

UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

QUARTERLY

JANUARY 2009

- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the three-month rolling period of October - December 2008 in the UK (using the ILO rate) was 6.3% (1,971,000) and 5.5% (165,000) 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 January 2009 was 14,215, which gave a proportion of 2.2%.
- During the last quarter there was an increase of 4,070 in the county claimant count, a percentage increase of 40.1%.

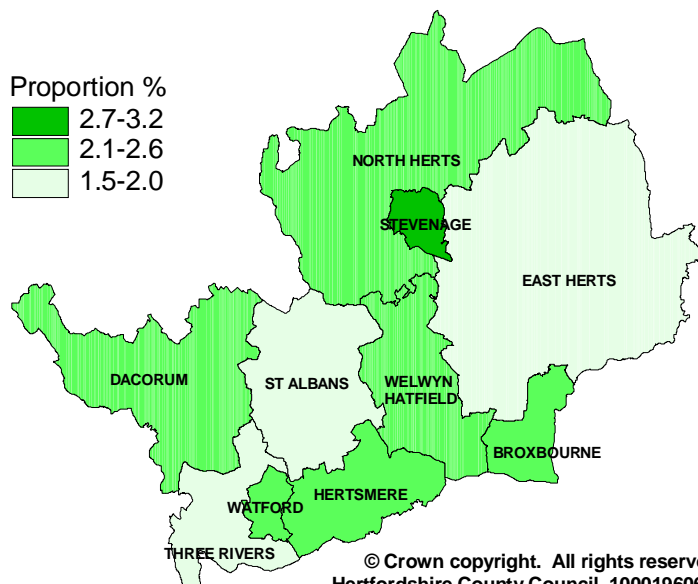
CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	JAN 2009				DEC 2008				NOV 2008			
	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*
BROXBOURNE	963	476	1,439	2.6	837	409	1,246	2.3	734	374	1,108	2.0
DACORUM	1,465	639	2,104	2.5	1,242	533	1,775	2.1	1,171	537	1,708	2.0
EAST HERTS	978	413	1,391	1.7	876	362	1,238	1.5	743	321	1,064	1.3
HERTSMERE	912	369	1,281	2.2	778	325	1,103	1.9	660	310	970	1.6
NORTH HERTS	1,237	438	1,675	2.2	1,075	353	1,428	1.9	900	305	1,205	1.6
ST ALBANS	902	338	1,240	1.5	797	290	1,087	1.3	706	262	968	1.2
STEVENAGE	1,163	360	1,523	3.1	984	322	1,306	2.6	905	322	1,227	2.5
THREE RIVERS	636	239	875	1.7	543	204	747	1.4	488	208	696	1.3
WATFORD	915	354	1,269	2.5	781	298	1,079	2.1	700	280	980	1.9
WELWYN/HATFIELD	994	424	1,418	2.1	898	399	1,297	1.9	786	337	1,123	1.7
COUNTY	10,165	4,050	14,215	2.2	8,811	3,495	12,306	1.9	7,793	3,256	11,049	1.7

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

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 14,215 (2.2%)



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Hertfordshire County Council, 100019606, 2009

- Since October 2008 the overall number of claimants in the county increased in all of the districts.
- North Herts had both the largest increase of 554 in the actual number of claimants and the highest percentage increase of 49.4% during the last quarter.
- Since January 2008 Dacorum has had the largest actual increase of 931, while East Herts had the highest percentage increase of 103.1%.
- Stevenage remained the district with the highest rate of unemployment with 3.1%.
- St Albans has the lowest rate of unemployment with 1.5%.

