

Update

Revisions to the London Workforce Jobs Forecast

A note on changes following the latest ONS labour market data update

May 2026

Key points

- GLA Economics has updated its London Workforce Jobs forecast to reflect the latest revisions to official labour market statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- The ONS update has revised previously published Workforce Jobs figures, changing the historical baseline for the forecast but not the underlying economic outlook.
- Jobs have been reallocated across industry sectors rather than shifted by a single uniform amount, with some sectors revised upwards and others downwards.
- Official ONS Workforce Jobs data is now available up to the third quarter of 2025 (2025 Q3). The GLA Economics forecast begins in the fourth quarter of 2025 (2025 Q4).
- Any differences between this updated forecast and the previous version for the period 2025 Q1 to 2025 Q3 reflect revisions to the official historical data, rather than changes in forecasting judgement or methodology.

Background

GLA Economics regularly updates its Workforce Jobs forecast to ensure it remains consistent with the latest official data. Following the most recent release of ONS labour market statistics, which included revisions to the Workforce Jobs (WFJ) series, the London forecast has been updated accordingly.

The Workforce Jobs series is the ONS's main measure of the total number of jobs in the economy. It is compiled from a range of employer surveys and administrative sources and is revised periodically as more complete data become available.

What has changed and why

The latest ONS update has revised previously published historical estimates. In particular, it has changed the distribution of jobs across different sectors of the economy. These revisions alter the historical picture of employment and therefore affect the starting point from which the GLA Economics forecast is produced.

Importantly, the revisions are not uniform across the economy. Rather than increasing or reducing the total number of jobs by a fixed amount, the update redistributes jobs between sectors. Some industries have been revised upwards, while others have been revised downwards. This reallocation is most visible around mid-2025 and directly affects both the level and composition of total jobs at the start of the forecast period.

These changes reflect a revised official historical baseline, not a change in underlying economic conditions or in GLA Economics' assessment of London's labour market outlook.

Coverage and forecast period

ONS has published official Workforce Jobs estimates up to the third quarter of 2025 (2025 Q3). Figures up to this point are official published data and are not forecast estimates. The GLA Economics forecast begins in 2025 Q4.

Any differences between this updated forecast and the previous version for the period 2025 Q1 to 2025 Q3 should therefore be understood as reflecting revisions to the official historical data rather than any change in forecasting approach.

Uncertainty in labour market statistics

Labour market statistics derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) have been subject to increased uncertainty since 2019. This reflects well-documented issues, including falling survey response rates and greater volatility in the estimates. As a result, revisions to historical labour market data have become more frequent, and measured trends may change even when the underlying state of the labour market has not materially shifted.

Users of these statistics should bear this context in mind when interpreting differences between forecast versions.

Summary and next steps

This update is a technical revision made to align the GLA Economics Workforce Jobs forecast with the latest official historical data. It does not reflect a fundamental change in the assessment of London's labour market outlook. The revised forecast continues to be produced using a consistent and transparent methodology, grounded in the latest official data.

Looking ahead, GLA Economics recognises that ongoing revisions to labour market data may continue to create challenges for forecast stability. To improve robustness in future rounds, we intend to explore forecasting approaches that are less sensitive to individual data revisions. This includes methods that explicitly account for measurement uncertainty and draw on a wider range of labour market indicators alongside the standard ONS Workforce Jobs benchmark series.

For more information please contact Ali Ögçem, GLA Economics
Greater London Authority, City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE
Tel: 020 7983 4000 e-mail: glaeconomics@london.gov.uk