



BRIEFING PAPER

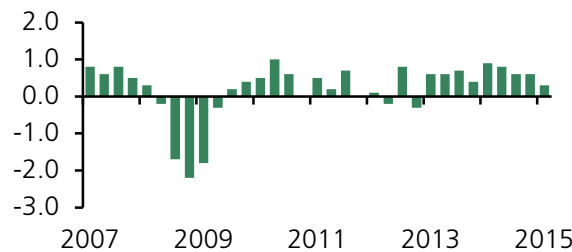
Number 07164, 12 May 2015

Economic Indicators May 2015

By James Mirza-Davies

GDP growth

% change on previous qtr



GDP grew by 0.3% in Q1 2015.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI)

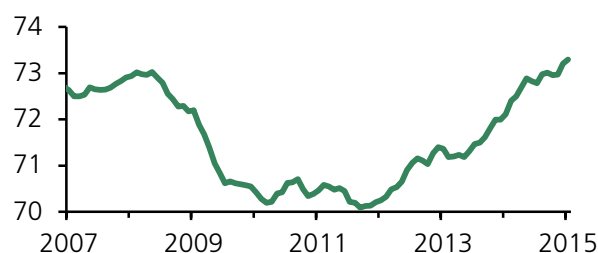
% change on yr



The CPI annual inflation rate was 0.0% in March 2015.

Employment Rate; UK

%, age 16-64



The employment rate was 73.4% in December-February 2015.

Inside:

1. **Headline UK Economic Indicators, May 2015**
2. **This month's developments**
3. **Introduction to Economic Indicators**

A. Growth and Output

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- GDP: International
- Components of GDP
- Services
- Manufacturing
- Productivity

B. Prices and Wages

- Inflation
- Inflation: International
- Average Earnings

C. Labour Market

- Employment
- Unemployment
- Unemployment: International

D. Finance and Borrowing

- Interest Rates
- Public Finances
- Business Lending
- Individual Lending
- Financial Indicators

E. Trade and Exchange Rates

- Trade
- Exchange Rates

F. Other Indicators

- Business and Consumer Confidence
- Retail Sales
- Housing Market
- Household Debt

4. Glossary

5. Indicator Sources

Contents

1. Headline UK Economic Indicators, May 2015	4
2. This month's developments	5
3. Introduction to Economic Indicators	6
A1: Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	7
A2: GDP International Comparisons	8
A3: Components of GDP	9
A4: Services	10
A5: Manufacturing	11
A6: Productivity	12
B1: Inflation	13
B2: Inflation: International	14
B3: Average Earnings	15
C1: Employment	16
C2: Unemployment National	17
C3: Unemployment International	18
D1: Interest Rates and Monetary Policy	19
D2: Public finances	20
D3: Financial Indicators	21
E1: Trade	22
E2: Exchange Rates	23

Editor:

James Mirza-Davies

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F1: Business and Consumer Confidence	24
F2: Retail Sales	25
F3: Housing Market	26
F4: Household Debt	27
4. Glossary	28
4.1 Definitions	28
4.2 Symbols and abbreviations	30
5. Indicator Sources	31

1. Headline UK Economic Indicators, May 2015

Gross Domestic Product: Q1 2015, Seasonally Adjusted		
Change (real %)	0.3 (qtr)	2.4 (yr)
Industries: Feb 2015		
Service output		
Change (%)	0.6 (mth)	3.2 (yr)
Manufacturing output		
Change (%)	0.5 (mth)	1.1 (yr)
Productivity: Q4 2014, Seasonally Adjusted		
Output per hour		
Change (%)	-0.2 (qtr)	0.3 (yr)
Inflation: Mar 2015		
Change on year (%)	0 (CPI)	1.1 (RPI)
Labour Market: Dec-Feb 2015, Seasonally Adjusted		
Unemployment		
Unemployment Rate (% of economically active)		5.7
Change (% points)	-0.3 (qtr)	-1.3 (yr)
Employment		
Employment Rate (% aged 16-64)		73.4
Change (% points)	0.5 (qtr)	1.0 (yr)
Interest Rate: May 2015		
Bank of England Base Rate (%)		0.5
Public Finances: 2014/15		
Net borrowing	87 (£ bn)	4.8 (% GDP)
Net debt	1,484 (£ bn)	80.4 (% GDP)
Trade: Q4 2014		
Current Account	-25.3 (£ bn)	-5.6 (% GDP)
Sterling Exchange rate: 11 May 2015		
US Dollar (\$)	1.56 (rate)	-7.6 (% change on yr)
Euro (€)	1.40 (rate)	14.0 (% change on yr)
Business and Consumer Confidence: Apr 2015		
Change (points)	2.0 (mth)	-5.7 (yr)
Retail Sales: Mar 2015, Seasonally Adjusted		
Retailing total (inc vehicle fuel)		1.7 (% change on yr)
Housing Market: Feb 2015		
House Price Index		
Change (%)	0.6 (mth)	1.8 (yr)

See Section 5 for information on the sources used in this table

2. This month's developments

Inflation remains at zero

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate was 0.0% in March, the same rate as in February. These are the joint lowest inflation rates on record. The Bank of England target for CPI inflation is 2%.

Employment rate reaches a record high

At 73.4%, the employment rate in December-February 2015 was the highest rate since comparable records began in 1971.

Pound and FTSE rise following General Election

By close of trade on 8th May, the FTSE was 2.3% higher and the pound experienced the largest one-day rise against the dollar since the last General Election in May 2010.

3. Introduction to Economic Indicators

Economic Indicators is published on the first Tuesday of the month. Individual indicator pages are updated more frequently as new data becomes available and are published on the Library's webpages.

Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions about Economic Indicators please contact the editor, James Mirza-Davies on x6962.

Weekly email alert

A weekly email alert with updated indicators is available to Members and their staff on request. To subscribe, please visit the Economic Indicators web pages.

Regional Economic Indicators

A separate briefing, Regional and National Economic Indicators, is available containing key economic data on the regions and countries of the UK, compared to the national UK average.

Sources and glossary

A guide to sources is provided in Section 5. Economic terms, symbols and abbreviations used in the publication are provided in Section 6.

Contacts

Members and their staff are encouraged to talk too Library subject specialists. A comprehensive guide is available in Using the Library. Researchers are not able to discuss pages with members of the public. For enquiries please contact the following specialists:

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Unemployment	James Mirza-Davies	6962
Wages and Earnings	Feargal McGuinness	4904

A1: Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The economy grew by 0.3% in real terms in Q1 2015 compared with Q4 2014, following growth of 0.6% in Q4 2014. This was lower than economists had expected.

Real Gross Domestic Product seasonally adjusted

	% change on qtr	% change on yr
2011	...	1.6
2012	...	0.7
2013	...	1.7
2014	...	2.8
2014 Q1	0.9	2.7
Q2	0.8	2.9
Q3	0.6	2.8
Q4	0.6	3.0
2015 Q1	0.3	2.4

Source: ONS, series: IHYP, IHYQ, IHYR

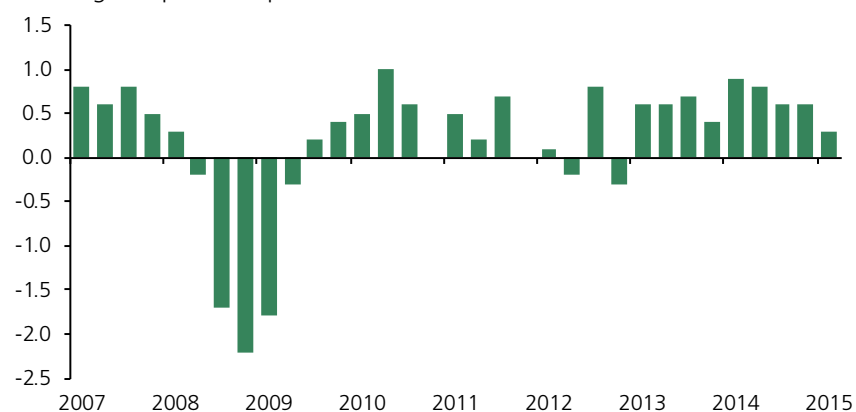
GDP increased by 2.8% in 2014 compared with 2013, the highest since 2007.

GDP is estimated to be 4.0% above the pre-economic downturn peak in Q1 2008.

GDP in cash terms was £1,788 billion in 2014.

GDP growth

% change on previous qtr



Forecasts

In March, the Treasury survey of independent forecasts for GDP growth showed an average forecast of 2.7% for 2015 and 2.3% for 2016.

The latest Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts, from March 2015, are for growth of 2.5% in 2015 and 2.3% in 2016.

