



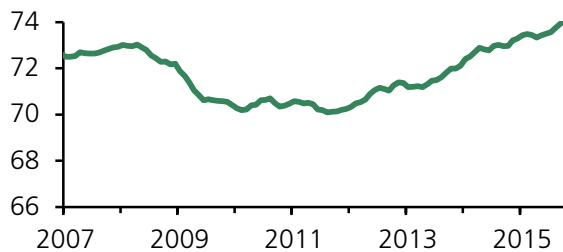
BRIEFING PAPER

Number 7530, 11 March 2016

Economic Indicators, Mar 2016 – Budget edition

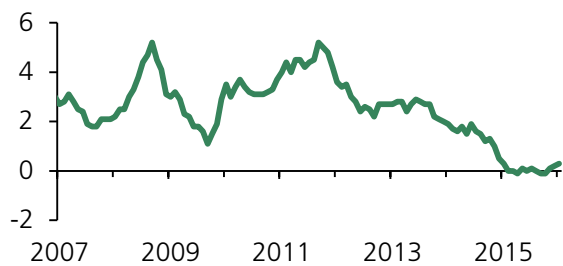
By Aliyah Dar

Employment Rate; UK % , age 16-64



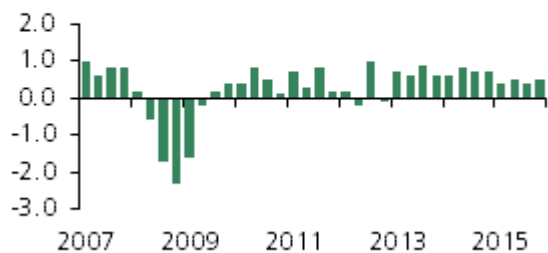
The employment rate was 74.1% in Oct-Dec 2015 – a record high.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI) % change on yr



CPI was 0.3% in January 2016

GDP growth % change on previous qtr



GDP grew by 0.5% in Q4 2015. Annual growth in 2015 was 2.2%

Inside:

1. **Headline UK Economic Indicators, Mar 2016**
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, Mar 2016	3
2. This month's developments	4
3. Introduction to Economic Indicators	5
A1: Gross Domestic Product	6
A2: GDP International	7
A3: Components of GDP	8
A4: Productivity	9
A5: Services	10
A6: Manufacturing	11
B1: Inflation	12
B2: International inflation	13
B3: Average Earnings	14
C1: Employment	15
C2: Unemployment	16
C3: Unemployment International	17
D1: Interest Rates and Monetary Policy	18
D2: Public finances	19
D3: Financial Indicators	20
E1: Trade	21
E2: Exchange Rates	22
F1: Business and Consumer Confidence	23
F2: Retail Sales	24
F3: Housing Market	25
F4: Household Debt	26
4. Glossary	27
4.1 Definitions	27
4.2 Symbols and abbreviations	29
5. Indicator Sources	30

1. Headline UK Economic Indicators, Mar 2016

Gross Domestic Product: Q4 2015, Seasonally Adjusted		
Change (real %)	0.5 (qtr)	2.2 (yr)
Industries		
Service output: Dec 2015		
Change (%)	0.2 (mth)	2.1 (yr)
Manufacturing output: Dec 2015		
Change (%)	0.2 (mth)	-0.1 (yr)
Productivity: Q3 2015, Seasonally Adjusted		
Output per hour		
Change (%)	0.5 (qtr)	1.3 (yr)
Inflation: Jan 2016		
Change on year (%)	0.3 (CPI)	1.3 (RPI)
Labour Market: Oct-Dec 2015, Seasonally Adjusted		
Unemployment		
Unemployment Rate (% of economically active)		5.1
Change (% points)	-0.2 (qtr)	-0.6 (yr)
Employment		
Employment Rate (% aged 16-64)		74.1
Change (% points)	0.4 (qtr)	0.9 (yr)
Interest Rate: as of 11 March 2016		
Bank of England Base Rate		0.5%
Public Finances: 2014/15		
Net borrowing	92 (£ bn)	5.0 (% GDP)
Net debt	1,547 (£ bn)	83.7 (% GDP)
Trade: Q3 2015		
Current Account	-17.5 (£ bn)	-3.7 (% GDP)
Sterling Exchange rate: 10 March 2016		
US Dollar (\$)	1.43 (rate)	-6.6 (% change on yr)
Euro (€)	1.29 (rate)	-4.8 (% change on yr)
EC Economic Sentiment Indicator for UK: Dec 2015		
Points (1990-2012 = 100)		105
Change (points)	-1.6 (mth)	-8.2 (yr)
Retail Sales: Jan 2016, Seasonally Adjusted		
Retailing total (inc vehicle fuel), value		0.5 (% change on yr)
Housing Market: Dec 2015		
House Price Index		
Change (%)	-0.2 (mth)	6.7 (yr)

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

2. This month's developments

Budget

On Wednesday 16 March, the Chancellor will present the Budget to the House of Commons. The Office for Budget Responsibility will publish revised forecasts for the economy and public finances on the same day.

For more information see the Library briefing [Background to the 2016 Budget](#).

Employment rate reaches 45 year high

The employment rate – the proportion of people aged 16-64 in work – was 74.1% in October-December 2015. This is the highest rate of employment since comparable records began in 1971.

Unemployment is not at its record low, but was at 5.1% in October-December 2015 - back at pre-recession levels.

GDP growth reaches 0.5%

UK GDP grew by 0.5% in Q4 2015, a slight increase on Q3 (0.4%) but below growth in Q2 (0.6%). Overall, in 2015 the UK economy is estimated to have grown by 2.2% - the slowest annual growth since 2012.

Trade deficit narrows

The UK's trade deficit narrowed to £3.5bn in January, however, the goods trade deficit with the EU widened from £7.4bn in December 2015 to £8.1bn in January 2016.

Interest rates fall in the Eurozone

The European Central Bank (ECB) cut interest rates in the Eurozone to 0.00% on 10 March 2016. Mario Draghi, the President of the ECB said that "rates will stay low, very low, for a long period of time". The bank also announced that it would expand its quantitative easing programme from €60bn to €80bn a month.

IMF warns of "risk of economic derailment."

The IMF have called for steps to boost global demand, as their reading of the global economy "shows once again a weakening baseline". The Deputy Director has also stated that burden to lift growth lies with advanced economies as risks have increased with "volatile financial markets and low commodity prices creating fresh concerns about the health of the global economy".

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, Aliyah Dar on x6920.

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 to 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:

Subject	Specialist	Contact
Balance of Payments	Dominic Webb	2042
Businesses	Chris Rhodes	2454
EC Finance	Matthew Keep	4324
GDP	Daniel Harari	2464
Employment	Aliyah Dar	6920
Financial Services	Dominic Webb	2042
Housing	Richard Cracknell	4632
Incomes	Feargal McGuinness	4904
Industries	Chris Rhodes	2454
International Trade	Dominic Webb	2042
International Development	Lorna Booth	2883
International Economies	Daniel Harari	2464
National Accounts	Daniel Harari	2464
Prices and Interest Rates	Dominic Webb	2042
Public Expenditure	Chris Rhodes	2454
Taxation	Matthew Keep	4324
Unemployment	Jeanne Delebarre	6962
Wages and Earnings	Feargal McGuinness	4904

A1: Gross Domestic Product

The economy grew by 0.5% in real terms in Q4 2015 compared with the previous quarter, following growth of 0.4% in Q3 2015.

