



UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

JULY 2006

QUARTERLY

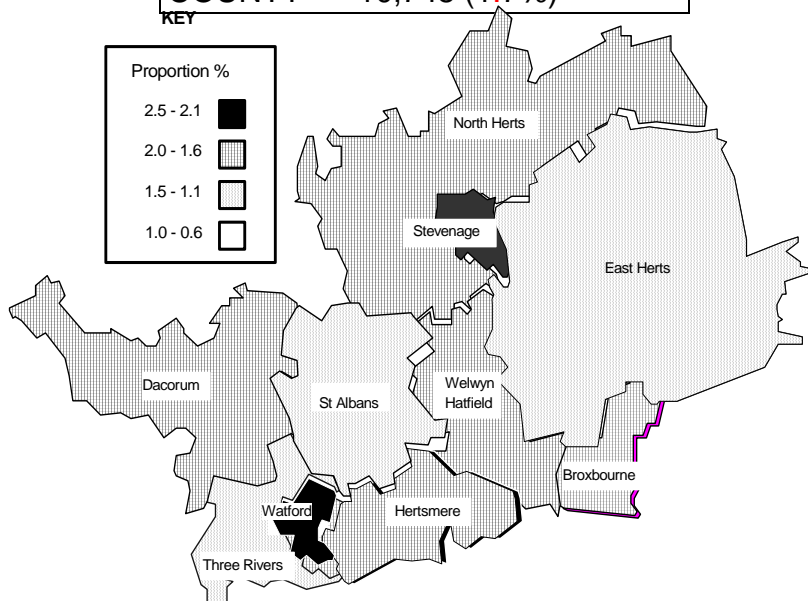
- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for UK and East of England, using the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate, is 5.5% and 5.0% respectively, for the three month rolling period of April - June 2006.
- The quarterly average unemployment rates are for: Hertfordshire, 3.4%, East of England, 3.7%, and UK, 4.9%. These have recently been released and update the 2004 / 2005 figures previously given. See Appendix.
- The claimant count (ie those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance) in Hertfordshire for July 2006 is 10,748, giving a proportion of 1.7%.
- During the last quarter there has been an increase of 276 (2.6%) in the county claimant count.

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	JUL 2006				JUN 2006				MAY 2006			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	705	332	1,037	2.0	696	326	1,022	1.9	720	329	1,049	2.0
DACORUM	1,228	513	1,741	2.0	1,203	483	1,686	2.0	1,201	476	1,677	2.0
EAST HERTS	580	301	881	1.1	598	268	866	1.1	587	247	834	1.0
HERTSMERE	652	293	945	1.7	629	260	889	1.6	649	273	922	1.6
NORTH HERTS	782	356	1,138	1.6	778	350	1,128	1.5	758	320	1,078	1.5
ST ALBANS	657	253	910	1.1	602	213	815	1.0	620	221	841	1.0
STEVENAGE	856	323	1,179	2.4	834	285	1,119	2.3	878	282	1,160	2.4
THREE RIVERS	454	188	642	1.3	437	179	616	1.2	437	171	608	1.2
WATFORD	800	295	1,095	2.1	741	289	1,030	2.0	742	294	1,036	2.0
WELWYN/HATFIELD	834	346	1,180	2.0	798	307	1,105	1.8	786	300	1,086	1.8
COUNTY	7,548	3,200	10,748	1.7	7,316	2,960	10,276	1.6	7,378	2,913	10,291	1.6

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 10,748 (1.7%)



- The overall number of claimants has increased in the county during the last quarter and this has been reflected in the majority of the districts, with the exception of Broxbourne (77) and Hertsmere (9) which have seen decreases during this period.
- Since April 2006 Welwyn Hatfield had the largest increase of 115 in the number of claimants and also the highest percentage increase of 10.8%.
- Although both male and female claimants have increased since the last quarter there has been a greater rise in the number of female claimants, 265 (compared to only 11 males).
- Stevenage remains the district with the highest proportion of claimants, 2.4%.

