

UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

QUARTERLY

APRIL 2009

- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the three-month rolling period of January - March 2009 in the UK (using the ILO rate) was 7.1% (2,215,000) and 5.9% (178,000) within the East of England. 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 2009 was 19,123, which gave a proportion of 2.9%.
- During the last quarter there was an increase of 4,908 in the county claimant count, a percentage increase of 34.5%.

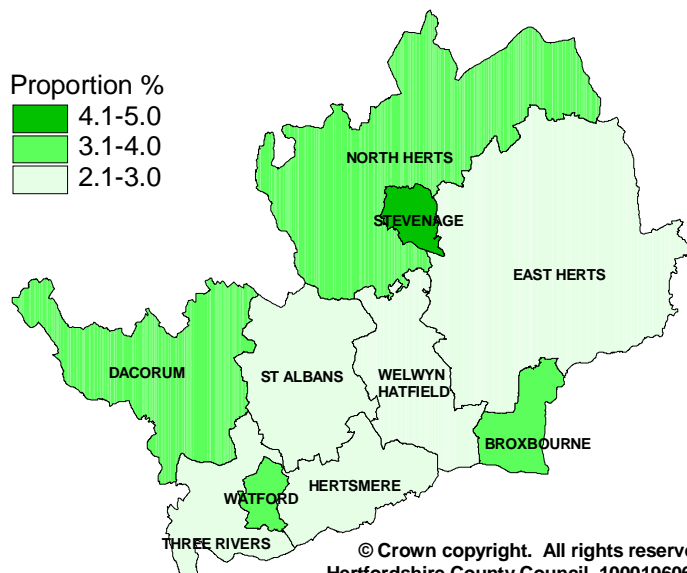
CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	APR 2009				MAR 2009				FEB 2009			
	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*
BROXBOURNE	1,335	607	1,942	3.5	1,264	568	1,832	3.3	1,155	539	1,694	3.1
DACORUM	1,991	840	2,831	3.3	1,885	789	2,674	3.1	1,774	736	2,510	2.9
EAST HERTS	1,326	589	1,915	2.3	1,250	536	1,786	2.1	1,176	506	1,682	2.0
HERTSMERE	1,153	493	1,646	2.8	1,128	476	1,604	2.7	1,051	438	1,489	2.5
NORTH HERTS	1,696	593	2,289	3.1	1,611	561	2,172	2.9	1,489	532	2,021	2.7
ST ALBANS	1,228	479	1,707	2.1	1,180	432	1,612	2.0	1,112	409	1,521	1.9
STEVENAGE	1,538	536	2,074	4.2	1,523	497	2,020	4.1	1,409	449	1,858	3.7
THREE RIVERS	804	347	1,151	2.2	773	317	1,090	2.1	767	297	1,064	2.0
WATFORD	1,227	508	1,735	3.4	1,164	491	1,655	3.2	1,115	433	1,548	3.0
WELWYN/HATFIELD	1,306	527	1,833	2.7	1,258	484	1,742	2.6	1,200	467	1,667	2.5
COUNTY	13,604	5,519	19,123	2.9	13,036	5,151	18,187	2.8	12,248	4,805	17,054	2.6

* Proportions for dates from 2008 onwards are calculated using the mid-2007 resident working age population

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 19,123 (2.9%)



- Since January 2009 the overall number of claimants increased in the county and in all of the districts.
- Dacorum had the largest increase of 727 in the actual number of claimants while the highest percentage increase of 37.7% was in both East Herts and St Albans during the last quarter.
- Since April 2008 Dacorum has had the largest actual increase of 1,276, while Three Rivers had the highest percentage increase of 132.8%.
- Stevenage remained the district with the highest rate of unemployment, 4.2%.
- St Albans had the lowest rate of unemployment with 2.1%.

