

Introduction

This publication has been prepared by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in collaboration with a number of government departments and other organisations. The assistance provided by them is gratefully acknowledged.

The name of the department or organisation providing the statistics is shown under each table, additionally, on some tables this is followed by a contact telephone number.

All the data series published in the *Monthly Digest* are contained on an ONS database, and nearly all are stored with a four letter identification code (e.g. ABMZ). These codes appear at the start of columns or rows so that they can be quoted if you contact us requiring any further information.

The latest Annual Supplement to *Monthly Digest* was published in the January 2009 edition. This gives detailed definitions and explanatory notes and includes an index of sources.

Definitions and classifications

The following general definitions should be noted in using the *Digest*:

Area covered. Except where otherwise stated, all statistics relate to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Seasonality. Except where otherwise stated, all statistics are not adjusted to take account of seasonal factors.

The UK Standard Industrial Classification 1992 is used in a number of tables in this digest to split economic activity. Full details are available from *UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 1992*, and *Indexes to the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 1992*, both available from Palgrave Macmillan.

Regional classification is based on the Government Office Regions.

Symbols and conventions used

Change of basis. Where consecutive figures have been compiled on different bases and are not strictly comparable, a footnote is added indicating the nature of the difference. Also, a line may be drawn across a column between two consecutive figures indicating that the figures above and below the line have been compiled on different bases.

Units of measurement. The various units of measurement used in this digest are listed on the opposite page.

Symbols. The following symbols have been used throughout:

.. = not available (also information suppressed to avoid disclosure)

- = nil or less than half the final digit shown

† = indicates that the data have been revised

p = provisional data

since the last edition: the period marked is the earliest in the table to have been revised

Also, some tables have symbols specific to them. These will be explained in the footnotes to those tables.

Rounding of figures. In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Provisional data

Some figures are provisional and may be subject to revision in later editions. This applies particularly to data for the most recent time periods. Where data has been revised a dagger symbol, as previously mentioned, will appear.

National Statistics Online: www.ons.gov.uk

Web-based access to time series, cross sectional data and metadata from across the Government Statistical Service (GSS), available using the site search and index functions from the homepage. Download many datasets, in whole or in part, or consult directory information for all GSS statistical resources, including censuses, surveys, periodicals and enquiry services. Information is posted as PDF electronic documents or in XLS and CSV formats, compatible with most spreadsheet packages.

Time Series Data

Access to around 40,000 time series, of primarily macro-economic data, drawn from the main tables in a range of our major economic and labour market publications. Download complete releases, or view and download your own customised selection of individual time series.

Introduction and Acknowledgements

Complete copies of this publication are available to download free of charge on the following web page. www.statistics.gov.uk/monthlydigest

Web: www.palgrave.com/ons, email: ons@palgrave.com

Acknowledgements

Contributors

The Editors wish to thank all their colleagues in ONS, the rest of the Government Statistical Service and all contributors in other organisations for their generous support and helpful comments.