The Money Charity

The Money Statistics

June 2022

https://themoneycharity.org.uk
Welcome to the June 2022 edition of The Money Statistics, The Money Charity’s complete monthly round-up of statistics about how we use money in the UK.

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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1. Striking Numbers
   This Month’s Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average total debt per UK household in April 2022</td>
<td>£64,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average credit card debt per household in April 2022</td>
<td>£2,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unsecured debt per UK adult in April 2022</td>
<td>£3,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in outstanding credit card balances in year to April 2022</td>
<td>8.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in the price of unleaded petrol in May 2022</td>
<td>4.7 pence per litre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in outstanding credit card balances in year to April 2022</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in average first-time buyer house price in the year to April 2022</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to save for a first-time buyer house deposit, saving at the average rate out of average UK income (at October to December 2021 rate of household saving)</td>
<td>26 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://themoneycharity.org.uk
1. Striking Numbers

Every Day in the UK

- The population of the UK grew by an estimated 777 people a day between 2019 and 2020.
- On average, a UK household spends £4.15 a day on water, electricity and gas.
- 342 people a day were declared insolvent or bankrupt in England and Wales in March to May 2022. This was equivalent to one person every 4 minutes and 13 seconds.
- In Northern Ireland in April 2022, there were 4.6 insolvencies per day. In Scotland in the three months to March 2022 there were 21.0 insolvencies per day.
- Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with 2,030 debt issues every day in the year to May 2022.
- 6.4 properties were repossessed every day in January to March 2022 in the UK, or one every 3 hours and 43 minutes.
- The number of UK mortgages with arrears of over 2.5% of the remaining balance fell by 22.8 a day in the year to March 2022.
- The number of people unemployed in the UK fell by 973 per day in the twelve months to April 2022.
- 629 people a day reported they had become redundant in February to April 2022.
- Net lending to individuals and housing associations in the UK grew by £190.3 million a day in April 2022.
- Government debt increased by £554 million a day in the three months to May 2022.
- Borrowers paid £126 million a day in interest in April 2022.
- It costs an average of £24.44 per day for a couple to raise a child from birth to the age of 18.
- For a lone parent family, the cost of raising a child comes to £29.50 per day.
- 32.1 mortgage possession claims and 25.5 mortgage possession orders were made every day in England and Wales in January to March 2022.
- 211 landlord possession claims and 144.2 landlord possession orders were made every day.
1. Striking Numbers

Arising from the pandemic and current cost of living crisis

During the pandemic, health, economic and policy impacts have interacted with each other. The UK is also currently facing a worsening cost of living crisis, with rising inflation arguably linked to pandemic-related economic disruption. Following are some striking numbers that have emerged in the last few weeks:

8/10
The proportion of workers who had to work from home during the pandemic, who said they planned to continue with hybrid working now that restrictions have ended. Since February 2022, the proportion of people hybrid working has risen from 13%, to 24% in May 2022. The percentage working exclusively from home has dropped from 22% to 14% (ONS).

13%
The estimated annual rise in costs for families with two children, compared to the official inflation rate of 9.1%, which means costs for families with two children are rising faster than for others. Research suggests that families with two children are paying up to £400 more per month to meet the cost of essential items such as food, rent and heating (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Loughborough University).

63%
The proportion of people in ethnic minority groups who have seen their cost of living negatively impacted by the pandemic, compared to just 59% of all UK adults (LifeSearch Health, Wealth and Happiness Index).

46%
The proportion of people receiving help from Citizen’s Advice who are in a ‘negative budget’, which means they have more essential spending out than they have income coming in (Citizen’s Advice).

74%
The percentage of adults who said their mental health has been negatively impacted in the past two years. Of those surveyed, the “rising cost of living” (28%) closely followed by “Covid restrictions” (27%) were the top causes (LifeSearch Health, Wealth and Happiness Index).
2. Personal Debt in the UK

Total UK Personal Debt

People in the UK owed £1,786.6 billion at the end of April 2022. This is up by £67.1 billion from £1,719.5 billion at the end of April 2021, an extra £1,269.14 per UK adult over the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Personal Debt</th>
<th>Total Personal Debt £ billion</th>
<th>Per Household £</th>
<th>Per Adult £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secured (Mortgages)</td>
<td>£1,584.8 billion</td>
<td>£57,022</td>
<td>£29,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsecured Consumer Debt</td>
<td>£201.9 billion</td>
<td>£7,264</td>
<td>£3,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which, Credit Card Debt</td>
<td>£60.9 billion</td>
<td>£2,192</td>
<td>£1,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total (April 2022)</td>
<td>£1,786.6 billion</td>
<td>£64,286</td>
<td>£33,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average total debt per household, including mortgages, was £64,286 and per adult was £33,780, around 105.3% of average earnings. This is up from the revised £33,686 a month earlier.

