

## Population of solicitors in England and Wales

We regulate solicitors and law firms, as well as other lawyers and non-lawyer managers in those law firms across England and Wales. We also regulate those working as registered European or foreign lawyers.

Our purpose is to protect the public by making sure that solicitors meet high standards, and by acting when risks are identified.

The graph chart below shows the trend in the number of practising solicitors (those holding practising certificates). There are currently 168,974 practising solicitors.

Each year, practising solicitors must renew their practising certificate and we revoke those which are not renewed. This means there will be a fall in the numbers of practising solicitors at certain points in the table.

We also carry out a keeping of the roll exercise. This was reintroduced in 2023, the result of which can be seen in July, and will now be come an annual exercise.

### Snapshot of solicitors

As well as practising solicitors we also regulate registered European lawyers, registered foreign lawyers, and exempt European lawyers. The current numbers of these three groups can be seen in the table below.

The total number of solicitors on the roll at the end of February 2025 was 209,200.

<b>Date range</b>	<b>All solicitors on the roll</b>	<b>Practising solicitors</b>	<b>Registered European lawyers</b>	<b>Registered foreign lawyers</b>	<b>Exempt European lawyers</b> <a href="#">[#n2]</a>
<b>February 2025</b>	209200	168974	10	6695	125
<b>January 2025</b>	208525	168046	11	6554	125
<b>December 2024</b>	207902	167034	11	6450	125
<b>November 2024</b>	207375	170587	10	7041	125
<b>October 2024</b>	206787	171697	10	7027	125

<b>September 2024</b>	206116	170973	10	6974	125
<b>August 2024</b>	203794	168790	11	6886	125
<b>July 2024</b>	202524	167648	10	6811	125
<b>June 2024</b>	207002	167070	10	6748	125
<b>May 2024</b>	206454	166451	10	6702	125
<b>April 2024</b>	205885	165742	10	6598	126
<b>March 2024</b>	205342	164916	10	6495	128
<b>February 2024</b>	204272	163658	10	6419	137
<b>January 2024</b>	203693	162927	10	6175	137
<b>December 2023</b>	203048	161879	10	6068	138
<b>November 2023</b>	202395	165361	11	6423	138
<b>October 2023</b>	201690	166256	11	6370	138
<b>September 2023</b>	200830	165359	12	6349	139
<b>August 2023</b>	198456	163189	11	6294	139
<b>July 2023</b>	197399	162128	11	6242	139
<b>June 2023</b>	223365	161623	11	6179	139
<b>May 2023</b>	222994	161149	10	6102	140
<b>April 2023</b>	222537	160432	10	6020	141
<b>March 2023</b>	222007	159568	10	5851	141
<b>February 2023</b>	220864	158163	10	5812	142
<b>January 2023</b>	220455	157437	9	5809	142
<b>December 2022</b>	220069	156405	9	5782	165
<b>November 2022</b>	219749	159994	8	6072	165
<b>October 2022</b>	219424	160676	8	6000	166
<b>September 2022</b>	218932	159741	8	5949	166
<b>August</b>	217021	157774	8	5894	172



<b>2022</b>					
<b>July 2022</b>	216171	156965	8	5928	173
<b>June 2022</b>	215896	156518	8	5887	197
<b>May 2022</b>	215567	156055	8	5852	198
<b>April 2022</b>	215186	155527	8	5758	198
<b>March 2022</b>	214876	154980	8	5653	198
<b>February 2022</b>	214032	153840	8	5507	198
<b>January 2022</b>	213504	156356	16	5849	198
<b>December 2021</b>	213165	156122	17	5834	199
<b>November 2021</b>	212912	156413	18	5836	199
<b>October 2021</b>	212601	156928	18	5836	198
<b>September 2021</b>	212218	156323	19	5778	173
<b>August 2021</b>	210152	154273	17	5723	173
<b>July 2021</b>	209181	153246	18	5652	173
<b>June 2021</b>	208859	152762	17	5587	173
<b>May 2021</b>	208645	152393	15	5541	173
<b>April 2021</b>	208366	151885	15	5463	174
<b>March 2021</b>	207916	154170	14	5632	177
<b>February 2021</b>	206972	153616	14	5596	177
<b>January 2021</b>	206488	152997	14 <sup>1</sup> <a href="#">[#n1]</a>	5587	177 <sup>2</sup> <a href="#">[#n2]</a>
<b>December 2020</b>	206271	152528	759	2917	3800
<b>November 2020</b>	205823	153560	756	2885	3793
<b>October 2020</b>	205688	153082	763	2856	3776
<b>September 2020</b>	204641	152060	776	2816	3765
<b>August 2020</b>	203156	150695	778	2801	3762
<b>July 2020</b>	202460	150021	781	2779	3762
<b>June 2020</b>	202265	149621	781	2758	3715