Total Claimant Count	JAN 2009	JAN 2008	JAN 2007	Change 2007 - 2009	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	1,439	814	977	462	47.3
DACORUM	2,104	1,173	1,658	446	26.9
EAST HERTS	1,391	685	833	558	67.0
HERTSMERE	1,281	755	916	365	39.8
NORTH HERTS	1,675	876	1,065	610	57.3
ST ALBANS	1,240	647	819	421	51.4
STEVENAGE	1,523	935	1,164	359	30.8
THREE RIVERS	875	468	582	293	50.3
WATFORD	1,269	736	983	286	29.1
WELWYN/HATFIELD	1,418	901	1,044	374	35.8
COUNTY	14,215	7,990	10,041	4,174	41.6

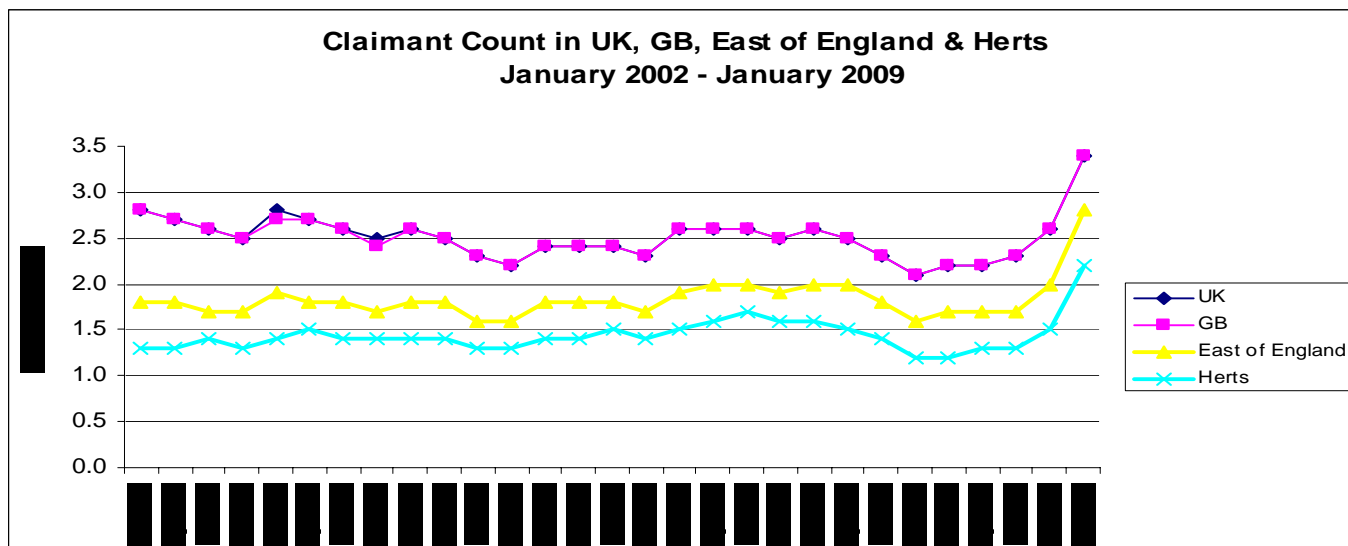
- Since January 2007, the claimant count in Hertfordshire increased by 4,174 claimants (41.6%).
- North Herts had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants of 610, while East Herts experienced the highest percentage increase of 67.0% during this period.
- Between January 2007 and January 2009 Watford had the smallest increase in the actual number of claimants of 286, while Dacorum experienced the lowest percentage increase of 26.9%.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since October 2008 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 6,995 while Buckinghamshire had the highest percentage increase of 53.4%.
- Over the last year Essex had the largest actual increase of 9,654.
- During the same period, in Buckinghamshire, the number of claimants almost doubled from 2,741 to 5,457.

JANUARY 2009 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	4,586	3.8
EAST OF ENGLAND	95,475	2.8	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	6,709	2.6
SOUTH EAST	119,776	2.4	MILTON KEYNES	5,387	3.6
GREATER LONDON	169,355	3.3	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	5,457	1.8
GREAT BRITAIN	1,243,064	3.4	PETERBOROUGH	4,169	4.1
UNITED KINGDOM	1,282,645	3.4	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	7,727	2.0
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	3,916	4.1
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	3,259	3.4
BARNET	5,248	2.5	ESSEX (remainder)	22,904	2.8
ENFIELD	6,820	3.8	HERTFORDSHIRE	14,215	2.2
HARROW	3,247	2.4	NORFOLK	15,982	3.2
HILLINGDON	4,200	2.6	OXFORDSHIRE	6,906	1.7
			SUFFOLK	12,008	2.9

Claimant Count in UK, GB, East of England & Herts
January 2002 - January 2009



LONG TERM CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There were 805 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire compared to 710 in October 2008, an increase of 95. The proportion of LTC stands at 5.7% compared to 7.0% in October 2008.
- The largest increase in the number of LTC since the last quarter was of 40 in the 25 - 34 year old age group.
- There was a slight decrease of 5 in the number of LTC in the 18 - 24 year old age group during the same period.

