

The
MONEY
Charity

The Money Statistics

**January
2026**

<https://themoneycharity.org.uk>

The MONEY Charity

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of The Money Statistics, The Money Charity's complete monthly round-up of statistics about how we use money in the UK, kindly funded by Vanquis.

"At Vanquis, we're excited to support The Money Charity and help their important work. Our shared passion for Financial Inclusion and social mobility makes this partnership a natural fit. By funding this initiative, we're proud to play a small part in helping The Money Charity support people across the UK build the skills and confidence they need to manage their money and improve Financial Wellbeing." **Ian McLaughlin, Vanquis CEO**

If you have any questions, comments, or want any information about the source of these statistics, please email us at hello@themoneycharity.org.uk. Throughout this report, statistics that are written in **colour** have been calculated by The Money Charity. All the other statistics come from external sources such as Bank of England, the ONS and UK Finance and are written in **black**. All statistics are taken from the latest available at the time of writing.

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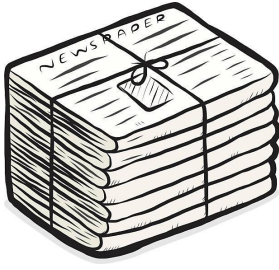
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1. Striking Numbers

This Month's Highlights

£66,940

Average total debt per UK household in November 2025

£2,691

Average credit card debt per household in November 2025

£4,398

Total unsecured debt per UK adult in November 2025

8.5%

Change in outstanding credit card balances in year to November 2025

1.8 pence per litre

Decrease in the price of unleaded petrol during the month of December 2025

3.4%

Inflation rate in the year to December 2025

2.5%

Increase in average first-time buyer house price in the year to November 2025

11 years

Time to save for a first-time buyer house deposit, saving at the average rate out of average UK income (at Q3 2025 saving rate)



1. Striking Numbers

Every Day in the UK

- The population of the UK grew by an estimated **1,918** people a day between mid-2024 and mid-2025.
- On average, a UK household spends **£5.56** a day on water, electricity and gas.
- **365** people a day were declared insolvent or bankrupt in England and Wales in the three months to December 2025. This was equivalent to one person **every 3 minutes 57 seconds**.
- In Northern Ireland in the three months to December 2025, there were **4.5** insolvencies per day. In Scotland in the three months to December 2025 there were **20.6** insolvencies per day.
- Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with **1,250** debt issues every day in the year to December 2025.
- **15.1** properties were taken into possession every day in July to September 2025 in the UK, or one **every 1 hour and 35 minutes**.
- The number of UK mortgages with arrears of over 2.5% of the remaining balance fell by **26.1** a day in the year to September 2025.
- The number of people unemployed in the UK increased by **767** per day in the twelve months to November 2025.
- **1,593** people a day reported they had become redundant in September to November 2025.
- Net lending to individuals and housing associations in the UK increased by **£139.0 million** a day in November 2025.
- Government debt increased by **£428 million** a day in the three months to December 2025.
- Borrowers paid **£238 million** a day in interest in November 2025.
- In 2025, it cost an average of **£38.02** per day for a couple to raise a child from birth to age 18.
- For a lone parent family, the cost of raising a child came to **£44.11** per day.
- **67** mortgage possession claims and **53** mortgage possession orders were made every day in England and Wales in July to September 2025.
- **254** landlord possession claims and **199** landlord possession orders were made every day.



1. Striking Numbers

Arising From the Current Climate

The UK has experienced significant turmoil over the past five years. The pandemic, cost of living and energy crises, high interest rates and the economic policies of the new US administration have affected the lives and finances of many people across the UK. Entering 2026, the UK economy has shown some signs of picking up, following the Autumn Budget. Meanwhile, UK inflation has risen for the first time since July 2025, increasing to **3.4%** in the 12 months to December, up from **3.2%** in the 12 months to November.

While many households continue to navigate affordability challenges, this month we focus on **housing prices and consumer confidence**, highlighting trends that may offer some relief to households.

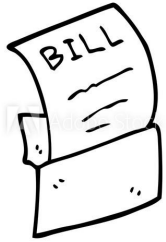
Housing Prices

- UK annual house price growth slowed to **0.6%** in December 2025, down from **1.8%** in November, according to Nationwide. On a monthly basis, average house prices fell by **0.4%** to **£271,068** in December compared with November.
- In November 2025, the average house price was highest in London (**£553,258**) and lowest in the North East (**£166,568**). The highest rates of growth were in Northern Ireland (**7.1%**) and the North East (**6.8%**), while the lowest increases were in London (**-1.2%**), Wales (**0.7%**) and the South East (**1.0%**). (See page 11)
- House price affordability improves for the UK's first-time buyers. The ratio between average house prices for first-time buyers and average full-time employees' earnings fell to **4.7** in the last three months of 2025, well below its peak of **5.8** in 2022.

