



# UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

**APRIL 2006**

**QUARTERLY**

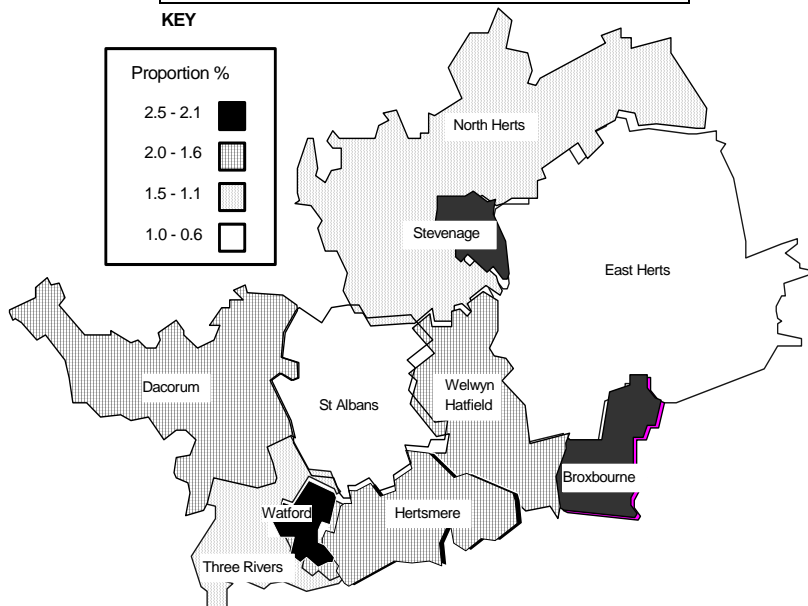
- The official unemployment rate for UK (using the ILO rate) is 5.2% for the period January - March 2006. The quarterly average rates for Hertfordshire, 3.3%, and East of England, 3.7%, have not been updated since those that appeared in the July 2005 Quarterly Bulletin as figures will come from the as yet unpublished Annual Population Survey data. (See Appendix).
- The claimant count (number claiming unemployment benefits) in Hertfordshire for April 2006 is 10,472, giving a proportion of 1.6%.
- During the last quarter there has been an increase of 733 (7.5%) in the county claimant count.

## CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	APR 2006				MAR 2006				FEB 2006			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	781	333	1,114	2.1	772	346	1,118	2.1	765	347	1,112	2.1
DACORUM	1,213	481	1,694	2.0	1,195	499	1,694	2.0	1,209	494	1,703	2.0
EAST HERTS	569	242	811	1.0	603	230	833	1.0	608	218	826	1.0
HERTSMERE	676	278	954	1.7	705	295	1,000	1.8	737	286	1,023	1.8
NORTH HERTS	783	313	1,096	1.5	776	302	1,078	1.5	737	299	1,036	1.4
ST ALBANS	641	235	876	1.1	637	241	878	1.1	608	235	843	1.0
STEVENAGE	893	279	1,172	2.4	902	299	1,201	2.5	863	282	1,145	2.3
THREE RIVERS	453	175	628	1.2	464	177	641	1.3	476	179	655	1.3
WATFORD	763	299	1,062	2.1	806	298	1,104	2.2	804	269	1,073	2.1
WELWYN/HATFIELD	765	300	1,065	1.8	712	300	1,012	1.7	701	268	969	1.6
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>7,537</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>10,472</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7,572</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>10,559</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7,508</b>	<b>2,877</b>	<b>10,385</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Not seasonally adjusted

**TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 10,472 (1.6%)**



- The overall number of claimants has increased during the last quarter and this has been reflected in the majority of the districts.
- However, there have been slight decreases in the actual number of claimants in Hertsmere (28) and Three Rivers (17) during this period.
- Since January 2006 Welwyn Hatfield had the largest increase of 179 in the number of claimants and also the highest percentage increase of 20.2%.
- Male and Female claimants have both fallen since the last quarter, 517 and 216 respectively but the number of female claimants fell at a slightly faster rate of 7.9% compared to males, 7.4%.
- Stevenage has the highest proportion of claimants, 2.4%, an increase of 0.4% since the last quarter.

