



# UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

**QUARTERLY**

**JULY 2007**

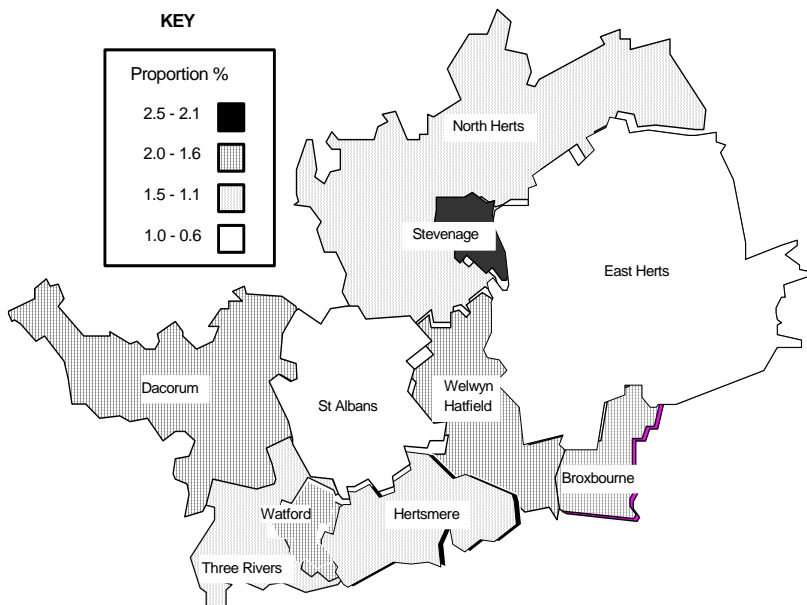
- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for UK and East of England, using the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate, was 5.4% and 4.6% respectively, for the three month rolling period of April - June 2007.
- A table showing Annual Population Survey Labour Market Summary data has been included at the end of this fact sheet.
- The claimant count (ie those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance) in Hertfordshire for July 2007 was 8,935 which gave a proportion of 1.4%.
- During the last quarter there was a decrease of 467 (5.0%) in the county claimant count.

## CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	JUL 2007				JUN 2007				MAY 2007			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	585	281	866	1.6	612	287	899	1.7	641	301	942	1.8
DACORUM	937	431	1,368	1.6	975	441	1,416	1.7	1,018	447	1,465	1.7
EAST HERTS	446	227	673	0.8	458	260	718	0.9	485	248	733	0.9
HERTSMERE	580	267	847	1.5	612	255	867	1.5	614	263	877	1.5
NORTH HERTS	682	311	993	1.3	684	299	983	1.3	690	310	1,000	1.4
ST ALBANS	508	195	703	0.9	529	211	740	0.9	520	201	721	0.9
STEVENAGE	765	312	1,077	2.2	769	308	1,077	2.2	808	295	1,103	2.2
THREE RIVERS	390	155	545	1.1	403	153	556	1.1	397	168	565	1.1
WATFORD	623	276	899	1.8	621	249	870	1.7	653	252	905	1.8
WELWYN/HATFIELD	668	296	964	1.6	675	281	956	1.5	678	266	944	1.5
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>6,184</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>8,935</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>6,338</b>	<b>2,744</b>	<b>9,082</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>6,504</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>9,255</b>	<b>1.4</b>

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 8,935 (1.4%)



- Since April 2007 the overall number of claimants in the county decreased and this was reflected in the majority of the districts.
- The largest actual decrease, of 109, was in Broxbourne, while the highest percentage decrease, of 10.9%, was in East Herts.
- Welwyn Hatfield was the only district to experience an increase in the number of claimants, of 50 (5.5%), during this period.
- Since April 2007 there was a larger decrease in the number of male claimants, by 417 (6.3%), compared to 50 (1.8%) females.
- Dacorum had the largest decrease, of 96, in the number of male claimants.
- Stevenage remained the district with the highest proportion of unemployed, 2.2%.

