



An Experimental Statistics Publication for Scotland

## ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

# GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland

December 2022

1 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).

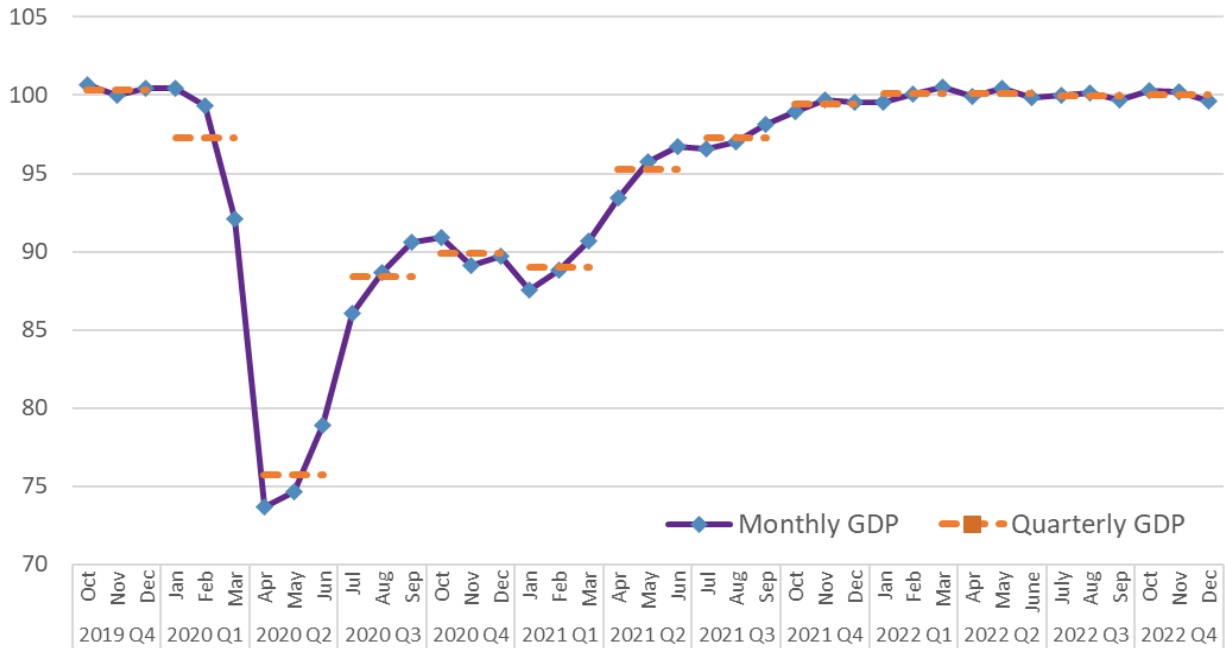
### Main Findings

- Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.6% in December, after remaining flat in November (0.0% change).
- Output in the services sector, which accounts for over three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have fallen by 0.4% in December. At the broad level, output in consumer facing services fell by 0.4%, while health, education and public services output fell by 1.2%, and output in all other services remained flat (0.0% change).
- Overall output in production, construction and agriculture fell by 1.2% compared to the previous month.
- In the three months to December, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% compared to the previous quarter. Further information on quarterly GDP can be found in the [First Estimate of GDP for 2022 Quarter 4](#).



## Quarterly and monthly results

Monthly and quarterly GDP, October 2019 to December 2022  
Chained volume measure, 2019 =100