<b>Total Claimant Count</b>	<b>APR 2006</b>	<b>APR 2005</b>	<b>APR 2004</b>	<b>Change 2004-2006 Nos</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>DISTRICT</b>					
BROXBOURNE	1,114	949	970	144	14.8
DACORUM	1,694	1,368	1,472	222	15.1
EAST HERTS	811	655	687	124	18.0
HERTSMERE	954	907	905	49	5.4
NORTH HERTS	1,096	1,020	983	113	11.5
ST ALBANS	876	747	712	164	23.0
STEVENAGE	1,172	954	916	256	27.9
THREE RIVERS	628	605	600	28	4.7
WATFORD	1,062	956	963	99	10.3
WELWYN/HATFIELD	1,065	953	898	167	18.6
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>10,472</b>	<b>9,114</b>	<b>9,106</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>15.0</b>

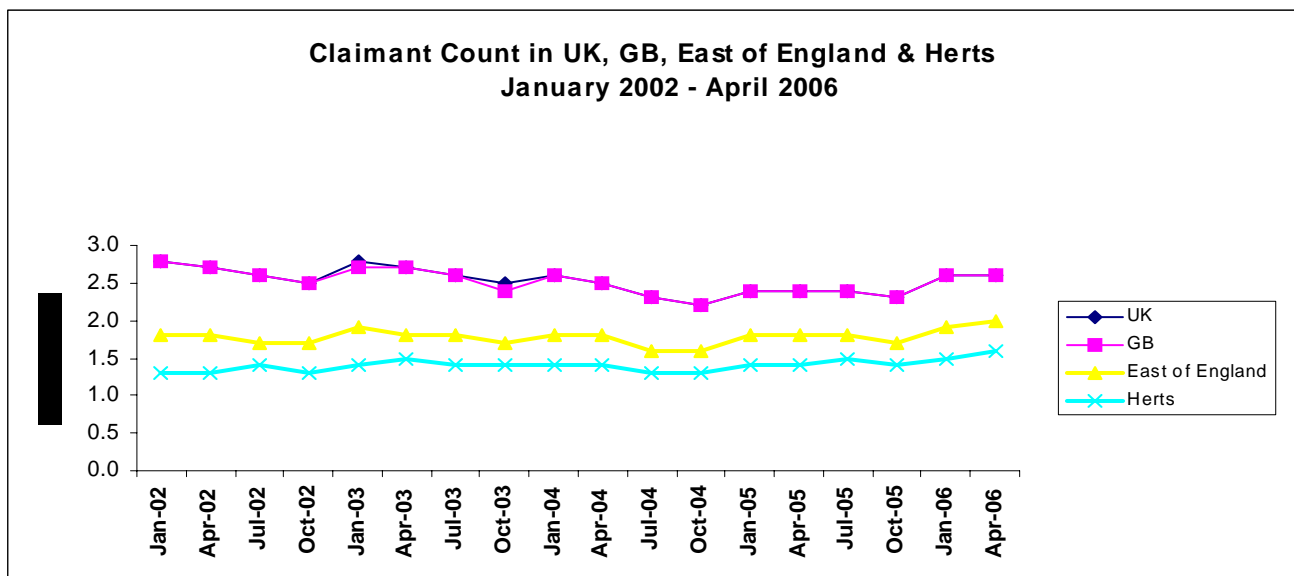
- Since April 2004 the claimant count in Hertfordshire has increased by 1,366 claimants (15.0%).
- This is the largest overall increase since October 2003, when the number of claimants rose by 1,946, (29.0%).
- Stevenage had the largest increase of 256 in the number of claimants and the largest percentage increase of 27.9% during the last quarter.
- Since January 2006 Three Rivers had the smallest increase in the number of claimants of 28, and the smallest percentage increase of 4.7%.

### CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since January 2006 there has been an increase in both the national and regional claimant count. However, in two of the London Boroughs the numbers of claimants has fallen - Barnet by 217 (3.9%) and Hillingdon by 35 (0.9%).
- Since the last quarter, there has been an increase in the claimant count in the Counties / Unitary Authorities surrounding Hertfordshire, with the exception of Norfolk, where the proportion of claimants remained the same but there was a slight decrease of 86 in the actual number of claimants.
- The largest increase of 764 was in Oxfordshire and the largest percentage increase of 21.6% was in Milton Keynes. Cambridgeshire experienced the smallest increase of 64 and the smallest percentage increase of 1.3% during the same period.