January 2009 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% Proportion of all claimants	January 2008	
					% Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	25	15	40	1.1	3.4	70
25 - 34	145	45	190	6.0	10.1	175
35 - 44	170	60	230	7.2	13.7	245
45 - 54	175	65	240	8.5	18.6	290
55+	75	25	105	7.8	25.0	195
TOTAL	595	215	805	5.7	12.2	975

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted

Column totals may not sum due to rounding

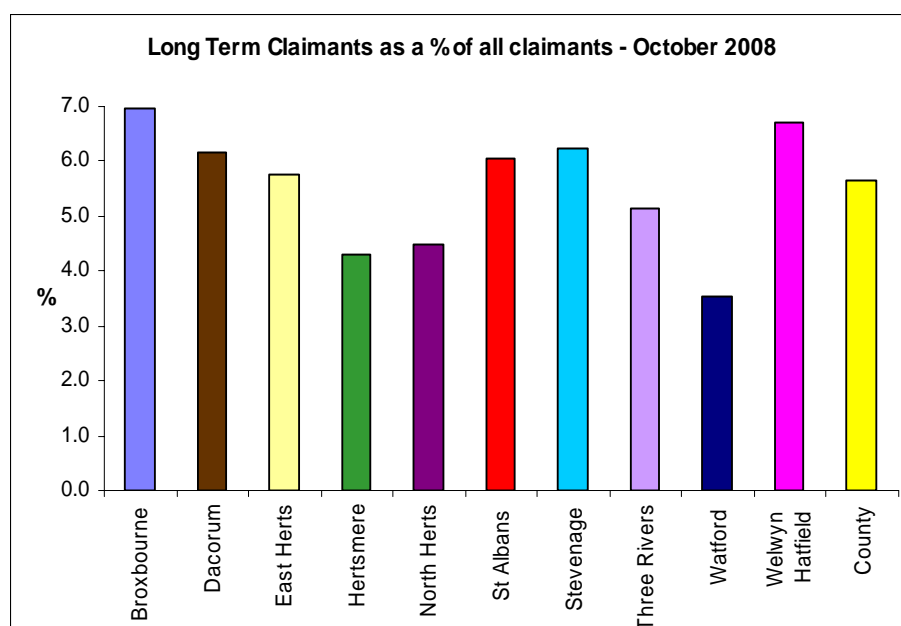
LONG TERM CLAIMANTS (LTC) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTC	% of all claimants
Broxbourne	0	65	65	5	30	35	100	6.9
Dacorum	5	85	90	0	40	40	130	6.2
East Herts	0	60	60	0	20	20	80	5.8
Hertsmere	0	40	40	0	15	15	55	4.3
North Herts	5	60	65	0	10	10	75	4.5
St Albans	0	55	55	0	20	20	75	6.0
Stevenage	0	75	75	0	20	20	95	6.2
Three Rivers	5	30	35	0	10	10	45	5.1
Watford	5	30	35	0	10	10	45	3.5
Welwyn Hatfield	5	65	70	0	25	25	95	6.7
County	25	565	590	15	200	215	805	5.7

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 October 2008, the percentage of all claimants fell in every district.
- Broxbourne had the largest increase of 20 in the actual number of LTC during this period.
- Two of the districts experienced decreases in the actual number of LTC since October 2008, Hertsmere by 5 and Watford by 15.
- The percentage of LTC in Watford fell by 3.5%, half of what it was in October 2008 and was the lowest in the county.
- Broxbourne had the highest rate of LTC in the county with 6.9%.

