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MONEY
Charity

The Money Statistics

**October
2024**

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The MONEY Charity

Welcome to the October 2024 edition of The Money Statistics, The Money Charity's complete monthly round-up of statistics about how we use money in the UK.

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1. Striking Numbers

This Month's Highlights

£65,665

Average total debt per UK household in August 2024

£2,518

Average credit card debt per household in August 2024

£4,287

Total unsecured debt per UK adult in August 2024

6.38%

Change in outstanding credit card balances in year to August 2024

1.29 pence per litre

Decrease in the price of unleaded petrol in October 2024

1.7%

Inflation rate in the year to September 2024

3.4%

Increase in average first-time buyer house price in the year to September 2024

13 years

Time to save for a first-time buyer house deposit, saving at the average rate out of average UK income (at Q2 2024 rate)



1. Striking Numbers

Every Day in the UK

- The population of the UK grew by an estimated [1,584](#) people a day between mid-year 2021 and mid-year 2022.
- On average, a UK household spends [£5.20](#) a day on water, electricity and gas.
- [330.6](#) people a day were declared insolvent or bankrupt in England and Wales in July to September 2024. This was equivalent to one person [every 4 minutes and 20 seconds](#).
- In Northern Ireland in the three months to September 2024, there were [4.3](#) insolvencies per day. In Scotland in the three months to June 2024 there were [22.3](#) insolvencies per day.
- Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with [1,227](#) debt issues every day in the year to September 2024.
- [10.77](#) properties were repossessed every day in April to June 2024 in the UK, or one [every 2 hours and 20 minutes](#).
- The number of UK mortgages with arrears of over 2.5% of the remaining balance increased by [38.8](#) a day in the year to June 2024.
- The number of people unemployed in the UK decreased by [180](#) per day in the twelve months to September 2024.
- [869](#) people a day reported they had become redundant in July to September 2024.
- Net lending to individuals and housing associations in the UK increased by [£133.5 million](#) a day in August 2024.
- Government debt increased by [£518.6 million](#) a day in the three months to September 2024.
- Borrowers paid [£220 million](#) a day in interest in August 2024.
- It costs an average of [£25.28](#) 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 [£33.54](#) per day.
- [55.8](#) mortgage possession claims and [35.2](#) mortgage possession orders were made every day in England and Wales in April to June 2024.
- [262.7](#) landlord possession claims and [198.5](#) landlord possession orders were made every day.



1. Striking Numbers

Arising From the Current Climate

The UK has undergone a significant degree of political and financial turmoil over the past few years. The pandemic and ongoing cost of living and energy crises, among other events, have affected the lives and finances of many people across the UK. Following are some striking statistics, curated over the last few weeks to reflect the situation as it evolves:

0.3%

The percentage growth in retail sales volumes in September 2024.
This is down from a 1.0% increase in August (ONS).

£31.1 billion

The estimated total value of 'lost' pension pots. Almost 3.3 million pension pots are now considered lost, containing an average sum of £9,470 (PPI).

21.8%

The economic inactivity rate for people aged 16-64 in the UK between June and August 2024.
This is down on the previous quarter and the lowest level since July 2023 (ONS).

£1.17 billion

The total amount lost to fraud in 2023 across 2.97 million confirmed cases, with an average loss per scam of £393 (UK Finance).

1 in 10

The number of people who do not feel confident in using the internet for online banking and managing their finances, rising to 18% for people without broadband access. (Good Things Foundation).

58%

The proportion of Universal Credit claimants who are women; the median age across all Universal Credit claimants is 38 (DWP).

77%

The percentage of adults who received a court summons for a debt who have experienced a mental health problem (Money and Mental Health).



2. Personal Debt in the UK

Total UK Personal Debt

People in the UK owed **£1,864.9 billion** at the end of August 2024. This is up by **£27.39 billion** from **£1,837.49 billion** at the end of August 2023, an extra **£507.32** per UK adult over the year.

Type of Personal Debt	Total Personal Debt £ billion	Per Household £	Per Adult £
Secured (Mortgages)	£1,633.4 billion	£57,514	£30,249
Unsecured Consumer Debt	£231.5 billion	£8,151	£4,287
Of which, Credit Card Debt	£71.5 billion	£2,518	£1,324
Grand Total (July 2024)	£1,864.9 billion	£65,665	£34,536

The average total debt per household, including mortgages, was **£65,665** and per adult was **£34,536**, around **95.6%** of average earnings. This is up from the revised **£34,461** a month earlier.