Real Gross Domestic Product seasonally adjusted		
	% change on qtr	% change on yr
2012	...	1.2
2013	...	2.2
2014	...	2.9
2015	...	2.2
2014 Q4	0.7	2.8
2015 Q1	0.4	2.6
Q2	0.6	2.4
Q3	0.4	2.1
Q4	0.5	1.9

GDP was 2.2% higher in 2015 compared with 2014.

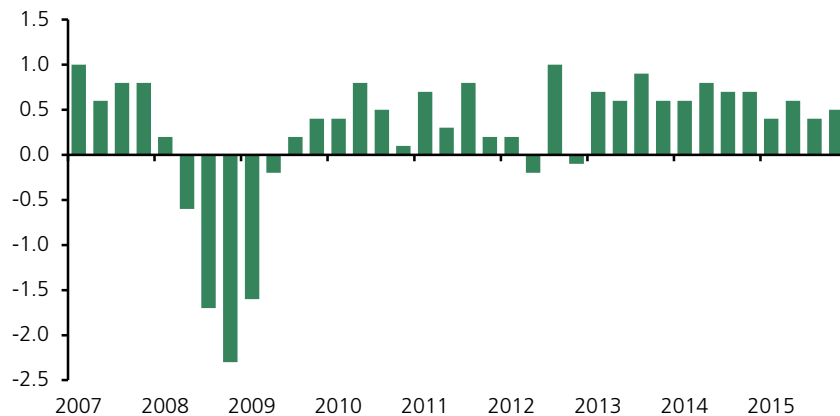
GDP has now increased for 12 consecutive quarters and is estimated to be 6.7% above the pre-economic downturn peak in Q1 2008.

GDP in cash terms was £1,864 billion in 2015.

Source: ONS, series: IHYP, IHYQ, IHYR

GDP growth

% change on previous qtr



Forecasts

In February 2016, the Treasury survey of independent forecasts for GDP growth showed an average forecast of 2.2% for 2016 and 2.2% for 2017.

The latest Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts, published alongside the Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015, are for growth of 2.4% in 2016 and 2.5% in 2017.

Annual GDP growth forecasts (%)

	2016	2017
HM Treasury average of independent forecasts (Feb 16)	2.2	2.2
OBR forecasts (Nov 15)	2.4	2.5

Source: HMT, Forecasts for the UK economy: a comparison of independent forecasts, Feb 2016
Office for Budget Responsibility, *Economic and fiscal outlook*, Nov 2015

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Updates

HM Treasury, [Forecast for the UK economy](#), 16 March 2016

ONS, [Quarterly National Accounts](#), 31 March 2016

OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook](#), 16 March 2016

A2: GDP International

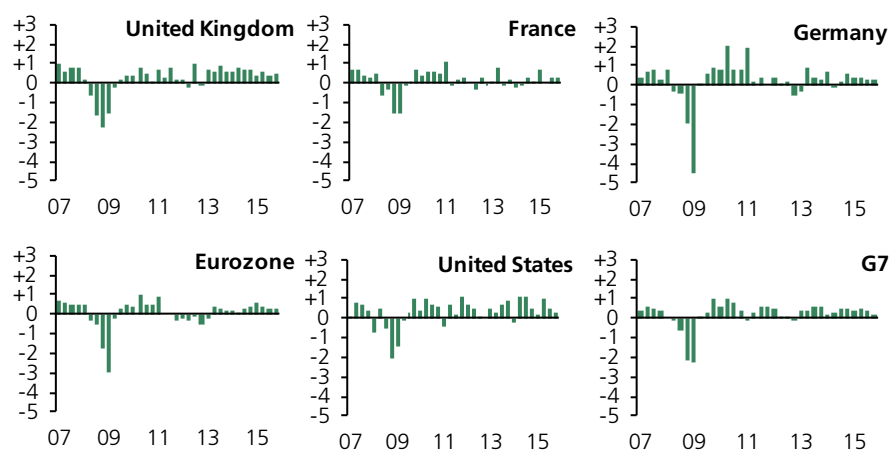
Real GDP in the UK grew by 0.5% in Q4 2015 compared with the previous quarter. In the same quarter, both the US and the Eurozone saw growth of 0.3%.

Real GDP % changes

	change on quarter				change on year			
	Q1 15	Q2 15	Q3 15	Q4 15	Q1 15	Q2 15	Q3 15	Q4 15
UK	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.9
Eurozone	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6
USA	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.3	2.9	2.7	2.1	1.9
Japan	1.1	-0.4	0.3	-0.3	-1.0	0.7	1.7	0.8
Germany	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.3
France	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4
G7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.5
OECD	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.8

Source: OECDstat

Quarter-on-quarter growth rates



Forecasts

On 18 February 2016, the OECD lowered their GDP growth forecasts for most of the world's largest economies. UK growth for 2016 was lowered from 2.4% (at the time of the last forecast in November) to 2.1%. This is still forecast to (just) be the highest in the G7.

Real GDP growth forecasts

% change

	IMF (Jan 16)		EC (Feb 16)		OECD (Feb 16)	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
UK	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.1
France	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2
Germany	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.3
Eurozone	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.4
US	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.0
Japan	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.8
China	6.9	6.3	6.9	6.5	6.9	6.5
India	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4
Brazil	-3.8	-3.5	-3.8	-3.0	-3.8	-4.0
World	3.1	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.0

Sources: IMF Jan '16 WEO update; EC Winter '16 forecast; OECD Interim Economic Outlook Feb '16

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Updates

OECD, [OECDStat database](#)

OECD, [Economic Outlook](#), May/June 2016

IMF, [World Economic Outlook](#), Apr 2016

European Commission, [Spring Economic Forecast](#), May 2016

A3: Components of GDP

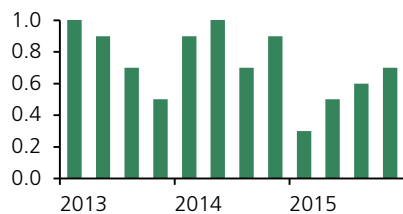
GDP can be analysed in terms of the output produced of different industries of the economy and by expenditure on goods and services made by households, businesses and the government.

Overall, GDP increased by 0.5% in real terms in Q4 2015 compared with the previous quarter.

GDP by Industry

In 2014, the service sector accounted for around 78% of economic output, the production sector for 15% and the construction sector for 6%.

Service sector
quarterly growth (%)

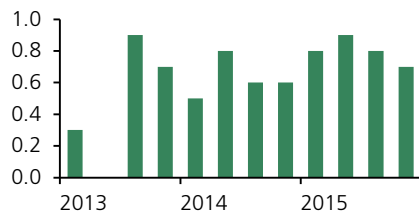


In Q4 2015, service sector output increased by 0.7% in real terms compared with Q3 2015. Manufacturing output was flat (and overall the production sector decreased by 0.5%). Output in the construction sector decreased by 0.4%.

GDP by Expenditure

Household consumption is the largest element of expenditure, accounting for 62% of the total in 2015. Government consumption accounted for 19% and investment for 17%.

