutions remained below the Q3 2019 average

- In the week starting Saturday 8 August, there was an average of 3,002 incorporations per working day, a substantial decrease from 3,332 in the previous week. However, it is still higher than the Quarter 3 2019 average of 2,612 per working day.
- The observed fluctuations in weekly incorporations per working day between April to early May 2020 and June to the end of July 2020 coincide with government instigated lockdown measures and the subsequent easing of them in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the week starting Saturday 8 August, there were 865 voluntary dissolutions applications per working day on average, which remains lower than the Q3 2019 average.

In the week starting 8 August, there was an average of 3,002 incorporations and 865 voluntary dissolutions applications per working day

Company incorporations and voluntary dissolutions per working day, UK, quarterly and weekly, Quarter 1 2019 to Quarter 2 2020, and w/c 28 February 2020 to w/c 8 August 2020



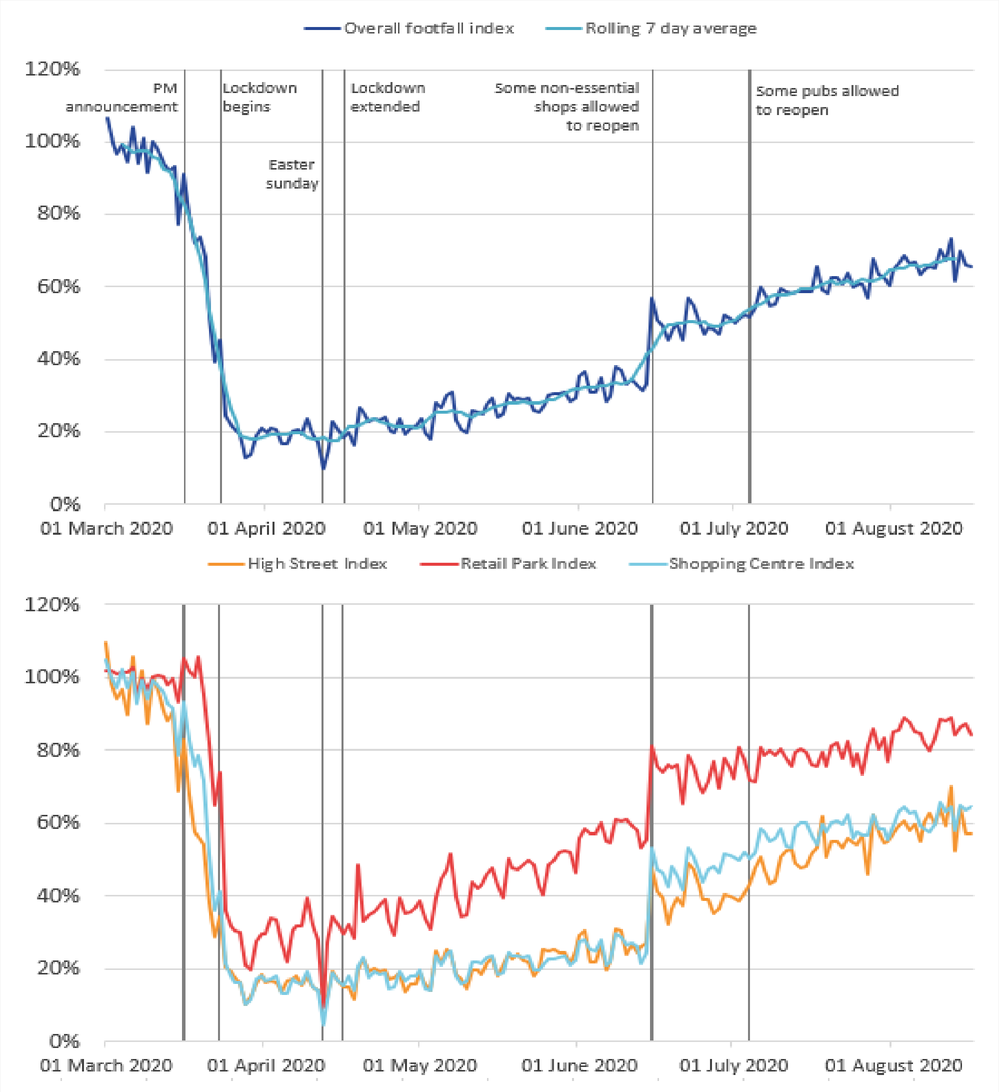


Source: Companies House and Office for National Statistics; Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 20 August 2020