Total Claimant Count	JUL 2006	JUL 2005	JUL 2004	Change 2004-2006	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	1,037	982	900	137	15.2
DACORUM	1,741	1,454	1,295	446	34.4
EAST HERTS	881	706	643	238	37.0
HERTSMERE	945	891	838	107	12.8
NORTH HERTS	1,138	1,008	1,004	134	13.3
ST ALBANS	910	818	662	248	37.5
STEVENAGE	1,179	920	852	327	38.4
THREE RIVERS	642	595	530	112	21.1
WATFORD	1,095	1,036	914	181	19.8
WELWYN/HATFIELD	1,180	931	836	344	41.1
COUNTY	10,748	9,341	8,474	2,274	26.8

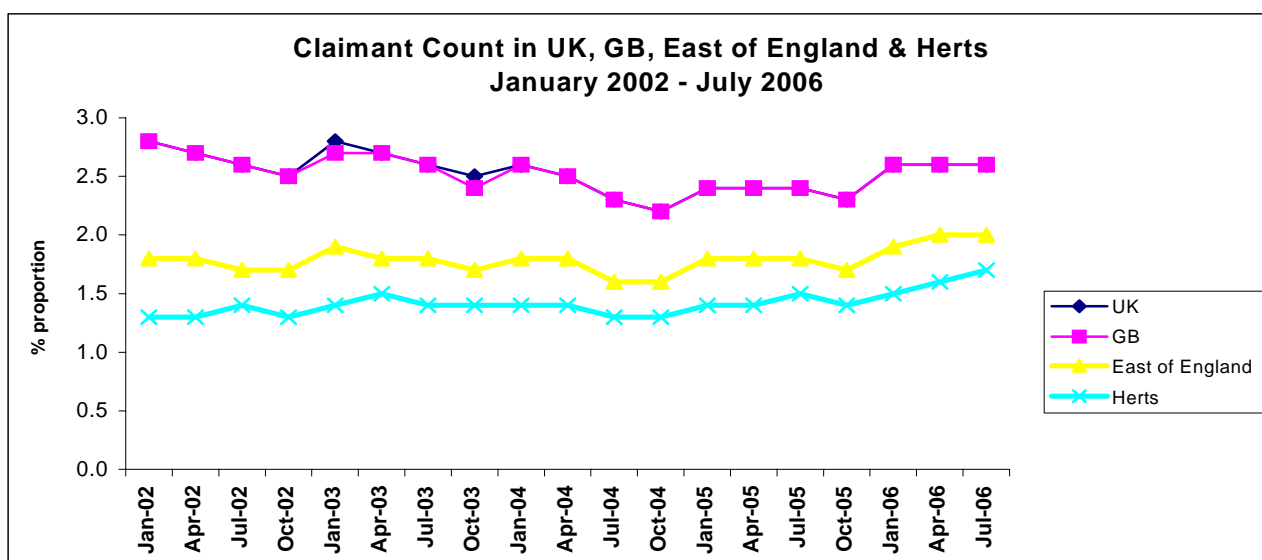
- Since July 2004 the claimant count in Hertfordshire increased by 2,274 claimants (26.8%).
- Dacorum had the largest increase of 446 in the actual number of claimants, and Welwyn Hatfield had the highest percentage increase of 41.1% during this period.
- During the last quarter Hertsmere had the smallest increase in the number of claimants of 107, as well as the smallest percentage increase of 12.8%.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since April 2006 there was a decrease in both the national and regional claimant count. However, in the four London Boroughs adjoining Hertfordshire, the numbers of claimants rose with Barnet having the largest increase of 352 (6.6%).
- Since the last quarter, there was a decrease in the claimant count in the majority of counties / unitary authorities surrounding Hertfordshire. The largest decrease of 759 in the actual number of claimants was in Essex, (the remainder), while the highest percentage decrease of 12.1% was in Thurrock.
- During the same period the largest increase of 276 in the actual number of claimants was in Hertfordshire and the largest percentage increase of 4.9% was in Luton.