Consumer Confidence

- Consumer confidence in the UK has been negative or flat for **10** consecutive years, with the last positive headline in January 2016.
- The GfK Consumer Confidence Index increased by **1 point** to **-16** in January 2026, from **-17** in December 2025.
- According to GfK, the index measuring changes in personal finances over the past 12 months increased by **3** points to **-3**, **seven** points higher than January 2025, suggesting a modest improvement in expectations around personal financial prospects. The forecast for personal finances over the next year is up **4** points to **6**, **eight** points higher than the same time last year.

(Sources: Nationwide, ONS, GfK, Forbes, BBC, Financial Times, The Independent)



2. Personal Debt in the UK

Total UK Personal Debt

People in the UK owed **£1,934.4 billion** at the end of November 2025. This is up by **£59.7 billion** from £1,874.7 billion at the end of November 2024, an extra **£1067** per UK adult over the year.

Type of Personal Debt	Total Personal Debt £ billion	Per Household £	Per Adult £
Secured (Mortgages)	£1,688.3	£58,421	£30,164
Unsecured Consumer Debt	£246.2	£8,519	£4,398
Of which, Credit Card Debt	£77.8	£2,691	£1,389.4
Grand Total (November 2025)	£1,934.4	£66,940	£34,562

The average total debt per household, including mortgages, was **£66,940** and per adult was **£34,562**, around **89.5%** of average earnings. This is up from the revised **£34,487** a month earlier.

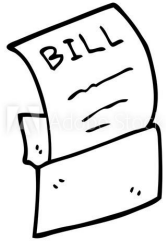
Based on November 2025 numbers, the UK's total interest payments on personal debt over a 12-month period would have been **£87.0 billion**, an average of **£238 million** per day. The average annual interest per household would have been **£3,010** and per person **£1,554**, **4.03%** of average earnings.

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility's November 2025 forecast, household debt of all types will rise from **£2,345 billion** in Q3 2025 to **£2,748 billion** in Q1 2031. This would raise average total household debt to **£92,063** (assuming household numbers track ONS population projections).

Consumer Credit Debt

At the end of November 2025, outstanding consumer credit lending was **£246.2 billion**, an increase of **£1.73 billion** on the previous month and **£13.6 billion more** than in November 2024. Within the total, outstanding credit card debt came to **£77.8 billion**, an increase of **8.5%** (**£6.1 billion**) in the year to November 2025. Credit card debt averaged **£2,691** per household and **£1,389** per adult.

A credit card on the average interest rate would take **27 years and 8 months** to repay, making only the legal minimum repayments (interest plus 1% of the outstanding balance) each month. The minimum repayment in the first month would be **£77** but would reduce each month. If £77 were paid every month, the debt would be cleared in **4 years and 11 months**.

