

A GIGXCHANGE REPORT

UK Festival Season 2027

Of the 111 UK music festivals we track, 13 run over 30 July - 1 August 2027 - the busiest weekend in our calendar.

31 October 2026

111

FESTIVALS TRACKED

13

ON THE BUSIEST
WEEKEND

52%

START IN JULY OR
AUGUST 2027

84%

INDEPENDENT

SECTION ONE

The 2027 season at a glance

What the 111 UK music festivals we track with dates confirmed on their own website by 31 October 2026 tell us about when, where and for how long they run in 2027.

111

FESTIVALS TRACKED,
DATES CONFIRMED
ON THEIR OWN SITES

13

ON THE BUSIEST
WEEKEND (30 JULY -
1 AUGUST 2027)

52%

START IN JULY OR
AUGUST 2027

84%

INDEPENDENT (NOT
OWNED BY A BIG
PROMOTER GROUP)

GigXchange festival calendar, frozen 31 October 2026. Shares are of the 111 festivals we track, not of every UK festival.

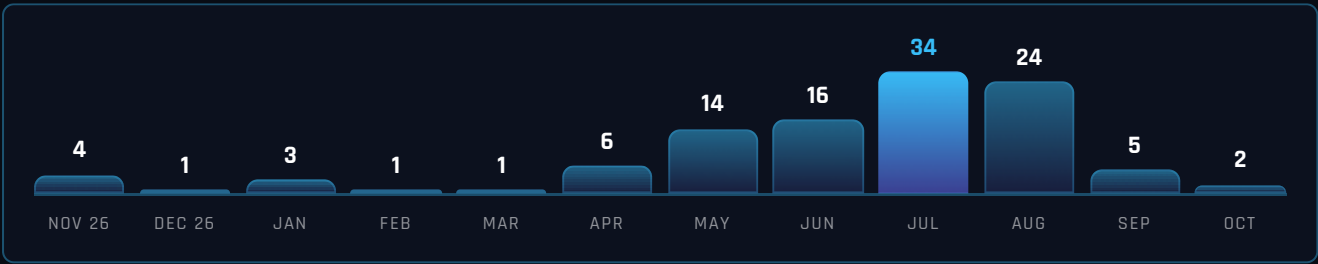
Of the 111 UK music festivals we track, 13 run over 30 July - 1 August 2027 - the busiest weekend in our calendar. 52% of the festivals start in July or August, and 67% between June and August. The season we track opens on 3 November 2026 and closes on 23 October 2027.

Every festival, with its dates, town and genre, is on our [UK festival calendar](#), which stays current through the season. This report is the fixed snapshot behind it: it does not change once published.

SECTION TWO

When the season peaks

July 2027 is the busiest month to start a festival; 30 July - 1 August 2027 is the busiest single weekend.



Why this table: the month a festival opens shows the shape of the season - when demand for acts, crews and kit builds, and when it falls away.

Counts and shares: the chart counts festivals; the table adds each month's share of the 111 we track, the figure to quote. Each festival counts once, so the shares add to 100% (give or take rounding).

FESTIVALS BY THE MONTH THEY START (111 TRACKED)

MONTH	FESTIVALS	SHARE
November 2026	4	3.6%
December 2026	1	0.9%
January 2027	3	2.7%
February 2027	1	0.9%
March 2027	1	0.9%
April 2027	6	5.4%
May 2027	14	12.6%
June 2027	16	14.4%
July 2027	34	30.6%
August 2027	24	21.6%
September 2027	5	4.5%
October 2027	2	1.8%

The takeaway: 52% start in July or August, and July 2027 alone is 31%, more than May and June together. Outside the summer it thins fast: 16 start between November 2026 and April 2027, and 7 in September and October 2027.

SECTION THREE

The busiest weekends

13 of the festivals we track run over 30 July - 1 August 2027; the next busiest weekend has 11.

Why this table: months hide clashes. Two festivals in the same month may never meet, but two on the same weekend compete for the same audience, acts and crews. A festival counts on a weekend when it runs on that Saturday or Sunday.