Based on April 2022 numbers, the UK’s total interest payments on personal debt over a 12-month period would have been £46,133 million, an average of £126 million per day. The average annual interest per household would have been £1,660 and per person £872, 2.72% of average earnings.

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility’s March 2022 forecast, household debt of all types is forecast to rise from £2,019 billion in 2020 to £2,447 billion in 2025. This would make the average total household debt £85,906 (assuming household numbers track ONS population projections.)

Consumer Credit Debt

At the end of April 2022, outstanding consumer credit lending was £201.9 billion, rising by £1.1 billion on the revised total for the previous month and £4.8 billion more than in April 2021. Within the total, outstanding credit card debt came to £60.9 billion, an increase of 8.70% (£4.9 billion) in the year to April 2022. Credit card debt averaged £2,192 per household and £1,152 per adult.

A credit card on the average interest rate would take 25 years and 5 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 £58 but would reduce each month. If £58 were paid every month, the debt would be cleared in 5 years and 1 month.
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 grew by **£5.7 billion** in April 2022 or **£190.3 million a day** over revised figures for March 2022.

- Net mortgage lending **rose** by **£4.6 billion** in the month, while net consumer credit lending **increased** by **£593 million**.

- In Q1 2022 lenders wrote off **£773 million** (of which **£270 million** was credit card debt, amounting to a daily write-off of **£3 million**).

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![Total UK Personal Debt (£bn)](chart.png)

**Total UK Personal Debt (£bn)**
- Secured Debt
- Other Consumer Credit Debt
- Credit Card Debt

**Bank of England Data to April 2022**

(The last three columns in the chart are Dec 19, Dec 20 and Apr 22)
2. Personal Debt in the UK

Advice on Problem Debts

Citizens Advice Bureaux across England and Wales answered 390,227 enquiries in May 2022, 16.7% up from April 2021.

Debt was the second largest advice category in May 2022 with 64,304 issues, behind Benefits and Tax Credits (89,453). Debt calls were 17.21% up compared with May 2021, while calls about Benefits and Tax credits were up by 30.40%. Debt represented 14.8% of all issues dealt with in the year to May 2022. The top three debt categories in May 2022 were fuel debts, council tax arrears and credit, store and charge card debts. In the year to May 2022, Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with 2,030 debt issues every day.

In Scotland in April 2022, Citizens Advice Scotland gave 79,122 pieces of advice, with debt advice being 10% of the total. Debt advice in April 2022 was the second largest category after benefits.

In Northern Ireland in May 2022, Advice NI's Debt Action service dealt with 357 cases involving debt issues, covering £1.6 million of debt. The top three debts were mortgage shortfall, credit card and personal loans.

StepChange Debt Charity reports that 12,500 new clients received full debt advice in April 2022. The most common reasons for seeking debt advice were “lack of control over finances”, “cost of living increase” and “unemployment or redundancy”. 64% of clients had credit card debt, 46% had personal loan debt, 33% had an overdraft and 35% had catalogue debt. The majority of StepChange clients are female (63% in April 2022) and young (59% under the age of 40).
2. Personal Debt in the UK

**Individual Insolvencies**

There were 31,435 individual insolvencies in England and Wales in March to May 2022, an increase of 7.2% from 29,324 for the same period in 2021. This was equivalent to 342 people a day or one person every 4 minutes and 13 seconds.

Every day on average in England and Wales, 19 people were made bankrupt, 68 Debt Relief Orders were granted and 255 Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) were entered into.

In the 12 months to March 2022, 115,313 individuals, 1 in 408 (0.25%) of the adult population of England and Wales became insolvent.

