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**Coverage**

United Kingdom

**Theme**

Commerce, Energy  
and Industry

# Annual Business Inquiry 1998-2000 regional results

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is today publishing Regional Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) data for 1998 to 2000 for the English Government Office Regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These regional estimates are consistent with the published UK data for the ABI.

Growth in approximate gross value added\* (GVA) was strongest in Northern Ireland (which has the smallest regional economy) and the South West, outstripping increases in turnover in these regions between 1998/99 and 1999/00. Investment increased in both areas and, as a percentage of approximate GVA, was above the UK average for most of the period.

London had the largest regional economy; approximate GVA rose strongly in 1999 and 2000, although investment was below the UK average as a per cent of approximate GVA in each of the three years.

Approximate GVA in Scotland rose in 2000, largely as a result of increased production of North Sea oil and gas following oil price rises in 1999 and 2000, and also because of higher output of office machinery and computers. Although investment fell in 1999 and 2000, it remained above the UK average as a per cent of approximate GVA.

In the North East and Yorkshire and The Humber approximate GVA scarcely rose in 2000. In the North West and the West Midlands approximate GVA fell in 2000 (despite a rise for office machinery and computers for both regions, and for motor vehicles in the West Midlands). This partly reflected developments in the production of coke, petroleum products, nuclear fuel, electricity and gas since the rise in the price of oil through 1999 and into 2000 increased the cost of purchases of feedstock materials for these industries.

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To be announced

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\* for an explanation of approximate gross value added see Background Note 1



In 1999 and 2000 investment rose in the South West, South East, East of England and Northern Ireland but fell in Wales, Scotland and the North West.

## BACKGROUND NOTES

### Definitions

- 1 Approximate gross value added represents the income generated by businesses out of which is paid wages and salaries, the cost of capital investment and financial charges, before arriving at a figure for profit. It includes taxes on production (for example, business rates), net of subsidies but excludes subsidies and taxes on products (for example, VAT and excise duty). Estimates of Gross Value Added shown here for regional data will not be exactly the same as those published in the United Kingdom Regional Accounts. They differ in three key areas: adjustments for coverage; adjustments needed to move the accounts onto an ESA95 basis; and adjustments for balancing purposes. More information can be obtained from [www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/commerce/abi/variable\\_info.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/commerce/abi/variable_info.asp)

### ABI

- 2 This first release covers information collected as part of the Annual Business Inquiry. The ABI collects both employment and accounting information. This more efficient use of the sample helps to reduce the compliance burden on businesses whilst at the same time ensuring that these two sets of data are consistent. This inquiry replaced the various annual inquiries sent to industry for 1997 and earlier.
- 3 ONS produces ABI estimates for English Government Office Regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The methodology used to calculate these estimates is consistent across the UK and the resulting estimates are constrained to match the UK National estimates at the all industry level. This methodology therefore produces estimates suitable for comparisons between regions within the UK. Further details about the ABI methodology can be found at [www.statistics.gov.uk/abi](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abi).

However, alternative estimates for Northern Ireland are produced by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Northern Ireland (DETINI) and alternative estimates for Scotland are produced by the Scottish Executive (SE). These estimates will differ from ONS Northern Ireland and Scotland estimates due to differences in methodology. The DETINI and SE methodologies, while broadly comparable with that of the UK, are designed to give the best Northern Ireland and Scotland estimates

- 4 Data for 1997 will be released with the 2001 regional data during summer 2003.

### ABI Updates

- 5 Minor revisions have been made to UK approximate gross value added at basic prices for 1997 in the construction sector and to higher level aggregates.

Approximate gross value added at basic prices for the construction sector has been revised from £33,816 million to £33,630 million. This revision has been necessary due to work currently taking place on the 1997 regional data which uncovered an inconsistency between the various sectors of the ABI. In order to keep the UK and regional data consistent it was decided to issue the revision to the UK data.

- 6 Minor revisions have been made to UK data for all variables for 1998 in the production sector and to higher level aggregates.

These revisions have been necessary due to work undertaken during the production of the 1998 regional results. An error in the data was discovered which, whilst it did not impact greatly on the UK data, had a major impact on the regional data. In order to keep the UK and regional data consistent it was decided to issue the revision to the UK data.

- 7 ABI year average employment data for 1998-2000 is now available on the ABI web pages. This takes existing point in time estimates and adjusts to get an estimate of the average employment throughout the calendar year.
- 8 A quality measures page is also now on the ABI web pages. This details the response rates as well as the standard errors and coefficients of variation for 1998-2000.

