



UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

QUARTERLY

APRIL 2007

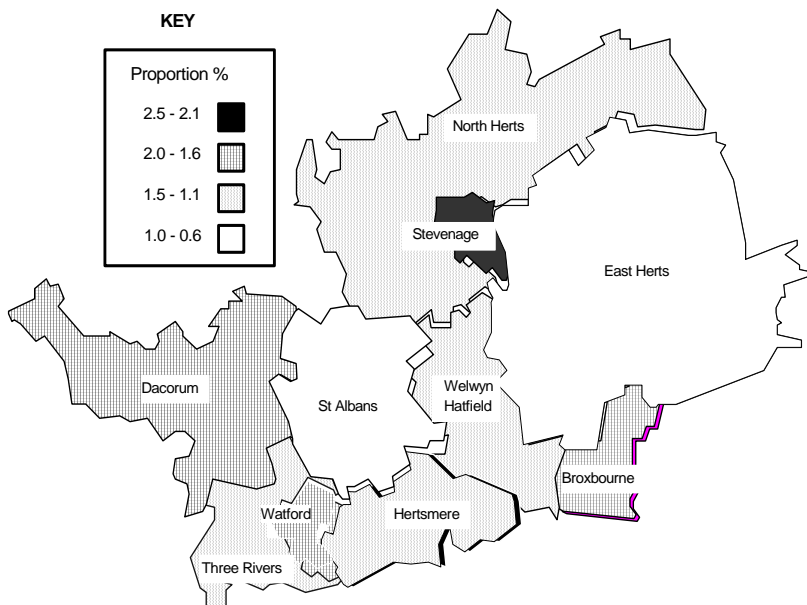
- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for UK and East of England, using the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate, was 5.5% and 4.7% respectively, for the three month rolling period of January - March 2007.
- A new provisional table showing Annual Population Survey Labour Market Summary data has been included at the end of this fact sheet.
- The claimant count (ie those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance) in Hertfordshire for April 2007 was 9,402, which gave a proportion of 1.5%.
- During the last quarter there was a decrease of 639 (6.4%) in the county claimant count.

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	APR 2007				MAR 2007				FEB 2007			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	661	314	975	1.8	686	305	991	1.9	698	312	1,010	1.9
DACORUM	1,033	458	1,491	1.7	1,122	485	1,607	1.9	1,151	493	1,644	1.9
EAST HERTS	502	253	755	0.9	531	256	787	1.0	574	253	827	1.0
HERTSMERE	608	260	868	1.5	651	266	917	1.6	661	279	940	1.7
NORTH HERTS	730	306	1,036	1.4	741	331	1,072	1.5	723	342	1,065	1.4
ST ALBANS	545	206	751	0.9	555	222	777	0.9	590	228	818	1.0
STEVENAGE	815	304	1,119	2.3	867	331	1,198	2.4	863	327	1,190	2.4
THREE RIVERS	381	180	561	1.1	436	179	615	1.2	435	163	598	1.2
WATFORD	678	254	932	1.8	734	284	1,018	2.0	736	279	1,015	2.0
WELWYN/HATFIELD	648	266	914	1.5	698	267	965	1.6	753	292	1,045	1.7
COUNTY	6,601	2,801	9,402	1.5	7,021	2,926	9,947	1.5	7,184	2,968	10,152	1.6

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 9,402 (1.5%)



- The overall number of claimants in the county decreased during the last quarter and this was reflected throughout the districts.
- The largest actual decrease, of 167, was in Dacorum, while the highest percentage decrease, of 12.5%, was in Welwyn Hatfield.
- Since January 2007 there was a larger decrease in the number of male claimants, by 522 (7.3%) compared to 117 (4.0%) females.
- The largest decreases of over 100 in the numbers of male claimants were 126 in Dacorum and 104 in Welwyn Hatfield.
- Stevenage remained the district with the highest proportion of unemployed, 2.3%.