Based on August 2024 numbers, the UK's total interest payments on personal debt over a 12-month period would have been **£80.4 billion**, an average of **£220 million** per day. The average annual interest per household would have been **£2,831** and per person **£1,489**, **4.14%** of average earnings.

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility's November 2023 forecast, household debt of all types is forecast to rise from **£2,259 billion** in 2023 to **£2,429 billion** in 2025. This would make the average total household debt **£85,274** (assuming household numbers track ONS population projections).

Consumer Credit Debt

At the end of August 2024, outstanding consumer credit lending was **£231.4 billion**, increasing by **£949 million** on the revised total for the previous month and **£13.9 billion more** than in August 2023. Within the total, outstanding credit card debt came to **£71.5 billion**, an increase of **6.38%** (**£4.28 billion**) in the year to August 2024. Credit card debt averaged **£2,518** per household and **£1,324** per adult.

A credit card on the average interest rate would take **27 years** 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 **£72** but would reduce each month. If **£72** were paid *every* month, the debt would be cleared in **4 years and 11 months**.

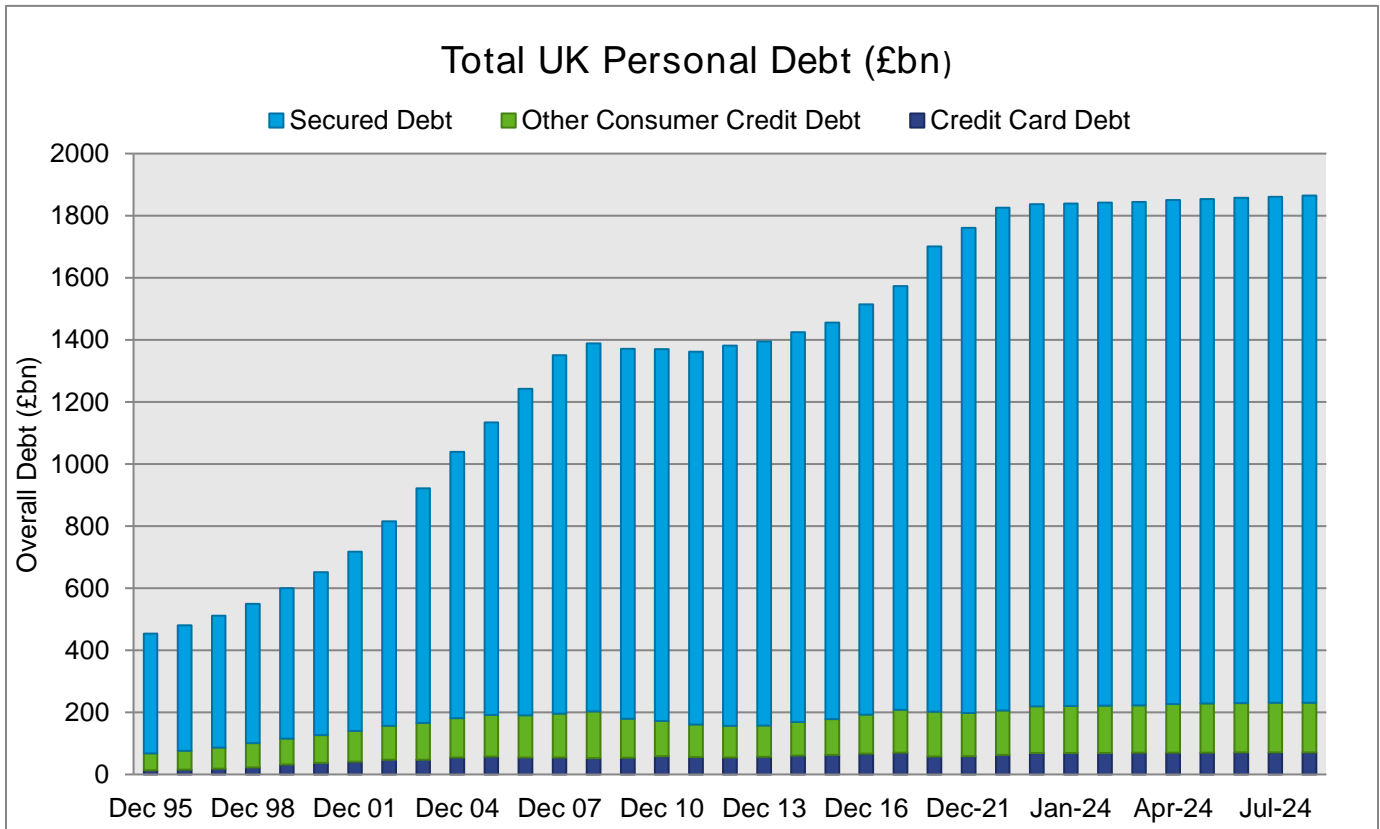


2. Personal Debt in the UK

Net Lending and Write-Offs

Total net lending to individuals and housing associations by UK banks and building societies increased by **£4 billion** in August 2024 or **£133.5 million a day** over revised figures for July 2024.

- Net mortgage lending **increased** by **£3.056 billion** in the month, while net consumer credit lending **increased** by **£305 million**.
- In Q2 2024 lenders wrote off **£608 million** (of which **£288 million** was credit card debt, amounting to a daily write-off of **£3.16 million**.)



Bank of England Data to August 2024

(The last three columns in the chart are Jun 24, Jul 24 and Aug 24)



2. Personal Debt in the UK

Advice on Problem Debts

Citizens Advice Bureaux across England and Wales answered **237,154** enquiries in September 2024, **3.4% up** from September 2023.

Debt was the second largest advice category in August 2024 with **43,872** issues, behind Benefits and Tax Credits (**74,841**). Debt calls were **2.84% down** compared with September 2023, while calls about Benefits and Tax credits were up by **3%**. Calls about Fuel (gas, electricity etc) were up **13.64%** on September 2023. Debt represented **18%** of all issues dealt with in the year to September 2024. The top three debt categories in September 2024 were debt assessment, rent arrears and council tax arrears. In the year to September 2024, Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with **1,227** debt issues every *day*.

In Scotland in August 2024, Citizens Advice Scotland gave **92,902** pieces of advice, with debt advice being **10% of the total**. Excluding advice on benefits, debt advice was the largest category (**10%**), ahead of Financial Support (**7%**).

