

Tax cut worth up to £1,000 for half a million small businesses starts today

- Tax cut worth up to £1,000 for eligible businesses announced by the Chancellor at the Spring Statement takes effect today.
- Increase in Employment Allowance from £4,000 to £5,000 benefits around 495,000 businesses – 30% of all UK firms.
- Takes the total number of firms not paying the Health and Social Care Levy to 670,000.

Nearly half a million UK businesses will benefit from a tax cut worth up to £1,000 from today (6 April 2022).

The Employment Allowance has risen from £4,000 to £5,000 – meaning smaller firms will be able to claim up to £5,000 off their employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) bills.

Announced by the Chancellor at last month's Spring Statement to reduce employment costs, the change takes an extra 50,000 firms out of paying NICs and the Health and Social Care Levy. This increases the total number of businesses not paying NICs and the Levy to 670,000.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said:

This tax cut for half a million businesses will help them thrive and grow to help drive our economic recovery.

It comes on top of a suite of wider tax cuts available to firms, including 50% business rates relief, a record fuel duty cut and the super-deduction, the largest two-year business tax cut in our history.

This is the third time the government has increased the Employment Allowance since its introduction in 2014, demonstrating an enduring commitment to supporting smaller businesses. Firms will be able to employ four full-time workers on the National Living Wage without paying employer NICs at all.

94% of businesses benefitting from the £1,000 increase are small and micro businesses, and the sectors that will see the highest numbers of employers benefitting are the wholesale and retail sector (87,000); the professional, scientific and technical activities industry (63,000); and the construction sector (52,000).

Today's Employment Allowance change is one of a number of measures on offer to spur business growth, including that:

- Last week eligible high street businesses saw the start of a new 50% business rates relief worth almost £1.7 billion, subject to a £110,000

cash cap per business.

- Businesses across the board are also benefitting from a freeze to the business rates multiplier, putting the brakes on bill increases and worth £4.6 billion over the next five years.
- Businesses are already benefitting from our temporary twelve-month-long 5p cut to fuel duty.
- Companies have one year left to make investments that benefit from the super-deduction, the largest two-year business tax cut in modern British history.
- Our landmark Help to Grow programmes are supporting SMEs to adopt productivity enhancing software and to get mini-MBAs.
- We will ensure that our tax regime for innovation is globally competitive and properly incentivises higher business investment in R&D, with further plans to be set out in the Autumn.

Michelle Ovens CBE, founder, Small Business Britain, said:

The Chancellor's move to increase the employment allowance is welcome, and will certainly play a role in helping those businesses with employees deal with the huge cost-of-living challenges they are currently facing. In particular, it is good to see the immediacy of this rise in employment allowance, which will go towards helping businesses asap.

Martin McTague, National Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses, said:

The increase in the Employment Allowance helps small firms do what they do best, creating and sustaining jobs.

This was FSB's 'hero ask' at the Spring Statement, and we have hugely valued the time taken by Treasury officials to work with us on the positive impact this will have not just on work opportunities, but also training and investment. The Chancellor has now raised the Allowance twice since his appointment, stepping up for small businesses.

Lee Harris-Hamer, from White Horse cleaning services based in Thirsk, North Yorkshire, said:

As a growing company, we appreciate the opportunity to reduce our annual NI liability because this helps us to invest the savings in other areas like staff training and further growth. Staff are our key asset and we want to be able to continue recruiting and offering more employment opportunities locally. Government has supported us with the change and we are proud to be members of FSB who championed the increase.

Jo Bevilacqua, owner of Serenity Loves hair and beauty salon, Peterborough, said:

This rise in the employment allowance offers welcome breathing space for my small business and others like us across the country. In an age where we are all facing increasing costs from all angles and every penny counts, this will help ease some pressure, allowing us to invest more in staff – whether it is increasing salaries or offering training.

Further information

- From today (6 April) businesses and charities who had employer NICs bills of £100,000 or less in the previous tax year will be able to claim up to £5,000 off their employer NICs bills. Up until today the Employment Allowance was £4,000.
- NICs policy is reserved, so this increase to the Employment Allowance will take effect across the UK.
- See full details of [Employment Allowance eligibility criteria](#)
- Smaller businesses will be able to benefit from the increased Employment Allowance from 6 April 2022. This will either be through payroll software where this has been updated or through a payroll adjustment.

[Analysis Function Diversity and Inclusion Survey results](#)

News story

Key findings from the Analysis Function Diversity and Inclusion Survey.



In June 2021, the Analysis Function (AF) launched our latest [AF Diversity and Inclusion \(D&I\) survey](#).

We'd like to thank the 1,800 plus analysts who responded from a variety of grades (levels of seniority), professions, departments and locations across the UK.

