

THE GIGXCHANGE INDEX

# What gigs **actually** pay.

The open benchmark for UK live music fees – 4,036 real observations across thirteen cities, seven gig types and every band size. Free to read, free to cite, rebuilt nightly.

**Issue 03 · June 2026**

**4,036**

DATA POINTS

**13**

UK CITIES

**310**

RATES PUBLISHED

**3 Jul**

LAST REFRESH

## FOREWORD

# A steady market, a sharper lens

For the first time since launch, the story is steadiness: the national wedding median moved under one percent, and the city league carried forward unchanged – no city cell drew enough new June evidence to move. So June sharpened the lens instead: a full artist-panel cycle landed, and the firewall pulled 25 mislabelled rows from publication.

**4,036**OBSERVATIONS IN  
THE POOL**+189**NET GROWTH SINCE  
THE MAY ISSUE**154**ARTIST PANEL  
SNAPSHOTS, 28  
JUNE**657**AGENCY LISTINGS  
RE-CHECKED, 29  
JUNE

Source: GigXchange Index ingest telemetry, June 2026 window.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 03 layers roughly 200 new June observations onto the rolling pool and reports what changed – and, just as importantly this month, what held firm across seven gig types, thirteen cities and four band sizes.

- **Section One – The numbers.** June medians for every gig type, the full heatmap, the wedding band-size curve, wedding and pub drilldowns, and a city league where the top five did not move.
- **Section Two – How the figures are built.** The full pipeline from raw observation to published percentile, including this issue's weight change to the artist panel.
- **Section Three – The June data mix.** All eight live sources broken out, why the artist panel drove this month's growth, and a data correction made in the open – including an honest scorecard on May's coverage promises.
- **Section Four – The quality firewall.** Five automated gates plus the club-economics model – and a month where the firewall's work showed up in the published numbers.
- **Section Five – Honest limits.** What this report can and cannot tell you, and the one data source that still has to arrive in volume.

### HOW TO READ A RATE CELL

Averages lie in a market where a Mayfair gala and a Tuesday pub slot share a spreadsheet. So every figure here is four: p25 the budget end, p50 the typical fee (half pay less, half more), p75 a strong booking, p90 the premium tier. Find your quote on that curve and you know where you stand.

## SECTION ONE

# Where the market settled in June

Every number below is what the performer takes home, in pounds. Tickets, door splits, gear hire and travel never enter the dataset – costs and receipts, not pay. No cell publishes on fewer than three trusted observations. Reading note: n counts weighted samples, not unique gigs – an observation counts at every geographic level it informs and once per re-sighting, so n runs far higher than the 4,036-observation pool.

## UK MEDIANS BY GIG TYPE 3-4 PIECE

USE CASE	P25	P50 (MEDIAN)	P75	P90	N
Wedding	£738	<b>£1,005</b>	£1,281	£1,849	11,936
Private party	£643	<b>£977</b>	£1,387	£2,083	6,470
Corporate event	£669	<b>£839</b>	£892	£1,025	14
Festival	£649	<b>£669</b>	£872	£892	12
Theatre / pit	£631	<b>£640</b>	£640	£640	3
Club (ticketed)	£450	<b>£600</b>	£1,463	£1,463	33
Pubs & bars	£288	<b>£425</b>	£630	£950	455

Weddings top the table at £1,005 – and private parties have closed to within 3% of them, the tightest that gap has been in three issues. Corporate barely moved at £839 – pre-set budgets keep it on rails. The pub figure now reads £425 after a data correction explained in Section Three; grassroots work remains the floor, roughly 42% of the wedding rate for the same lineup.

## HOW BAND SIZE MOVES THE MONEY UK NATIONAL, WEDDINGS

BAND SIZE	P25	P50	P75	P90	N
Solo	£247	<b>£328</b>	£458	£599	736
Duo	£497	<b>£613</b>	£777	£1,396	1,873
3-4 piece	£738	<b>£1,005</b>	£1,281	£1,849	11,936
5+ piece	£1,093	<b>£1,433</b>	£1,800	£2,678	1,234

The wedding curve runs £328 solo, £613 duo, £1,005 for a 3-4 piece and £1,433 at five-plus. The duo-to-band step is still the steepest – nearly £400 – because that is where clients stop buying background music and start buying a show. Per musician, the economics flatten as the lineup grows: a quartet earns roughly £251 a head, a six-piece about £239, since the PA, transport and admin are already paid for by the fourth chair.

## SECTION ONE – CONTINUED

# Gig type × band size heatmap

Every cell below is the UK national median (p50) in pounds. Darker cells = higher fees. Dashes mark combinations with insufficient data to publish.