THE BUSIEST WEEKENDS OF 2027 IN OUR CALENDAR

WEEKEND	FESTIVALS	INCLUDING
30 July - 1 August 2027	13	Belfast TradFest, Kendal Calling, Camp Bestival, Valley Fest and 9 more
28 May - 30 May 2027	11	Manchester Jazz Festival, Bearded Theory, Knockengoroch, Orkney Folk Festival and 7 more
9 July - 11 July 2027	8	Ely Folk Festival, Mostly Jazz Funk and Soul Festival, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Henley Festival and 4 more
27 August - 29 August 2027	8	Creamfields, Reading Festival, Leeds Festival, Lost Village and 4 more
6 August - 8 August 2027	7	Bloodstock Open Air, Rebellion Festival, National Eisteddfod of Wales, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and 3 more

The takeaway: the pressure is on a handful of dates. 30 July - 1 August 2027 stands out with 13 festivals, and the late May bank holiday weekend is next with 11. In all, 11 weekends have five or more of the festivals we track running at once - so a fan choosing between two favourites, or an act hoping to play both, is most likely to hit a clash on one of these.

FOR PERFORMERS AND CREWS

On the busiest weekends, festivals compete for the same acts, crews and suppliers. If you work festivals, 30 July - 1 August 2027 is the weekend to have booked early.

SECTION FOUR

How long a festival lasts

The typical festival we track runs 4 days, counting the first and last day, and 4 days is the most common length.

Why this table: length decides what a festival asks of you - a day ticket and a train home, or a tent, time off work and a bigger budget. It also tells performers and crews how long a booking ties them up. Length is the published span of the event, including any arrival or warm-up day the festival lists as part of it.

FESTIVAL LENGTH, FIRST TO LAST DAY (110 OF THE 111 TRACKED)

LENGTH	FESTIVALS	SHARE
One day	8	7.3%
Two days	9	8.2%
Three days	32	29.1%
Four to five days	51	46.4%
Six days or more	10	9.1%

Belsonic is left out of this table: it is a run of separate show nights, not one continuous festival, so it has no single length.

The takeaway: the long weekend is the format of the festivals we track. 75% of those with a single span run three to five days, and only 17 run one or two. Read the short end with care: it reflects which events had confirmed their 2027 dates by the freeze date as much as the season itself.

SECTION FIVE

What kind of music

Folk is the most common tag in our calendar (38% of festivals), then indie and rock.

Why this table: genre is how most fans choose a festival, and how acts judge where they fit a bill. We tag each festival with up to two genres from its own description, so one can count under two.

FESTIVALS BY GENRE TAG (A FESTIVAL CAN CARRY TWO, SO SHARES ADD TO MORE THAN 100%)

GENRE	FESTIVALS	SHARE
Folk	42	37.8%
Indie	24	21.6%
Rock	23	20.7%
Pop	18	16.2%
Electronic	16	14.4%
Family	10	9%
World	9	8.1%
Alternative	8	7.2%
Jazz	8	7.2%
Metal	6	5.4%
New music	4	3.6%
Punk	4	3.6%
Soul	3	2.7%
Reggae	2	1.8%

The takeaway: folk leads clearly, with 42 festivals, while indie, rock and pop each sit between 16% and 22%. Read the mix as the shape of what we track, not of the whole UK festival market: the calendar only lists festivals whose 2027 dates are already confirmed.

SECTION SIX

Where the festivals are

The South West holds the most festivals in our calendar (18%); every UK nation and English region has at least one.

Why this table: where a festival is decides who can get there easily, and how far an act or crew travels to work it. We group festivals by UK nation and English region.

FESTIVALS BY NATION AND ENGLISH REGION (111 TRACKED)

NATION OR REGION	FESTIVALS	SHARE
South West	20	18%
Scotland	13	11.7%
South East	13	11.7%
North West	11	9.9%
West Midlands	10	9%
East of England	9	8.1%
East Midlands	8	7.2%
Wales	7	6.3%
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	6.3%
London	5	4.5%
Northern Ireland	5	4.5%
North East	3	2.7%

The takeaway: the South West leads with 20, ahead of Scotland and the South East, while London has only 5 in our calendar. These shares describe our coverage as much as the map, and a region with few entries may have festivals we have not yet confirmed. The calendar grows as dates are published.

Who owns them

84% of the festivals we track are independent; 18 are owned by a big promoter group.