In Northern Ireland there were 144 individual insolvencies in May 2022, a rate of 4.6 per day. This comprised 128 Individual Voluntary Arrangements, 8 Debt Relief Orders and 8 bankruptcies. Individual insolvencies for the three months to May 2022 were down by 20.5% on the same three months the previous year.

In Scotland there were 1,894 personal insolvencies in January to March 2022, a rate of 21.0 per day, comprising 551 bankruptcies and 1,343 protected trust deeds. Personal insolvencies for the three months to March 2022 increased by 12.9% on the same period in the previous year.

**County Court Judgements for Debt**

2,494 Consumer County Court Judgements (CCJs) were issued every day in England and Wales in January to March 2022, a 10% decrease on the same period in 2021. The median value was £951, according to Registry Trust Ltd.

In Northern Ireland, there were 10 consumer debt judgements every day in January to March 2022, with a median value of £1,116.

In Scotland, 43 consumer debt decrees were registered every day in January to March 2022, the median value falling by 17 percent from Q4 2021, to £1,363.
3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Mortgage Debt

According to the Bank of England, outstanding mortgage lending stood at £1,584.8 billion at the end of April 2022. This is up from £1,522.5 billion a year earlier, an increase of £62.3 billion.

That means that the estimated average outstanding mortgage for the 10.98 million households with mortgage debt was £144,332 in April 2022.

The average mortgage interest rate was 2.05% at the end of April 2022. Based on this, households with mortgages would pay an average of £2,959 in mortgage interest over the year.

For new loans, the average mortgage interest rate was 1.83%. Based on this, First-Time Buyers with mortgages would pay an average of £3,265 in mortgage interest over the year.

According to the FCA and Bank of England, gross mortgage lending in January to March 2022 was £76.9 billion, 7.5% lower than the same quarter the previous year and around the level prevailing before the beginning of the pandemic.

The Financial Conduct Authority reports that 64.5% of mortgage lending in Q1 2022 was for 75% or less of a property’s value. 4.0% of lending was for mortgages for over 90% of a property’s value.

57.9% of mortgage lending was for three or more times the borrowers’ incomes.

According to UK Finance, in December 2019 (latest publicly available data), the mortgage as percentage of house value was on average 77.0% for first-time buyers, 67.6% for home movers and 58.8% for re-mortgagors, slightly higher than the previous year.
3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

House Prices

Nationwide estimates that house prices rose by 0.9% in May 2022 and were 11.2% higher than 12 months before. Halifax reports that the average UK house price in May 2022 was £289,099 (another record high), rising by 3.2% in the three months to May 2022 and by 10.5% in the year to May 2022.

Nationwide, Halifax and HM Land Registry all show sharply higher house prices over the last eighteen months, particularly over the summer and autumn of 2020 and again from March 2021. 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. The Halifax and HM Land Registry average prices tend to be similar, with Nationwide being slightly lower.

First-Time Buyers

HM Land Registry reports that the average house price for first-time buyers in Great Britain was £234,468 in April 2022, an annual increase of 11.8% and a monthly change of 1.1%.

According to UK Finance, the typical first-time buyer deposit in December 2019 was 23% of the purchase cost, which would average £53,928 in April 2022 based on the above Land Registry first-time buyer price. This is 168.2% 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 12.4% in the year to April 2022 to £281,161. The highest rates of increase were in Wales and Scotland (16.2%). The lowest price increases were in London (7.9%) and Northern Ireland (10.4%). After increasing in March, the average UK price continued to rise in April (1.1%).

The average house price was highest in London (£529,829) and the lowest in the North East (£155,215).

Average House Prices: Nations and Regions – April 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and Government Office Region</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Monthly Change</th>
<th>Annual Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>£211,990</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>£187,954</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>£318,610</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>£208,867</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>£237,904</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and The Humber</td>
<td>£201,806</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>£382,791</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of England</td>
<td>£344,943</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>£299,249</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands Region</td>
<td>£242,145</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>£155,215</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland (Quarter 1- 2022)</td>
<td>£164,590</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>£529,829</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS and HM Land Registry. Ranked by Annual Change.
Renting

According to the Office for National Statistics, private rental prices in the UK rose by 2.8% in the 12 months to May 2022, up from a revised 2.6% for the 12 months to April 2022.

