

Government publishes coronavirus (COVID-19) R value and growth rates

The current growth rate for the UK as a whole is -4% to -2% and the R estimate for the UK, as a whole, remains at 0.7-0.9.

The growth rate reflects how quickly the number of infections are changing day-by-day. It is an approximation of the change of number infections each day. and If the growth rate is greater than zero (+ positive), then the disease will grow, and if the growth rate is less than zero then the disease will shrink.

The size of the growth rate indicates the speed of change. A growth rate of +5% will grow faster than one with a growth rate of +1%. Likewise, a disease with a growth rate of -4% will be shrinking faster than a disease with growth rate of -1%. Further technical information on growth rate can be found here.

R estimates do not tell us how quickly an epidemic is changing and different diseases with the same R can result in epidemics that grow at very different speeds. For instance, a disease with $R=2$ with infection lasting years will grow much more slowly than a disease with $R=2$ with infection lasting days. Growth rates provide us with different information to R estimates, by informing us of the size and speed of change, whereas R value only gives us information on the direction of change.

To calculate R, information on the time taken between each generation of infections is needed. That is how long it takes for one set of people in an infected group to infect a new set of people in the next group. This can depend on several different biological, social, and behavioural factors. The growth rate is estimated using a range of data similar to R, however it does not depend on the 'generation time' and so requires fewer assumptions to estimate.

Neither one measure, R nor growth rate, is better than the other but each provide information that is useful in monitoring the spread of a disease. The R estimate and growth rates are not the only important measures of the epidemic. Both should be considered alongside other measures of the spread of disease, such as the number of people currently infected.

The government has also today published updated regional R values, covering each of the NHS England regions in England.

As an average value, R can vary in different parts of the country, communities, and subsections of the population. It cannot be measured directly so there is always some uncertainty around its exact value. This becomes even more of a problem when calculating R using small numbers of cases, either due to lower infection rates or smaller geographical areas. This may be due to the uncertainty of the underlying data leading to a wider range for R.

Estimates of the growth rates and R are currently updated on a weekly basis. However, as the numbers of cases decrease, these metrics will become less helpful indicators and other measures need to be considered. These include the number of new cases of the disease identified during a specified time period (incidence), and the proportion of the population with the disease at a given point in time (prevalence), and these will become more important to monitor.

We are also publishing today under the same embargo further evidence that is informing the advice from SAGE. [See the full set of evidence published to date.](#)

May 2020 Transaction Data

News story

This data provides information about the number and types of applications that HM Land Registry completed in May 2020.



Please note this data shows what HM Land Registry has been able to process during the time period covered and is not necessarily a reflection of market activity.

In May:

- HM Land Registry completed 934,380 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 207,028

HM Land Registry completed 934,380 applications in May compared with 865,970 in April and 1,732,280 last May 2019, of which:

- 170,249 were applications for register updates compared with 56,950 in April

- 511,354 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 531,638 in April
- 122,626 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 141,626 in April
- 9,504 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 2,330 in April

Applications by region and country

Region/country	March applications	April applications	May applications
South East	367,175	207,028	218,337
Greater London	295,595	169,837	186,442
North West	184,461	99,425	103,848
South West	151,389	79,731	86,804
West Midlands	134,232	70,638	77,657
Yorkshire and the Humber	123,430	64,669	72,103
East Midlands	116,088	62,833	66,259
North	77,673	36,845	43,951
East Anglia	65,199	37,578	38,189
Isles of Scilly	42	20	23
Wales	68,907	37,328	40,735
England and Wales (not assigned)	82	38	32
Total	1,584,273	865,970	934,380

Top 5 local authority areas

Top 5 local authority areas	March applications	Top 5 local authority areas	April applications	Top 5 local authority areas	May applications
Birmingham	24,469	City of Westminster	13,467	City of Westminster	14,252
City of Westminster	22,027	Birmingham	12,657	Birmingham	14,002
Manchester	18,693	Leeds	10,168	Leeds	10,811
Leeds	18,229	Manchester	9,268	Cornwall	9,223
Cornwall	15,787	Cornwall	7,872	Wandsworth	8,716

Top 5 customers

Top 5 customers	March applications	Top 5 customers	April applications	Top 5 customers	May applications
Infotrack Limited	65,764	Infotrack Limited	35,427	Enact	39,424

Top 5 customers	March applications	Top 5 customers	April applications	Top 5 customers	May applications
Enact	50,955	Enact	30,347	Infotrack Limited	30,487
O'Neill Patient	35,297	O'Neill Patient	21,274	O'Neill Patient	20,092
Optima Legal Services	26,135	Optima Legal Services	13,954	Optima Legal Services	13,632
TM Group (UK) LTD Search Choice)	20,444	Legal & General Surveying Serv LTD	11,704	Land Technologies Ltd	10,339

[Access the full dataset](#)

Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The June data will be published at 11am on Tuesday 21 July 2020.

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Last updated 19 June 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

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First published.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): letter to directors of public health from Jo Churchill](#)

The Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care's letter thanks directors and their teams for their work during the coronavirus pandemic. It also references funding that has been made available to local authorities to address COVID-19-related pressures.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): letter to social housing residents

Letter from Christopher Pincher, Minister of State for Housing, to social housing residents in England setting out all the measures that are in place to support social housing residents during the next phase towards reopening society.

This includes information about maintenance and repairs, gas safety checks, remediation works, home moves, support for domestic abuse victims and anti-social behaviour.

Walking with the Wounded volunteers get a helping hand

News story

Walking with the Wounded (WWTW) and Manchester City Council OP-REGEN project have received welcome assistance in the form of a new Nissan NV300.



The new Nissan NV300 for the Walking With the Wounded charity. MOD Crown Copyright 2020.

The vehicle was provided by West Way Manchester who are proud supporters of the Armed Forces Community. The vehicle will help the volunteers deliver supplies to key workers and vulnerable people within their local community.

Walking With The Wounded are working with the Global Production Squad (GPS), providing ex-service men and women to work on the front lines to assist those affected by COVID-19.

Using the skills they acquired in the military; planning, logistics, coordination and communication, volunteers work alongside local businesses, councils, schools and individuals to regenerate their communities: empowering them to regain their independence, thrive and contribute in the community.

To read the full story and find out more about the veterans supporting Manchester City Council through the Op-REGEN initiative, visit the [WWTW website](#).

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