Total Claimant Count	APR 2007	APR 2006	APR 2005	Change 2005 - 2007	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	975	1,114	949	26	2.7
DACORUM	1,491	1,694	1,368	123	9.0
EAST HERTS	755	811	655	100	15.3
HERTSMERE	868	954	907	-39	-4.3
NORTH HERTS	1,036	1,096	1,020	16	1.6
ST ALBANS	751	876	747	4	0.5
STEVENAGE	1,119	1,172	954	165	17.3
THREE RIVERS	561	628	605	-44	-7.3
WATFORD	932	1,062	956	-24	-2.5
WELWYN/HATFIELD	914	1,065	953	-39	-4.1
COUNTY	9,402	10,472	9,114	288	3.2

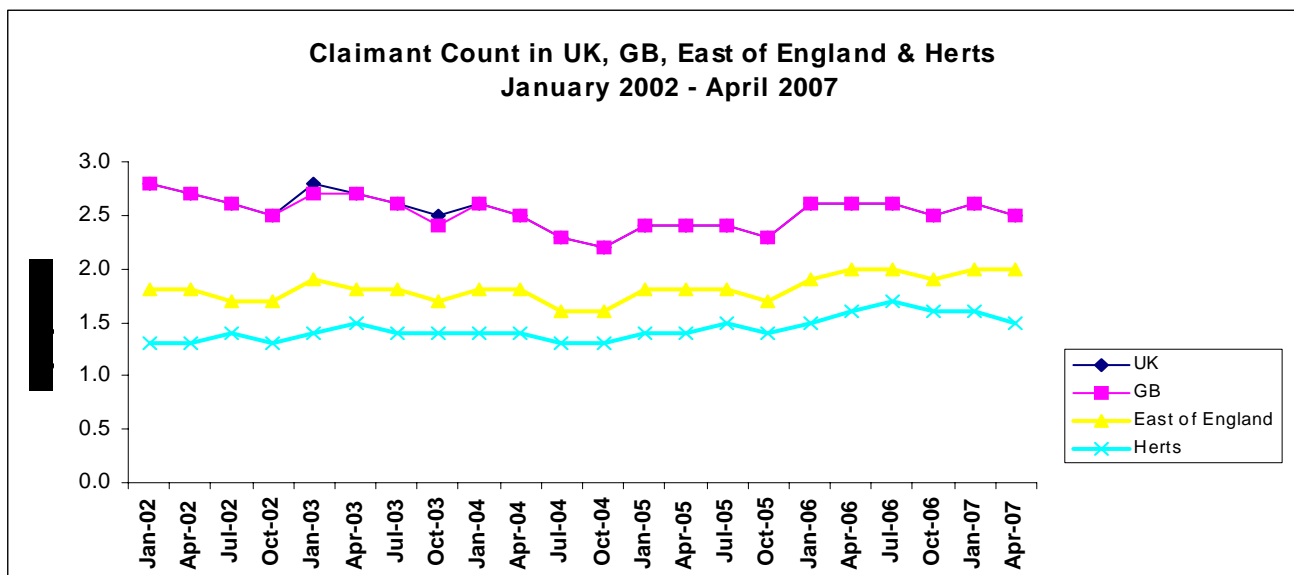
- Since April 2005 the claimant count in Hertfordshire increased by 288 claimants (3.2%).
- Stevenage had both the largest increase, of 165, in claimants and the highest percentage increase of 17.3% during this period.
- Between April 2005 and April 2007 St Albans had both lowest increases, in the number of claimants (4) and percentage increase (0.5%).
- During the same period Three Rivers had both largest decreases, in the number of claimants (44) and percentage decrease (7.3%).

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since January 2007 the claimant count decreased nationally and regionally. The South East Region decreased by 3,861 (4.7%) slightly more than the East of England with a decrease of 3,081 (4.5%).
- Peterborough was the only County / Unitary Authority to experience an increase in the number of claimants, 236 (7.3%) during the last quarter.
- During the same period Norfolk had both the largest decrease of 1,027 in the actual number of claimants and the largest percentage decrease of 8.2%.