July 2006 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	4,317	3.7
EAST OF ENGLAND	65,488	2.0	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,664	1.9
SOUTH EAST	83,730	1.7	MILTON KEYNES	3,352	2.4
GREATER LONDON	169,309	3.4	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,476	1.2
GREAT BRITAIN	932,191	2.6	PETERBOROUGH	2,860	2.9
UNITED KINGDOM	960,840	2.6	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,840	1.3
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	2,896	3.1
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,166	2.4
BARNET	5,655	2.7	ESSEX (remainder)	14,083	1.8
ENFIELD	6,968	3.9	HERTFORDSHIRE	10,748	1.7
HARROW	3,228	2.4	NORFOLK	10,710	2.2
HILLINGDON	3,757	2.4	OXFORDSHIRE	4,471	1.1
			SUFFOLK	8,204	2.0

Not seasonally adjusted



LONG TERM CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There are 1,330 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire, a proportion of 12.4% compared to 1,165, 11.1% in April 2006.
- The number of male LTC in the county increased by 150 compared to the number of female LTC which increased by 15.
- The largest increase of 55 in the total number of LTC during this period was in the 35 - 44 year old age group.
- The smallest increase of 15 in the total number of LTC was in the 55+ age group.

July 2006 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%	July	2005
					Proportion of all claimants	% Proportion of all claimants
18 - 24	75	30	105	3.7	2.1	50
25 - 34	190	50	240	10.4	8.0	165
35 - 44	255	75	330	14.0	11.9	240
45 - 54	280	100	380	18.9	16.0	280
55+	210	65	275	24.8	22.5	210
TOTAL	1,005	325	1,330	12.4	10.1	945

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

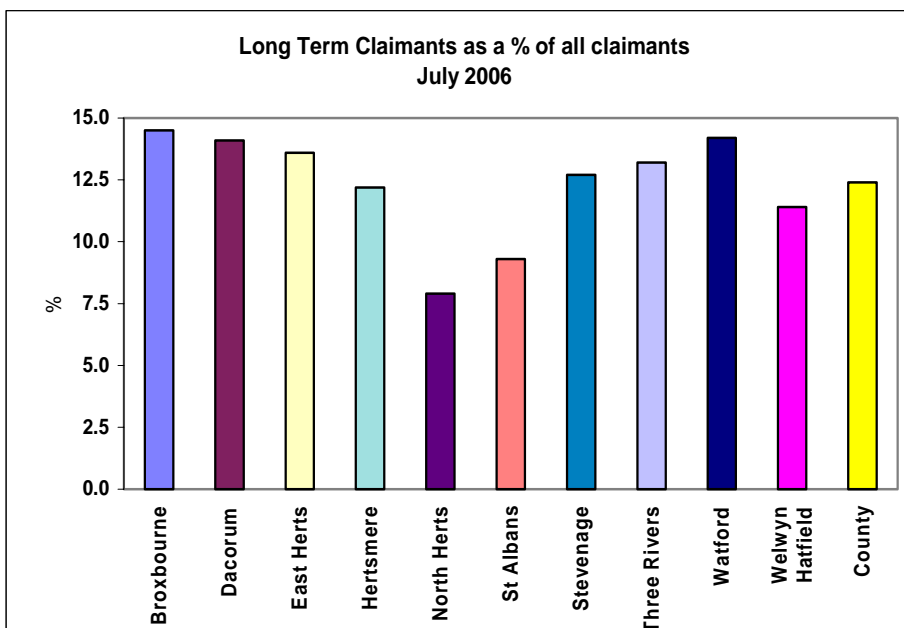
Not seasonally adjusted

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	10	95	105	5	40	45	150	14.5
Dacorum	5	175	180	10	50	60	245	14.1
East Herts	10	80	90	5	20	25	120	13.6
Hertsmere	5	75	80	5	30	35	115	12.2
North Herts	0	75	75	0	20	20	90	7.9
St Albans	5	60	65	0	20	20	85	9.3
Stevenage	10	110	120	0	30	30	150	12.7
Three Rivers	5	60	65	0	20	20	85	13.2
Watford	15	105	120	5	25	30	155	14.2
Welwyn Hatfield	5	95	100	0	35	35	135	11.4
County	75	935	1,005	30	295	325	1,330	12.4

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

Not seasonally adjusted



- Since April 2006 the actual number and percentage of LTC in the county have increased, by 165 and 1.3% respectively.
- Dacorum had the largest increase of 40 in the actual number of LTC and also had the highest percentage increase, along with Watford, of 2.0% during this period.
- Hertsmere and St Albans had the smallest increase of 5 in the actual number of LTC while St Albans also had the lowest percentage increase of 0.2% since the last quarter.
- North Herts remains the district with the lowest proportion of LTC at 7.9%.

NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

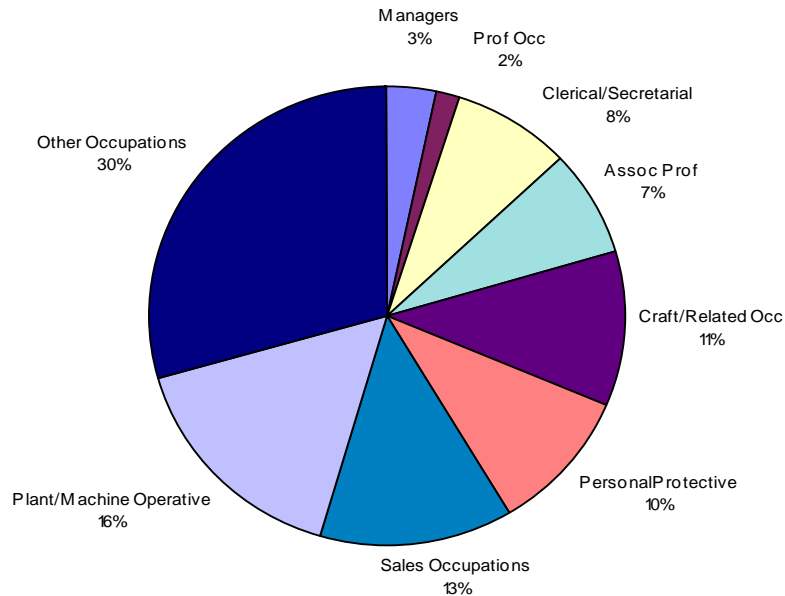
NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.

- In Hertfordshire there was a total of 4,567 live unfilled vacancies during July 2006, this was an increase of 9.9% since July 2005.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within "Other Occupations" with 1,343 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 30% of the total. Dacorum had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 398.
- Overall Dacorum had the highest total of live unfilled vacancies, 766.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Jul 2006 Total	Jul 2005 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	11	3	13	17	31	28	17	37	77	234	264	-11.4
Dacorum	26	6	37	62	58	69	42	68	398	766	710	7.9
East Hertfordshire	15	11	40	22	46	34	41	29	136	374	385	-2.9
Hertsmere	10	8	40	42	39	32	37	34	81	323	373	-13.4
North Hertfordshire	20	13	50	63	59	52	79	250	116	702	340	106.5
St Albans	7	12	34	30	65	65	101	67	124	505	459	10.0
Stevenage	18	17	33	28	48	51	68	88	110	461	467	-1.3
Three Rivers	6	4	33	15	20	44	5	15	49	191	136	40.4
Watford	19	3	45	26	55	52	163	23	102	488	392	24.5
Welwyn Hatfield	16	8	36	35	83	21	47	127	150	523	629	-16.9
TOTAL	148	85	361	340	504	448	600	738	1,343	4,567	4,155	9.9

