

Pub closure report – 2023

The Campaign for Real Ale



February 2024

CAMRA Pub Closure Report

2023 at a glance:

These figures cover England, Scotland, and Wales. Figures from previous periods, starting in January 2021, are provided for comparison purposes.

All data comes from whatpub.com – the Campaign for Real Ale's pub database.

Long term closures



Businesses closed in 2023:

1,293

This includes any pubs that are not currently open for their communities to visit.

Permanent closures



Pub buildings lost in 2023:

194

These are pubs lost to conversion or demolition.

Openings



New pubs opening in 2023:

296

These are where new pubs have been built, or existing buildings converted for pub use.

Over 2023, these closures represent:



64 million

Fewer pints of beer sold



£103,440,000

Lost to local economies



19,274

Potential jobs

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Net figures

Net closure figures – All GB

These reflect the total change in the number of buildings in pub use.

Period	Permanent Closures	Openings	Net change	Net change per week
July-December 2023	66	126	+60	+2.3
January-June 2023	64	127	+63	+2.4
July-December 2022	70	179	+109	+4.2
January-June 2022	70	141	+71	+2.7
July-December 2021	145	190	+45	+1.7
January-June 2021	145	74	-71	-2.7

Permanent pub closures

These reflect where a pub building has been converted or demolished.

Period	Permanent Closures	Per week
July-December 2023	66	2.5
January-June 2023	64	2.5
July-December 2022	70	2.7
January-June 2022	70	2.7
July-December 2021	145	5.6
January-June 2021	145	5.6

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Closures without permission

These are cases where a pub building has been redeveloped via conversion or demolition and does not appear to have the relevant permissions, these are in addition to the permanent closure listed above.

In these cases, CAMRA campaigners will investigate each case in detail. Sometimes these are a result of planning applications being improperly recorded and where proper documentation can be uncovered, we will ask the relevant Local Authority to amend their records to ensure that those who wish to comment on a planning application are able to do so. Where no permission has been secured, we will pass the case to the enforcement arm of the relevant Local Authority.

Period	Cases investigated	Cases confirmed
2023	32	10

New Pub Openings

These reflect where a new pub has been built or a building converted to become one.

Period	Openings	Per week	Conversions	New builds
July-December 2023	146	5.6	126	20
January-June 2023	127	4.9	101	26
July-December 2022	179	6.9	152	27
January-June 2022	141	5.4	115	26
July-December 2021	190	7.3	174	16
January-June 2021	74	2.8	63	11

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Long Term Closures

These reflect where pub buildings have closed for business, or are empty without tenants, for a long period of time.

We do not class these as permanent closures, as the buildings remain a pub in planning and development control terms.

All GB

Period	Closures logged as long term	Per week
July-December 2023	641	24.7
January-June 2023	772	29.7
July-December 2022	554	21.3
January-June 2022	485	18.7
July-December 2021	254	9.8
January-June 2021	251	9.7

Breakdown by nation

July-December 2024

Nation	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change	Per week
England	61	115	18	133	172	6.6
Scotland	2	4	1	5	3	0.1
Wales	3	7	1	8	5	0.2

January-June 2023

Nation	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change	Per week
England	56	91	21	112	+56	2.2
Scotland	3	3	1	4	+1	0.0
Wales	4	7	1	8	+4	0.2

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July-December 2022

Nation	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change	Per week
England	63	145	26	171	108	4.2
Scotland	2	2	1	3	1	0.0
Wales	3	5	0	5	2	0.1

January-June 2022

Nation	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change	Per week
England	62	110	24	134	+72	+2.8
Scotland	4	0	1	1	-3	-0.1
Wales	3	4	1	5	+2	+0.1

July-December 2021

Nation	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change	Per week
England	131	160	14	174	+43	+1.7
Scotland	10	6	2	8	-2	-0.08
Wales	4	8	0	8	+4	+0.2