April 2007 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	3,768	3.2
EAST OF ENGLAND	65,959	2.0	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,241	1.7
SOUTH EAST	77,854	1.6	MILTON KEYNES	3,160	2.2
GREATER LONDON	153,457	3.0	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,260	1.1
GREAT BRITAIN	893,329	2.5	PETERBOROUGH	3,453	3.5
UNITED KINGDOM	918,512	2.5	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	5,311	1.4
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	3,046	3.2
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,379	2.6
BARNET	4,544	2.1	ESSEX (remainder)	14,785	1.8
ENFIELD	6,057	3.4	HERTFORDSHIRE	9,402	1.5
HARROW	2,743	2.0	NORFOLK	11,446	2.4
HILLINGDON	3,309	2.0	OXFORDSHIRE	4,245	1.1
			SUFFOLK	8,128	2.0

Not seasonally adjusted



LONG TERM CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There are 1,360 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire, a proportion of 14.5% compared to 1,430, 14.2% in January 2007.
- There were decreases in the number of LTC in each age group during the last quarter. The largest, of 35, was in the 55+ age group.

April 2007 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% Proportion of all claimants	April	2006
					% Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	55	25	80	3.2	3.0	80
25 - 34	205	45	245	12.3	9.3	210
35 - 44	265	60	325	16.0	12.1	275
45 - 54	300	130	430	23.4	16.7	340
55+	205	75	280	28.7	24.6	260
TOTAL	1,025	335	1,360	14.5	11.1	1,165

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)
Column totals may not sum due to rounding

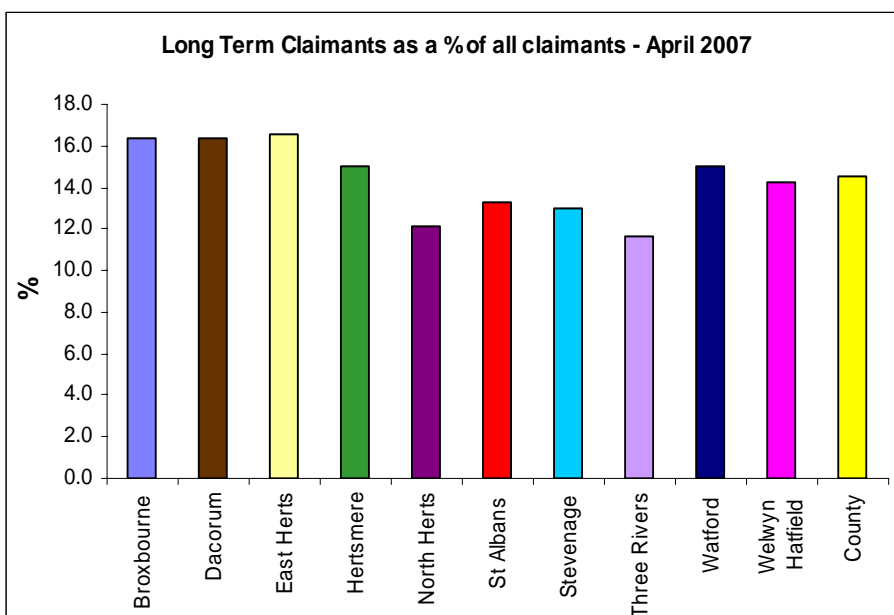
Not seasonally adjusted

LONG TERM CLAIMANTS (LTC) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTC	% of all claimants
Broxbourne	10	110	120	5	40	45	160	16.4
Dacorum	10	180	190	5	50	55	245	16.4
East Herts	5	85	90	5	30	35	125	16.6
Hertsmere	0	90	90	0	35	35	130	15.0
North Herts	0	85	85	5	35	40	125	12.1
St Albans	5	75	80	0	20	20	100	13.3
Stevenage	5	105	110	0	30	30	145	13.0
Three Rivers	5	40	45	0	20	20	65	11.6
Watford	10	100	110	5	25	30	140	15.0
Welwyn Hatfield	5	95	100	0	30	30	130	14.2
County	55	970	1,025	25	310	335	1,360	14.5

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)
Column totals may not sum due to rounding

Not seasonally adjusted



- Since January 2007 the actual number of LTC in the county decreased by 70 but as a percentage of all claimants this resulted in a slight increase of 0.3%.
- The largest decrease in the number of LTC was by 20 in Watford and together with Welwyn Hatfield had the highest percentage decrease of 1.3%.
- The highest increases in both number of LTC and percentage was in North Herts, by 15 and 1.8% respectively.
- The lowest percentage of LTC was 11.6% in Three Rivers.
- East Herts, with 16.6% had the highest percentage of LTC in the county.

NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

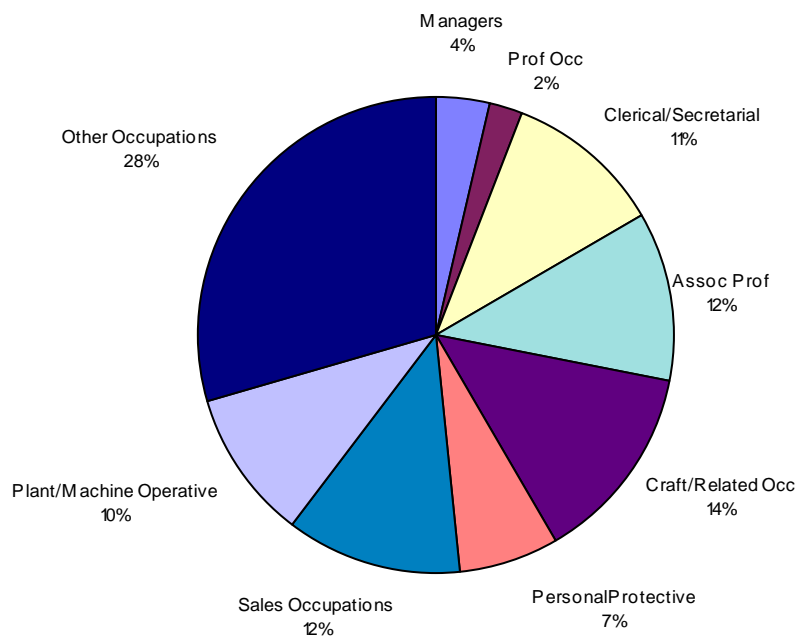
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- In Hertfordshire there was a total of 5,457 live unfilled vacancies during April 2007, this was an increase of 34.1% since April 2006.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within "Other Occupations" with 1,605 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 28% of the total. Dacorum had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 287.
- Overall Dacorum had the highest total of live unfilled vacancies, 1,122.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2007 Total	Apr 2006 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	6	0	21	24	38	3	33	87	86	298	245	21.6
Dacorum	22	17	206	189	148	53	126	74	287	1,122	482	132.8
East Hertfordshire	19	14	42	54	83	46	60	51	180	549	470	16.8
Hertsmere	15	7	45	51	61	34	93	31	137	474	338	40.2
North Hertfordshire	10	14	40	53	90	16	51	72	91	437	468	-6.6
St Albans	25	12	64	76	105	32	42	45	274	675	401	68.3
Stevenage	42	25	24	46	62	10	95	73	165	542	592	-8.4
Three Rivers	10	12	24	4	23	44	48	7	44	216	191	13.1
Watford	28	13	69	90	72	107	81	62	82	604	489	23.5
Welwyn Hatfield	27	6	45	41	58	15	32	57	259	540	393	37.4
TOTAL	204	120	580	628	740	360	661	559	1,605	5,457	4,069	34.1

**New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Occupation
April 2007**



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 |
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NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

