



# UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

QUARTERLY

JULY 2008

- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for UK and East of England, using the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate, was 5.4% and 4.5% respectively, for the three month rolling period of April - June 2008.
- 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 2008 was 8,663 which gave a proportion of 1.3%.
- During the last quarter there was an increase of 369 (4.4%) in the county claimant count.

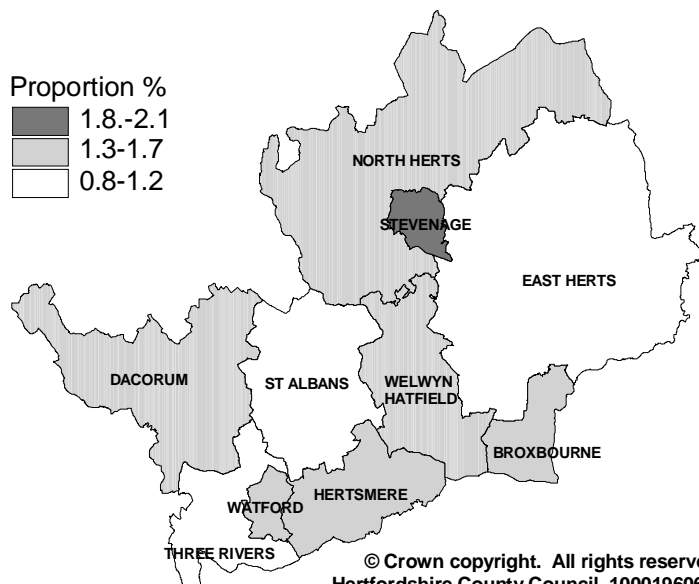
## CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	JUL 2008				JUN 2008				MAY 2008			
	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*	Male	Female	Total	% Proportion*
BROXBOURNE	550	275	825	1.5	579	259	838	1.5	569	275	844	1.5
DACORUM	923	408	1,331	1.6	907	370	1,277	1.5	867	358	1,225	1.4
EAST HERTS	499	229	728	0.9	492	210	702	0.8	467	207	674	0.8
HERTSMERE	557	252	809	1.4	535	232	767	1.3	526	213	739	1.3
NORTH HERTS	707	272	979	1.3	682	241	923	1.2	701	249	950	1.3
ST ALBANS	522	230	752	0.9	501	204	705	0.9	479	193	672	0.8
STEVENAGE	756	269	1,025	2.1	737	247	984	2.0	790	253	1,043	2.1
THREE RIVERS	333	156	489	0.9	310	141	451	0.9	310	143	453	0.9
WATFORD	565	215	780	1.5	555	193	748	1.5	525	197	722	1.4
WELWYN/HATFIELD	667	278	945	1.4	638	245	883	1.3	648	264	912	1.4
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>6,079</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>8,663</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5,936</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>8,278</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5,882</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>8,234</b>	<b>1.3</b>

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

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 8,663 (1.3%)



- Since April 2008 the overall number of claimants in the county increased and was reflected in the majority of the districts.
- Stevenage remains the district with the highest rate of unemployment, with 2.1%.
- St Albans had both the largest actual increase, of 67, and the highest percentage increase, of 9.8%.
- Broxbourne and Stevenage both had small decreases since the last quarter, of 11 and 23 respectively.
- During the same period both male and female claimant numbers in the county increased. Female claimants in particular increased by 199, a percentage increase of 8.3%.

Total Claimant Count	JUL 2008	JUL 2007	JUL 2006	Change 2006 - 2008	
<b>DISTRICT</b>				<b>Nos</b>	<b>%</b>
BROXBOURNE	825	866	1,037	-212	-20.4
DACORUM	1,331	1,368	1,741	-410	-23.5
EAST HERTS	728	673	881	-153	-17.4
HERTSMERE	809	847	945	-136	-14.4
NORTH HERTS	979	993	1,138	-159	-14.0
ST ALBANS	752	703	910	-158	-17.4
STEVENAGE	1,025	1,077	1,179	-154	-13.1
THREE RIVERS	489	545	642	-153	-23.8
WATFORD	780	899	1,095	-315	-28.8
WELWYN/HATFIELD	945	964	1,180	-235	-19.9
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>8,663</b>	<b>8,935</b>	<b>10,748</b>	<b>-2,085</b>	<b>-19.4</b>