StepChange Debt Charity reports that **12,793** new clients received full debt advice in August 2024. The most common reasons for seeking debt advice were “cost of living increase”, “lack of control over finances” and “unemployment or redundancy”. **68%** of clients had credit card debt, **46%** had personal loan debt, **32%** had an overdraft and **30%** had catalogue debt. The majority of StepChange clients are female (**62%** in August 2024) and young (**59%** under the age of 40).



2. Personal Debt in the UK

Individual Insolvencies

There were **30,413** individual insolvencies in England and Wales in July to September 2024, an **increase of 18.22%** from **24,131** for the same period in 2023. This was equivalent to **330.6** people a day or one person **every 4 minutes and 20 seconds**.

Every day on average in England and Wales, **18** people were made bankrupt, **130** Debt Relief Orders were granted and **181** Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) were entered into.

In the 12 months to September 2024, **121,381** individuals, **1 in 387 (0.26%)** of the adult population of England and Wales became insolvent.

In Northern Ireland there were **397** individual insolvencies in the three months to September 2024, a rate of **4.3** per day. This comprised **283** Individual Voluntary Arrangements, **59** Debt Relief Orders and **55** bankruptcies. Total individual insolvencies in September 2024 **increased 20%** compared to September 2023.

In Scotland there were **2,056** personal insolvencies in April to June 2024, a rate of **22.3** per day, comprising **708** bankruptcies and **1,348** protected trust deeds. Personal insolvencies for the three months to June 2023 saw a **2.1% decrease** on the same period in the previous year.

County Court Judgements for Debt

2,605 Consumer County Court Judgements (CCJs) were issued every day in England and Wales in April to June 2024, a **19% decrease** on the same period in the previous year. The average value was **£2,038** according to Registry Trust Ltd.

In Northern Ireland, there were **12** consumer debt judgements every day in April to June 2024, with an average value of **£3,109**.

In Scotland, **34** consumer debt decrees were registered every day in April to June 2024, with an average value of **£1,896**.



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Mortgage Debt

According to the Bank of England, outstanding mortgage lending stood at **£1,633 billion** at the end of August 2024. This is up from **£1,619 billion** a year earlier, an increase of **£13.4 billion**.

That means that the estimated average outstanding mortgage for the **10.75 million** households with mortgage debt was **£151,945** in August 2024.

The average mortgage interest rate was **3.73%** at the end of August 2024. Based on this, households with mortgages would pay an average of **£5,668** in mortgage interest over the year.