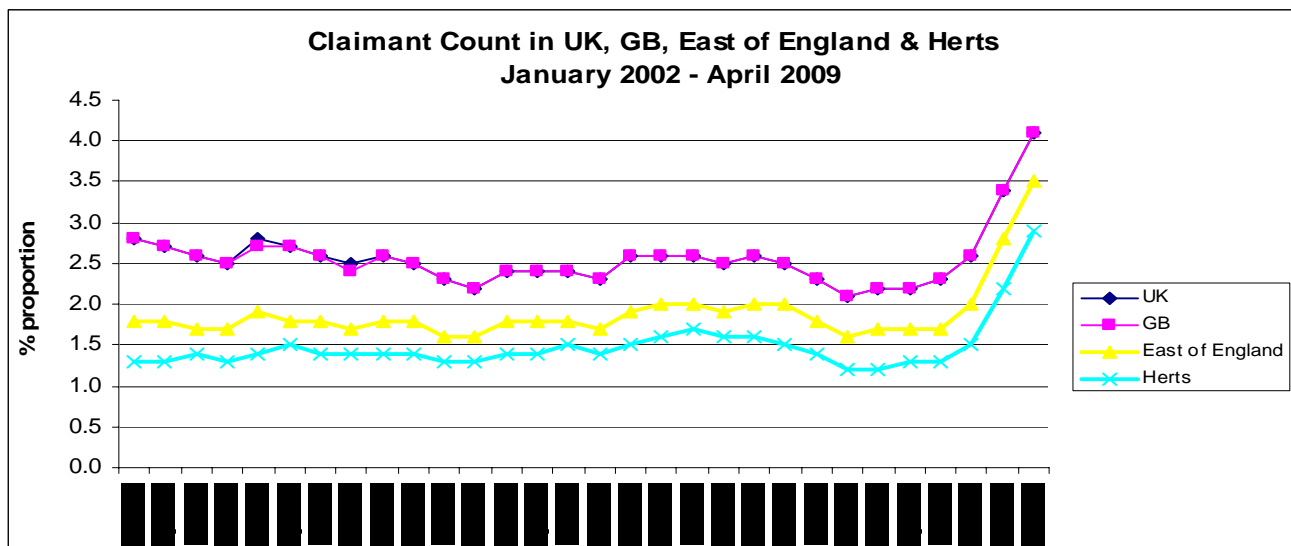
Total Claimant Count	APR 2009	APR 2008	APR 2007	Change 2007 - 2009	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	1,942	836	975	967	99.2
DACORUM	2,831	1,275	1,491	1,340	89.9
EAST HERTS	1,915	678	755	1,160	153.6
HERTSMERE	1,646	758	868	778	89.6
NORTH HERTS	2,289	935	1,036	1,253	120.9
ST ALBANS	1,707	685	751	956	127.3
STEVENAGE	2,074	1,048	1,119	955	85.3
THREE RIVERS	1,151	446	561	590	105.2
WATFORD	1,735	716	932	803	86.2
WELWYN/HATFIELD	1,833	917	914	919	100.5
COUNTY	19,123	8,294	9,402	9,721	103.4

- Since April 2007, the claimant count in Hertfordshire increased by 9,721 claimants (103.4%).
- Dacorum had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants, of 1,340, while East Herts experienced the highest percentage increase of 153.6% during this period.
- Between April 2007 and April 2009 Three Rivers had the smallest increase in the actual number of claimants of 590, while Stevenage experienced the lowest percentage increase of 85.3%.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since January 2009 the claimant count increased nationally and regionally.
- All of the Counties / Unitary Authorities experienced increases in the number of claimants during the last quarter. Essex had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants of 6,620, while Oxfordshire had the highest percentage increase of 39.5%.
- Over the last year Essex had the largest actual increase of 16,450.
- The largest percentage increase since April 2008 was of 158.3% in Buckinghamshire.