Total Claimant Count	JUL 2007	JUL 2006	JUL 2005	Change 2005 - 2007	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	866	1,037	982	-116	-11.8
DACORUM	1,368	1,741	1,454	-86	-5.9
EAST HERTS	673	881	706	-33	-4.7
HERTSMERE	847	945	891	-44	-4.9
NORTH HERTS	993	1,138	1,008	-15	-1.5
ST ALBANS	703	910	818	-115	-14.1
STEVENAGE	1,077	1,179	920	157	17.1
THREE RIVERS	545	642	595	-50	-8.4
WATFORD	899	1,095	1,036	-137	-13.2
WELWYN/HATFIELD	964	1,180	931	33	3.5
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>8,935</b>	<b>10,748</b>	<b>9,341</b>	<b>-406</b>	<b>-4.3</b>

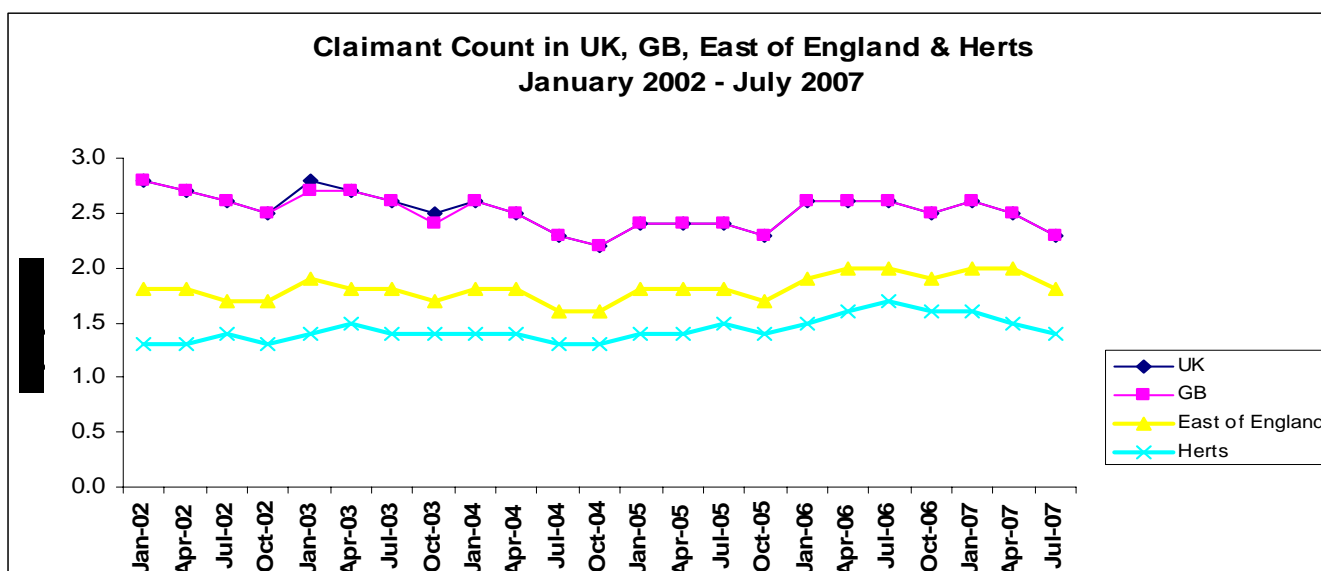
- Since July 2005 claimant count in Hertfordshire decreased by 406 claimants (4.3%).
- Watford had the largest decrease in the actual number of claimants, of 137, while St Albans had the largest percentage decrease, of 14.1%, during this period.
- Between July 2005 and July 2007 Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield had increases in the number of claimants. Stevenage had the highest increase of 157 (17.1%) while Welwyn Hatfield had an increase of 33 claimants (3.5%).

### CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since April 2007 the claimant count decreased nationally and regionally. Although during this period the London Borough of Enfield experienced an increase of 141 (2.3%) in the number of claimants.
- All the County / Unitary Authorities experienced decreases in the number of claimants during the last quarter.
- Norfolk had the largest decrease of 1,570 in the actual number of claimants, while Cambridgeshire had the largest percentage decrease of 14.4%.

July 2007 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	3,655	3.1
EAST OF ENGLAND	59,907	1.8	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,110	1.6
SOUTH EAST	70,737	1.4	MILTON KEYNES	3,056	2.1
GREATER LONDON	144,140	2.9	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,048	1.0
GREAT BRITAIN	829,900	2.3	PETERBOROUGH	2,995	3.0
UNITED KINGDOM	854,149	2.3	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,547	1.2
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	2,697	2.9
<b>LONDON BOROUGHS</b>			THURROCK	2,145	2.3
BARNET	4,346	2.1	ESSEX (remainder)	13,225	1.6
ENFIELD	6,198	3.5	HERTFORDSHIRE	8,935	1.4
HARROW	2,661	1.9	NORFOLK	9,876	2.0
HILLINGDON	3,182	2.0	OXFORDSHIRE	3,836	1.0
			SUFFOLK	7,722	1.9

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There were 1,260 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire, a proportion of 14.1% compared to 1,360, 14.5% in April 2007.
- The number of LTC in the majority of age groups decreased. The exception was the 55+ age group which had an increase of 10, during the last quarter.
- During this period the largest decrease, of 45, was in the 45 - 54 year old age group.

July 2007 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%	July 2006	
					Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	45	25	65	2.7	3.7	105
25 - 34	175	40	215	11.5	10.4	240
35 - 44	240	65	305	15.8	14.0	330
45 - 54	275	110	385	22.3	18.9	380
55+	215	80	290	31.0	24.8	275
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1,330</b>

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

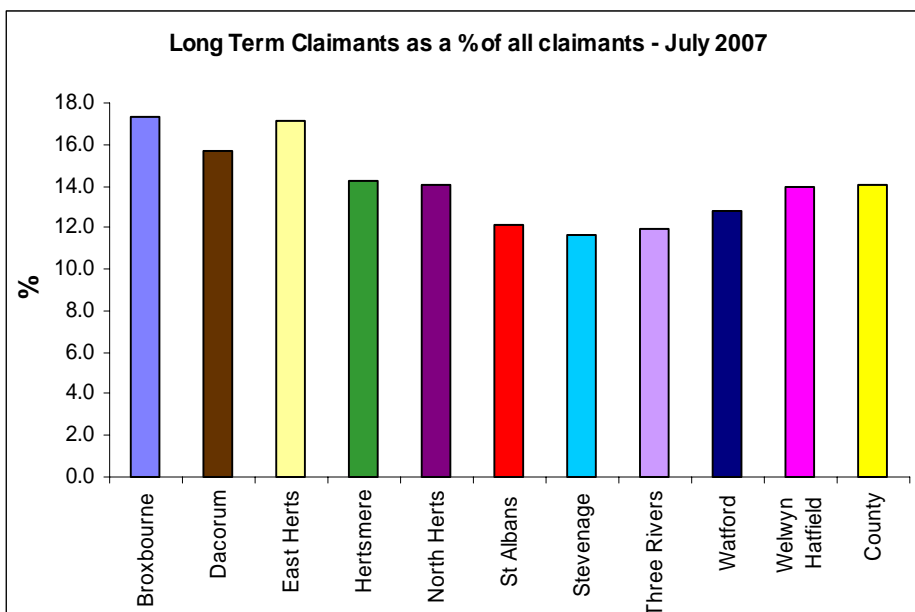
Not seasonally adjusted

## 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	5	100	105	5	40	45	150	17.3
Dacorum	10	155	165	5	50	55	215	15.7
East Herts	5	80	85	0	25	25	115	17.1
Hertsmere	5	85	90	0	30	120	120	14.2
North Herts	0	90	90	5	45	50	140	14.1
St Albans	5	65	70	0	15	15	85	12.1
Stevenage	5	95	100	0	25	25	125	11.6
Three Rivers	5	45	50	0	15	15	65	11.9
Watford	5	85	90	5	20	25	115	12.8
Welwyn Hatfield	0	100	100	0	30	30	135	14.0
<b>County</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>14.1</b>