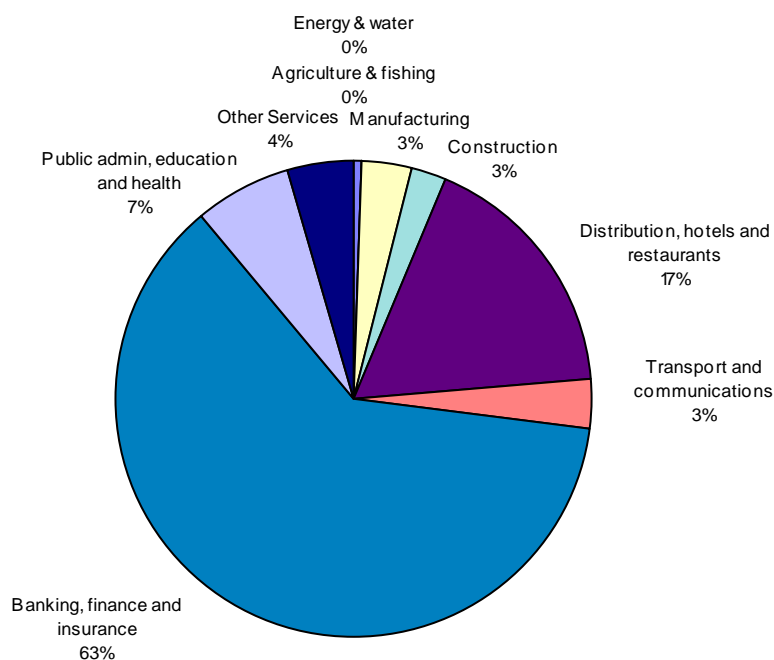
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire was Banking, Finance and Insurance with 3,384 and represented 63% of the total.
- Dacorum, with 784, had the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector.
- The second largest sector was Distribution, hotels and restaurants with 941 vacancies.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2007 Total	Apr 2006 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	0	0	17	11	45	8	190	13	14	298	245	21.6
Dacorum	5	0	19	26	170	18	784	42	58	1,122	482	132.8
East Hertfordshire	4	0	34	12	113	18	334	12	22	549	470	16.8
Hertsmere	2	3	17	7	79	22	291	26	27	474	338	40.2
North Hertfordshire	3	0	28	21	68	12	241	40	24	437	468	-6.6
St Albans	2	0	23	27	184	32	324	39	44	675	401	68.3
Stevenage	0	0	11	5	84	34	361	28	19	542	592	-8.4
Three Rivers	0	0	3	1	20	5	163	18	6	216	191	13.1
Watford	0	0	18	15	102	19	312	123	15	604	489	23.5
Welwyn Hatfield	7	0	10	17	76	17	384	16	13	540	393	37.4
TOTAL	23	3	180	142	941	185	3,384	357	242	5,457	4,069	34.1

New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Industry April 2007



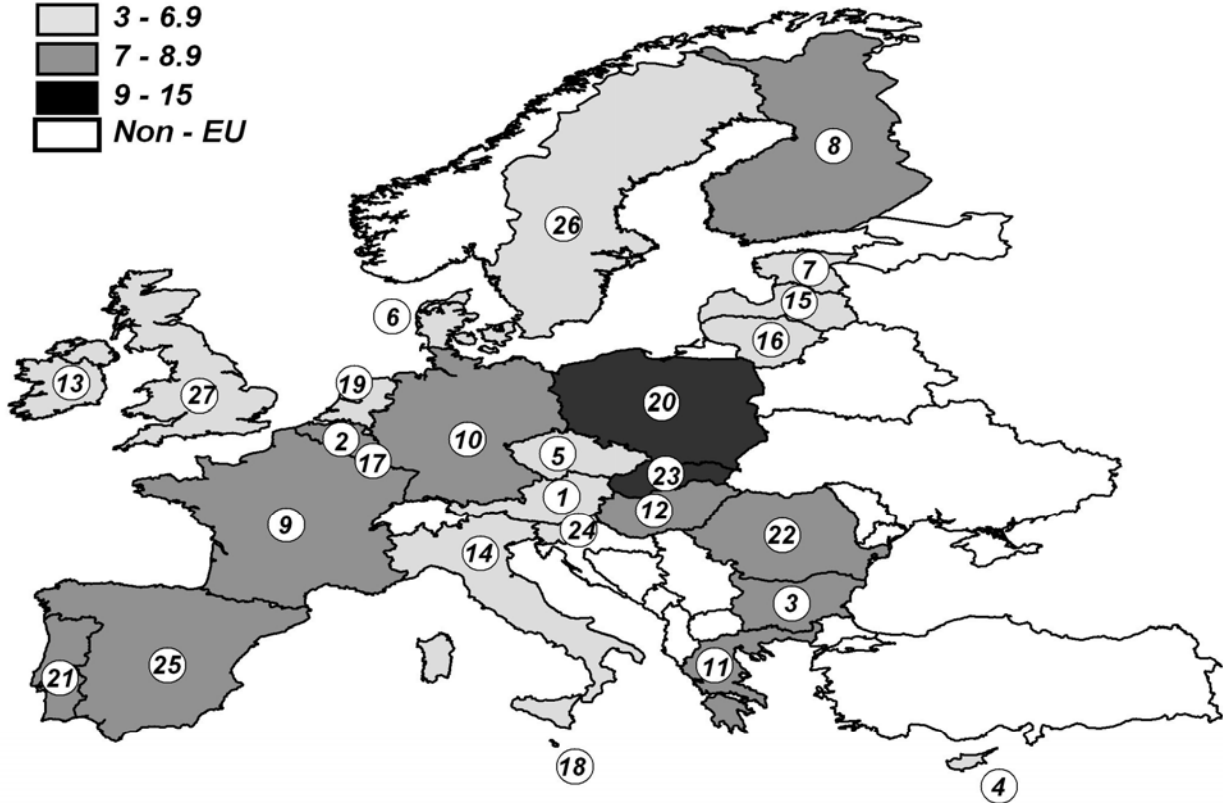
Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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

- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the European Union (EU) stood at 7.4% in February 2007, a fall of 0.3% since November 2006.
- Since becoming part of the EU in January 2007 the unemployment rate in Bulgaria rose by 0.2% but in Romania it fell by 0.6%.
- The unemployment rate in Poland fell by 1.8% since November 2006 but continued to have the highest unemployment rate in the EU at 11.8%.
- During the last quarter the unemployment rate fell in 17 of the 27 countries in the EU. Two countries had decreases of over 1%; Poland (1.8%) and Slovakia (1.3%).
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 10 of the EU countries. The largest increase of 0.4% was in Estonia, Portugal and Sweden.

Unemployment rate



Unemployment rates for the European Union - February 2007

Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.5	8. Finland	7.0	15. Latvia	5.8	22. Romania	7.3
2. Belgium	7.7	9. France	8.8	16. Lithuania	5.7	23. Slovakia	11.0
3. Bulgaria	8.2	10. Germany	7.1	17. Luxembourg	5.0	24. Slovenia	4.7
4. Cyprus	4.5	11. Greece	**8.6	18. Malta	6.7	25. Spain	8.6
5. Czech Republic	6.4	12. Hungary	7.9	19. Netherlands	3.5	26. Sweden	6.7
6. Denmark	3.4	13. Ireland	4.4	20. Poland	11.8	27. United Kingdom	*5.4
7. Estonia	4.9	14. Italy	**6.5	21. Portugal	7.5	Union Average	7.4

Source: Economic and Labour Market Review - May 2007

* Dec 2006

** 2006 Quarter 4

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Since January 2007 the claimant count in all but one of the Constituencies across the county decreased. The largest decreases were in Hemel Hempstead and Welwyn Hatfield, with 144 and 128 respectively.
- The North East Hertfordshire Constituency experienced a slight increase of 4 during the same period.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	April 2007	April 2007
Broxbourne	994	1.7
Hemel Hempstead	1,244	2.1
Hertford & Stortford	608	1.0
Hertsmere	868	1.5
Hitchin & Harpenden	579	1.1
North East Hertfordshire	704	1.3
South West Hertfordshire	647	1.1
St Albans	597	1.1
Stevenage	1,190	2.1
Watford	1,076	1.6
Welwyn Hatfield	895	1.6

JOB DENSITIES

NOTES:

- Job density is defined as the number of filled jobs in an area divided by the working-age population resident in that area. High job densities are where there is at least one job for every working-age resident.
- Annual job density is a local area labour market indicator. On the demand side of the labour market are the numbers of jobs and vacancies in an area. Job density is a labour demand indicator; employment and unemployment rates are measures of labour supply.
- Whilst areas with relatively high job densities clearly offer potential job opportunities for residents in the area, it may be the case that there is a mismatch between the type of jobs in an area and the skills of the people living there. In such cases both inward and outward commuting may occur. Job densities must be considered along with other labour market indicators in order to make an overall assessment of local area labour market conditions.

