

NOTE: Important ONS statement regarding "Better Jobless Data" in Appendix.

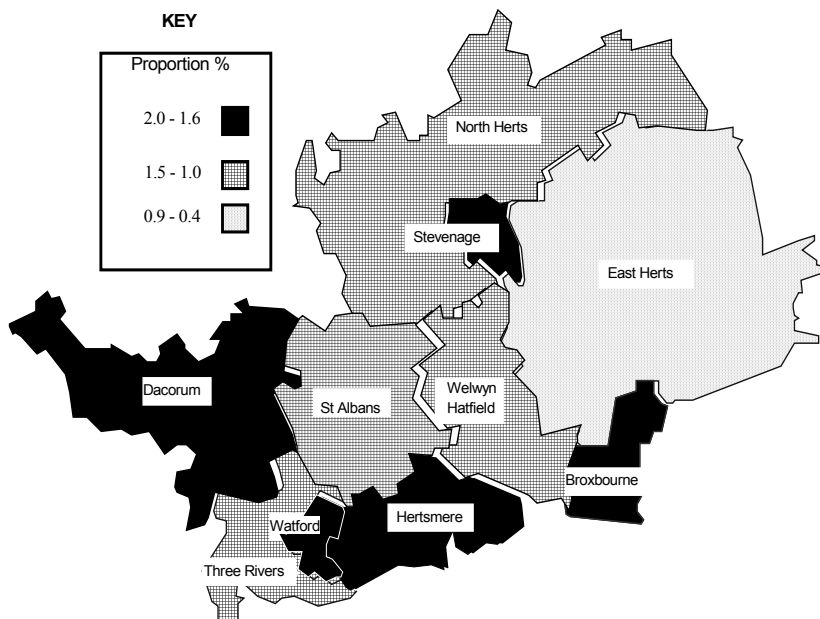
- The official unemployment rate for UK (using the ILO rate) is 4.9% for the period October - December 2003. A rate for Hertfordshire has, at present, been withheld but regional figures have now been released. See Appendix.
- Claimant count unemployment in Hertfordshire for January 2004 stands at 9,127 a proportion of 1.4%. (For an explanation of the new proportions compared to old unemployment rates see Appendix).
- During the last quarter there has been an increase in claimant unemployed of 463 (5.3%).

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	JAN 2004				DEC 2003				NOV 2003			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	643	285	928	1.7	571	280	851	1.6	553	305	858	1.6
DACORUM	1,025	395	1,420	1.7	937	379	1,316	1.5	962	411	1,373	1.6
EAST HERTS	501	206	707	0.9	464	197	661	0.8	453	187	640	0.8
HERTSMERE	689	244	933	1.6	619	225	884	1.5	613	239	852	1.5
NORTH HERTS	710	303	1,013	1.4	617	297	914	1.3	646	302	948	1.3
ST ALBANS	591	227	818	1.0	556	211	767	1.0	597	226	823	1.0
STEVENAGE	708	201	909	1.9	613	175	788	1.6	594	185	779	1.6
THREE RIVERS	439	149	588	1.2	395	133	528	1.1	425	159	584	1.2
WATFORD	685	233	918	1.8	605	214	819	1.6	639	232	871	1.7
WELWYN/HATFIELD	639	254	893	1.5	558	215	773	1.3	539	226	765	1.3
COUNTY	6,630	2,497	9,127	1.4	5,935	2,326	8,261	1.3	6,021	2,472	8,493	1.3

Not seasonally adjusted

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS
IN COUNTY = 9,127 (1.4%)**



- Although overall the number of unemployed claimants has risen since October 2003, there have been slight decreases in Three Rivers, (26), North Herts, (19) and St Albans, (3).
- During this period Welwyn Hatfield has seen the highest increase in the actual number of unemployed claimants, (126), and the largest percentage increase of 16.4%.
- Since October 2003 the number of male unemployed claimants rose by 540 (8.9%), while the number of female claimants fell by 77 (3.0%).
- During the last quarter Broxbourne (109) and Welwyn Hatfield (108) had the highest increase in the number of male unemployed claimants.

