## **United Kingdom: Indicators Deteriorated**



**Business climate is deteriorating**: the services PMI (48.9) catch up the industrial PMI (45.4) in contraction territory in April, as does the composite PMI (48.2). The index of new export orders in the manufacturing sector (not taken into account in the calculation of the manufacturing PMI) plunges and approaches the lows reached during Covid.



Labour market: beginning of downward reversal. The number of payroll employees fell by 78,000 to 30.3 million in March (preliminary figures). The unemployment rate was stable at 4.4% in February (3m/3m) while the number of vacancies reached its lowest post-Covid level. Wages (including bonuses) continue to grow at a steady pace (+5.6% y/y).



**Households: a short-lived increase in consumption?** Retail sales grew steadily in the first quarter of 2025 (+1.7% q/q), while new car registrations rebounded by 12.3% y-o-y in March. However, the Gfk index fell by 4 points in April (-23, well below its long-term average).



**Inflation is decreasing, inflation expectations are rising.** Headline inflation fell to 2.6% y/y in March. This is due to a slowdown in services and greater disinflation in energy. Core inflation remains higher at 3.4% y/y. In the face of tariffs, one-year household inflation expectations rose to 4% and long-term expectations jumped to 4.2% (YouGov/Citi).

GDP growth q/q : actual, carry-over, forecasts										
Actual				Carry-over	Forecast			Annual forecasts (y/y)		
Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	2024 (estimate)	2025	2026
0.9	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	1.1	1.0	0.8

Source: Refinitiv, BNP Paribas

A temporary growth acceleration in Q1? Our growth forecast for the first quarter of 2025 has been raised to 0.5%. Q2 and Q3 were revised downwards due to the price shock and the rise in inflation expectations (from 0.4% to 0.3% for Q2 and from 0.4% to 0.1% for Q3). As a result, our forecasts confirm moderate growth in activity at 1.0% in 2025, followed by a slowdown in 2026.

Guillaume Derrien (completed on May 2, 2025)

