



UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

JANUARY 2005

QUARTERLY

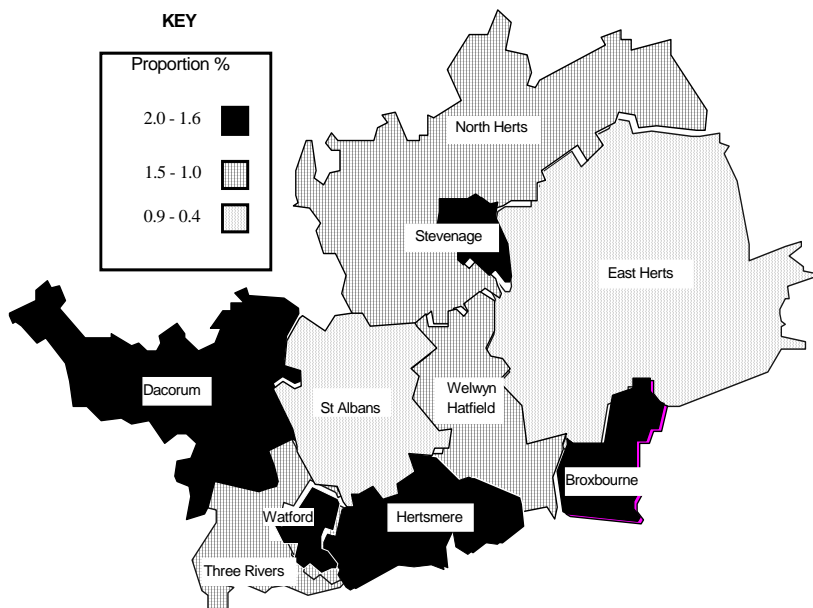
- The official unemployment rate for UK (using the ILO rate) is 4.7% for the period October - December 2004. Quarterly average rates for Hertfordshire, 3.5%, and East of England, 3.6%, have now been released. See Appendix.
- Claimant count unemployment in Hertfordshire for January 2005 stands at 8,931 a proportion of 1.4%.
- During the last quarter there has been an increase in claimant unemployed of 755 (9.2%).

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	JAN 2005				DEC 2004				NOV 2004			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	620	292	912	1.7	553	280	833	1.6	544	289	833	1.6
DACORUM	972	383	1,355	1.6	884	359	1,243	1.5	931	362	1,293	1.5
EAST HERTS	467	187	654	0.8	405	167	572	0.7	415	178	593	0.7
HERTSMERE	670	232	902	1.6	636	236	872	1.5	611	228	839	1.5
NORTH HERTS	751	239	990	1.4	667	229	896	1.2	648	231	879	1.2
ST ALBANS	548	202	750	0.9	508	178	686	0.8	509	178	687	0.8
STEVENAGE	716	223	939	1.9	618	188	806	1.6	596	196	792	1.6
THREE RIVERS	413	170	583	1.1	378	158	536	1.1	385	165	550	1.1
WATFORD	689	237	926	1.8	646	212	858	1.7	640	229	869	1.7
WELWYN/HATFIELD	667	253	920	1.5	597	224	821	1.4	550	225	775	1.3
COUNTY	6,513	2,418	8,931	1.4	5,892	2,231	8,123	1.3	5,829	2,281	8,110	1.3

Not seasonally adjusted

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS
IN COUNTY = 8,931 (1.4%)**



- During the last quarter the number of unemployed claimants has risen in the county and this has been reflected throughout the districts.
- Welwyn Hatfield had the largest increase in the actual number of unemployed, 158, and also the largest percentage increase of 20.7% during this period. The number of unemployed males accounts for the majority of this increase.
- Since October 2004 the total number of unemployed males in the county has risen by 677 (11.6%) compared to the number of females 78 (3.3%).