Annual GDP growth forecasts (%)

	2015	2016
HM Treasury average of independent forecasts (Mar '15)	2.7	2.3
OBR forecasts (Dec '14)	2.5	2.3

Source: HMT, Forecasts for the UK economy: a comparison of independent forecasts, March 2015
Office for Budget Responsibility, *Economic and fiscal outlook* - Dec 2014

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

ONS, [Second Estimate of GDP - Q1 2015](#), 27 May 2015

HM Treasury, [Forecast for the UK economy](#), 20 May 2015

OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook](#)

A2: GDP International Comparisons

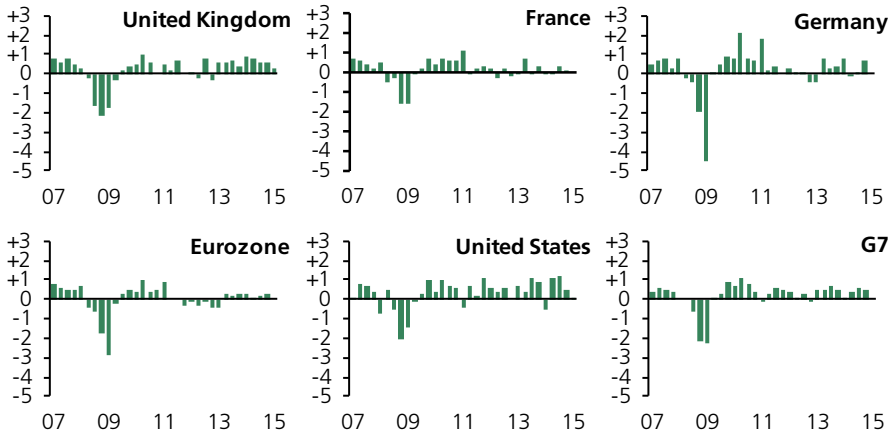
In Q1 2015, real GDP in the UK grew by 0.3% compared with the previous quarter. In the United States, it grew by 0.1%.

Real GDP % changes

	change on qtr				change on yr			
	Q2 14	Q3 14	Q4 14	Q1 15	Q2 14	Q3 14	Q4 14	Q1 15
UK	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.4
Eurozone	0.1	0.2	0.3	..	0.8	0.8	0.9	..
USA	1.1	1.2	0.5	0.1	2.6	2.7	2.4	3.0
Japan	-1.6	-0.7	0.4	..	-0.4	-1.4	-0.7	..
Germany	-0.1	0.1	0.7	..	1.4	1.2	1.5	..
France	-0.1	0.3	0.1	..	0.0	0.4	0.2	..
G7	0.4	0.6	0.5	..	1.7	1.6	1.6	..
OECD	0.4	0.6	0.5	..	1.9	1.8	1.8	..

Source: OECDstat

Quarter-on-quarter growth rates



Forecasts

In May 2015, the European Commission left their 2015 growth forecast for the UK unchanged, from their winter forecast, at 2.6%. Their forecast for the eurozone increased slightly, from 1.3% to 1.5% for 2015, while the forecast for the US decreased, from 3.5% to 3.1%.

Real growth forecasts % change

	IMF (Apr 15)		EC (May 15)		OECD (Mar 15)	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
UK	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5
France	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.1	1.7
Germany	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.7	2.2
Eurozone	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.4	2.0
US	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0
Japan	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.4
China	6.8	6.3	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.9
India	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.9	7.7	8.0
Brazil	-1.0	1.0	-0.9	1.3	-0.5	1.2
World	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.9	-	-

Sources: IMF Apr 15 WEO; EC Spring 15 forecast; OECD Interim Economic Outlook Mar 15

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Updates

OECD, [OECDStat database](#)

OECD, [Economic Outlook](#), June 2015

IMF, [World Economic Outlook](#), July 2015

European Commission, [Autumn Economic Forecast](#), Nov 2015

A3: Components of GDP

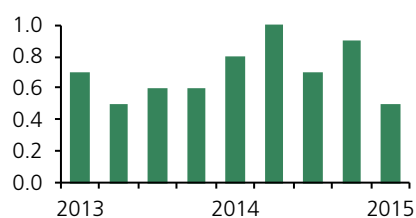
GDP can be analysed in terms of the output produced of different industries of the economy and by expenditure on goods and services made by households, businesses and the government.

Overall, GDP increased by 0.3% in real terms in Q1 2015 compared with the previous quarter.

GDP by Industry

In 2012, the service sector accounted for 79% of economic output, the production sector for 15% and the construction sector for 6%.

Service sector
quarterly growth(%)



In Q1 2015, service sector output increased by 0.5% in real terms compared with Q4 2014.

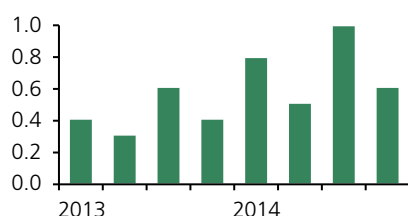
Manufacturing output increased by 0.1%. Output in the construction sector fell by 1.6%, having fallen by 2.2% in the previous quarter.

Output in the service industries rose for the eighth successive quarter

GDP by Expenditure

Household consumption is the largest element of expenditure, accounting for 61% of the total in 2014. Government consumption accounted for 21% and investment for 17%.

Household Consumption
quarterly growth(%)



In Q4 2014, household consumption grew by 0.6% in real terms compared with Q3 2014.

Government consumption was down 0.2% and investment was down 0.6%.

Household consumption has increased for 14 consecutive quarters

Exports increased by 4.6% while imports were up 1.6%, meaning that net exports contributed positively to overall growth.

GDP by expenditure

% change on previous quarter (real terms)

	Household consumption	Government consumption	Investment	Exports	Imports	GDP
2013 *	1.7	-0.3	3.4	1.5	1.4	1.7
2014 *	2.5	1.7	7.8	0.6	2.2	2.8
2013 Q4	0.4	-0.1	2.3	-1.3	-1.4	0.4
2014 Q1	0.8	0.2	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.9
Q2	0.5	1.7	0.7	-0.7	-1.2	0.8
Q3	1.0	0.5	1.7	-0.1	1.4	0.6
Q4	0.6	-0.2	-0.6	4.6	1.6	0.6

Source: ONS series ABJR, NMR, NPQT, IKBK, IKBL and ABMI

Note: * annual % change

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

ONS, [Second Estimate of GDP](#), 28 May 2015

A4: Services

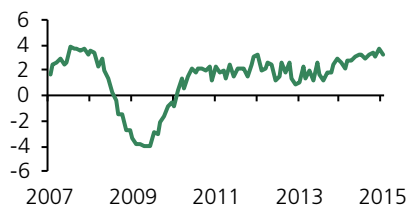
The service industries include the retail sector, the financial sector, the public sector, business administration and cultural activities.

In 2012, the service industries accounted for 79% of total UK economic output (Gross Value Added) and accounted for 83% of jobs in December 2014.

Services Output

Output - Index of Services

% change on previous year



Output stayed the same in February compared to falling 0.5% in January 2014.

Compared with a year before, services output increased by 3.0%

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

UK Services PMI

50 = no change



The Markit/CIPS UK Services PMI is an important indicator of confidence in the sector.

In April 2015 it was 59.5 (where 50 indicates that confidence is increasing).

Output Index

	Index	% change on yr
2013 Feb	104.0	1.9
2014 Feb	107.1	3.0
2014 Dec	108.9	3.7
2015 Jan	108.7	3.2
Feb	109.0	3.2

Source: ONS, series S2KU, S222

PMI Index

	Index	Change on mth
2013 Apr	52.9	
2014 Apr	58.7	
2015 Feb	56.7	-0.5
Mar	58.9	2.2
Apr	59.5	0.6

Source: Markit/CIPS UK Services PMI

Subject Specialist

Chris Rhodes
x2454

Update

ONS, [Index of Services](#),
28 May 2015

Markit/CIPS, [UK Services PMI](#), 3 Jun
2015

A5: Manufacturing

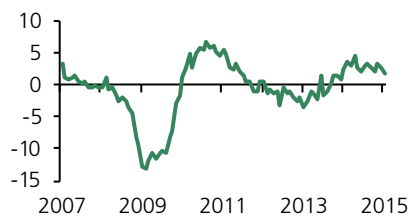
Manufacturing is one of the production industries, which also include mining, electricity, water & waste management and oil & gas extraction.

In 2013, the manufacturing sector accounted for 10% of total UK economic output (Gross Value Added) and for 8% of jobs in December 2014.

Manufacturing Output

Output - Index of manufacturing

% change on previous year



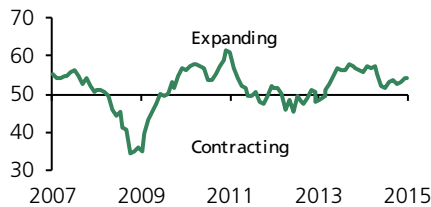
Output increased by 0.4% in March compared to February 2015.

Compared with a year before, manufacturing output increased by 1.1%.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

UK Manufacturing PMI

50 = no change



The Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI is an important indicator of confidence in the sector.

In February 2015 it was 51.9 (where 50 indicates that confidence is increasing).