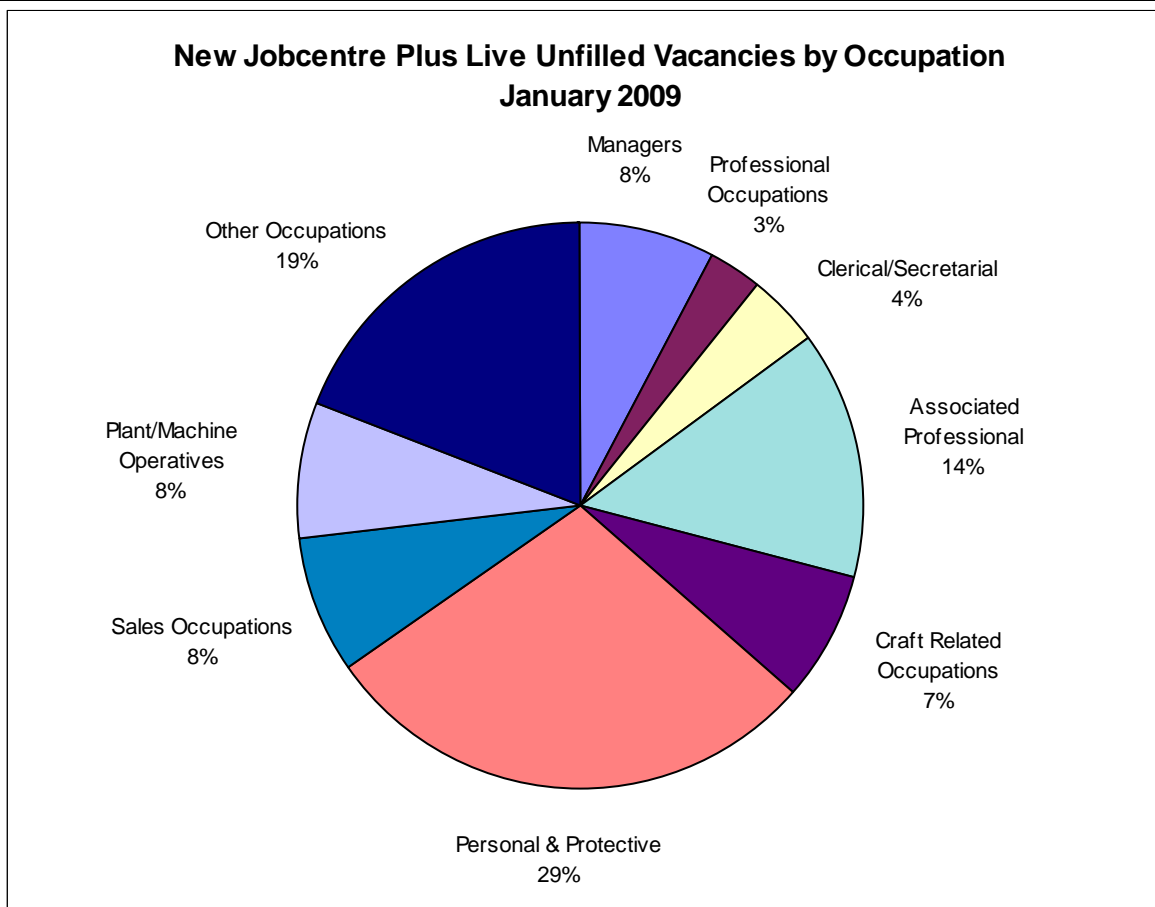
NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

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 2,115 live unfilled vacancies during January 2009, this was a decrease of 51.9% since January 2008. Broxbourne experienced the highest percentage decrease of 73.1% during this period.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within the “Personal and Protective Occupations” sector, with 612 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 29% of the total. This was the only sector to experience an increase since the last quarter.
- The largest fall in the number of vacancies since the last quarter was of 1,567 in the “Other Occupations” sector.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Jan 2009 Total	Jan 2008 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	4	21	2	12	5	3	4	14	12	77	286	-73.1
Dacorum	61	5	9	66	34	38	27	14	87	341	623	-45.3
East Hertfordshire	8	4	6	11	15	47	13	7	54	165	375	-56.0
Hertsmere	13	1	7	11	23	34	11	15	22	137	434	-68.4
North Hertfordshire	12	7	8	13	21	75	5	8	22	171	432	-60.4
St Albans	19	7	13	22	15	71	41	12	52	252	543	-53.6
Stevenage	15	8	20	46	14	131	31	2	40	307	645	-52.4
Three Rivers	5	8	1	5	6	84	3	22	16	150	166	-9.6
Watford	17	2	15	47	6	76	20	27	57	267	478	-44.1
Welwyn Hatfield	8	5	7	63	15	53	9	42	46	248	413	-40.0
TOTAL	162	68	88	296	154	612	164	163	408	2,115	4,395	-51.9