APRIL 2009 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	5,891	4.9
EAST OF ENGLAND	121,355	3.5	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	9,028	3.5
SOUTH EAST	153,608	3.0	MILTON KEYNES	7,288	4.9
GREATER LONDON	209,345	4.1	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	7,184	2.4
GREAT BRITAIN	1,510,759	4.1	PETERBOROUGH	5,550	5.4
UNITED KINGDOM	1,557,616	4.1	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	10,059	2.7
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	4,928	5.1
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	4,311	4.6
BARNET	6,630	3.2	ESSEX (remainder)	29,524	3.5
ENFIELD	8,592	4.8	HERTFORDSHIRE	19,123	2.9
HARROW	4,165	3.1	NORFOLK	18,453	3.7
HILLINGDON	5,580	3.5	OXFORDSHIRE	9,633	2.4
			SUFFOLK	14,488	3.5



LONG TERM CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There were 935 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire compared to 805 in January 2009, an increase of 130. The proportion of LTC stands at 4.9% compared to 5.7% in January 2009.
- The increase of LTC in the county was mainly due to the rise of 120 in the number of Male claimants.
- The largest increase, of 45, in the number of LTC since the last quarter was in the 45 - 54 year old age group.

April 2009 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% Proportion of all claimants	April 2008	
					% Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	30	15	45	0.9	2.1	45
25 - 34	170	45	215	4.9	9.6	170
35 - 44	190	55	250	5.9	12.0	220
45 - 54	220	65	285	7.8	14.3	235
55+	105	35	140	8.1	17.3	140
TOTAL	715	220	935	4.9	9.8	815

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted

Column totals may not sum due to rounding

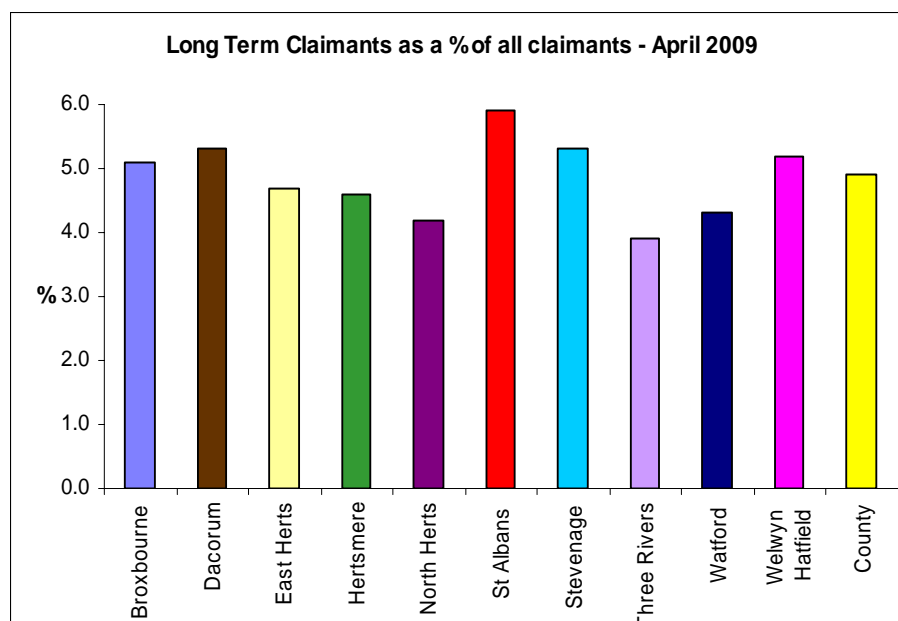
LONG TERM CLAIMANTS (LTC) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTC	% of all claimants
Broxbourne	0	75	75	0	25	25	100	5.1
Dacorum	5	105	110	0	40	40	150	5.3
East Herts	0	65	65	0	20	20	90	4.7
Hertsmere	0	50	50	0	20	20	75	4.6
North Herts	0	75	75	0	15	15	95	4.2
St Albans	5	75	80	0	25	25	100	5.9
Stevenage	5	85	90	0	20	20	110	5.3
Three Rivers	0	35	35	0	10	10	45	3.9
Watford	5	50	55	0	15	15	75	4.3
Welwyn Hatfield	0	75	75	0	20	20	95	5.2
County	30	685	715	15	205	220	935	4.9