Output Index

	Index	% change on yr
2013	98.0	-0.7
2014	100.9	2.9
2015 Jan	101.0	1.7
Feb	101.5	1.2
Mar	101.9	1.1

Source: ONS, series K22A, K27Y, K2DO

PMI Index

	Index	Change on mth
2013 Apr	49.8	
2014 Apr	57.3	
2015 Feb	54.0	0.9
Mar	54.0	0
Apr	51.9	-2.1

Source: Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI

Subject Specialist

Chris Rhodes
x2454

Update

ONS, [Index of Production](#), 10 Jun 2015

Markit/CIPS, [UK Manufacturing PMI](#), 1 Jun 2015

A6: Productivity

One of the most important factors in determining living standards is productivity – how much output is produced for a given input (such as an hour of work).

The more efficient the economy is, the more that can be produced in a sustainable fashion. In other words, higher productivity growth leads to a higher long-term growth rate of the economy.

Labour productivity also determines wages: the more productive an employee is, the more they are likely to be paid.

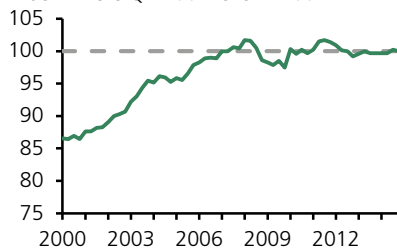
UK productivity

The average increase historically in the UK has been about 2% but in the seven years since the recession began, productivity has stagnated. The Office for National Statistics [says](#) this is “unprecedented in the post-war period”.

Productivity across the whole UK economy, measured by output per hour, is estimated to have increased by 0.2% in 2014 as a whole. In Q4 2014 alone, productivity fell by 0.2% compared with the previous quarter.

Productivity level (GDP per hour)

Index where Q1 2007 level = 100



Productivity - output (GDP) per hour

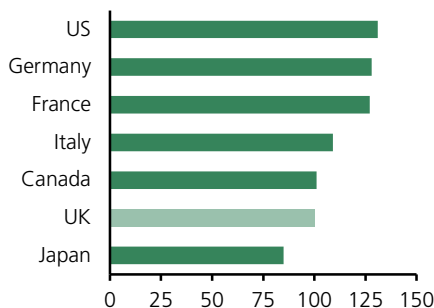
	% change on qtr	% change on yr
2013	..	-0.3
2014	..	0.2
2014 Q1	0.0	0.1
Q2	0.0	-0.3
Q3	0.5	0.5
Q4	-0.2	0.3

Source: ONS series LZVD, TXBB

International comparisons

Productivity (GDP per hour), 2013

Index where UK=100



International comparisons of productivity are presented as an index where the UK=100.

In 2013, based on GDP per hour, the UK came sixth of the G7 countries, with the USA top and Japan bottom. UK productivity was 16 percentage points below the G7 average, the widest productivity gap since 1991.

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

ONS, [Labour Productivity](#), 1 July

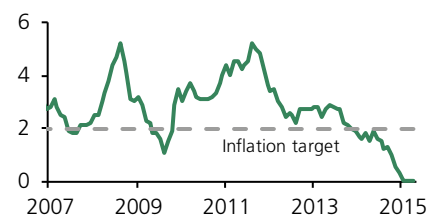
ONS, [International Comparisons](#), 18 Sep

B1: Inflation

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) is the main measure of inflation. It is produced in line with international standards and is the measure used for the Bank of England’s 2% inflation target. The Retail Prices Index (RPI) is no longer classified as a National Statistics as the way it is calculated does not meet international standards. It is included here as it is well-known and is the longest running measure of inflation.

The CPI inflation rate remained at 0.0% in March 2015, the lowest rate on record.

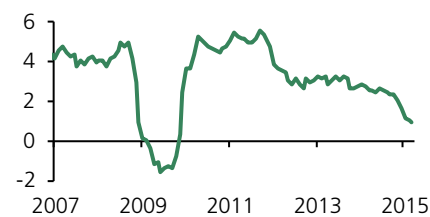
Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
% change on yr



The CPI inflation rate was 0.0% in March, the same rate as in February. The RPI inflation rate was 1.1% in March down from 1.6% in February.

Falling prices for motor fuels and food were the main contributors to the slowdown in the rate of inflation.

Retail Prices Index (RPI)
% change on yr



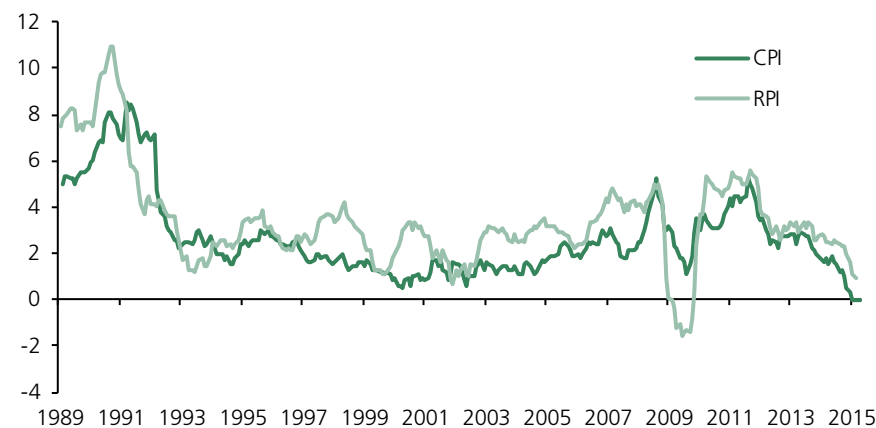
Price Indices

% change on a year ago

	CPI	RPI
2012	3.5	3.6
2013	2.8	3.3
2014	1.6	2.5
2015 Jan	0.3	1.1
Feb	0.0	1.0
Mar	0.0	0.9

Source: ONS database, series: D7G7, CZBH

CPI and RPI since 1989
% change on yr



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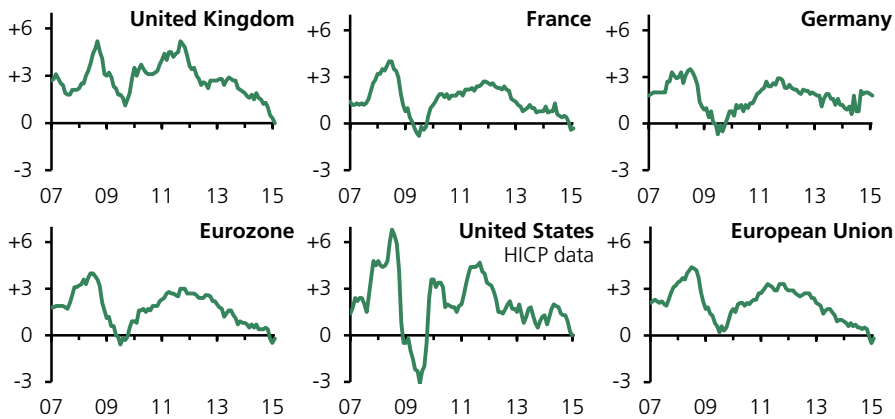
Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

ONS, [Consumer Price Indices](#), 19 May 2015

B2: Inflation: International

Inflation in the EU, some other European countries, and the US can be compared using the standard Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), or the CPI as it is known in the UK.



UK inflation was 0.0% in the year to March 2015, unchanged from February. This is the lowest level on record.

Eurozone inflation for the year to March was -0.1%, up from -0.3% in February.

Austria had the highest annual inflation rate in the EU in March 2015 at 0.9% followed by Romania at 0.8%.

The lowest annual inflation rate in the EU was -1.9% in Greece, followed by Cyprus (-1.4%), Poland (-1.2%) and Bulgaria and Lithuania (both -1.1%).

HICP annual inflation in the US in the year to February was -0.9%, unchanged from January.

Inflation rates: selected countries

Annual % change in consumer prices (HICP)

	2011	2012	2013	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
UK	4.5	2.8	2.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Eurozone	2.7	2.5	1.3	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3
European Union	3.1	2.6	1.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2
France	2.3	2.2	1.0	-0.4	-0.3	0.0
Germany	2.5	2.1	1.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.1
US	3.8	2.1	1.3	-0.9	-0.9	..

Source: Eurostat & stat.OECD database, ONS

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

ONS, [Consumer Prices bulletin](#) (UK), 19 May 2015

Eurostat, [Flash estimate](#) (Eurozone), 1 Jun 2015

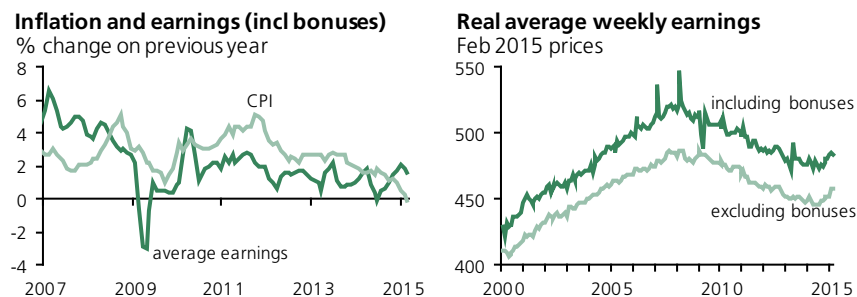
Eurostat, [HICP full release](#), 17 May 2015

B3: Average Earnings

In April 2014 median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were £518, up 0.1% on April 2013.

