



UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

QUARTERLY

APRIL 2008

- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for UK and East of England, using the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate, was 5.2% and 4.5% respectively, for the three month rolling period of January - March 2008.
- A 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 2008 was 8,294 which gave a proportion of 1.3%.
- During the last quarter there was an increase of 304 (3.8%) in the county claimant count.

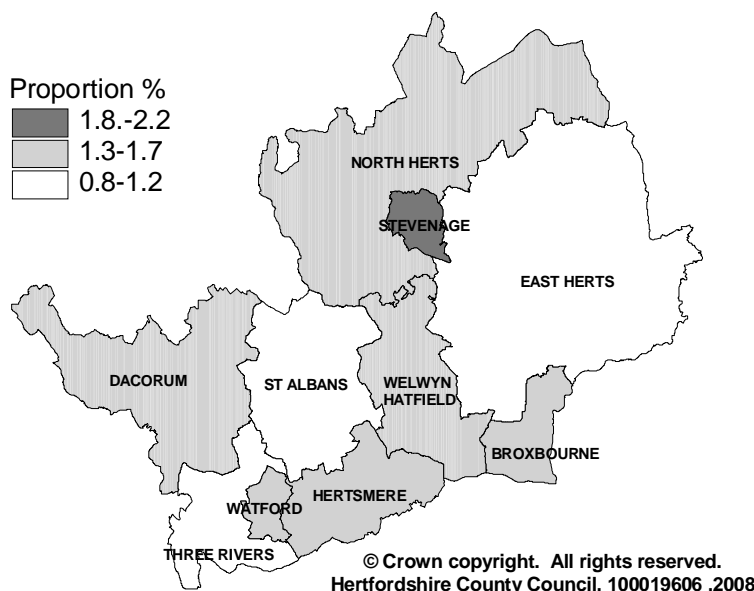
CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	APR 2008				MAR 2008				FEB 2008			
	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*
BROXBOURNE	558	278	836	1.5	561	276	837	1.5	567	267	834	1.5
DACORUM	902	373	1,275	1.5	899	370	1,269	1.5	875	359	1,234	1.4
EAST HERTS	468	210	678	0.8	501	215	716	0.9	497	227	724	0.9
HERTSMERE	535	223	758	1.3	532	204	736	1.3	550	221	771	1.3
NORTH HERTS	684	251	935	1.3	686	240	926	1.2	697	251	948	1.3
ST ALBANS	485	200	685	0.9	492	218	710	0.9	454	206	660	0.8
STEVENAGE	802	246	1,048	2.1	797	247	1,044	2.1	777	240	1,017	2.0
THREE RIVERS	301	145	446	0.9	339	138	477	0.9	330	127	457	0.9
WATFORD	516	200	716	1.4	545	215	760	1.5	528	216	744	1.4
WELWYN/HATFIELD	658	259	917	1.4	650	253	903	1.4	657	265	922	1.4
COUNTY	5,909	2,385	8,294	1.3	6,002	2,376	8,378	1.3	5,932	2,379	8,311	1.3

* Proportions for dates from 2007 onwards are calculated using the 2006 resident working age population

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 8,294 (1.3%)



- Since January 2008 the overall number of claimants in the county increased which was reflected in the majority of the districts.
- Stevenage had the largest actual increase, of 113, and the highest percentage increase of 12.1%.
- Three of the districts had small decreases during the last quarter the largest, of 22, was in Three Rivers.
- Both male and female claimant numbers in Hertfordshire rose during the same period. Male claimants had the largest actual increase, of 191, while female claimants had the highest percentage increase, of 5.0%.
- Stevenage remains the district with the highest rate of unemployment, with 2.1%.

Total Claimant Count	APR 2008	APR 2007	APR 2006	Change 2006 - 2008	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	836	975	1,114	-278	-25.0
DACORUM	1,275	1,491	1,694	-419	-24.7
EAST HERTS	678	755	811	-133	-16.4
HERTSMERE	758	868	954	-196	-20.5
NORTH HERTS	935	1,036	1,096	-161	-14.7
ST ALBANS	685	751	876	-191	-21.8
STEVENAGE	1,048	1,119	1,172	-124	-10.6
THREE RIVERS	446	561	628	-182	-29.0
WATFORD	716	932	1,062	-346	-32.6
WELWYN/HATFIELD	917	914	1,065	-148	-13.9
COUNTY	8,294	9,402	10,472	-2,178	-20.8