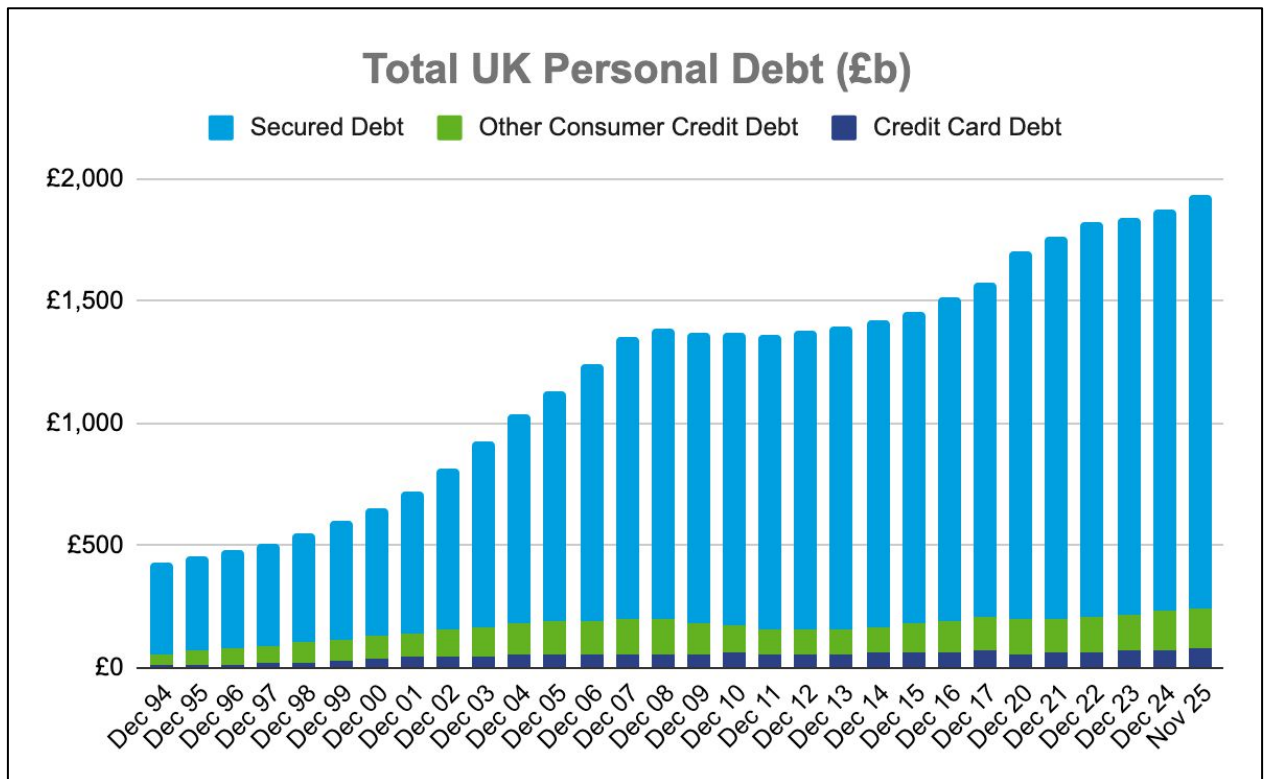


2. Personal Debt in the UK

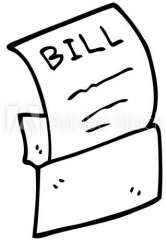
Net Lending and Write-Offs

Total net lending to individuals and housing associations by UK banks and building societies **increased by £4.2 billion** in November 2025 or **£139.0 million a day** over revised figures for October 2025.

- Net mortgage lending **increased by £2.4 billion** in the month, while net consumer credit lending **increased by £1.7 billion**.
- In Q3 2025 lenders wrote off **£721 million** (of which **£286 million** was credit card debt, amounting to a daily write-off of **£3.1 million**.)



Bank of England Data to November 2025



2. Personal Debt in the UK

Advice on Problem Debts

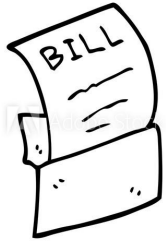
Citizens Advice Bureaux across England and Wales answered **176,410** enquiries in December 2025, **4.2% less** than in December 2024.

Debt was the second largest advice category in December 2025 with **36,325** issues, behind Benefits and Tax Credits (**56,249**). Debt calls were **6.5% higher** compared with December 2024, while calls about Benefits and Tax credits were **down by 2.8%**. Calls about Fuel (gas, electricity etc) were **down 13.3%** on December 2024. Debt represented **20.0%** of all issues dealt with in the year to December 2025. The top three debt categories in December 2025 were fuel debt, debt assessments and council tax arrears. In the year to December 2025, Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with **1,250** debt issues every day.

In an in-depth report on its clients in 2024, published in April 2025, Citizens Advice reports a surge in household bill debts, with these rising from a per-client average of **£2,194** in 2022, to **£2,875** in 2024, with large increases for energy and Council Tax debts. The number of people helped by Citizens Advice increased, as did the complexity of debts, with **50%** of clients having a negative budget. The majority of Citizens Advice clients are young single adults or solo parents.

Citizens Advice Scotland report that they supported **36,191** clients in April to September 2025, of whom the majority were clients with health conditions and/or caring responsibilities. Among priority family groups, the majority were families with a member with a health condition or disability and/or single parent families. The most common debt issues addressed were council tax arrears, energy debts and credit/store card debts. Debt issues were the second largest category overall, after benefits.

StepChange Debt Charity reports that **11,525** clients received debt advice in December 2025. The most common reasons for seeking debt advice continued to be “lack of control over finances”, “cost of living increase” and “unemployment or redundancy”. **69%** of clients had credit card debt, **52%** had personal loan debt, **32%** had an overdraft and **25%** had catalogue debt. The majority of StepChange clients were female (**59%** in December 2025) and young (**62%** under the age of 40). **60%** were renting and **17%** living with family. Only **15%** were house owners.



2. Personal Debt in the UK

Individual Insolvencies

There were **33,559** individual insolvencies in England and Wales in October to December 2025, an **increase of 14.7%** from **29,267** for the same period in 2024. This was equivalent to **365** people a day or one person **every 3 minutes 57 seconds**.

Every day on average in England and Wales, **19** people were made bankrupt, **129** Debt Relief Orders were granted and **217** Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) were entered into.

In the 12 months to December 2025, **126,242** individuals, **1 in 392 (0.26%)** of the adult population of England and Wales became insolvent.

In Northern Ireland there were **411** individual insolvencies in the three months to December 2025, a rate of **4.5** per day. This comprised **292** Individual Voluntary Arrangements, **54** Debt Relief Orders and **65** bankruptcies. Total individual insolvencies in the three months to December 2025 were **2.8% more** than for the same three months in 2024.

In Scotland there were **1,896** personal insolvencies in October to December 2025, a rate of **20.6** per day, comprising **774** bankruptcies and **1,122** protected trust deeds. Personal insolvencies for the three months to December 2025 saw a **6.2% increase** on the same period in the previous year.

County Court Judgements for Debt

2,747 Consumer County Court Judgements (CCJs) were issued every day in England and Wales in October to December 2025, an **increase of 9.5%** on the same period in the previous year. The median value was **£744** according to Registry Trust Ltd.

In Northern Ireland, there were **10.0** consumer debt judgements every day in October to December 2025, with a median value of **£1,179**.

