

Start month of furlough	Employments on furlough at 30 September	Proportion of employments on furlough at 30 September
January 2021	56,100	5%
February 2021	23,300	2%
March 2021	24,300	2%
April 2021	30,900	3%
May 2021	52,200	4%
June 2021	34,100	3%
July 2021	45,200	4%
August 2021	54,300	5%
September 2021	108,800	9%
Total	1,159,300	100%

Source: HMRC CJRS data

Background

The government announced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) on 20 March 2020. It was introduced to support employers through the COVID-19 period, this has also been known as the furlough scheme.

The scheme is based around HMRC's Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system. It works by providing grants to employers of up to a maximum 80% of salary to a maximum value of £2,500 per employee. Up to the end of July 2020, the scheme also met some of the cost of employer pension contributions and employer National Insurance Contributions.

[The latest information about the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-coronavirus-covid-19-statistics) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-coronavirus-covid-19-statistics>) can be found on the GOV.UK website along with information about the HMRC evaluation programme.