Total Unemployed DISTRICT	JAN 2005	JAN 2004	JAN 2003	Change 2003-2005 Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	912	928	860	52	6.0
DACORUM	1,355	1,420	1,383	-28	-2.0
EAST HERTS	654	707	735	-81	-11.0
HERTSMERE	902	933	877	25	2.9
NORTH HERTS	990	1,013	922	68	7.4
ST ALBANS	750	818	810	-60	-7.4
STEVENAGE	939	909	941	-2	-0.2
THREE RIVERS	583	588	664	-81	-12.2
WATFORD	926	918	948	-22	-2.3
WELWYN/HATFIELD	920	893	918	2	0.2
COUNTY	8,931	9,127	9,058	-127	-1.4

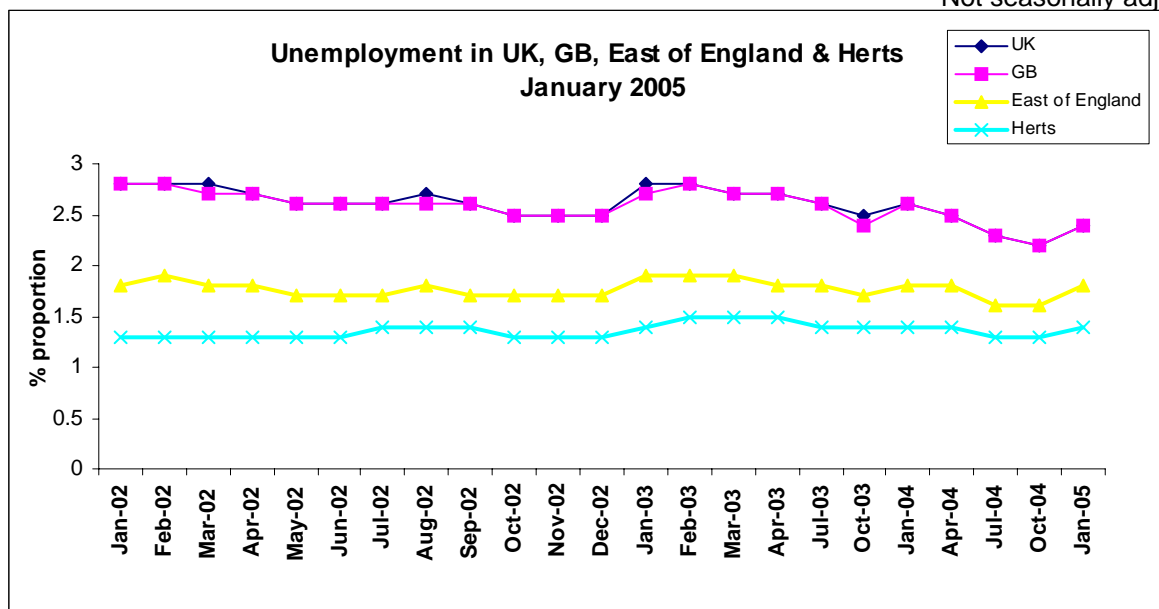
- Claimant unemployment in Hertfordshire has fallen by 1.4%, (127 claimants) since January 2003.
- The largest falls in the number of claimants, during this period have been in East Herts and Three Rivers, each falling by 81.
- The largest percentage decrease since January 2003 was in Three Rivers, with 12.2%.
- Stevenage had the smallest decrease in the number of claimant count unemployed (2) and percentage decrease (0.2%) since January 2003.
- North Herts had the highest percentage increase (7.4%) and highest increase in the actual number of claimants, 68, during the same period.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Unemployment has increased nationally and regionally during the last quarter.
- However, in the London Borough of Enfield there has been a decrease in the number of unemployed claimants, of 200, during this period.
- Unemployment has risen throughout the surrounding Counties / Unitary Authorities since October 2004. Norfolk and Essex have seen the largest increases of 1,763 and 968 respectively.