Household Consumption
quarterly growth (%)



In Q4 2015, household consumption grew by 0.7% in real terms compared with Q3 2015. Government consumption was up 0.5% and investment was down 0.1%.

Exports fell by 0.1% while imports increased by 1.2%.

GDP by expenditure
% change on previous quarter (real terms)

	Household consumption	Government consumption	Investment	Exports	Imports	GDP
2014 *	2.6	2.5	7.3	1.2	2.4	2.9
2015 *	3.0	1.7	4.2	5.0	6.2	2.2
2014 Q4	0.6	-0.3	0.1	3.8	2.8	0.7
Q1	0.8	0.5	1.4	-0.3	3.3	0.4
2015 Q2	0.9	1.0	1.6	3.0	-2.4	0.6
Q3	0.8	0.6	-0.1	-0.5	2.7	0.4
Q4	0.7	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	1.2	0.5

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

Note: * annual % change

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

ONS, [Quarterly National Accounts](#), 31 Mar 2016

ONS, [Gross Domestic Product: Preliminary Estimate](#), 27 Apr 2016

ONS, [Second Estimate of GDP](#), 26 May 2016

A4: 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 in March [said](#) 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 Q3 2015, productivity rose by 0.5% compared with the previous quarter and by 1.3% compared with the same period a year ago.

Productivity level (GDP per hour)

Index where Q1 2007 level = 100



Productivity - output (GDP) per hour

	% change on qtr	% change on yr
2013	..	-0.4
2014	..	0.3
2014 Q4	-0.1	0.0
2015 Q1	0.1	0.4
Q2	0.8	1.3
Q3	0.5	1.3

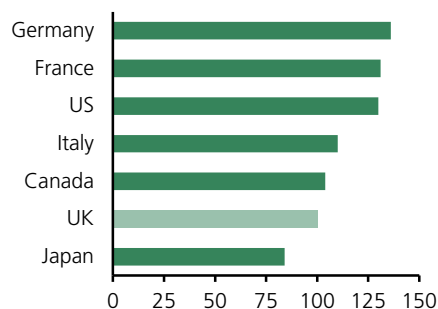
Source: ONS series LZVD, TXBB

International comparisons

International comparisons of productivity levels are presented in the chart below as an index where the UK=100.

Productivity (GDP per hour), 2014

Index where UK=100



In 2014, based on GDP per hour, the UK came sixth highest out of the G7 countries, with Germany top and Japan bottom. UK productivity was 18 percentage points below the average of the rest of the G7 countries, the widest productivity gap since at least 1991 (when the ONS data series began).

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

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

ONS, [International Comparisons](#), Sep 2016

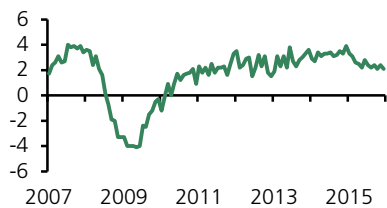
A5: Services

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

In 2014, the service industries accounted for 78% of total UK economic output (Gross Value Added) and accounted for 83% of jobs in September 2015.

Services Output

Output - Index of Services
% change on previous year

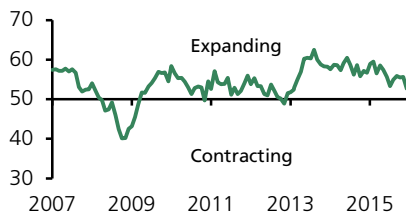


Output increased by 0.2% in December compared to November.

Compared with a year before, it has increased by 2.1%.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

UK Services PMI
50 = no change



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

In February it was 52.7 (where a figure above 50 indicates that output is increasing). Business activity and new work both expanded at their slowest rates since March 2013.

Services Output Index

	Index	% change on yr
2013 Dec	102.8	2.8
2014 Dec	106.2	3.3
2015 Oct	109.6	2.1
Nov	110.0	2.4
Dec	110.2	2.1

Source: ONS, series S2KU, S222

PMI Index

	Index	Change on mth
2014 Feb	58.2	
2015 Feb	56.7	
2015 Dec	55.5	-0.4
2016 Jan	55.6	0.1
Feb	52.7	-2.9

Source: Markit/CIPS UK Services PMI

Subject Specialist

Chris Rhodes
x2454

Update

ONS, [Index of Services](#),
25 Mar 2016

Markit/CIPS, [UK Services PMI](#), 5 Apr
2016

A6: Manufacturing

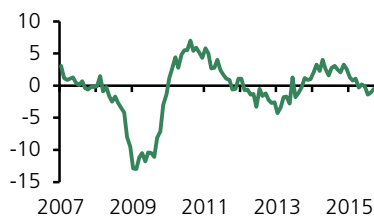
Manufacturing is one of the production industries, which also include mining, electricity, water & waste management and oil & gas extraction.

In 2014, the manufacturing sector accounted for 11% of total UK economic output (Gross Value Added). In Q3 2015 it accounted for 8% of jobs.

Manufacturing Output

Output - Index of manufacturing

% change on previous year



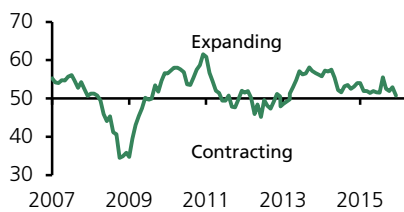
Total output increased by 0.2% in January 2016 compared to December 2015.

Compared with a year before, manufacturing output decreased by 0.1%.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

UK Manufacturing PMI

50 = no change



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

In February 2016 it was 50.8 a decrease of 2.1 points on January (where a figure above 50 indicates that output is increasing). This is a 34 month low.

Manufacturing output index			PMI Index		
	Index	% change on yr		Index	Change on mth
2014	101.6	2.7	2014 Feb	56.2	
2015	101.3	-0.3	2015 Feb	54.0	
2015 Nov	101.0	-1.2	2015 Dec	51.9	-0.6
Dec	100.7	-1.7	2016 Jan	52.9	1.0
2016 Jan	101.4	-0.1	Feb	50.8	-2.1

Source: ONS, series K22A, K27Y, K2DO

Source: Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI

Subject Specialist

Chris Rhodes
x2454

Update

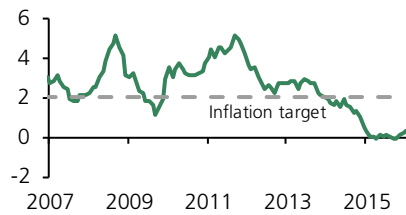
Markit/CIPS, [UK Manufacturing PMI](#), 1 Apr 2016

ONS, [Index of Production](#), 8 Apr 2016

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 Statistic 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.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
% change on yr

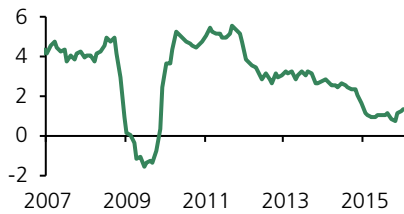


The CPI inflation rate was 0.3% in January, up from 0.2% in December. The RPI inflation rate was 1.3% in January, up from 1.2% in December.