Total Unemployed	JAN 2004	JAN 2003	JAN 2002	Change 2002-2004 Nos	%
DISTRICT					
BROXBOURNE	928	860	825	103	12.5
DACORUM	1,420	1,383	1,160	260	22.4
EAST HERTS	707	735	649	58	8.9
HERTSMERE	933	877	745	188	25.2
NORTH HERTS	1,013	922	829	184	22.2
ST ALBANS	818	810	696	122	17.5
STEVENAGE	909	941	898	11	1.2
THREE RIVERS	588	664	606	-18	-3.0
WATFORD	918	948	881	37	4.2
WELWYN/HATFIELD	893	918	730	163	22.3
COUNTY	9,127	9,058	8,019	1,108	13.8

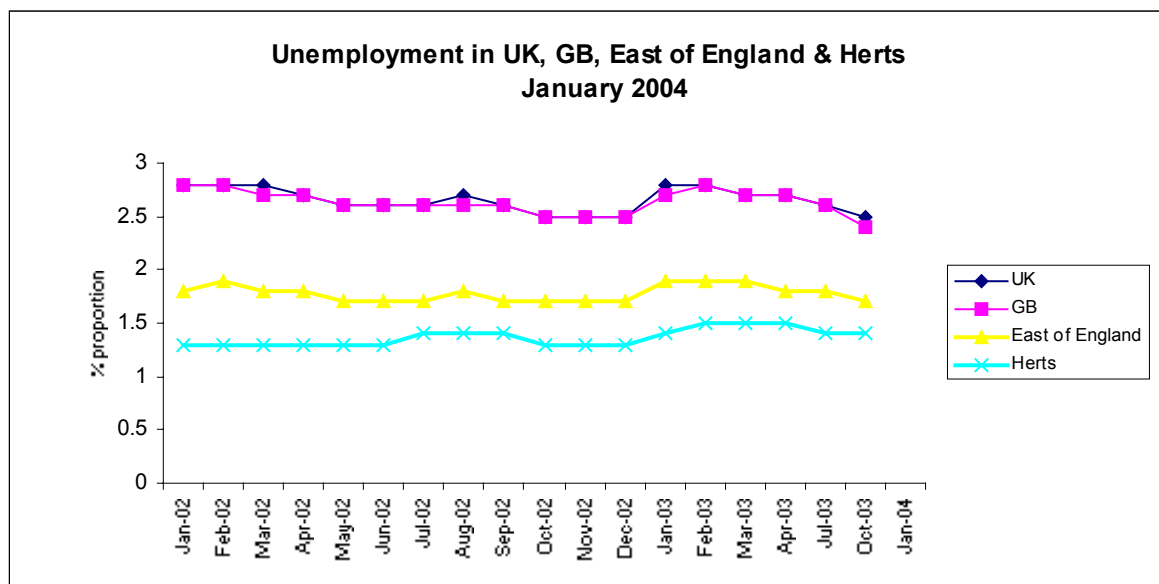
- Claimant unemployment in Hertfordshire has risen by 13.8%, 1,108 (claimants) since January 2002.
- Dacorum had the largest increase in the number of claimants during this period with 260.
- However, the largest percentage increase since January 2002 was in Hertsmere, with 25.2%.
- Stevenage had the smallest increase in the number of claimant count unemployment (11) since January 2002.
- Three Rivers was the only district to have a fall in the number of claimants, of 18, during the same period.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- During the last quarter the percentage of unemployed in Great Britain increased from 2.4% to 2.6% and in the United Kingdom, from 2.5% to 2.6%.
- However, during this period, the only Region in the area to see a fall in the actual number of claimants, (678) was Greater London, this was reflected in the London Boroughs of Barnet, Harrow and Hillingdon.