GIG TYPE	SOLO	DUO	3-4 PC	5+
Wedding	£328	£613	£1,005	£1,433
Private party	£479	£433	£977	£850
Corporate	£375	£765	£839	£1,171
Festival	£223	£446	£659	£1,515
Club	£359	£468	£600	£2,291
Pub & bar	£292	£375	£425	£541
Theatre	£175	–	£640	£960

Weddings own the top row at every lineup size, but June's sharpest signal sits mid-grid: private parties within £30 of weddings for a 3-4 piece. Corporate stays tightly banded – pre-set budgets do that – while pubs and clubs hold the floor whatever the headcount. Treat the £2,291 club five-plus figure as a range, not a promise: it rests on a six-sample cell.

## HOW TO READ THIS

Pick your gig type (row) and band size (column) to see where the UK market sits. Then check the city league on the next page to see how your location shifts the number. The [live calculator](#) combines all three axes in real time.

## THE CORNERS OF THE MARKET

The cheapest published combination this issue is a **theatre solo** at **£175**; the priciest is a **club 5+** at **£2,291** – a 13× spread inside one industry. Every other UK combination on this page sits between those poles.

## SECTION ONE – CONTINUED

## City league – carried forward

Thirteen UK cities hold a published wedding cell this issue, ranked by the typical 3-4 piece fee. Straight talk: June added very little here – the inflow was asking-rate-heavy and no city cell drew enough event-tagged evidence to move, so the league stands as the market's standing record, not a fresh reading.

CITY	P25	P50 (MEDIAN)	P75	P90	N
Edinburgh	£1,119	<b>£1,186</b>	£1,759	£1,829	30
Brighton	£833	<b>£1,050</b>	£1,219	£1,259	123
Cardiff	£887	<b>£987</b>	£1,230	£1,455	66
Leeds	£730	<b>£910</b>	£1,254	£1,437	96
London	£573	<b>£903</b>	£1,200	£1,640	285
Bristol	£793	<b>£893</b>	£1,112	£1,143	192
Glasgow	£643	<b>£868</b>	£1,419	£1,960	54
Sheffield	£663	<b>£854</b>	£1,289	£1,553	126
Manchester	£663	<b>£825</b>	£990	£1,153	252
Birmingham	£593	<b>£788</b>	£944	£1,210	180
Liverpool	£663	<b>£773</b>	£817	£850	129
Newcastle	£657	<b>£663</b>	£697	£781	24
Nottingham	£583	<b>£663</b>	£825	£1,027	48

### THREE MONTHS AT THE TOP

Edinburgh holds the crown for a third consecutive issue at £1,186, with Brighton (£1,050), Cardiff (£987), Leeds (£910) and London (£903) in the same order as May – unchanged because unchallenged, not confirmed by a wave of new bookings. London stays the widest spread we publish, £573 to £1,640. Newcastle and Nottingham share the foot at £663.

### COVERAGE OUTLOOK

A promise-keeping note: in May we targeted corporate cells for Nottingham and Sheffield and festival cells for Brighton and Edinburgh by June. None of the four cleared the three-observation bar – June's inflow skewed to the artist panel, which reports asking rates, not city-tagged event fees. Those cells stay on the board, and they will be built by gig-workers reporting real fees at [gigxchange.app/rates](https://gigxchange.app/rates) – sixty seconds of your time is literally the missing data.

## SECTION ONE – CONTINUED

# Two markets, one industry

## WEDDING FEES BY BAND SIZE UK NATIONAL

Weddings remain the deepest cell in the Index and the ceiling of the market. June's curve runs £328 solo to £1,433 at five-plus, with the flagship 3-4 piece median at £1,005 – a £9 drift on May, which is what a settled segment looks like.

BAND SIZE	P25	P50	P75	P90	N
Solo	£247	<b>£328</b>	£458	£599	736
Duo	£497	<b>£613</b>	£777	£1,396	1,873
3-4 piece	£738	<b>£1,005</b>	£1,281	£1,849	11,936
5+ piece	£1,093	<b>£1,433</b>	£1,800	£2,678	1,234

## PUB & BAR FEES BY BAND SIZE UK NATIONAL

Pubs are the floor – £425 for a 3-4 piece after this issue's correction – but the floor has virtues the ceiling lacks: repeat slots, built-in audiences and low overheads. Four steady residency nights can still out-earn a single wedding.

BAND SIZE	P25	P50	P75	P90	N
Solo	£246	<b>£292</b>	£363	£729	1,034
Duo	£300	<b>£375</b>	£500	£700	179
3-4 piece	£288	<b>£425</b>	£630	£950	455
5+	£400	<b>£541</b>	£1,003	£1,350	335

### THE MOST LOCATION-PROOF GIG IN BRITAIN

Pub fees barely flex by city, because venue economics – door take, bar margin, a fixed entertainment budget – set the price everywhere and regional income barely registers. Book a pub slot in London or Newcastle and the fee lands within roughly ten percent.

