

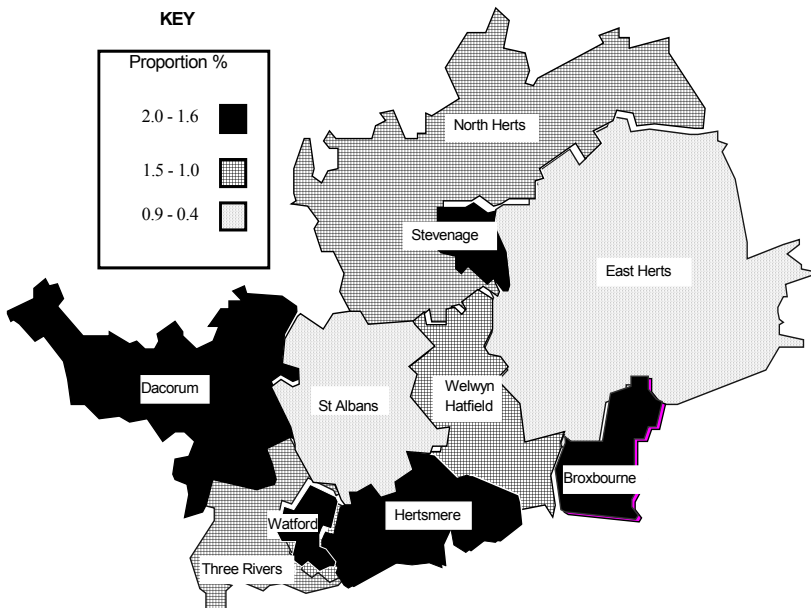
- The official unemployment rate for UK (using the ILO rate) is 4.7% for the period January - March 2004. A rate for Hertfordshire has, at present, been withheld but regional figures have now been released. See Appendix.
- Claimant count unemployment in Hertfordshire for April 2004 stands at 9,106 a proportion of 1.4%. (For an explanation of the new proportions compared to old unemployment rates see Appendix).
- During the last quarter there has been a slight decrease in claimant unemployed of 21 (0.2%).

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	APR 2004				MAR 2004				FEB 2004			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	642	328	970	1.8	631	327	958	1.8	649	345	994	1.8
DACORUM	1,053	419	1,472	1.7	1,051	411	1,462	1.7	1,077	408	1,485	1.7
EAST HERTS	499	188	687	0.8	500	189	689	0.8	502	210	712	0.9
HERTSMERE	661	244	905	1.6	706	261	967	1.7	699	248	947	1.7
NORTH HERTS	690	293	983	1.4	751	323	1,074	1.5	752	320	1,072	1.5
ST ALBANS	519	193	712	0.9	521	207	728	0.9	560	218	778	1.0
STEVENAGE	669	247	916	1.9	730	250	980	2.0	731	235	966	2.0
THREE RIVERS	435	165	600	1.2	418	162	580	1.2	427	160	587	1.2
WATFORD	686	277	963	1.9	687	263	950	1.8	713	265	978	1.9
WELWYN/HATFIELD	649	249	898	1.5	665	258	923	1.6	652	267	919	1.5
COUNTY	6,503	2,603	9,106	1.4	6,660	2,651	9,311	1.5	6,762	2,676	9,438	1.5

Not seasonally adjusted

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS
IN COUNTY = 9,106 (1.4%)**



- Although overall the number of unemployed claimants has fallen slightly since January 2004, this has not been reflected throughout the County.
- Six of the districts have had increases in the actual number of unemployed claimants, the largest of 52 being in Dacorum.
- During this period St Albans has had both the largest decrease in the number of unemployed, 106 and the largest percentage decrease of 13.0%.
- Since January 2004 the number of male unemployed claimants fell by 127 (1.9%), while the number of female claimants increased by 106 (4.2%).

