

Business Rates 2026-27

Explanatory Notes

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services.

Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1st April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally. The money, together with revenue from council tax payers, locally generated income and grants from central government, is used to pay for the services provided by local authorities in your area.

Further information about the business rates system may be obtained at: www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Business Rates Instalments

Payment of business rates bills is automatically set on a 10-monthly cycle. However, the Government has put in place regulations that allow ratepayers to require their local authority to enable payments to be made through 12 monthly instalments. If you wish to take up this offer, you should email us at businessrates@manchester.gov.uk as soon as possible, please put your business rates account number in the subject line of your email.

National Non-Domestic Rating Multipliers

The local authority works out the business rates bill for a property by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate non-domestic multiplier. From 1 April 2026 there are five multipliers.

The Government sets the multipliers for each financial year for the whole of England, except in the City of London where special arrangements apply.

In 2026/27 the multipliers are:

Multiplier Type	Applies To	Rateable Value (RV)	Multiplier (pence per £1 RV)
Small Business RHL multiplier	Properties in the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure (RHL) Sector	Below £51,000	38.2p
Small Business multiplier	All other non-RHL properties	Below £51,000	43.2p
Standard RHL multiplier	RHL properties	£51,000 – £499,999	43p
Standard multiplier	Non-RHL properties	£51,000 – £499,999	48p
High-value multiplier	All property types	£500,000 and above	50.8p

The current multipliers are shown on the front of your bill.

Rateable Value

Apart from properties that are exempt from business rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the Valuation Office (VO), an agency of His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They compile and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available at www.gov.uk/voa.

The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of your bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date specified in legislation. For the current rating list, this date was set as 1 April 2024.

The VO may alter the valuation if circumstances change.

The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can also check and challenge the valuation shown in the list if they believe it is wrong. Further information about the grounds on which challenges may be made and the process for doing so can be obtained by contacting the VO, or by consulting the VO website: [How to challenge your business rates valuation - GOV.UK](#)

Revaluations

All non-domestic property rateable values are reassessed at revaluations. The most recent revaluation took effect from 1 April 2026. Revaluations ensure that business rates bills are up-to-date and more accurately reflect current rental values and relative changes in rents. Frequent revaluations ensure the system continues to be responsive to changing economic conditions.

Business Rate Reliefs

Depending on individual circumstances, a ratepayer may be eligible for a rate relief (that is, a reduction in your business rates bill).

There are several reliefs available. Some of the permanent reliefs are set out [here](#) and there is further detail about the latest availability of business rates reliefs on our website, as well as advice on whether you may qualify. Further information about reliefs is also available on the Government's [introduction to business rates](#).

Temporary Reliefs

Temporary reliefs are often introduced by the Government at a fiscal event. Further information is available on [current temporary reliefs](#). [Contact us](#) for details about the latest availability of business rates reliefs and advice on whether you qualify.

Small Business Rates Relief

If a ratepayer's sole or main property has a rateable value which does not exceed a set threshold, the ratepayer may receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for the property of up to a maximum of 100%.

The level of reduction will depend on the rateable value of the property. For example eligible properties with a rateable value below a specified lower threshold will receive 100% relief while eligible properties above the lower threshold and below a specified upper threshold may receive partial relief. The relevant thresholds for relief are set by the government by order and can be found on the Government's [Business Rates Relief](#) webpage.

Generally, this percentage reduction (relief) is only available to ratepayers who occupy either:

- one property, or
- one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed the limit set by order.

The aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in this second option must also not exceed an amount set by order.

For those businesses that take on an additional property which would normally have meant the loss of small business rate relief, they will be allowed to keep that relief for a fixed additional period. Full details on the relevant limits in relation to second properties and the current period for which a ratepayer may continue to receive relief after taking on an additional property can be found on the Government's [Business Rates Relief](#) page.

You must let us know about any of the following changes. Email us at businessrates@manchester.gov.uk to tell us if:

- the property falls vacant
- the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, and
- an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief

Eligible charities and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the club and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs).

We have the discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Find out more on our [Business Rates Relief and Exemptions](#) page.

Transitional Rate Relief

At a revaluation, some ratepayers will see reductions or no change in their bill whereas some ratepayers will see increases.

Transitional relief schemes are introduced at each revaluation to help those facing increases. Transitional relief is applied automatically to bills.

Further information about transitional arrangements may be obtained from the local authority or at www.gov.uk/business-rates-relief

Local Discounts and Hardship Relief

Local authorities have a general power to grant discretionary local discounts and to give hardship relief in specific circumstances. Full details are available on our [Business Rates Relief and Exemptions page](#).

Unoccupied Property Rating

Business rates are generally payable in respect of unoccupied non-domestic property. However, they are generally not payable for the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial premises, whilst certain other properties such as vacant listed buildings are not liable for business rates until they are reoccupied. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief> or on our [Empty Property and Business Rates](#) page.

Subsidy Control

The UK subsidy control regime commenced from 4 January 2023. The subsidy control regime enables public authorities, including devolved administrations and local authorities, to deliver subsidies that are tailored for local needs. Public authorities giving subsidies must comply with the UK's international subsidy control commitments.

Further information about subsidy control can be found on the gov.uk website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime>.

Rating Advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about the rateable value of their property or their rates bill. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS— website www.rics.org.) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV— website www.irrv.org.uk.) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct.

Before you employ a rating adviser or company you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

Information Supplied with Demand Notices

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of the local authority is available on our [Budgets and Spending](#) pages.