Area	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Broxbourne	0.72	0.76	0.79	0.72	0.66	0.67
Dacorum	0.86	0.85	0.88	0.89	0.89	0.90
East Hertfordshire	0.81	0.78	0.84	0.88	0.80	0.81
Hertsmere	0.93	0.89	0.95	0.98	1.14	0.98
North Hertfordshire	0.85	0.83	0.82	0.80	0.82	0.78
St Albans	0.88	0.84	0.82	0.79	0.86	0.83
Stevenage	1.02	1.00	1.00	0.90	0.93	0.98
Three Rivers	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.74	0.72
Watford	1.14	1.11	1.11	1.25	1.25	1.27
Welwyn Hatfield	1.14	1.18	1.09	1.13	1.11	1.10
Hertfordshire	0.90	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.91	0.89
East of England	0.82	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.80
Great Britain	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82
United Kingdom	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82

- The number of jobs per person of working age increased slightly in Hertfordshire from 0.89 in 2004 to 0.90 in 2005 and there have been similar increases in the rest of the country. The UK now stands at 0.84 and East of England 0.82.
- Against this trend were falls in the number of jobs per person in Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield between 2004 and 2005. Broxbourne fell from 0.76 to 0.72 and Welwyn Hatfield although still high, fell from 1.18 to 1.14.

TOWN CLAIMANT COUNT

Claimant count ranked in descending order by % Proportion

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANTS April 2007	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	150	3.7
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	504	2.5
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,160	2.3
4	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	224	2.3
5	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,119	2.3
6	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	460	2.0
7	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	370	1.9
8	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	356	1.8
9	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	474	1.8
10	Hitchin	North Herts	328	1.7
11	Watford	Watford	979	1.7
12	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	140	1.5
13	Baldock	North Herts	86	1.4
14	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	179	1.4
15	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	132	1.3
16	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	71	1.2
17	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	148	1.2
18	Hertford	East Herts	172	1.1
19	St Albans	St Albans	473	1.1
20	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	219	1.0
21	Bushey	Hertsmere	109	1.0
22	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	105	1.0
23	Ware	East Herts	114	1.0
24	Tring	Dacorum	62	0.8
25	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	53	0.7
26	Radlett	Hertsmere	43	0.7
27	Royston	North Herts	69	0.7
28	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	31	0.6
29	Harpenden	St Albans	89	0.5

* Proportions for wards have been calculated using the mid-2001 resident working age population, by ONS.

NB: The town claimant count statistics have been revised to take into account new town definitions resulting from the 2001 Census.

This dataset cannot, therefore, be compared to town claimant count statistics before April 2004. However, revised figures for April and July 2004 have been calculated and can be found in the October 2004 bulletin.

- Waltham Cross continued to have the highest proportion of claimant count in the county, 3.7%.
- 20 of the main towns in the county experienced decreases in the numbers of claimant count since January 2007. Watford with 138 had the largest decrease in the actual number of claimants and Ware had the highest percentage decrease of 17.4%.
- During the same period, although eight of the main towns had increases in the number of claimants they were very small. The largest increase was by 19 in Waltham Cross, while Chorleywood had the highest percentage increase of 19.2%, albeit from a relatively small base.

Source: National Statistics (NOMIS) © Crown Copyright 2007



LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY

The Annual Population Survey was introduced in January 2004. Its aim is to provide a single annual local area database with better quality data on key social and socio-economic indicators. The new survey of approximately 65,000 achieved household interviews a year will combine with the Labour Force Survey for an enhanced annual database. This will cover a target sample in England of at least 500 economically active persons for each Unitary Authority / Local Authority district and at least 450 economically active persons in Greater London.