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

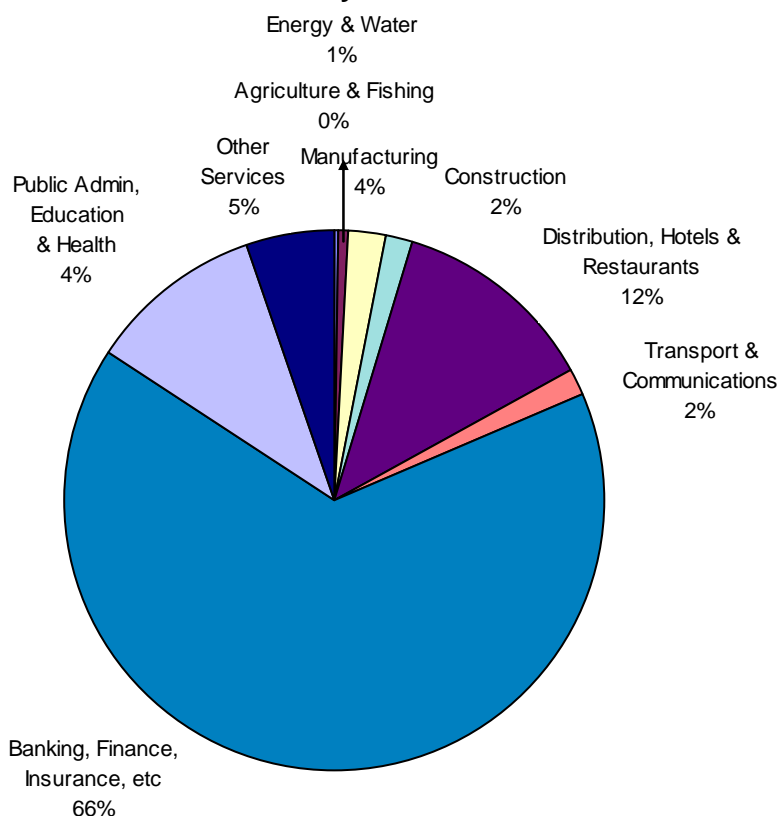
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire was Banking, Finance and Insurance with 1,387 and represented 66% of the total. Stevenage, with 250, had the largest number of vacancies in this sector.
- The number of vacancies in Hertfordshire fell by 3,328 (61.1%) since October 2008. The sector to experience the largest fall of 1,745 was the Banking sector but the highest percentage decrease was 93.4% in the Transport and Communications sector.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Jan 2009 Total	Jan 2008 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	0	0	0	2	5	0	66	4	0	77	286	-73.1
Dacorum	0	0	2	19	97	5	146	22	50	341	623	-45.3
East Hertfordshire	0	0	8	1	12	2	105	30	7	165	375	-56.0
Hertsmere	0	0	7	4	18	4	85	15	4	137	434	-68.4
North Hertfordshire	0	0	5	4	15	10	91	39	7	171	432	-60.4
St Albans	0	0	0	0	28	6	177	31	10	252	543	-53.6
Stevenage	0	15	1	0	15	0	250	23	3	307	645	-52.4
Three Rivers	0	0	0	0	26	6	98	9	11	150	166	-9.6
Watford	3	0	21	2	23	6	155	39	18	267	478	-44.1
Welwyn Hatfield	1	0	2	1	20	0	214	8	2	248	413	-40.0
TOTAL	4	15	46	33	259	39	1,387	220	112	2,115	4,395	-51.9