January-June 2021

Nation	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change	Per week
England	131	59	10	69	-62	-2.4
Scotland	7	2	1	3	-4	-0.2
Wales	7	2	0	2	-5	-0.2

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Breakdown by England regions

July-December 2023

Region	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change
East Midlands	3	8	0	8	5
East of England	3	6	1	7	4
Greater London	15	11	3	14	-1
North East	2	2	0	2	0
North West	11	34	5	39	28
South East	10	17	4	21	11
South West	3	10	0	10	7
West Midlands	6	9	1	10	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	17	4	21	14

January-June 2023

Region	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change
East Midlands	4	6	0	6	+2
East of England	3	4	0	4	+1
Greater London	3	9	2	11	+8
North East	1	1	0	1	0
North West	21	19	4	23	+2
South East	9	12	8	20	+11
South West	6	9	5	14	+8
West Midlands	2	12	3	15	+13
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	19	2	21	+14

July-December 2022

Region	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change
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East Midlands	5	12	3	15	+10
East of England	9	3	0	3	-6
Greater London	5	19	5	24	+19
North East	3	3	0	3	0
North West	17	48	4	52	+35
South East	8	18	4	22	+14
South West	1	4	2	6	+5
West Midlands	9	14	1	15	+6
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	24	7	31	+25

January-June 2022

Region	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change
East Midlands	5	8	1	9	+4
East of England	5	3	1	4	-1
Greater London	4	13	7	20	+16
North East	4	3	0	3	-1
North West	12	20	4	24	+12
South East	12	13	5	18	+6
South West	7	14	2	16	+9
West Midlands	6	7	2	9	+3
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	29	2	31	+24

July-December 2021

Region	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change
East Midlands	10	14	0	14	+4
East of England	7	3	1	4	-3
Greater London	12	20	6	26	+14

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North East	1	0	0	0	-1
North West	46	33	2	35	-11
South East	23	24	2	26	+3
South West	11	12	0	12	+1
West Midlands	13	13	0	13	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	8	41	3	44	+36

January-June 2021

Region	Permanent closures	Conversions	New builds	Total openings	Net change
East Midlands	5	2	0	2	-3
East of England	9	0	0	0	-9
Greater London	18	15	5	20	+2
North East	8	2	1	3	-5
North West	28	7	1	8	-20
South East	22	8	1	9	-13
South West	10	1	0	1	-9
West Midlands	10	4	1	5	-5
Yorkshire and the Humber	21	20	1	21	0

Permanent Pub Closures (GB) – pre-2021

These reflect permanent pub closures before 2021 – where the pub has been demolished or converted from pub use to another use.

We do not have new pub opening figures for the same period, so we cannot provide net figures for these periods.

Period	Closures	Per week
July-December 2020	161	6.2
January-June 2020	161	6.2

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July-December 2019	172	6.6
January-June 2019	271	10.4
July-December 2018	184	7.1
January-June 2018	264	10.2
July-December 2017	254	9.8
January-June 2017	412	15.8
July-December 2016	257	9.9
January-June 2016	364	14.0

Contact

Questions about this data? Please email campaigns@camra.org.uk

For press enquiries, please use press@camra.org.uk

Sources:

These figures are compiled using data from WhatPub.com, CAMRA's online pub guide, which is updated by CAMRA volunteers across the UK who regularly survey the venues in their area.

For other figures, averages are calculated from the sources below and then applied to closure totals:

- Economic cost figures based on pubs injecting an average of £80,000 into their local economies, from "Pubs and places: The social value of community pubs", Institute for Public Policy Research, available at <https://www.ippr.org/articles/pubs-and-places-the-social-value-of-community-pubs>
- Employment data from "Pub Statistics" House of Commons Library briefing paper, available at <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8591/CBP-8591.pdf>
- Beer volumes from the BBPA Statistical Handbook, available at <https://beerandpub.com/shop>