<b>April 2006 REGIONS</b>	<b>Numbers of Claimants</b>	<b>% proportion</b>	<b>COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES</b>	<b>Numbers of Claimants</b>	<b>% proportion</b>
			LUTON	4,117	3.6
EAST OF ENGLAND	68,421	2.0	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,466	1.8
SOUTH EAST	84,661	1.7	MILTON KEYNES	3,376	2.4
GREATER LONDON	170,440	3.4	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,701	1.3
GREAT BRITAIN	952,994	2.6	PETERBOROUGH	3,184	3.2
UNITED KINGDOM	981,198	2.6	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	5,164	1.4
			SOUTHEND	3,083	3.3
<b>LONDON BOROUGHS</b>			THURROCK	2,464	2.7
BARNET	5,303	2.5	ESSEX (remainder)	14,842	1.8
ENFIELD	6,653	3.7	HERTFORDSHIRE	10,472	1.6
HARROW	3,148	2.3	NORFOLK	12,138	2.5
HILLINGDON	3,743	2.4	OXFORDSHIRE	4,683	1.2
			SUFFOLK	8,491	2.1

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There are 1,165 long-term claimants (unemployed) (LTC(U) in Hertfordshire, a proportion of 11.1% compared to 1,065, 10.9% in January 2006.
- The number of Male LTC(U) claimants in the county has increased by 60 compared to the number of Female LTC(U) which has increased by 40.
- The largest increase of 35 in the total number of LTC(U) during this period was in the 35 - 44 year old age group.
- The smallest increase of 5 in the total number of LTC(U) was in the 18 - 24 year old age group since the last quarter.

April 2006 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%	April	2005
					% Proportion of All claimants	Total
18 - 24	50	25	80	3.0	1.8	40
25 - 34	170	40	210	9.3	7.6	155
35 - 44	210	70	275	12.1	10.6	210
45 - 54	250	90	340	16.7	15.3	255
55+	180	85	260	24.6	23.0	210
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>870</b>

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

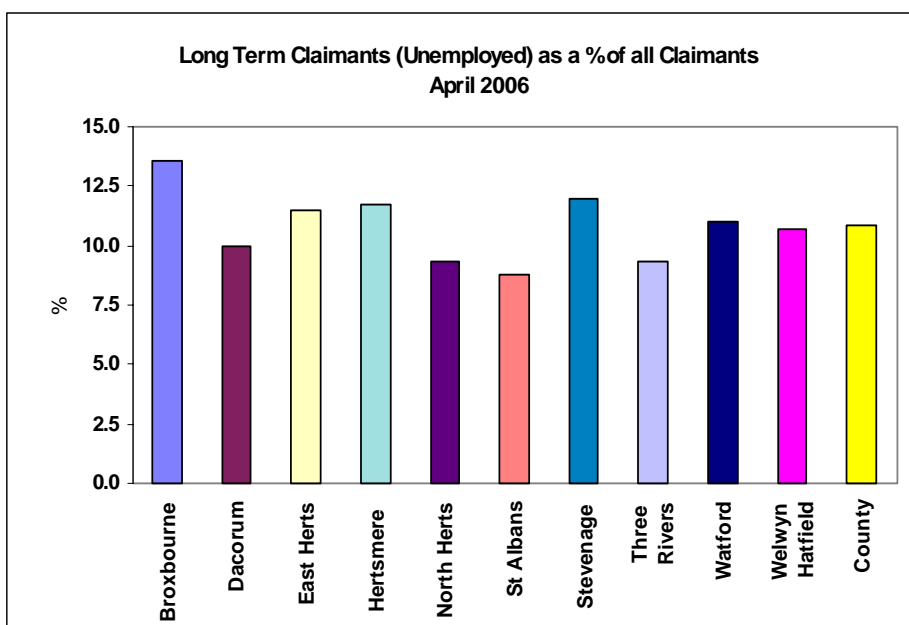
Not seasonally adjusted

## LONG TERM CLAIMANTS (UNEMPLOYED) (LTC(U) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTC(U)	% of all Claimants
Broxbourne	10	90	100	5	45	50	145	13.0
Dacorum	10	145	155	5	45	50	205	12.1
East Herts	10	65	75	5	20	25	95	11.7
Hertsmere	5	70	75	0	25	25	110	11.5
North Herts	0	60	60	0	20	20	80	7.3
St Albans	5	55	60	0	20	20	80	9.1
Stevenage	5	95	100	0	25	25	130	11.1
Three Rivers	0	50	50	0	20	20	75	11.9
Watford	5	90	95	5	30	35	130	12.2
Welwyn Hatfield	0	80	80	0	35	35	115	10.8
<b>County</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>11.1</b>