More timely but less detailed data show average weekly earnings (three-month average including bonuses) for the whole economy rose by 1.7% in the three months to February 2015, compared with a year ago. Excluding bonuses, average weekly earnings grew by 1.8%.

Average Earnings, Whole Economy



Trends by Sector

Annual % change in average earnings (including bonuses), Great Britain

	Total	Private	Public
2013 Feb	1.0	0.9	1.6
2014 Feb	1.7	2.0	0.8
2014 Dec	2.1	2.5	0.7
2015 Jan	1.9	2.2	0.8
Feb	1.7	2.0	0.8

Note: Data show annual % change in earnings to three month period ending in given month; data are seasonally adjusted

Source: ONS, Average Weekly Earnings series

Average total weekly pay (including bonuses) grew by 2.0% in the private sector in the three months to February 2015, compared with the year before.

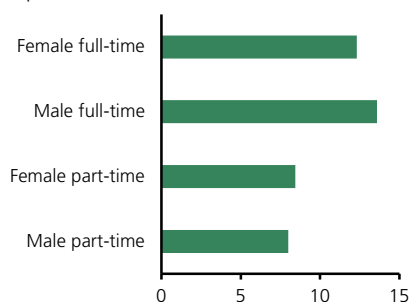
In the public sector, average total pay increased by 0.8% over the same period.

Average total pay grew by 1.9% in the services sector, 0.6% in the manufacturing sector and 0.8% in the construction sector.

Pay Levels

Median hourly pay excluding overtime

April 2014 (£)



Median weekly earnings for full-time employees in the UK were £518 in April 2014. (The median is the point at which half earn more and half earn less).

Median hourly earnings (excluding overtime) were £13.08 for full-time employees; £13.59 for men working full-time and £12.31 for women.

Median hourly earnings (excluding overtime) were £8.33 for part-time employees; £8.00 for men working part-time, and £8.44 for women. Women are more likely than men to work part-time.

Subject Specialist

Feargal McGuinness
x4904

Update

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 13 May 2015

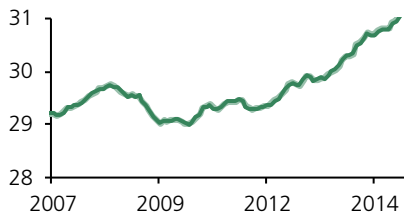
ONS, [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#), Nov 2015

C1: Employment

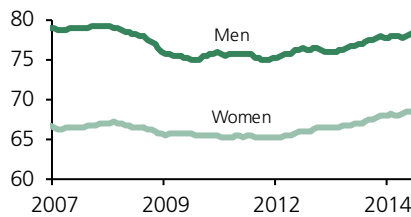
31.05 million people were in employment in December-February 2015, up 248,000 from the previous quarter and 557,000 more people were in employment than a year ago. The employment rate (the proportion of the population aged 16-64 in work) was 73.4%, up 0.5% points from the previous quarter and 1.0% points from the previous year.

At 73.4%, the employment rate is the highest since comparable records began in 1971.

Employment; UK
Millions, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



Employment Rate; UK
%, age 16-64, seasonally adjusted



16.54 million men were in employment in December-February 2015, up 169,000 on the previous quarter. Female employment increased by 79,000 over the past quarter to 14.50 million. The employment rate for men aged 16-64 was 78.0%. The employment rate for women aged 16-64 was 68.6%.

4.52 million people were self-employed, the same as the previous quarter. The number of people working as employees increased by 235,000 over the year, to 26.30 million.

22.69 million people were working full-time in December-February 2015, up 164,000 on the previous quarter. Part-time employment increased by 84,000 over the quarter to 8.36 million.

1.69 million people were employed on a temporary basis in December-February 2015, slightly more than in the previous quarter.

The number of people working in the private sector increased by 149,000 over the quarter to February 2015, to 25.54 million. The number of people working in the public sector fell slightly over the quarter to February, to 5.40 million.

UK Employment
Seasonally adjusted

Age	Total		Men		Women		Youth		
	000's 16+	% 16-64	000's 16+	% 16-64	000's 16+	% 16-64	000's 16-24	% 16-24	
Dec-Feb 2012	29,386	70.3	15,690	75.5	13,696	65.2	3,644	49.5	
Dec-Feb 2013	29,827	71.2	15,882	76.0	13,945	66.4	3,682	50.1	
Dec-Feb 2014	30,491	72.4	16,257	77.4	14,234	67.5	3,762	51.3	
Sep-Nov 2014	30,801	73.0	16,375	77.8	14,426	68.2	3,769	51.7	
Dec-Feb 2015	31,049	73.4	16,544	78.3	14,505	68.6	3,875	53.2	
<i>Change on qtr</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>1.6</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>1%</i>		<i>1%</i>		<i>1%</i>		<i>3%</i>	
<i>Change on yr</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>557</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>1.9</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>2%</i>		<i>2%</i>		<i>2%</i>		<i>3%</i>	

Source: ONS Labour Market Statistics, A05, A06; Data Series
Notes: The employment rate is a percentage of the population aged 16-64

Subject Specialist

Aliyah Dar
x6920

Updates

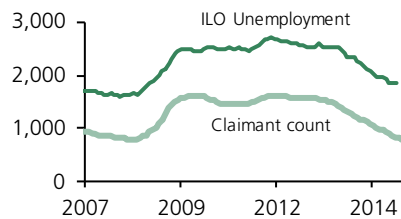
ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 13 May 2015

C2: Unemployment National

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment is the headline measure of unemployment in the UK. The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and predecessor unemployment benefits is also used.

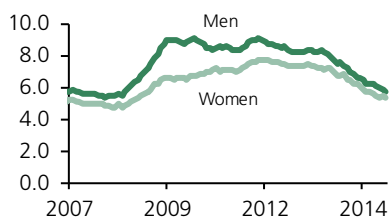
Unemployment; UK

000s, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



Unemployment Rate; UK

%, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



ILO unemployment was 1.84 million people in the UK in December-February 2015, down 76,000 from the previous quarter and down 416,000 from the previous year. The unemployment rate was 5.6% (the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed), down 0.3% points on the previous quarter and 1.3% points on the previous year.

The number of people claiming JSA (adjusting for Universal Credit) decreased by 16,100 between February and March to 802,500 people aged 18 or over.

There were 1.01 million men unemployed in December-February 2015, down 56,000 on the previous quarter. 825,000 women were unemployed, down 20,000 on the previous quarter.

742,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in December-February 2015, down 22,000 from the previous quarter. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 16.1%, down from 16.9% in the previous quarter.

623,000 people had been unemployed for longer than 12 months at December-February 2015, a decrease of 35,000 from the previous quarter.

UK Unemployment

Seasonally adjusted

Age	Total		Men		Women		Youth		
	000's 16+	% 16+	000's 16+	% 16+	000's 16+	% 16+	000's 16-24	% 16-24	
Dec-Feb 2012	2,653	8.3	1,508	8.8	1,144	7.7	1,032	22.1	
Dec-Feb 2013	2,582	8.0	1,447	8.3	1,136	7.5	992	21.2	
Dec-Feb 2014	2,254	6.9	1,260	7.2	993	6.5	893	19.2	
Sep-Nov 2014	1,914	5.8	1,069	6.1	845	5.5	764	16.9	
Dec-Feb 2015	1,838	5.6	1,013	5.8	825	5.4	742	16.1	
<i>Change on qtr</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>-76</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>-56</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>-22</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>-4%</i>		<i>-5%</i>		<i>-2%</i>		<i>-3%</i>	
<i>Change on yr</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>-416</i>	<i>-1.3</i>	<i>-248</i>	<i>-1.4</i>	<i>-168</i>	<i>-1.1</i>	<i>-151</i>	<i>-3.1</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>-18%</i>		<i>-20%</i>		<i>-17%</i>		<i>-17%</i>	

Source: ONS Labour Market Statistics, A05, A06; Data Series

Notes: The unemployment rate is a percentage of the economically active population unemployed

Subject Specialist

James Mirza-Davies
x6962

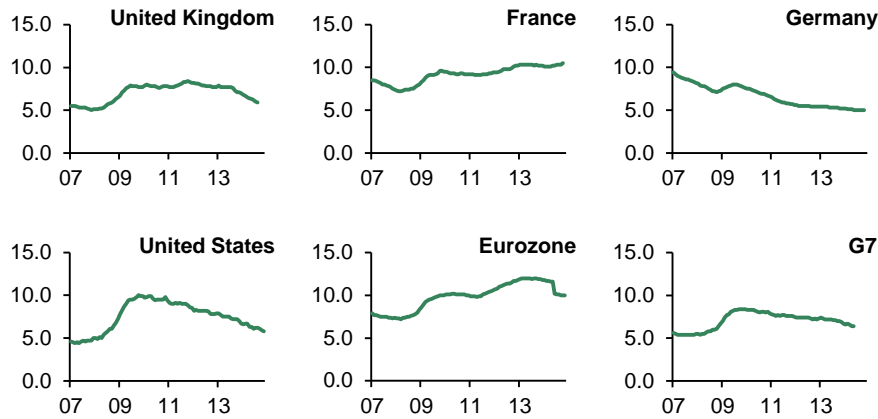
Updates

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 13 May 2015

C3: Unemployment International

The OECD produces harmonised unemployment rates for OECD members based on the ILO definition of unemployment.