Over the year to May 2022, private rental prices increased in Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and all the English regions. Northern Ireland (6.8%), the East Midlands (4.1%) and the South West (3.7%) saw the highest rates of increase. The lowest increases were in London (1.5%) and Wales (1.9%).

The median rent in England across all private rental property types for the 12 months to 31 March 2022 was £795, according to the Valuation Office Agency and ONS. In London it was £1,450.

For a single room with shared facilities, the median monthly private rent was £425. In London it was £650 (52.9% higher).

For two bedrooms, the median monthly private rent was £769. In London it was £1,475 (91.8% higher).

Figures from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government show that in 2019-20, private renter households in England spent an average of £871 per month on rental payments. Inclusive of benefits, private renters spent an average of 31.9% of their income on rental payments. The rental share of income was highest for single person (41.1%) and low income households (56.4%).

Monthly rents in the social housing sector in England were £459 for housing association renters and £429 for local authority renters.

In 2020-2021, 34.7% of households owned their home outright, while 30.1% were mortgagors, 18.5% rented privately and 16.6% paid a social rent.

- Since 2013-14 outright owners have been the largest tenure group.
- Since the mid-1990s, the number of renters and outright owners has risen, while the number of people owning a house with a mortgage has fallen.
- In 2020-2021, 46.9% of 25-34 year-olds were owner occupiers. 36.8% of this age group were private renters and 16.4% were social renters.
3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Arrears and Repossessions

According to the Financial Conduct Authority, at the end of Q1 2022 there were 152,929 mortgage loan accounts with arrears of more than 1.5% of the current loan balance.

- This is 1.1% less than revised numbers for the previous quarter and 10.4% down on Q1 2021.

49.3% of payments due for loans in arrears were received in Q1 2022.

UK Finance reports that 75,670 (0.85%) of homeowner mortgages had arrears equivalent to at least 2.5% of the outstanding mortgage balance in Q1 2022, 5.0% down on the previous quarter. Over the last year, mortgages in arrears have decreased by 22.8 a day.

UK Finance estimates that there were 580 homeowner properties taken into possession in the UK in Q1 2022, up from 200 in Q1 2021.

This equates to 6.4 properties being possessed every day, or one property being possessed every three hours and forty three minutes. This number was previously low due to the pandemic-related moratorium on forced possessions, but is now approaching pre-pandemic levels.

In England and Wales, in January to March 2022, according to the Ministry of Justice, every day 32.1 mortgage possession claims were issued and 25.5 mortgage possession orders were made.

211 landlord possession claims were issued and 144.2 landlord possession orders were made every day.

Compared to Q4 2019 (pre-lockdown), mortgage possession claims fell by 54% and orders by 48%, while landlord possession claims fell by 25% and landlord possession orders fell by 37%. This was due to forbearance action by the Government and the FCA in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, possession claims and orders increased in Q2 and Q3 2021 from the very low levels of mid-2020.
4. Spending and Loans

How We Spend

In the year to April 2022, outstanding consumer credit increased by 2.45% according to the Bank of England, while outstanding levels of credit card borrowing increased by 8.70%. The largest reductions occurred from August 2020 to March 2021. Since April 2021, outstanding consumer credit has fallen slightly, with variations from month to month.

After falling steeply at the beginning of the pandemic, LINK transaction volumes have begun to recover. On average, 51.4 cash machine transactions (including balance enquiries and rejected transactions) were made every second in May 2022, an increase of 5.0% on May 2021. The total value of transactions increased by 3.8% over the same period.

- In total, cash machine transactions were worth an average of £51.30 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 54,574 at the end of 2020 to 53,398 at the end of 2021 (a fall of 2.15%). Free-to-use ATMs fell from 41,727 to 40,942 while pay-to-use ATMs fell from 12,847 to 12,456.

What We Buy

In Q4 2021, households in the UK spent £115.40 million a day on water, electricity and gas, or £4.15 per household per day. On a seasonally adjusted basis, this was 7% less than the revised figure for Q4 2020.

In May 2022 the average price of unleaded petrol increased by 4.7ppl to 166.9 ppl.