### Coverage

- 9 The results in this first release cover approximately two thirds of the UK economy and cover production, construction, distribution, service, as well as the forestry and fishing industries starting in 2000. The presentation is in line with the Standard Industrial Classification SIC(92). The sectors covered are:

Forestry	Section A (Division 02) 2000 only
Fishing	Section B 2000 only
Production Industries	Sections C-E
Construction Industry	Section F
Distribution Industries	Section G
Service Industries	Section H, Section I (excluding industry 6411 in 1998), Section K, Section M, Section N (except industries 85.12, 85.13, 85.311, and 85.321) and Section O (excluding industry 91 in 1998).

The main areas excluded are agriculture, financial intermediation, public administration and defence.

#### **Further information**

10 Revised 2000 UK results at SIC(92) 4 digit class level, together with results for 1995-1999, giving both analysis and tabular detail are available free of charge from the ONS website at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abi>.

Additional standard extracts are available on request, bespoke analyses are also available but there will be a charge for these. For more information about either of these services please e-mail us at [abi2@ons.gov.uk](mailto:abi2@ons.gov.uk) or telephone +44(0)1633 812435 for standard extracts or +44(0)1633 812674 for bespoke analyses.

Further information on SIC(92) is contained in the October 1992 and February 1993 editions of Economic Trends (nos 468, 472). Articles describing the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) which provides the sampling frame, appeared in the November 1995 and February 1998 editions of Economic Trends, explaining the move of business surveys to the IDBR in more detail. The November 2000 edition of Economic Trends (no 564) contained an article detailing the development of the Annual Business Inquiry, together with methodological information. Further information on SIC(92) can be found at [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\\_quality/sic/contents.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/contents.asp), further information on the IDBR can be found at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/commerce/idbr/default.asp>.

11 Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.

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**WHOLE ECONOMY (SECTIONS A-O) BY COUNTRY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE REGION, 1998-2000**

Government Office Region or Country	Year	Total turnover	Approximate gross value added at basic prices	Total purchases of goods, materials and services	Total employment costs	Total net capital expenditure
		£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
North East	1998	54,514	17,304	37,040	10,722	3,622
	1999	55,347	18,269	36,924	10,777	3,700
	2000	63,841	18,538	44,820	11,689	3,294
North West	1998	173,204	53,464	115,730	30,624	8,903
	1999	182,553	59,739	119,403	32,970	8,674
	2000	179,059	57,450	120,857	33,117	8,054
Yorkshire and The Humber	1998	120,283	38,284	81,663	22,255	5,901
	1999	123,458	40,307	82,892	22,769	5,448
	2000	129,515	40,774	88,192	23,870	5,835
East Midlands	1998	106,369	36,267	68,926	19,735	4,934
	1999	105,771	35,463	68,896	19,479	5,277
	2000	111,145	37,219	72,165	20,494	4,558
West Midlands	1998	145,449	45,174	99,660	26,407	6,990
	1999	154,794	48,366	104,248	27,186	5,932
	2000	161,827	47,550	113,196	28,429	6,770
East of England	1998	157,020	47,630	105,770	25,790	6,400
	1999	161,598	49,843	107,639	26,123	6,799
	2000	175,322	53,408	117,283	28,624	7,587
London	1998	405,727	115,403	286,219	58,450	17,406
	1999	415,251	127,624	288,517	64,534	15,729
	2000	456,783	140,212	315,710	68,724	16,029
South East	1998	274,101	88,190	180,019	45,222	11,568
	1999	298,347	96,570	196,822	48,175	13,285
	2000	310,603	99,197	204,240	52,321	13,959
South West	1998	112,714	36,294	75,235	20,177	5,358
	1999	121,975	39,891	80,946	21,726	6,392
	2000	129,784	44,453	85,439	23,239	6,961
Wales	1998	60,191	17,468	39,713	9,939	3,700
	1999	64,736	18,290	42,531	11,928	3,499
	2000	72,055	19,477	47,974	12,234	2,713
Scotland	1998	132,803	46,575	85,387	22,947	9,820
	1999	137,780	46,234	90,256	24,797	8,565
	2000	142,096	50,683	91,572	26,945	8,314
Northern Ireland	1998	33,419	9,326	22,872	5,845	1,966
	1999	36,967	10,696	24,353	6,211	2,048
	2000	40,707	12,369	25,536	6,612	2,088
United Kingdom	1998	1,775,795	551,379	1,198,234	298,114	86,567
	1999	1,858,577	591,292	1,243,427	316,674	85,348
	2000	1,972,737	621,329	1,326,984	336,299	86,162