Harmonised Unemployment Rate (%)



The UK harmonised unemployment rate for Q2 2014 was 6.3%. This was below the rate of France and Italy but above that of Germany.

In the US, unemployment stood at 6.1% in Q3 2014.

In the Eurozone, unemployment was 11.5% in Q3 2014, compared to 11.6% in Q2 2014.

Spain and Greece have the highest harmonised unemployment rate among 34 OECD member states (24.7% and 27.1% respectively in Q2 2014).

Norway had the lowest unemployment rate in the OECD in Q2 2014 at 3.3%, followed by Japan at 3.6%.

Youth (15-24) unemployment is a major issue in many developed economies at present. In Q2 2014 youth unemployment was 53.1% in Spain and in Q1 it was 56.6% in Greece. In the same period UK youth unemployment stood at 18.7%.

Unemployment

Unemployed as % of labour force (standardised); seasonally adjusted

	CAN	FRA	DEU	ITA	JPN	UK	USA	Eurozone	G7	OECD
2011	7.5	9.2	6.0	8.4	4.6	8.0	9.0	10.1	7.6	7.9
2012	7.2	9.8	5.5	10.7	4.4	7.9	8.1	11.3	7.4	7.9
2013	7.1	10.3	5.3	12.2	4.0	7.5	7.4	12.0	7.1	7.9
2011 Q3	7.2	9.2	5.8	8.6	4.5	8.2	9.0	10.2	7.7	7.9
2012 Q3	7.3	9.8	5.4	10.8	4.3	7.8	8.0	11.4	7.3	7.9
2013 Q3	7.1	10.3	5.3	12.3	4.0	7.5	7.2	12.0	7.1	7.9
Q4	7.0	10.2	5.2	12.5	3.9	7.1	7.0	11.9	6.9	7.7
2014 Q1	7.0	10.1	5.1	12.5	3.6	6.7	6.7	11.7	6.6	7.5
Q2	7.0	10.2	5.1	12.5	3.6	6.3	6.2	11.6	6.4	7.4
Q3	6.9	10.5	5.0	12.6	3.6	..	6.1	11.5	6.4	7.3
Change on qtr	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.0	..	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Change on yr	-0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.3	-0.4	..	-1.1	-0.5	-0.7	-0.6

Source: OECD, Harmonised Unemployment Rates

Subject Specialist

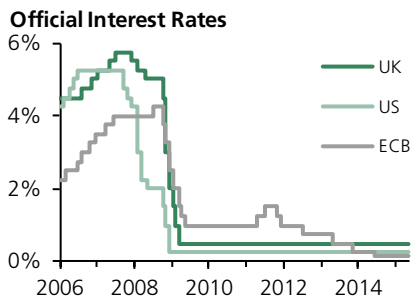
James Mirza-Davies
x6962

Updates

OECD, [Harmonised Unemployment Rates](#),
May 2015

D1: Interest Rates and Monetary Policy

The Bank of England has left the Base Rate in the UK unchanged at 0.5% since March 2009 – the lowest since the Bank was founded in 1694.



The Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) lowered the main interest rate for the Eurozone to 0.05% and the deposit rate to -0.20% in 2014.

The US Federal Reserve's target range for the federal funds rate has been 0-0.25% since 16 December 2008.

Quantitative Easing

With little room for further cuts in interest rates, the Bank of England initiated an asset purchase or quantitative easing (QE) programme in March 2009.

From an initial £75bn in March 2009, QE was increased by £125bn (to a total of £200bn) by November 2009. It was further increased as follows: up by £75bn (to £275bn) in October 2011; £50bn (to £325bn) in February 2012 and £50bn in July 2012 to a total of £375bn.

The majority (over 99%) of assets purchased by the Bank of England through QE have been gilts (UK Government securities).

On 22 January the ECB launched a 'quantitative easing' (QE) programme that will buy €60bn assets (mostly government bonds of Eurozone countries) each month until at least September 2016. The ECB has implemented this programme to raise the rate of inflation to its 2% target (inflation was -0.2% in Dec 2014).

Between September 2012, and December 2013, the Fed purchased assets at a rate of around \$85bn per month. On 18 December 2013, the Federal Open Market Committee decided to slow this rate of asset purchases by \$10bn at each of its meetings. As of October 1, the Fed will purchase \$15bn of assets per month.

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

Monetary policy meetings: 3 Jun ([ECB](#)), 4 Jun ([UK](#)), 17 Jun ([US](#))

D2: Public finances

In 2014/15 public sector net borrowing decreased by 11% to just over £87 billion. This level of borrowing is equivalent to 4.8% of GDP.

	Net borrowing		Net debt	
	£ bn	% GDP	£ bn	% GDP
2009/10	154	10.2	956	62.0
2010/11	135	8.6	1,101	68.7
2011/12	113	7.0	1,191	72.3
2012/13	120	7.2	1,299	76.7
2013/14	98	5.7	1,402	79.1
2014/15 ^P	87	4.8	1,484	80.4
2015/16	75	4.0	1,533	80.2
2016/17	39	2.0	1,580	79.8
2017/18	13	0.6	1,606	77.8
2018/19	-5	-0.2	1,617	74.8
2019/20	-7	-0.3	1,627	71.6

Public sector net debt, the stock of borrowing, increased by 6% in 2014/15 to £1,484 billion (£1.484 trillion).

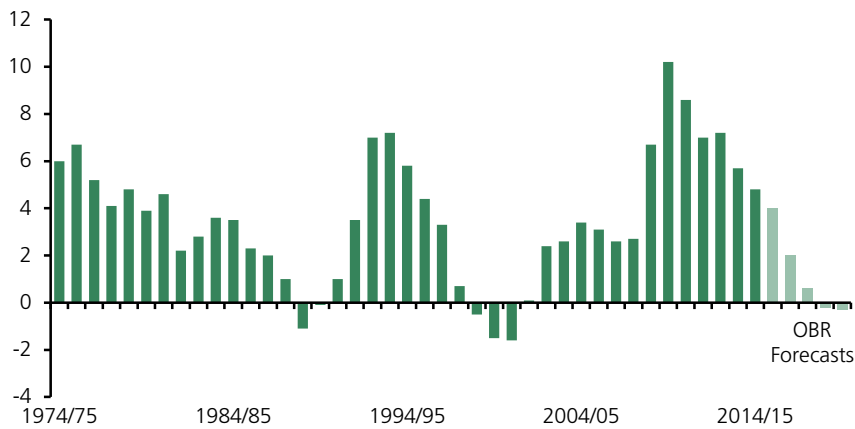
Data for 2014/15 are provisional and are likely to be revised.

Net borrowing is forecast to fall from £75 billion in 2015/16 to £13 billion in 2017/18, before reaching a small surplus of £5 billion in 2018/19.

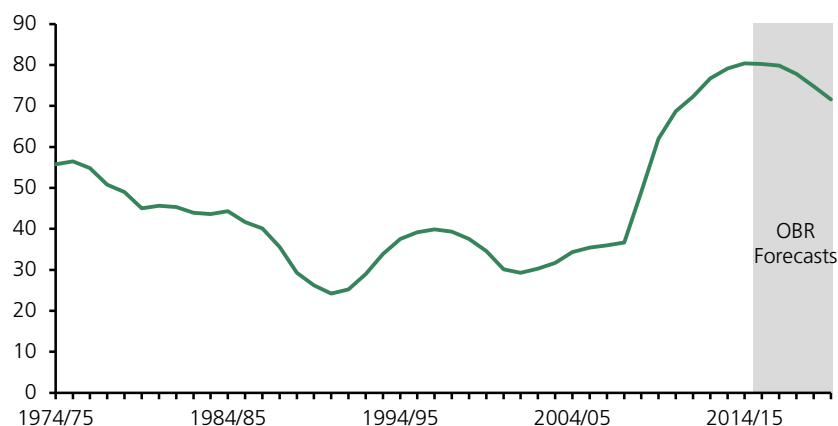
Sources: ONS, OBR. Excludes public sector banks

Public sector net debt was 80.4% of GDP in 2014/15. It is forecast to begin falling in 2015/16 and decrease to 71.6% of GDP in 2019/20.