The main drivers pushing up inflation in January were a rise in the price of motor fuels and, to a lesser extent, food, alcoholic drinks and clothing. The rise in the inflation rate was partially offset by a fall in air fares, although air fares are highly variable.

The main drivers pushing up inflation in January were a rise in the price of motor fuels and, to a lesser extent, food, alcoholic

Retail Prices Index (RPI)
% change on yr



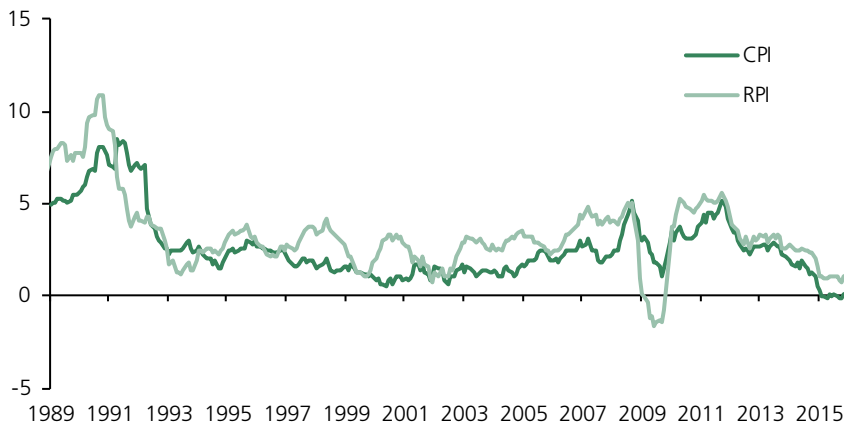
Price Indices

% change on a year ago

	CPI	RPI
2013 Jan	2.7	3.3
2014 Jan	1.9	2.8
2015 Jan	0.3	1.1
2015 Nov	0.1	1.1
Dec	0.2	1.2
2016 Jan	0.3	1.3

Source: ONS database, series: D7G7, CZBH

CPI and RPI since 1989
% change on yr



Subject Specialist

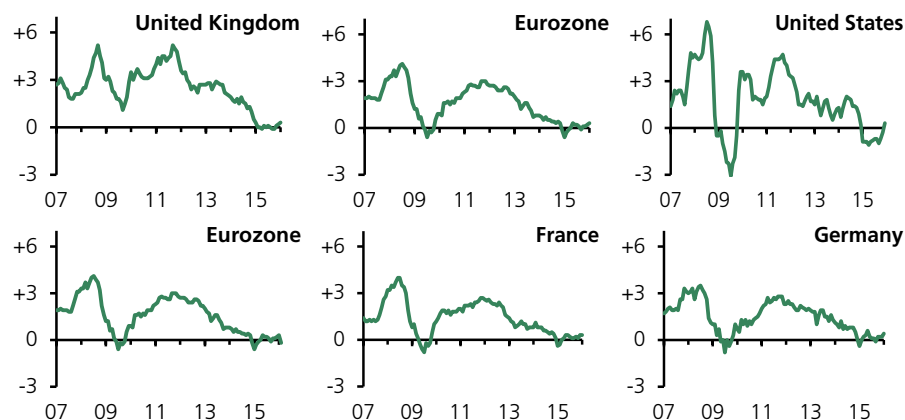
Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

ONS, [Consumer Price Indices](#), 22 Mar 2016

B2: International inflation

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 0.3% in the year to January 2016, up from 0.2% in December 2015.

Eurozone inflation for the year to February is provisionally estimated as -0.2% down from 0.3% in January.

Belgium had the highest annual inflation rate in the EU in January at 1.8%, followed by Austria at 1.4%.

The lowest annual inflation rate in the EU was in Poland (-1.7%), followed by Romania (-1.5%)

HICP inflation in the US in the year to December 2015 was +0.3%, compared with -0.3% in November.

Inflation rates: selected countries

Annual % change in consumer prices (HICP)

	2013	2014	2015	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16
UK	2.6	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	..
Eurozone	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.2
European Union	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	..
France	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	..
Germany	1.6	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	..
US	1.3	1.3	-0.7	-0.3	0.3

Source: Eurostat & stat.OECD database. Eurozone figure for February 2016 is provisional estimate

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

ONS, [Consumer Prices bulletin](#) (UK), 22 Mar

Eurostat, [Flash estimate](#) (Eurozone), 31 Mar

Eurostat, [HICP full release](#), 17 Mar

B3: Average Earnings

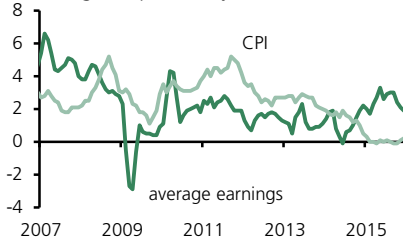
In April 2015 median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were £528, up 1.8% on April 2014.

More timely but less detailed data show average weekly earnings for the whole economy, including bonuses, were 1.9% higher in the three months to December 2015 compared with the year before. Inflation as measured by the CPI averaged 0.2% over the same period.

Average Earnings, Whole Economy

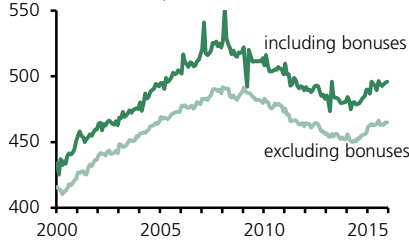
Inflation and earnings (incl bonuses)

% change on previous yr



Real average weekly earnings

December 2015 prices



Trends by Sector

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

		Total	Private	Public
2013	Dec	1.1	1.4	0.2
2014	Dec	2.2	2.6	0.7
2015	Oct	2.4	2.7	1.3
	Nov	2.1	2.3	1.4
	Dec	1.9	2.1	1.3

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

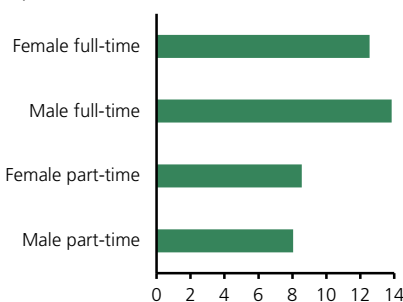
Average total weekly pay (including bonuses) grew by 2.1% in the **private sector** in the three months to December 2015, compared with the year before. In the **public sector**, total pay increased by 1.3% over the same period.

Sectors seeing larger increases in average earnings over the year to October-December

2015 included **construction** (up 6.5%) and **wholesale, retail and hospitality** (up 3.3%).

Pay Levels

Median hourly pay excluding overtime
April 2015 (£)



Median weekly earnings for full-time employees in the UK were £528 in April 2015. (The median is the point at which half earn more and half earn less).

Median hourly earnings (excluding overtime) were £13.29 for full-time employees; £13.84 for men working full-time and £12.54 for women.

Median hourly earnings (excluding overtime) were £8.44 for part-time employees; £8.04 for men working part-time, and £8.56 for women. Women are more likely than men to work part-time.