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted

Column totals may not sum due to rounding



- Although the majority of districts experienced an increase in the actual number of LTC since January 2009, the percentage of all claimants decreased in most of the districts.
- The largest actual increase in the number of LTC, of 30, was in Watford during this period.
- Broxbourne experienced the largest percentage decrease of 1.8% in LTC.
- Two of the districts experienced increases in the percentage of LTC, Hertsmere by 0.3% and Watford by 0.8%.
- The lowest percentage of LTC, 3.9%, was in Three Rivers.
- St Albans had the highest rate of LTC in the county with 5.9%.

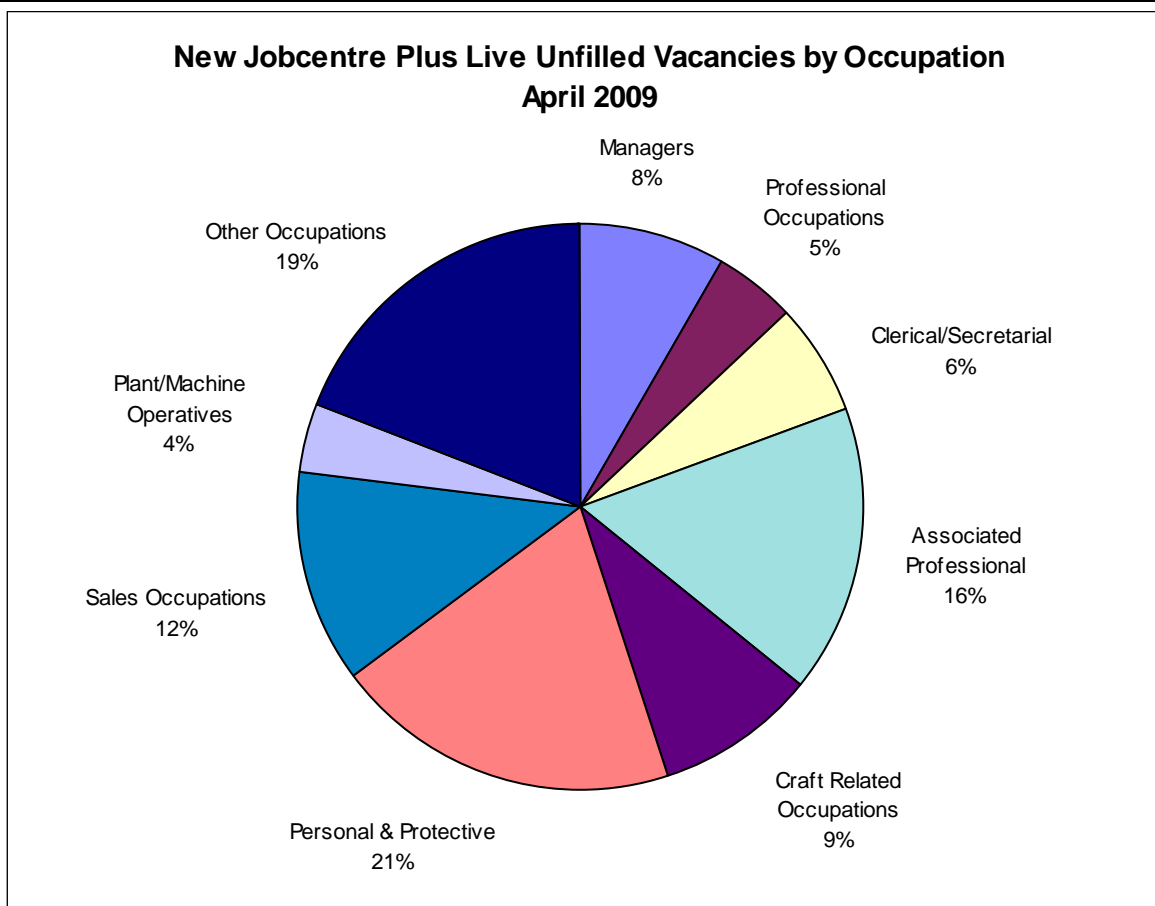
NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

