

UK Probate Statistics 2026

UK / England & Wales · Last updated June 2026

Around 239,000 grants of probate were issued in England & Wales in 2025, from roughly 243,000 applications. Waiting times improved markedly — the average time to issue a grant fell by three weeks to about five weeks as digital applications became the norm.

239,091 grants of probate issued (2025)	242,821 probate applications (2025)
~5 weeks average time to a grant	£300 probate application fee

What the data shows

Probate volumes remain high, with about 239,000 grants issued in 2025 — roughly 81% of all grants of representation (the rest being letters of administration where there was no will). After a difficult period of delays, the service has sped up: the Ministry of Justice reports the average time to issue a grant fell by three weeks during 2025 to around five weeks, helped by the shift to digital applications.

Timelines still vary widely. Clean digital applications can be issued in a couple of weeks, while those that raise queries can take far longer — and around one in three applications is returned for errors, the main avoidable cause of delay. Obtaining the grant is only part of the picture: administering a whole estate typically takes 9 to 18 months.

Key takeaways

- About 239,091 grants of probate were issued in England & Wales in 2025.
- Probate accounts for roughly 81% of all grants of representation.
- Average time to issue a grant fell by three weeks to around five weeks in 2025.
- Full estate administration still typically takes 9 to 18 months.

Sources

- Ministry of Justice — Family Court Statistics Quarterly (2025)
- GOV.UK — Probate service performance data
- GOV.UK — Applying for probate; Probate fees