

Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP): January to March 2021 (Q1) – West Midlands and East Midlands Regions¹

Please note, this data release has been updated to include Quarter 1 2021 only, no revisions to the earlier data period. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) state the following: ‘As we are conducting developmental work (as part of our ongoing work programme on experimental statistics) to improve the estimates in the quarterly Regional GDP release, we have paused updating the time-series between 2012 and Quarter 4 2020 for this release. Instead of updating that time series in this release we aim to do so in our next release, at which point we plan to incorporate the improvements and both the latest estimates of annual Balanced Regional Accounts and the improved sub-national estimates of the Construction industry.’ Further information can be found [here](#).

In Summary:

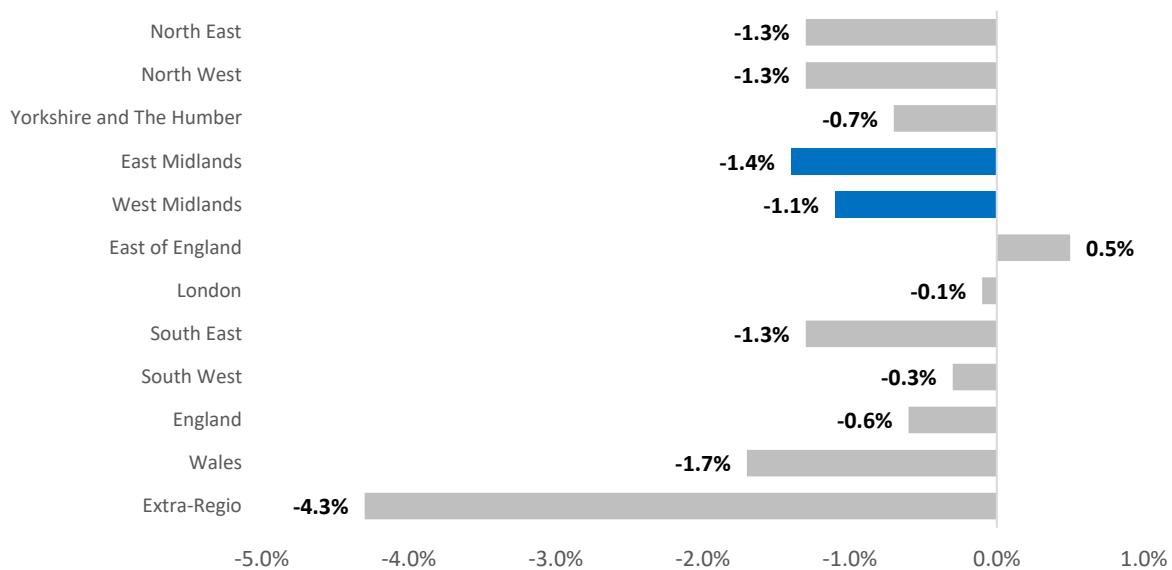
- In Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2021, all four countries in the UK showed negative quarter-on-quarter growth in gross domestic product (GDP); England decreased by 0.6%, Scotland fell by 1.6%, Northern Ireland fell by 1.0% and Wales fell by 1.7%, following growths in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2020.
- Of the nine English regions, the largest falls in Quarter 1 2021 were seen in East Midlands (negative 1.4%), and North East, North West and South East (all decreasing by 1.3%). The West Midlands decreased by 1.1%. The only region estimated to have increased was East of England, by 0.5%.
- For the West Midlands region, there was positive growth in GDP for nine sectors in 2021 Q1; electricity, gas, steam and air increased the most since the previous quarter at 11.0%. There were contractions in West Midlands GDP in eleven sectors, including a contraction of 23.0% for accommodation and food service activities, which was the largest for the region – and reflecting the UK’s national lockdown at the start of the year.
- For the East Midlands region, there were contractions in GDP for thirteen sectors in 2021 Q1. The largest contraction here was also in the accommodation and food services activities sector at -17.5%. There was GDP growth in seven sectors, including electricity, gas, steam and air at 8.4%.

Full Briefing:

- There was positive growth in GDP in one of the twelve English regions in 2021 Q1, with the East of England increasing by 0.5%. Wales contracted by 1.7%, followed by the East Midlands at -1.4%, then the North East, North West and North East all contracting by 1.3%. The West Midlands contracted by 1.1% between 2020 Q4 and 2021 Q1.

¹ Source: ONS: GDP, UK regions and Countries: January to March 2021 – released 25th November 2021

The following chart shows GDP change in 2021 Q1 across the English regions, England-wide and Wales:



Industries

- For the West Midlands region, there was positive growth in GDP for nine sectors in 2021 Q1; the most coming from electricity, gas, steam and air sector at 11.0%. This was followed by activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services (+7.3%), water supply, sewerage (+6.1%), mining and quarrying (+4.4%) and human health and social work activities (+3.0%).
- For 2021 Q1, there were contractions in West Midlands GDP in eleven sectors, including a contraction of 23.0% for accommodation and food service activities, which was the largest for the region – and reflecting the UK’s national lockdown at the start of the year. This was followed by administrative and support service activities (-8.0%) and information and communication (6.4%).
- For the East Midlands region, there was contractions in GDP for thirteen sectors in 2021 Q1. The largest contraction was in the accommodation and food service activities sector at 17.5%. There was a contraction of 6.9% in the financial and insurance activities and a contraction of 4.9% for the education sector.
- Within the seven sectors where there was positive growth in GDP, the highest growth for the East Midlands region in 2021 Q1 was reported in: electricity, gas, steam and air (+8.4%), activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services (+6.3%) and professional, scientific and technical activities (+1.7%).

The following chart shows GDP change for sectors and industries for the West Midlands and East Midlands regions between 2020 Q4 and 2021 Q1

