

GDP Monthly Estimate, Scotland:

January 2024

27 March 2024

Key Points

Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.6% in January. This follows unrevised growth of 0.4% in December.

In the three months to January, GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% compared to the previous three month period. This indicates an improvement in quarterly growth after the fall of 0.6% in 2023 Quarter 4 (October to December).

In January, output in the services sector, which accounts for around three quarters of the economy, is estimated to have grown by 0.5%. The largest contributions to growth in January were from Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Administrative and Support Services and Retail, Wholesale and Motor Trades, which between them contributed 0.5 percentage points to overall growth. Production sector output grew by 0.4% in January.

Introduction

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) statistics measure the output of the economy in Scotland. These monthly estimates are designated as Official Statistics in Development. 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).

An Official Statistics in Development Publication for Scotland

These statistics are official statistics in development. Official statistics in development may be new or existing statistics, and will be tested with users, in line with the standards of trustworthiness, quality, and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

We are continuing to develop the data sources for monthly GDP, in particular we are working on accessing monthly (rather than quarterly) deflators for some industries.

Scottish Government statistics are regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

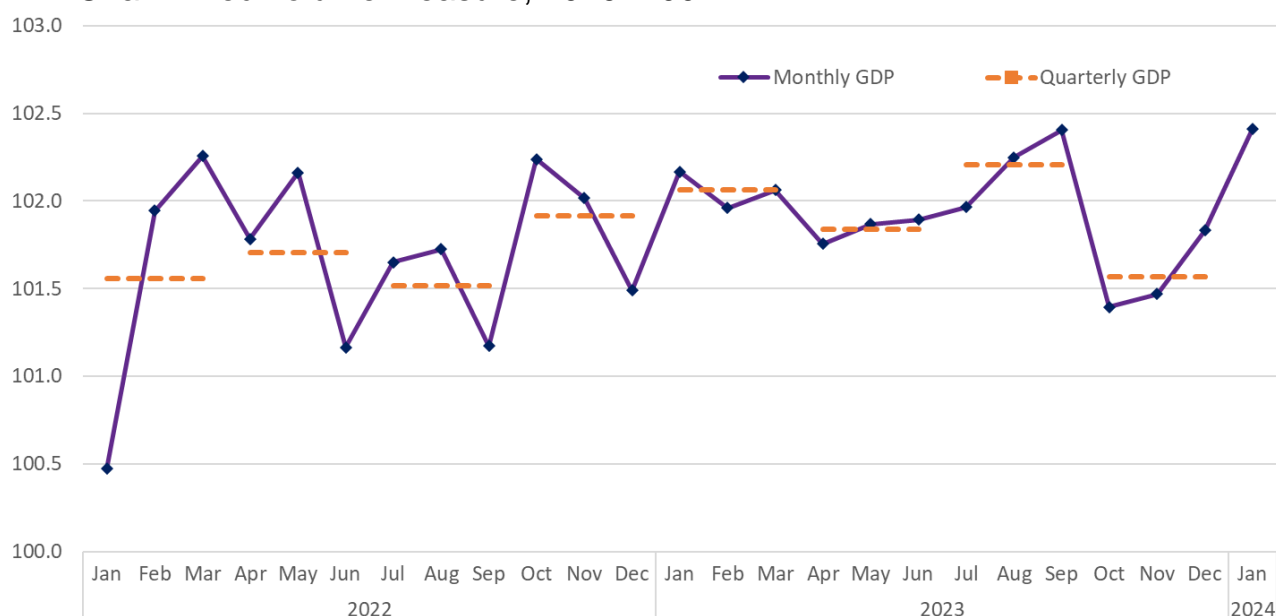
Quarterly and monthly results

Scotland's onshore GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.6% in January. This follows unrevised growth of 0.4% in December and upwardly revised growth of 0.1% in November.

In the three months to January, GDP is estimated to have fallen by 0.1% compared to the previous three month period. This indicates an improvement in quarterly growth, after the fall of 0.6% in 2023 Quarter 4 (October to December).

Figure 1: Although monthly GDP has fluctuated recently, the trend in underlying quarterly GDP has been broadly flat since the end of 2021

Monthly and quarterly GDP, January 2022 to January 2024
Chainlinked volume measure, 2019=100