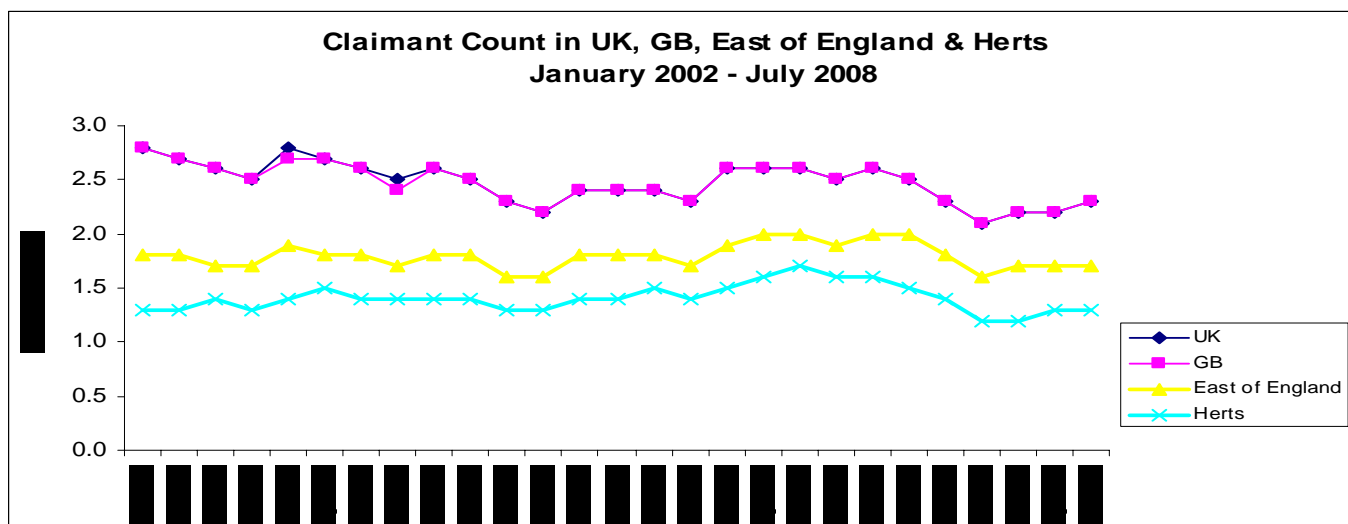
- Since July 2006, the claimant count in Hertfordshire decreased by 2,085 claimants (19.4%).
- Dacorum had the largest fall in the actual number of claimants, 410, while Watford experienced the largest percentage decrease, of 28.8%, during this period.
- Between July 2006 and July 2008 Hertsmere experienced the smallest fall, of 136, in the number of claimants, while Stevenage had the lowest percentage decrease, of 13.1%.

### CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since April 2008 the claimant count increased nationally and regionally. The majority of Counties / Unitary Authorities surrounding Hertfordshire experienced increases in the number of claimants during the last quarter.
- Bedfordshire had both the largest increase, of 392, in the actual number of claimants and the largest percentage increase, of 10.3%.
- During this period Norfolk and Peterborough were the only two Counties / Unitary Authorities to experience decreases in the number of claimants, by 387 and 103 respectively.

JULY 2008 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	3,406	2.9
EAST OF ENGLAND	59,870	1.7	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,196	1.7
SOUTH EAST	72,759	1.4	MILTON KEYNES	3,553	2.4
GREATER LONDON	133,676	2.7	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,041	1.0
GREAT BRITAIN	843,888	2.3	PETERBOROUGH	2,801	2.7
UNITED KINGDOM	871,288	2.3	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,846	1.3
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	2,602	2.7
<b>LONDON BOROUGHS</b>			THURROCK	2,136	2.3
BARNET	3,918	1.9	ESSEX (remainder)	13,426	1.6
ENFIELD	5,554	3.1	HERTFORDSHIRE	8,663	1.3
HARROW	2,312	1.7	NORFOLK	10,228	2.1
HILLINGDON	2,867	1.8	OXFORDSHIRE	4,007	1.0
			SUFFOLK	7,566	1.8

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There were 705 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire compared to 815 in April 2008, a fall of 110.
- Since April 2008 the number of LTC decreased in all of the age groups. The largest decrease, of 35, was in the 45 - 54 year old age group.
- Overall, male LTC decreased by 85, compared to female LTC which only fell by 25 since April 2008.