**Live Unfilled Vacancies to Jobcentre Plus by Occupation
July 2006**



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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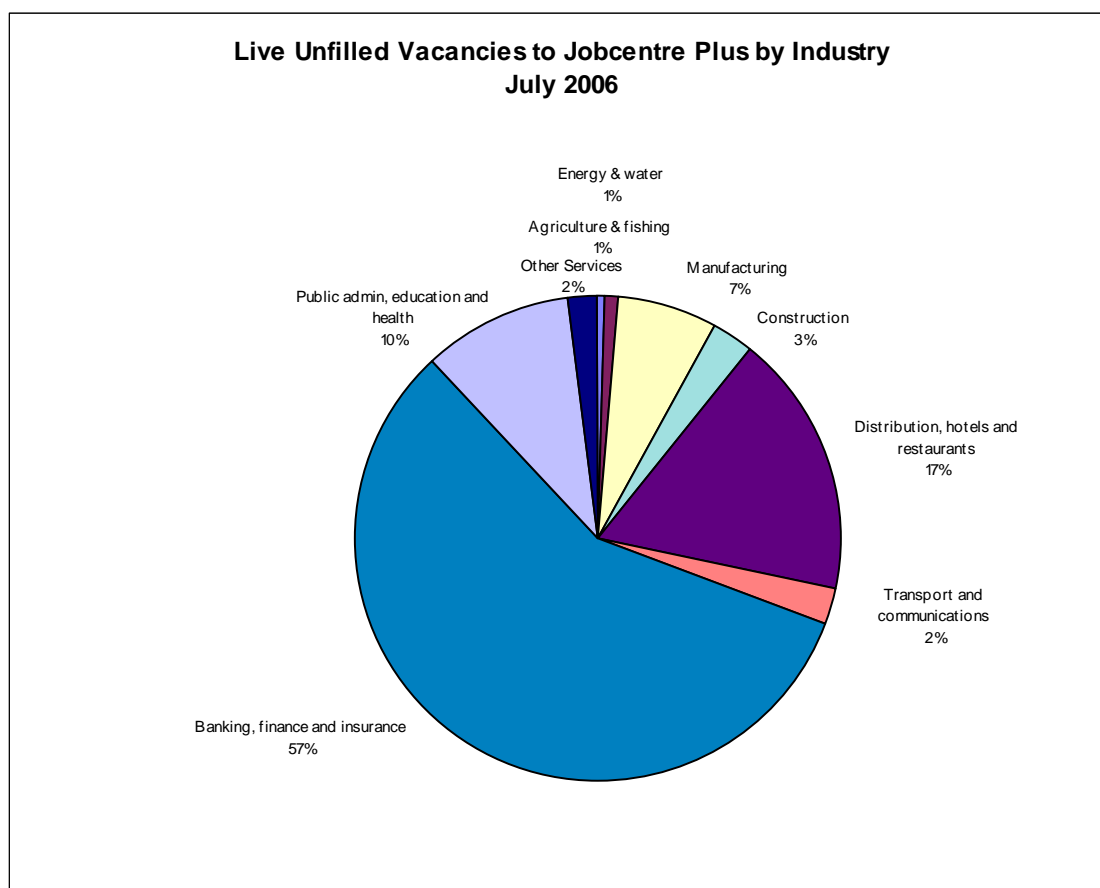
NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

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 2,619 and represented 57% of the total.
- Dacorum, with 540, had the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector.
- The Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector was the second largest in the county with 799 live unfilled vacancies and together with the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector, accounted for 74% of all vacancies.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Jul 2006 Total	Jul 2005 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	1	0	16	7	17	7	144	36	6	234	264	-11.4
Dacorum	1	1	18	18	91	29	540	55	13	766	710	7.9
East Hertfordshire	1	0	26	12	49	12	236	18	20	374	385	-2.9
Hertsmere	6	1	21	21	48	5	165	49	7	323	373	-13.4
North Hertfordshire	7	10	180	9	88	6	312	77	13	702	340	106.5
St Albans	4	2	16	17	141	13	238	69	5	505	459	10.0
Stevenage	1	0	13	10	82	4	300	44	7	461	467	-1.3
Three Rivers	1	1	2	10	29	6	118	19	5	191	136	40.4
Watford	3	0	10	12	172	8	224	50	9	488	392	24.5
Welwyn Hatfield	6	14	10	11	82	19	342	31	8	523	629	-16.9
TOTAL	31	29	312	127	799	109	2,619	448	93	4,567	4,155	9.9