January 2005 REGIONS	Nos Unemployed	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Nos Unemployed	% proportion
			LUTON	3,330	2.9
EAST OF ENGLAND	58,412	1.8	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,048	1.7
SOUTH EAST	72,751	1.5	MILTON KEYNES	2,506	1.8
GREATER LONDON	160,093	3.3	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,748	1.3
GREAT BRITAIN	842,499	2.4	PETERBOROUGH	2,495	2.5
UNITED KINGDOM	872,072	2.4	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,642	1.3
			SOUTHEND	2,559	2.7
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,049	2.2
BARNET	5,158	2.5	ESSEX (remainder)	12,034	1.5
ENFIELD	5,903	3.3	HERTFORDSHIRE	8,931	1.4
HARROW	2,969	2.2	NORFOLK	11,098	2.3
HILLINGDON	3,502	2.2	OXFORDSHIRE	3,878	1.0
			SUFFOLK	7,226	1.8

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There are 895 long-term unemployed (LTU) claimants in Hertfordshire, representing 10.0% of all unemployed, compared to 835, 10.2% in October 2004.
- The largest increase in the actual number of LTU claimants, 30, was in the 25-34 year old age group during this period.
- However, the 45 - 54 year old age group experienced a slight fall of 5 in the actual number of LTU claimants since October 2004.

January 2005 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% of All Unemployed	January 2004	
					% of All Unemployed	Total
18 - 24	35	15	50	2.3	2.1	42
25 - 34	130	35	165	8.0	7.7	161
35 - 44	170	40	210	10.6	11.4	242
45 - 54	190	70	260	16.0	17.7	307
55+	160	45	210	23.1	18.8	182
TOTAL	685	205	895	10.0	10.2	934

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

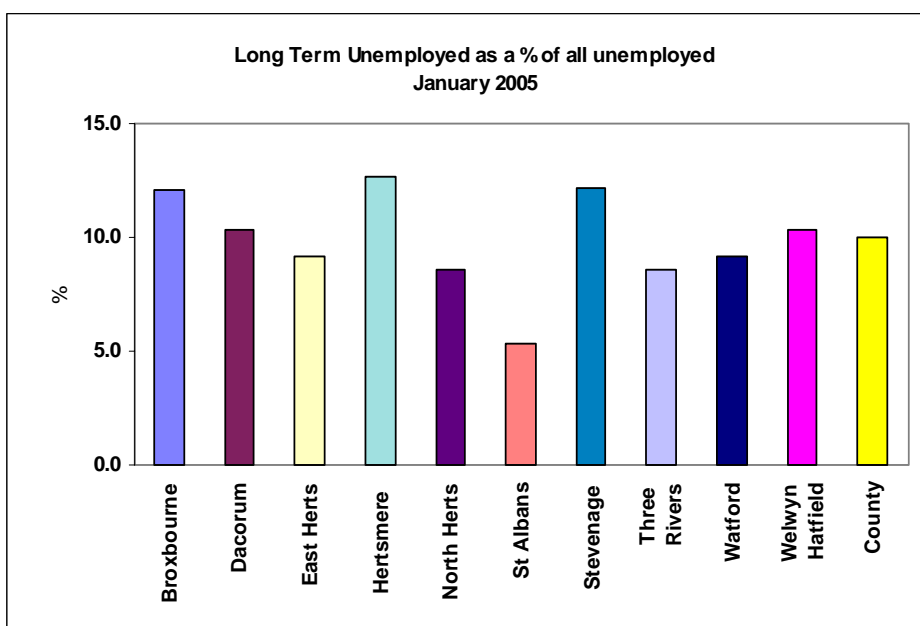
Not seasonally adjusted

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	0	75	75	5	30	35	110	12.1
Dacorum	5	105	110	5	25	30	140	10.3
East Herts	5	45	50	0	10	10	60	9.2
Hertsmere	10	80	90	5	20	25	115	12.7
North Herts	0	60	60	0	20	20	85	8.6
St Albans	5	25	30	0	10	10	40	5.3
Stevenage	5	90	95	0	20	20	115	12.2
Three Rivers	0	30	30	0	15	15	50	8.6
Watford	0	65	65	0	15	15	85	9.2
Welwyn Hatfield	5	65	70	0	25	25	95	10.3
County	35	650	685	15	190	205	895	10.0

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted



- Although the percentage of LTU in the county fell slightly by 0.2% since October 2004, the actual number of LTU claimants increased by 60.
- Broxbourne had the largest increase in the actual number of LTU, 20, and the largest percentage increase of 1.5% during the last quarter.
- Watford had the largest percentage decrease 0.9% during the same period.
- St Albans remains the district with the lowest percentage of LTU, 5.3%.
- Hertsmere remains the district with the highest percentage of LTU, 12.7%, in the county.