Public sector net borrowing
% of GDP



Public sector net debt
% of GDP



Subject Specialist

Matt Keep
x4324

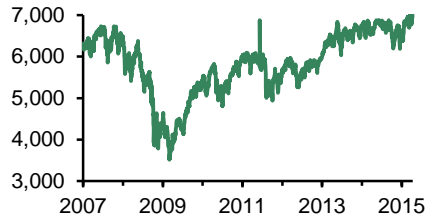
Next update

ONS, [Public Sector Finances](#), 22 May 2015

D3: Financial Indicators

FTSE-100 Index

FTSE-100 Index
Daily closing price

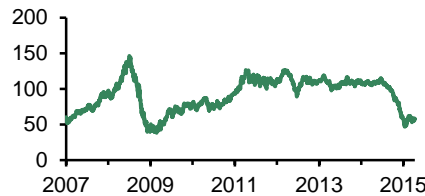


The FTSE-100 tracks the share-prices of the 100 largest companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. It hit an all-time high of 7,103 in May 2015, passing the previous record high of 6,930 set in December 1999.

Following the General Election, the FTSE 100 closed at 7,047 on 8th May, up 2.3% on the previous day's trading.

Brent Crude Oil

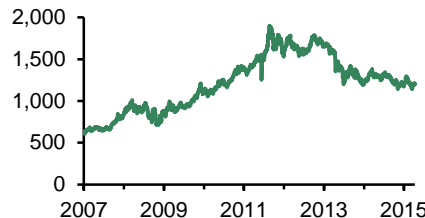
Brent Crude Oil (\$ per barrel)
Daily closing price of Brent crude, near-month futures contract



The price of Brent crude oil reached an all-time high above \$145/barrel in July 2008. The price fell below \$100/barrel in September 2014 for the first time since May 2013. In January 2015 it fell to its lowest level in six years.

Gold price

Gold (\$ pper ounce)
Daily price



The nominal price of gold exceeded \$1,800/ounce for the first time in August 2011, but the metal's price has since moderated considerably. In November 2014, it fell to its lowest level in four and a half years.

Data from 11 May 2015

	FTSE-100	Oil (\$/bbl)	Gold (\$/oz)
11 May 2015	7,029.9	64.9	1,189.3
%change over:			
1-month	-1%	+12%	-1.5%
12-months	+3%	-40%	-8%
%change from:			
cyclical peak	+2%	-56%	-37%
date	15 Jun '07	03 Jul '08	23 Aug '11
cyclical trough	+100%	+78%	+67%
date	03 Mar '09	24 Dec '08	24 Oct '08

Note: Oil is Brent near-month futures price

Source: Financial Times

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Updates

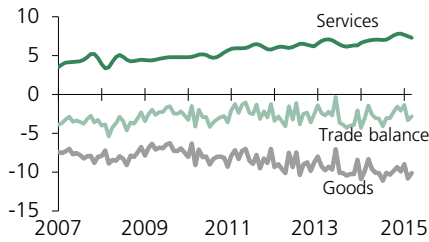
Financial Times, Weekly Basis

E1: Trade

In 2014, the UK's exports of goods and services totalled £508 billion and imports totalled £541 billion. The EU accounted for 45% of exports of goods and services in 2013 and 53% of imports.

Balance of trade, goods and services

£ billion, monthly data



Overall, the UK imports more than it exports meaning that it runs a trade deficit. A surplus on trade in services is more than offset by a deficit on trade in goods.

In 2014, the trade deficit was £33.7 billion (1.9% of GDP). The surplus on trade in services was £85.9 billion and the deficit on trade in goods was £119.6 billion.

The trade deficit in Q1, 2015 was £7.5 billion (Q4, 2014: £6.0 billion). The surplus on trade in services was £22.4 billion (Q4: £23.2 billion). The deficit on trade in goods was £29.9 billion (Q4: £29.1 billion).

Goods & Services and Current Account Balances

Seasonally adjusted

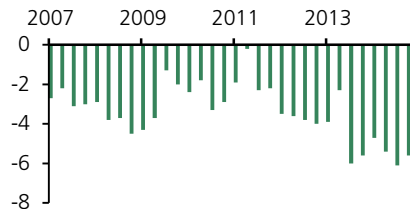
	Goods and Services (£bn)			Current Account	
	Exports	Imports	Balance	£bn	% GDP
2013	515.9	549.6	-33.7	-76.7	-4.5%
2014	507.7	541.5	-33.7	-97.9	-5.5%
2014 Q1	127.5	136.4	-8.9	-20.6	-4.7%
Q2	126.0	134.7	-8.7	-24.4	-5.4%
Q3	125.1	135.2	-10.2	-27.7	-6.1%
Q4	129.1	135.1	-6.0	-25.3	-5.6%
2015 Q1	126.1	133.6	-7.5

Source: ONS, series: IKBH, IKBI, IKBJ, HBOP, AA6H

The current account, which includes investment income and transfers as well as trade, saw a deficit of £97.9 billion in 2014, up from £76.7 billion in 2013.

Current Account Balance

% of GDP



This is an increase from 4.5% to 5.5% of GDP. The 2014 deficit is a record high.

The current account deficit narrowed slightly in Q4 2014 to £25.3 billion compared with £27.7 billion in Q3.

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

ONS, [UK Trade](#) 9 Jun

ONS, [UK BoP](#) 30 Jun

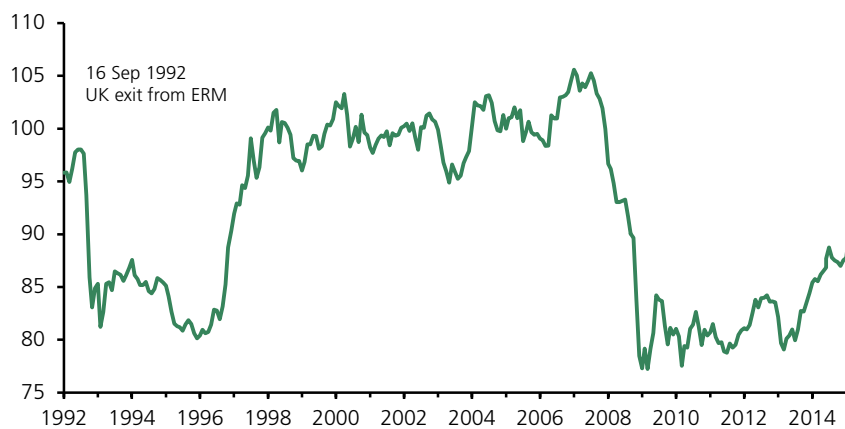
E2: Exchange Rates

The Sterling Exchange Rate Index (SERI) measures sterling's value against a 'basket' of currencies, 'trade-weighted' (based on currencies' relative importance in UK trade).

The SERI fell by 0.2% in April 2015. Compared with the same period a year ago, it is 4.7% higher. It is currently 16.8% above its March 2009 level, when it was at its lowest point since the series began in 1980. It is 14.6% below its pre-recession peak in July 2007.

Sterling Exchange Rate Index (SERI)

Jan 2005=100



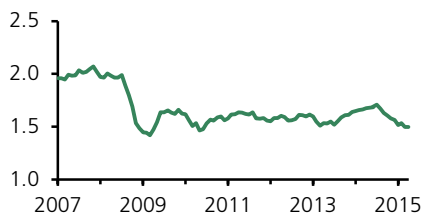
On average in April, the pound was up 0.1% against the dollar compared to March. At the 11 May market close the pound stood at \$1.56.

Sterling was up 0.2% against the Euro in May compared to April. At the 11 May market close the pound stood at €1.40. This compares with an all-time low of €1.02 (on 30 December 2008), and a launch rate of €1.48 on 31 December 1998.

On 8th May following the General Election, the pound experienced the largest one-day rise against the dollar since the last election in May 2010.

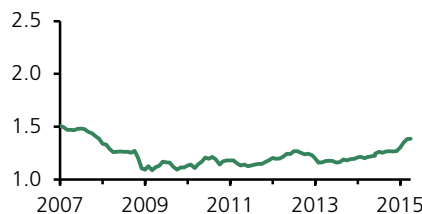
US\$/£ Exchange Rate

\$ per £



€/£ Exchange Rate

€ per £



Sterling Exchange Rates

average rates in period and % changes

	US Dollar (\$)		Euro (€)	
	Rate	% change on yr	Rate	% change on yr
2012	1.59	-1.1%	1.23	7.0%
2013	1.56	-1.3%	1.18	-4.5%
2014	1.65	5.3%	1.24	5.4%
2015 Feb	1.53	-7.4%	1.35	11.4%
Mar	1.50	-10.0%	1.38	15.0%
Apr	1.50	-10.6%	1.39	14.3%

Source: Bank of England, Bankstats database

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Updates

Financial Times, [sterling exchange rates](#) (daily)

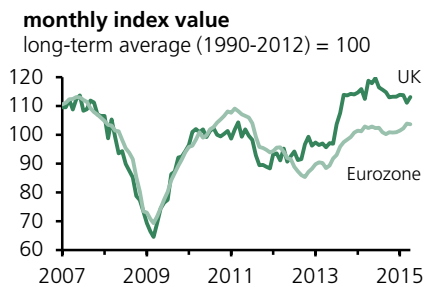
Bank of England, [SERI & monthly rates](#), 30 May

F1: Business and Consumer Confidence

Confidence surveys, with information generally released ahead of official statistical data, can indicate changes to the economic outlook as well as turning points in the economic cycle.