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 2,868 live unfilled vacancies during April 2009, this was a decrease of 51.5% since April 2008. Welwyn Hatfield experienced the highest percentage decrease of 65.3% during this period.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within the "Personal and Protective Occupations" sector, with 568 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 21% of the total.
- The largest fall in the number of vacancies since the last quarter was of 191 in the "Sales Occupations" sector.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2009 Total	Apr 2008 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	108	24	5	37	8	21	16	5	36	260	398	-34.7
Dacorum	18	9	20	82	64	42	32	4	66	337	898	-62.5
East Hertfordshire	18	10	10	96	40	70	22	1	52	319	485	-34.2
Hertsmere	14	29	13	23	19	42	20	44	51	255	554	-54.0
North Hertfordshire	11	6	20	35	9	83	15	10	74	263	559	-53.0
St Albans	23	6	10	52	25	133	64	8	54	375	776	-51.7
Stevenage	17	23	7	33	28	38	95	8	63	312	657	-52.5
Three Rivers	5	4	5	9	16	91	8	6	14	158	224	-29.5
Watford	18	8	80	53	16	30	43	12	45	305	549	-44.4
Welwyn Hatfield	7	20	12	45	37	18	40	10	95	284	818	-65.3
TOTAL	239	139	182	465	262	568	355	108	550	2,868	5,918	-51.5



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 JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

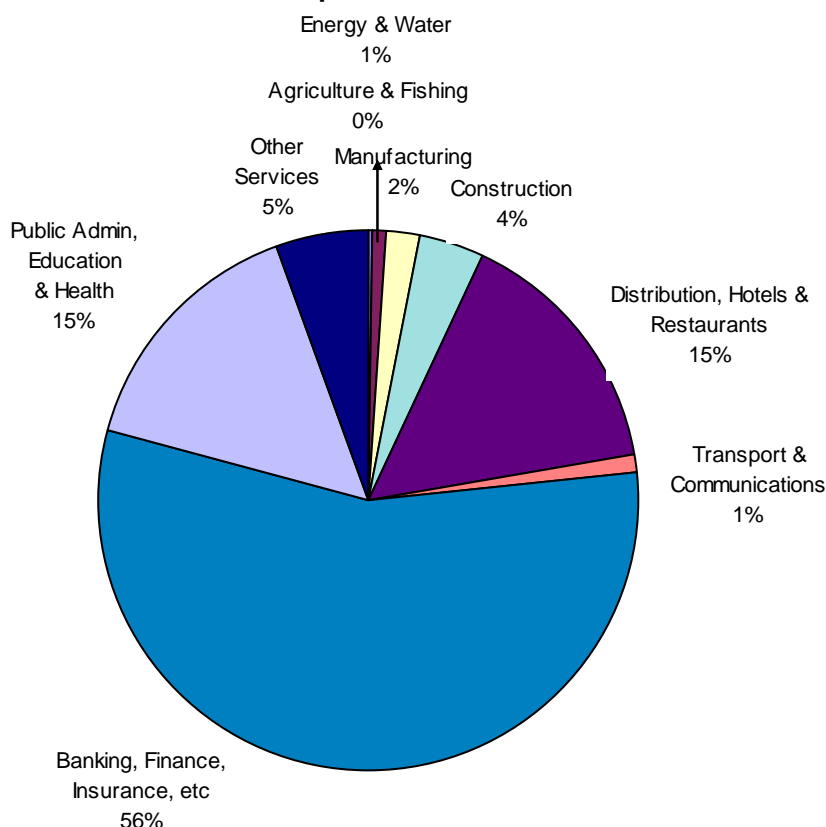
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire was Banking, Finance and Insurance with 1,594 and represented 56% of the total. Broxbourne, with 225, had the largest number of vacancies in this sector.
- The number of vacancies in Hertfordshire increased slightly by 753 (35.6%) since January 2009. The sector to experience the largest increase, of 218, was the Public Admin sector.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2009 Total	Apr 2008 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	0	0	4	6	13	3	225	7	2	230	398	-34.7
Dacorum	0	2	4	3	48	1	177	44	58	337	898	-62.5
East Hertfordshire	0	0	11	2	43	1	171	65	26	319	485	-34.2
Hertsmere	3	0	12	1	50	13	98	57	21	255	554	-54.0
North Hertfordshire	7	0	5	5	45	9	156	28	8	263	559	-53.0
St Albans	0	8	3	0	104	0	193	49	18	375	776	-51.7
Stevenage	0	6	6	76	58	0	123	33	10	312	657	-52.5
Three Rivers	0	0	0	9	20	4	115	6	4	158	224	-29.5
Watford	0	0	3	3	27	1	152	109	10	305	549	-44.4
Welwyn Hatfield	1	7	7	3	34	2	184	40	6	284	818	-65.3
TOTAL	11	23	55	108	442	34	1,594	438	163	2,868	5,918	-51.5