Total Unemployed	APR 2004	APR 2003	APR 2002	Change 2002-2004 Nos	%
DISTRICT					
BROXBOURNE	970	851	841	129	15.3
DACORUM	1,472	1,438	1,191	281	23.6
EAST HERTS	687	749	683	4	0.6
HERTSMERE	905	870	754	151	20.0
NORTH HERTS	983	1,089	903	80	8.9
ST ALBANS	712	868	722	-10	-1.4
STEVENAGE	916	954	905	11	1.2
THREE RIVERS	600	690	654	-54	-8.3
WATFORD	963	947	950	13	1.4
WELWYN/HATFIELD	898	881	796	102	12.8
COUNTY	9,106	9,337	8,399	707	8.4

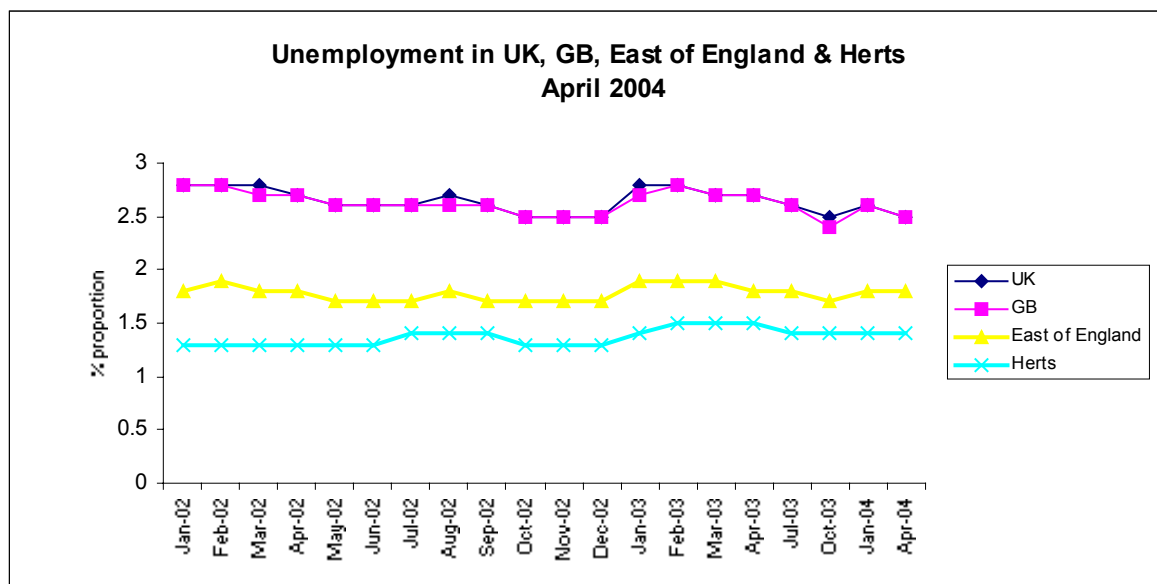
- Claimant unemployment in Hertfordshire has risen by 8.4%, 707 (claimants) since April 2002.
- Dacorum had the largest increase in the number of claimants during this period with 281 and the largest percentage increase of 23.6%.
- East Herts had the smallest increase in the number of claimant count unemployment (4) since April 2002.
- Two districts had a fall in the number of unemployed claimants during the same period, the largest of 54 was in Three Rivers and there was also a slight fall of 10 in St Albans

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- During the last quarter the number of unemployed claimants fell Nationally and Regionally.
- However, in the London Borough of Enfield, the number of claimant count unemployed increased by 200 since January 2004.
- Although the majority of Counties / Unitary Authorities surrounding Hertfordshire experienced falls in the number of unemployed, there has been increases in Peterborough (174) and Milton Keynes (91) during the same period.

April 2004 REGIONS	Nos Unemployed	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Nos Unemployed	% proportion
			LUTON	3,514	3.0
EAST OF ENGLAND	58,746	1.8	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,156	1.7
SOUTH EAST	75,330	1.5	MILTON KEYNES	2,889	2.1
GREATER LONDON	168,280	3.5	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,924	1.3
GREAT BRITAIN	873,535	2.5	PETERBOROUGH	2,282	2.3
UNITED KINGDOM	905,226	2.5	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,300	1.2
			SOUTHEND	2,703	2.9
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,055	2.3
BARNET	5,464	2.7	ESSEX (remainder)	12,670	1.6
ENFIELD	6,267	3.6	HERTFORDSHIRE	9,106	1.4
HARROW	3,078	2.3	NORFOLK	10,021	2.1
HILLINGDON	3,603	2.3	OXFORDSHIRE	4,190	1.1
			SUFFOLK	7,939	2.0

Not seasonally adjusted



LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There are 886 long-term unemployed (LTU) claimants in Hertfordshire, representing 9.7% of all unemployed, compared to 934, 10.2% in January 2004.
- The largest fall in the actual number of LTU claimants, of 26, has been in the 45-54 year old age group since January 2004.
- The only increase in the actual number of LTU claimants, of 12, was in the 55+ age group during this period.