<b>May 2020</b>	201873	149152	784	2729	3699
<b>April 2020</b>	201547	148770	792	2699	3672
<b>March 2020</b>	201186	148284	826	2648	3618
<b>February 2020</b>	200320	147333	820	2609	3599
<b>January 2020</b>	200021	146791	793	2572	3604
<b>December 2019</b>	199742	146092	753	2542	3588
<b>November 2019</b>	199503	149005	769	2688	3576
<b>October 2019</b>	199181	150349	761	2685	3564
<b>September 2019</b>	198692	149806	741	2662	3548
<b>August 2019</b>	196324	147403	733	2638	3522
<b>July 2019</b>	195952	146913	731	2602	3500
<b>June 2019</b>	195660	146418	728	2568	3489
<b>May 2019</b>	195334	146046	732	2544	3469
<b>April 2019</b>	194969	145547	722	2515	3432
<b>March 2019</b>	194464	144845	715	2439	3400
<b>February 2019</b>	193451	143683	690	2390	3385
<b>January 2019</b>	193162	143187	679	2369	3305
<b>December 2018</b>	192866	143198	667	2364	3222
<b>November 2018</b>	192516	145999	694	2493	3217
<b>October 2018</b>	192121	146625	689	2491	3203
<b>September 2018</b>	191621	146050	699	2470	3191
<b>August 2018</b>	189236	143652	693	2449	3174
<b>July 2018</b>	188880	143184	677	2406	3164
<b>June 2018</b>	188557	142665	668	2396	3147
<b>May 2018</b>	188274	142286	661	2383	3120
<b>April 2018</b>	187961	141811	649	2348	3097



<b>March 2018</b>	187469	141121	647	2331	3052
<b>February 2018</b>	186560	140064	642	2315	3004
<b>January 2018</b>	186269	139579	635	2278	2996
<b>December 2017</b>	185900	139797	633	2258	2978
<b>November 2017</b>	185596	142359	673	2420	2968
<b>October 2017</b>	185240	143072	676	2407	2938
<b>September 2017</b>	184736	142515	676	2398	2923
<b>August 2017</b>	182324	140083	667	2389	2920
<b>July 2017</b>	181982	139638	661	2364	2919
<b>June 2017</b>	181619	139084	654	2350	2907
<b>May 2017</b>	181347	138758	651	2327	2892
<b>April 2017</b>	181000	138280	649	2308	2918
<b>March 2017</b>	180559	137623	650	2294	2899
<b>February 2017</b>	179647	136596	640	2234	2834
<b>January 2017</b>	179317	136068	630	2215	2816
<b>December 2016</b>	178972	135309	602	2194	2849
<b>November 2016</b>	178682	138063	612	2325	2832
<b>October 2016</b>	178340	139313	627	2337	2827
<b>September 2016</b>	177785	138905	619	2320	2830
<b>August 2016</b>	175582	136701	611	2309	2825
<b>July 2016</b>	175181	136211	599	2289	2805
<b>June 2016</b>	174732	135598	593	2279	2784
<b>May 2016</b>	174416	135221	581	2243	2776
<b>April 2016</b>	174095	134785	567	2211	2743
<b>March 2016</b>	173636	134099	551	2193	2721
<b>February</b>	172788	133224	531	2166	2718