Independent or owned by a big promoter group



93 independent · 18 major

The rule: a festival is "major" when a large promoter group owns it (for example Live Nation and its Festival Republic, Superstruct or CTS Eventim); every other festival, including charities, councils and family-run events, is independent.

Ownership is not always clear-cut, and we marked 4 with low confidence. Boomtown counts as independent: Live Nation, Gaiety and SJM bought a 45% stake in 2022 and the founders kept the majority ([Pollstar](#)). Camp Bestival, Y Not and Love Supreme count as major, though sources disagree on how much control their founders kept. Ownership changes hands often, so this is the position at the freeze date.

THE INDEPENDENT SQUEEZE

The Association of Independent Festivals counted 20 UK independent festivals cancelled, postponed or taking a fallow year in 2026 as of 10 June, a count so far rather than a full-year figure. Pollstar, which reported it, puts the UK-wide total at 43 festivals in 2025 and a record 78 in 2024 ([Pollstar](#)). A calendar of festivals still running cannot show that loss, so we quote it here.

SECTION EIGHT

Compared with their last edition

97 festivals could be compared with their last edition, read on an archived copy of their own website; 77 kept the same weekend.

Why this table: fans and acts plan around last year's dates, so the useful question is which festivals moved. We compare each festival with its own last edition, not the season as a whole.

HOW THE SAME FESTIVALS MOVED SINCE THEIR LAST EDITION (97 COMPARABLE)

CHANGE	FESTIVALS
Same weekend	77
A week earlier	2
A week later	17
A bigger move	1
Longer than last time	5
Shorter than last time	2
Same length	90

The takeaway: most festivals are creatures of habit - 79% of those we could compare kept their weekend, and 90 kept their length. A festival keeps its weekend when it plays a weekend its last edition played, 52 weeks on, even if it gained or lost a day. About half of the 17 that moved a week later (8) follow the late May bank holiday, which falls on 25 May in 2026 and 31 May in 2027; that weekend is the second busiest in our calendar.

One festival returns in 2027 after taking 2026 off: Glastonbury, after its planned fallow year.

This compares the same festivals with their own last edition. It cannot say whether the season grew or shrank, because a list of festivals still running leaves out those that stopped. We do not compare ticket prices: price tiers and what a ticket includes change from year to year.

SECTION NINE

How we built it

What is in the calendar, how each date was checked, and what the figures cannot tell you.

- **Who is in it:** UK music festivals we found through listings and news, kept only once their dates were read on the festival's own website. That makes it a tracked calendar, not a census of every UK festival.
- **Freeze date:** 31 October 2026. 106 festivals start in 2027 and 5 open the season in November and December 2026.
- **Counting rules:** a festival is counted once, in the month it starts; on a weekend when it runs on the Saturday or Sunday, so a programme that runs for several weeks counts on every weekend it spans; length counts the first and last day. Belsonic is a run of separate show nights, so it counts only on the weekends it plays and has no single length.
- **What counts as a music festival:** an event that calls itself a festival and puts live music at its centre, including a few mixed-arts and community festivals with a strong music programme.
- **Last edition:** read from an archived copy of the festival's own website (Internet Archive), never a listing site. It counts as last year's edition when it started 330 to 400 days before this one. A festival keeps its weekend when it plays a weekend its last edition played, 52 weeks on; one that spans two weekends keeps it if either matches. Otherwise a week earlier or later means a weekend 51 or 53 weeks on, and anything else is a bigger move. Left out of the comparison: festivals with no archived record (11), with incomplete dates (1), whose last edition was two separate legs (1) and returning from a year off (1).
- **No pay figures:** our GX Index does not yet hold enough festival fees to publish one. For what other gigs pay, see the [live GX Index](#).
- **Version:** calculation version 2. Corrections, if any, are listed with their date on the report's web page, [gigxchange.app/rates/reports/uk-festival-season-2027](#); the PDF is kept as issued.

PLAN YOUR SEASON

Every date, **kept current.**

This report is the snapshot. The festival calendar keeps every date, town and genre up to date through the season, with a planner for the weekends you want.



[GIGXCHANGE.APP/GIGS/FESTIVALS](https://gigxchange.app/gigs/festivals)

Free, no account needed. Every date on it is read on the festival's own website.

GIGXCHANGE

THE UK'S PEER-TO-PEER LIVE MUSIC MARKETPLACE