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

Not seasonally adjusted



- Both the actual number of Long Term Claimants (Unemployed) and the percentage of LTC(U) in the county have increased since January 2006, by 100 and 0.2% respectively.
- Dacorum had the largest increase of 45 in the actual number of LTC(U) while Three Rivers had the highest percentage increase of 2.6% during this period.
- Hertsmere (5) and North Herts (10) were the only districts to experience decreases in the actual number of LTC(U) since the last quarter.
- Stevenage and Broxbourne both had increases in the numbers of LTC(U) (10 and 5 respectively) but the proportion of LTC(U) dropped by 0.9% and 0.6%.
- North Herts is the district with the lowest proportion of LTC(U) at 7.3%.

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

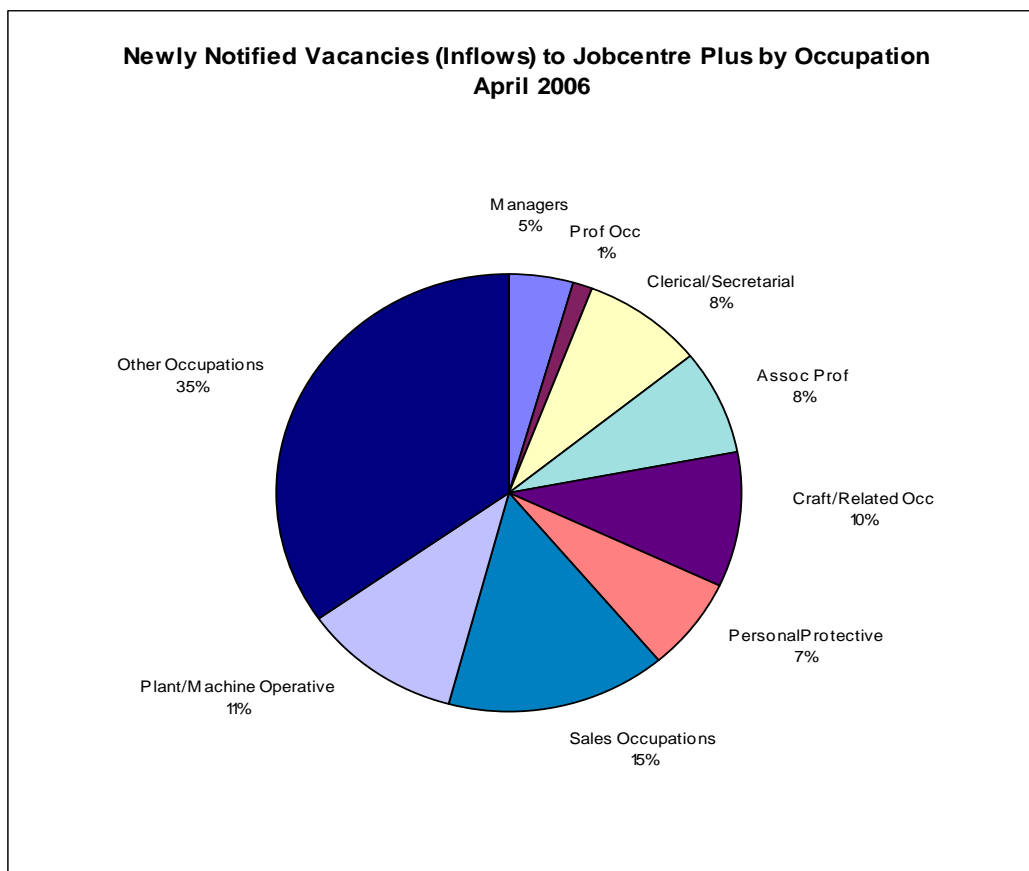
**NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of occupational vacancies being notified.**

- In Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) a total of 3,038 vacancies were notified during April 2006, this was a decrease of 31.8% since April 2005.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is within "Other Occupations" with 1,058 newly notified vacancies, which accounts for 30% of the total. Stevenage Jobcentre Plus had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 258.
- Overall the Stevenage Jobcentre Plus had the highest total of newly notified vacancies, 613.

### OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2006 Total	Apr 2005 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	<b>3</b>	192	-98.4
Borehamwood	13	3	29	3	10	21	68	22	28	<b>197</b>	278	-29.1
Hertford	18	4	34	85	92	26	111	43	171	<b>584</b>	241	142.3
Hemel Hempstead	22	7	38	29	32	9	64	36	211	<b>448</b>	581	-22.9
Hitchin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	<b>0</b>	217	-100.0
Hatfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>	273	-99.3
Letchworth	20	9	46	34	62	65	51	85	160	<b>532</b>	200	166.0
St Albans	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	<b>3</b>	586	-99.5
Stevenage	33	9	49	59	57	23	67	58	258	<b>613</b>	349	75.6
Watford	2	0	22	0	1	0	12	0	3	<b>40</b>	598	-93.3
Waltham Cross	14	9	25	23	26	20	36	51	108	<b>312</b>	447	-30.2
Welwyn Garden City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	207	-100.0
Stansted Airport	16	0	10	2	23	43	55	37	118	<b>304</b>	284	7.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>4,453</b>	<b>-31.8</b>

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data



#### Definitions of occupational sectors:

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

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

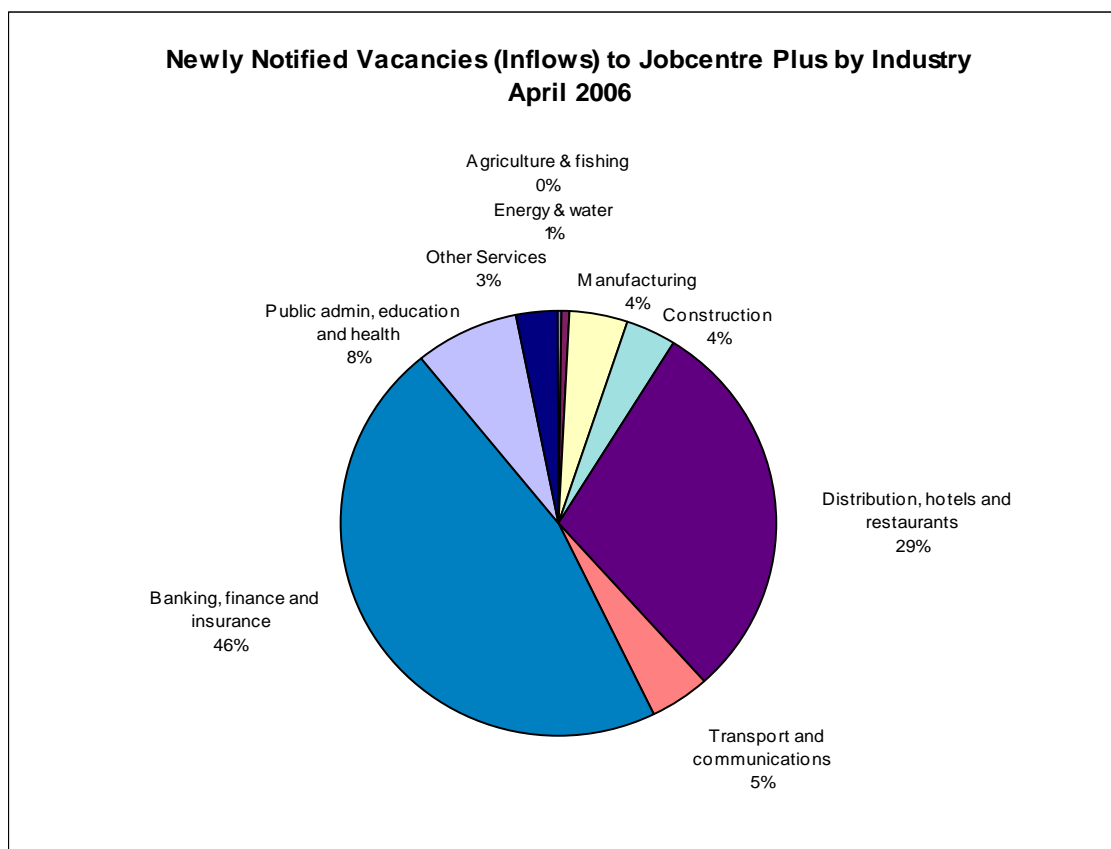
**NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of industrial vacancies being notified.**

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is Banking, Finance and Insurance with 1,404 and represents 46% of the total.
- Hertford Jobcentre Plus, with 327, has the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector.
- The Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector is the second largest in the county (plus Stansted Airport) with 889 newly notified vacancies and together with the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector, accounts for 75% of vacancies.

### INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2006 Total	Apr 2005 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	<b>3</b>	192	-98.4
Borehamwood	1	1	8	7	84	8	58	23	7	<b>197</b>	278	-29.1
Hertford	0	6	32	14	128	5	327	29	43	<b>584</b>	241	142.3
Hemel Hempstead	0	0	21	9	91	21	292	9	5	<b>448</b>	581	-22.9
Hitchin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	217	-100.0
Hatfield	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>	273	-99.3
Letchworth	5	0	20	15	89	19	287	83	14	<b>532</b>	200	166.0
St Albans	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>	586	-99.5
Stevenage	2	6	22	34	242	13	242	38	14	<b>613</b>	349	75.6
Watford	0	0	3	1	11	1	4	20	0	<b>40</b>	598	-93.3
Waltham Cross	1	5	23	26	93	13	116	26	9	<b>312</b>	447	-30.2
Welwyn Garden City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	207	-100.0
Stansted Airport	0	0	7	3	148	60	74	12	0	<b>304</b>	284	7.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>4,453</b>	<b>-31.8</b>

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data

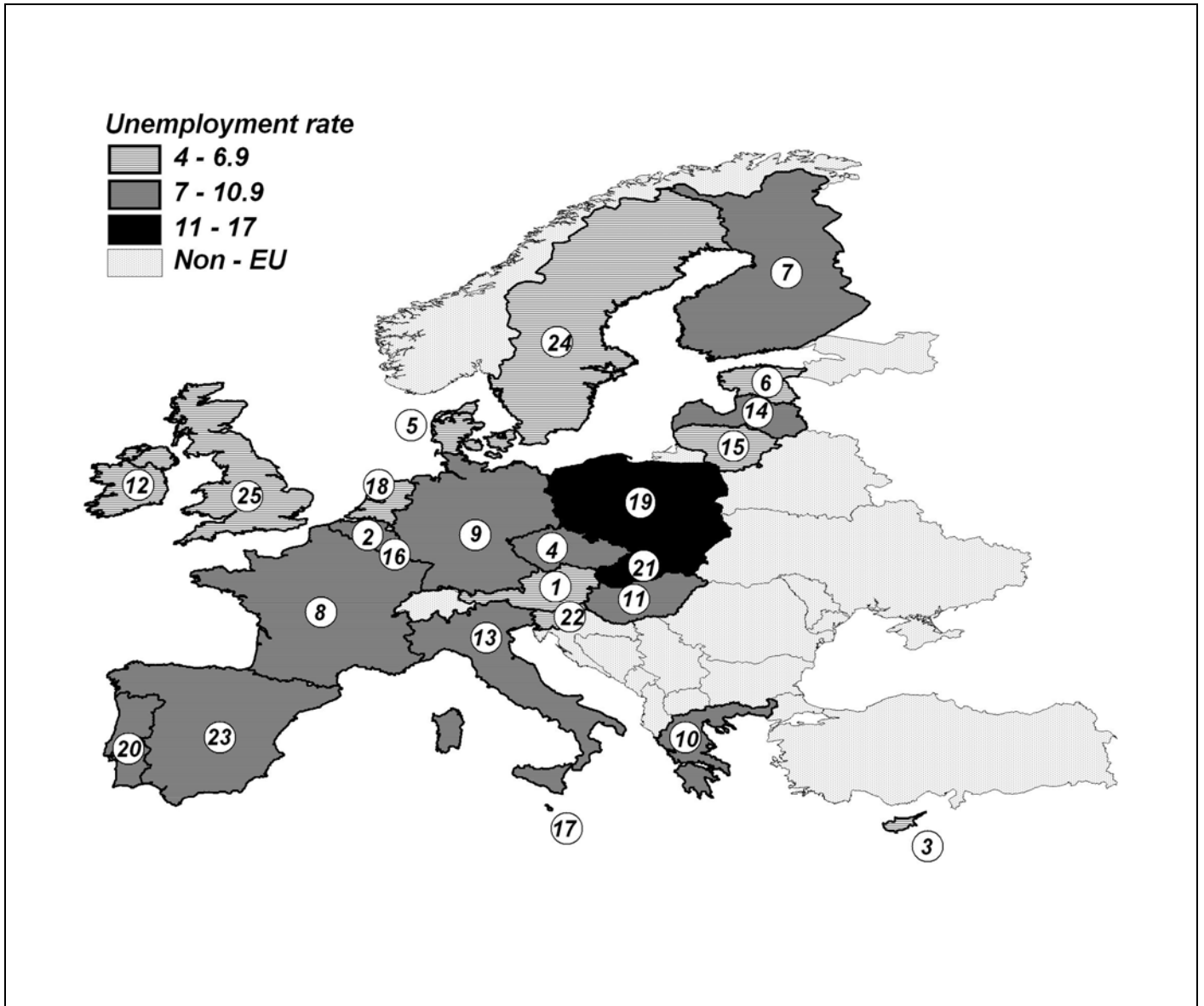


### Definitions of industrial sectors:

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

## EUROPEAN UNION

- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the European Union stands at 8.5% in February 2006, the same as in November 2005. The unemployment rate in Poland fell by 0.4% over the same time but continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the European Union at 17.0%.
- During the last quarter the unemployment rate has fallen in 16 of the countries in the European Union, the largest decrease being 1.1% in Cyprus followed by 0.7% in Estonia.
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 7 of the EU countries, the largest increase being 0.4% in Slovenia, followed closely by 0.3% in Hungary and Malta.
- The unemployment rate in Ireland (4.3%) has remained static since November 2005 and in Sweden (6.3%) since March 2005.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - February 2006							
Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	5.1	8. France	9.1	15. Lithuania	6.6	22. Slovenia	*6.3
2. Belgium	8.2	9. Germany	8.9	16. Luxembourg	5.4	23. Spain	8.7
3. Cyprus	5.2	10. Greece	**9.6	17. Malta	8.0	24. Sweden	***6.3
4. Czech Republic	7.7	11. Hungary	7.6	18. Netherlands	4.4	25. United Kingdom	**4.9
