

Business live



Live / UK economy grew by record 15.5% in Q3, but slowed in September

Britain's economy returned to growth in the third quarter, but September slowdown worries economists

Headlines

UK GDP / Economy grew at record quarterly rate but recovery slowed in September



Tax and spending / Government review urges major overhaul of capital gains tax

Pfizer / Chief sold \$5.6m of shares on day of Covid vaccine announcement

Money / Debt crisis warning as UK reports steep rise in emergency borrowing

Energy industry / Almost half of thermal coal firms set to defy climate pledge - report

Working from home / Staff who work from home after pandemic 'should pay more tax'

Grenfell / Group linked to foam supplier awarded building safety contract

Diageo / Guinness recalls non-alcoholic stout over contamination fears

Dyson Ltd / Staff express concern over return to workplace order

Investment / US investor Bill Ackman places new bet against corporate credit

Alibaba / China's biggest tech firms dive in value over Beijing crackdown fears

Uber / Prop 22: why victory in California could harm gig workers nationwide

Climate finance / Banks around world in joint pledge on 'green recovery' after Covid

Today's agenda

UK GDP grew by 15.5% in the third quarter of this year, a record pace, as the economy recovered from the economic shock of its first lockdown. But that still leaves the economy around 9.7% smaller than at the start of the year, before the pandemic.

The UK economy did slow in September, though, and by more than forecast. The ONS reports that UK GDP grew by 1.1% in September 2020, below the 1.5% which City economists had expected. That's down from 2.2% growth recorded in August (revised up from 2.1% originally). But it also means the economy has grown for five months running, after a record fall of 19.5% in April 2020.

The Office for National Statistics also points out that the UK has suffered a much steeper Covid-19 slump this year than the US, and other major European economies. Chancellor of the exchequer, Rishi Sunak, has warned that there are still 'hard times' ahead, with growth likely to have kept slowing since [September](#).

All three main sectors of the UK economy expanded in the July-September quarter, today's report shows. Services output grew by 14.2% in Quarter 3 2020, while production output increased by 14.3%, and construction output expanded by a pacy 41.7%. Now, there's partly a [base effect](#) in play here (the more a sector shrinks, the larger the recovery). And all three sectors' output is still lower than before the pandemic.

Today's report doesn't show the impact of the new three-tier Covid-19 system, or the second English lockdown which began this month. But, it does cover a time of rising Covid-19 cases, and tightening restrictions in large parts of the country. During September, new measures to control the spread of coronavirus were imposed in parts of the north-west of England and Yorkshire, Birmingham, the north-east, Scotland and Wales.

By late September, more than 21m people in the UK faced some form of tighter restrictions, including curbs on households mixing, and the 10pm curfew on pubs and bars in various regions.

The agenda

- 8am GMT: Bank of England boss speaks at the FT Global Conference
- 9am GMT: IEA Oil Market Report for November
- 2pm GMT: The NIESR thinktank's monthly GDP Tracker (October)

We'll be tracking [all the main events throughout the day...](#)