January 2004 REGIONS	Nos Unemployed	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Nos Unemployed	% proportion
			LUTON	3,537	3.0
EAST OF ENGLAND	60,068	1.8	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,345	1.8
SOUTH EAST	79,691	1.6	MILTON KEYNES	2,798	2.0
GREATER LONDON	169,449	3.5	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	4,121	1.4
GREAT BRITAIN	918,441	2.6	PETERBOROUGH	2,108	2.2
UNITED KINGDOM	952,429	2.6	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,541	1.3
			SOUTHEND	2,787	3.0
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,043	2.3
BARNET	5,631	2.8	ESSEX (remainder)	12,700	1.6
ENFIELD	6,067	3.4	HERTFORDSHIRE	9,127	1.4
HARROW	3,169	2.4	NORFOLK	10,408	2.2
HILLINGDON	3,677	2.4	OXFORDSHIRE	4,332	1.1
			SUFFOLK	8,472	2.1

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There are 934 long-term unemployed (LTU) claimants in Hertfordshire, representing 10.2% of all unemployed, compared to 9.7% in January 2003.
- The largest increases in the actual number of LTU claimants were in the 18-24 year old age group, (24) and the 55+ age group, (23), during this period.
- However, the 25-34 year old group had a fall in the actual number of LTU claimants of 15 since January 2003.
- Female LTU has increased by 49 claimants, (27.8%) over the last year, compared to the increase in the number of Male LTU claimants of just 2, (0.3%).

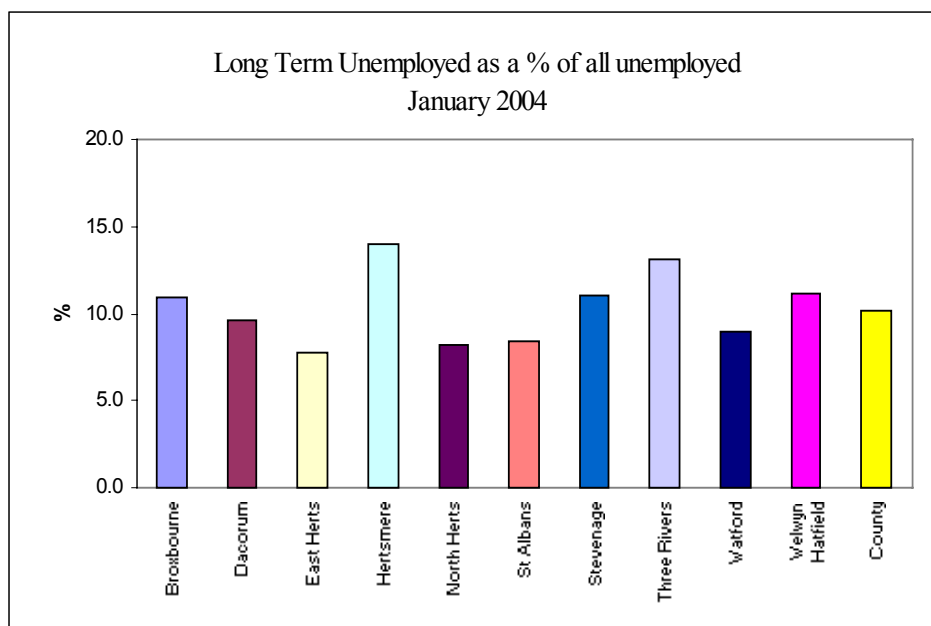
January 2004 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% of All Unemployed	January 2003	
					% of All Unemployed	Total
18 - 24	30	12	42	2.1	1.0	18
25 - 34	121	40	161	7.7	7.7	176
35 - 44	193	49	242	11.4	11.5	242
45 - 54	225	82	307	17.7	16.0	288
55+	140	42	182	18.8	16.9	159
TOTAL	709	225	934	10.2	9.7	883

Not seasonally adjusted

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS (LTU) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTU	% of all Unemployed
Broxbourne	4	73	77	0	24	24	101	10.9
Dacorum	4	96	100	2	34	36	136	9.6
East Herts	2	40	42	0	13	13	55	7.8
Hertsmere	13	87	100	7	24	31	131	14.0
North Herts	1	63	64	0	19	19	83	8.2
St Albans	3	49	52	1	16	17	69	8.4
Stevenage	0	76	76	1	23	24	100	11.0
Three Rivers	1	55	56	0	21	21	77	13.1
Watford	0	71	71	0	12	12	83	9.0
Welwyn Hatfield	2	69	71	1	27	28	99	11.1
County	30	679	709	12	213	225	934	10.2

Not seasonally adjusted



- Overall the percentage of LTU in the County has fallen since October 2003, this has not been reflected in all the districts.
- The largest percentage decrease of 1.8% was in Stevenage during this period.
- However, Dacorum and Hertsmere have both had increases of 0.6% in the percentage of LTU over the last quarter.
- East Herts remains the district with the lowest percentage of LTU, 7.8%.
- On the other hand Hertsmere is now the district with the highest percentage of LTU, 14.0%.