## SECTION TWO

# How the figures are built

From an observed fee to a percentile you can quote in a negotiation – the pipeline in plain English.

## 1 – WHAT WE COVER

UK live music only. A published cell is the meeting point of three axes: **where** (a canonical city, one of twelve UK regions, or the national baseline), **what kind of gig** (seven types, weddings to theatre/pit), and **how many musicians** (solo, duo, 3-4 piece, 5+). Each cell carries four percentiles – p25/p50/p75/p90 – never an average.

## 2 – WHERE THE DATA COMES FROM

Eight sources fed the June pool: weekly re-scans of three UK booking agencies' public rate cards (39 category pages), Musicians' Union and Equity published minimums, venue budgets, a monthly panel of artist asking rates, and fees reported by gig-workers. Every observation lands tagged with source, gig type, band size, venue type and location. (A ninth source announced at launch, forum-post extraction, retired before ingesting a single row.)

## 3 – CITIES WITH THIN DATA

Publication happens at three levels: **city** (major UK metros, with satellite towns folded into their hub – Hove reads as Brighton, Oldbury as Birmingham), **region** (the twelve official UK regions), and the **UK baseline**. A city or region cell needs three observations to publish. When you look up somewhere we cannot yet publish, the live calculator walks the chain – city, then region, then the national figure with a regional adjustment – and tells you which level answered.

## 4 – REGIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

The adjustment layer blends ONS regional household income and family-spending data with public industry price benchmarks, tuned per gig type: corporate fees track regional wealth closely, wedding spend barely does, and pub fees hardly flex at all because venue economics set the ceiling everywhere. Adjustments only ever fill gaps – wherever real observations exist, they win outright.

## SECTION TWO – CONTINUED

## 5 – WHY SOME SOURCES COUNT MORE THAN OTHERS

Money that provably changed hands says more than a listings-page price – so every observation carries an **effective trust weight** (source weight × confidence). Two calibrations this issue: the artist panel rises 0.16 → 0.38 (raised after May shipped; June is the first issue computed with it), and venue budgets restate at their live effective weight, 0.50, from the launch-era 0.25.

SOURCE	WEIGHT	WHY
Confirmed GigXchange booking	1.00	A cleared transaction – the reference signal
Post-event verified submission	0.85	Artist-reported, matched to a real event
MU / Equity recommended rate	0.60	The union floor – authoritative, not market-clearing
Venue gig budget	0.50	The buyer's pre-negotiation spend plan
Agency published rate card	0.48	Asking price, commission stripped at ingest
Artist profile asking rate	0.38	Monthly stated-rate panel at its raised weight
Web-extracted rate	0.35	Public-page extractions, human-reviewed
Anonymous public submission	0.16	Held at arm's length until verified
Ticket-derived club estimate	0.11	Room-economics model; the most cautious voice

## 6 – KEEPING JUNK OUT

Five automated gates stand between an incoming observation and a published cell: required fields, a whitelist of vetted sources, an artist-fee-only rule enforced at the database layer, per-musician-per-hour plausibility bounds per gig type, plus a duplicate fingerprint. Ticketed club fees face a sixth test – a four-archetype model grounded in Music Venue Trust occupancy data.

## 7 – REFRESH CADENCE

The cells rebuild nightly at 05:00 UTC. Agency rate cards re-scan on Mondays; the artist panel snapshots on the 28th; approved submissions flow daily. Every rebuild is archived rather than overwritten – that is what makes issue-on-issue comparisons like Section Three possible. The full report ships the third week of each month.

## 8 – HONEST SCOPE

A record of **what the UK market paid, asked or budgeted** across the observation window – nothing more. Not a price recommendation, not a regulated benchmark, not financial advice. A legitimate gig can sit outside every range we print. Free to reuse under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0.

## SECTION THREE

# What changed in the June dataset

The pool stands at **4,036 approved observations**, up 189 on May – and for once the artist side drove it: the panel's 28 June snapshot delivered 154 stated rates against roughly 40 new agency listings.