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY OCCUPATION

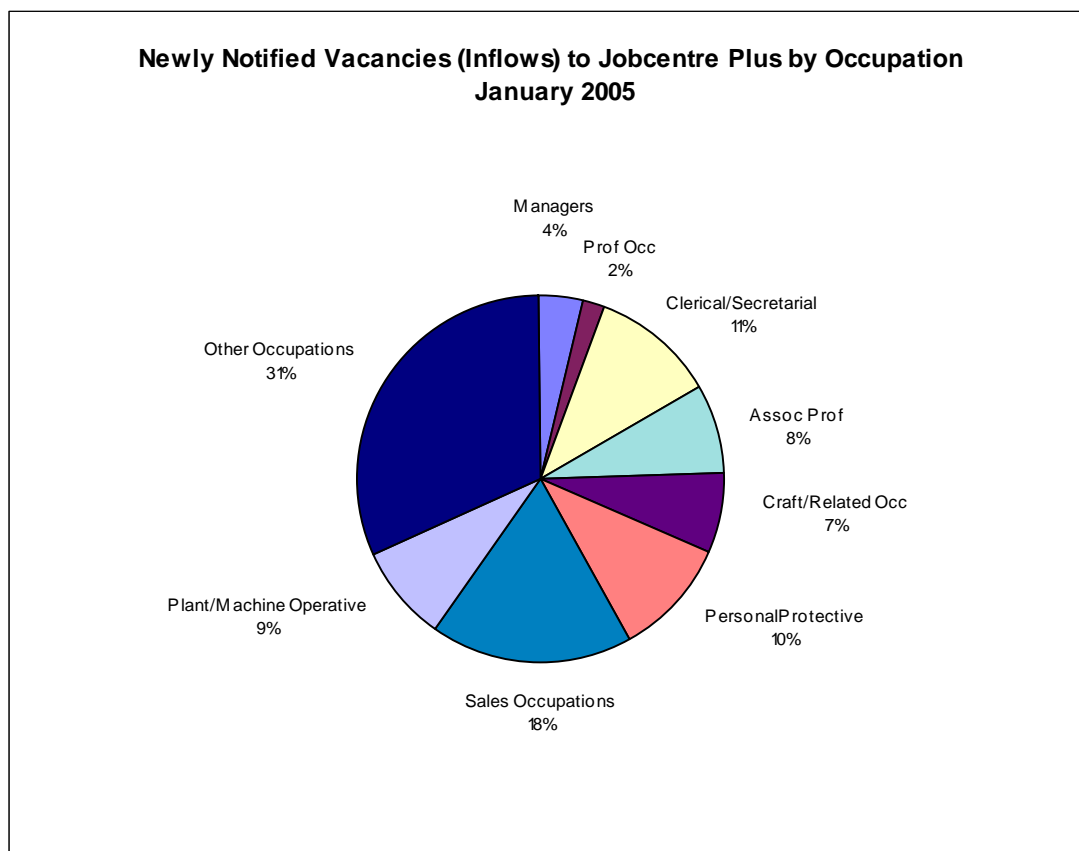
NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of occupational vacancies being notified.