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

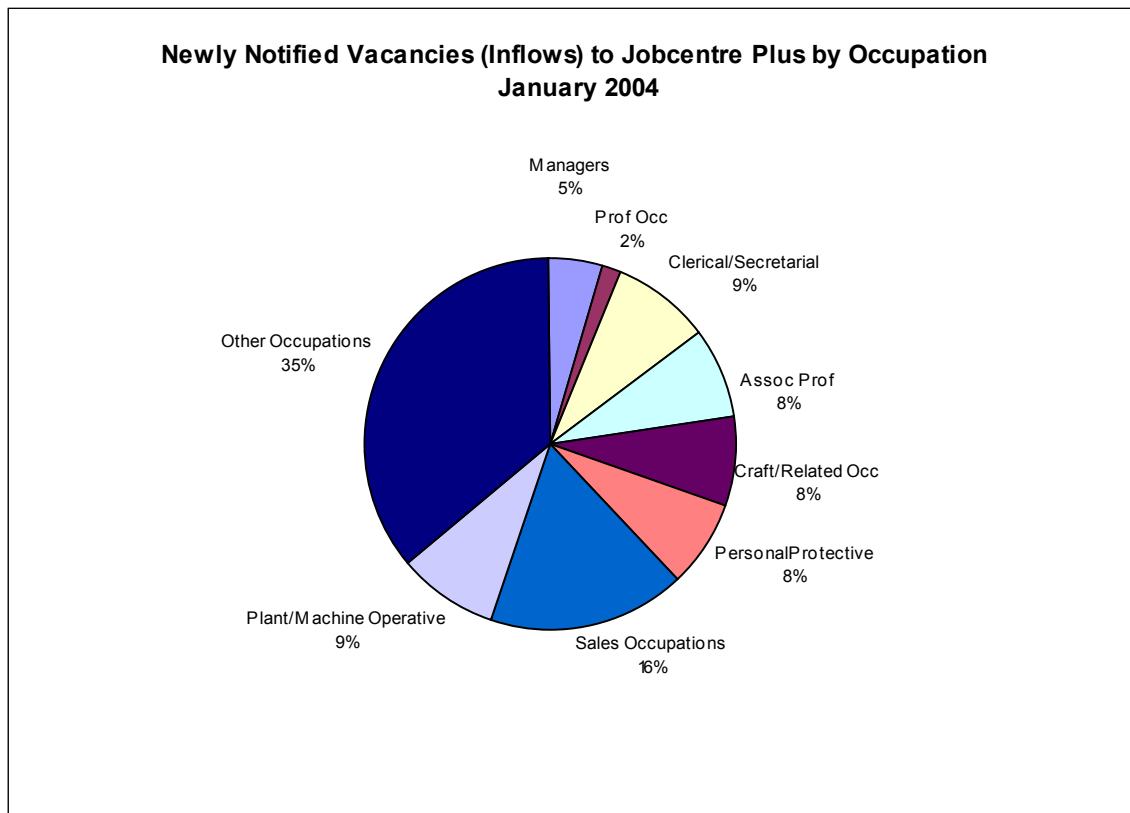
NB This data is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of occupational vacancies being notified.

