



An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland

April 2023

28 June 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).

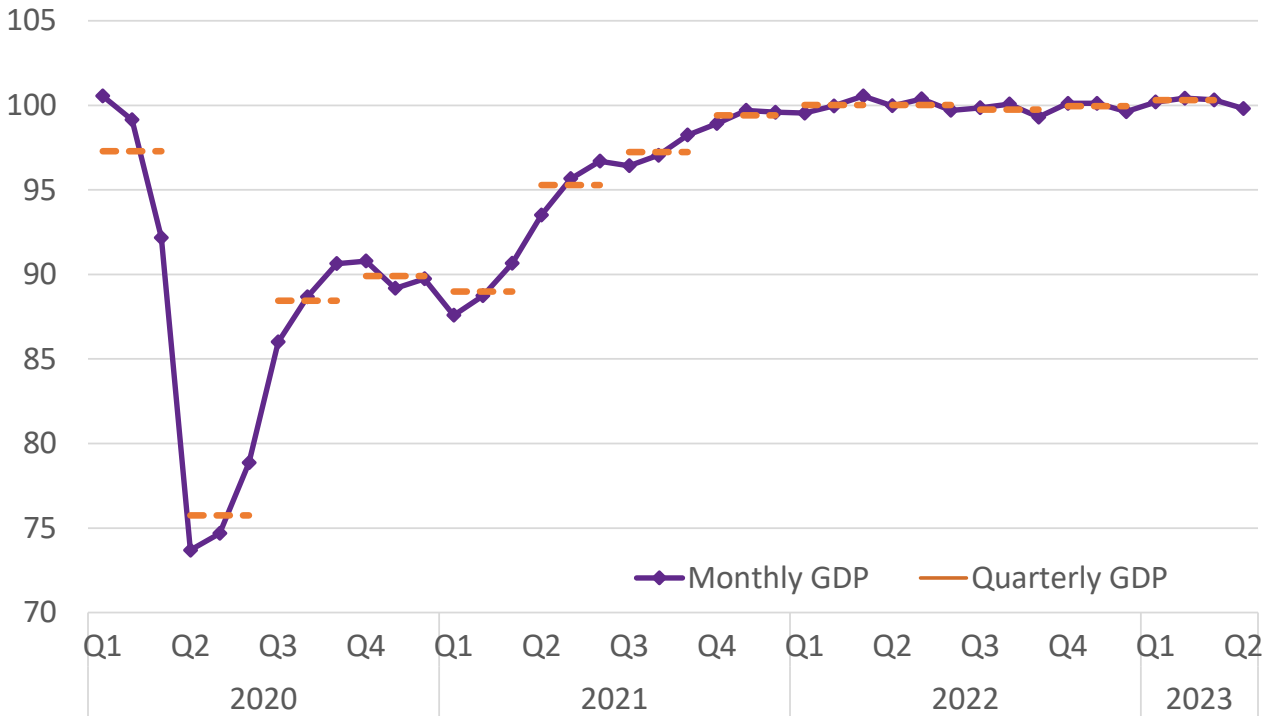
Main Findings

- Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.5% in April. This follows contraction of 0.1% in March (revised down from 0.0% change).
- Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have contracted by 0.6% in April. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services grew by 0.2%, while health, education and public services output contracted by 0.3%.
- In the three months to April, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.2% compared to the previous three month period. This is a reduction compared to the growth of 0.4% in 2023 Quarter 1 (January to March). Further information on quarterly GDP can be found in the [First Estimate of GDP for 2023 Quarter 1](#).
- The sector with the largest contribution to the overall fall in monthly GDP is Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. This sector grew strongly in March (contributing +0.3 percentage points to the March headline figure of -0.1%), before falling strongly in April (contributing -0.4 percentage points to the overall April GDP contraction of -0.5%).



Quarterly and monthly results

Monthly and quarterly GDP, January 2020 to April 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. The chart shows that monthly GDP has seen rises and falls since the start of 2022, but underlying growth has remained broadly flat around the level it was in 2019 (100 on the y axis).

Scotland’s onshore GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.5% in April. This follows contraction of 0.1% in March (revised down from 0.0% change). Monthly GDP is now 0.7% above the pre-pandemic level in February 2020.