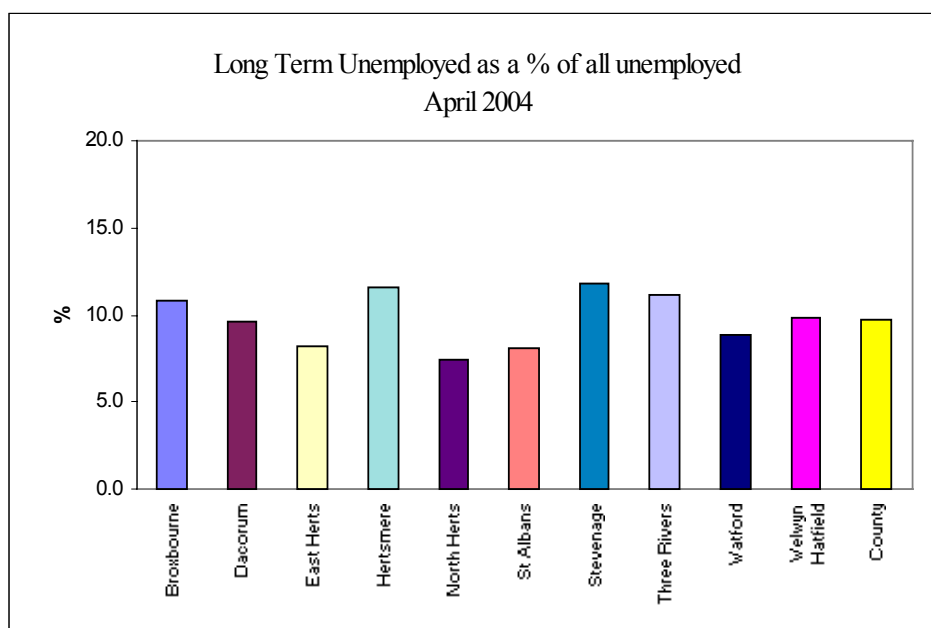
April 2004 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% of All Unemployed	April 2003	
					% of All Unemployed	Total
18 - 24	27	12	39	1.9	1.0	18
25 - 34	112	35	147	7.3	7.2	162
35 - 44	178	47	225	10.9	10.9	234
45 - 54	205	76	281	16.3	15.2	288
55+	154	40	194	20.4	17.5	175
TOTAL	676	210	886	9.7	9.4	877

Not seasonally adjusted

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS (LTU) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTU	% of all Unemployed
Broxbourne	3	78	81	1	23	24	105	10.8
Dacorum	5	105	110	2	29	31	141	9.6
East Herts	2	42	44	1	11	12	56	8.2
Hertsmere	9	67	76	5	24	29	105	11.6
North Herts	1	52	53	1	19	20	73	7.4
St Albans	3	40	43	1	14	15	58	8.1
Stevenage	0	83	83	0	25	25	108	11.8
Three Rivers	2	48	50	0	17	17	67	11.2
Watford	1	71	72	0	13	13	85	8.8
Welwyn Hatfield	1	63	64	1	23	24	88	9.8
County	27	649	676	12	198	210	886	9.7

Not seasonally adjusted



- The percentage of LTU in the County fell from 10.2% to 9.7% since January 2004.
- This has largely been reflected throughout the districts with the exceptions of East Herts and Stevenage where there were slight increases, 0.4% and 0.8% respectively.
- However, the largest percentage decrease of 2.4% was in Hertsmere during the last quarter.
- North Herts now has the lowest percentage of LTU, 7.4%, of all the districts.
- Stevenage is now the district with the highest percentage of LTU, 11.8%.