5. Denmark	4.4	12. Ireland	4.3	19. Poland	17.0		
6. Estonia	5.9	13. Italy	**7.7	20. Portugal	7.7	<b>Union Average</b>	<b>8.5</b>
7. Finland	8.1	14. Latvia	8.0	21. Slovakia	15.8		

Source: Labour Market Trends

\* Jan 2006

\*\* Dec 2005

\*\*\* Mar 2005

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

### **PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

- During the last quarter the claimant count in the majority of the Constituencies across the county has increased. The exceptions to this were slight falls in Hertford & Stortford (4), Hertsmere (28) and South West Hertfordshire (23).
- Since January 2006 the largest increases in the numbers of claimants have been in Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield, both by 183, and Hemel Hempstead, by 103.

<b>Parliamentary Constituencies</b>	<b>Numbers of Claimants</b>	<b>% Proportion</b>
	<b>April 2006</b>	<b>April 2006</b>
<b>Broxbourne</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Hemel Hempstead</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Hertford &amp; Stortford</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Hitchin &amp; Harpenden</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>North East Hertfordshire</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>South West Hertfordshire</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>St Albans</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Watford</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1.9</b>

### **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.

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

- There were 0.90 jobs per person of working age in Hertfordshire in 2004, slightly higher than the densities for Great Britain and the United Kingdom, both at 0.83 and the East of England at 0.82.
- Watford has the highest job density in the county at 1.11, while also having a relatively high claimant count. This suggests that the high labour demand is not being satisfied by the resident population and possibly indicating a mismatch of skills.

- By contrast in Three Rivers there were only 0.75 jobs per person of working age; below county, regional and national averages. However, the proportion of claimant count in Three Rivers is relatively low at 1.2%. In this instance out-commuting could well be meeting the imbalance.