- This meant it cost £83.45 to fill a 50 litre unleaded tank, £2.35 more than last month.
- The average price of diesel increased by 4.5ppl to 180.4ppl.

- This meant it cost £90.20 to fill a 50 litre diesel tank, £2.25 more than last month.
- The price difference between the two shrank to 13.5ppl, a difference of £6.75 per 50 litre tank.

According to Which? the annual cost for home-charging a compact electric car is around £885 per year, or £17.02 per week, based on 9,000 miles driving per year.

Child Poverty Action Group’s “The Cost of a Child in 2021” report estimates that couple families now spend £160,692 on raising a child to their 18th birthday, £24.44 a day. This is an increase of 5.2% over the last year and 12.6% since the study began in 2012.

- The cost for a lone parent is £193,801, an increase of 25% since 2012.
- This comes to £29.50 a day.
- For couples in 2021, 22% of basic costs are covered by child benefit. For lone-parent families in 2020, 16% of basic costs are covered by child benefit.

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4. Spending and Loans

The Cost of Credit

The average interest rate on credit card lending bearing interest was 21.39% in May 2022. This was 20.14% above the Bank of England Base Rate of 1.25%. (The Bank rate was raised from 1.0% to 1.25% on 15 June 2022.)

UK Finance figures show that 53.8% of credit card balances were bearing interest in February 2022.

In May 2022, the average APR for a £5,000 personal loan was 8.35%, according to the Bank of England. For a £10,000 loan it was 4.06%, while the average rate for an overdraft was 35.26%.

As shown in the chart, the gap between credit card, overdraft and other interest rates has widened substantially since 2008. 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 remains so low is an open question.

Source: Bank of England
5. Savings and Pensions

The average interest rate for an instant access savings account was 0.25% in May 2022. For a cash ISA, the rate was 0.52%, up from 0.24% a year ago.

In Q4 2021, households saved an average of 6.5% of their post-tax income, including benefits, down from 13.5% (revised) in Q4 2020 and also the record 23.4% (revised) in Q2 2020, which was substantially higher than the previous peaks in the late 1970s and early 1990s. From 2000 to 2015, the savings rate fluctuated mostly within the 7-10% range, with the most recent pre-Covid peak being 12.0% (revised) in Q1 2010. If someone on the average salary saved 6.5% of their income in an average instant access savings account for a year, they would receive £4.09 in interest after tax. If they saved it in an average cash ISA, they would receive £10.65.

It would take 26 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 into a cash ISA at the same rate it would take 25 years.

In 2020/2021, according to the Family Resources Survey, 35% of UK adults had either no savings or less than £1,500 in savings. This became 48% for households with an income of under £200 a week.

Pensions

According to The Pensions Regulator’s Compliance Report, at least 10.71 million workers had joined a pension scheme under auto-enrolment by the end of May 2022, making a total of 23.1 million members of pensions schemes, but leaving 10.50 million workers unenrolled, out of the total declared workforce of 33.62 million.

According to the Family Resources Survey, 54% of working age adults actively participated in a pension in 2020-21, up 2% on the previous year. Participation was 80% for employees and 19% for the self-employed.

According to ONS, in 2020, 34.8% of employees with a pension were in an occupational Defined Benefit scheme, 36.5% were in an occupational Defined Contribution scheme and 26.6% were in group personal or stakeholder schemes. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings reports that in 2020, 47.2% of members of Defined Benefit schemes received an employer contribution of 20% or more of their income, compared with only 2.0% of members of Defined Contribution schemes.

In November 2021, there were 12.47 million recipients of the State Pension, an increase of 92,000 on November 2020. Of these, 2.4 million were on the new State Pension (nSP) introduced in 2016, an increase of 630,000 on November 2020.
6. Financial Inclusion

According to the FCA Financial Lives Survey, in the UK in 2020 there were 1.2 million UK adults who did not have a bank account (either a current account or an alternative e-money account). This was 2.3% of the UK adult population. The highest unbanked rates were for the unemployed, those in a marginal or vulnerable situation and those aged 18-21.

There were 7.24 million basic bank accounts (BBAs) on 30 June 2021, 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 2021 there were 8,810 bank and building society branches in the UK. This was a reduction of 750 branches (-7.8%) from the year before. According to Which? 4,735 branches have either been closed or scheduled for closure between January 2015 and December 2021, with the largest numbers of closures in the South East of England, Scotland and the North West of England.