- In Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) a total of 2,914 vacancies were notified during January 2005, this was an increase of 52.2% since January 2004.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is within "Other Occupations" with 930 newly notified vacancies, which accounts for 31% of the total. St Albans Jobcentre Plus had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 188.
- Overall the Watford Jobcentre Plus had the highest total of newly notified vacancies, 457.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Jan 2005 Total	Jan 2004 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	10	12	28	14	7	10	35	11	63	190	92	106.5
Borehamwood	7	2	9	18	16	10	32	6	29	129	116	11.2
Hertford	2	5	7	7	20	12	8	21	35	117	78	50.0
Hemel Hempstead	16	3	42	43	31	10	60	47	112	364	229	58.9
Hitchin	10	7	22	8	6	18	22	21	33	147	56	162.5
Hatfield	5	6	12	9	9	2	35	29	56	163	160	1.9
Letchworth	9	7	15	12	9	11	8	7	38	116	145	-20.0
St Albans	8	0	25	17	30	14	29	14	188	325	151	115.2
Stevenage	5	6	33	35	13	170	67	13	65	407	218	86.7
Watford	23	5	64	43	39	26	80	24	153	457	274	66.8
Waltham Cross	2	3	33	6	17	5	44	22	108	240	267	-10.1
Welwyn Garden City	8	4	28	7	7	4	44	19	27	148	75	97.3
Stansted Airport	6	0	7	4	0	7	47	17	23	111	54	105.5
TOTAL	111	60	325	223	204	299	511	251	930	2,914	1,915	52.2

- 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 |