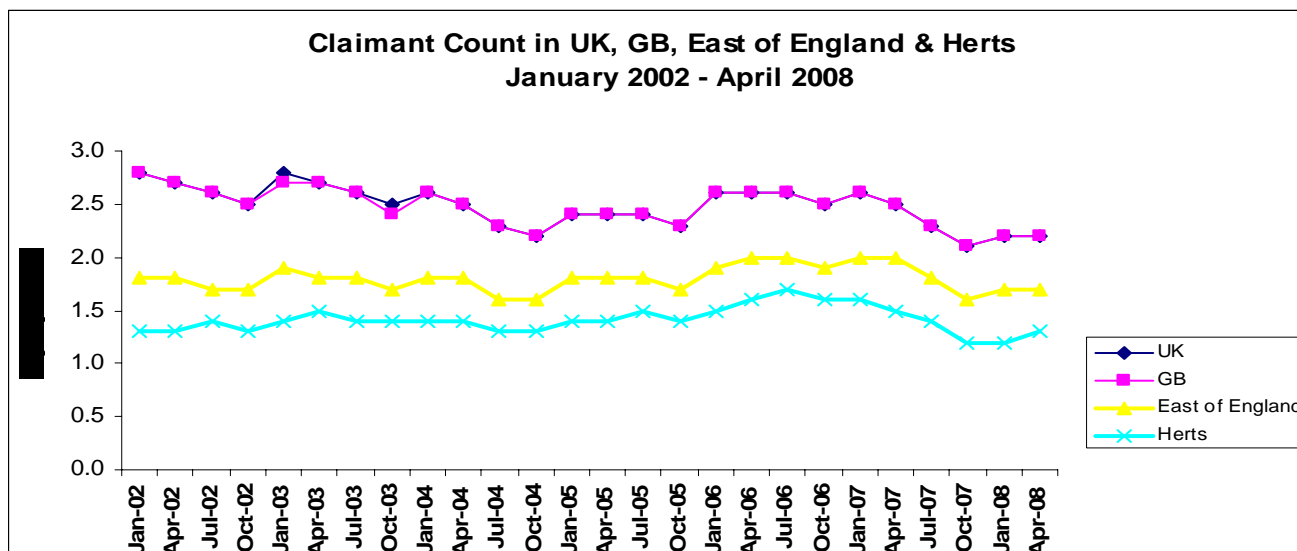
- Since April 2006, the claimant count in Hertfordshire decreased by 2,178 claimants (20.8%).
- Dacorum had the largest fall in the actual number of claimants, of 419, while Watford experienced the largest percentage decrease, of 32.6%, during this period.
- Between April 2006 and April 2008 Stevenage experienced the smallest fall, of 124, in the number of claimants and the lowest percentage decrease, of 10.6%.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since January 2008 the claimant count increased nationally and regionally, with the exception of Greater London, which had a fall of 1,218 (0.9%).
- The majority of Counties / Unitary Authorities experienced increases in the number of claimants during the last quarter. Milton Keynes had both the largest increase, of 422, in the actual number of claimants and the highest percentage increase, of 14.3%.
- Essex had the largest decrease, of 176, in the actual number of claimants, while Peterborough had the largest percentage decrease, of 1.4%.

JANUARY 2008 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	3,332	2.8
EAST OF ENGLAND	58,670	1.7	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	3,804	1.5
SOUTH EAST	69,105	1.4	MILTON KEYNES	3,368	2.3
GREATER LONDON	129,983	2.6	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	2,781	0.9
GREAT BRITAIN	810,417	2.2	PETERBOROUGH	2,904	2.8
UNITED KINGDOM	835,185	2.2	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,671	1.2
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	2,550	2.7
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,099	2.2
BARNET	3,757	1.8	ESSEX (remainder)	13,074	1.6
ENFIELD	5,207	2.9	HERTFORDSHIRE	8,294	1.3
HARROW	2,226	1.6	NORFOLK	10,615	2.2
HILLINGDON	2,751	1.7	OXFORDSHIRE	3,820	0.9
			SUFFOLK	7,327	1.8

Not seasonally adjusted



LONG TERM CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There were 815 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire compared to 975 in January 2008, a fall of 160. The proportion of LTC stands at 9.8% compared to 12.2% in January 2008.
- The total number of LTC in all of the age groups decreased since the last quarter, the largest decrease, of 55, was in the 45 - 54 year old age group and the 55+ age group.
- During this period there was an increase, of 10, in the number of female LTC in the 25 - 34 year old age group.