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY OCCUPATION *

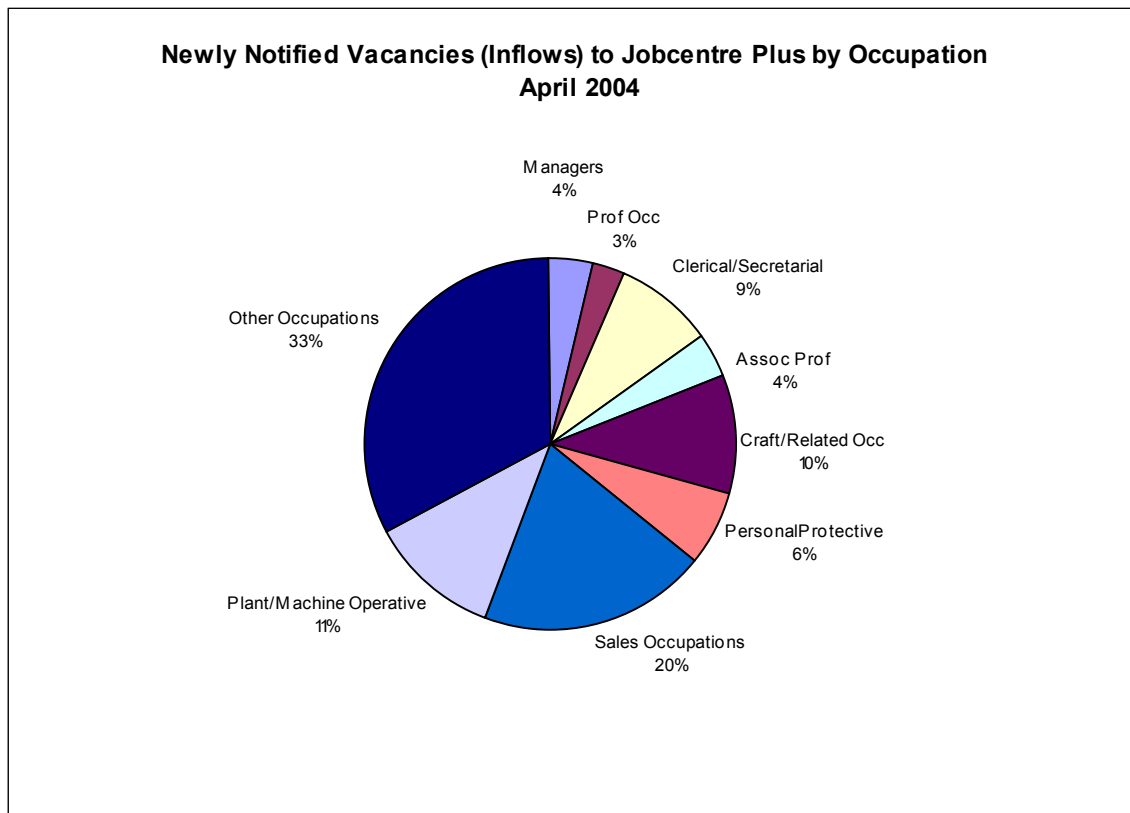
NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of occupational vacancies being notified.

- In Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) a total of 3,891 vacancies were notified during April 2004, this was an increase of 21.9% since April 2003.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire is within "Other Occupations" with 1,285 newly notified vacancies, which accounts for 33% of the total. Hemel Hempstead Jobcentre Plus had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 223.
- Overall the Watford Jobcentre Plus had the highest total of newly notified vacancies, 614.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2004 Total	Apr 2003 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	14	3	19	11	26	7	26	21	66	193	204	-5.4
Borehamwood	7	0	19	4	20	7	33	5	28	123	147	-16.3
Hertford	7	6	35	11	23	23	24	22	41	192	188	2.1
Hemel Hempstead	19	16	24	14	48	13	66	34	223	457	303	50.8
Hitchin	8	6	17	8	34	20	39	13	67	212	205	3.4
Hatfield	17	7	26	5	16	10	49	38	187	355	138	157.2
Letchworth	8	11	16	6	33	22	33	41	60	230	206	11.7
St Albans	9	16	24	27	35	28	46	48	107	340	350	-2.9
Stevenage	7	10	49	13	38	18	185	36	99	455	281	61.9
Watford	30	18	29	32	70	46	149	65	175	614	540	13.7
Waltham Cross	4	9	31	9	36	12	26	49	142	318	264	20.5
Welwyn Garden City	11	6	29	10	22	2	60	22	31	193	174	10.9
Stansted Airport	13	0	16	1	2	31	38	49	59	209	192	8.9
TOTAL	154	108	334	151	403	239	774	443	1,285	3,891	3,192	21.9