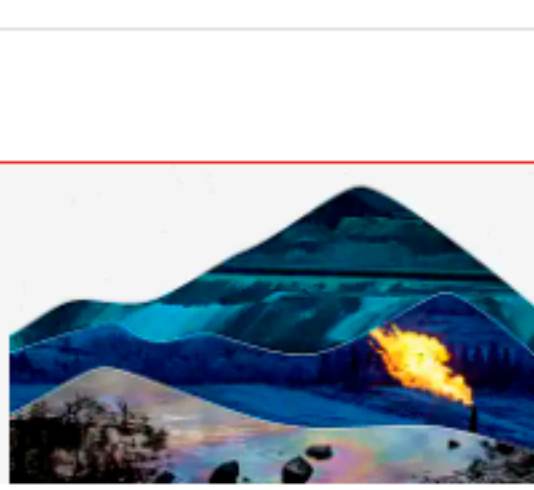
Nils Pratley on finance

Mini-nuclear plants may be an experiment worth exploring



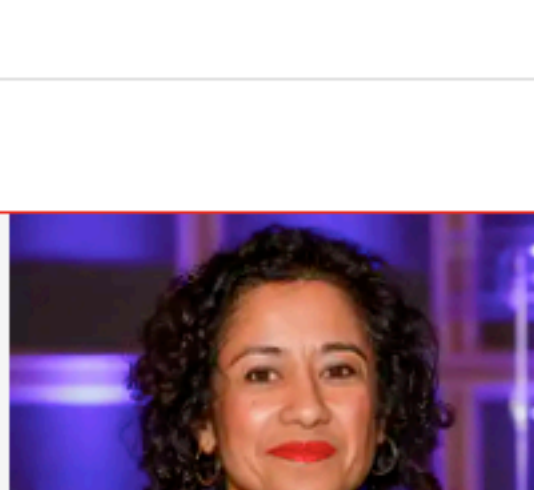
Opinion

Environment / Five post-Trump obstacles to a global green recovery



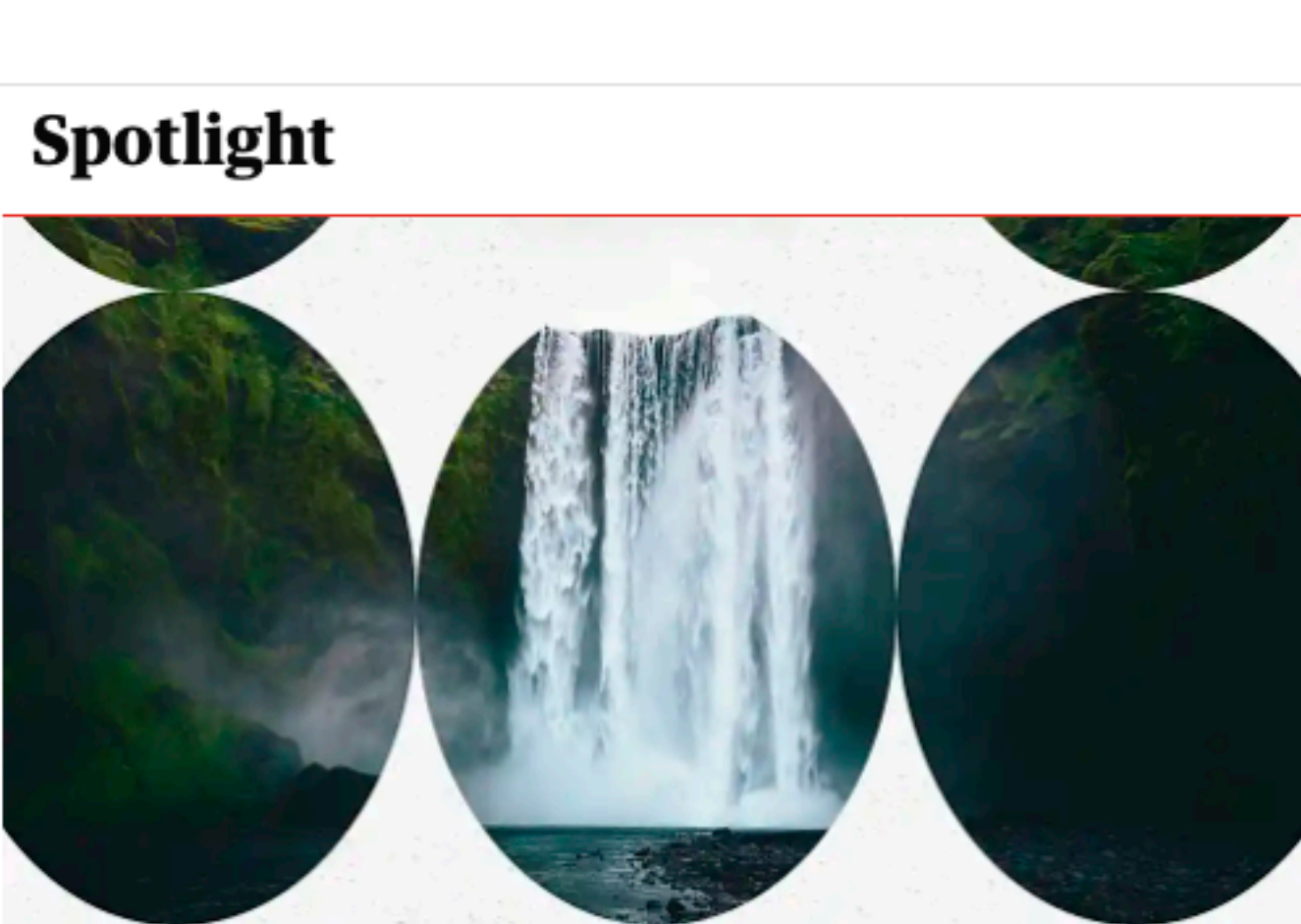
Media

Equal pay / Equality watchdog clears BBC of unlawful pay discrimination



Streaming / Indian move to regulate digital media raises censorship fears

Spotlight



Environment / Reaching UK net zero target cheaper than we thought, says climate adviser

Exclusive: Chris Stark says cost is surprisingly low but criticises government for absence of a plan

Popular on business

Rolls-Royce vows to create 6,000 UK jobs with nuclear power station plans



Lockdown sales boost at B&M prompts £250m special dividend

Working from home 'damaging Britain's creative potential and economic wellbeing'

FTSE 100 closes at five-month high as vaccine rally continues - as it happened

Paul Moore obituary