- In Hertfordshire a total of 1,915 vacancies were notified during January 2004, this was an increase of 35.5% since January 2003.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire is within "Other Occupations" with 698 newly notified vacancies, which accounts for 35% of the total. Waltham Cross Jobcentre Plus had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 187.
- Overall the Watford Jobcentre Plus had the highest total of newly notified vacancies, 274.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Jan 2004 Total	Jan 2003 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	3	2	7	6	3	22	11	8	30	92	70	31.4
Borehamwood	23	0	11	8	6	5	29	8	26	116	114	1.8
Hertford	4	2	9	4	9	9	4	10	27	78	72	8.3
Hemel Hempstead	5	1	23	17	11	6	88	10	68	229	201	13.9
Hitchin	2	1	4	2	10	8	2	6	21	56	65	-13.8
Hatfield	9	1	13	7	13	18	9	37	53	160	82	95.1
Letchworth	2	5	5	6	23	18	32	22	32	145	79	83.5
St Albans	6	11	18	17	13	15	16	10	45	151	173	-12.7
Stevenage	7	4	26	32	9	14	46	9	71	218	91	139.6
Watford	14	1	30	41	20	15	31	19	103	274	291	5.8
Waltham Cross	7	3	11	1	18	1	25	14	187	267	107	149.5
Welwyn Garden City	4	0	6	5	11	7	9	10	23	75	68	10.3
Stansted Airport	4	0	3	1	5	6	20	3	12	54	60	-10.0
TOTAL	90	31	166	147	151	144	322	166	698	1,915	1,413	35.5

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data



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 MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY INDUSTRY *

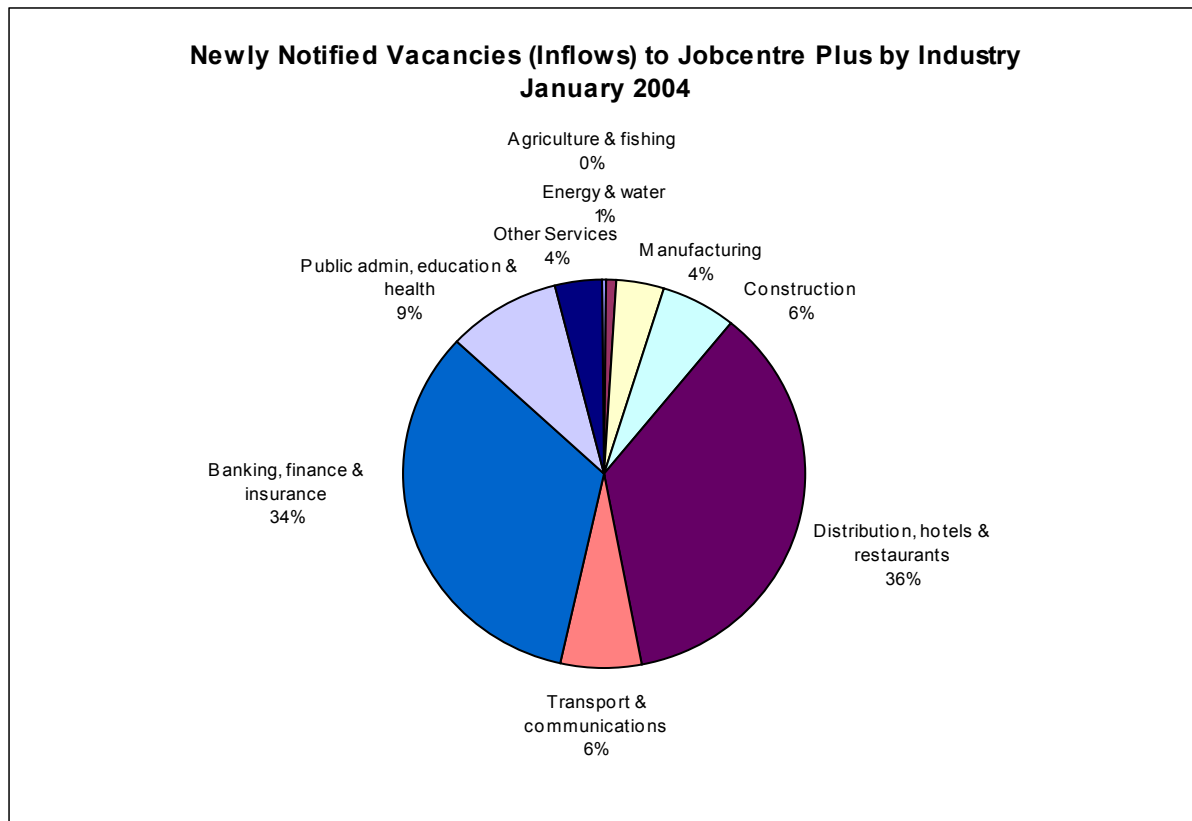
NB This data is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of industrial vacancies being notified.