Overall footfall reaches highest level since mid-March

- Footfall across all locations continued to rise slightly in the latest week with overall footfall at 68% of its level the same day a year ago, the highest since the week beginning 16 March 2020.
- Overall footfall seven-day average continued to increase in the latest week (10 to 16 August 2020), to just over two-thirds of the level on the same day a year ago. This continues the gradual increase in footfall seen since the reopening of non-essential shops and businesses in England on 15 June.
- Footfall at all locations showed a small increase, in the week commencing 10 August, retail parks to over 85% compared to the same day a year ago, and shopping centres and high streets both over 60%.
- This complements findings from our latest Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey which shows 54% of applicable trading businesses have seen decreased footfall compared to what's normally expected for this time of year.

Volume of footfall, UK, 1 March to 16 August, year-on-year percentage change between footfall on the same day



Source: Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 20 August 2020

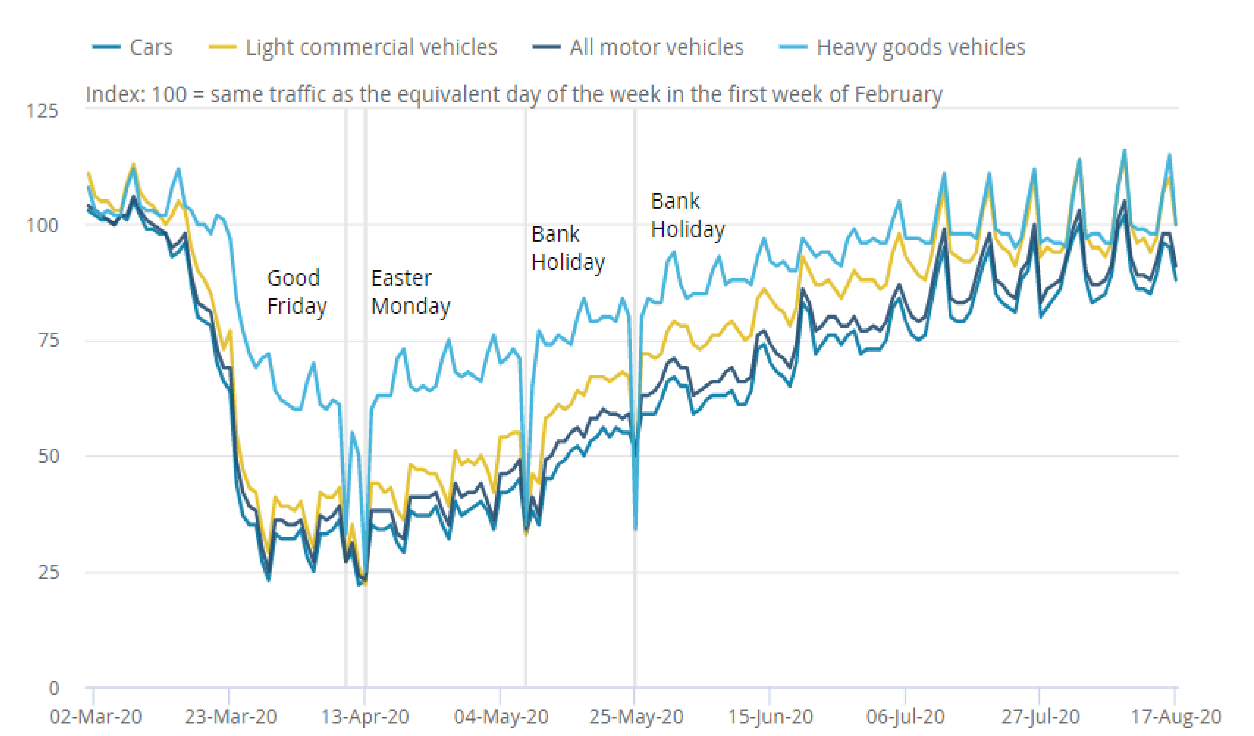
Lead analyst: Chloe Gibbs
(faster.indicators@ons.gov.uk)

