



An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland

April 2022

29 June 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 provisional and subject to relatively high levels of uncertainty and volatility.

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 0.5% in April and is now 0.6% above pre-pandemic levels (February 2020). This is the first monthly fall since December 2021.
- In the three months to April, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.8% compared to the previous three month period. This indicates a slight slowdown in growth in Quarter 2 so far, after an increase of 1.0% in 2022 Quarter 1 (January to March).
- Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, fell by 0.7% in April. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services grew by 1.1%, while health, education and public services output fell by 1.2%, and output in all other services fell by 1.0%. Overall output in production, construction and agriculture stayed flat compared to the previous month (0.0% change).

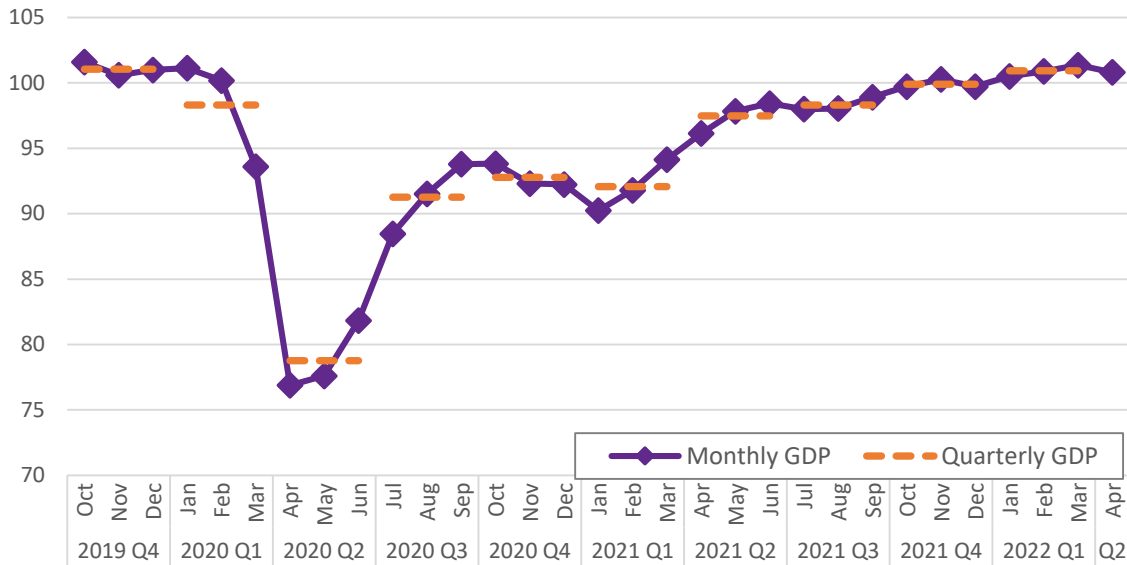
GDP fell by 0.5% in April

Scotland's onshore GDP (which does not include offshore oil and gas extraction) is estimated to have fallen by 0.5% in April, after growth of 0.5% in March. In April, output is estimated to be 0.6% above the level in February 2020, prior to the direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the three months to April (February to April), GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.8% compared to the previous three month period (November to January).



Monthly and quarterly GDP index, October 2019 to April 2022

Chained volume measure, Feb 2020 =100

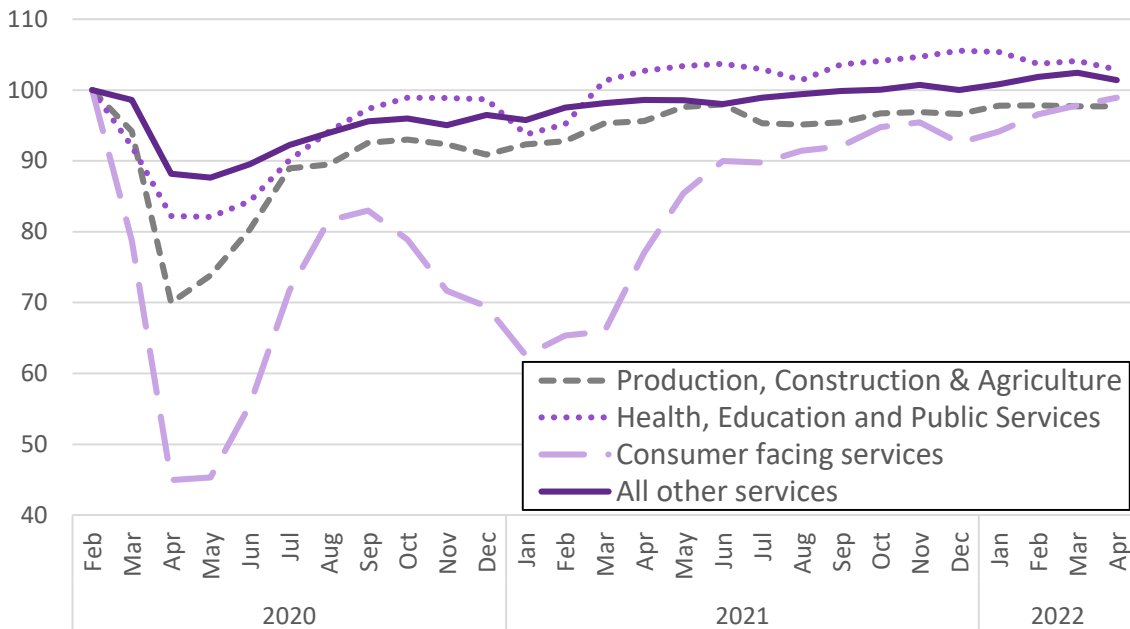


Notes: (1) Users are advised to be mindful that the axis on this chart does not start at zero.

Consumer facing services are up by 1.1%

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

Chained volume measure, Feb 2020 =100



Notes:

- (1) Consumer facing services include SIC groups 45, 47, 49.1, 55, 56, 75, 79, 91, 92, 109-111
- (2) Users are advised to be mindful that the axis on this chart does not start at zero.

Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, fell by 0.7% in April. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services grew by 1.1%, while health, education and public services output fell by 1.2%, and output in all other services fell by 1.0%.

Overall output in production, construction and agriculture stayed flat compared to the previous month (0.0% change).

Scottish and UK Monthly GDP

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic the path of Scotland's GDP has been broadly similar to the pattern seen across the UK as a whole, with unprecedented reductions in output during 2020 and early 2021 largely determined by the social distancing and health protection measures which have been applied in similar ways across the UK. The latest [ONS monthly estimate](#) of GDP in the UK shows an decrease of 0.3% in April, with UK GDP 0.9% above the level of February 2020.

Since June 2020 there have been differences in the way restrictions have been applied across different parts of the UK, including the use of regional measures within Scotland. There are particularly high levels of statistical uncertainty in some of the estimates at this time. Users should be aware that revisions are likely to be made as more data become available over the coming months and quarters.

Revisions

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