April 2008 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% Proportion of all claimants	April 2007	
					% Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	30	15	45	2.1	3.2	80
25 - 34	130	45	170	9.6	12.3	245
35 - 44	160	65	220	12.0	16.0	325
45 - 54	175	60	235	14.3	23.4	430
55+	105	35	140	17.3	28.7	280
TOTAL	595	220	815	9.8	14.5	1,360

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

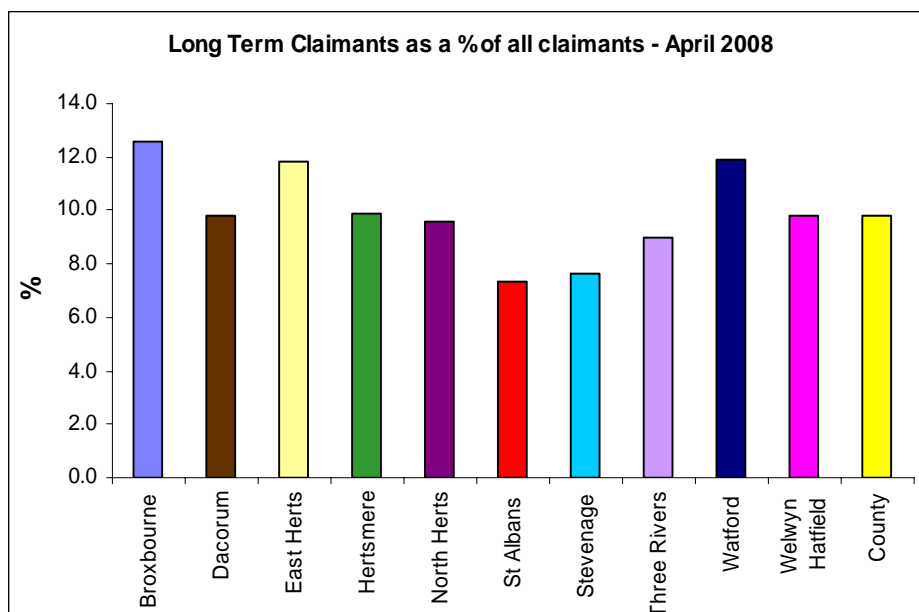
Not seasonally adjusted

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	5	60	65	5	35	40	105	12.6
Dacorum	0	90	90	5	30	35	125	9.8
East Herts	5	55	60	0	20	20	80	11.8
Hertsmere	5	45	50	0	25	25	75	9.9
North Herts	0	70	70	0	20	20	90	9.6
St Albans	0	35	35	0	15	15	50	7.3
Stevenage	5	60	65	0	15	15	80	7.6
Three Rivers	0	30	30	0	10	10	40	9.0
Watford	5	60	65	5	15	20	85	11.9
Welwyn Hatfield	0	65	65	0	25	25	90	9.8
County	30	570	600	15	205	220	815	9.8

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

Not seasonally adjusted



- Since January 2008 nine of the districts experienced decreases in the actual number of LTC. The largest, of 25, was in Broxbourne and Dacorum.
- The largest percentage decrease, of 3.4%, was in Broxbourne.
- Hertsmere was the only district to experience a slight increase, of 5, in the actual number of LTC.
- The lowest percentage of LTC, 7.3%, was in St Albans.
- Broxbourne district remained the highest in the county with 12.6% of LTC.

NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

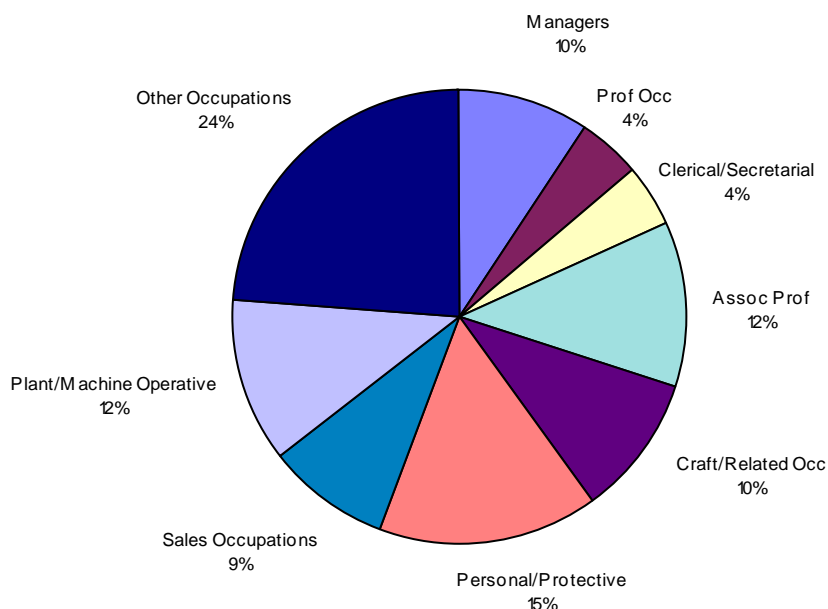
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- In Hertfordshire there was a total of 5,918 live unfilled vacancies during April 2008, this was an increase of 8.4% since April 2007.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within "Other Occupations" with 1,406 live unfilled vacancies. Dacorum, with 294, had the largest number of vacancies in this group.
- Overall Dacorum had the highest total of live unfilled vacancies, with 898.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2008 Total	Apr 2007 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	14	9	12	43	30	15	37	107	131	398	298	33.6
Dacorum	52	58	30	76	88	84	74	142	294	898	1,122	-20.0
East Hertfordshire	23	12	34	109	46	44	68	38	111	485	549	-11.7
Hertsmere	191	9	29	86	45	55	24	42	73	554	474	16.9
North Hertfordshire	21	19	30	119	46	154	51	18	101	559	437	27.9
St Albans	38	32	35	102	66	215	54	70	164	776	675	15.0
Stevenage	37	74	21	68	102	67	50	64	174	657	542	21.2
Three Rivers	6	6	9	6	37	13	6	24	117	224	216	3.7
Watford	31	15	29	43	63	91	98	38	141	549	604	-9.1
Welwyn Hatfield	151	29	29	33	74	176	69	157	100	818	540	51.5
TOTAL	564	263	258	685	597	914	531	700	1,406	5,918	5,457	8.4

**New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Occupation
April 2008**



Definitions of occupational sectors:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Managers | 6. Personal and Protective |
| 2. Professional Occupations | 7. Sales Occupations |
| 3. Clerical / Secretarial | 8. Plant / Machine Operatives |
| 4. Associated Professional | 9. Other Occupations |
| 5. Craft Related Occupations | |

NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

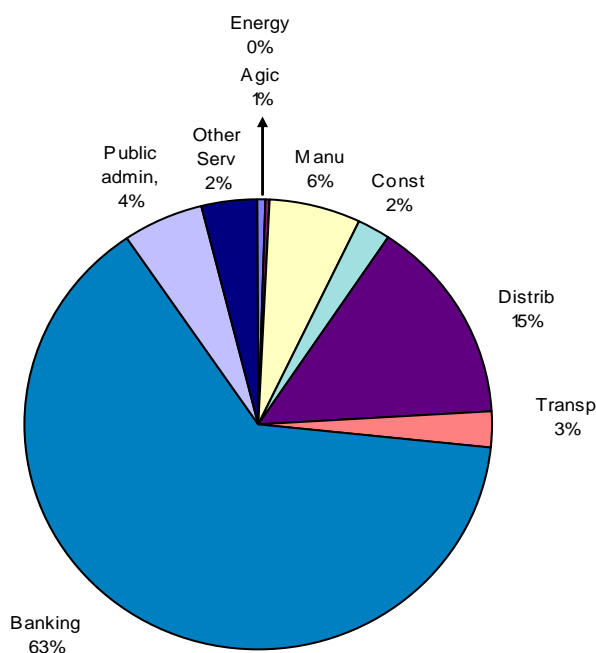
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire was Banking, Finance and Insurance with 3,780 and represented 63% of the total. Dacorum, with 653, had the largest number of vacancies in this sector.
- The second largest sector was Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants with 867 vacancies, with significant numbers in St Albans, Watford and Dacorum.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2008 Total	Apr 2007 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	4	0	39	16	60	49	217	11	2	398	298	33.6
Dacorum	0	4	32	22	102	14	653	30	41	898	1,122	-20.0
East Hertfordshire	11	0	86	19	92	3	217	21	36	485	549	-11.7
Hertsmere	6	0	71	10	53	7	341	46	20	554	474	16.9
North Hertfordshire	5	1	96	2	92	2	305	39	17	559	437	27.9
St Albans	0	2	23	11	122	12	522	46	38	776	675	15.0
Stevenage	0	1	6	12	99	18	452	39	30	657	542	21.2
Three Rivers	1	0	3	8	32	12	148	18	2	224	216	3.7
Watford	2	8	13	13	119	21	287	54	32	549	604	-9.1
Welwyn Hatfield	4	8	9	16	96	12	638	31	4	818	540	51.5
TOTAL	33	24	378	129	867	150	3,780	335	222	5,918	5,457	8.4