Annual Population Survey - Local Labour Market Summary

October 2005 to September 2006

Not seasonally adjusted

	Employment ⁽¹⁾		Unemployment ⁽²⁾		Economically inactive ⁽¹⁾		mid-2005 Population ⁽⁴⁾
	Total 16+ (000s)	16-59/64 Rate (%)	Total 16+ (000s)	Rate (%) ⁽³⁾	Total 16- 59/64 (000s)	16-59/64 Rate (%)	16-59/64 (000s)
United Kingdom	28,165	73.9	1,582	5.4	7,970	21.8	37,368
East of England	2,706	77.2	129	4.6	635	19.0	3,380
South East	4,115	78.6	190	4.4	896	17.8	5,011
London	3,445	68.3	295	7.9	1,247	25.7	5,035
Hertfordshire	536	79.1	n/a	n/a	109	16.8	647
Broxbourne	44	76.8	2	5.2	8	15.0	53
Dacorum	78	85.0	3	3.9	11	12.3	85
East Herts	69	78.8	3	3.5	14	17.4	82
Hertsmere	47	76.9	2	3.9	12	21.0	57
North Herts	61	77.5	3	4.3	13	17.3	74
St. Albans	67	79.0	2	3.2	15	18.8	83
Stevenage	39	74.8	2	5.3	9	18.7	49
Three Rivers	40	76.9	2	4.3	9	17.7	51
Watford	45	84.9	2	4.1	7	12.4	51
Welwyn Hatfield	47	77.7	2	4.4	11	18.5	62

Source: "Annual Population Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2007. First Release - East / South East / London (Table 12)

- (1) Annual Population Survey (APS) data. The APS is a survey of the population of private households, student halls of residence and NHS accommodation. The APS data used here are consistent with population estimates released in February 2003, not the latest revised population estimates.
- (2) Model-based estimates of unemployment. (See notes below)
- (3) Unemployment rates are calculated as a percentage of the 16+ economically active population.
- (4) Official estimates of the resident population.

Model-based estimates of unemployment:

"For estimates of unemployment for local areas, however, even the Annual Population Survey does not have a sufficiently large sample to provide estimates for all areas. For this reason a statistical model has been developed to improve the annual LFS / APS estimates for unemployment for small areas by using supplementary information, mainly numbers of claimants of Jobseekers' Allowance (the claimant count). More information on the model-based estimates can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LALM_Briefguide.pdf.

A detailed user guide can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/User_Guide.pdf "

(Source: First Release Labour Market Statistics - November 2006: East)

Appendix

A comparison between Unemployment Indicators

National Statistics publish two regular and complementary measures which give indications as to the level of unemployment. One is the official estimate of unemployment based on results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is a sample survey of Households in the United Kingdom; the other is simply a compilation of the numbers 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 (LFS): Unemployment statistics from the LFS are based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition which is a 'Count of jobless people who want to work, are available to work and are actively seeking employment' (ONS Guide to Measuring the Jobless). 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 although it is subject to sampling differences.

The Annual Population Survey is major new survey, which comprises key variables from the LFS and is designed to produce reliable estimates at local authority level, including topics covering; employment, health, ethnicity etc. Data will be published quarterly, but with each publication including a year's data.

Claimant count: The claimant count is a timely and regular (monthly) 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 figures below local authority level**. The disadvantages of the claimant count are; firstly, that it excludes substantial numbers of unemployed (principally the spouses of those in work and many young people not entitled to JSA); secondly, 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 thirdly; it is not internationally comparable.

JSA is a benefit for unemployed people or those working less than 16 hours a week and who are looking for full-time work. There are different types of JSA depending on whether claimants satisfy the National Insurance contributions conditions, pass the means test or are claiming as part of a couple. There are also strict criteria that must be met in respect of the claimant's labour market activity.

Jobcentre Plus Vacancies

Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data.

The Jobcentre Plus vacancies data is now being restored by the Department for Work and Pensions to provide an insight into Jobcentre Plus performance. The statistics will, however, not be reinstated in the ONS First Release by the National Statistician because of concerns over their appropriateness as a labour market indicator.

Vacancy data being restored includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Data are now also available by standard geographic areas such as: local authorities, wards, super output areas / data zones and parliamentary constituencies and have the added benefit of giving information on the true location of the vacancies, as the postcode of the vacancy is used to determine its location, rather than allocated to the Jobcentre dealing with the vacancy.

The main use of these new figures is for cross-sectional analysis of vacancies as an indicator of the type of jobs currently available, e.g. by occupation or local area; rather than absolute measures of the number of vacancies or changes over time and may not indicate changes in labour demand.

For further information of Jobcentre Plus vacancy statistics please refer to - Labour Market Trends, June 2005 pp 253-259.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMT_June_05.pdf