New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Industry January 2009

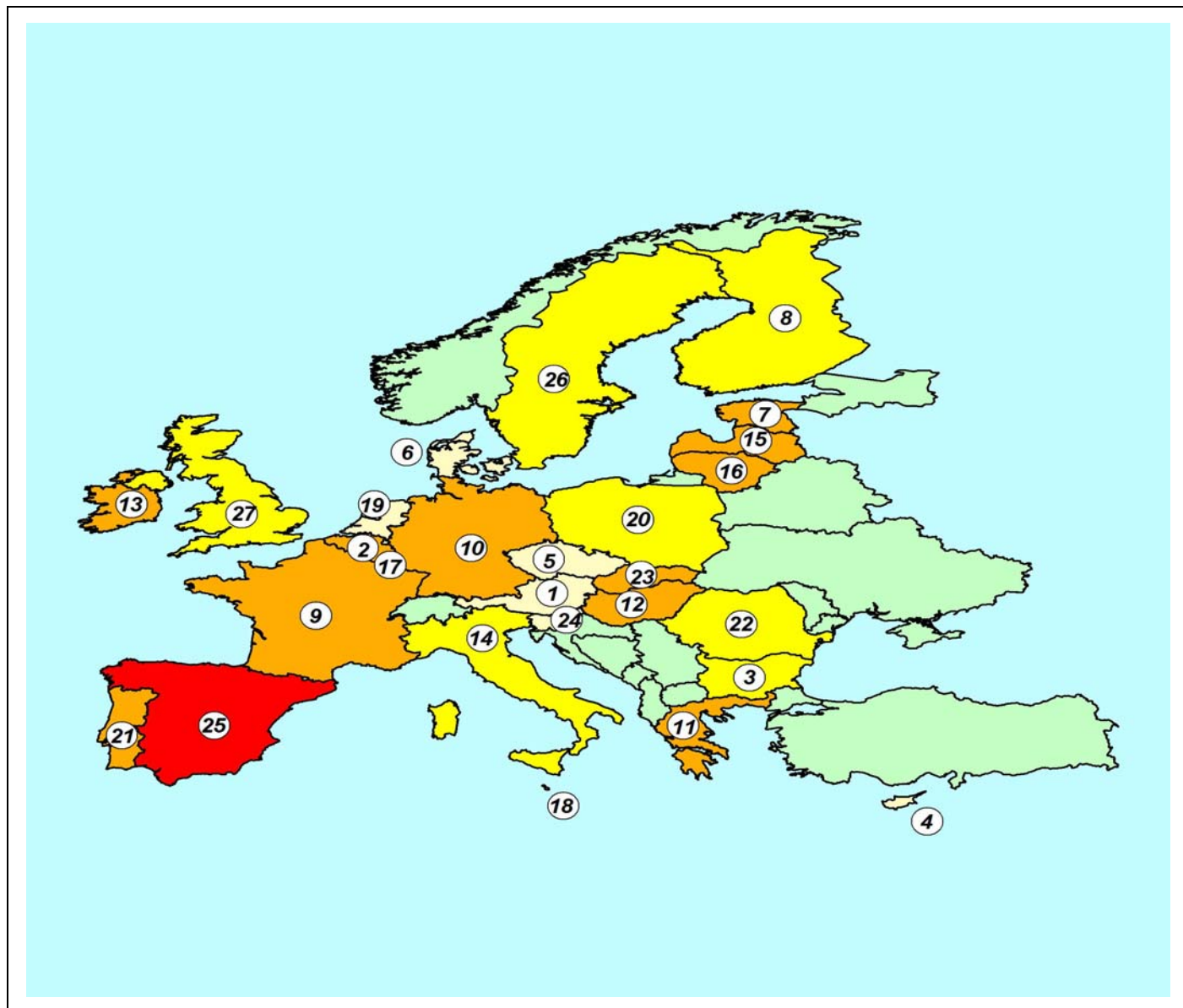


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 7.4% in December 2008, an increase of 0.4% since September 2008.
- Spain had the highest unemployment rate, of 14.4%.
- Between September 2008 and December 2008 the unemployment rate rose in 19 of the 27 countries in the EU. Estonia had the largest increase of 5.0%. There were also significant increases in Latvia (3.6%), Lithuania (3.4%) and Spain (2.5%).
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate fell in 4 of the EU countries. The largest decrease, of 0.6%, was in Slovakia. In Finland, France, Greece and Poland the unemployment rate remained static.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - December 2008

Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	3.9	8. Finland	6.5	15. Latvia	10.4	22. Romania	***5.8
2. Belgium	7.1	9. France	**7.9	16. Lithuania	8.0	23. Slovakia	9.4
3. Bulgaria	5.4	10. Germany	7.2	17. Luxembourg	4.8	24. Slovenia	4.3
4. Cyprus	4.2	11. Greece	***7.5	18. Malta	5.7	25. Spain	14.4
5. Czech Republic	4.7	12. Hungary	8.5	19. Netherlands	2.7	26. Sweden	6.9
6. Denmark	4.5	13. Ireland	8.2	20. Poland	6.5	27. United Kingdom	*6.1
7. Estonia	9.2	14. Italy	***6.7	21. Portugal	7.9	Union Average	7.4

Source: First Release - February 2009

* October 2008

** November 2008

*** Quarter 3 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 October 2008. The largest increase of 479 was in Watford. The highest percentage increase of 48.8% was in North East Hertfordshire.
- During the last year the number of claimant count in the Hemel Hempstead Constituency increased the most by 713.
- In Hertford & Stortford the number of claimants has more than doubled since January 2008.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	January 2009	January 2009
Broxbourne	1,483	2.6
Hemel Hempstead	1,702	2.9
Hertford & Stortford	1,134	1.7
Hertsmere	1,281	2.2
Hitchin & Harpenden	956	1.8
North East Hertfordshire	1,138	2.0
South West Hertfordshire	1,006	1.6
St Albans	993	1.8
Stevenage	1,652	2.9
Watford	1,496	2.3
Welwyn Hatfield	1,374	2.2

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 increased 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 1.01 to 0.90 and North Herts, 0.85 to 0.75.
- Broxbourne had the largest increase, from 0.70 in 2005 to 0.75 in 2006.

TOWN CLAIMANT COUNT

Claimant count ranked in descending order by % Proportion

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANTS January 2009	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	188	4.4
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	692	3.2
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,585	3.1
4	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,523	3.1
5	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	306	3.0
6	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	666	2.9
7	Hitchin	North Herts	535	2.8
8	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	542	2.8
9	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	749	2.7
10	Watford	Watford	1,362	2.4
11	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	288	2.3
12	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	206	2.2
13	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	268	2.2
14	Baldock	North Herts	133	2.1
15	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	485	2.0
16	Hertford	East Herts	299	1.9
17	Ware	East Herts	213	1.9
18	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	170	1.7
19	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	404	1.7
20	St Albans	St Albans	754	1.7
21	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	92	1.6
22	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	168	1.6
23	Royston	North Herts	153	1.6
24	Tring	Dacorum	126	1.5
25	Bushey	Hertsmere	130	1.2
26	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	94	1.2
27	Radlett	Hertsmere	64	1.1
28	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	54	1.0
29	Harpenden	St Albans	163	1.0

* 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, 4.4%.
- All of the main towns in the county experienced increases in the number of claimant count since October 2008. Watford, with 452, had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants and Royston had the highest percentage increase, of 75.9%.
- Over the last year the largest increase in the number of claimants of 662 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

July 2007 to June 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	29,315	74.4	1,594	5.2	8,066	21.4	37,904
East of England	2,808	77.7	123	4.2	644	18.8	3,454
South East	4,174	78.6	184	4.2	901	17.9	5,096
London	3,711	70.6	251	6.3	1,241	24.5	5,059
Hertfordshire	549	78.8	21	3.9	119	18.1	660
Broxbourne	50	82.5	2	3.4	8	14.9	55
Dacorum	73	81.5	3	3.5	13	15.8	86
East Herts	73	81.3	2	2.7	13	16.0	83
Hertsmere	48	78.0	2	4.0	10	17.6	59
North Herts	60	74.8	2	3.8	16	21.0	75
St. Albans	68	78.0	2	3.0	16	20.1	81
Stevenage	42	82.4	2	4.5	6	12.8	50
Three Rivers	43	77.5	1	3.4	10	19.8	53
Watford	40	77.9	2	4.5	10	18.9	52
Welwyn Hatfield	53	74.5	2	3.8	15	22.8	68

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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