Subject Specialist

Feargal McGuinness
x4904

Update

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 16 Mar 2016

ONS, [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#), Nov 2016

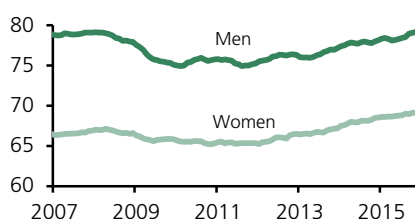
C1: Employment

31.42 million people were in employment in October-December 2015, up 205,000 from the previous quarter and up 521,000 on the previous year. The employment rate (the proportion of the population aged 16-64 in work) was 74.1%, up 0.9% points on the previous year and the highest rate since comparable records began in 1971.

Employment; UK
Millions, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



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



16.77 million men were in work in October-December 2015, 163,000 higher than the previous quarter. The employment rate for men aged 16-64 was 79.2%.

Female employment increased by 42,000 over the past quarter to 14.65 million. The employment rate for women aged 16-64 was 69.1%.

4.62 million people were self-employed, 121,000 higher than in the previous quarter. The number of people working as employees rose by 160,000, to 26.59 million.

22.98 million people were working full-time in October-December 2015, up 188,000 on the previous quarter and 387,000 higher than a year earlier. There were 8.43 million people working part-time, an increase of 17,000 from the previous quarter and 134,000 higher than a year earlier.

1.62 million people were employed on a temporary basis in October-December 2015, down 45,000 from the previous quarter and down 88,000 compared to the year before.

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
Oct-Dec	2012	29,910	71.4	15,950	76.4	13,959	66.5	3,736	50.8
Oct-Dec	2013	30,288	72.0	16,138	76.9	14,150	67.1	3,730	50.9
Oct-Dec	2014	30,896	73.2	16,427	78.0	14,469	68.5	3,840	52.7
Jul-Sep	2015	31,211	73.7	16,607	78.5	14,605	69.0	3,946	54.5
Oct-Dec	2015	31,417	74.1	16,770	79.2	14,647	69.1	3,959	54.9
Change on qtr	Level	205	0.4	163	0.6	42	0.1	14	0.4
	%	0.7%		1.0%		0.3%		0.3%	
Change on yr	Level	521	0.9	343	1.2	177	0.6	120	2.2
	%	1.7%		2.1%		1.2%		3.1%	

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

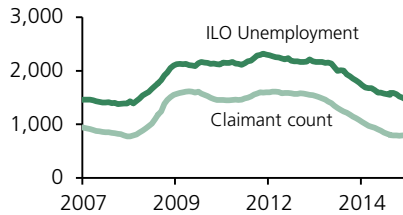
ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 16 Mar 2016

C2: Unemployment

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

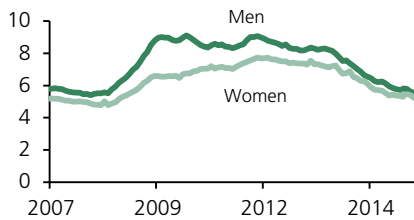


ILO unemployment was 1.69 million people in the UK in October-December 2015, down 60,000 from the previous quarter and down 172,000 from the previous year. The unemployment rate was 5.1% (the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed),

down 0.2% points on the previous quarter and down 0.6% points on the previous year.

Unemployment Rate; UK

%, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



The number of people claiming JSA (adjusting for Universal Credit) decreased by 14,800 between December and January to 760,200 people aged 18 or over.

There were 924,000 men unemployed in October-December 2015, down 33,000 on the previous quarter. 766,000 women

were unemployed, down 27,000 on 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
Oct-Dec	2012	2,529	7.8	1,419	8.2	1,110	7.4	988	20.9
Oct-Dec	2013	2,348	7.2	1,321	7.6	1,027	6.8	928	19.9
Oct-Dec	2014	1,862	5.7	1,039	6.0	822	5.4	740	16.2
Jul-Sep	2015	1,749	5.3	957	5.4	793	5.1	653	14.2
Oct-Dec	2015	1,690	5.1	924	5.2	766	5.0	622	13.6
Change on qtr	Level	-60	-0.2	-33	-0.2	-27	-0.2	-31	-0.6
	%	-3%		-3%		-3%		-5%	
Change on yr	Level	-172	-0.6	-116	-0.7	-57	-0.4	-118	-2.6
	%	-9%		-11%		-7%		-16%	

Source: ONS Labour Market Statistics, A05, A06, CLA01

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

622,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in October-December 2015, down 118,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 13.6%, down 1.2% points from the previous quarter.

Subject Specialist

Jeanne Delebarre
x6962

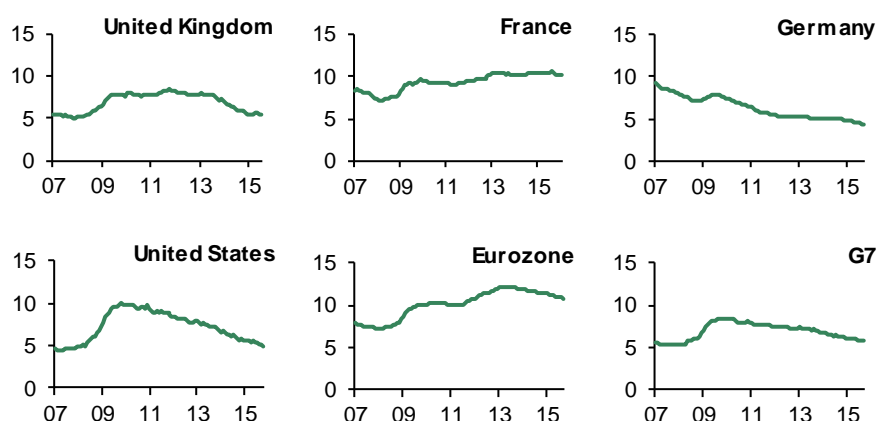
Updates

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 16 Mar 2016

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 Q3 2015 was 5.3%. This was below the rate of France and Italy but above that of Germany.

In the US, the unemployment rate stood at 5.0% in Q4 2015, down from 5.2% in Q3.

In the Eurozone, the unemployment rate was 10.5% in Q4 2015, compared to 10.7% in Q3 2015.

Spain and Greece have the highest harmonised unemployment rate out of 34 OECD member states (21.0% and 24.7%)

Japan, Korea and Iceland had the lowest unemployment rate in the OECD in Q4 2015 at (3.3% and 3.5%).

Youth (15-24) unemployment is a major issue in many developed economies at present. In Q3 2015 youth unemployment was 47.8% in Spain and 49.8% in Greece. In the same period UK youth unemployment stood at 14.5%.