For new loans, the average mortgage interest rate was **4.86%**. Based on this, First-Time Buyers with mortgages would pay an average of **£9,507** in mortgage interest over the year.

According to the FCA and Bank of England, gross mortgage lending in April to June 2024 was **£60.19 billion**, **14.3% higher** than the same quarter the previous year and **26.75% lower** than from before the pandemic (Q1 2020).

The Financial Conduct Authority reports that **57%** of mortgage lending in Q2 2024 was for 75% or less of a property's value. **6.02%** of lending was for mortgages for over 90% of a property's value.

58.4% of mortgage lending was for three or more times the borrowers' incomes.



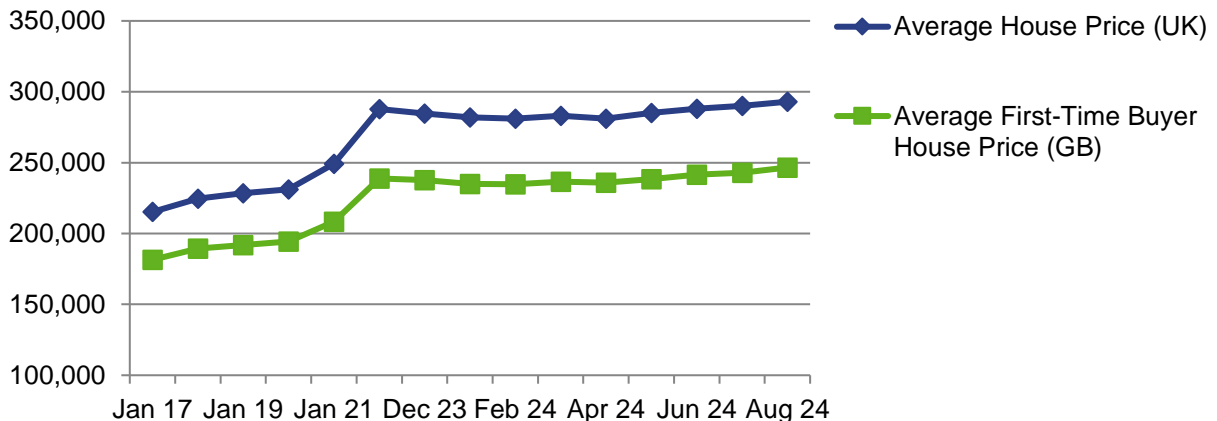
3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

House Prices

Nationwide estimates that house prices **increased by 0.7%** in September 2024 and were **3.2% higher** than 12 months before. Halifax reports that the average UK house price in September 2024 was **£293,399**, an increase of **1.2%** on the previous quarter and an increase of **4.7%** in the year to September 2024.

Nationwide, Halifax and HM Land Registry all show sharply higher house prices over the last few years, 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.

House Prices (HM Land Registry)



First-Time Buyers

HM Land Registry reports that the average house price for first-time buyers in Great Britain was **£246,576** in August 2024, an annual increase of **3.4%** and a monthly change of **2.0%**.

According to Halifax, the typical first-time buyer deposit in 2023 was **19%** of the purchase cost, which would average **£46,849** in September 2024 based on the above Land Registry first-time buyer price. This is **129.7%** 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 **2.8%** in the year to August 2024 to **£293,000**. The highest rates of increase were Northern Ireland (**6.4%**), Scotland (**5.4%**) and North West (**4.6%**). The lowest price increases were in the East of England (**1.4%**) and London (**1.4%**) and South West (**0.8%**). In the month to August 2024, the average price for a UK property rose by **1.5%**.

The average house price was highest in London (**£531,212**) and the lowest in the North East (**£166,032**).

Average House Prices: Nations and Regions – August 2024

Country and Government Office Region	Price	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Northern Ireland (Q2 2024)	£185,025	3.6%	6.4%
Scotland	£199,971	1.2%	5.4%
North West	£225,248	2.4%	4.6%
Yorkshire and The Humber	£219,433	2.7%	4.4%
Wales	£222,925	2.6%	3.5%
West Midlands	£255,102	1.1%	2.6%
England	£309,572	1.6%	2.3%
East Midlands	£250,229	1.4%	2.1%
North East	£166,032	1.5%	1.7%
South East	£384,804	1.4%	1.6%
East of England	£344,190	1.0%	1.4%
London	£531,212	2.2%	1.4%
South West	£320,774	-0.3%	0.8%

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



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Renting

According to the Office for National Statistics, private rental prices in the UK rose by **8.4%** in the 12 months to September 2024, no change from the 12 months to August 2024.