According to the FCA Financial Lives Survey, in February 2020, 5.4 million people relied on cash to a great or very great extent, with 2.5 million using cash for all their payments.

In 2020, 44.4 million UK adults (85% of the total) used some form of credit, according to the FCA Financial Lives Survey. This includes unregulated credit (4% of adults) and running credit such as credit cards that are paid off each month (30% of adults). Around 7.8 million people (15% of total UK adults) either chose not to access credit or did not have access to credit.

According to the Bank of England, 1.92 million adults were members of credit unions in October to December 2021, an increase of 0.30% over the same period in 2020. There were 395 credit unions, with loans to members to a value of £1.75 billion, 35.1% of which was in Northern Ireland.

According to the FCA Financial Lives Survey, 17.8 million UK adults (34% of the total) did not have home contents insurance in 2020. According to Ofcom, 1.5 million households did not have access to the Internet in March 2021. This included 18% of households with members aged 65+.

Recent research by The Social Market Foundation found that low-income households pay a ‘poverty premium’ in buying their goods and services of £490 per year. The poverty premium is the extra amount people on low incomes pay from not being able to access the best deals.

According to the FCA Financial Lives Survey, in October 2020, 14.6 million UK adults (28% of the total) said they had low confidence in managing their money, while 17.7 million UK adults (34%) had poor or low levels of numeracy involving financial concepts.
7. Young People

Young People in Education and Employment
According to ONS, in February to April 2022 there were 5.35 million people aged 18 to 24. Of these, 1.86 million were in full-time education while 3.40 million were in employment (including those in full-time education who were also in employment). From April 2021 to April 2022, the number of 18-24 year-olds in employment grew by 162,000.

Unemployment
354,000 18-24 year-olds (9.4%) were unemployed in February to April 2022. This was 87,000 fewer than the same period the previous year and 7,000 fewer than in November to January 2022.
- 84,000 (23.7%) had been unemployed for over 6 months.
- 65,000 had been unemployed for over 12 months, 22,000 less than from November to January 2022 and 31,000 less (34.1%) than a year earlier.

704,000 (10.4%) of 16 to 24-year-olds in the UK were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in January to March 2022, a decrease of 80,000 over the last year.

Minimum Wage
Minimum wage rates increased in April 2022. For under 18s the new rate is £4.81. The apprentice rate (for those under 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship) is £4.81. For those aged 18-20, the minimum wage goes up to £6.83. For those aged 21-22, £9.18 and for those aged 23+, £9.50. The age for receiving the National Living Wage has dropped from 25+ to 23+.

Wages Paid by Age and Gender
According to ONS, in the year to April 2021 the median weekly gross pay for all full-time employees was £611. For employees aged 16-17 it was £220. For those aged 18-21 it was £374 and for those aged 22-29 it was £521. For those aged 16-17, male and female full-time pay was the same, but female FT pay as a percentage of male FT pay dropped to 94% for those aged 18-29 and then gradually by age to reach 81% for the 50-59 age group.

Student Loans
In 2020-21, the provisional average maintenance loan awarded to full-time students in England was £6,860 (up 1.8% on the revised figure for the previous year). In Wales it was £5,110 and in Northern Ireland £3,120. The provisional average tuition fee loan in England was £8,520 (down 0.5%). In Wales it was £8,180 (up 16.9%) and in Northern Ireland £5,440.

Student Debt
In England, the average debt for the latest (2020/21) cohort to enter repayment was £45,060, an increase of 12.6% on the previous year. In Wales it was £27,600 (+11.4%), in Northern Ireland £24,720 (+5.9%) and in Scotland £15,170 (+9.3%).

https://themoneycharity.org.uk
8. The Bigger Picture

Economy and Inflation

The UK economy shrunk by 0.3% in April 2022, and is now 0.9% above its pre-coronavirus (Covid-19) level. Global leading indicators are positive but have cooled over the recent months, suggesting that the economic recovery from the pandemic is likely to be slow.