Unemployment

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

	CAN	FRA	GER	ITA	JPN	UK	USA	Eurozone	G7	OECD
2013	7.1	10.3	5.2	12.1	4.0	7.6	7.4	12.0	7.1	7.9
2014	6.9	10.3	5.0	12.7	3.6	6.2	6.2	11.6	6.4	7.4
2015	6.9	10.4	4.6	11.9	3.4	..	5.3	10.9	5.8	6.8
2012 Q2	7.3	10.1	5.3	11.3	4.2	7.7	7.8	11.8	7.3	8.0
2013 Q2	7.1	10.1	5.1	12.4	3.9	7.2	6.9	11.9	6.8	7.7
2014 Q4	6.7	10.5	4.9	12.8	3.5	5.7	5.7	11.5	6.1	7.1
2015 Q1	6.8	10.4	4.8	12.3	3.5	5.5	5.6	11.2	6.0	7.0
Q2	6.8	10.4	4.7	12.2	3.3	5.6	5.4	11.0	5.9	6.9
Q3	7.0	10.5	4.6	11.7	3.4	5.3	5.2	10.7	5.7	6.7
Q4	7.0	10.2	4.5	11.4	3.2	n/a	5.0	10.5	5.6	6.6
<i>Change on qtr</i>	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	...	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
<i>Change on yr</i>	0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-1.4	-0.3	...	-0.7	-1.0	-0.5	-0.5

Source: OECD, Harmonised Unemployment Rates

Subject Specialist

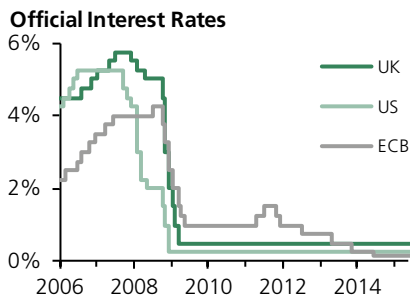
Jeanne Delebarre
x6962

Updates

OECD, [Harmonised Unemployment Rates](#),
12 Apr 2016

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 0.00% and the deposit rate to -0.40% in March 2016.

The US Federal Reserve increased its target range for the federal funds rate to between 0.25-0.5%

on 16 December 2015. This is the first increase since 2006. The Fed had previously signalled they would raise rates by the end of 2015.

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 debt).

On 22 January the ECB launched a 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).

The Federal Reserve in the US, has run three programmes of QE since the Great Recession. The first from December 2008 to March 2010 saw the Fed buy \$1.75 trillion of mortgage-backed securities and government debt between December 2008 and March 2010. The second programme involved the Fed buying about \$600bn in new assets between November 2010 and June 2011. The third programme, so-called QE3, ran from September 2012 to October 2014 and saw the Fed purchasing assets (mortgage debt and government debt) of around \$1.6 trillion.

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

Monetary policy meetings: 16 Mar ([US](#)), 17 Mar ([UK](#)), 21 April ([ECB](#))

D2: Public finances

	Net borrowing		Net debt	
	£ bn	% GDP	£ bn	% GDP
2009/10	155	10.3	1,004	65.2
2010/11	137	8.7	1,150	71.7
2011/12	116	7.1	1,243	75.2
2012/13	121	7.2	1,353	78.9
2013/14	103	5.9	1,459	81.0
2014/15	92	5.0	1,547	83.7
2015/16	74	3.9	1,599	82.5
2016/17	50	2.5	1,652	81.7
2017/18	25	1.2	1,685	79.9
2018/19	5	0.2	1,702	77.3
2019/20	-10	-0.5	1,708	74.3
2020/21	-15	-0.6	1,715	71.3

Sources: ONS, OBR. Excludes public sector banks

Net borrowing was 14% lower in the first 10 months of 2015/16 compared to the same period in 2014/15. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) expects borrowing to fall by around 20% in 2015/16.

The OBR expect net debt to fall, as a % of GDP, in each year of this Parliament. The fiscal watchdog expects debt to fall from 82.5% of GDP in 2015/16 to around 71% by 2020/21.

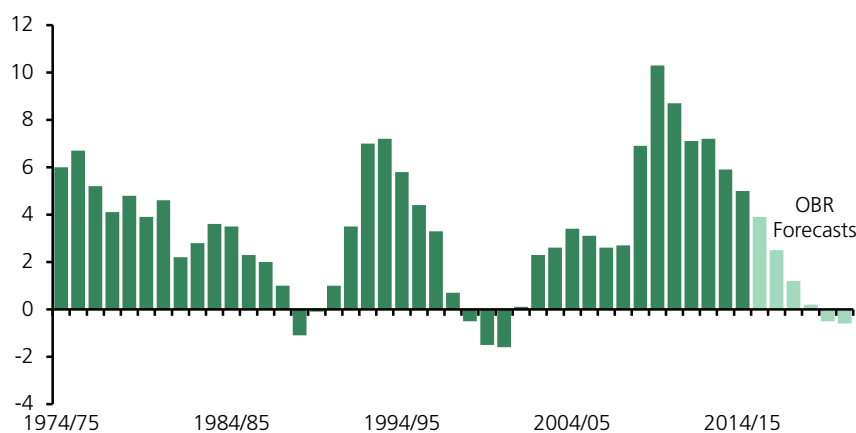
Borrowing and debt figures now include the impact of ONS’s decision to [reclassify housing associations](#) from the private sector to the public sector.

In its November 2015 forecasts, the OBR judges that the Government is on course to meet its fiscal targets: borrowing is expected to reach a surplus in 2019/20, and the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to fall in each year to 2019/20.

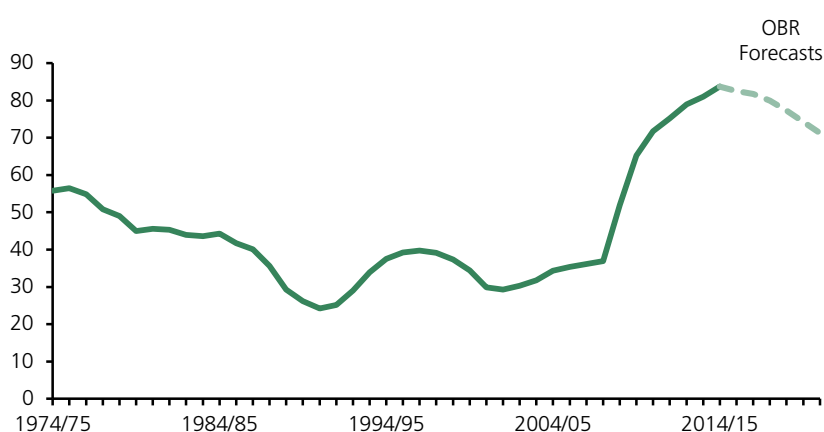
Net borrowing – often described as the deficit – is the difference between what the government spends and what it receives in taxes and receipts over a particular time period.

Net debt is the total amount that the public sector owes – it is largely the stock of past borrowing.

Public sector net borrowing
% of GDP



Public sector net debt
% of GDP



Subject Specialist

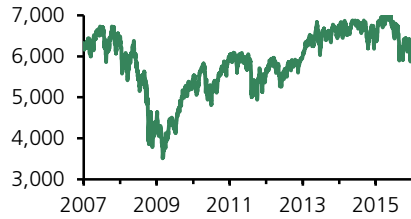
Matt Keep
x4324

Next update

ONS, [Public Sector Finances](#), 22 March 2016

D3: Financial Indicators

FTSE-100 Index
Daily closing price



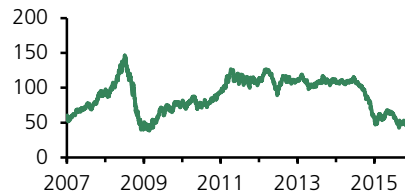
FTSE-100 Index

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.

Brent Crude Oil

The price of Brent crude oil reached an all-time high above \$145/barrel in July 2008. In January 2016, the price fell below \$30/barrel for the first time since February 2004, though has since returned to above \$40/barrel.

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



Gold price

Gold (\$ per 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 December 2015, it fell to its lowest level in six years.