Over the year to September 2024, private rental prices increased in Wales, Scotland and all the English regions. London (**9.8%**) and North West (**9.3%**) saw the highest increases and the South West (**6.3%**) saw the lowest increase in the 12 months to September 2024.

The median rent in Great Britain across all private rental property types for the 12 months to September 2024 was **£1,295**, according to the Valuation Office Agency and ONS. In London it was **£2,145**.

For a one-bed flat in Great Britain in September 2024, the median monthly private rent was **£1,039**. In London it was **£1,612 (55% higher)**.

For two bedrooms, the median monthly private rent in Great Britain in August 2024 was **£1,179**. In London it was **£2,048 (73% higher)**.

Figures from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities show that in 2022-23, private renter households in England spent an average of **£231** per week on rental payments. Private renters spent, on average, just over a third of their income on rent (**37.1%**). Private renters in receipt of housing support spent around **32%** of their income on rental payments.

Weekly rents in the social housing sector in England were **£117** for housing association renters and **£102** for local authority renters.

In 2022-2023, **35%** of households owned their home outright, while **29%** were mortgagors, **19%** rented privately and **1%** 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.



3. Mortgages, Rent and Housing

Arrears and Repossessions

According to the Financial Conduct Authority, at the end of Q2 2024 there were **190,739** mortgage loan accounts with arrears of more than 1.5% of the current loan balance. This is **0.03%** more than revised numbers for the previous quarter and **15%** up on Q2 2023.

45.67% of payments due for loans in arrears were received in Q2 2024.

UK Finance reports that **96,070 (1.11%)** of homeowner mortgages had arrears equivalent to at least 2.5% of the outstanding mortgage balance in Q2 2024, no change on the previous quarter. Over the last year, mortgages in arrears have increased by **38.8** a day.

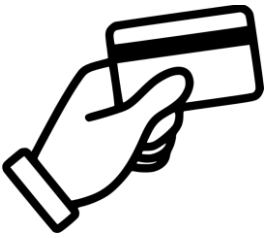
UK Finance estimates that there were **980** homeowner properties taken into possession in the UK in Q2 2024, up from **750** in Q2 2023.

This equates to **10.77** properties being possessed every day, or one property being possessed **every 2 hours and 20 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 April to June 2024, according to the Ministry of Justice, every day **55.8** mortgage possession claims were issued and **35.2** mortgage possession orders were made.

262.7 landlord possession claims were issued and **198.5** landlord possession orders were made every day.

Compared to Q2 2023, mortgage possession claims have risen by **35.9%** and orders by **34%**, while landlord possession claims increased by **9.5%** and landlord possession orders by **17%**. Mortgage possession claims now sit at around **65%** of 2019 (pre-pandemic) levels, however repossessions in Q2 2024 are down **22%** on the same period in 2023.



4. Spending and Loans

How We Spend

In the year to August 2024, outstanding consumer credit increased by **6.42%** according to the Bank of England, while outstanding levels of credit card borrowing increased by **6.38%**. The largest reductions occurred from August 2020 to March 2021. Since September 2021, outstanding consumer credit has been steadily rising, with some variation month on month.

On average, **45.18** cash machine transactions (including balance enquiries and rejected transactions) were made **every second** in August 2024, a decrease of **5.5%** on August 2023. The total value of transactions decreased by **1.0%** over the same period.

- In total, cash machine transactions were worth an average of **£57.80** 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 **50,300** at the end of 2022 to **47,711** at the end of 2023 (a fall of **5.2%**). Free-to-use ATMs fell from **39,429** to **37,299** while pay-to-use ATMs fell from **10,871** to **10,412**.

What We Buy

In Q2 2024, households in the UK spent **£147.58 million** a day on water, electricity and gas, or **£5.20** per household per day. On a seasonally adjusted basis, this was **1.57% higher** than the revised figure for Q2 2023.

In October 2024, the average price of unleaded petrol **decreased by 1.29ppl to 134.86ppl**.

- This meant it cost **£67.43** to fill a 50 litre unleaded tank, **65p less** than last month.