JULY 2008 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% Proportion of all claimants	July 2007	
					% Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	25	10	35	1.5	2.7	65
25 - 34	115	35	150	8.1	11.5	215
35 - 44	140	60	200	10.9	15.8	305
45 - 54	140	60	200	11.7	22.3	385
55+	90	30	120	14.8	31.0	290
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>1,260</b>

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted

Column totals may not sum due to rounding

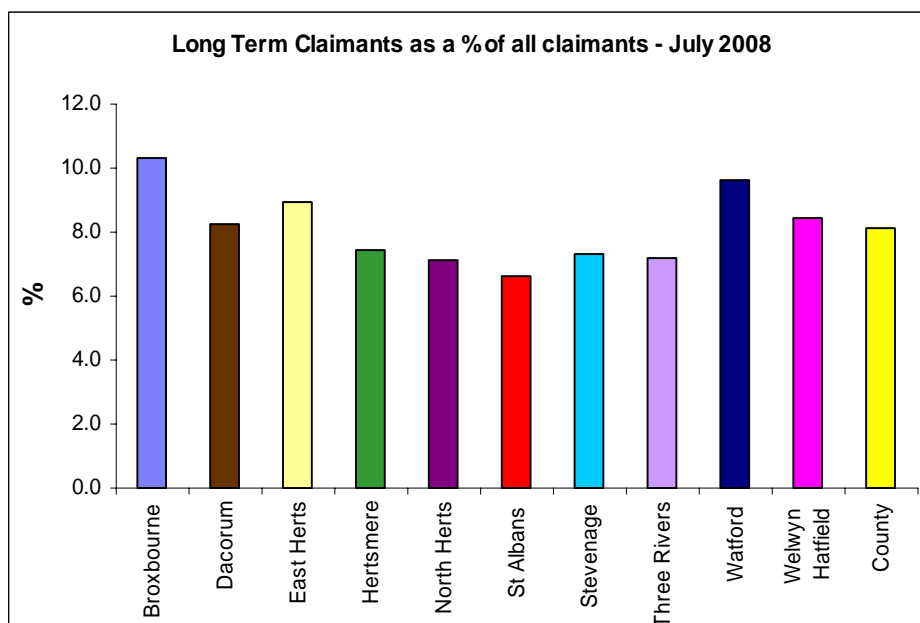
## LONG TERM CLAIMANTS (LTC) IN THE DISTRICTS

District	Males 18-24	Males 25+	Males Total	Females 18-24	Females 25+	Females Total	Total LTC	% of all claimants
Broxbourne	5	50	55	0	25	25	85	10.3
Dacorum	5	85	90	0	25	25	110	8.3
East Herts	0	45	45	0	20	20	65	8.9
Hertsmere	0	40	40	0	20	20	60	7.4
North Herts	0	50	50	0	15	15	70	7.2
St Albans	0	40	40	0	15	15	50	6.6
Stevenage	5	50	55	0	15	15	75	7.3
Three Rivers	0	25	25	0	10	10	35	7.2
Watford	5	45	50	0	20	20	75	9.6
Welwyn Hatfield	5	55	60	0	25	25	80	8.5
<b>County</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>8.1</b>

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted

Column totals may not sum due to rounding



- Since April 2008 all but one of the districts experienced a decrease in the number of LTC.
- Only St Albans remained static since April 2008, at 50, although the percentage of LTC fell from 7.3% to 6.6%.
- The highest percentage decrease, of 2.9%, was in East Herts.
- The percentage of LTC in St Albans remained the lowest in the county.
- Broxbourne district remained the highest in the county with 10.3% of LTC.

## NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

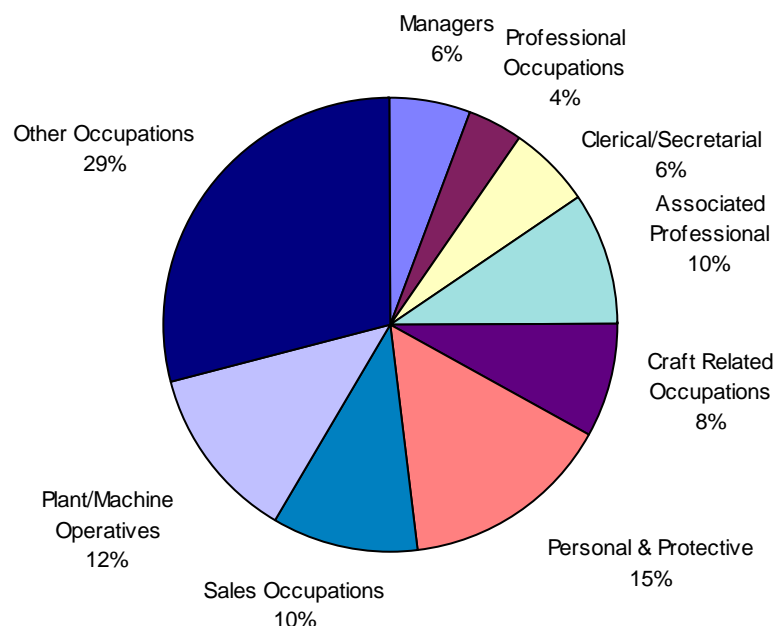
**NB Further revisions have been made to local vacancy data which includes live unfilled vacancies which give the basis for stock vacancy data. Please see back page for more details of Vacancy data.**

- In Hertfordshire there was a total of 5,094 live unfilled vacancies during July 2008, this was a decrease of 4.6% since July 2007.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within "Other Occupations" with 1,492 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 29% of the total. Hertsmere, with 313, had the largest number of vacancies in this group.
- Overall Dacorum had the highest total of live unfilled vacancies, with 974.

### OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Jul 2008 Total	Jul 2007 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	18	9	12	16	22	36	31	100	88	<b>332</b>	247	34.4
Dacorum	33	24	86	91	68	154	122	143	253	<b>974</b>	869	12.1
East Hertfordshire	25	15	19	67	36	36	27	29	94	<b>348</b>	438	-20.5
Hertsmere	50	19	16	20	27	102	69	13	313	<b>629</b>	387	62.5
North Hertfordshire	22	23	31	22	63	42	25	56	82	<b>366</b>	461	-20.6
St Albans	23	22	27	34	41	117	70	50	198	<b>582</b>	768	-24.2
Stevenage	15	39	20	104	37	33	53	70	163	<b>534</b>	600	-11.0
Three Rivers	3	4	11	34	15	77	12	11	18	<b>185</b>	188	-1.6
Watford	59	7	33	64	40	123	72	44	113	<b>555</b>	682	-18.6
Welwyn Hatfield	44	43	34	36	58	42	51	111	170	<b>589</b>	699	-15.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>5,094</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>-4.6</b>