- The sector with the highest numbers of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire is Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants with 684 and accounts for 36% of the total.
- Waltham Cross Jobcentre Plus, with 176, has the largest number of vacancies in the Distribution, etc, sector.
- The Banking, Finance and Insurance sector is the second largest in the County with 643 newly notified vacancies, and together with the Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector, accounts for 70% of vacancies.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Jan 2004 Total	Jan 2003 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	0	0	4	10	28	5	15	22	8	92	70	31.4
Borehamwood	1	1	3	2	32	29	28	11	9	116	114	1.8
Hertford	1	1	2	1	31	0	26	11	5	78	72	8.3
Hemel Hempstead	0	1	10	4	100	2	94	12	6	229	201	13.9
Hitchin	0	1	4	5	17	6	9	12	2	56	65	-13.8
Hatfield	0	2	9	1	41	3	95	4	5	160	82	95.1
Letchworth	0	1	2	40	32	2	45	21	2	145	79	83.5
St Albans	4	1	8	3	36	19	57	15	8	151	173	-12.7
Stevenage	0	5	5	3	73	4	76	40	12	218	91	139.6
Watford	0	1	6	38	77	31	96	17	8	274	291	5.8
Waltham Cross	0	1	18	11	176	9	39	5	8	267	107	149.5
Welwyn Garden City	0	1	1	3	19	1	46	2	2	75	68	10.3
Stansted Airport	0	0	0	0	22	12	17	2	1	54	60	-10.0
TOTAL	6	16	72	121	684	123	643	174	76	1,915	1,413	35.5

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data

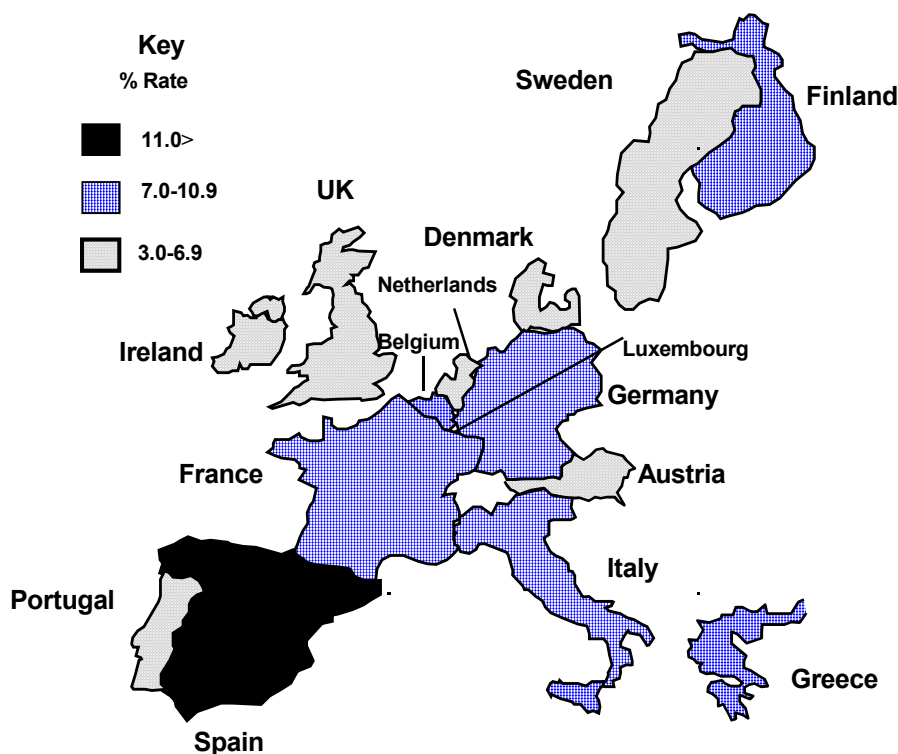


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 remains at 8.0% in November 2003. Spain continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the European Union at 11.3%.
- The unemployment rate in the majority of countries has fallen slightly, by 0.1% in all cases, since August 2003.
- However, between August and October 2003 the unemployment rate in Denmark increased by 0.7%, from 5.3% to 6.0%.