New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Industry April 2009

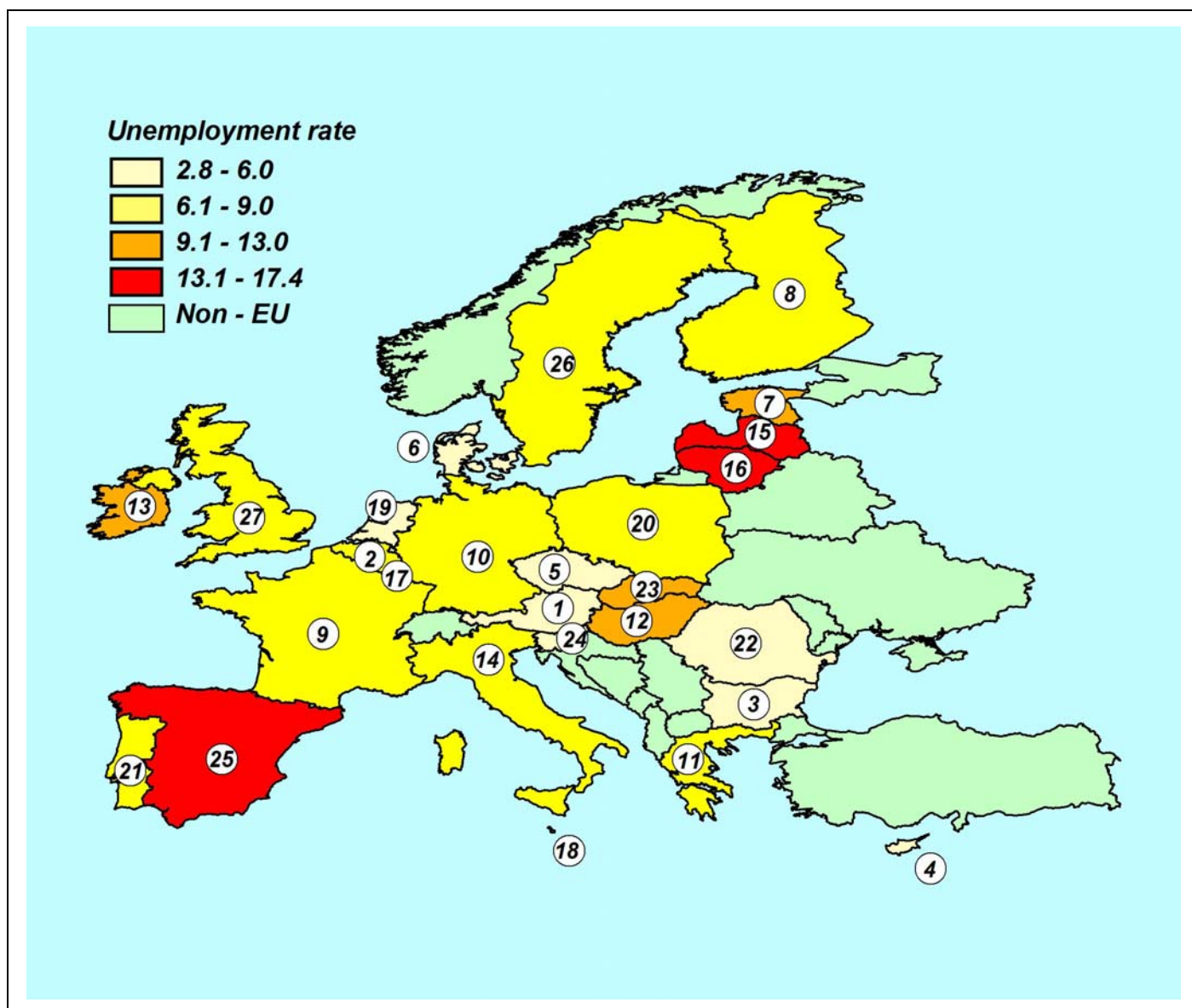


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 8.3% in March 2009, an increase of 0.9% since December 2008.
- Spain had the highest unemployment rate, of 17.4%.
- Between December 2008 and March 2009 the unemployment rate rose in all but one of the 27 countries in the EU. Lithuania had the largest increase of 7.5%. There was also a significant increase in Latvia, of 5.7%.
- In Romania the unemployment rate remained static.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - March 2009

Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.5	8. Finland	7.4	15. Latvia	16.1	22. Romania	**5.8
2. Belgium	7.3	9. France	8.8	16. Lithuania	15.5	23. Slovak Republic	10.5
3. Bulgaria	5.9	10. Germany	7.6	17. Luxembourg	6.1	24. Slovenia	5.0
4. Cyprus	4.9	11. Greece	**7.8	18. Malta	6.7	25. Spain	17.4
5. Czech Republic	5.5	12. Hungary	9.2	19. Netherlands	2.8	26. Sweden	8.0
6. Denmark	5.7	13. Ireland	10.6	20. Poland	7.7	27. United Kingdom	*6.6
7. Estonia	11.1	14. Italy	**6.9	21. Portugal	8.5	Union Average	8.3

Source: First Release - May 2009

* January 2009

** Quarter 4 2008

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- All of the Constituencies across the county experienced increases in the claimant count since January 2009. The largest increase of 607 was in Hemel Hempstead. The highest percentage increase of 42.0% was in North East Hertfordshire.
- During the last year the number of claimant count in the Hemel Hempstead Constituency increased the most by 1,245.
- In Hertford & Stortford the number of claimants has almost trebled since April 2008.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	April 2009	April 2009
Broxbourne	1,994	3.4
Hemel Hempstead	2,309	3.9
Hertford & Stortford	1,565	2.4
Hertsmere	1,646	2.8
Hitchin & Harpenden	1,276	2.4
North East Hertfordshire	1,616	2.8
South West Hertfordshire	1,299	2.1
St Albans	1,344	2.4
Stevenage	2,237	3.9
Watford	2,056	3.1
Welwyn Hatfield	1,781	2.8