**New Jobcentre Plus Live Unfilled Vacancies by Occupation  
July 2008**



#### 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> |
|---|---|

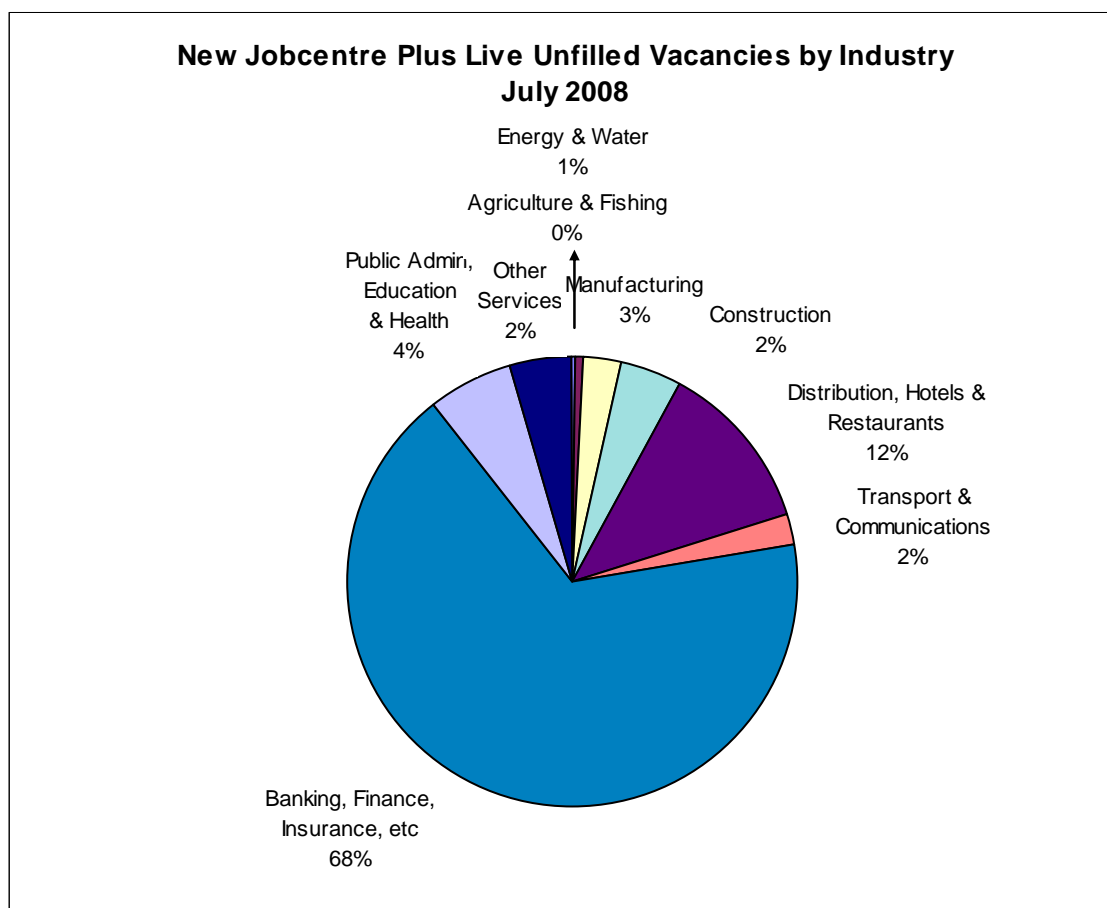
## NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

**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 3,409 and represented 68% of the total. Dacorum, with 767, had the largest number of vacancies in this sector.
- The second largest sector was Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants with 615 vacancies, Hertsmere had the largest number of vacancies, with 117.

### INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Jul 2008 Total	Jul 2007 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	0	0	1	5	34	4	263	20	5	<b>332</b>	247	34.4
Dacorum	0	9	13	48	54	34	767	32	17	<b>974</b>	869	12.1
East Hertfordshire	1	0	10	28	55	5	169	56	24	<b>348</b>	438	-20.5
Hertsmere	3	0	35	3	117	6	427	27	11	<b>629</b>	387	62.5
North Hertfordshire	1	2	18	14	54	13	223	32	9	<b>366</b>	461	-20.6
St Albans	1	2	16	7	76	18	369	26	67	<b>582</b>	768	-24.2
Stevenage	0	1	6	49	41	4	366	18	49	<b>534</b>	600	-11.0
Three Rivers	0	1	16	3	16	4	126	14	5	<b>185</b>	188	-1.6
Watford	2	13	17	9	93	20	310	65	26	<b>555</b>	682	-18.6
Welwyn Hatfield	5	0	16	62	75	2	389	29	11	<b>589</b>	699	-15.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>3,409</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>5,094</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>-4.6</b>