|---|---|

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY INDUSTRY

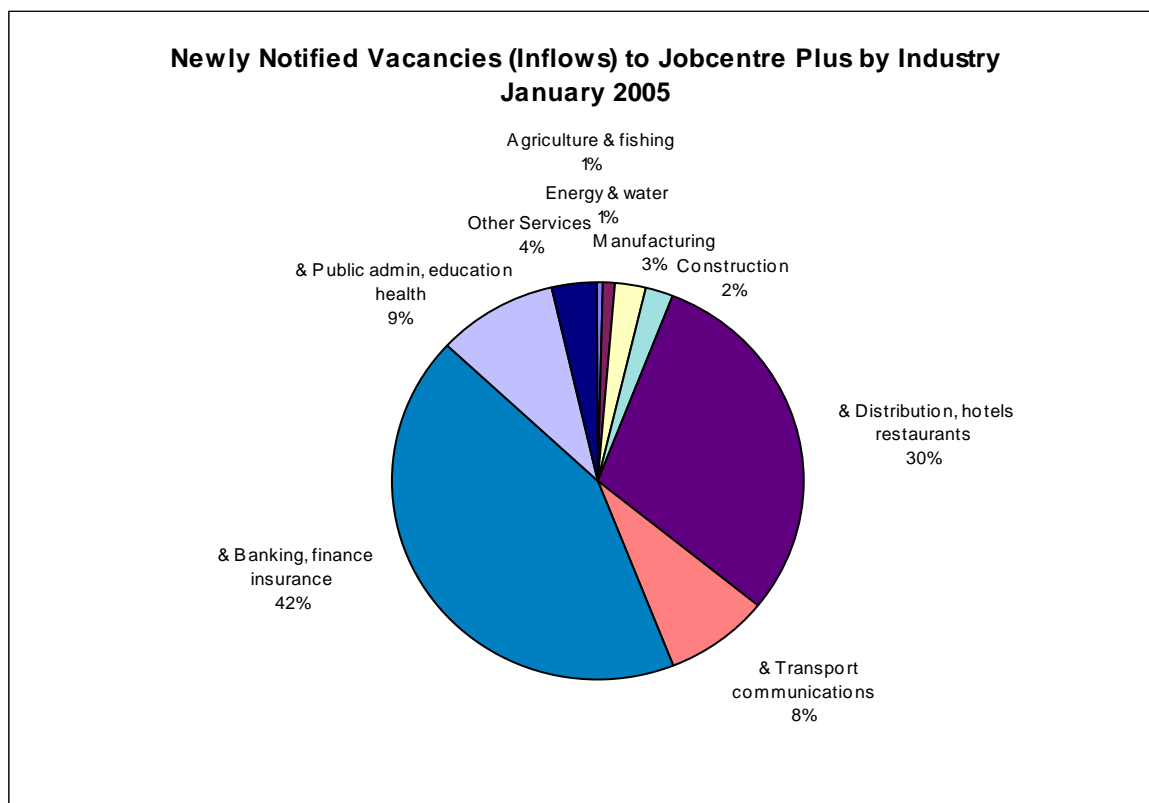
NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of industrial vacancies being notified.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is Banking, Finance and Insurance with 1,256 and accounts for 42% of the total.
- Stevenage Jobcentre Plus, with 252, 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 870 newly notified vacancies and together with the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector, accounts for 72% of vacancies.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Jan 2005 Total	Jan 2004 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	0	0	4	9	46	22	85	13	11	190	92	106.5
Borehamwood	0	0	5	7	25	17	49	23	3	129	116	11.2
Hertford	4	0	4	5	20	4	36	17	27	117	78	50.0
Hemel Hempstead	1	5	10	4	108	15	176	42	3	364	229	58.9
Hitchin	0	0	7	0	33	4	64	32	7	147	56	162.5
Hatfield	0	15	7	2	30	3	101	4	1	163	160	1.9
Letchworth	0	0	6	4	31	0	49	24	2	116	145	-20.0
St Albans	1	0	2	3	159	8	124	22	6	325	151	115.2
Stevenage	0	1	7	3	83	16	252	28	17	407	218	86.7
Watford	6	0	7	9	175	71	128	47	14	457	274	66.8
Waltham Cross	3	3	10	12	55	24	114	6	13	240	267	-10.1
Welwyn Garden City	0	0	6	6	38	17	64	14	3	148	75	97.3
Stansted Airport	0	0	0	0	67	30	14	0	0	111	54	105.5
TOTAL	15	24	75	64	870	231	1,256	272	107	2,914	1,915	52.2