Road traffic has been gradually returning to pre-lockdown levels

- Road traffic across all motor vehicles has been gradually returning to levels seen in the first week of February 2020 following a lockdown low point around the end of March.
- The latest road traffic data up to Monday 17 August show overall road traffic was around 9 percentage points lower than traffic seen on the equivalent Monday in the first week of February.
- Heavy goods vehicles were first to return to early February levels of traffic in early July, followed by light commercial vehicles. However, car road traffic remains around 10 percentage points lower compared with the first week of February.

Road traffic across all motor vehicles has been gradually returning to pre-lockdown levels following a low point around the end of March 2020

Daily road traffic index: 100 = same traffic as the equivalent day of the week in the first week of February, 1 March 2020 to 17 August 2020, non-seasonally adjusted



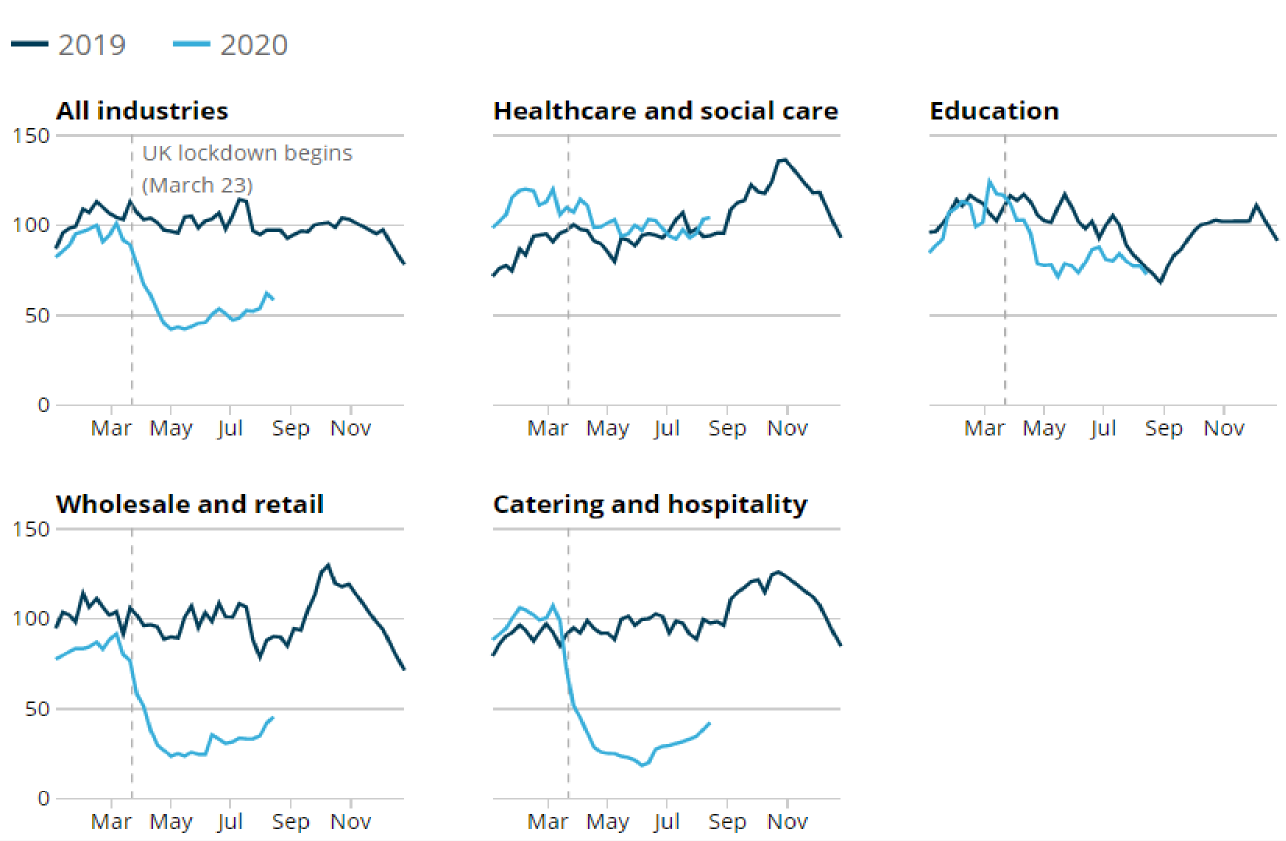
Source: Department for Transport road traffic statistics: management information; Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 20 August 2020