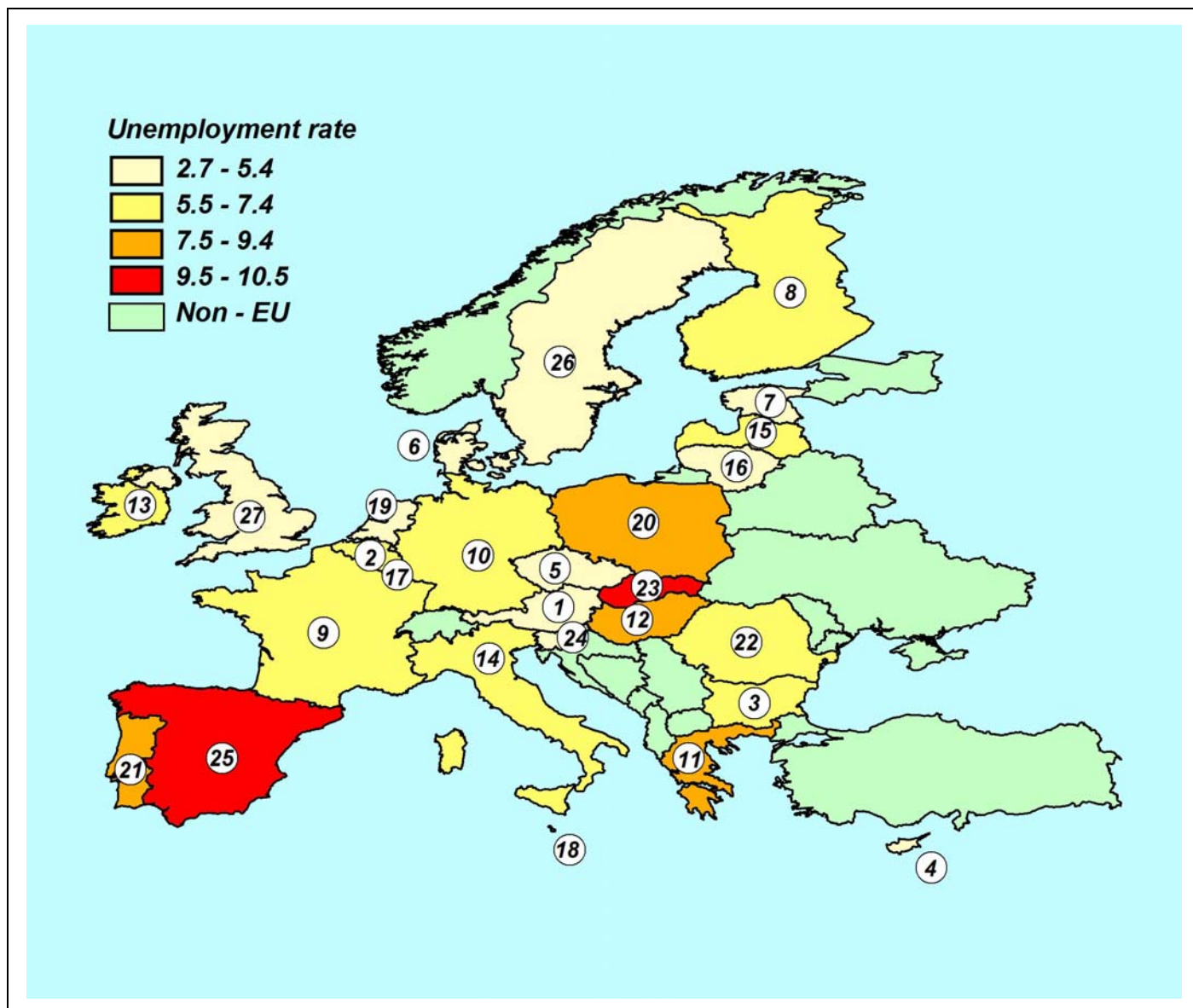


### Definitions of industrial sectors:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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 6.8% in May 2008, a slight increase of 0.1% since March 2008.
- Slovakia had the highest unemployment rate, of 10.5%, since March 2008.
- During this period the unemployment rate fell in 14 of the 27 countries in the EU. Estonia had the largest decrease of 1.4%.
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 10 of the EU countries. The largest increases were in Slovakia (0.7%) and Spain (0.6%). In Austria, Hungary and Slovenia the unemployment rate remained static.