In Scotland, **35.3** consumer debt judgements were registered every day in October to December 2025, with a median value of **£1,706**.



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Mortgage Debt

According to the Bank of England, outstanding mortgage lending stood at **£1,688.3 billion** at the end of November 2025. This is up from **£1,642.2 billion** a year earlier, an increase of **£46.1 billion**.

That means that the estimated average outstanding mortgage for the **10.64 million** households with mortgage debt was **£158,671** in November 2025.

The average mortgage interest rate was **3.91%** at the end of November 2025. Based on this, households with mortgages would pay an average of **£6,204** in mortgage interest over the year.

For new loans, the average mortgage interest rate was **4.20%**. Based on this, First-Time Buyers with mortgages would pay an average of **£7,738** in mortgage interest over the year.

According to the FCA and Bank of England, gross mortgage lending in July to September 2025 was **£80.45 billion**, **22.7% higher** than the same quarter the previous year, and also **3.7% higher** on the unusually large figure for Q1 2025, which was boosted by the increases in stamp duty which came into effect on 1 April 2025.

The Financial Conduct Authority reports that **55.4%** of mortgage lending in Q3 2025 was for 75% or less of a property's value. **7.37%** of lending was for mortgages for over 90% of a property's value.

54.29% of mortgage lending was for three or more times the borrowers' incomes.

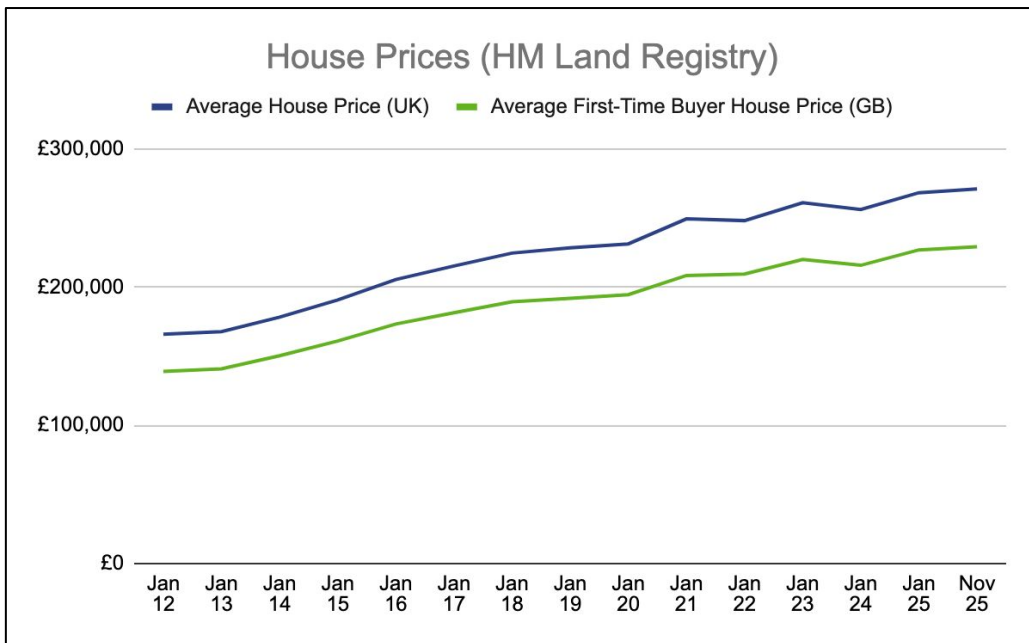


3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

House Prices

Nationwide estimates that house prices **fell by 0.4%** in December 2025 and were **0.6% higher** than 12 months before. Halifax reports that the average UK house price in December 2025 was **£297,755**, a **decrease of 0.6%** on the previous month and **0.3% higher** than the year before.

Nationwide, Halifax and HM Land Registry all show an upward trend in prices over the last few years, particularly in 2020, 2022 and 2024. HM Land Registry has the largest dataset and includes cash sales, but records transactions later, after registration of the sale, not at the mortgage approval stage.



First-Time Buyers

HM Land Registry reports that the average house price for first-time buyers in Great Britain in November 2025 was **£229,145**, an annual increase of **2.5%** and monthly increase of **0.3%**.

According to Halifax, the typical first-time buyer deposit in 2024 was **19.6%** of the purchase cost, which would average **£44,912** in November 2025 based on the above Land Registry first-time buyer price. This is **116.2%** of the average UK salary.



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

House Prices in Government Office Regions, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

According to HM Land Registry, average house prices in the UK increased by **2.5%** in the year to November 2025 to **£271,000**. The highest rates of increase were in Northern Ireland (**7.1%**) and North East (**6.8%**). The lowest price increases were in London (**-1.2%**), Wales (**0.7%**) and South East (**1.0%**). The average house price was highest in London (**£553,258**) and lowest in the North East (**£166,568**).