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

Not seasonally adjusted



- Since April 2007 the number of LTC in the county decreased by 100. The percentage of all claimants fell by 0.4%.
- The largest decrease in the number of LTC was by 30 in Dacorum, while the largest percentage decrease, of 2.2%, was in Watford.
- North Herts (15) and Welwyn Hatfield (5) were the only districts to experience an increase in the number of LTC during the last quarter.
- The number of LTC in Three Rivers remained static since April 2007.
- The lowest percentage of LTC, 11.6%, was in Stevenage.
- Broxbourne, with 17.3%, had the highest percentage of LTC in the county.

## NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

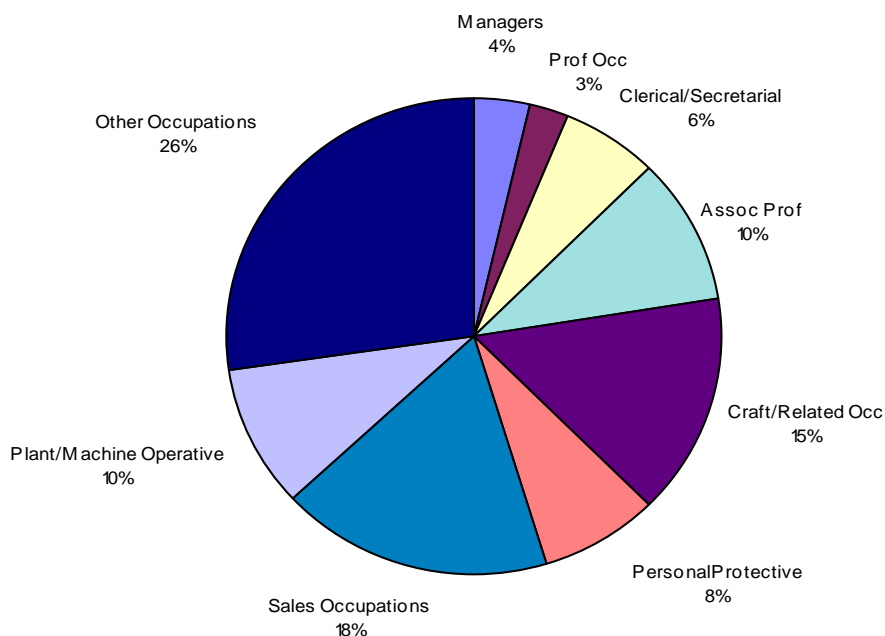
**NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.**

- In Hertfordshire there was a total of 5,339 live unfilled vacancies during July 2007, this was an increase of 16.9% since July 2006.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within "Other Occupations" with 1,457 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 26% of the total. Dacorum, with 217, had the largest number of vacancies in this group.
- Overall Dacorum had the highest total of live unfilled vacancies, 869.

### OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Jul 2007 Total	Jul 2006 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	4	26	13	20	18	16	7	68	75	<b>247</b>	234	5.6
Dacorum	20	12	38	102	127	52	177	124	217	<b>869</b>	766	13.4
East Hertfordshire	15	23	33	39	124	16	41	29	118	<b>438</b>	374	17.1
Hertsmere	15	9	30	12	62	54	44	43	118	<b>387</b>	323	19.8
North Hertfordshire	22	15	36	56	71	39	42	52	128	<b>461</b>	702	-34.3
St Albans	23	16	25	39	131	37	263	32	202	<b>768</b>	505	52.1
Stevenage	27	5	49	78	60	31	157	35	158	<b>600</b>	461	30.2
Three Rivers	6	9	30	19	31	19	15	16	43	<b>188</b>	191	-1.6
Watford	33	4	48	83	81	117	77	50	189	<b>682</b>	488	39.8
Welwyn Hatfield	28	21	39	84	92	26	136	64	209	<b>699</b>	523	33.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>16.9</b>

**New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Occupation  
July 2007**



#### Definitions of occupational sectors:

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

## NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

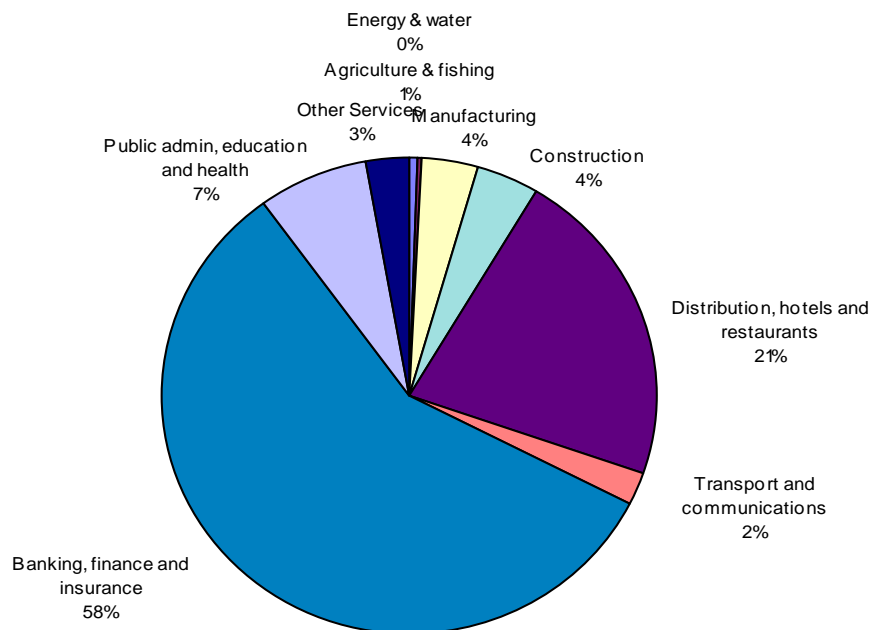
**NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.**

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire was Banking, Finance and Insurance with 3,068 and represented 58% of the total.
- Dacorum, with 533, had the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector.
- The second largest sector was Distribution, hotels and restaurants with 1,147 vacancies.

### INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Jul 2007 Total	Jul 2006 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	3	0	10	9	22	6	175	15	7	247	234	5.6
Dacorum	7	4	11	23	219	19	533	46	7	869	766	13.4
East Hertfordshire	2	0	21	12	74	20	285	10	14	438	374	17.1
Hertsmere	1	1	27	15	49	12	222	49	11	387	323	19.8
North Hertfordshire	5	0	11	46	59	14	247	53	26	461	702	-34.3
St Albans	4	3	17	28	313	18	317	32	36	768	505	52.1
Stevenage	2	0	14	15	141	11	353	49	15	600	461	30.2
Three Rivers	5	0	4	10	14	7	132	11	5	188	191	-1.6
Watford	0	0	17	43	83	7	422	94	16	682	488	39.8
Welwyn Hatfield	3	1	70	22	173	13	382	17	18	699	523	33.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>16.9</b>