Unemployment rates for the European Union

Nov 2003
% rate

Spain	11.3
France	9.5
Germany	9.3
Greece	9.2**
Finland	8.9
Italy	8.4*
Belgium	8.1
Portugal	6.9
Sweden	6.0
Denmark	6.0*
UK	4.9*
Ireland	4.6
Austria	4.5
Netherlands	4.0*
Luxembourg	3.9
Union Average	8.0

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Oct 2003

** Jun 2003

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Overall unemployment in the Constituencies rose during the last quarter. Welwyn Hatfield Constituency had the largest actual increase in the number of unemployed, 124, and the highest percentage increase of 16.7%.
- However, in three Constituencies the actual number of unemployed fell over the same period: South West Hertfordshire (42); Hitchin & Harpenden (16) and St Albans (3).

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of Unemployed January 2004	Unemployment % Proportion January 2004
Broxbourne	956	1.7
Hemel Hempstead	1,146	1.9
Hertford & Stortford	557	0.9
Hertsmere	933	1.6
Hitchin & Harpenden	626	1.2
North East Hertfordshire	672	1.2
South West Hertfordshire	674	1.1
St Albans	635	1.1
Stevenage	972	1.7
Watford	1,091	1.7
Welwyn Hatfield	865	1.5

TOWN CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

Claimant unemployment ranked in descending order by unemployment % rate

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYED January 2004	% RATE *
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	179	3.6
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	508	3.4
3	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	148	2.7
4	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,061	2.5
5	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	494	2.3
6	Stevenage	Stevenage	909	2.3
7	Watford	Watford	918	2.3
8	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	450	2.2
9	Letchworth	North Herts	346	2.1
10	Hitchin	North Herts	341	2.0
11	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	144	2.0
12	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	309	1.9
13	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	189	1.7
14	Abbots Langley	Three Rivers	113	1.7
15	Baldock	North Herts	85	1.7
16	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	134	1.6
17	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	155	1.5
18	St Albans	St Albans	563	1.4
19	Tring	Dacorum	92	1.4
20	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	71	1.3
21	Hertford	East Herts	156	1.3
22	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	83	1.2
23	Radlett	Hertsmere	53	1.2
24	Bushey	Hertsmere	122	1.2
25	Ware	East Herts	111	1.2
26	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	53	1.0
27	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	159	1.0
28	Royston	North Herts	69	0.9
29	Harpenden	St Albans	108	0.8

Not Seasonally adjusted

- These rates have been calculated using local estimates of the workforce from the 1991 Census and will be updated shortly.

- Overall, claimant count unemployment has risen in the main towns of Hertfordshire during the last quarter.
- The largest increase in the actual number of unemployed was in Welwyn Garden City with 87, although the largest percentage increase was in Ware, 23.3%.
- However, during this period 9 towns experienced a fall in the number of unemployed, the largest fall was in Rickmansworth, of 35, (33.0%).
- Waltham Cross has the highest unemployment rate in the County of 3.6%.

Source: National Statistics (NOMIS)

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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 have implemented three of the most significant improvements recommended in the review.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 tables below show quarterly national, regional and county unemployment figures from the Labour Force Survey. A full re-weighting of the LFS dataset is not available until further population estimates and projections are published in line with 2001 Census results.