We encourage colleagues to reflect on these survey headlines and consider what you could do to make the Analysis Function a more inclusive place to work for us all and how you can support the [AF D&I Strategy](#) in your respective areas.

Our sincere thanks go out to all those who helped us run the survey from across the government analysis community. Your time and effort has been invaluable.

If you are a civil servant and would like to receive our more detailed analysis, please email Analysis.Function@ons.gov.uk.

What are the survey headlines?

- The survey response rate was 12% (based on the number of analysts identified in the [Civil Service People Survey \(PS\) 2020](#), a government-wide survey looking at civil servants' attitudes to and experience of working in government). Given the low response rate, our analysis also considered comparable responses in the PS 2020 and Snapshot Workforce Data Product 2020.
- In general, there was a decrease in ethnic minority and female respondents as grades progressed in seniority. This pattern was also present across the Civil Service.
- 33% of black respondents indicated that they had personally experienced discrimination at work in the past 12 months, in contrast with 7% of white British respondents in 2021, similar to the 2020 results (34%). In the PS 2020 survey 13% of the black analysts who responded had experienced discrimination at work.
- Respondents with physical or mental health conditions or illnesses were less likely to agree that there was impartial promotion (60% in agreement for those with versus 70% for those without) or fairness in their workplace (78% compared to 88%). They were also less likely to agree that their department was committed to equal opportunities, with 79% agreeing versus 86% of those without. Both of these patterns were also seen in the 2020 AF D&I survey.
- The chances of respondents experiencing discrimination in the last 12 months showed an incremental increase with age, with respondents aged 55 and over experiencing the most at 16% (15% 2020), more than five times that of the youngest group. The PS 2020 data on analysts also showed that there was an incremental increase in discrimination with age, with 4% for 16–24-year-olds reporting discrimination compared to 9% for the 55+ age group.
- Respondents with caring responsibilities for adults were much less positive about being treated impartially in the workplace (64% agreed that staff were treated impartially compared to 87% without caring responsibilities) and for promotion (48% versus 68%), less positive about feeling their department was committed to equality (63% agreed

their department was committed compared to 86%) and faced greater [levels of harassment](#) (19% had experienced this versus 5%) and discrimination (18% compared to 7%).

What next?

The results we saw this year echo those from 2020. In 2021, the Analysis Function set out [the AF D&I Strategy 2021-2024](#). This evidence-based plan contains 21 deliverables which our members and stakeholders have told us will make a real difference at a function level. Progress is led by the AF D&I Working Group, which consists of dedicated individuals from across government. They receive support from the AF team and [the strategy's senior sponsor, Rannia Leontaridi](#).

Eight out of ten priorities are already underway. These include establishing the Leaders in Analysis suite of career-building events, setting up the Analysis Function People Board Shadow Board (Runner Up in the [Analysis in Government Awards Inclusion category](#) and creating an Inclusion Toolkit showcasing best practice for analysts released at National Inclusion Week 2021.

In addition, this year's results have prompted us to undertake further analysis to better understand the experiences of people who belong to more than one disadvantaged demographic. This has been shared with the AF D&I Working Group for consideration.

If reading the survey results has inspired you to act, why not join our D&I Working Group? Email Curtis.Bateman@ons.gov.uk for more information.

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[Government urges businesses to take advantage of National Insurance relief when hiring veterans](#)

Businesses hiring military veterans can now save their firms thousands of pounds in employee National Insurance contributions, thanks to a scheme launched by the government's Office of Veterans' Affairs.

From today (6 April 2022), employers will not have to pay National Insurance contributions for veterans in their first year of civilian employment after leaving the armed forces. Businesses will also be able to claim this relief retrospectively for any qualifying employees who joined their company in the last 12 months.

The tax incentive provides a double boost to businesses – providing them with potential savings of up to £6,200 per employee, while also allowing them to benefit from the fantastic skills and experience that veterans bring.

Businesses could save £2,567 per employee on the average salary in the UK. A business hiring 10 qualifying veterans could save over £25,000.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty said:

Our veterans have made important contributions to keeping our country safe. The skills they gain during service are invaluable, and businesses can greatly benefit from their dedication.

I encourage all businesses to consider hiring veterans and supporting their journey to civilian life after service.

Lucy Frazer, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said:

If it wasn't for our heroic servicemen and women protecting our country, we would not have a United Kingdom to live in.

That is why as a society we must do all we can to help them when they come home – employers across the UK can benefit from our veterans' vast wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to help their organisation grow and thrive.

The policy, which delivers on the government's manifesto commitment, was launched in April 2021. The move is part of wider incentives to support veteran employability, including the roll out of the 'Great Place to Work for Veterans' scheme across government.