Average House Prices: Nations and Regions – November 2025

Source: ONS. Ranked by Annual Change

Country and government office region	Price	Monthly change	Annual change
Northern Ireland (Quarter 3 - 2025)	£193,247	4.3%	7.1%
North East	£166,568	1.8%	6.8%
Scotland	£193,114	0.3%	4.5%
North West	£216,741	0.9%	4.1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	£209,236	1.2%	3.7%
East Midlands	£242,180	-0.2%	2.7%
England	£293,131	0.4%	2.2%
West Midlands Region	£248,653	0.3%	2.1%
South West	£306,045	0.8%	1.9%
East of England	£338,286	-0.7%	1.8%
South East	£381,369	-0.8%	1.0%
Wales	£208,935	-0.6%	0.7%
London	£553,258	1.3%	-1.2%



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Renting

According to the Office for National Statistics, private rental prices in the UK rose by **4.0%** in the 12 months to December 2025.

Over the year to December 2025, private rental prices increased in Wales, Scotland and all the English regions. North East (**7.9%**), North West (**6.1%**) and Wales (**5.7%**) saw the highest increases while London (**2.1%**) saw the lowest increase. Private rents in Northern Ireland increased by **5.7%** in the year to October 2025.

The average monthly rent in the UK across all private rental property types in December 2025 was **£1,368** according to the Valuation Office Agency and ONS. In London it was **£2,268**.

For a one-bed flat in the UK in December 2025, the average monthly private rent was **£1,109**. In London it was **£1,710 (54.2% higher)**.

For two bedrooms, the average monthly private rent in the UK in December 2025 was **£1,250**. In London it was **£2,168 (73.4% higher)**.

Figures from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities show that in 2023-24, private renter households in England spent an average of **£237** per week on rental payments. Private renters not in receipt of housing support spent, on average, a third of their income on rent (**33.0%**). Private renters in receipt of housing support spent on average **37%** of their income on rental payments.

Average weekly rents in the social housing sector in England in 2023-24 were **£109** for local authority renters and **£124** for housing association renters.

In 2024-2025, **64.8%** of households were owner occupiers, while **18.9%** rented privately and **16.3%** paid a social rent.



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Arrears and Repossessions

According to the Financial Conduct Authority, at the end of Q3 2025 there were **172,106** mortgage loan accounts with arrears of more than 1.5% of the current loan balance. This is **3.9% fewer** than revised numbers for the previous quarter and **7.9% down** on Q3 2024.

48.3% of payments due for loans in arrears were received in Q3 2025.

UK Finance reports that **84,100 (0.97%)** of homeowner mortgages had arrears equivalent to at least 2.5% of the outstanding mortgage balance in Q3 2025, **down 4%** on the previous quarter. Over the last year, mortgages in arrears have **fallen by 26.1** a day.

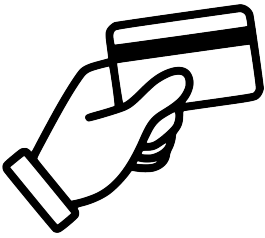
UK Finance estimates that there were **1390** homeowner properties taken into possession in the UK in July to September 2025, up from **990** in Q3 2024.

This equates to **15.1** properties being possessed every day, or one property being possessed **every 1 hour and 35 minutes**. This number was lower during the pandemic-related moratorium on forced possessions but is now back to pre-pandemic levels.

In England and Wales, in July to September 2025, according to the Ministry of Justice, every day **67** mortgage possession claims were issued and **53** mortgage possession orders were made.

254 landlord possession claims were issued and **199** landlord possession orders were made every day.

Compared to Q3 2024, mortgage possession claims fell by **5%** and orders rose by **20%**. Landlord possession claims fell by **8%** while landlord possession orders fell by **5%**.



4. Spending and Loans

How We Spend

In the year to November 2025, outstanding consumer credit increased by **5.9%** according to the Bank of England, while outstanding levels of credit card borrowing increased by **8.5%**. Since mid-2021, outstanding consumer credit has been rising, with some variation month on month.

On average, **38.8** cash machine transactions (including balance enquiries and rejected transactions) were made **every second** in December 2025, a decrease of **7.1%** on December 2024. The total value of transactions decreased by **3.0%** over the same period.

- In total, cash machine transactions were worth an average of **£65.5** per transaction.
- These LINK transaction figures do not include transactions or withdrawals made by customers at their own banks or building societies.
- The number of ATMs (in-branch and remote) fell from **47,711** at the end of 2023 to **44,569** at the end of 2024 (a fall of **6.6%**). Free-to-use ATMs fell from **37,299** to **35,468** while pay-to-use ATMs fell from **10,412** to **9,101**.

What We Buy

In Q3 2025, households in the UK spent a revised **£160.67 million** a day on water, sewerage, electricity and gas, or **£5.56** per household per day. On a seasonally adjusted basis, this was **12.24% higher** than the figure for Q3 2024.

During December 2025, according to the RAC, the average price of unleaded petrol **decreased by 1.8 ppl to 135.37 ppl**.

- This meant it cost **£67.69** to fill a 50 litre unleaded tank, **£0.9 less** than last month.