**New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Industry  
July 2007**

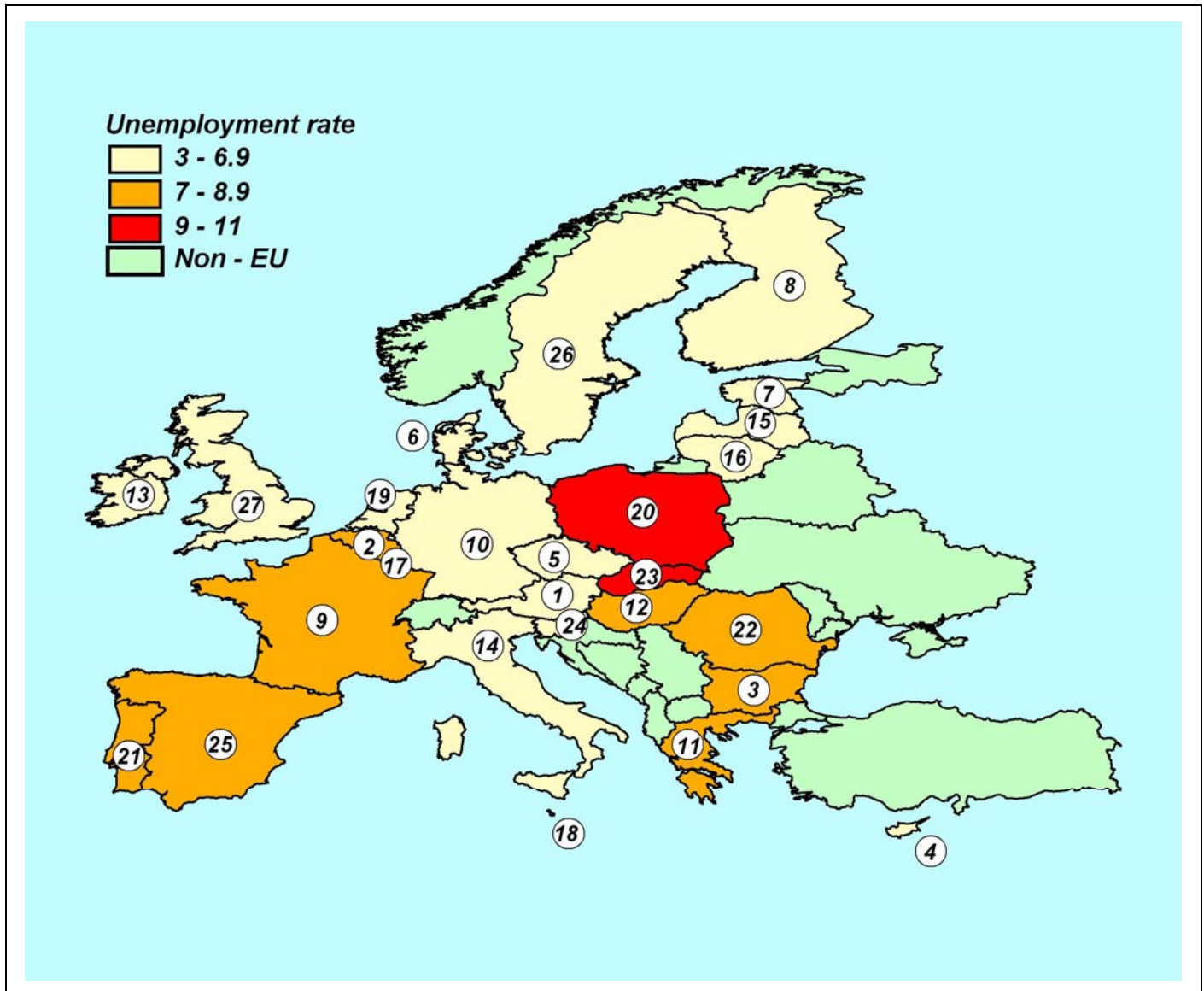


### Definitions of industrial sectors:

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

## EUROPEAN UNION

- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the European Union (EU) stood at 6.9% in June 2007, a fall of 0.5% since February 2007.
- For the first time since joining the EU in January 2007 the unemployment rate in Bulgaria fell and in June 2007 was 7.0%.
- Slovakia had the highest unemployment rate of 10.7% since February 2007.
- During this period the unemployment rate fell in 20 of the 27 countries in the EU. Three countries had decreases of over 1%; Poland (1.6%), Sweden (1.4%) and Bulgaria (1.2%).
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 4 of the EU countries. The largest increase of 0.4% was in Portugal and Slovenia. In Greece, Romania and the United Kingdom the unemployment rate remained static during the period since the last fact sheet.



Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.3	8. Finland	6.7	15. Latvia	5.7	22. Romania	7.3
2. Belgium	7.2	9. France	8.6	16. Lithuania	4.7	23. Slovakia	10.7
3. Bulgaria	7.0	10. Germany	6.4	17. Luxembourg	4.9	24. Slovenia	5.1
4. Cyprus	3.9	11. Greece	**8.6	18. Malta	6.4	25. Spain	8.0
5. Czech Republic	5.7	12. Hungary	7.7	19. Netherlands	3.3	26. Sweden	5.3
6. Denmark	3.5	13. Ireland	4.0	20. Poland	10.2	27. United Kingdom	*5.4
7. Estonia	5.1	14. Italy	**6.1	21. Portugal	7.9	<b>Union Average</b>	<b>6.9</b>

Source: Economic and Labour Market Review - August 2007

\* April 2007

\*\* Quarter 1 2007

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

## **PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

- In all but one of the Constituencies across the county the claimant count decreased since April 2007. The largest decreases were in Broxbourne (107) and Hemel Hempstead (105).
- The only Constituency to experience an increase, of 48, during this period was Welwyn Hatfield.

<b>Parliamentary Constituencies</b>	<b>Numbers of claimants</b>	<b>% proportion</b>
	<b>July 2007</b>	<b>July 2007</b>
<b>Broxbourne</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Hemel Hempstead</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Hertford &amp; Stortford</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Hitchin &amp; Harpenden</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>North East Hertfordshire</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>South West Hertfordshire</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>St Albans</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Watford</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>1.7</b>

## **JOB DENSITIES**

### **NOTES:**

- Job density is defined as the number of filled jobs in an area divided by the working-age population resident in that area. High job densities are where there is at least one job for every working-age resident.
- Annual job density is a local area labour market indicator. On the demand side of the labour market are the numbers of jobs and vacancies in an area. Job density is a labour demand indicator; employment and unemployment rates are measures of labour supply.
- Whilst areas with relatively high job densities clearly offer potential job opportunities for residents in the area, it may be the case that there is a mismatch between the type of jobs in an area and the skills of the people living there. In such cases both inward and outward commuting may occur. Job densities must be considered along with other labour market indicators in order to make an overall assessment of local area labour market conditions.

<b>Area</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
Broxbourne	<b>0.72</b>	0.76	0.79	0.72	0.66	0.67
Dacorum	<b>0.86</b>	0.85	0.88	0.89	0.89	0.90
East Hertfordshire	<b>0.81</b>	0.78	0.84	0.88	0.80	0.81
Hertsmere	<b>0.93</b>	0.89	0.95	0.98	1.14	0.98
North Hertfordshire	<b>0.85</b>	0.83	0.82	0.80	0.82	0.78
St Albans	<b>0.88</b>	0.84	0.82	0.79	0.86	0.83
Stevenage	<b>1.02</b>	1.00	1.00	0.90	0.93	0.98
Three Rivers	<b>0.76</b>	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.74	0.72
Watford	<b>1.14</b>	1.11	1.11	1.25	1.25	1.27
Welwyn Hatfield	<b>1.14</b>	1.18	1.09	1.13	1.11	1.10
Hertfordshire	<b>0.90</b>	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.91	0.89
East of England	<b>0.82</b>	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.80
Great Britain	<b>0.84</b>	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82
United Kingdom	<b>0.84</b>	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.82

- The number of jobs per person of working age increased slightly in Hertfordshire from 0.89 in 2004 to 0.90 in 2005 and there have been similar increases in the rest of the country. The UK now stands at 0.84 and East of England 0.82.
- Against this trend were falls in the number of jobs per person in Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield between 2004 and 2005. Broxbourne fell from 0.76 to 0.72 and Welwyn Hatfield although still high, fell from 1.18 to 1.14.