SOURCE	OBSERVATIONS	SHARE	WEIGHT	NOTES
Agency rate cards	3,123	77.4%	0.48	Weekly re-scan: 3 UK agencies, 39 pages
Artist profile rates	262	6.5%	0.38	Monthly panel; weight raised May 2026
Post-event verified reports	195	4.8%	0.85	Artist-reported, matched to a real event
MU / Equity recommended	143	3.5%	0.60	Union floors, refreshed annually
Web-extracted rates	124	3.1%	0.35	Pulled from public pages, human-reviewed
Ticket-derived club estimates	123	3.0%	0.11	Four-archetype model, MVT-grounded
Venue gig budgets	40	1.0%	0.50	Captured when venues post budgeted gigs
Anonymous submissions	26	0.6%	0.16	Public form; rate-limited and reviewed

## THE FIREWALL WORKED IN PUBLIC THIS MONTH

Preparing this issue, our checks caught 25 rows with labels that should not exist: 20 filed under a gig-type name retired in April, 5 in the catch-all "other" bucket that had quietly formed a published cell. The 20 merged into pubs & bars; the 5 went back to review. And a promise note: May said the club economic model would run in shadow mode – its ticket-derived estimates instead entered the pool at the most cautious effective weight (0.11), and the published club figure is unchanged at £600.

## DEDUPLICATION AND RE-SIGHTING

A listing that survives week after week is information – the price is stable – but it must never count twice. When Monday's scan meets a listing it already knows, it bumps that observation's sighting counter instead of inserting a copy: 657 re-sights in the final June scan, none of them inflating the sample.

## EXTERNAL REFERENCES USED FOR REGIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

- ONS regional household income and family-spending data (latest releases).
- Music Venue Trust grassroots venue occupancy and capacity data (2025 survey).
- Public 2026 UK wedding and function-band price benchmarks.
- Help Musicians / Musicians' Union – Musicians' Census (~6,000 respondents).

## SECTION FOUR

# How we keep junk out

Every observation faces the same five gates whatever its source, and every rejection is logged with a reason – the audit trail is part of the product. June added a sixth story: the gates also run backwards, sweeping labels that predate the current rules out of publication.

**CHECK 1****Has the basics**

No amount, no source, no gig type – no entry. Incomplete rows are refused at the door, not patched later.

**CHECK 2****From a known source**

Only the vetted source list may write to the index, through a single ingest funnel. A new feed earns its place via a weighting review first.

**CHECK 3****Is an artist fee**

The database layer itself refuses ticket money, gear hire, licensing and door splits. Only pay to performers counts.

**CHECK 4****Passes the range check**

Each gig type carries per-musician-per-hour bounds: a £40 wedding quartet and a £20,000 pub solo both bounce automatically.

**CHECK 5****Not a duplicate**

Every observation is fingerprinted. A re-scanned listing bumps a sighting counter; it never becomes a second row.

**BONUS CHECK****Ticketed gig model**

Club fees are tested against a four-archetype room-economics model – ticket price, capacity, realistic occupancy from Music Venue Trust survey data, and the act's share of the door.

## ANONYMOUS SUBMISSIONS

Anyone who has played or booked a UK gig can report the fee at [gigxchange.app/rates](https://gigxchange.app/rates) – no account needed. Submissions are rate-limited, sanity-checked and human-reviewed before they touch a cell, entering at weight 0.16; match one to a confirmed event later and it graduates to 0.85. Three approved reports unlock every cell and trend line for 30 days.

## SECTION FIVE

# What this report is and isn't

## WHAT IT IS

A transparent record of fees actually paid, asked or budgeted on UK gigs, with every cell showing its sample size, sources and refresh date – and, as of this issue, a public record of the corrections we make to our own data.

## WHAT IT ISN'T

- **Not a recommended price.** We publish where the market sits, not where you should sit in it. Undercut or exceed any figure here with a clear conscience.
- **Not an official benchmark.** No industry body endorses or regulates these figures. Independence is the point.
- **Not financial advice.** Evidence in, decision yours.
- **Not the whole market.** Most UK gig fees are agreed privately and surface nowhere. An index can only weigh what it can see.

## WHAT'S STILL MISSING

- Confirmed platform bookings – the 1.00-weight gold standard – have yet to arrive in volume, so the index still leans on asking prices and listings more than settled fees. This is the single biggest thing that will sharpen it.
- The four city cells we promised in May (Nottingham and Sheffield corporate; Brighton and Edinburgh festival) did not reach the publication bar – see the coverage note in Section One.
- Festival and theatre remain the thinnest gig types; the 3-4-piece theatre cell rests on three observations and should be read as directional only.
- No genre-level cells yet – the tags exist on every observation, and publication waits on volume, not engineering.
- Scottish corporate and grassroots data still falls back to regional figures despite excellent wedding coverage in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

## FREE TO USE

The report, the live figures at [gigxchange.app/rates](https://gigxchange.app/rates) and the raw dataset are all published under **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0** – use them, republish them, build on them commercially, credit *"GigXchange Index, [gigxchange.app/rates](https://gigxchange.app/rates)"*.

## HELP SHAPE THE NEXT ISSUE

One real fee from one real gig beats a hundred scraped listings. Report yours anonymously at [gigxchange.app/rates](https://gigxchange.app/rates) – sixty seconds, no signup – and three reports unlock full granular access for 30 days.