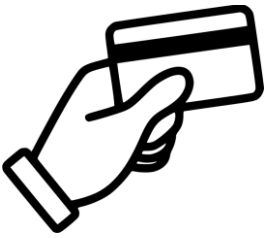
The average price of diesel **decreased by 1.36ppl to 140.87 ppl**.

- This meant it cost **£69.76** to fill a 50 litre diesel tank, **68p less** than last month.
- The price between the two decreased to **4.65 ppl**, a difference of **£2.32** per 50 litre tank.

According to Which? the annual cost for home-charging a compact electric car is around **£568.50** per year, or **£10.93** per week, based on 7,050 miles driving per year.

Child Poverty Action Group's "The Cost of a Child in 2023" report estimates that couple families now spend **£166,218** on raising a child to their 18th birthday, **£25.28 a day**. This is an increase of **5.5%** over the last year and **16.5%** since the study began in 2012.

- The cost for a lone parent is **£220,354**, an increase of **42.2%** since 2012.
- This comes to **£33.54 a day**.



4. Spending and Loans

The Cost of Credit

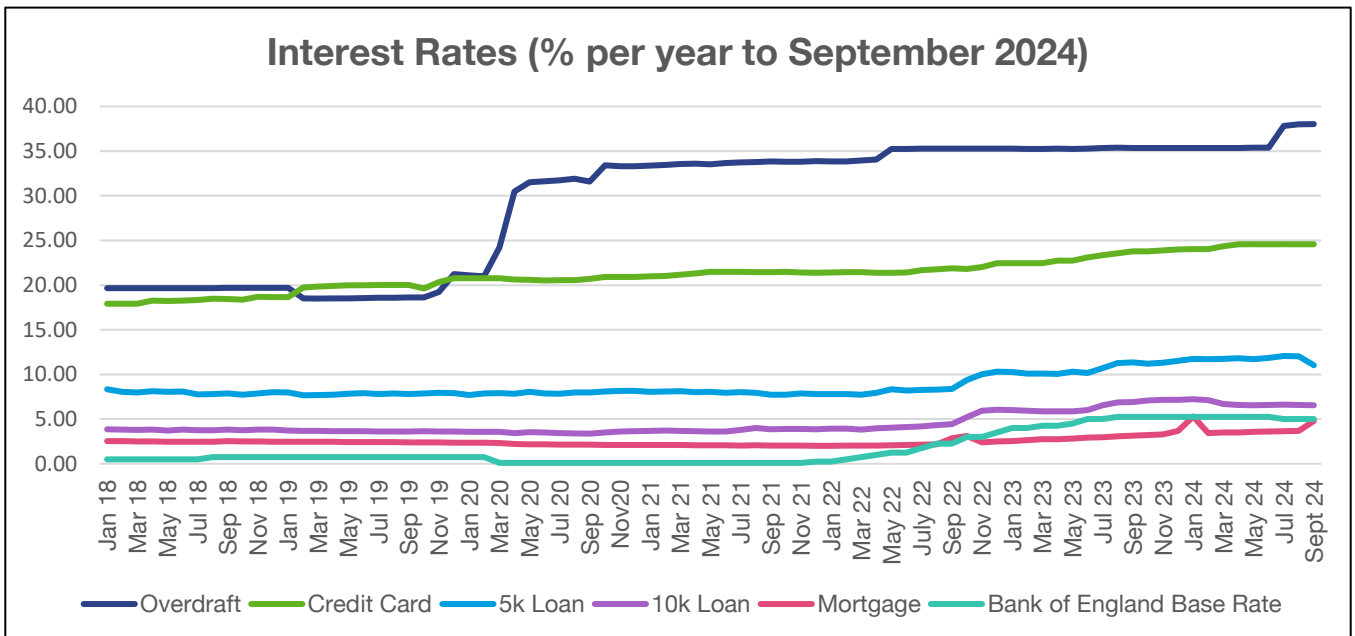
The average interest rate on credit card lending bearing interest was **24.58%** in September 2024. This was **19.58%** above the Bank of England Base Rate of **5.00%**. (The Bank rate was lowered from **5.25%** to **5.00%** on 1 August 2024.)

UK Finance figures show that **49.4%** of credit card balances were bearing interest in July 2024.

In September 2024, the average APR for a £5,000 personal loan was **11.02%**, according to the Bank of England. For a £10,000 loan it was **6.56%**, while the average rate for an overdraft was **38.03%**.

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 much lower is an open question.