Autumn 2003 (Not seasonally adjusted)

All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total ¹			
United Kingdom ⁵	24,545	3,465	28,216	1,475	29,691	17,352
Great Britain	23,931	3,369	27,492	1,430	28,922	16,826
East of England	2,336	373	2,726	98	2,824	1,493
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
London	3,003	549	3,577	280	3,857	2,065
South East	3,458	553	4,037	164	4,201	2,196

All Persons	All aged 16 & over ²	Economic Activity rates ₃ (%)		Employment rate (%)	ILO Unemployment rate (%) ⁴
		all age 16+	16-59/64		
United Kingdom ⁵	47,043	63.1	78.7	74.7	5.0
Great Britain	45,748	63.2	78.9	74.9	4.9
East of England	4,318	65.4	82.3	79.4	3.5
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
London	5,922	65.1	76.1	70.4	7.3
South East	6,396	65.7	82.0	78.7	3.9

Source: "Labour Force Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2004.

NOTE: Estimates are presented for regions, counties, metropolitan districts and the 30 largest local authority districts (according to ONS estimates of resident population at mid -1992).

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 employed 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 Statistics

National Statistics publish two regular and complementary measures 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 uses information on unemployment from the count of people 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 unemployment figures for very small areas.** The disadvantages of the claimant count are firstly; 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 secondly; it is not internationally comparable.

* Jobcentre Plus Vacancies

New monthly Jobcentre Plus notified vacancies (inflows) at national, regional and local level, with breakdowns by industry and occupation are available from 16 October 2002. These give data from June 2002 onwards. Note that these figures do not yet have National Statistics status.

The new 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. These distortions resulted from the introduction of Employer Direct, which involved the transfer of vacancy taking from local Jobcentres to regional Customer Service Centres. Employer Direct has now been fully implemented and it has always been the intention to reintroduce appropriate series as soon as possible.

Changes in vacancy taking procedures as a result of Employer Direct have 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.

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.

Jobcentre Plus stocks and outflows data are still not being published at present. Further consideration is being given to the influences of changes in vacancy handling procedures, the susceptibility of the series to internal flows of administrative work and to a number of data quality issues.

An explanation of old rates and new proportions

Claimant Count Rates

The traditional claimant count rates express the number of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of corresponding mid year estimate of the workforce jobs in the area plus the number of claimants. The number of workforce jobs is mainly collected through postal employer surveys and comprises; employee jobs, self-employed jobs, HM forces and government supported trainees.

Claimant Count Rates Jan 2002-Nov 2002 (percentage)

	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Welwyn Hatfield	County	GB	East of England
Jan-02	2.2	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.4	3.3	2.3
Feb-02	2.3	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	3.4	2.3
Mar-02	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.5	3.3	2.3
Apr-02	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.2	2.3
May-02	2.1	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.1	2.2
Jun-02	2.1	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.1	2.1
Jul-02	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.5	3.1	2.2
Aug-02	2.1	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.8	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.6	3.1	2.2
Sep-02	2.1	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.6	3.1	2.2
Oct-02	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.0	2.1
Nov-02	2.0	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.0	2.1

Claimant Count Proportions

The new proportions express the number of claimants as a percentage of the estimated population of working age resident in an area and are thus wholly resident based. The population of the working age is defined as those aged 16-59 women and 16-64 for men.

Claimant Count Proportions Jan 2002-Nov 2002 (percentage)

	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Welwyn Hatfield	County	GB	East of England
Jan-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.3	2.8	1.8
Feb-02	1.6	1.5	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.3	2.8	1.9
Mar-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.7	1.8
Apr-02	1.6	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.7	1.8
May-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.3	2.6	1.7
Jun-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.6	1.7
Jul-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.4	2.6	1.7
Aug-02	1.5	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.8
Sep-02	1.5	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.8	1.4	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.7
Oct-02	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.5	1.7
Nov-02	1.4	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	2.5	1.7

The effects of new proportions in Hertfordshire

Nationally, on average the new proportions are around a fifth smaller than the traditional rates. But there are variations around this.

In Hertfordshire the new proportions are about 15% smaller than the traditional rates. Rates on the former basis in Broxbourne were the highest in the County at 2.0%. Expressed as a proportion of the working age population it is lower at 1.4%. At the other extreme the old rates in Watford were 1.6% and in Welwyn Hatfield 1.2%, they are now higher using proportions at 1.7% and 1.4% respectively.

This contrast reflects the extent relative to the resident population in these districts.

