



An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland

January 2023

29 March 2023

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

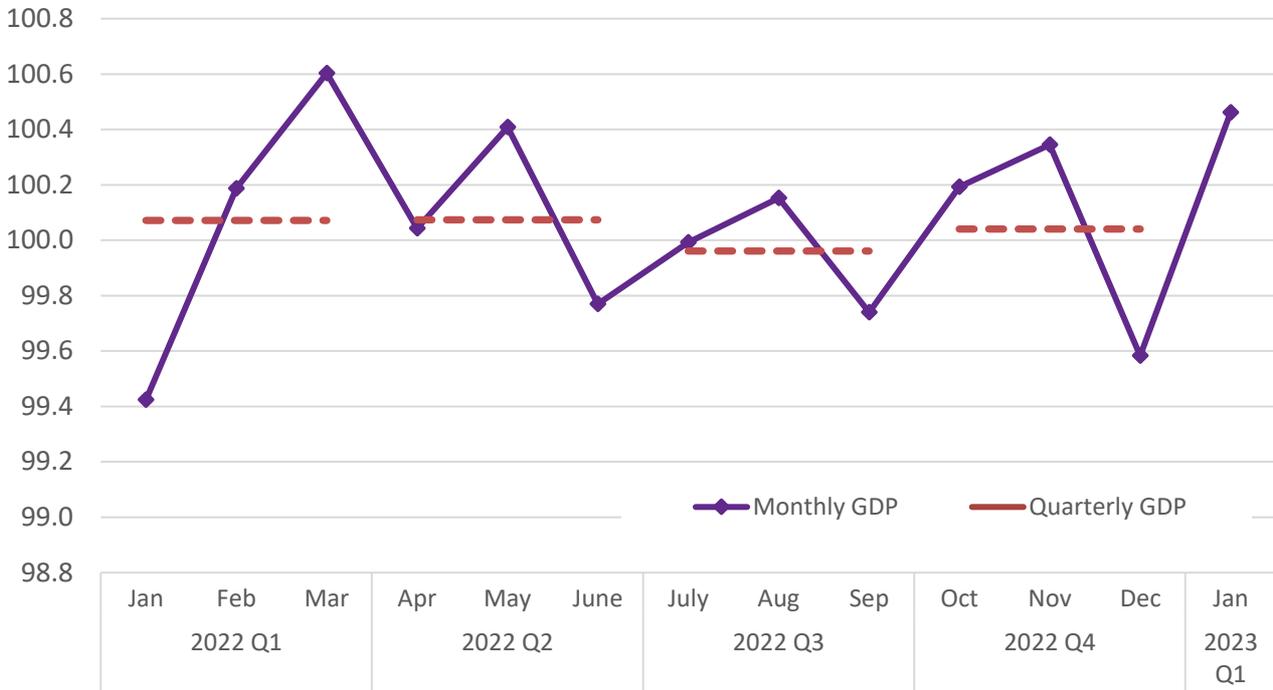
- Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.9% in January, after falling by 0.8% in December (revised down from 0.6%), and is now 1.1% above the pre-pandemic level in February 2020.
- Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have increased by 0.5% in January. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services contracted by -2.2%, while health, education and public services output grew by 0.8%, and output in all other services grew by 1.8%.
- Overall output in production, construction and agriculture grew by 4.2% compared to the previous month.
- In the three months to January, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% compared to the previous three month period. This is the same as the rate in 2022 Quarter 4 (October to December). Further information on quarterly GDP can be found in the [Quarterly First Estimate for 2022 Quarter 4](#).



Quarterly and monthly results

Monthly and quarterly GDP, January 2022 to January 2023

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, but underlying growth has remained flat.

Scotland’s onshore GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.9% in January, after falling by 0.8% in December (revised down from 0.6%), and growing by 0.2% in November. GDP is now 1.1% above the pre-pandemic level in February 2020.