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data



Definitions of occupational sectors:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managers 2. Professional Occupations 3. Clerical / Secretarial 4. Associated Professional 5. Craft Related Occupations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Personal and Protective 7. Sales Occupations 8. Plant / Machine Operatives 9. Other Occupations |
|---|---|

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY INDUSTRY *

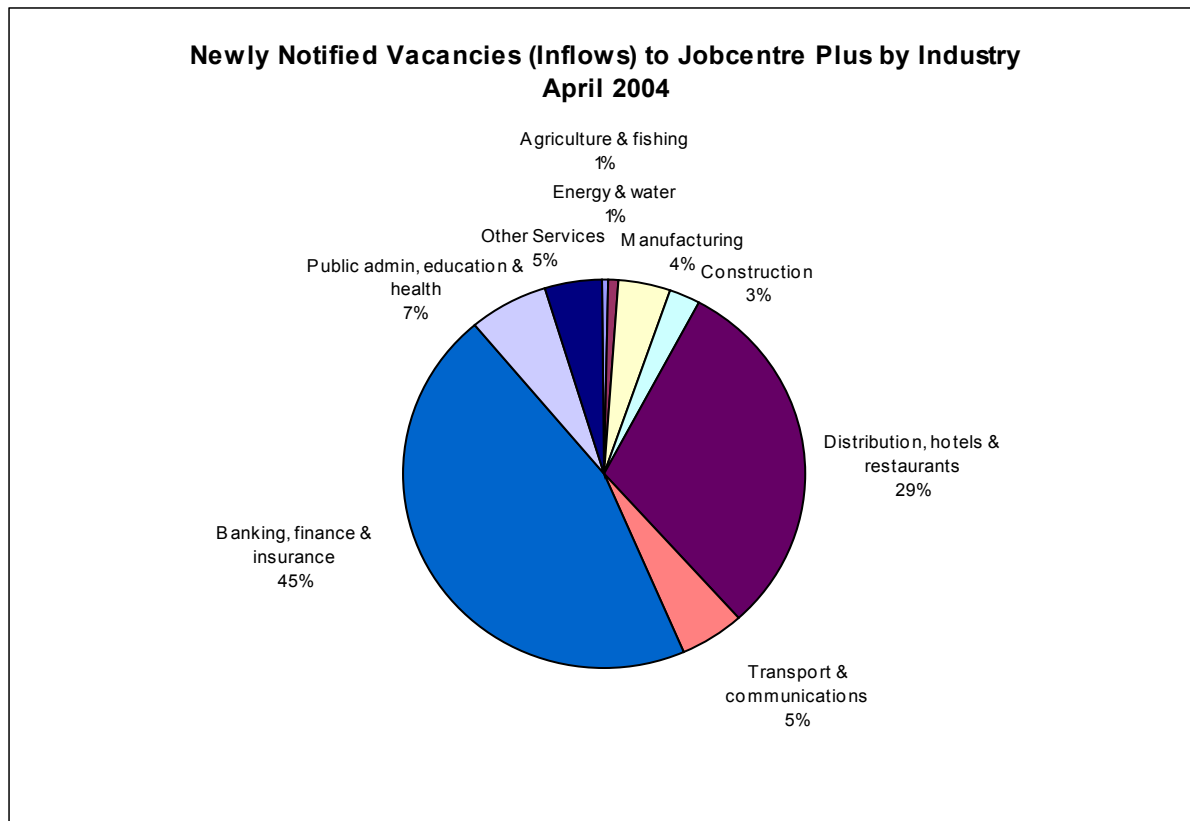
NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of industrial vacancies being notified.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is Banking, Finance and Insurance with 1,776 and accounts for 45% of the total.
- Watford Jobcentre Plus, with 264, has the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector.
- The Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector is the second largest in the County with 1,180 newly notified vacancies and together with the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector, accounts for 74% of vacancies.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2004 Total	Apr 2003 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	3	0	10	2	57	7	91	12	11	193	204	-5.4
Borehamwood	0	0	8	5	27	14	52	9	8	123	147	-16.3
Hertford	4	3	18	2	33	7	95	17	13	192	188	2.1
Hemel Hempstead	1	7	16	7	141	5	247	11	22	457	303	50.8
Hitchin	0	5	9	13	67	6	70	24	18	212	205	3.4
Hatfield	0	0	9	4	92	4	223	4	19	355	138	157.2
Letchworth	1	4	26	5	40	14	100	34	6	230	206	11.7
St Albans	2	6	8	6	98	12	159	32	17	340	350	-2.9
Stevenage	0	1	10	19	220	10	145	35	15	455	281	61.9
Watford	8	0	19	15	220	15	264	50	23	614	540	13.7
Waltham Cross	2	0	11	18	72	23	149	22	21	318	264	20.5
Welwyn Garden City	0	3	10	4	72	2	93	3	6	193	174	10.9
Stansted Airport	0	2	8	1	41	67	88	0	2	209	192	8.9
TOTAL	21	31	162	101	1,180	186	1,776	253	181	3,891	3,192	21.9

