



An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland

August 2022

2 November 2022

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) statistics measure the output of the economy in Scotland. These monthly estimates are designated as experimental official statistics, meaning they are still in development but have been released to enable their use at an early stage.

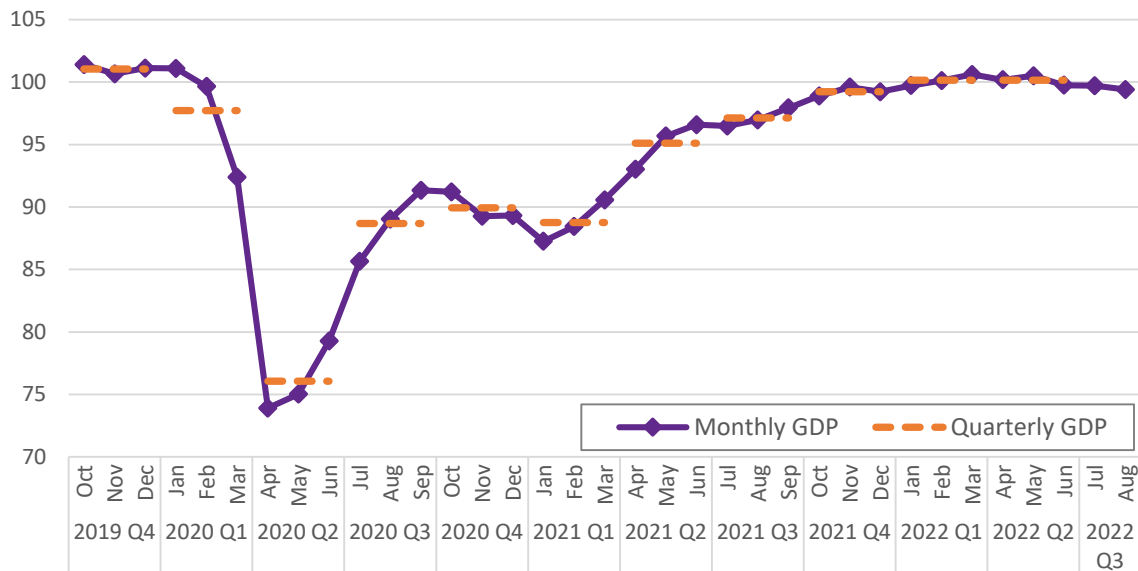
All results are seasonally adjusted and presented in real terms (adjusted to remove inflation), and relate to Scotland's onshore economy (which does not include offshore oil and gas extraction).

Main Findings

- Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in August, after remaining flat (0.0% growth) in July, and is now 0.1% below the pre-pandemic level in February 2020.
- Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in August. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services fell by 2.4%, while health, education and public services output fell by 0.4%, and output in all other services grew by 0.3%.
- Overall output in production, construction and agriculture fell by 0.1% compared to the previous month.
- In the three months to August, GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.8% compared to the previous three month period (March to May). This reflects a contraction during Quarter 3 so far, after output remained flat (0.0% growth) in 2022 Quarter 2 (April to June). Further information on quarterly GDP can be found in the [Quarterly National Accounts for 2022 Quarter 2](#).

Quarterly and monthly results

Monthly and quarterly GDP, October 2019 to August 2022
Chained volume measure, Feb 2020 =100



Notes: (1) Users are advised to be mindful that the axis on this chart does not start at zero.

Monthly GDP is much more volatile than quarterly GDP, particularly in recent months. The chart above shows that monthly GDP has seen quite large rises and falls since the start of 2022.

Scotland’s onshore GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in August, after falling by 0.8% in June, and remaining flat (0.0% growth) in July. GDP is now 0.1% below the pre-pandemic level in February 2020. For the three months to August, GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.8% compared to the previous three month period. This reflects a slowdown in growth during Quarter 3 so far, after output remained flat (0.0% growth) between 2022 Quarter 1 and 2022 Quarter 2.

