



**May 2026: PAYstats Pay and Labour  
Market Statistics**

## PAYstats at a glance

Our round-up of key statistics, covering inflation, employment and average earnings.



### Employment

**34.4m**

employed, up 1.2% on last year.



**126,000**

redundancies, up 14.5% on last year.



**705,000**

vacancies, down 7.1% on last year.



**1.8m**

unemployed, up 11.9% on last year.



**3.3%**

change in whole economy average earnings, excluding bonuses, for the 12 months to March 2026, no change on last month.



**3.8%**

change in whole economy average earnings, including bonuses, for the 12 months to March 2026, down 0.1 percentage points on last month.



Notes: <sup>^</sup> RPI has lost its designation as a National Statistic but is still used for some indexing purposes. \* February 2024's release saw the reintroduction of Labour Force Survey data, which now include the latest population information.

Data source: Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0. Please note the specific definitions for the measures above vary.

## PAYstats in detail

### EMPLOYMENT (seasonally adjusted, change calculated for last 12 months)

Reference Period	Jobs *		Vacancies		Redundancies \		Unemployment *	
	Jan-Mar 2026		Feb-Apr 2026		Jan-Mar 2026		Jan-Mar 2026	
	000's	Change	000's	Change	000's	Change	000's	Change
All UK ~	34,392	1.2%	705	-7.1%	126	14.5%	1,806	11.9%
Manufacturing	2,524	-2.0%	51	1.2%				
Electricity & gas supply	146	3.1%	3	-22.0%				
Water, sewerage & waste	242	-2.2%	7	-5.8%				
Construction	2,297	0.1%	29	-12.5%				
Wholesale, retail & motor repair	4,645	-1.5%	84	-17.9%				
Info & communications	1,591	-4.6%	39	8.7%				
Financial & insurance	1,098	-6.6%	32	-2.4%				
Real estate	724	0.6%	10	-26.3%				
Prof. scientific & technical	3,439	-1.3%	71	-7.3%				
Administrative & support	2,986	-0.3%	49	-6.0%				
Public admin, defence, social security	1,774	2.3%	29	-1.0%				
Education	3,098	1.4%	48	2.4%				
Health & social work	5,030	0.6%	126	-6.3%				
Other services	948	-2.6%	15	28.3%				

### AVERAGE EARNINGS (seasonally adjusted)

March 2026	Excluding bonuses		Including bonuses	
	Change from 12 months ago	% point change since last month	Change from 12 months ago	% point change since last month
Whole economy	3.3%	0.0	3.8%	-0.1
Private	3.0%	0.1	3.7%	0.1
Public	4.6%	-0.3	4.7%	-0.3
Services	3.6%	0.1	4.2%	0.0
Finance & business services	2.8%	0.2	4.7%	-0.7
Public sector exc. Financial services	4.6%	-0.3	4.6%	-0.4
Manufacturing	3.0%	-0.1	3.1%	-0.7
Construction	-0.9%	0.0	-3.1%	-1.0
Wholesale, retail, hotels & restaurants	3.6%	0.9	4.9%	1.1

Notes: \* Sector breakdown as at December 2025, \ not seasonally adjusted

## Current Rates

### NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE (NMW)

For more information: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



Workers 18-20 years old:	£10.85
Workers 16-17 years old:	£8.00
Accommodation offset – maximum per day that can be offset against the NMW where employer provides accommodation.	£11.10
Apprentice minimum wage rate for:	£8.00
- apprentices under 19 years old	
- apprentices aged 19 and over, but in the first year of their apprenticeship	

### NATIONAL LIVING WAGE

For more information: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



Workers aged 21 and over:	£12.71
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### LIVING WAGE

For more information: [www.livingwage.org.uk](http://www.livingwage.org.uk)



The Living Wage is set independently and calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK.

- UK hourly rate:	£13.45
- London hourly rate:	£14.80

### STATUTORY MATERNITY PAY

For more information: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



Statutory Maternity Pay is paid for up to 39 weeks:

- the first 6 weeks: 90 per cent of average weekly earnings (AWE) before tax
- the remaining 33 weeks: £194.32 or 90 per cent of AWE (if lower)

Statutory Paternity Pay:

- 1 or 2 weeks consecutive leave: £194.32 or 90 per cent of AWE (if lower)

Statutory Adoption Pay is paid for up to 39 weeks:

- the first 6 weeks: 90 per cent of AWE before tax
- the remaining 33 weeks: £194.32 or 90 per cent of AWE (if lower)

### STATUTORY SICK PAY

For more information: [www.livingwage.org.uk](http://www.livingwage.org.uk)



Standard weekly rate	£123.25
Maximum period	28 weeks in any 3 years

### STATUTORY REDUNDANCY PAY

For more information: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



Statutory redundancy pay rates are based on age and length of employment:

- 1.5 weeks' pay for each year of employment after their 41st birthday
- 1 week's pay for each year of employment after their 22nd birthday
- 0.5 week's pay for each year of employment up to their 22nd birthday

Length of service is capped at 20 years.

Calculation of age and service is counted back from the date of dismissal.

For redundancies made on or after 6 April 2026, the weekly pay is capped at £751 and the maximum statutory redundancy pay is £22,530. If redundancy was made before 6 April 2026, these amounts will be lower.

### WORKING TIME

For more information: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



Basic entitlement for workers aged 18 and over:

- 5.6 weeks holiday a year
- Work no more than 6 days out of every 7, or 12 days out of every 14
- A 20 minute break if more than 6 hours worked continuously
- Work a maximum 48-hour average week

Workers aged 16 and 17 are entitled to:

- Take at least 30 minutes break if more than 4.5 hours worked continuously
- Work no more than 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week
- Have 12 hours rest between working days and 2 days off every week
- 5.6 weeks holiday a year



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Paydata's pay database provides accurate, up-to-date insights into pay trends across industries, roles and regions. Whether you're planning a salary review, recruiting new talent or developing pay strategies, access the market data you need to confidently make evidence-based decisions.

Our salary market data provides a reliable foundation for your pay decisions, combining real-world figures with sector-specific insights. The result? A transparent, competitive and well-informed approach to compensation that helps your business attract, motivate and retain the very best talent.

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- ★ Property and Construction Consultancies
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To discover more and to discuss your requirements, please contact us today on **+44 (0)1733 391 377** or via **[info@paydata.co.uk](mailto:info@paydata.co.uk)**

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