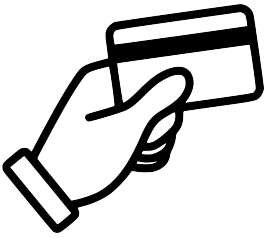
The average price of diesel **decreased by 2.3ppl to 144.27 ppl**.

- This meant it cost **£72.14** to fill a 50 litre diesel tank, **£1.15 less** than last month.
- The price difference between the two was **8.9 ppl**, a difference of **£4.45** per 50 litre tank.

According to Which? the cost of home-charging an electric car in May 2025 was **2p** per mile (off-peak) and **8p** per mile (normal rate), compared with **15p** per mile for a diesel or petrol SUV. Public charging was significantly more expensive, as much as **25p** per mile for ultra-rapid charging. Slower public chargers cost **14-20p** per mile.

Child Poverty Action Group's "The Cost of a Child in 2025" report estimates that couple families spend **£250,000** on raising a child to their 18th birthday, **£38.02 a day**. This was a decrease of **3.85%** over the previous year and **75.2%** more since the study began in 2012.

- The cost for a lone parent was **£290,000**, an increase of **87.1%** since 2012.
- This came to **£44.11 a day**.



4. Spending and Loans

The Cost of Credit

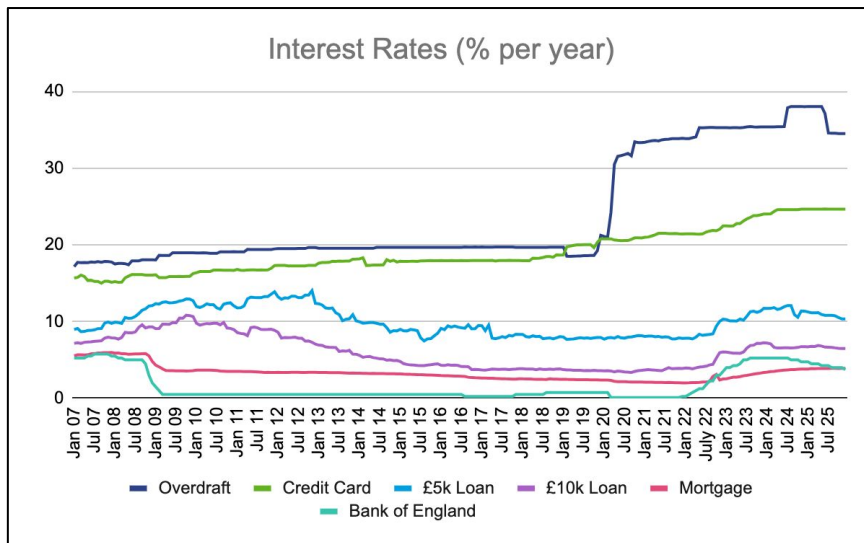
The average interest rate on credit card lending bearing interest was **24.66%** in December 2025. This was **20.91%** above the Bank of England Base Rate, which in December 2025 was **3.75%**. (The Base Rate was reduced to **3.75%** on 18 December 2025)

Latest UK Finance figures show that **48.1%** of credit card balances were bearing interest in October 2025.

In December 2025, the average APR for a £5,000 personal loan was **10.35%**, according to the Bank of England. For a £10,000 loan it was **6.48%**, while the average rate for an overdraft was **34.50%**.

The gap between credit card, overdraft and other interest rates has widened substantially since the 2008 crash. The dramatic increase in overdraft rates in 2020 was due to new FCA overdraft rules, which banned high fixed charges penalising accidental and short-duration overdrafts, but at the cost of a rise in the average overdraft rate.

Why overdraft and credit card rates are so high when the bank base rate is much lower remains an open question.



Source: Bank of England. Last data point is December 2025.



Savings

5. Savings and Pensions

The average interest rate for an instant access savings account was **2.09%** in December 2025, down from 2.50% in December 2024. For a variable rate cash ISA, the rate was **1.67%**, down from 1.83% a year ago.

In Q3 2025, households saved an average of **9.7%** of their post-tax income, including benefits, down from **10.4%** (revised) in Q2 2025, and down from **10.2%** in Q3 2024. During the pandemic, savings rates peaked at **27.4%**, but have since reduced to more normal levels. From 2000 to 2015, the savings rate fluctuated mostly within the 7-10% range, with the most recent pre-Covid peak being **13.5%** in Q1 2010. If someone on the average salary saved 10.8% of their income in an average instant access savings account for a year, they would receive **£70.34** in interest after tax. If they saved it in an average variable rate cash ISA, they would receive **£81.73**.

It would take **11 years** for someone on the average salary, saving the average amount per household every year in an average instant access savings account, to afford the average first-time buyer deposit. If they saved the same amount into an average variable rate cash ISA, it would also take **11 years**.

In 2023-2024, according to the Family Resources Survey, **48%** of UK households had either no savings or less than £1,500 in savings. For single parent households with children, this figure is **82%**.