Data from 10 March 2016

	FTSE-100	Oil (\$/bbl)	Gold (\$/oz)
10 Mar 2016	6,036.7	40.1	1,266.5
%change over:			
1-month	+6%	+30%	+6%
12-months	-10%	-29%	+9%
%change from:			
cyclical peak	-12%	-73%	-33%
date	15 Jun '07	03 Jul '08	23 Aug '11
cyclical trough	+72%	+10%	+78%
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

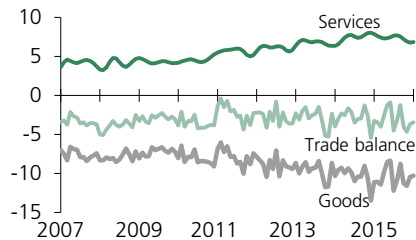
Financial Times, Weekly Basis

E1: Trade

In 2015, the UK's exports of goods and services totalled £511 billion and imports totalled £548 billion. The EU accounted for 45% of exports of goods and services in 2014 and 53% of imports. 2015 figures for the EU/non-EU split are published at the end of March.

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 (£88.7 billion in 2015) is more than offset by a deficit on trade in goods (£125.4 billion in 2015). The overall trade deficit was £36.6 billion (2.0% of GDP) in 2015.

The trade deficit increased to £12.4 billion in Q4 2015, up from £8.9 billion in Q3, as exports fell and imports increased.

Goods & Services and Current Account Balances

Seasonally adjusted

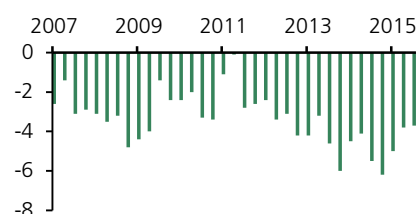
	Goods and Services (£bn)			Current Account	
	Exports	Imports	Balance	£bn	% GDP
2014	513.4	547.8	-34.4	92.5	-5.1%
2015	511.1	547.7	-36.6
2014 Q4	130.3	139.7	-9.3	-28.5	-6.2%
2015 Q1	128.0	138.7	-10.7	-23.3	-5.0%
Q2	130.4	135.1	-4.7	-17.5	-3.8%
Q3	127.4	136.3	-8.9	-17.5	-3.7%
Q4	125.3	137.7	-12.4

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 £92.5 billion in 2014, up from £77.9 billion in 2013.

Current Account Balance

% of GDP



This is an increase from 4.5% to 5.1% of GDP. The 2014 deficit is a record high. The 2013 deficit is the second highest on record.

The current account deficit was £17.5 billion in Q3 2015, unchanged from Q2 2015, but down sharply from £23.3 billion in Q1 2015.

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Update

ONS [UK Trade](#) 8 Apr

[UK BoP](#) 31 Mar 2016

[Second estimate of GDP](#), 26 May

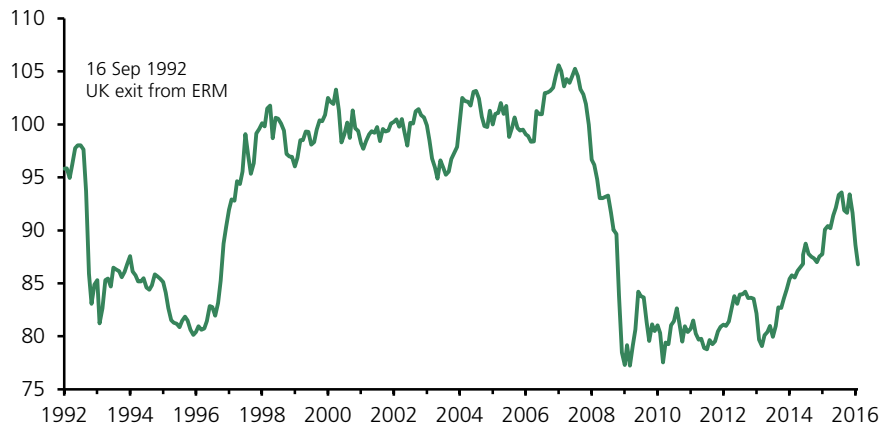
E2: Exchange Rates

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 2.1% in February 2016. Compared with the same period a year ago, it is 3.6% lower. It is currently 12.4% above its March 2009 level, when it was at its lowest point since the series began in 1980. It is 17.8% below its pre-recession peak in July 2007.

Sterling Exchange Rate Index (SERI)

Jan 2005=100

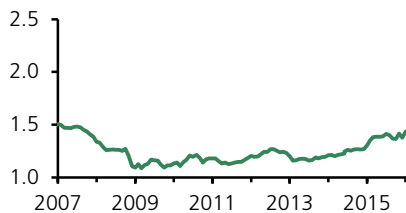


On average in February, the pound was down 2.8% against the dollar compared to January. At the 1 March market close, the pound stood at \$1.39.

Sterling was down 0.6% against the Euro in February compared to January. At the 1 March market close the pound stood at €1.30. 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.

€ / £ Exchange Rate

€ per £



US\$/£ Exchange Rate

\$ per £



Sterling Exchange Rates

average rates in period and % changes

	US Dollar (\$)		Euro (€)	
	Rate	% change on yr	Rate	% change on yr
2013	1.56	-1.3%	1.18	-4.5%
2014	1.65	5.3%	1.24	5.4%
2015	1.53	-7.2%	1.38	11.0%
2015 Dec	1.50	-4.2%	1.38	8.5%
2016 Jan	1.44	-5.0%	1.33	1.6%
Feb	1.43	-6.6%	1.29	-4.8%

Source: Bank of England, Bankstats database

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Updates

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

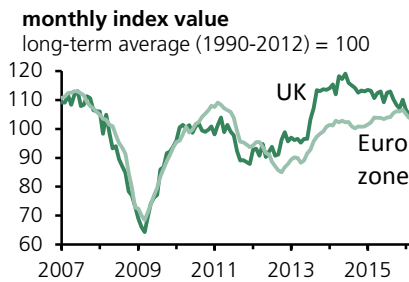
Bank of England, [SERI & monthly rates](#), 2 April 2016

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.

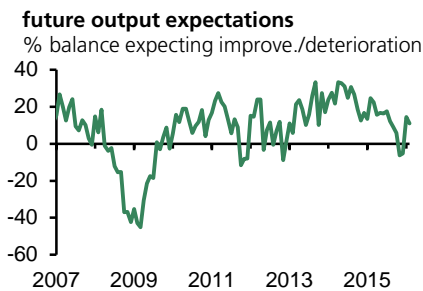
European Commission Economic Sentiment Indicator

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



Between January 2016 and February 2016 the overall UK sentiment index fell by 1.6 points to 105.0, 8.2 points lower than a year earlier. The Eurozone index was up 1.5 points over the year to 105.0.

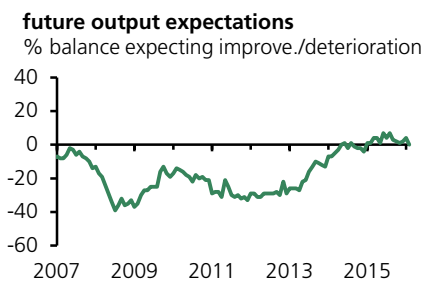
CBI Industrial Trends Survey



The CBI carries out monthly and quarterly Industrial Trends surveys.

