# Lloyds plans to close nearly 300 branches by 2026 amid shift to digital banking



Lloyds Banking Group is undertaking a significant restructuring of its UK branch network, with plans to close nearly 300 bank branches by 2026. This wave of closures, impacting Lloyds, Halifax, and Bank of Scotland locations, reflects a broader industry trend driven by the shift in customer behaviour towards online and mobile banking.

In detail, the banking group announced it will shut 136 branches by March 2026, including 61 Lloyds, 61 Halifax, and 14 Bank of Scotland branches, with the initial phase of closures beginning in May 2025. This comes after previous rounds of shutdowns, adding to more than 254 closures already scheduled across 2025 and early 2026. In total, nearly 300 branches are expected to close over the span of two years.

The bank has cited a substantial decline in in-branch transactions as the primary motivator for these cuts. Over the past five years, transactions at affected branches have dropped by roughly 50 percent, signalling a clear customer preference for digital banking channels. Lloyds states that many of its customers prefer to conduct their banking online rather than visiting physical branches, prompting it to prioritise digital services.

Despite the reduction in physical locations, Lloyds has assured that these closures will not lead to job losses. Instead, affected employees will be offered alternative roles within the wider organisation, either at other branches or in different departments. This approach, the bank claims, seeks to balance cost-cutting measures with commitments to staff retention.

However, the decision has sparked concerns among consumer groups and analysts, particularly regarding the impact on vulnerable and elderly customers who may rely more heavily on in-person banking services. There is growing unease about the ability of these customers to access essential banking functions as branch numbers dwindle. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has introduced new rules intended to safeguard cash services, and banks including Lloyds have pledged to maintain access through initiatives such as banking hubs. Still, critics argue that more needs to be done to ensure adequate service provision across the UK.

Lloyds’ strategy mirrors similar moves by other major UK banks such as NatWest, Barclays, and Santander, which have also significantly reduced their physical branch footprints in recent years. Since 2015, over 6,000 bank branches nationwide have closed, reflecting a rapid transformation within the sector as it adapts to a digital-first world.

Ultimately, Lloyds Banking Group’s branch closures underscore a fundamental shift in the banking landscape, as the institution seeks to streamline operations in response to changing customer habits while facing the challenge of supporting diverse customer needs in a digital age.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/lloyds-bristol-cambridge-scottish-widows-b1252559.html), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/29/lloyds-halifax-bank-of-scotland-uk-high-street-branch-closures), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/sep/13/lloyds-plans-to-shut-another-55-bank-branches), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6275z006rjo), [[7]](https://www.gbnews.com/money/bank-branch-closures-lloyds-bank-2025)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/29/lloyds-halifax-bank-of-scotland-uk-high-street-branch-closures), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6275z006rjo), [[5]](https://www.pymnts.com/news/banking/2025/lloyds-shuttering-136-branches-amid-digital-banking-shift/), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/lloyds-halifax-bank-closures-full-list-b1220381.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/29/lloyds-halifax-bank-of-scotland-uk-high-street-branch-closures), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/sep/13/lloyds-plans-to-shut-another-55-bank-branches), [[5]](https://www.pymnts.com/news/banking/2025/lloyds-shuttering-136-branches-amid-digital-banking-shift/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.gbnews.com/money/bank-branch-closures-lloyds-bank-2025), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/lloyds-bristol-cambridge-scottish-widows-b1252559.html), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/29/lloyds-halifax-bank-of-scotland-uk-high-street-branch-closures)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.gbnews.com/money/bank-branch-closures-lloyds-bank-2025), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/lloyds-bristol-cambridge-scottish-widows-b1252559.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[7]](https://www.gbnews.com/money/bank-branch-closures-lloyds-bank-2025), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/29/lloyds-halifax-bank-of-scotland-uk-high-street-branch-closures)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/lloyds-bristol-cambridge-scottish-widows-b1252559.html), [[7]](https://www.gbnews.com/money/bank-branch-closures-lloyds-bank-2025)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/lloyds-bristol-cambridge-scottish-widows-b1252559.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/29/lloyds-halifax-bank-of-scotland-uk-high-street-branch-closures> - Lloyds Banking Group announced plans to close 136 UK high street branches, including 61 Lloyds, 61 Halifax, and 14 Bank of Scotland locations, by March 2026. This decision reflects a significant shift towards digital and mobile banking, with in-branch transactions declining by 48% on average over the past five years. The closures aim to align with evolving customer preferences for online banking services. Despite the branch reductions, Lloyds assured that there would be no job cuts, offering affected staff alternative roles within the company.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/sep/13/lloyds-plans-to-shut-another-55-bank-branches> - Lloyds Banking Group plans to close an additional 55 bank branches, bringing the total number of closures to nearly 300 by 2026. The affected branches, spanning Lloyds, Halifax, and Bank of Scotland brands, have experienced a 55% decline in transactions over the past five years. This move is part of a broader strategy to reduce costs and encourage customers to transition to digital banking platforms. The closures are not expected to result in job losses, with staff being offered alternative positions within the organization.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6275z006rjo> - Lloyds Banking Group is set to close 136 branches by March next year, citing a shift towards digital channels for everyday banking. The closures will affect 61 Lloyds, 61 Halifax, and 14 Bank of Scotland branches, with the process beginning in May. This decision follows a trend of reducing physical banking presence in favour of online services, as customer usage of in-branch facilities continues to decline.
5. <https://www.pymnts.com/news/banking/2025/lloyds-shuttering-136-branches-amid-digital-banking-shift/> - Lloyds Banking Group is closing 136 branches across the UK, including 61 Lloyds, 61 Halifax, and 14 Bank of Scotland locations, between May 2025 and March 2026. This decision aligns with the bank's strategy to adapt to the growing preference for digital banking services. Affected employees will be offered roles at other branches or within different areas of the business. The closures reflect a broader industry trend towards reducing physical banking infrastructure in favour of online platforms.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/lloyds-halifax-bank-closures-full-list-b1220381.html> - Lloyds Banking Group has announced further branch closures, adding to the 254 locations already set to shut down permanently this year. One Halifax branch is set to close in Cornhill, Lincoln in May, and a Lloyds branch will be closing in Bromford Lane, Hodge Hill, Birmingham, in the coming months. This means that a total of 116 branches will be closed in the next 12 months, according to a report by MoneySavingExpert. Up to 254 sites will be closed across 2025 and into the next year, as the bank looks to cut costs and digitise its services. Lloyds has blamed the decision to shut the branches on customers shifting away from banking in person to using mobile services.
7. <https://www.gbnews.com/money/bank-branch-closures-lloyds-bank-2025> - Customers of Lloyds Bank will have to contend with nearly 300 bank branch closures between this year. Lloyds Banking Group has confirmed it will close 292 branches between 2024 and 2025 in a move that will cause 'real concern for the vulnerable and elderly', according to analysts. Bank branch closures have ramped up in recent years with more than 6,000 sites shutting down since 2015, based on research conducted by consumer watchdog Which? High street banks are under pressure to improve their provision of cash services amid these shutdowns under new Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) rules. Multiple banks, including Lloyds, have pledged to offer services through the recently rolled out banking hubs but analysts are concerned not enough is being done. Among the other banking groups to shut down sites in recent years include NatWest, Barclays and Santander. The recently confirmed closures from Lloyds Banking Group will affect its Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland branches.