Pensions

According to The Pensions Regulator's Compliance Report, at least **11.39 million** workers had joined a pension scheme under auto-enrolment by the end of December 2025, making a total of **24.22 million** members of pensions schemes, but leaving **11.95 million** workers unenrolled, out of the total declared workforce of **36.2 million**.

According to the Family Resources Survey, **55%** of working age adults actively participated in a pension in 2023-2024, up **1%** on the previous year. Participation was **79%** for employees and **19%** for the self-employed.

In February 2025, there were **13.1 million** recipients of the State Pension, an increase of **1.7%** on the year before. Of these, **4.7 million** were on the new State Pension (nSP) introduced in 2016, an increase of **720,000** on February 2024.



6. Financial Inclusion

According to the FCA, in the UK in 2024 there were **900,000** UK adults who did not have a bank account (either a current account or an alternative e-money account.) This was **1.6%** of the UK adult population. Among the highest unbanked rates were for the digitally excluded, unemployed and those who were long-term sick, or care providers.

There were **7.04 million** basic bank accounts (BBAs) on 30 June 2024, according to HM Treasury. BBAs are the no-frills bank accounts that the nine largest personal current account providers are required to offer under the Payment Accounts Regulations 2015.

According to ONS, in 2022 there were **8,060** bank and building society branches in the UK. This was a reduction of **750** branches (**-8.5%**) from the year before. According to Which? banks and building societies have closed (or scheduled the closure of) **6,293** branches since January 2015.

According to Financial Conduct Authority, in 2024, **4.8%** of UK adults (**2.6 million people**) used cash for most or all of their purchases.

According to the Bank of England, **2.18 million** adults were members of credit unions in April to June 2025, an **increase of 2.0%** over the same period in 2024. There were **358** credit unions in the UK, with loans to members to a value of **£2.62 billion**. **40%** (£1.04 billion) of UK credit union loans to members were made in England, with Scotland accounting for **29%** and Northern Ireland for **30%**.

Fair By Design has estimated that the cost of the poverty premium to a typical parliamentary constituency is **£4.5 million a year**. This equates to **£444 per year** for a low-income household. The poverty premium is the extra costs people on low incomes pay for essential products and services.

According to the FCA, in 2024, **6.5 million** UK adults (**12%**) had low financial capability, down from 7.4 million in 2022. Around **one-fifth** of UK adults had poor financial numeracy or lacked confidence working with numbers.

According to UK Finance, in October 2025 there were **2.19 billion** debit and credit card transactions in the UK, **0.3 %** more than in October 2024. Contactless payments accounted for **66%** of all credit card payments and **76%** of all debit card payments.



7. Young People

Young People in Education and Employment

According to ONS, in September to November 2025 there were **5.8 million** people aged 18 to 24. Of these, **1.9 million** were in full-time education while **3.55 million** were in employment (including those in full-time education who were also in employment.) Compared to the same period in 2024, the number of 18-24 year-olds in employment increased by **183,000**.

Unemployment

561,000 18-24 year-olds (**13.7%**) were unemployed in September to November 2025. This was **65,000 more** than the same period the previous year and **80,000 more** than in June to August 2025.

- **209,000** had been unemployed for over 6 months.
- **124,000 (22.1%)** had been unemployed for over 12 months, **32,000 more** than the same period the previous year and **12,000 more** than in June to August 2025.

946,000 (12.7%) of 16 to 24-year-olds in the UK were estimated by ONS to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) in July to September 2025, a decrease of **10,000** over the last year.

Minimum Wage

Minimum wage rates increased on 1 April 2025. For under 18s the new rate is **£7.55**. The apprentice rate (for those under 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship) is **£7.55**. For those aged 18-20, the minimum wage went up by £1.40 to **£10.00**. The National Living Wage (age 21 and above) increased by £0.77 to **£12.21**. The next increase in the minimum wage will be on 1 April 2026.

Wages Paid by Age and Gender

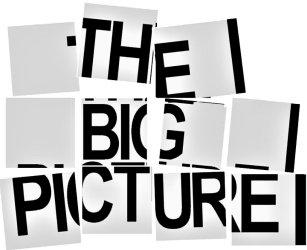
According to ONS, in 2025 the median weekly gross pay for all full-time employees was **£766.6**. For employees aged 16-17 it was **£373.2**. For those aged 18-21 it was **£498.5** and for those aged 22-29 it was **£648.2**. For those aged 16-17, female FT pay as a percentage of male FT pay was **105%**. It was also **95%** for those aged 22-29 but then continued reducing by age to reach **82.1%** for the 50-59 age group.

Student Loans

In 2024-25, the average maintenance loan awarded to full-time students in England was **£7,410 (down 3.6%** on the previous year.) In Wales it was **£8,150 (up 11.8%)**, in Northern Ireland **£4,490 (down 0.9%)** and in Scotland **£8,330 (up 34.1%)**. The provisional average tuition fee loan in England was **£8,210 (down 5.3%)**. In Wales it was **£8,560 (up 0.6%)** and in Northern Ireland **£5,510 (up 0.2%)**.