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data

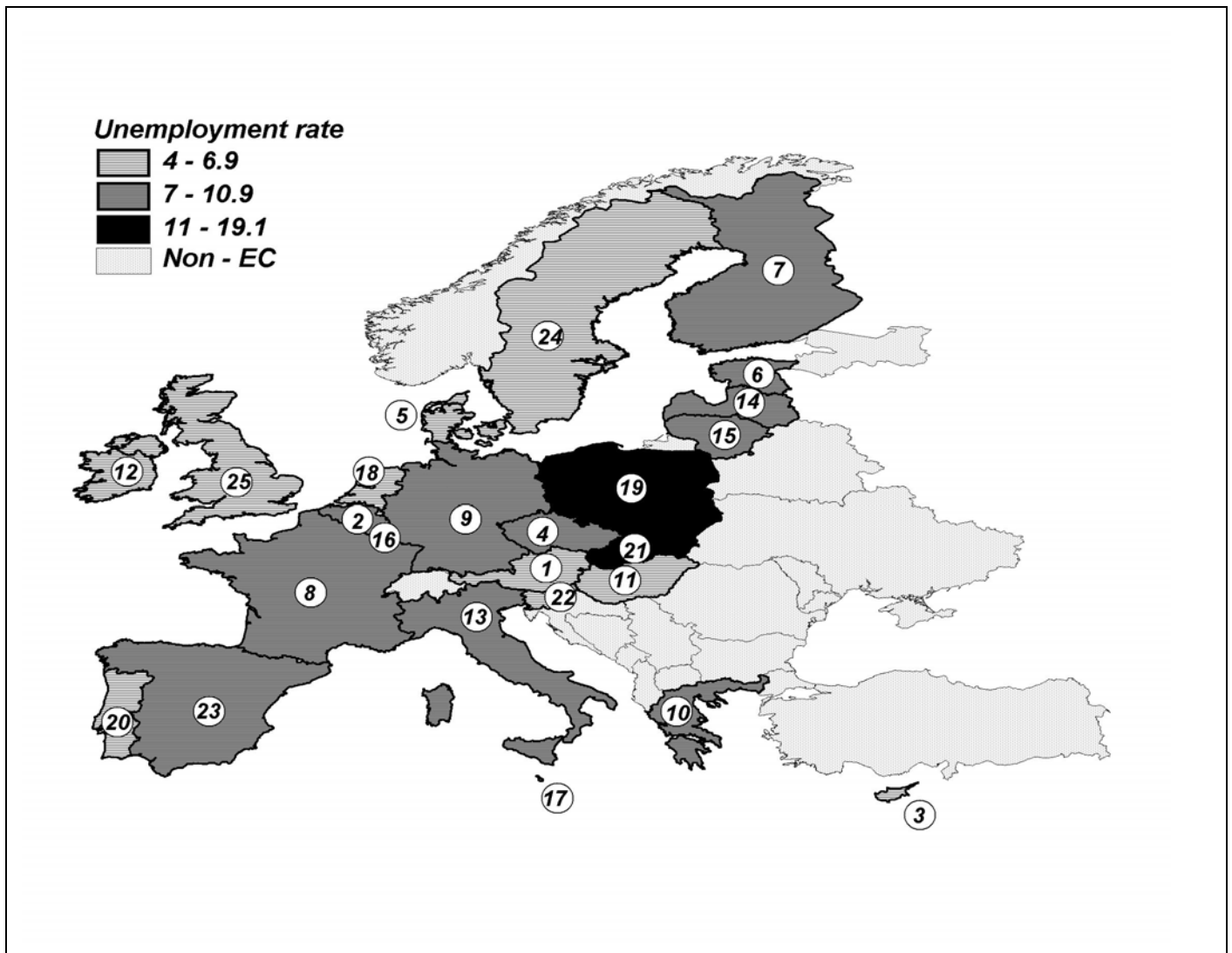


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 stands at 8.9% in November 2004. Poland continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the European Union at 18.4%.
- During the last quarter the unemployment rate has fallen in 15 of the countries in the European Union, risen in 7 and remained the same in 3.
- The largest fall in the unemployment rate during August - October 2004 was in Malta by 1.7%, while the highest increase during August - November 2004 was in Slovakia, by 1.6%.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - November 2004							
Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.5	8. France	9.6	15. Lithuania	9.6	22. Slovenia	5.8
2. Belgium	8.0	9. Germany	9.9	16. Luxembourg	4.4	23. Spain	10.5
3. Cyprus	5.3	10. Greece	****10.7	17. Malta	*7.0	24. Sweden	6.4
4. Czech Republic	8.4	11. Hungary	6.1	18. Netherlands	*4.6	25. United Kingdom	**4.5
5. Denmark	*5.2	12. Ireland	4.3	19. Poland	18.4		
6. Estonia	8.4	13. Italy	***7.7	20. Portugal	6.7	Union Average	8.9
7. Finland	8.7	14. Latvia	9.7	21. Slovakia	17.3		

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Oct 2004

** Sep 2004

*** Jun 2004

**** Mar 2004

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- During the last quarter unemployment has risen in all the Constituencies with the exception of the South West Hertfordshire Constituency, where there was a very slight fall of 2, in the number of unemployed.
- The Welwyn Hatfield Constituency had the largest increase in the actual number of unemployed, 160, and the highest percentage increase, 21.6%, since October 2004.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of Unemployed January 2005	Unemployment % Proportion January 2005
Broxbourne	932	1.6
Hemel Hempstead	1,092	1.9
Hertford & Stortford	521	0.8
Hertsmere	902	1.6
Hitchin & Harpenden	594	1.1
North East Hertfordshire	634	1.1
South West Hertfordshire	647	1.1
St Albans	595	1.1
Stevenage	1,009	1.8
Watford	1,105	1.7
Welwyn Hatfield	900	1.6

JOB DENSITIES

NOTES:

- Job density is defined as the number of filled jobs in an area divided by the working-age population resident in that area. High job densities are where there is at least one job for every working-age resident.
- Annual job density is a new 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	2002	2001	2000
Broxbourne	0.72	0.66	0.67
Dacorum	0.89	0.89	0.90
East Hertfordshire	0.88	0.80	0.81
Hertsmere	0.98	1.14	0.98
North Hertfordshire	0.80	0.82	0.78
St Albans	0.79	0.86	0.83
Stevenage	0.90	0.93	0.98
Three Rivers	0.71	0.74	0.72
Watford	1.25	1.25	1.27
Welwyn Hatfield	1.13	1.11	1.10
Hertfordshire	0.90	0.91	0.89
East of England	0.81	0.81	0.80
Great Britain	0.83	0.83	0.82
United Kingdom	0.83	0.83	0.82

- There were 0.90 jobs per person of working age in Hertfordshire in 2002, slightly higher than the densities for Eastern Region at 0.81 and Great Britain at 0.83.
- Watford has the highest job density in the county at 1.25, while also having relatively high unemployment. 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 0.71 jobs per person of working age; below both county and national average. However, unemployment in Three Rivers is less than 1%. In this instance out-commuting could well be meeting the imbalance.

TOWN CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

Claimant unemployment ranked in descending order by unemployment % Proportion

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYED January 2005	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	149	3.6
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	523	2.6
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,020	2.0
4	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	503	2.0
5	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	185	1.9
6	Stevenage	Stevenage	939	1.9
7	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	431	1.8
8	Hitchin	North Herts	342	1.8
9	Watford	Watford	990	1.7
10	Letchworth	North Herts	320	1.6
11	Baldock	North Herts	92	1.5
12	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	290	1.5
13	Abbots Langley	Three Rivers	79	1.4
14	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	121	1.3
15	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	162	1.3
16	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	116	1.1
17	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	132	1.1
18	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	113	1.1
19	St Albans	St Albans	473	1.1
20	Bushey	Hertsmere	115	1.0
21	Hertford	East Herts	160	1.0
22	Tring	Dacorum	86	1.0
23	Ware	East Herts	101	0.9
24	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	57	0.8
25	Radlett	Hertsmere	51	0.8
26	Royston	North Herts	74	0.8
27	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	163	0.7
28	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	34	0.6
29	Harpenden	St Albans	102	0.6

* Proportions for wards have been calculated using the mid-2001 resident working age population, by ONS.

NB: The town unemployment statistics have been revised to take into account new town definitions resulting from the 2001 Census.

This dataset cannot, therefore, be compared to town unemployment 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 has the highest unemployment rate in the county of 3.6%.
- During the last quarter the largest increase in the actual number of unemployed was in Stevenage with 141.
- Chorleywood remains the town with the lowest number of unemployed, 34, and together with Harpenden also has the lowest unemployment rate in the county of 0.6%.

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.

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 new quarterly LFS dataset is shown below. The figures in the new dataset have been reweighted to make them consistent with the population estimates published in February and March 2003.

The new dataset contains the new estimates of averages over four quarters rather than estimates for a single quarter as in the old dataset.

Winter 2003 - Autumn 2004 (Not seasonally adjusted)

000's

All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total ¹			
Great Britain	23,704	3,470	27,379	1,357	28,736	16,883
East of England	2,335	379	2,731	103	2,833	1,492
Hertfordshire	453	79	537	20	556	264
London	2,883	524	3,435	254	3,689	2,094
South East	3,434	587	4,052	157	4,208	2,197

All Persons	All aged 16 & over ²	Economic Activity rates (%) ³		Employment rate (%) 16-59/64	ILO Unemployment rate (%) ⁴ all 16+
		all age 16+	16 - 59/64		
Great Britain	45,619	63.0	78.7	74.9	4.7
East of England	4,325	65.5	82.2	79.1	3.6
Hertfordshire	820	67.8	85.0	82.0	3.5
London	5,783	63.8	75.0	69.7	6.9
South East	6,406	65.7	81.9	78.7	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 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.