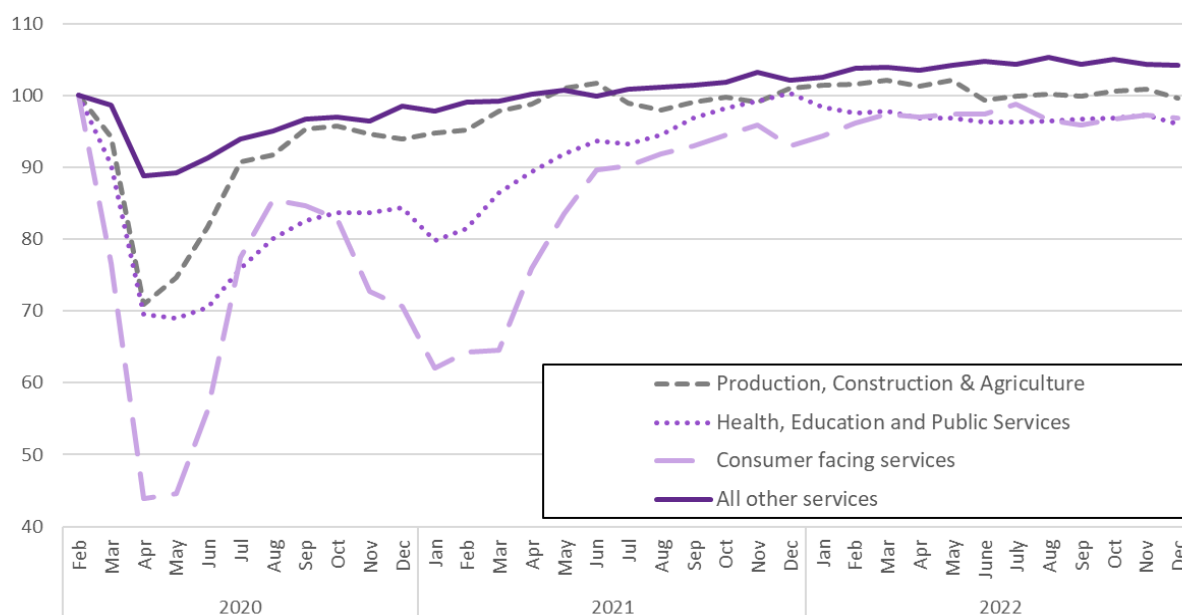
Notes: (1) Users are advised to be mindful that the axis on this chart does not start at zero.

Monthly GDP is much more volatile than quarterly GDP. Scotland’s onshore GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.6% in December, after 0.6% growth in October and no growth in November (0.0% change), but underlying GDP growth has been mostly flat over 2022.

## Industry Results

### Monthly GDP by broad industry groups, February 2020 to December 2022

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 fallen by 0.4% in December. This was partly driven by a 3.0% fall in the output of health and social work services.

Overall output in production, construction and agriculture fell by 1.2% compared to the previous month. This includes a fall of 3.7% in other manufacturing, partly offset by growth of 4.2% in the manufacture of chemicals and refined petroleum products.

### Cross-industry themes

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.

There was anecdotal evidence to suggest that rail strikes had negatively impacted some businesses. Most comments were received from restaurants, caterers, hotels and bars, but other affected units included those engaged in the manufacture of jewellery, the wholesale of food,

beauty treatments and the wholesale of wine. Units involved in car hire and in land transport reported an increase in turnover because of the rail strikes.

There was also anecdotal evidence that postal strikes had negatively impacted some businesses. The units affected included businesses engaged in financial planning, hospitality, computer repair, and management consulting. Other units affected include those involved in the manufacture of metal doors and windows, blankets and jewellery and the wholesale of flowers, watches, garden furniture, computer equipment, optical equipment, motor vehicle parts, and households' goods.

While the direct impact of the strikes by rail and postal workers can be seen in the rail transport and postal and courier activities industries, we are not able to isolate the impact of these strikes from other factors across the wider economy. However, there was anecdotal evidence to suggest that this industrial action had an impact across a wide range of industries

### Revisions

Estimates in this release are consistent with the GDP Quarterly First Estimate for 2022 Quarter 4, also published on 1 March. Monthly GDP is fully open for revision for October and November only. At the quarterly level, there are no revisions to results for 2022 Quarter 3 or earlier.

Although there are no changes to quarterly GDP in earlier periods, the monthly path within each quarter can be revised slightly in all periods back to 2010 due to updated seasonal adjustment factors or constraint adjustments to the quarterly results.

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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](#).

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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## 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](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot).

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