European Commission Economic Sentiment Indicator

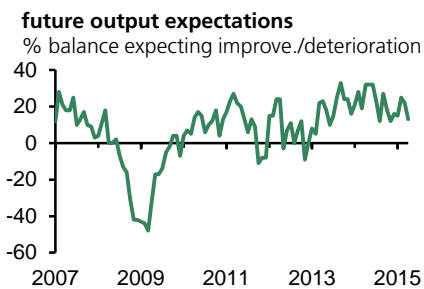
The European Commission conducts regular harmonised surveys for different sectors of EU member states' economies.



Between March and April 2015 the overall UK sentiment index increased by 2.0 points to 113.1, however this was 5.7 points lower than a year earlier. The Eurozone index was up 1.3 points over the year to 103.7.

CBI Industrial Trends Survey

The CBI carries out monthly and quarterly Industrial Trends surveys.

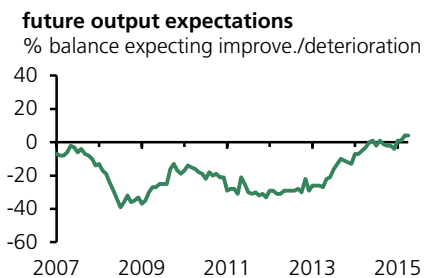


In April 2015, more manufacturers thought that output would rise over the next three months than thought it would fall – the difference was +13% of firms. This is 9 points lower than the previous month and 19 points lower than April 2014.

The GfK NOP Consumer Confidence Index remained at its highest level for 13 years in April.

GfK NOP Consumer Confidence Survey

GfK NOP's Consumer Confidence Index measures a range of consumer attitudes, including forward expectations of the general economic situation and households' financial positions, and views on making major household purchases.



Overall consumer confidence was +4 in April, unchanged on the previous month and 7 points higher than a year ago. Prior to May 2014 consumer confidence had been negative since April 2005.

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

CBI, [Industrial Trends](#), 21 May 2015

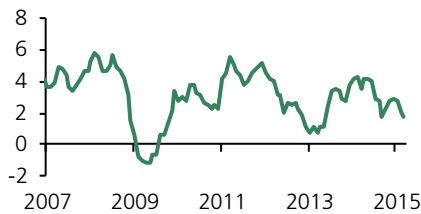
EC, [Economic Sentiment Indicator](#), 21 May 2015

GfK NOP, [Consumer Confidence](#), 29 May

F2: Retail Sales

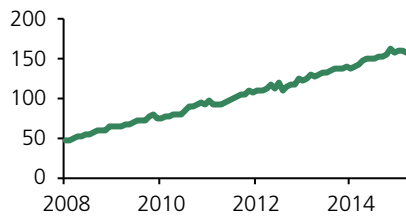
The average weekly value of all retail sales in Great Britain was £6.9 billion in March 2015 and £378.68 billion for 2014.

Value of retail sales (incl. vehicle fuel)
3 mth % change on yr, seasonally adjusted



The value of retail sales in the three months to March 2015 were 0.3% lower than the previous three months but 1.7% higher than the same three months a year ago.

Value of internet retail sales
2011=100, seasonally adjusted



The average weekly value of internet sales in Great Britain was £766.9 million in March 2015. The amount spent online accounted for 11.7% of all non-fuel retail spending.

The value of internet sales in March 2015 were 10.3% higher than the same month a year ago.

Most of the value of retail sales online (69.2%) is made up by stores without a physical presence.

Value of retail sales
Index 2011=100, seasonally adjusted

		Food	Non-food (inc. fuel)	Total
2013	Mar	106.9	99.6	104.0
2014	Mar	106.6	108.2	107.9
2015	Jan	107.4	110.6	109.0
	Feb	106.9	111.6	109.1
	Mar	107.9	111.2	108.7
% change on yr		0.5	3.7	1.7

The average weekly value of sales in food stores was £2.94 billion in March 2015 and £3.06 billion for non-food stores.

The value of sales in food stores in the three months to March 2015 was 0.5% higher than in the same period last year and 3.7% higher for non-food stores.

Change on year is the change on the most recent three month period compared to the same period a year earlier

Total includes fuel and non-store retailing

Source: ONS, series: J5C4, EAQW, EAQY, J5BY, IEAU, IEAX

Subject Specialist

Chris Rhodes
x2454

Updates

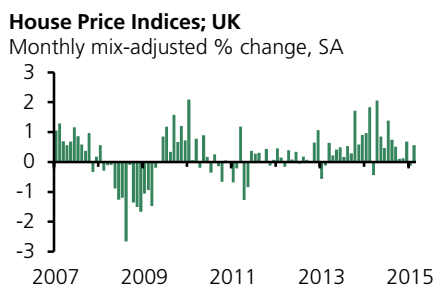
ONS, [Retail Sales](#), 21
May 2015

F3: Housing Market

House prices on the ONS index have slowed in recent months, and rose by 0.6% in February 2015. Prices were 7.2% higher compared with a year ago on this measure.

Mortgage approvals in March 2015 were broadly similar to the previous month, but were 8% lower than a year before. Approvals remain well down on pre-recession levels.

Housing starts have increased from the lows observed in late 2008 and early 2009 but remain well below pre-recession levels.



On a seasonally adjusted basis, average mix-adjusted house prices in the UK increased by 0.6% between January and February 2015.

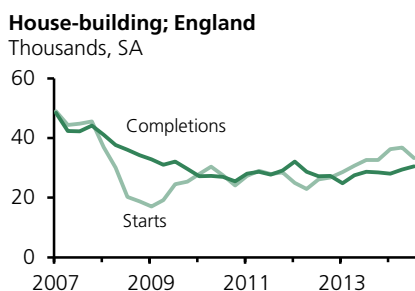
The ONS index is mix-adjusted to allow for differences between houses sold (e.g. type, rooms, location) in different months.

There are regional differences in house prices. The average mix-adjusted house price is highest in London at around £490,000. The lowest prices, of around £150,000, are found in Northern Ireland and the North East.



Bank of England data on the number of mortgages approved to finance house purchases are a leading indicator of house sales.

There were 61,341 mortgage approvals in March 2015, broadly similar to the previous month but down 8% on a year before.



There were 29,800 house building starts in England in Q4 2014, down 10% on Q3 2014 and down 8.7% on Q4 2013. This is above the recent low of 17,090 in Q1 2009, but still well below the 48,990 starts in Q1 2007.

There were 30,760 dwelling completions in Q4 2014, up 1% from Q3 2014 and 7.9% higher than in Q4 2013. Completions remain below the peak of 48,440 completions in Q1 2007.

Subject Specialist

Matt Keep
x4324

Updates

ONS, [UK house price index](#), 19 May 2015

Bank of England, [Money and credit](#), 29 June 2015

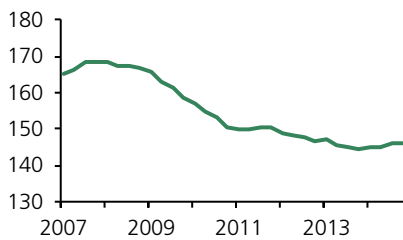
DCLG, [House-building](#), 16 May 2015

F4: Household Debt

Household debt as a % of disposable income

Household debt peaked at 169% of household gross disposable income in Q1 2008.

Household debt: % of disposable income

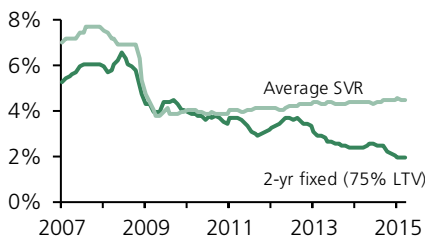


It fell to 144% in Q4 2013 and has risen slightly since then to 146% in Q4 2014.

Current average mortgage interest rates

The average Standard Variable Rate (SVR) has increased slightly over the past year – in March 2015 it was 4.51%, compared with 4.43% a year before.