Lead analyst: Chloe Gibbs
(faster.indicators@ons.gov.uk)

The total volume of online job adverts fell between 7 - 14 August 2020

- Between 7 and 14 August 2020, the total volume of online job adverts decreased from 62% to 58% of its 2019 average, partially offsetting the large increase of the previous week. Online job adverts are still higher than they have been for the previous two months, when they remained close to half their 2019 average.
- There were increases in online job adverts in wholesale & retail and catering & hospitality, while a decrease in education.
- In the latest week, the volume of online job adverts decreased in all four countries of the UK, and in six of England's nine NUTS1 regions. The largest percentage point decreases were in Northern Ireland (23 percentage points), London (12 percentage points) and the West Midlands (10 percentage points). Online job adverts increased in the East Midlands by 3 percentage points.

Total weekly job adverts on Adzuna, UK, 4 January 2019 to 14 August 2020: index 2019 average = 100



Source: *[Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 20 August 2020]*

News

ONS news:

Getting the price right – ONS blog on how new price measures were developed to show how the pandemic's impact on inflation

Consumer price statistics: resuming a field-based price collection – An article describing how ONS plans to resume a field-based price collection for consumer price statistics, in light of the relaxing of movement restrictions in the UK

Government announcements and other COVID-19 news:

10,000 people now signed up to the COVID-19 immunity study – A nationwide effort led by PHE to find out whether people who had COVID-19 can get infected again has now recruited 10,000 health workers from across the NHS.

Expansion of national testing study will offer new COVID-19 insights – Infection survey to expand from testing 28,000 people per fortnight to 150,000 by October.

The future of public health – Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock spoke at Policy Exchange about the future of public health.

Government creates new National Institute for Health Protection – A brand new organisation whose primary focus is public health protection and infectious disease capability is being established by the government.

Secretary of State message to the NHS on the coronavirus response - Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock thanks the NHS workforce for the dedication they have shown in the national effort against coronavirus (COVID-19).

Millions of self employed to benefit from second stage of support scheme – Millions of self-employed people whose livelihoods have been affected by coronavirus will be able to claim a second payment of up to £6,570.

Public encouraged to register for COVID-19 vaccine trials as 100,000 already sign-up – Over 100,000 people have volunteered to take part in COVID-19 vaccine trials, helping to speed up efforts to discover a safe and effective vaccine.

£5 million for social prescribing to tackle the impact of COVID-19 – The National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) has been awarded £5 million in funding to support people to stay connected and maintain their health and wellbeing following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exam appeals: The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP writes to all headteachers and college principals – Minister of State for School Standards Nick Gibb writes to all headteachers and college principals about A and AS level and GCSE results.