

### **UK economy officially entered recession today**

The [Office for National Statistics has published data](#) confirming that the economy is in a technical recession after Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2020 saw a coronavirus pandemic-induced record fall in GDP of 20.4%.

This follows a fall of 2.2% during Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2020. Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 8.7% during June as the easing of lockdown measures had a positive impact on services, manufacturing and construction.

Although we saw growth in the past month, June is 17.2% below February 2020 levels.

### **Latest HMRC figures show 9.6m jobs remain furloughed**

[Weekly figures](#) show that during the past two weeks the number of employers furloughing jobs has remained unchanged with 1.2m employers furloughing 9.6 million jobs.

### **Companies House to resume the compulsory strike off process**

From 10 October 2020, [Companies House will resume the process to strike-off](#) companies they believe are no longer carrying on business or in operation. From this date, they will resume the [process to remove a company from the register](#) if there is reasonable cause to believe it is no longer carrying on business or in operation.

### **DVLA online services unaffected by Covid-19**

The [Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency is reminding members](#) that their online services can be accessed via the [Gov.UK website](#). Paper applications sent to the Swansea office are taking longer to process due to a reduced number of people being on site because of social distancing requirements.

### **HMRC hosts new webinar on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme**

A webinar about the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has been added to the Government's guidance for businesses affected by coronavirus. You can [register now to attend the webinar](#), which is being hosted every day between 18 and 21 August.

# Covid-19 Bulletin

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## **Transport usage figures show rail and tube usage slowly rising**

[Weekly transport usage figures](#) published by the Department for Transport show that National Rail and London Underground usage are both edging higher to around a third of pre-pandemic levels, up from around a quarter. Motor vehicle usage is at around 90% midweek and continues to be back at pre-pandemic levels during weekends.

## **Government updates its Covid-secure guidance for vehicles**

[Guidance on working safely during coronavirus](#) has been updated for those who work in or from vehicles. Updates relate to consulting the workforce before returning to work (section 2) and protecting people who are at higher risk (section 2.1).

## **Updated guidance on getting tested for Covid-19**

The Government has updated its [guidance on coronavirus testing](#), including who is eligible for a test and how to get tested, adding two documents to the 'home testing' section: 'coronavirus home test: step-by-step guide' and 'coronavirus test guide: how to test on a child'.