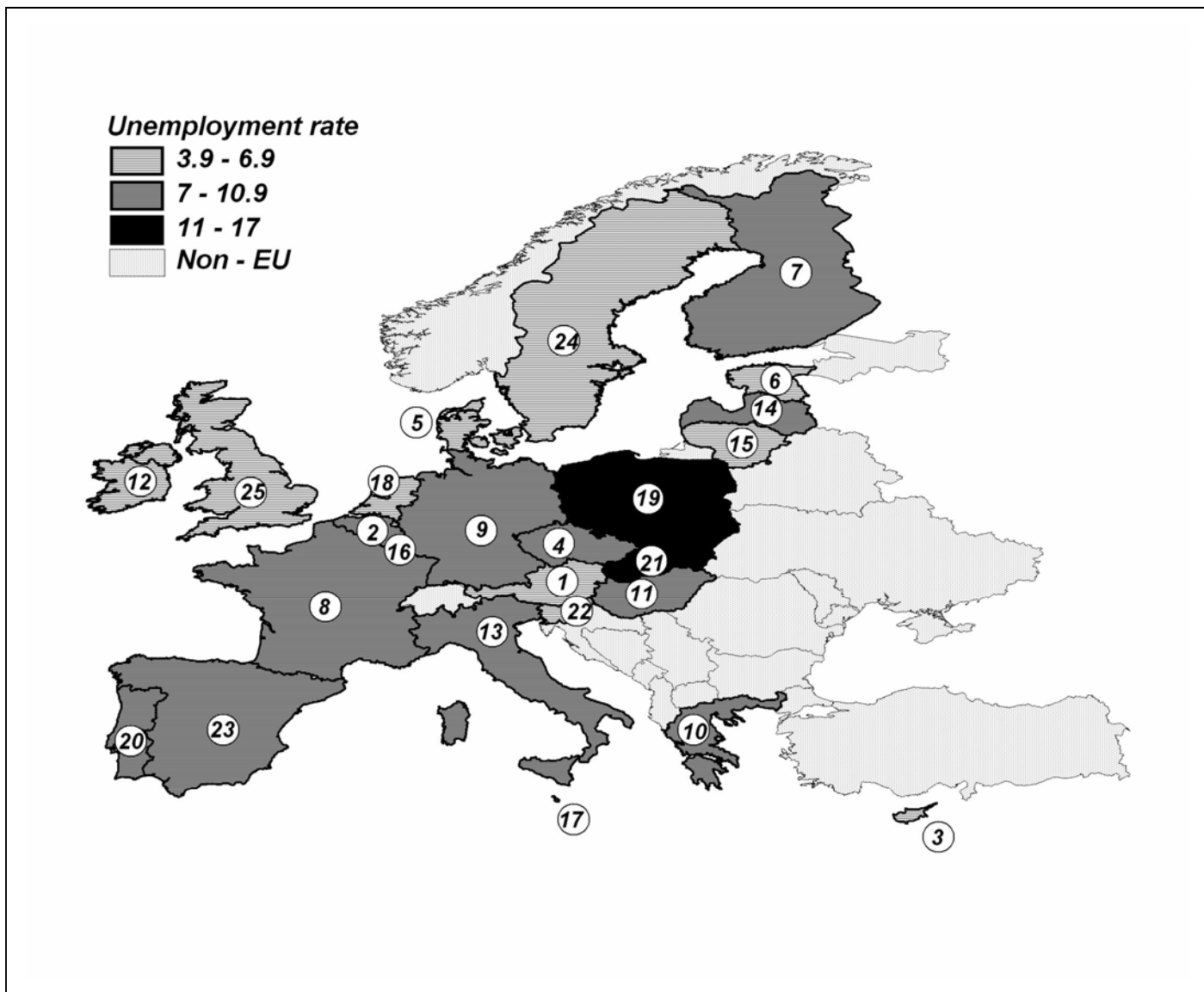


Definitions of industrial sectors:

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

EUROPEAN UNION

- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the European Union (EU) stood at 8.2% in May 2006, a fall of 0.3% since February 2006. The unemployment rate in Poland fell by 0.6% over the same time but continued to have the highest unemployment rate in the EU at 16.4%.
- During the last quarter the unemployment rate fell in 16 of the 25 countries in the EU. Estonia and Lithuania had the largest decreases of 1.0%.
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 5 of the EU countries. The largest increase was 0.3% in Cyprus, Malta and the United Kingdom.
- The unemployment rate remained fairly static in Greece (9.6%), Ireland (4.3%), Italy (7.7%) and Sweden (6.3%) during 2005.



Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.9	8. France	8.8	15. Lithuania	5.6	22. Slovenia	6.5
2. Belgium	8.4	9. Germany	8.3	16. Luxembourg	4.7	23. Spain	8.3
3. Cyprus	*5.5	10. Greece	**9.6	17. Malta	8.3	24. Sweden	***6.3
4. Czech Republic	7.4	11. Hungary	7.3	18. Netherlands	3.9	25. United Kingdom	*5.2
5. Denmark	3.9	12. Ireland	4.3	19. Poland	16.4		
6. Estonia	4.9	13. Italy	**7.7	20. Portugal	7.5	Union Average	8.2
7. Finland	7.6	14. Latvia	7.7	21. Slovakia	15.5		

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Mar 2006

** Dec 2005

*** Mar 2005

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Since April 2006 the claimant count in the majority of the Constituencies across the county increased. The exceptions to this were falls in Broxbourne (67) and Hertsmere (9).
- During the same period the largest increase in the number of claimants was in Welwyn Hatfield by 105. However, over the last year the Stevenage Constituency rose by 280.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	July 2006	July 2006
Broxbourne	1,067	1.9
Hemel Hempstead	1,423	2.4
Hertford & Stortford	712	1.1
Hertsmere	945	1.6
Hitchin & Harpenden	663	1.2
North East Hertfordshire	757	1.4
South West Hertfordshire	752	1.2
St Albans	736	1.3
Stevenage	1,265	2.2
Watford	1,278	2.0
Welwyn Hatfield	1,150	2.0

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

- There were 0.89 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 0.81.
- Welwyn Hatfield had the highest job density in the county and the region at 1.18, while also having a relatively high claimant count. This suggests that the high labour demand was not being satisfied by the resident population and possibly indicates 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 was relatively low at 1.3%. 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 CLAIMANTS July 2006	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	156	3.8
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	557	2.7
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,326	2.7
4	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	232	2.4
5	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,179	2.4
6	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	614	2.4
7	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	432	2.2
8	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	430	2.2
9	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	482	2.1
10	Watford	Watford	1,170	2.1
11	Hitchin	North Herts	380	2.0
12	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	156	1.7
13	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	198	1.6
14	Baldock	North Herts	83	1.4
15	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	147	1.4
16	St Albans	St Albans	604	1.4
17	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	72	1.3
18	Hertford	East Herts	209	1.3
19	Ware	East Herts	137	1.3
20	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	121	1.2
21	Tring	Dacorum	100	1.2
22	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	141	1.1
23	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	235	1.0
24	Bushey	Hertsmere	110	1.0
25	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	69	0.9
26	Radlett	Hertsmere	53	0.9
27	Harpenden	St Albans	111	0.7
28	Royston	North Herts	68	0.7
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	32	0.6

* 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.

- Although the proportion of claimant count fell by 1.9% in Waltham Cross it continued to have the highest proportion of claimant count in the county, 3.8%.
- 18 of the main towns in the county have experienced increases in the numbers of claimant count since April 2006. Welwyn Garden City with 58 had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants, while the highest percentage increase of 33% was in Chorleywood.
- During the same period Cheshunt, with 26, had the largest decrease in the actual number of claimants while Potters Bar and Waltham Cross both had the highest percentage decrease of 11.9%.

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 has 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 Annual Population Survey (APS) was introduced in June 2005 and supersedes the existing two LFS data sets: Local Area LFS and the LFS - quarterly: four quarter averages.

An EU requirement exists whereby all member states must have a LFS based on calendar quarters. The UK LFS complies with this from May 2006. The survey previously used seasonal quarters, for example, the March-May months covered the Spring quarter, June-August was Summer and so forth. This has now changed to calendar quarters where data are available for January-March (Q1), April-June (Q2), July-September (Q3) and October-December (Q4).

The latest APS data is as follows:

January 2005 - December 2005				000's		
All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total ¹			
Great Britain	23,691	3,511	27,390	1,401	28,791	17,092
East of England	2,316	383	2,713	111	2,825	1,539
Hertfordshire	457	80	540	19	559	264
London	2,857	561	3,447	262	3,710	2,112
South East	3,504	577	4,104	159	4,264	2,201

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	45,884	62.7	78.4	74.5	4.9
East of England	4,365	64.7	81.3	78.0	4.0
Hertfordshire	823	67.9	83.3	80.4	3.4
London	5,823	63.7	74.5	69.1	7.1
South East	6,466	66.0	82.2	79.0	3.7

Source: "Annual Population Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2006.

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) - now known as the Annual Population Survey (APS) - 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 International Labour Organisation (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, for example; 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 eg 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.

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