• ONS Corona mortality analysis: [https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2020/03/31/counting-deaths-involving-the-coronavirus-covid-19/](https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2020/03/31/counting-deaths-involving-the-coronavirus-covid-19/)
  o For the 108 deaths registered up to March 20 where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, 45 (or 42%) were people aged 85 and over while 34 (31%) were people aged 75-84. A total of 21 deaths (19%) were people aged 65-74, seven (6%) were people aged 45-64 and one death was aged 15-44 years.

  o Nearly 1 in 5 over-80’s infected with COVID19 are likely to require hospitalisation, compared with around 1% of people younger than 30, with hospitalisation estimates found to increase with age.
  o Death rate from confirmed cases is estimated at 1.38%, while the overall death rate incl. unconfirmed cases, is estimated at 0.66%; rates are lower than past estimates, given adjustments for demographics and undetected symptomatic cases.

  o Schools will be emailed today by the Department for Education’s chosen supplier, Edenred. Schools will then either be able to:
    o Order vouchers individually online and have a code sent via email to each family. The family can then show the code on their phone at the supermarket; or: Arrange a bulk order of multiple codes and receive an excel spreadsheet to help schools organise sending on to a family, or create an eGift card for a preferred supermarket to be posted to a family if parents cannot get online.
    o Parents will receive the voucher through their child’s school, which can then be redeemed online via a code, or sent to their house as a gift card and used at supermarkets across the country.
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• Home Office is scaling back EU 'Settled Status' support as coronavirus is stretching resources.
  o Telephone helpline is suspended, ID documents can no longer be sent by post and some offices round the country to help vulnerable people with applications have closed.

• Changes to right-to-rent and right-to-work checks - legal obligations placed on landlords and employers respectively to carry out immigration checks on prospective tenants and employees.
  o Effective immediately, temporary changes will mean the Home Office will not require landlords and employers to see original documents and will allow checks to be undertaken over video calls.
  o During the coronavirus outbreak prospective renters and workers will now be able to submit scanned documents, rather than originals, to show they have a right to rent or right to work.

  o Access to the government’s Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme needs to widen to parents (and others with full-time caring responsibilities) who need to look after children because schools and childcare settings have closed.
  o Increase the child element of universal credit and child tax credit by £10 a week, which should be done alongside removing the two-child limit and the benefit cap. The average low-income family would benefit £1,400 per annum from these changes.
an emergency one-off payment of £30 through child benefit and an ongoing increase of £5 per week for the duration of crisis.

- DfE should work with schools and telecommunications technology providers to get broadband installed and devices loaned or donated to those children without them.

- Local authorities should consider encouraging owners of private green spaces to offer open access for the duration of the crisis and maintaining access to public parks for children living in a home or flat without a garden in the event of further restrictions, to allow outdoor exercise and support wellbeing.

- Community Business Mutual Aid Group - links to case studies of responses from community businesses
  https://cbmutualaid.co.uk/case-studies/

- New Economics Foundation: building a Minimum Income Guarantee for the uk. Via
  - Every working age adult who is not covered by either the job retention scheme or the self-employed income support scheme will be entitled to a weekly payment of £221. This is the 2019 minimum income standard estimated by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for a single adult, excluding any rent, mortgage or childcare costs.
  - For existing claimants, the top-up to their current benefits will be automatic and will not interact with the benefit cap. For new claimants, the payment will be made through the advance payment system for UC.
  - Initial entitlement to the MIG will be extended to all working age adults who wish to apply via the advanced payment system in UC. Claimants can also apply and receive their MIG payments while they wait for their entitlement from either the job retention scheme or the self employed income support scheme.
  - The MIG will be in place for an initial three months with an option to extend for a further three months on a rolling basis. Outside of any payments recouped – either through the job retention scheme, the self-employed income support scheme or additional tax in 2021/22 – funded by government borrowing.
  - The additional cost of the MIG for existing benefit claimants would come to around £3 billion per month, or £9 billion for three months. For every additional 500,000 claimants of MIG, the marginal cost would be a little under £0.5 billion per month. Latest DWP forecasts for an increase in claimant count would imply a total cost for the MIG of around £4.5 billion per month, or little under £13.5 billion for three months. However these are likely to prove an underestimate of the likely demand, with the final cost likely to be far closer to £20 billion over three months.

- Shoppers will be able to make contactless card payments with a new higher limit of up to £45, up from the previous £30 limit, per transaction from Wednesday, as part of measures to address the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.
  - While the new contactless limit will be operational at some stores across the UK from 1 April, it may be some time before it can be applied more widely.

- Resolution Foundation: The economic effects of coronavirus in the UK via
  - GDP falls already look on track to match those in the financial crisis and could easily be much larger. Indeed, based on the experience of past viral outbreaks there is a risk of high single, or even double-digit, percentage falls in GDP.
  - Early survey indicators of economic activity suggest that GDP is set to fall by 0.5 per cent this quarter (Q1) and by more than 2 per cent next quarter (Q2). If realised, that would be a steeper decline than seen during the 2008/09 financial crisis.
  - Electricity demand on weekdays is now down by more than 20 per cent relative to the start of March.
There has been a huge spike in web searches for unemployment-related terms suggesting that a large number of people have either become unemployed or are at risk of becoming so. This is consistent with the dramatic increase in Universal Credit claimants: almost 500,000 people started the process of claiming UC in a single nine-day period to 25 March – around eight times the average level in recent months.

Consumer confidence appears to be resilient relative to the depths of the financial crisis and the eurozone crisis. This suggests tentatively that the non-closed consumer sector may face less of a reduction in demand than in other sectors.

Weekly data on shipping volumes are yet to show a fall in the number of visits to UK ports. However, these data are likely to lag the underlying economic effects for those ships which started their journeys prior to the crisis starting in Europe. Flight volumes, which will respond faster than shipping, show that total flights have fallen by more than 60 per cent relative to pre-crisis volumes.


- Charities are reporting a projected loss of 48% to their voluntary income, and a third wiped off from their total income.
- 52% of charities have reduced existing or previous levels of service, with a further 12% intending to in the future.
- 83% say that the most important thing for their organisation’s sustainability over the coming 3 to 6 months is access to emergency grant funding.
- 84% of charities think their organisation could play a role in responding to the coronavirus outbreak, with the majority saying that government funding was needed to help them to do so.
- 91% of charities surveyed have already or expect to have their cash flow disrupted, with 62% indicating that these would result in reduced charitable activity.


- Between Monday 16 and Thursday 19 March, 88% of UK households visited a grocer, making five trips on average – 42 million extra shopping trips across four days.
- Sales of food and other essential items from supermarkets increased by 20.6% over the same period.
- The average household spent an extra £62.92 during the past four weeks, equivalent to adding five days worth of groceries.
- Purchasing of food and drink items for store cupboards rose by 28% during the past four weeks and by the same again for frozen goods.
- Grocery spend online was 13% higher than the same period in 2019 but limited delivery slots meant that only 14.6% of households received an online delivery in the past four weeks, up from 13.8% in March 2019 but probably well below actual demand.
- Britons spent an extra 22% on alcohol in March, with sales outperforming those of groceries.

Home Office: Doctors, nurses and paramedics with visas due to expire before 1 October 2020 will have them automatically extended for one year. Via https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus

- The extension to NHS visas will be automatic, there will be no fee attached and it will be exempt from the Immigration Health Surcharge.
- Trainee doctors and nurses will also not be limited by the number of hours they can work in the NHS during term time.
- Pre-registered overseas nurses who are currently required to sit their first skills test within 3 months and to pass the test within 8 months, will now have this deadline extended to the end of the year as well.