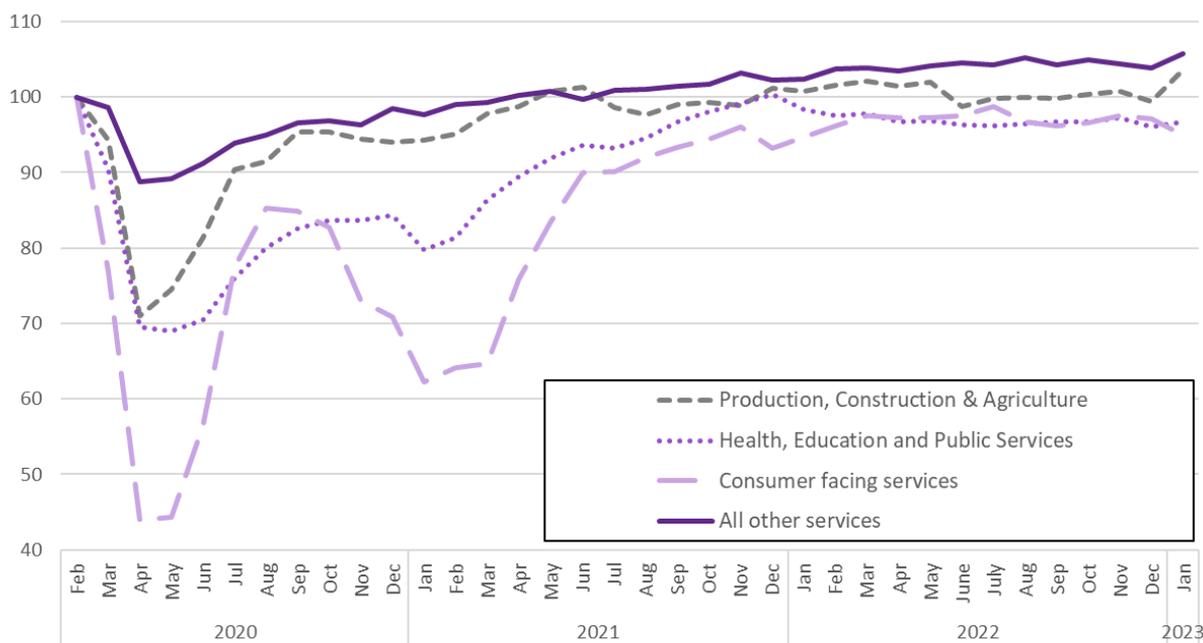
The Office for National Statistics noted some common themes reported by businesses in survey responses for the UK January Monthly GDP statistics, although they note that it is difficult to quantify these effects. The cost-of-living crisis continued to be mentioned extensively throughout the comments received to the survey. This came from reduced demand from households and businesses for goods and services and also in rising costs of materials, energy, and staff costs.

For the three months to January, GDP is estimated to have increased by 0.1% compared to the previous three month period. This is the same as the rate in 2022 Quarter 4.

Industry Results

Monthly GDP by broad industry groups, February 2020 to January 2023

Chained volume measure, Feb 2020 =100



Notes:

- (1) Consumer facing services include SIC groups 45, 47, 49.1, 55, 56, 75, 79, 92-97
- (2) Users are advised to be mindful that the axis on this chart does not start at zero.

Total output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have increased by 0.5% in January.

Within services, at the broad level, output in consumer facing services contracted by -2.2%.

Output in health, education and public services grew by 0.8% in January, after falling in December 2022, mostly due to further reductions in NHS test and trace and vaccination activities.

Output across all other services grew by 1.8% in total, with increases led by a 3.3% increase in administrative & support services output.

Overall output in production, construction and agriculture grew by 4.2% compared to the previous month. This includes growth of 8.9% in the electricity and gas supply industry, rebounding after a sharp fall in December of 2.2%.

Revisions

Estimates in this release remain consistent with the GDP Quarterly First Estimate for 2022 Quarter 4 published on 1 March, and there are no revisions to quarterly growth rates (3 month on 3 month growth at March, June, September, December) relative to the December GDP release. The

monthly path within each quarter is open for revision throughout time, but results are constrained to the previous estimates at the quarterly level.

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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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