



An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

## ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

# GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland

February 2023

26 April 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).

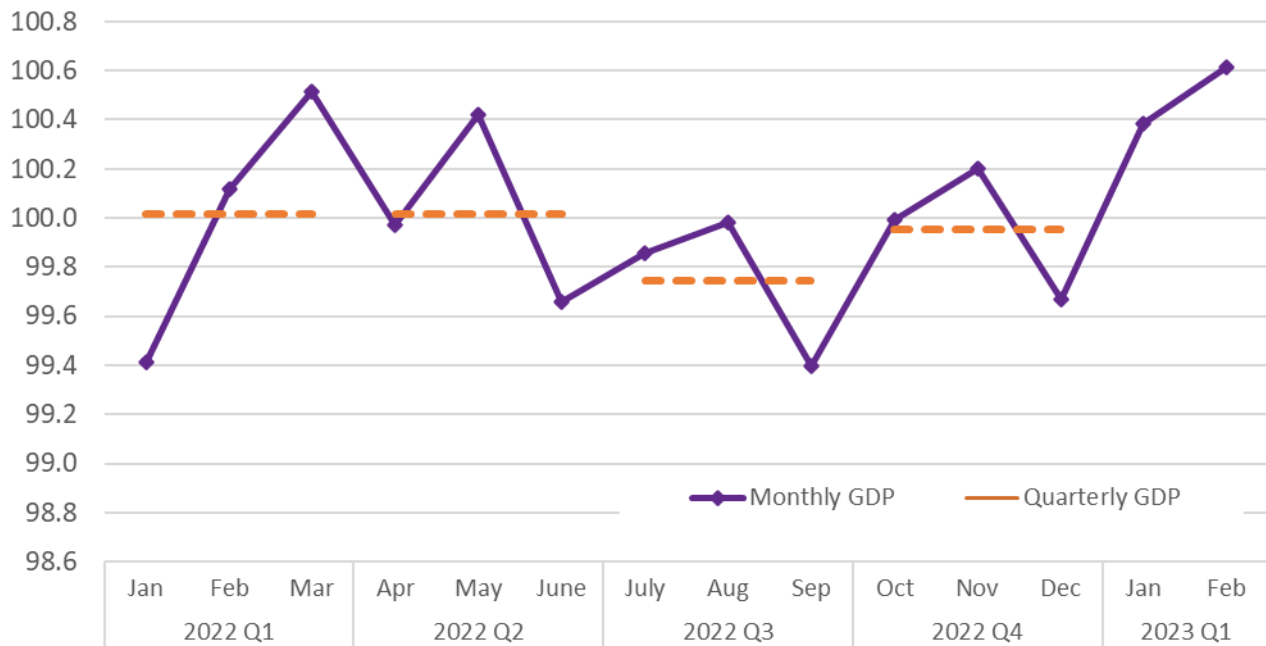
### Main Findings

- Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.2% in February. This follows growth of 0.7% in January (revised down from 0.9%) and a fall of 0.5% in December (revised up from 0.8%).
- Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have increased by 0.4% in February. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services grew by 1.3%, while health, education and public services output grew by 0.8%, and output in all other services contracted by 0.1%.
- Overall output in the non-service sector (comprising production, construction and agriculture) contracted by 0.3% compared to the previous month.
- In the three months to February, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.4% compared to the previous three month period. This is an improvement during the first quarter so far relative to the growth of 0.2% in 2022 Quarter 4 (October to December). Further information on quarterly GDP can be found in the [Quarterly National Accounts for 2022 Quarter 4](#).



## Quarterly and monthly results

Monthly and quarterly GDP, January 2022 to February 2023  
Chained volume measure, 2019 = 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 broadly flat.

Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.2% in February, after growing by 0.7% in January (revised down from 0.9%), and falling by 0.5% in December (revised up from 0.8%). Monthly GDP is now 1.3% 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 February Monthly GDP statistics, although they note that it is difficult to quantify these effects. There were reports that industrial action in February 2023 had a notable impact on different industries of varying degrees. These included the health sector (nurses and the ambulance services), the civil service, the education sector (teachers and university lecturers) and the rail network. According to the [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\)](#), industrial action also contributed to businesses operating capacity. One in nine businesses (12%) were directly or indirectly affected by industrial action, with 3 in 10 (30%) of those businesses reporting that they were unable to fully operate as a consequence.