This National Insurance contributions holiday provides an incentive for employers to hire veterans. Businesses will benefit from the numerous transferable skills veterans gain in service, including collaboration and dedication.

The relief is available to all employers of veterans, regardless of when the veteran left the regular armed forces, providing that they have not been employed in a civilian capacity since leaving service. The relief will be available to all qualifying veterans each time they leave HM Armed Forces.

Employers will be able to claim National Insurance contributions relief on the earnings of qualifying veterans. A person qualifies as a veteran if they have served at least one day in the regular armed forces.

Detailed guidance on how employers can claim back national insurance is

available [here](#).

[UK backs hydrogen technologies with £400 million awarded to Johnson Matthey](#)

- £400 million government-backed loan given to Johnson Matthey, which is developing global solutions to the climate crisis
- Cash boost will help deliver Government's [Ten Point Plan](#) for a green industrial revolution
- Biggest single investment for a UK company researching hydrogen-based energy and re-usable technology of its kind will help tackle climate change and reach net-zero

The UK will be a step closer to reaching net-zero by 2050 as the government has underwritten a £400 million loan to boost research and development in sustainable technologies today (Wednesday, April 6).

The loan will be given to Johnson Matthey (JM), which is a world-leading multinational company based in London, specialising in sustainable technologies ranging from metal recycling to green hydrogen. The financing is being provided by HSBC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Bank of America, with the government backing it via UK Export Finance.

JM will be investing in the latest research and development into sustainable technologies across the globe. This will support high-skilled jobs at home, with the company employing thousands of people in green jobs across the UK in Hertfordshire, Swindon, Lancashire and London.

With further investment in hydrogen technologies, we can heat our houses, have fleets of hydrogen HGVs across the country and provide the fuel needed for heavy to abate sectors, such as steel or glass making.

International Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, said:

Investments in Hydrogen technologies will blast domestic energy production higher than ever – securing the future supply of cleaner energy at home and helping us to export abroad. This will make for a healthier, wealthier future for the UK while protecting the planet.

JM is a global leader in producing sustainable chemicals and technologies such as hydrogen that could power homes, transport and industries worldwide.

The company has strong green credentials and 95% of its sales and R&D spend will contribute to sustainable projects by 2030.

In its agreement with HSBC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Bank of America, JM has committed to a reduction in its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to decarbonise its energy procurement, with progress against its GHG reduction goals to be independently monitored by a third party.

Stephen Oxley, Chief Financial Officer at Johnson Matthey, said:

The announcement today demonstrates the strength of JM's commitment to sustainability goals and targets announced last year. The loans will help support the significant investment we are making to help create a cleaner, healthier world.

[UK medics provide training to frontline workers in Malaita Province](#)

The UK Emergency Medical Team who travelled to the province on 24 March was deployed to work alongside the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the World Health Organization to strengthen the country's Covid-19 response.

Since January 2022, Solomon Islands has been affected by community transmission of COVID-19, which has spread across several regions of the country. Reports from across the country indicate that Solomon Islands is in the midst of a wave of Delta and/or Omicron.

Team Leader and Public Health Specialist, Ms Eunice Chege said:

We did a rapid assessment of the COVID situation at both hospitals and found a number of issues including not having in place proper standard operating procedures, lack of proper case management and care of patients among others.

Twenty-five participants including three from Atoifi hospital in East Malaita took part in the two weeks of training and mentorship since Friday 1 April 2022.

The Public Health Specialist said despite Kilu'ufi and Atoifi hospitals being very old with equipment capacity issues, she hopes participants will utilise the knowledge and skills gained through the training to respond to COVID-19 cases efficiently.

Dr. Eunice Chege the UK Emergency Medical Team Leader said the team is honoured to support the Solomon Islands:

It is my hope that we shall make a difference through training and mentorship in the provinces as this brings better access and quality health care closer to the people.

The team consists of 10 experienced staff, including doctors, nurses and humanitarian health programme management experts from the UK, Netherlands, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Italy.

They will provide on-the-job clinical support as well as training and capacity building in infection prevention and control and COVID-19 case management to health professionals in Solomon Islands.

The team have six more weeks in the country to work with community and health workers.

British High Commissioner to Solomon Islands and Nauru, His Excellency Thomas Coward said:

COVID-19 has negatively affected Solomon Islands' health system and economy, with the number of daily cases being a real concern. The deployment of the UK Emergency Medical Team will provide expertise to Solomon Islands health care professionals, building their capacity to respond better and more effectively to the on-going health crisis and ultimately save lives.

The deployment of the UK Emergency Medical Team will help address critical gaps in the COVID-19 response by providing assistance in the provision of direct interventional clinical support to allow local practitioners to better handle patients with varying levels of acuity, and to operate in a safe and secure manner.