The CPI (Consumer Prices Index) increased by 9.1% in the year to May 2022, 0.1% higher than the year to April 2022. The highest rates of inflation over the 12 months to May 2022 were for housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (19.4%), transport (13.8%) and furniture, household equipment and maintenance (10.8%). The lowest rate was for health (1.8%). According to ONS, the largest upwards contributions to the 12-month inflation rate came from housing and household services, and transport. The largest offsetting downward contributions were from recreation and culture, as well as clothing and footwear.

Pay Rates

In the three months to April 2022, regular pay increased by 4.2% on the year before. Pay including bonuses increased by 0.4%. Average weekly pay was £562, or £604 including bonuses; an annual salary of £29,304, or £31,494 with bonuses. In real terms, for the year to April 2022, regular pay decreased by 3.4%, while total pay fell by 2.7%. Due to pay growth being lower than inflation for most of the last fourteen years, total real pay (-2.1%) was below the pre-financial crash peak in February 2008 while regular real pay increased by only 0.4% over the same period.

Public Sector Borrowing

Public Sector Net Borrowing (excluding NatWest Group and Bank of England) in the three months to May 2022 was £50.9 billion, an average borrowing of £554 million per day. Spending included £22.9 billion net investment, meaning there was a current budget deficit of £28.0 billion over the same three months. Total net borrowing for the year to May 2022 was £137.3 billion, compared with £256.0 billion for the year to May 2021.

Public sector net debt in May 2022 (excluding NatWest and Bank of England) was £2,041.8 billion (82.8% of GDP). This was £88.0 billion more than in May 2021, an increase of £241 million per day, mainly due to the economic impact of Covid-19.

According to the March 2022 Forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility, public sector net debt will fall from 95.6% of GDP in 2021-22 to 91.2% of GDP in 2024-25. Interest on public debt is forecast to be equivalent to 1.3% of GDP in 2024-25.
8. The Bigger Picture

Population, Taxpayers and Benefit Recipients

According to the latest ONS estimate, the population of the UK grew by 777 people per day between mid 2019 and mid 2020.

Out of a total population aged 15+ of 55.5 million, there are projected to be 32.2 million income taxpayers in 2021-22. Of these, 27 million will be basic rate taxpayers, 4.1 million people will fall into the 40% income tax band and 440,000 will pay the 45% rate, which replaced the 50% rate in 2013-14. People who do not pay income tax still pay indirect taxes such as VAT, non-EU import duties, insurance premium tax and excise duties on tobacco, alcohol and fuel.

There were 23 million people claiming some combination of DWP benefits in August 2021, according to DWP. In November 2021, housing benefit was received by 2.7 million people and 5.7 million people were receiving Universal Credit, an increase of 2.7 million from March 2020 (before the first lockdown.)

Unemployment

The number of people classed as unemployed in February to April 2022 was 1.30 million (3.8% of the workforce), 41,000 fewer than the previous quarter, 461 fewer per day and down 355,000 from the previous year, 973 fewer a day. The unemployment rate in the UK was highest in the North East (5.2%) and London (4.8%), and lowest in Northern Ireland (2.6%). 357,000 people had been unemployed for over 12 months in February to April 2022, down by 64,000 (175 a day) from a year earlier. Since the beginning of 2021, short-term (less than six months) unemployment has fallen, while longer-term unemployment has increased.

Employment and Unemployment – Older Workers

298,000 people aged 50 and over were unemployed in February to April 2022, a decrease of 8,000 on November to January 2022, and down 106,000 on a year earlier. 39.8% of unemployed workers aged 50 and over, a total of 119,000 people, had been out of work for over a year. 69,000 had been unemployed for more than two years.

1,354,000 (11.0%) people aged 65 and over were in work in February to April 2022, 60,000 more than in November to January 2022 and an increase of 52,000 from the previous year.

Redundancies

56,000 people (629 per day) reported they had become redundant in February to April 2022, 13,000 less than in November to January 2022 but 52,000 fewer than the year before.
The Money Charity is the UK’s Financial Capability charity.

We believe that being on top of your money means you are more in control of your life, your finances and your debts, reducing stress and hardship. And that being on top of your money increases your wellbeing, helps you achieve your goals and live a happier more positive life as a result.

Our vision is for everyone to be on top of their money as a part of everyday life. We empower people across the UK to develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours to make the most of their money throughout their lives.

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