An unseasonably mild and dry February 2023, as seen in the [Met Office's Monthly climate summary \(PDF, 4.7MB\)](#), also played a part in boosting output for some industries most notably in arts, entertainment and recreation. To offset this, the warmer weather is likely to have contributed to the falls seen in electric and gas production.

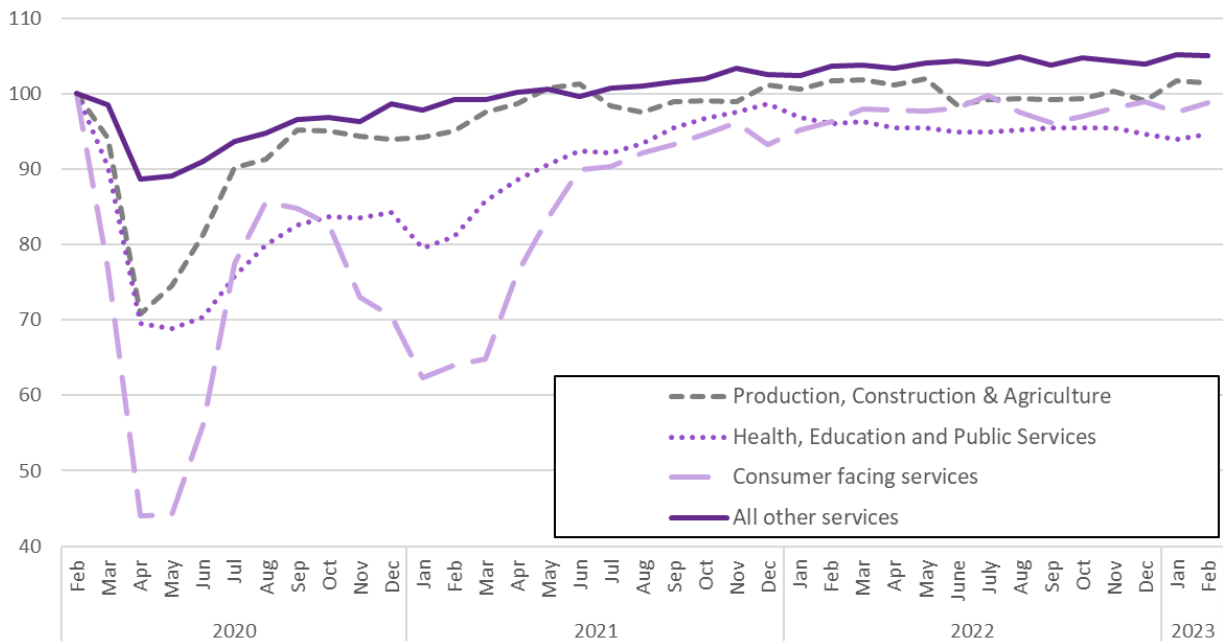
# GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland: February 2023

For the three months to February, GDP is estimated to have increased by 0.4% compared to the previous three month period. This is a slight increase from the rate in 2022 Quarter 4 (October to December).

## Industry Results

### Monthly GDP by broad industry groups, February 2020 to February 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 0.4% in February.

Within services, at the broad level, output in consumer facing services grew by 1.3%.

Output in health, education and public services grew by 0.8% in February, after falling in January 2023.

Output across all other services fell by 0.1% in total, with increases led by a 2.9% increase in administrative & support services output and decreases led by a fall of 3.1% in transport and storage services.

Overall output in the rest of the economy fell by 0.3% compared to the previous month. Within these other sectors, output in the production sector fell by 1.3% during February, while construction output increased by 2.3% after falling in January.

## Revisions

Monthly estimates in this release have been revised to be consistent with the Quarterly National Accounts for 2022 Quarter 4 published on 26 April 2023. Compared to the results in the monthly publication for January, GDP has been open for revision at the quarterly level back to the start of 2022. 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.

### Correspondence and enquiries

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