## **TOWN CLAIMANT COUNT**

Claimant count ranked in descending order by % Proportion

<b>RANK</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>NUMBERS OF CLAIMANTS July 2007</b>	<b>% PROPORTION*</b>
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	135	3.3
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	481	2.3
3	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	215	2.2
4	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,077	2.2
5	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,074	2.1
6	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	373	1.9
7	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	498	1.9
8	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	413	1.8
9	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	356	1.8
10	Hitchin	North Herts	334	1.7
11	Watford	Watford	954	1.7
12	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	124	1.4
13	Baldock	North Herts	81	1.3
14	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	159	1.3
15	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	66	1.2
16	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	120	1.2
17	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	146	1.2
18	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	110	1.1
19	Ware	East Herts	115	1.1
20	Bushey	Hertsmere	113	1.0
21	St Albans	St Albans	433	1.0
22	Hertford	East Herts	151	0.9
23	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	181	0.8
24	Royston	North Herts	72	0.8
25	Tring	Dacorum	65	0.8
26	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	53	0.7
27	Radlett	Hertsmere	43	0.7
28	Harpenden	St Albans	84	0.5
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	23	0.4

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

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

This dataset cannot, therefore, be compared to town claimant count statistics before April 2004. However, revised figures for April and July 2004 have been calculated and can be found in the October 2004 bulletin.

- Waltham Cross continued to have the highest proportion of claimant count in the county, 3.3%.
- 19 of the main towns in the county experienced decreases in the numbers of claimant count since April 2007. Hemel Hempstead, with 86, had the largest decrease in the actual number of claimants and Chorleywood had the highest percentage decrease of 25.8%, albeit from a relatively small base.
- During the same period, although eight of the main towns had increases in the number of claimants, they were very small. The largest increase was by 24 in Welwyn Garden City.
- The claimant count numbers in Radlett and Croxley Green remained static since April 2007.

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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

January 2006 to December 2006

Not seasonally adjusted

	Employment <sup>(1)</sup>		Unemployment <sup>(2)</sup>		Economically inactive <sup>(1)</sup>		mid-2005 Population <sup>(4)</sup>
	Total 16+ (000s)	16-59/64 Rate (%)	Total 16+ (000s)	Rate (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	Total 16- 59/64 (000s)	16-59/64 Rate (%)	16-59/64 (000s)
United Kingdom	28,277	74.1	1,593	5.3	7,915	21.6	37,368
East of England	2,700	76.9	130	4.6	645	19.3	3,380
South East	4,115	78.3	194	4.5	896	17.9	5,011
London	3,486	69.0	288	7.6	1,227	25.2	5,035
Hertfordshire	529	78.0	n/a	n/a	117	18.0	647
Broxbourne	46	79.5	2	4.5	8	15.6	53
Dacorum	75	81.5	3	4.2	13	15.6	85
East Herts	65	74.3	3	3.8	18	21.4	82
Hertsmere	48	76.8	2	3.9	12	21.1	57
North Herts	59	76.4	3	4.5	13	17.0	74
St. Albans	67	78.9	2	3.3	16	19.3	83
Stevenage	39	75.6	2	5.1	9	18.5	49
Three Rivers	41	79.5	2	4.2	7	14.4	51
Watford	45	82.6	2	4.1	8	15.3	51
Welwyn Hatfield	45	75.2	2	4.6	12	20.7	62

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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](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](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](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMT_June_05.pdf)