

Business rates holiday

What is it?

Businesses in a number of eligible sectors (highlighted below) don't have to pay business rates for 12 months, covering the 2020/21 tax period. This will support them as they work to maintain property payments and cover ongoing costs.

Who is eligible?

The business rates holiday is applicable to companies in the retail, hospitality, leisure or early years sectors. It has been extended to [estate agents, letting agencies and bingo halls](#) that have also been impacted by coronavirus and required to close.

The requirements may differ depending on your location (such as for Northern Ireland where the business rates holiday is for three months – April, May and June 2020). Here is more information for [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

What does it cover?

The grant covers businesses and properties that are wholly or mainly being used:

- As shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas and live music venues
- Estate agents, letting agencies and bingo halls
- For assembly and leisure
- As hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation
- Occupied by providers on Ofsted's Early Years Register
- For the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The government has confirmed that businesses who received the retail discount in the 2019/20 tax year will be rebilled by their local authority as soon as possible.

How your business can access it

No action should be required as these changes should be made automatically for your next council tax bill for April 2020. However, in some cases local authorities may have to reissue your bill automatically to exclude the business rate charge.

Local authorities will be providing updated guidance for businesses. It's worth checking the website of your local authority for more details.

You can estimate what your business will save from this relief by using the government's [business rates calculator](#).

Adam Prince

Adam leads the global Sage product compliance team, where he tracks changes in legislation, collaborates with national tax authorities, and advocates for business efficiency, security and automation.