**New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Industry
April 2008**

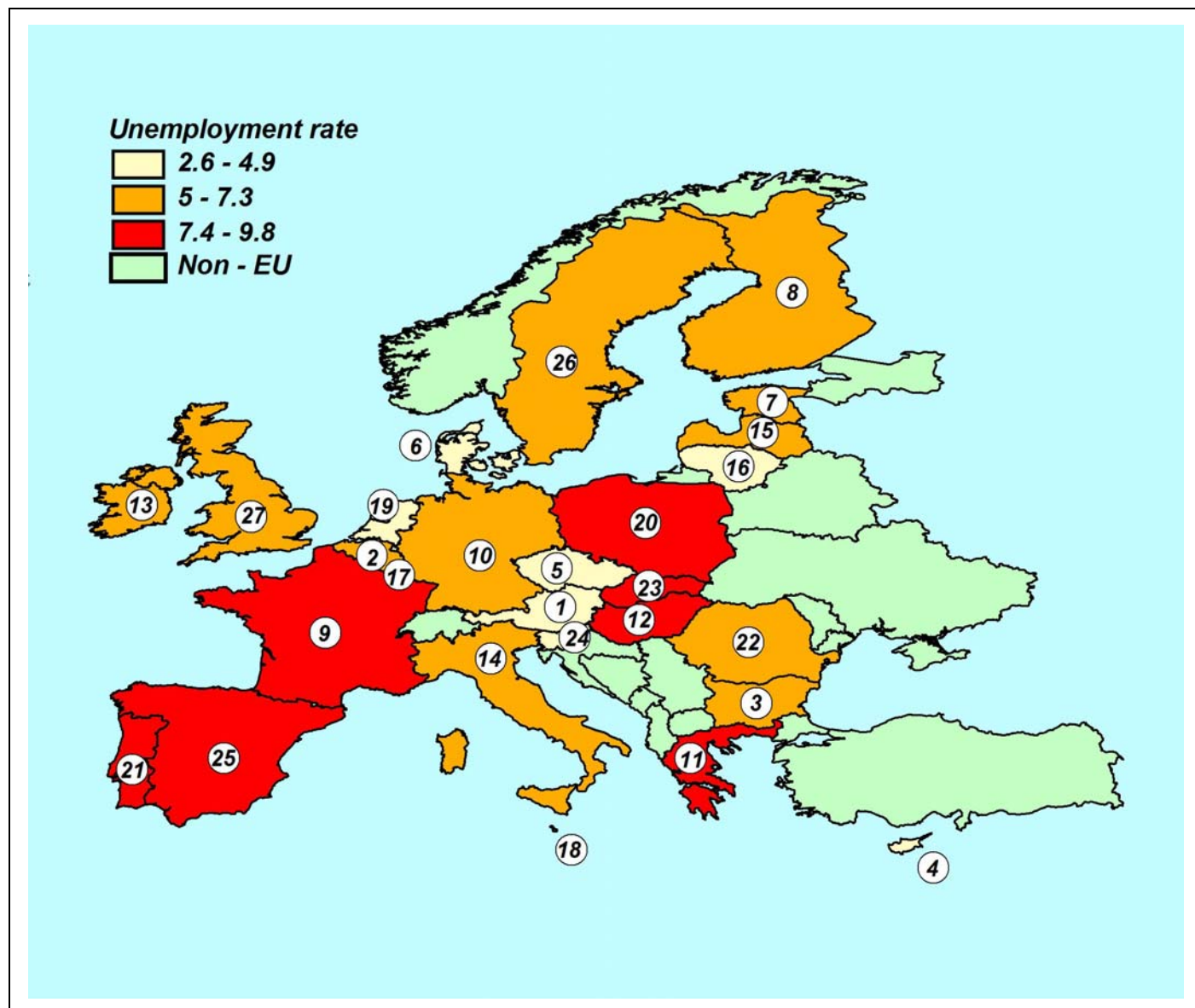


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 6.7% in March 2008, a fall of 0.2% since November 2007.
- Slovakia remained the country with the highest unemployment rate, of 9.8%, even though it had fallen by 1.2% since November 2007.
- During this period the unemployment rate fell in 19 of the 27 countries in the EU. Slovakia and Romania had the largest decreases, 1.2% and 1.0% respectively.
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 7 of the EU countries. The largest increases of more than 1.0% were in Ireland (1.3%) and Spain (1.1%). In Slovenia the unemployment remained static at 4.3%.



Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.1	8. Finland	6.3	15. Latvia	5.3	22. Romania	6.2
2. Belgium	6.9	9. France	7.8	16. Lithuania	4.5	23. Slovakia	9.8
3. Bulgaria	5.9	10. Germany	7.3	17. Luxembourg	4.5	24. Slovenia	4.3
4. Cyprus	3.7	11. Greece	**7.9	18. Malta	5.6	25. Spain	9.3
5. Czech Republic	4.5	12. Hungary	7.6	19. Netherlands	2.6	26. Sweden	5.6
6. Denmark	3.1	13. Ireland	5.6	20. Poland	7.7	27. United Kingdom	*5.1
7. Estonia	5.5	14. Italy	**6.1	21. Portugal	7.4	Union Average	6.7

Source: First Release - May 2008

* January 2008

** Quarter 4 2007

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- In the majority of Constituencies across the county the claimant count increased since January 2008. The largest increase, of 105, was in Stevenage.
- Two Constituencies, Watford and Hertford & Stortford, experienced slight decreases of 35 and 19 respectively, during this period.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	April 2008	April 2008
Broxbourne	853	1.5
Hemel Hempstead	1,064	1.8
Hertford & Stortford	545	0.9
Hertsmere	758	1.3
Hitchin & Harpenden	531	1.0
North East Hertfordshire	636	1.2
South West Hertfordshire	542	0.9
St Albans	538	1.0
Stevenage	1,106	2.0
Watford	821	1.3
Welwyn Hatfield	900	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 2008	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	131	3.2
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	442	2.2
3	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,048	2.1
4	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	997	2.0
5	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	490	1.9
6	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	346	1.8
7	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	388	1.7
8	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	340	1.7
9	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	171	1.7
10	Hitchin	North Herts	307	1.6
11	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	174	1.4
12	Baldock	North Herts	77	1.3
13	Watford	Watford	764	1.3
14	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	113	1.2
15	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	139	1.1
16	Ware	East Herts	116	1.1
17	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	99	1.0
18	Hertford	East Herts	144	0.9
19	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	93	0.9
20	St Albans	St Albans	413	0.9
21	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	178	0.8
22	Bushey	Hertsmere	85	0.8
23	Tring	Dacorum	64	0.8
24	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	41	0.7
25	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	49	0.7
26	Royston	North Herts	58	0.6
27	Harpenden	St Albans	91	0.5
28	Radlett	Hertsmere	32	0.5
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	18	0.3

* Proportions for wards have been calculated using the mid-2001 resident working age population, by ONS. Resident based proportions express the number of claimants resident in an area as a percentage of the resident working age population in that area. Working age is defined as 16-64 Males / 16-59 Females. (NOMIS)

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, 3.2%.
- The majority of the main towns in the county experienced increases in the numbers of claimant count since January 2008. Stevenage, with 113, had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants and Tring had the highest percentage increase, of 45.5%, albeit from a relatively small base, increasing from 44 to 64.
- The claimant count number in Potters Bar remained static since January 2008, at 139 (1.1%).

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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 2006 to September 2007

Not seasonally adjusted

	Employment ⁽¹⁾		Unemployment ⁽¹⁾		Economically inactive ⁽¹⁾		mid-2006 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	29,042	74.2	1,603	5.2	8,100	21.6	37,707
East of England	2,751	76.9	126	4.4	665	19.5	3,430
South East	4,149	78.4	180	4.2	907	18.0	5,066
London	3,642	69.8	270	6.9	1,250	24.9	5,033
Hertfordshire	529	76.9	25	4.5	127	19.5	657
			Model-Based estimates ⁽²⁾				
Broxbourne	43	75.6	2	4.5	11	20.9	55
Dacorum	70	78.8	3	3.9	15	17.9	86
East Herts	66	75.3	2	3.2	17	20.7	83
Hertsmere	47	76.6	2	3.9	12	20.2	59
North Herts	61	77.7	2	3.8	12	16.1	74
St. Albans	66	78.3	2	3.2	14	17.9	80
Stevenage	42	81.6	2	4.2	8	16.3	50
Three Rivers	43	77.8	2	3.5	10	19.6	52
Watford	40	77.7	2	4.8	10	19.1	52
Welwyn Hatfield	50	70.1	2	4.3	17	26.2	67

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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