## **TOWN CLAIMANT COUNT**

Claimant count ranked in descending order by % Proportion

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF	% PROPORTION*
			CLAIMANTS April 2006	
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	177	4.3
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	565	2.8
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,299	2.6
4	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	239	2.4
5	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,172	2.4
6	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	508	2.2
7	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	556	2.2
8	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	402	2.1
9	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	396	2.0
10	Watford	Watford	1,128	2.0
11	Hitchin	North Herts	371	1.9
12	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	160	1.8
13	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	217	1.7
14	Baldock	North Herts	85	1.4
15	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	73	1.3
16	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	136	1.3
17	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	160	1.3
18	St Albans	St Albans	580	1.3
19	Hertford	East Herts	195	1.2
20	Ware	East Herts	133	1.2
21	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	108	1.1
22	Tring	Dacorum	92	1.1
23	Bushey	Hertsmere	112	1.0
24	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	73	1.0
25	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	203	0.9
26	Radlett	Hertsmere	44	0.7
27	Royston	North Herts	66	0.7
28	Harpenden	St Albans	101	0.6
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	24	0.4

\* 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 continues to have the highest proportion of claimant count in the county, 4.3%.
- 19 of the main towns in the county have experienced increases in the numbers of claimant count since January 2006. Stevenage with 168 had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants, while the highest percentage increase of 26.9% was in Welwyn Garden City.
- During the same period Rickmansworth, with 36, had the largest decrease in the actual number of claimants and the highest percentage decrease of 25.0%.

**Source: National Statistics (NOMIS)**

© Crown Copyright 2006

Information Management Unit, Environment Department  
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
County Hall, HERTFORD, Herts, SG13 8DN

Awarded for  
excellence in  
public  
service



## 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 has 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 Annual Population Survey (APS), which was introduced earlier this year, is a new survey and supersedes the existing two LFS data sets: Local Area LFS and the LFS - quarterly: four quarter averages.

The APS data is published quarterly with each publication covering a year's data. The next range of data (July 2004 to June 2005) was due to be published in December 2005 but errors have been discovered and it is not known yet when the data will be released. ONS apologises for any inconvenience caused. Although the figures will be less current it is expected the APS will provide better quality data particularly at a local level.

June 2004 - May 2005 (Not seasonally adjusted)

000's

All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total <sup>1</sup>			
Great Britain	23,796	3,463	27,467	1,355	28,822	16,916
East of England	2,350	364	2,732	106	2,838	1,505
Hertfordshire	458	76	538	19	557	264
London	2,892	519	3,440	259	3,699	2,104
South East	3,454	591	4,074	157	4,231	2,202

All Persons	All aged 16 & over <sup>2</sup>	Economic Activity rates (%) <sup>3</sup>		Employment rate (%) 16-59/64	ILO Unemployment rate (%) <sup>4</sup> all 16+
		all age 16+	16 - 59/64		
Great Britain	45,738	63.0	78.7	74.9	4.7
East of England	4,343	65.4	82.0	78.9	3.7
Hertfordshire	821	67.8	84.6	81.7	3.3
London	5,803	63.7	74.7	69.4	7.0
South East	6,433	65.8	81.9	78.8	3.7

Source: "Labour Force Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2005.

**NOTE:** Estimates are only presented for the regions, counties, metropolitan districts and the 335 largest unitary and local authorities (according to the 16+ resident population estimates).

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 unemployed 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 Indicators

National Statistics publish two regular and complementary measures which give indications as to the level 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 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:** 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 figures for very small areas**. 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.

### Jobcentre Plus Vacancies

The current monthly Jobcentre Plus notified vacancies (inflows) at national, regional and local level, with breakdowns by industry and occupation, were first made available in September 2002 and give data from May 2002 onwards. Since the introduction of Employer Direct, which involved the transfer of vacancy taking from local Jobcentres to regional Customer Service Centres, changes in vacancy taking procedures 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.

The current 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.

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 and over time.

Jobcentre Plus stocks of unfilled vacancies and vacancy outflow data have been restored on Nomis® in June 2005, with a monthly series going back to 2004. The reinstated stock data will differentiate between live vacancies (those available to jobseekers) and suspended vacancies (those no longer available to jobseekers but not yet closed).

From June 2005 the data on Jobcentre Plus stocks of unfilled vacancies and vacancy outflow statistics were given National Statistics status and will be incorporated into future editions of our Quarterly Unemployment Bulletin.