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data

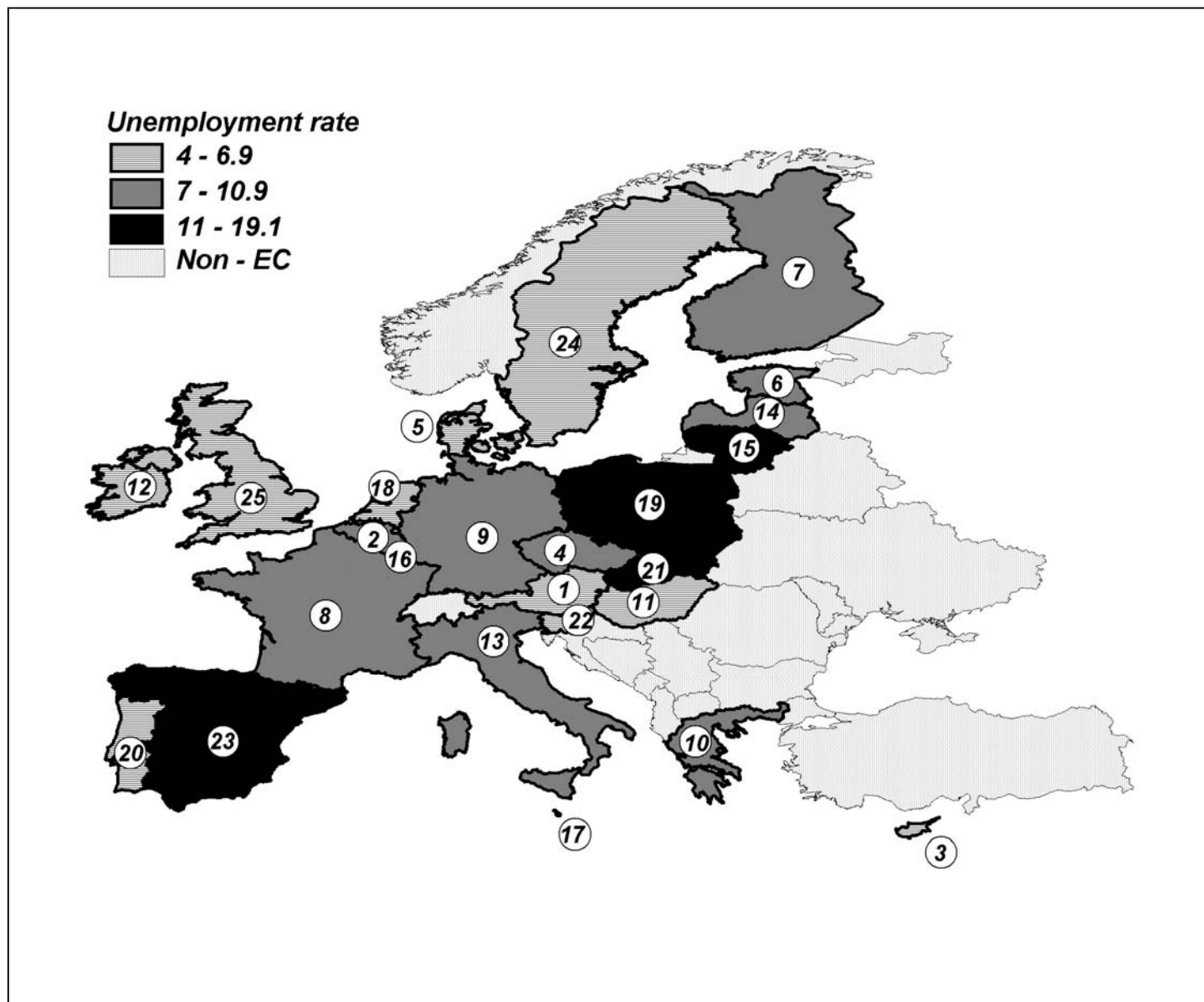


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agriculture and fishing 2. Energy and water 3. Manufacturing 4. Construction 5. Distribution, hotels and restaurants | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Transport and communications 7. Banking, finance and insurance, etc 8. Public administration, education and health 9. Other Services |
|---|--|

EUROPEAN UNION

- On 1st May 2004, 10 more countries became part of the European Union taking the total number of Member States to 25. These countries have been included in the table at the bottom of this page and a new map has been produced to incorporate the additional Member States.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - February 2004

Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.4	8. France	9.4	15. Lithuania	11.6	22. Slovenia	6.4
2. Belgium	8.5	9. Germany	9.3	16. Luxembourg	4.0	23. Spain	11.2
3. Cyprus	4.8	10. Greece	9.2**	17. Malta	8.8	24. Sweden	6.4
4. Czech Republic	8.2	11. Hungary	5.9	18. Netherlands	4.5*	25. United Kingdom	4.8*
5. Denmark	6.1*	12. Ireland	4.6	19. Poland	19.1		
6. Estonia	9.4	13. Italy	8.5*	20. Portugal	6.8	Union Average	8.0
7. Finland	8.9	14. Latvia	10.6	21. Slovakia	16.7		

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Jan 2004

** Sep 2003

The unemployment rates used are seasonally adjusted using a standardised ILO rate.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Overall unemployment in the Constituencies fell slightly during the last quarter. St Albans Constituency had both the largest actual decrease in the number of unemployed, 80, and the highest percentage decrease, 12.6%.
- However, several Constituencies had increases in the actual number of unemployed over the same period, the highest of 59 being in Watford.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of Unemployed	Unemployment % Proportion