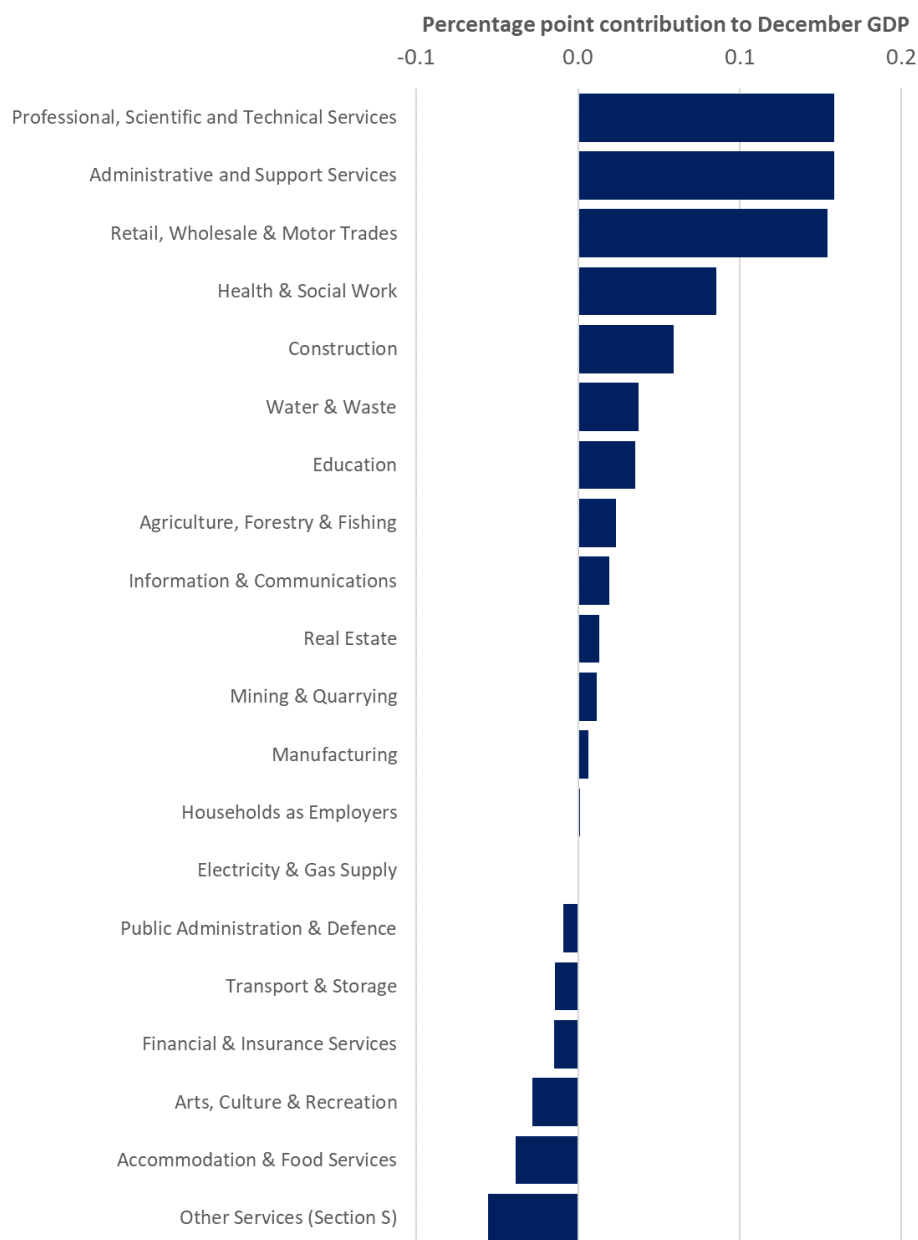


Notes: (1) Users are advised to be mindful that the axis on this chart does not start at zero.

Industry results

Figure 2: Professional, Scientific and Technical Services contributed 0.2 percentage points to the January headline figure of 0.6%

Monthly industry contribution to headline GDP, January 2024



In January, output in the services sector is estimated to have increased by 0.5%, with growth in eight of the fourteen subsectors. The three industries which made the biggest contributions to overall GDP growth in January were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Administrative and Support Services and Retail, Wholesale and Motor Trades, which between them contributed 0.5 percentage points to overall growth. The positive contributions were partly offset by falling output in the other services, accommodation and food services, and arts, culture and recreation industries.

Production sector output grew by 0.4% in January, with increases in all four subsectors. Construction sector output increased by 1.1% in January.

There were some common themes that were anecdotally reported (as part of the Monthly Business Survey (MBS) for production and services) to have played a part in performance across different industries. However, it is difficult to quantify the exact impact.

Comments provided to the MBS for January 2024 suggested some industries saw supply chains impacted by disruption in the Red Sea. These comments to the survey centred in the wholesale and warehousing industries.

Further analysis on the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) suggested the conflict in the Middle East also impacted industries in the manufacturing sector. While unable to quantify the impact this was cited as the main reason for global supply chain disruption in January 2024 by a range of manufacturing industries, including the manufacture of textiles, rubber and plastic products, food products and electrical equipment.

Revisions

Estimates in this release remain consistent with the GDP Quarterly First Release for 2023 Q4 (published on 28 February 2024). There are no revisions to quarterly growth rates (3 month on 3 month growth at March, June, September, December) relative to the December 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. The revisions may be seen in Table_R1 in the associated excel tables.

Data and Methodology

Information on the methodology and data sources used to produce GDP are available at www.gov.scot/gdp.

Tell us what you think

We are always interested to hear from our users about how our statistics are used, and how they can be improved.

Feedback survey

We'd appreciate it if you would complete our short [feedback survey](#) on this publication.

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