



Sources of economic statistics

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This note is a brief self-help guide to key sources of economic statistics, providing a starting point for those interested in obtaining statistics for themselves. Contact details of Library staff dealing with different areas of economic statistics are available to Members and their staff [via this link](#) (not available externally). *Using the Library* provides a guide to Library services.

The Library's latest statistical briefings on economic topics are [available here](#).

Links to relevant websites and publications are contained within the text of this note, with footnotes detailing the web addresses for hardcopy readers. As far as possible links lead to parent web pages, from which the user can choose the specific data they require.

While at the time of printing all hyperlinks are current, some of these links may, from time to time, become out-of-date. If you experience any problems connecting to a document, please inform the Statistics Resource Unit via hclsru@parliament.uk.

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1 General

- Office for National Statistics (ONS) Instant Figures page
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/instantfigures.asp>
- Bank of England statistics page
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/index.htm>
- HM Treasury Economic data and tools
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_index.htm
- OECD Statistics Portal
<http://stats.oecd.org/>
- Eurostat home page
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home>
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) data and statistics
<http://www.imf.org/external/data.htm>
- World Bank data portal
<http://www.worldbank.org/data>

2 Growth and output

The [ONS Blue Book](#) is the key annual compendium of National Accounts statistics, providing detailed estimates of national product, income and expenditure for the UK:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-23406>

Quarterly estimates of gross domestic product are published by the ONS in three bulletins, published in successive months:

- GDP Preliminary estimate
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-22423>
- Second estimate of GDP (formerly 'UK output, income & expenditure')
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-222723>
- Quarterly National Accounts
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-23645>

The [ONS Pink Book](#) contains detailed annual estimates of the UK balance of payments, including estimates for the current account (trade in goods and services, income and current transfers), the capital account, the financial account and the International Investment Position:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21551>

Other ONS bulletins:

- Labour Productivity
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/productivity/labour-productivity/index.html>

3 Trade

- UK Balance of Payments (quarterly)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21549>
- UK Trade
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21861>

4 Prices

- ONS Consumer Price Indices
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/index.html>
The main headline measures of inflation (CPI, RPI)
- Eurostat Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/hicp/introduction>
European inflation rates, consistent with the UK's CPI measure.
- OECD Consumer Prices
Dataset: <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?querytype=view&queryname=221>
News release:
http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_2649_33715_2472086_1_1_1_1,00.html
Inflation in OECD countries and other major world economies
- OECD Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) Data
http://www.oecd.org/document/47/0,3343,en_2649_34347_36202863_1_1_1_1,00.html
Compares the cost of a representative basket of consumer goods and services in different countries.

5 Interest rates, exchange rates, banking and finance

- Bank of England Monetary & Financial Statistics (Bankstats)
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/ms/current/index.htm>
- Bank of England statistical releases
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/statistics.htm>
- British Bankers' Association (BBA) statistics
<http://www.bba.org.uk/statistics>
- Bank for International Settlements (BIS) statistics
<http://www.bis.org/statistics/index.htm>
A wide range of figures on international financial flows and financial markets.

5.1 Monetary policy:

- Bank of England <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetarypolicy/index.htm>
- European Central Bank <http://www.ecb.int/mopo/html/index.en.html>
- US Federal Reserve <http://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomc.htm>
- People's Bank of China <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/publish/english/963/index.html>

6 Public finances and taxation

- ONS Public Sector Finances main page
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/psa/public-sector-finances/index.html>
- HM Treasury Statistics on Public Finance and Spending
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/finexp_index.htm
Including the [Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses](#) (a detailed yearly breakdown of Government spending) and the [Public Finances Databank](#) (the main figures on tax receipts, public expenditure, borrowing and debt).
- HM Revenue and Customs statistics
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/thelibrary/national-statistics.htm>
Statistics on taxation, taxpayers, personal incomes and HMRC-administered welfare support (Tax Credits, Child Benefit)

7 Labour market

The main ONS labour market statistical publications can be accessed via the [Labour Market Statistics](#) page:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/index.html>

The ONS Nomis website provides labour market profiles of Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities. It can also be used to obtain a wide range of customised data downloads:

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Other ONS bulletins:

- Public sector employment
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21841>
Contains the latest public sector employment estimates.
- Regional labour market statistics
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21859>
Contains labour market headline indicators for each UK country and region – covers economic activity, employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, workforce jobs and claimant count.
- Annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21502>
Contains information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees in all industries and occupations.

8 Business

- ONS UK Business: Activity, Size and Location
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21554>
Figures on businesses in the UK including size, classification and location.
- ONS Business Demography
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21553>
Births, deaths and survivals of UK enterprises.

- BIS Business Population Estimates for the UK and Regions
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bis-business-population-estimates>
Figures on private sector businesses – number of business, number of employees, turnover – broken down by industry and region.

9 Industries

- ONS Index of Production
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/iop/index-of-production/index.html>
- ONS Index of Services
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ios/index-of-services/index.html>

10 International development

- DFID aid statistics
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/>
- OECD aid statistics
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/international-development-statistics.htm>
- World Bank key development data
<http://go.worldbank.org/1SF48T40L0>
Includes key reports such as *World Development Indicators* and *Global Development Finance*.
- UNCTAD statistics (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intlItemID=1584&lang=1>
Statistics on world trade, investment, international financial flows, and development.

11 Other

- ONS Retail Sales
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rsi/retail-sales/index.html>
- Insolvency Service statistics page
<http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm>
- ONS Local Profiles for England
Comparative indicators for [local authorities](#) and [Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\) areas](#), including numbers of businesses, business births and deaths, employment rates and skills levels.