	April 2004	April 2004
Broxbourne	997	1.8
Hemel Hempstead	1,174	2.0
Hertford & Stortford	538	0.8
Hertsmere	905	1.6
Hitchin & Harpenden	605	1.1
North East Hertfordshire	618	1.1
South West Hertfordshire	697	1.2
St Albans	555	1.0
Stevenage	996	1.8
Watford	1,150	1.8
Welwyn Hatfield	871	1.5

TOWN CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

This Table has been temporarily withdrawn to allow for re-calculating town figures using current ward boundaries.

Source: National Statistics (NOMIS)
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APPENDIX: A comparison between Unemployment Statistics

ONS Statement: "Better Jobless Data"

Following a recent quality review of its labour market statistics, the Office for National Statistics have implemented three of the most significant improvements recommended in the review.

1. **Labour Force Survey** - The monthly unemployment figures from the LFS, will be relabelled "unemployment" rather than "ILO unemployment". This will emphasise that the LFS figures provide the official, and only internationally comparable, measure of unemployment in the UK.
2. **Claimant Count** - Claimant count data will be continued to be published monthly to provide further information about the labour market, but these will not be presented as an alternative measure of UK unemployment.
3. **Claimant Count Rates** - Workplace-based claimant count rates for local areas will be withdrawn and replaced with resident-based claimant count rates for local areas as the proportion of the population of working-age resident in each area that are claimants. (See back page for details).

LFS: Labour Force Survey

ILO: International Labour Organisation

The tables below show quarterly national, regional and county unemployment figures from the Labour Force Survey. A full re-weighting of the LFS dataset is not available until further population estimates and projections are published in line with 2001 Census results.