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	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Broxbourne	0.75	0.72	0.76	0.79	0.72	0.66	0.67
Dacorum	0.81	0.86	0.85	0.88	0.89	0.89	0.90
East Hertfordshire	0.86	0.81	0.78	0.84	0.88	0.80	0.81
Hertsmere	0.91	0.93	0.89	0.95	0.98	1.14	0.98
North Hertfordshire	0.75	0.85	0.83	0.82	0.80	0.82	0.78
St Albans	0.89	0.88	0.84	0.82	0.79	0.86	0.83
Stevenage	0.90	1.02	1.00	1.00	0.90	0.93	0.98
Three Rivers	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.74	0.72
Watford	1.17	1.14	1.11	1.11	1.25	1.25	1.27
Welwyn Hatfield	1.09	1.14	1.18	1.09	1.13	1.11	1.10
Hertfordshire	0.88	0.90	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.91	0.89
East of England	0.84	0.82	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.80
Great Britain	0.88	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82
United Kingdom	0.88	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82

- The number of jobs per person of working age decreased slightly in Hertfordshire from 0.90 in 2005 to 0.88 in 2006. This goes against the trend in the UK, GB and East of England where there have been slight increases.
- There were falls in the number of jobs per person between 2005 and 2006, most noticeably Stevenage which fell from 1.02 to 0.90 and North Herts, 0.85 to 0.75.
- East Hertfordshire had the largest increase, from 0.81 in 2005 to 0.86 in 2006.

TOWN CLAIMANT COUNT

Claimant count ranked in descending order by % Proportion

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANTS April 2009	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	240	5.6
2	Stevenage	Stevenage	2,074	4.2
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	2,118	4.2
4	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	861	4.0
5	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	898	3.9
6	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	716	3.7
7	Hitchin	North Herts	693	3.6
8	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	361	3.5
9	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	942	3.4
10	Baldock	North Herts	212	3.4
11	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	410	3.3
12	Watford	Watford	1,857	3.2
13	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	275	3.0
14	Ware	East Herts	322	2.9
15	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	339	2.8
16	Royston	North Herts	259	2.7
17	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	623	2.6
18	Hertford	East Herts	402	2.5
19	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	140	2.4
20	St Albans	St Albans	1,017	2.3
21	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	545	2.3
22	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	226	2.2
23	Tring	Dacorum	169	2.1
24	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	225	2.1
25	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	148	1.9
26	Bushey	Hertsmere	194	1.7
27	Radlett	Hertsmere	89	1.5
28	Harpenden	St Albans	239	1.5
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	67	1.2

* Proportions for wards from 2007 onwards have been calculated using the mid-2006 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, 5.6%.
- All of the main towns in the county experienced increases in the number of claimant count since January 2009. Stevenage, with 551, had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants and Royston had the highest percentage increase, of 69.3%.
- Over the last year the largest increase of 1,121 in the number of claimants was in Hemel Hempstead.

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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 2007 to September 2008

Not seasonally adjusted

	Employment ⁽¹⁾		Unemployment ⁽²⁾		Economically inactive ⁽¹⁾		mid-2007 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	29,350	74.4	1,643	5.3	8,048	21.3	37,904
East of England	2,814	77.6	127	4.3	646	18.8	3,454
South East	4,178	78.5	186	4.3	906	18.0	5,096
London	3,716	70.5	270	6.8	1,231	24.3	5,059
Hertfordshire	551	78.7	21	3.9	119	18.2	660
Broxbourne	50	81.9	2	3.9	8	13.7	55
Dacorum	72	81.8	3	3.7	13	15.7	86
East Herts	73	81.7	2	2.7	14	16.5	83
Hertsmere	48	76.8	2	4.2	10	17.0	59
North Herts	60	74.7	2	3.8	17	22.6	75
St. Albans	69	78.3	2	3.0	17	20.7	81
Stevenage	41	81.0	2	4.9	6	12.5	50
Three Rivers	44	78.8	2	3.4	9	18.0	53
Watford	41	77.0	2	4.5	10	18.9	52
Welwyn Hatfield	53	74.3	2	3.9	16	24.0	68

Source: "Annual Population Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2009, Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.

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