Source: Bank of England



5. Savings and Pensions

Savings

The average interest rate for an instant access savings account was **2.60%** in September 2024. For a cash ISA, the rate was **2.76%**, down from 3.13% a year ago.

In Q2 2024, households saved an average of **9.82%** of their post-tax income, including benefits, up from **7.3%** (revised) in Q2 2023 but down from the record **27.3%** (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 **13.2%** (revised) in Q1 2010. If someone on the average salary saved 9.82% of their income in an average instant access savings account for a year, they would receive **£73.81** in interest after tax. If they saved it in an average cash ISA, they would receive **£97.94**.

It would take **13 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 **11 years**.

In 2022-2023, 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 **81%**.

Pensions

According to The Pensions Regulator's Compliance Report, at least **11.15 million** workers had joined a pension scheme under auto-enrolment by the end of September 2024, making a total of **23.8 million** members of pensions schemes, but leaving **11.31 million** workers unenrolled, out of the total declared workforce of **35.11 million**.

According to the Family Resources Survey, **54%** of working age adults actively participated in a pension in 2022-2023, up **1%** on the previous year. Participation was **78%** for employees and **21%** for the self-employed.

In May 2023, there were **12.69** million recipients of the State Pension, an increase of **290,000** on May 2022. Of these, **3.4 million** were on the new State Pension (nSP) introduced in 2016, an increase of **700,000** on May 2022.



6. Financial Inclusion

According to the FCA, in the UK in 2022-2023 there were **1.1 million** UK adults who did not have a bank account (either a current account or an alternative e-money account.) This was **2.1%** of the UK adult population. Among the highest unbanked rates were for the unemployed, those who were long-term sick and those aged 18-24.

There were **7.36 million** basic bank accounts (BBAs) on 30 June 2023, 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) **5,699** branches since January 2015.

According to UK Finance, in 2023, **1.5 million** adults mainly used cash, the first yearly rise in cash usage since 2019, but still below the pre-pandemic level of 2.1 million in 2019.

According to the Bank of England, **2.11 million** adults were members of credit unions in January to March 2024, an **increase of 5.13%** over the same period in 2023. There were **372** credit unions in the UK, with loans to members to a value of **£2.53 billion**. Scotland's share of the loan value saw the greatest increase on the previous quarter, rising by **7.68%** (£50,720).

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 over **£430 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 UK Finance in July 2024, there were 2.18 billion debit and credit card transactions in the UK in July, 1.6% more than in July 2023. Contactless payments accounted for 65% of all credit card payments and 77% of all debit card payments.



7. Young People

Young People in Education and Employment

According to ONS, in June to August 2024 there were **5.56 million** people aged 18 to 24. Of these, **1.94 million** were in full-time education while **3.27 million** were in employment (including those in full-time education who were also in employment.) Compared to the same period in 2023, the number of 18-24 year-olds in employment increased by **75,000**.

Unemployment

480,000 18-24 year-olds (**12.8%**) were unemployed in June to August 2024. This was **23,000** more than the same period the previous year and **19,000 less** than in May to July 2024.

- **64,000** had been unemployed for over 6 months.
- **88,000 (18.4%)** had been unemployed for over 12 months, **4,000 more** than from the previous quarter and **30,000 more** than a year earlier.

872,000 (12.2%) of 16 to 24-year-olds in the UK were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in April to June 2024, an increase of **74,000** over the last year.

Minimum Wage

Minimum wage rates increased in April 2024. For under 18s the new rate is **£6.40**. The apprentice rate (for those under 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship) is **£6.40**. For those aged 18-20, the minimum wage goes up to **£8.60**. The age for receiving the National Living Wage has dropped from 23+ and has been updated to **£11.44**.

Wages Paid by Age and Gender

According to ONS, in the year to November 2023 the median weekly gross pay for all full-time employees was **£681.70**. For employees aged 16-17 it was **£273.70**. For those aged 18-21 it was **£440.80** and for those aged 22-29 it was **£582.90**. For those aged 16-17, female FT pay as a percentage of male FT pay was **121.4%**. This decreased to **93.7%** for those aged 22-29 and then gradually widening by age to reach **82.4%** for the 50-59 age group.

Student Loans

In 2022-23, the provisional average maintenance loan awarded to full-time students in England was **£7,130 (up 1.0%** on the revised figure for the previous year.) In Wales it was **£6,287** and in Northern Ireland **£3,133**. The provisional average tuition fee loan in England was **£8,231 (down 1.7%)**. In Wales it was **£8,401 (up 0.2%)** and in Northern Ireland **£5,479**.