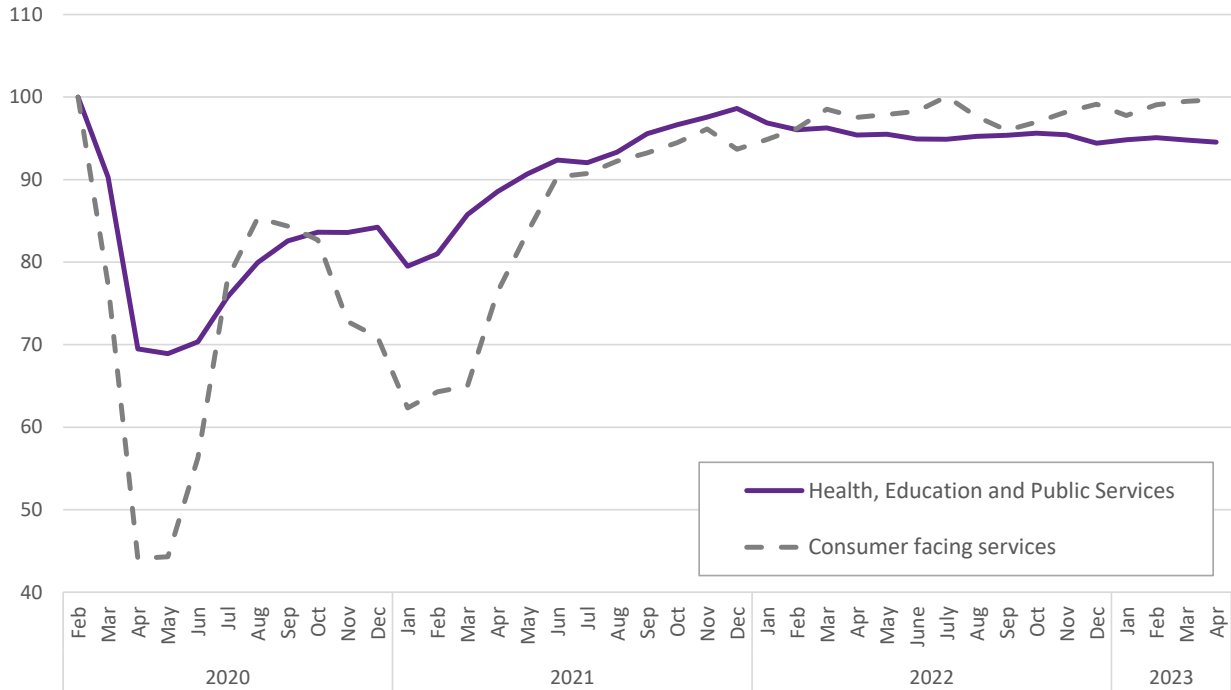
The Office for National Statistics commented on some common themes that were anecdotally reported as part of the Monthly Business Survey to have played a part in performance across different industries. However it is often difficult to quantify these effects.

The ONS reported anecdotal evidence from the monthly business survey returns, to suggest that industrial action in April 2023 had an impact. This is further supported by the [Business Insights and Conditions Survey \(BICS\)](#), which stated that 6.3% of businesses in Scotland in April reported being affected by industrial action (following 6.7% in March).

During the three months to April, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.2%. This is a decrease from the 0.4% growth in 2023 Quarter 1 (January to March).

Industry Results

Monthly GDP by consumer facing services and public services, February 2020 to April 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.

Output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have contracted by 0.6% in April. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services grew by 0.2%, while health, education and public services output contracted by 0.3%.

Since the start of 2022 Health, Education and Public Services have been fairly flat, while Consumer Facing Services have been much more volatile month-on-month.

The sector with the largest contribution to overall GDP is Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. This sector grew strongly in March (contributing +0.3 percentage points to the March headline figure of -0.1%), before falling strongly in April (contributing -0.4 percentage points to the overall April GDP contraction of -0.4%).

Revisions

Estimates in this release remain consistent with the GDP Quarterly First Release for 2023 Q1 (published on 31 May 2023). 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.

An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

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

For enquiries about this publication, please contact:

Carrie Graham,

National Accounts Unit,

Office of the Chief Economic Adviser

e-mail: carrie.graham@gov.scot

or economic.statistics@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

Complaints and suggestions

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.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at www.gov.scot/scotstat

Details of forthcoming publications can be found at www.gov.scot/statistics

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence.

See: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/