Winter 2003/04 (Not seasonally adjusted)

All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total ¹			
United Kingdom ⁵	24,413	3,620	28,245	1,394	29,639	17,475
Great Britain	23,801	3,512	27,509	1,356	28,866	16,949
East of England	2,331	387	2,730	95	2,825	1,502
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
London	2,969	568	3,566	258	3,823	2,114
South East	3,428	584	4,044	159	4,203	2,207

All Persons	All aged 16 & over ²	Economic Activity rates (%) ³		Employment rate (%)	ILO Unemployment rate (%) ⁴
		all age 16+	16-59/64	16-59/64	all 16+
United Kingdom ⁵	47,114	62.9	78.5	74.7	4.7
Great Britain	45,815	63.0	78.7	74.9	4.7
East of England	4,327	82.1	65.3	79.4	3.3
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
London	5,937	75.3	64.4	70.1	6.7
South East	6,410	81.9	65.6	78.7	3.8

Source: "Labour Force Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2004.

NOTE: Estimates are presented for regions, counties, metropolitan districts and the 30 largest local authority districts (according to ONS estimates of resident population at mid -1992).

Sampling errors are proportionately greater the smaller the estimate. An estimate of 10,000 (the smallest released) has an approximate 95% confidence interval of +/- 4,000.

(1) Including people on government-supported training and employment programmes and unpaid family workers.

(2) Population in private households, student halls of residence and NHS accommodation.

(3) Total economically active as a percentage of all persons aged 16 and over.

(4) Total employed as a percentage of all economically active persons.

(5) Due to slight methodological differences between the way the national and regional LFS estimates have been interim adjusted for the 2001 Census, there may be small differences between the UK totals and the sum of the regional components.

A comparison between Unemployment Statistics

National Statistics publish two regular and complementary measures of unemployment. One is based on results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is a sample survey of Households in the United Kingdom; the other uses information on unemployment from the count of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

The different sources each have their own advantages and are useful in different circumstances. The following is a brief indication of advantages and disadvantages of each source.

Labour Force Survey: The LFS is very useful for providing an articulated view of the labour market on the basis of internationally agreed ILO concepts and definitions. The ILO definition draws in some people who are either ineligible for JSA or who choose not to register a claim. Examples include people whose spouses are working and do not qualify for benefit. The ILO definition is particularly useful for making international comparisons. Because the LFS is a sample survey, it is subject to sampling error and is therefore **limited in what is available at a local level ie district and below.**

Claimant count: The claimant count is a timely and regular indicator of the number claiming JSA. It is particularly useful as an up-to-date indicator of latest unemployment trends. Since it covers all those claiming benefits (as opposed to the LFS, which is only a representative sample) it is also able to **provide unemployment figures for very small areas.** The disadvantages of the claimant count are firstly; being an administrative by-product, the coverage of the count can change whenever there is a change to the benefit system upon which it is based, and secondly; it is not internationally comparable.

* Jobcentre Plus Vacancies

New monthly Jobcentre Plus notified vacancies (inflows) at national, regional and local level, with breakdowns by industry and occupation are available from 16 October 2002. These give data from June 2002 onwards. Note that these figures do not yet have National Statistics status.

The new data are not directly comparable with the previous data series available up to April 2001. Previous tables had shown stock of notified vacancies. Publication of Jobcentre Plus vacancy statistics was deferred from May 2001 onwards due to distortions in the data. These distortions resulted from the introduction of Employer Direct, which involved the transfer of vacancy taking from local Jobcentres to regional Customer Service Centres. Employer Direct has now been fully implemented and it has always been the intention to reintroduce appropriate series as soon as possible.

Changes in vacancy taking procedures as a result of Employer Direct have caused a substantial discontinuity in the notified series. Under new practices, more vacancies are recorded than under the previous system. This does not affect the service provided to employers or jobseekers, but means that the statistics give a more accurate reflection of the labour market.

In using these data it is important to acknowledge this step change in recording. Also, as well as reflecting the economic climate, the figures inevitably reflect any shifting market share of notified vacancies that Jobcentre Plus attracts. The propensity to notify vacancies to Jobcentre Plus is known to vary across occupational and industrial sectors, and there is likely to be considerable variation between areas.

Jobcentre Plus stocks and outflows data are still not being published at present. Further consideration is being given to the influences of changes in vacancy handling procedures, the susceptibility of the series to internal flows of administrative work and to a number of data quality issues.