Student Debt

In England, the average debt for the latest (2022-23) cohort to enter repayment was **£44,940**, an increase of **0.47%** on the previous year. In Wales it was **£35,780 (+6.6%)**, in Northern Ireland **£24,500 (+2.4%)** and in Scotland **£15,430 (+4.5%)**.



8. The Bigger Picture

Economy and Inflation

The UK economy, or monthly real gross domestic product (GDP), grew by **0.5%** in the three months to June 2024.

The CPI (Consumer Prices Index) increased by **1.7%** in the year to September 2024, down 0.5% from August 2024. The highest rate of inflation over the 12 months to September 2024 came from alcohol and tobacco (**4.9%**). The lowest rate was for transport (**-2.2%**). According to the ONS, the largest downward contribution to the monthly change in the CPI annual rate came from transport; including air fares and motor fuels, while the greatest upward contribution to the change in CPI came from food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Pay Rates

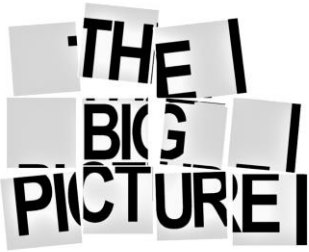
In the three months to August 2024, regular pay increased by **4.9%** on the year before. Pay including bonuses increased by **3.8%**. Average weekly pay was **£648**, or **£693** including bonuses; an annual salary of **£33,789**, or **£36,135** with bonuses. In real terms, for the year to August 2024, regular pay increased by **4.9%**, while total pay increased by **4.4%**. Compared to the pre-financial crash peak of February 2008, total real pay in July 2024 is **0.97%** higher, with total regular pay increasing by **3.17%** in the same period.

Public Sector Borrowing

Public Sector Net Borrowing (excluding NatWest Group and Bank of England) in the three months to September 2024 was **£32.44 billion**, an average borrowing of **£353 million** per day. Spending included **£15.67 billion** net investment, meaning there was a current budget deficit of **£16.77 billion** over the same three months. Total net borrowing for the year to September 2024 was **£137.52 billion**, compared with **£153.69 billion** for the year to September 2023.

Public sector net debt in September 2024 (excluding NatWest and Bank of England) was **£2,560.5 billion (91.2% of GDP)**. This was **£189.8 billion** more than in September 2023, an increase of **£518.6 million** per day, mainly due to benefits and government measures to help people during the cost of living crisis, such as the Energy Price Guarantee.

According to the November 2023 Forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility, public sector net debt will rise from **84.9%** of GDP in 2022-23 to a peak of **93.2%** of GDP in 2026-27.



8. The Bigger Picture

Population, Taxpayers and Benefit Recipients

According to the latest ONS estimate, the population of the UK grew by **1,584** people per day between mid 2021 and mid 2022.

Out of a total population aged 15+, there are projected to be **35.9 million** income taxpayers in 2023-24. Of these, **28.8 million** will be basic rate taxpayers, **5.6 million** people will fall into the 40% income tax band and **862,000** 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 **9.9 million** people claiming some combination of DWP benefits (excluding those receiving a State Pension) in the year to August 2023, according to DWP. In the year to November 2023, **2.3 million** people were in receipt of housing benefit and in April 2024 there were **6.7 million** Universal Credit claimants.

Unemployment

The number of people classed as unemployed in June to August 2024 was **1.38 million** (**4.0%** of the workforce), **51,000 less than** the previous quarter, **554 less per day** and down **66,000** from the previous year, **180 less a day**. The unemployment rate in the UK was highest in the North East (**5.6%**) and London (**5.5%**) and lowest in Northern Ireland (**1.9%**). **329,000** people had been unemployed for over 12 months in August 2024, rising by **60,000** (**164 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

288,000 people aged 50 and over were unemployed in June to August 2024, an increase of **12,000** on May to July 2024 and **1,000** more than the same period in 2023. **31.7%** of unemployed workers aged 50 and over, a total of **91,000** people, had been out of work for over a year. **62,000** had been unemployed for more than two years.

1,533,000 (**12.0%**) people aged 65 and over were *in work* in June to August 2024, **38,000 more** than in the previous quarter and an increase of **105,000** from the previous year.

Redundancies

80,000 people (**869 per day**) reported they had become redundant in June to August, a decrease of **2,000** on the previous quarter and **11,000** less than the year before.

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