In February 2016, more manufacturers thought that output would rise over the next three months than thought it would fall. The difference was +11, a slight fall on the +14 from January.

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.

The overall consumer confidence index was 0 in February 2016, down 4 points on the previous month and 1 point lower than a year ago. The monthly fall was due to a decline in confidence in the country's general economic situation. Prior to May 2014 consumer confidence had been negative since April 2005.

Subject Specialist

Daniel Harari
x2464

Update

CBI, [Industrial Trends](#), mid/late-Mar

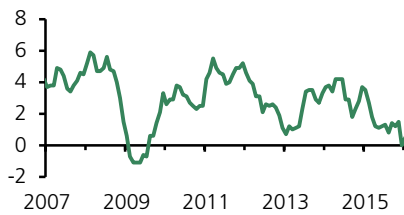
EC, [Economic Sentiment Indicator](#), 30 Mar

GfK NOP, [Consumer Confidence](#), 31 Mar

F2: Retail Sales

The average weekly value of all retail sales in Great Britain was £6.6 billion in January 2016, down from £8.9 billion in December 2015 (which, of course, was boosted by Christmas). The total annual retail sales value for 2015 was £375 billion.

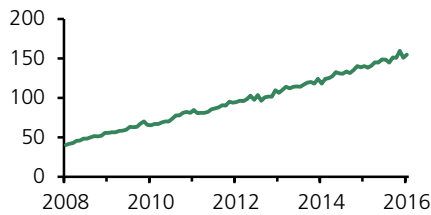
Value of retail sales (incl. vehicle fuel)
3 mth % change on yr, seasonally adjusted



Over the three months to January 2016, the value of retail sales was up 0.6% compared with the previous three months.

The value of retail sales in the three months to January 2016 was 0.5% higher than the same three months a year ago.

Value of internet retail sales
2012=100, seasonally adjusted



The average weekly value of internet sales in Great Britain was £863.5 million in January 2016.

This is 10.4% up on the January 2015.

Most of the value of retail sales online is from stores without a physical presence.

Value of retail sales
Index 2012=100, seasonally adjusted

		Food	Non-food	Total (inc. fuel)
2014	Jan	104.4	104.2	103.6
2015	Jan	104.4	108.8	106.5
2015	Nov	104.1	112.0	108.4
	Dec	104.7	109.1	106.6
2016	Jan	105.9	111.8	109.0
% change on yr		0.0	0.5	0.5

The average weekly value of sales in food stores was £2.7 billion in January 2016 and £2.7 billion in non-food stores.

The value of sales in food stores in January 2016 was up 1.4% on the January 2015 level (food store prices have fallen over this period, so the *volume* of food store sales was actually up).

The value of sales in non-food stores was up 2.8% on last year.

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](#),
24 Mar 2016

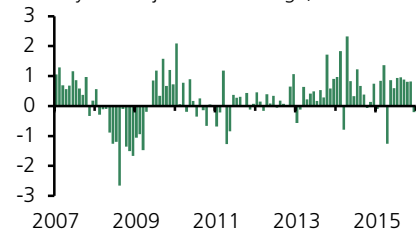
F3: Housing Market

On a seasonally adjusted basis, **house prices** on the ONS index decreased by 0.2% between November 2015 and December 2015. Prices were 6.7% higher in December 2015 compared with a year ago.

Mortgage approvals increased by 4.6% in January 2016 and were 21.9% higher compared with a year ago. Approvals remain well down on pre-recession levels, but rose during 2015.

Housing starts increased by 6% in Q4 2015 compared to Q3 2015. Housing starts and completions have increased from the lows observed in late 2008 and early 2009 but remain below pre-recession levels.

House Price Index; UK
Monthly mix-adjusted % change, SA



On a seasonally adjusted basis, average mix-adjusted house prices in the UK decreased by 0.2% between November 2015 and December 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 roughly £536,000. The lowest prices are found in Northern Ireland and the North East at £148,000 and £155,000 respectively.

Mortgage approvals; UK
Thousands, SA



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

There were 74,581 mortgage approvals in January 2016, up 4.6% on the previous month and 21.9% on January 2015.

House-building; England
Thousands, SA



There were 37,080 seasonally adjusted house building starts in England in Q4 2015, a 6% increase on the previous quarter, and 23% up on the same quarter of 2014. This is above the recent low of 17,150 in Q1 2009, but still below the 48,970 starts in Q1 2007.

There were 37,230 seasonally adjusted dwelling completions in Q3 2015, up 5% on the previous quarter, and 22% higher than during the same quarter of 2014. Completions remain below the peak of 48,440 completions in Q1 2007.

Subject Specialist

Matt Keep
x4324

Updates

ONS, [UK house price index](#), 22 March 2016

Bank of England, [Money and credit](#), 31 March 2016

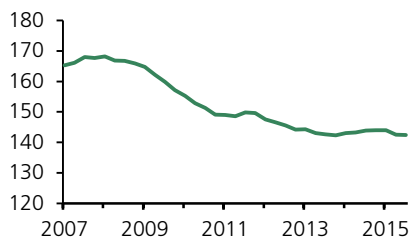
DCLG, [House-building](#), 26 May 2016

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

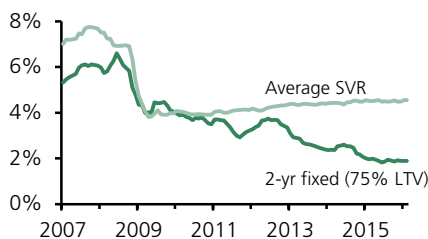


In Q3 2015, it was 142%. It has been at roughly this level since the end of 2012.

Current average mortgage interest rates

The average Standard Variable Rate (SVR) has been steady over the past year – in February 2016 it was 4.56%, compared with 4.51% a year before.

Current average mortgage interest rates

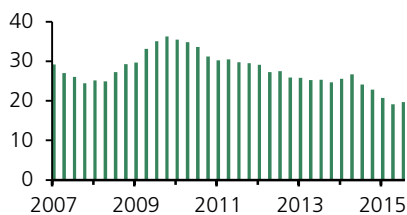


Having fallen considerably over the past five years, the average 2-year fixed mortgage rate has steadied over the past year. In February 2016 it was 1.89% compared with 1.96% a year before.

Individual insolvencies, England and Wales

There were 20,404 individual insolvencies in England and Wales in Q4 2015, 10.5% lower than a year earlier (seasonally adjusted figures).

Individual insolvencies;
England and Wales, Thousands



In Scotland, there were 2,345 individual insolvencies in Q4 2015, a decrease of 11.0% on a year earlier. In Northern Ireland, there were 606 individual insolvencies in Q4 2015, a decrease of 25.3% on a year earlier. (Data for Scotland and Northern Ireland are not seasonally adjusted.)

Subject Specialist

Dominic Webb
x2042

Updates

Bank of England,
[Statistical database](#), 11
Apr 2016

Insolvency Service,
[Insolvency Statistics](#), 29
April 2016

ONS, [UK Economic
Accounts](#), 31 Mar 2016

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>

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer - This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).