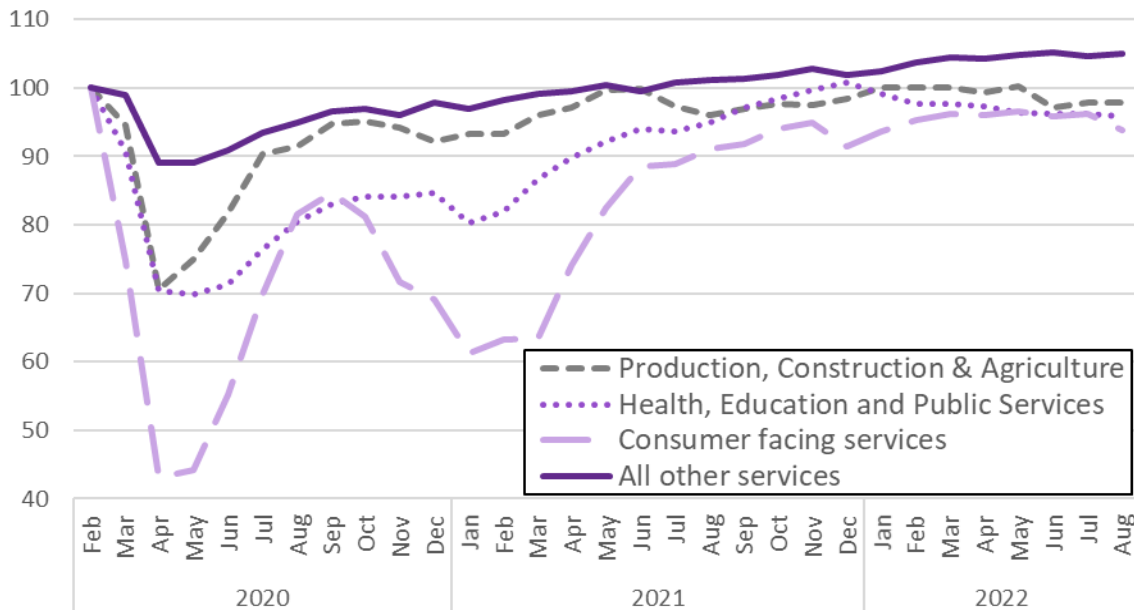
The Office for National Statistics noted some common themes reported by businesses in survey responses for the [UK August Monthly GDP statistics](#). Staff shortages continued to be an issue for businesses, with difficulties being reported by businesses working in road haulage, hire of catering equipment, repair and maintenance of motor vehicles, hotels, restaurants and coffee shops, and employment agencies.

There were mixed comments on the availability of semiconductors with businesses in wireless telecommunications, the manufacture of radio equipment and the wholesale of electronic and telecommunications equipment reporting shortages. However, there were also comments from businesses in the manufacture of computers and the manufacture of motor vehicles that suggested the shortage in supply was easing.

Industry Results

Monthly GDP by broad industry groups, February 2020 to August 2022

Chained volume measure, Feb 2020 =100



Total output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have fallen by 0.3% in August. Within services, at the broad level, output in consumer facing services fell by 2.4%.

Output in health, education and public services fell by 0.4% in August, after falling in quarter 2, mostly due to further reductions in NHS test and trace and vaccination activities.

Output across all other services grew by 0.3% in total, with increases led by a 2.7% increase in professional, scientific and technical services output.

Overall output in production, construction and agriculture fell by 0.1% compared to the previous month, primarily due to a fall of 2.1% in water and waste management production.

Within production, manufacturing output remained flat (0.0% growth) in August, with increased levels of output in three of the seven subsectors. Manufacturing continues to be quite volatile from month to month, with output remaining below the level seen in 2019.

Construction output is estimated to have grown by 0.3% in August, after remaining flat (0.0% growth) in July.

Revisions

Estimates in this release are consistent with the GDP Quarterly National Accounts for 2022 Quarter 2 published on 2 November. Since the previous monthly publication for July, GDP has been open for revision at the quarterly level back to the start of 2020. Further information on these revisions can be found in the Quarterly National Accounts publication, and in Table R1.1.

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Experimental statistics are a subset of newly developed or innovative official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published to involve users and stakeholders in the assessment of their suitability and quality at an early stage. The Office for Statistics Regulation publishes guidance on experimental statistics [here](#).

The Scottish Government is developing these estimates on an ongoing basis, and is grateful to the ONS, BEIS, and other departments and businesses which have assisted in the identification or delivery of earlier data sources which enable the timely production of monthly GDP. We welcome any feedback on the development of these statistics, using the contact details below.

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If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

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