Current average mortgage interest rates

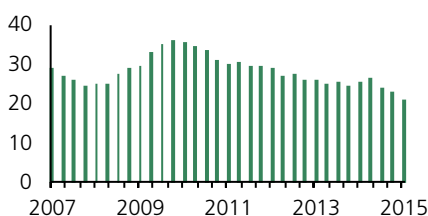


The average 2-year fixed mortgage rate was 1.99% in March, compared to 2.37% a year before.

Individual insolvencies, England and Wales

There were 20,826 individual insolvencies in England and Wales in Q1 2015, 18.6% lower than a year earlier. This is the lowest number of insolvencies since Q4 2005.

Individual insolvencies; England and Wales, Thousands



Figures for Q1 2015 are provisional. Those for England and Wales are seasonally adjusted. Those for Scotland and Northern Ireland are not seasonally adjusted.

In Scotland, there were 2,569 individual insolvencies in Q1 2015, a decrease of 15.2% on a year earlier. This is the lowest number of insolvencies since Q1 2005. In Northern Ireland, there were 777 individual insolvencies in Q1 2015, a decrease of 7.5% on a year earlier.

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Updates

ONS, [UK Economic Accounts](#), 30 Jun

Bank of England, [Statistical database](#)

Insolvency Service, [Insolvency Statistics](#), 29 Jul

4. Glossary

4.1 Definitions¹

Balance of payments: A country's financial position, with other countries of the world, comprising two parts:

Current account: the balance of imports and exports of goods and services, income and transfers combined;

Capital account: the difference between a country's capital invested in other countries, and the capital invested by other countries in it. Technically, the two parts always balance. A balance of payments deficit normally refers to a current account deficit.

Balance of trade: The difference between a country's exports and imports of either goods only or goods and services combined. Trade in financial services account for around a third of UK exports, and thus partially offsets trade in goods deficits.

Basic prices: Prices excluding taxes and subsidies on products.

Claimant count: The number of people aged 18 and over claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) benefits. This includes out-of-work Universal Credit claimants.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI): This is the headline UK domestic measure of inflation. It measures the average change from month to month in the prices of consumer goods and services purchased in the UK.

Current account balance: The difference between receipts/payments due to transactions in goods, services, income and transfers between the UK and all other countries. A current account deficit means that total payments exceed total receipts; in the reverse case, the current account is in surplus.

Current budget: Measures the balance of public sector current account revenue over public sector current expenditure.

Current/constant prices: Current prices are the actual or estimated recorded monetary value over a defined period for a group of industries or products. They show the value for each item expressed in terms of the prices of that period.

Constant prices refer to volume measures whose values are derived by applying to current quantities, prices for a specific base period. They allow figures to be represented so that the effects of inflation are removed. The values for each time period are expressed in terms of the prices in a particular base period.

Economically active: Those aged 16 and over who are either in employment or unemployed.

Economically inactive: Those aged 16 and over who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This includes those who do not want a job, those who want a job but have not been seeking work in the last four weeks and those who want a job and are seeking work but not available to start work.

¹ Sources: ONS, HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, Finance-Glossary.com.

Employment: The number of people with jobs as estimated by the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This includes all people aged 16 or over who did paid work, those who had a job that they were temporarily away from, those on government supported training and employment programmes, and those doing unpaid family work during the survey period. The employment rate refers to the number of people employed as a percentage of the working age population as measured by the LFS.

Exchange rate: The rate at which one currency is traded against another.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The total market value of goods and services produced after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production (intermediate consumption) but before deducting consumption of fixed capital (depreciation).

Gross Domestic Product – Real GDP: Also known as constant price or chained volume measure, this is a measure used to indicate change in the actual quantity of goods and services produced, by adjusting for inflation.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF): Expenditure on fixed assets (buildings, vehicles etc.) either for replacing or adding to the stock of existing assets. Business investment is GFCF by the private sector and public corporations on transport equipment, other machinery and equipment and new dwellings and structures other than dwellings.

Gross Value Added (GVA): The difference between output and intermediate consumption for any given sector/industry. That is the difference between the value of goods and services produced and the cost of raw materials and other inputs which are used up in production. GVA is used to measure the productivity of sectors/industries and economies.

Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP): Harmonised indices of consumer prices for Member States of the European Union, which enable comparisons to be made across countries. The UK's CPI measure uses HICP methodology.

Market prices: The prices actually paid by the purchaser for goods and services, including transport costs, trade margins and taxes. $\text{GDP at market prices} = \text{GDP at basic prices} + \text{transport prices paid separately} + \text{non-deductible taxes on expenditure} - \text{subsidies received}$.

Money supply: The total amount of money in an economy at a given time.

The Public Sector Net Borrowing (PSNB): This measures the public sector's accumulation of debt net of liquid financial assets. Its approximate stock equivalent is net public sector debt.

Public Sector Net Debt: This is approximately the stock analogue of the PSNB. It measures the public sector's financial liabilities to the private sector and abroad, net of short-term financial assets such as bank deposits and foreign exchange reserves.

Retail Prices Index (RPI): A domestic indicator of inflation. It measures the average change from month to month in the prices of goods and services purchased in the UK. It is similar to the CPI, but differs in terms of methodology and coverage. For example, the RPI includes housing costs such as mortgage interest payments while the CPI doesn't.

Seasonally adjusted: Estimates in which the element of variability due to seasonal influences, which may distort the data, has been removed.

Sterling Exchange Rate Index (SERI): This measures the value of sterling against a trade-weighted 'basket' of other currencies. The weights used in this index measure currencies' relative importance to UK trade in goods and services.

UK Base/Repo rate: The rate at which the Bank of England lends to discount houses by buying their bills. The base rate is usually the minimum rate at which banks are prepared to lend money. The high street bank base rate follows that set by the Bank of England, and it acts as the benchmark for other interest rates, including mortgages and personal loans.

Unemployment: The ILO definition includes all people who are: out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight; or are out of work and have accepted a job that they are waiting to start in the next fortnight.

Unemployment rate: The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total economically active population.

Volume/value of retail sales: The volume of retail sales is the total takings adjusted for inflation and the value of retail sales is the total actual takings.

Workforce jobs: The sum of employee jobs, self-employment jobs, those in HM Forces and government-supported trainees.

4.2 Symbols and abbreviations

..	Figure(s) not yet available
CBI	Confederation of British Industry
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONS	Office for National Statistics

5. Indicator Sources

Indicator Page	Sources
A1 Gross Domestic Product	ONS, <i>GDP Preliminary Estimates</i> ONS, <i>Second Estimates of GDP</i> ONS, <i>Quarterly National Accounts</i> HM Treasury, <i>Forecasts for the UK Economy</i>
A2 GDP: International	OECD, <i>OECDStat database</i> OECD, <i>Economic Outlook</i> IMF, <i>World Economic Outlook</i> European Commission's growth forecasts
A3 Components of GDP	ONS, <i>Second Estimate of GDP</i> ONS, <i>Quarterly National Accounts</i>
A4 Services	ONS, <i>Index of Services</i> Markit/CIPS, <i>UK Services Purchasing Managers Index</i>
A5 Manufacturing	ONS, <i>Index of Services</i> Markit/CIPS, <i>UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index</i>
A6 Productivity	ONS, <i>Labour Productivity</i>
B1 Inflation	ONS, <i>Consumer Price Indices</i>
B2 Inflation: International	OECD, <i>Main Economic Indicators</i> Eurostat
B3 Average Earnings	ONS, <i>Labour Market Statistics</i> ONS, <i>Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings</i>
C1 Employment	ONS, <i>Labour Market Statistics</i>
C2 Unemployment: National	ONS, <i>Labour Market Statistics</i>
C3 Unemployment: International	OECD, <i>Main Economic Indicators</i> OECD, <i>Economic Outlook</i>
D1 Interest Rates and Monetary Policy	Bank of England, <i>Monetary Policy Committee decisions and minutes</i> Federal Reserve, <i>Federal Open Market Committee decisions</i> European Central Bank news releases Bank of England: Bankstats, <i>Tables A1.1 and A2.2.1</i> ONS Database
D2 Public Finances	ONS, <i>Public sector finances</i> Forecasts from Office for Budget Responsibility
D3 Financial Indicators	Financial Times, <i>Market Data</i>
E1 Trade	ONS, <i>UK Balance of Payments</i> ONS, <i>UK Trade</i>
E2 Exchange Rates	Financial Times, <i>Sterling Exchange Rates</i> Bank of England, <i>SERI & monthly rates</i>
F1 Business and Consumer Confidence	EC, <i>Economic Sentiment Indicator</i> CBI, <i>Industrial Trends Survey press release</i> GfK NOM, <i>Consumer Confidence Index</i>
F2 Retail Sales	ONS, <i>Retail Sales</i>
F3 Housing Market	ONS, <i>UK House Price Index</i> Bank of England, <i>Money and Credit</i> DCLG, <i>House-Building</i>
F4 Household Debt	Bank of England, <i>Lending to Individuals</i> The Insolvency Service, <i>Insolvency Statistics</i>

BRIEFING PAPER

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