<b>2016</b>						
<b>January 2016</b>	172380	132635	522	2147	2713	
<b>December 2015</b>	172033	132245	504	2166	2718	
<b>November 2015</b>	171760	136940	531	2310	2694	
<b>October 2015</b>	171464	136294	515	2296	2695	
<b>September 2015</b>	170857	135976	510	2281	2682	
<b>August 2015</b>	168663	133837	496	2266	2674	
<b>July 2015</b>	168231	133364	482	2249	2666	
<b>June 2015</b>	167866	132864	476	2230	2651	
<b>May 2015</b>	167503	132520	467	2201	2616	
<b>April 2015</b>	167147	132087	455	2175	2590	
<b>March 2015</b>	166737	131518	431	2138	2577	
<b>February 2015</b>	165754	130443	427	2122	2567	
<b>January 2015</b>	165368	129922	420	2069	2567	
<b>December 2014</b>	164951	129246	401	2027	2568	
<b>November 2014</b>	164598	132636	439	2115	2540	
<b>October 2014</b>	164133	133327	445	2132	2539	
<b>September 2014</b>	163336	132975	443	2131	2531	
<b>August 2014</b>	161091	130846	424	2102	2527	
<b>July 2014</b>	160546	130419	412	2082	2527	
<b>June 2014</b>	166423	129552	414	2071	2513	
<b>May 2014</b>	166119	129552	408	2044	2495	
<b>April 2014</b>	165781	129083	392	2021	2471	
<b>March 2014</b>	165242	128425	383	2003	2464	
<b>February 2014</b>	164365	127423	374	1994	2452	
<b>January 2014</b>	163898	130612	405	2140	2433	



<b>December 2013</b>	163514	131134	397	2130	2420
<b>November 2013</b>	163015	130812	384	2106	2414
<b>October 2013</b>	162367	130643	383	2095	2340
<b>September 2013</b>	161323	129794	380	2076	2343
<b>August 2013</b>	158872	127874	375	1914	2342
<b>July 2013</b>	167790	127575	376	1898	2338
<b>June 2013</b>	167457	127068	370	1889	2308
<b>May 2013</b>	167146	126624	364	1870	2301
<b>April 2013</b>	166522	126064	354	1851	2269
<b>March 2013</b>	165956	125192	371	1825	2239
<b>February 2013</b>	164998	128169	409	2018	2226
<b>January 2013</b>	164793	128379	401	2000	2174
<b>December 2012</b>	164181	128419	393	1978	2078
<b>November 2012</b>	163031	127890	388	1967	2077
<b>October 2012</b>	169338	127353	384	1955	2077
<b>September 2012</b>	168713	127109	368	1929	2047
<b>August 2012</b>	166385	124968	367	1744	2046
<b>July 2012</b>	166007	128710	385	1852	2042
<b>June 2012</b>	165748	128860	366	1835	2023
<b>May 2012</b>	165519	128569	360	1812	2025
<b>April 2012</b>	165227	128240	343	1784	2018
<b>March 2012</b>	164841	127884	338	1780	2016
<b>February 2012</b>	163978	126858	328	1768	2001
<b>January 2012</b>	163229	126008	327	1765	1997
<b>December 2011</b>	163259	125718	317	1742	1996
<b>November 2011</b>	163108	125473	304	1728	1997



<b>2011</b>					
<b>October 2011</b>	162818	125011	305	1722	1994
<b>September 2011</b>	161815	124306	300	1707	1989
<b>August 2011</b>	159798	122343	294	1680	1966

[Notes](#)

1. Following the UK's exit from the EU only Swiss registered European lawyers (REL) can continue as an REL up to 1 January 2024. All other RELs are now registered foreign lawyers.
2. Following the UK's exit from the EU most exempt European lawyers (EELs) are no longer treated as legally qualified in England and Wales. All non-UK EELs are now registered foreign lawyers. Since January 2021 this column only shows those who are UK EELs.