Student Debt

In England, the provisional average debt for the latest (2024-25) cohort to enter repayment was **£53,010**, an increase of **9.8%** on the previous year. In Wales it was **£39,470 (+6.1%)**, in Northern Ireland **£28,050 (+10.0%)** and in Scotland **£17,990 (+8.1%)**.



8. The Bigger Picture

Economy and Inflation

The UK economy, or real gross domestic product (GDP), **is estimated to have grown by 0.1%** in the three months to November 2025, compared with the three months to August 2025. This was mainly due to growth in the services sector. GDP grew by **0.3%** in November, following an unrevised fall of **0.1%** in October 2025.

The CPI (Consumer Prices Index) increased by **3.4%** in the year to December 2025, up from **3.2%** for the year to November. According to the ONS, the highest rates of inflation over the 12 months to December 2025 were for education (**7.6%**), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (**5.2%**) and housing, water and energy (**4.9%**). The lowest rate was for furniture, household equipment and maintenance (**-0.6%**). Among the sub-groups measured by ONS, exceptionally large price increases were recorded for water services (**26.1%**), passenger transport by air (**11.0%**), sugar-based foods (**10.2%**) and canteens (**9.9%**).

Pay Rates

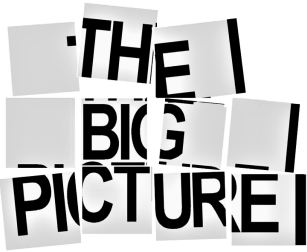
In the three months to November 2025, regular pay increased by **4.5%** on the year before. Pay including bonuses increased by **4.7%**. Average weekly pay was **£689**, or **£741** including bonuses; an annual salary of **£35,926**, or **£38,638** with bonuses. In real terms, for the year to November 2025, regular pay increased by **0.6%**, while total pay increased by **0.8%**. Compared to the pre-financial crash peak of February 2008, total real pay in November 2025 was **3.3%** higher, with total regular pay increasing by **4.7%** in the same period.

Public Sector Borrowing

Public Sector Net Borrowing (excluding public sector banks and Bank of England) in the three months to December 2025 was **£39.4 billion**, an average borrowing of **£428 million** per day. Spending included **£16.6 billion** net investment, meaning there was a current budget deficit of **£22.8 billion** over the same three months. Total net borrowing for the year to December 2025 was **£151.9 billion**, compared with **£152.0 billion** for the year to December 2024.

Public sector net debt in December 2025 (excluding public sector banks and Bank of England) was **£2,794 billion (90.9% of GDP)**. This was **£180.5 billion** more than in December 2024, an increase over the year of **£494.5 million** per day.

According to the November 2025 Forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility, after the spending and revenue decisions of the UK Government up to that time, public sector net debt will rise from **95.0%** of GDP in 2024-25 and to **97.0%** of GDP in 2028-29.



8. The Bigger Picture

Population, Taxpayers and Benefit Recipients

According to the latest ONS projections, the population of the UK was estimated to be **69.9 million** in mid-2025, growing at the rate of **1,918 per day** from mid-2024 to mid-2025.

According to ONS, there are projected to be **39.1 million** individual income taxpayers in 2025-26. Of these, **30.4 million** will be basic rate taxpayers, **7.1 million** people will fall into the 40% income tax band and **1.23 million** will pay the 45% rate, which replaced the 50% rate in 2013-14. **392,000** are expected to pay the savers rate of tax. People who do not pay income tax still pay indirect taxes such as VAT, import duties, insurance premium tax and excise duties on tobacco, alcohol and fuel, which together raised **£255.6 billion** in 2023-24, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, nearly as much as income tax (£268 billion).

There were **10 million working age people** claiming some combination of DWP benefits in February 2025, according to DWP. In February 2025, **3.69 million** received Personal Independence Payment (PIP), **1.9 million** people were in receipt of housing benefit and **7.5 million** of Universal Credit.

Unemployment

The number of people classed as unemployed in September to November 2025 was **1.840 million** (5.1% of the workforce), **103,100 more** than the previous quarter, **1,133 more** per day, and up **279,800** from the previous year, **767 more a day**. The unemployment rate in the UK was highest in London (7.2%) and lowest in Northern Ireland (2.1%). **452,000** people had been unemployed for over 12 months in September to November 2025, rising by **130,700 (358 a day)** from a year earlier.

Employment and Unemployment – Older Workers

375,000 people aged 50 and over were unemployed in September to November 2025, an increase of **6,900** on the three months to August 2025 and **84,000 more** than for the same period the previous year. **29.7%** of unemployed workers aged 50 and over, a total of **111,000** people, had been out of work for over a year. **70,000** had been unemployed for more than two years.

1,722,000 (13.2%) people aged 65 and over were *in work* in September to November 2025, **17,100 more** than in the previous quarter and an increase of **163,300** from the previous year.

Redundancies

145,000 people (**1,593 per day**) reported they had become redundant in September to November 2025, an increase of **32,300** on the previous quarter and **33,800 more than** the year before.



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