### Unemployment rates for the European Union - May 2008

Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.1	8. Finland	6.1	15. Latvia	5.6	22. Romania	6.0
2. Belgium	6.7	9. France	7.4	16. Lithuania	4.3	23. Slovakia	10.5
3. Bulgaria	5.7	10. Germany	7.4	17. Luxembourg	4.2	24. Slovenia	4.3
4. Cyprus	3.5	11. Greece	**7.8	18. Malta	5.8	25. Spain	9.9
5. Czech Republic	4.4	12. Hungary	7.6	19. Netherlands	2.9	26. Sweden	5.2
6. Denmark	2.7	13. Ireland	6.0	20. Poland	7.5	27. United Kingdom	*5.2
7. Estonia	4.1	14. Italy	**6.5	21. Portugal	7.5	<b>Union Average</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Source: Economic and Labour Market Review - August 2008

\* Mar 2008

\*\* Quarter 1 2008

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

## PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- In the majority of Constituencies across the county the claimant count increased since April 2008. Watford, with 96, had the largest increase.
- Three Constituencies experienced slight decreases during this period the largest, of 26, was in Stevenage.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	July 2008	July 2008
Broxbourne	849	1.5
Hemel Hempstead	1,132	1.9
Hertford & Stortford	593	0.9
Hertsmere	809	1.4
Hitchin & Harpenden	585	1.1
North East Hertfordshire	667	1.2
South West Hertfordshire	527	0.9
St Albans	583	1.1
Stevenage	1,080	1.9
Watford	917	1.4
Welwyn Hatfield	921	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 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	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
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

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANTS July 2008	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	126	3.1
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	478	2.3
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,059	2.1
4	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,025	2.1
5	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	360	1.9
6	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	373	1.9
7	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	481	1.9
8	Hitchin	North Herts	319	1.7
9	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	166	1.7
10	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	378	1.6
11	Watford	Watford	833	1.5
12	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	169	1.4
13	Baldock	North Herts	72	1.2
14	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	112	1.2
15	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	150	1.2
16	Ware	East Herts	129	1.2
17	Hertford	East Herts	173	1.1
18	St Albans	St Albans	459	1.1
19	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	58	1.0
20	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	99	1.0
21	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	94	0.9
22	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	187	0.8
23	Bushey	Hertsmere	85	0.8
24	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	50	0.7
25	Tring	Dacorum	57	0.7
26	Harpenden	St Albans	104	0.6
27	Radlett	Hertsmere	36	0.6
28	Royston	North Herts	57	0.6
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	28	0.5

\* Proportions for wards have been calculated using the mid-2001 resident working age population, by ONS. Resident based proportions express the number of claimants resident in an area as a percentage of the resident working age population in that area. Working age is defined as 16-64 Males / 16-59 Females. (NOMIS)

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

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

- Waltham Cross continued to have the highest proportion of claimant count in the county, 3.1%.
- The majority of the main towns in the county experienced increases in the number of claimant count since April 2008. Watford, with 69, had the largest increase in the actual number of claimants and Chorleywood had the highest percentage increase, of 55.6%, albeit from a small base.
- During the same period, several of the main towns had slight decreases in the number of claimants, the largest, of 23, was in Stevenage.
- The claimant count number in Bushey remained static since April 2008, at 85 (0.8%).

Source: National Statistics (NOMIS) © Crown Copyright 2008

Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence

Community Information Unit, Corporate Information Systems

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, HERTFORD, Herts, SG13 8DQ

Tel: 01992 555274

Fax: 01992 588676

[www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org)

## **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 2007 to December 2007

Not seasonally adjusted

	Employment <sup>(1)</sup>		Unemployment <sup>(2)</sup>		Economically inactive <sup>(1)</sup>		mid-2006 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	29,128	74.3	1,589	5.2	8,107	21.6	37,707
East of England	2,772	77.4	125	4.3	650	19.0	3,430
South East	4,157	78.4	182	4.2	907	18.0	5,066
London	3,652	69.8	265	6.8	1,258	25.0	5,033
Hertfordshire	536	77.4	25	4.4	124	19.0	657
Broxbourne	44	76.4	2	4.2	11	20.2	55
Dacorum	72	80.2	3	3.7	14	16.8	86
East Herts	69	77.4	2	3.0	16	19.2	83
Hertsmere	47	77.0	2	4.1	11	18.7	59
North Herts	62	79.8	2	3.7	11	14.9	74
St. Albans	65	76.6	2	3.4	15	18.8	80
Stevenage	43	81.6	2	4.3	8	15.6	50
Three Rivers	44	78.6	2	3.4	10	19.3	52
Watford	40	78.2	2	5.1	9	18.1	52
Welwyn Hatfield	49	68.6	2	4.2	19	28.2	67

Source: "Annual Population Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2008, Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence.

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)