



UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

OCTOBER 2004

QUARTERLY

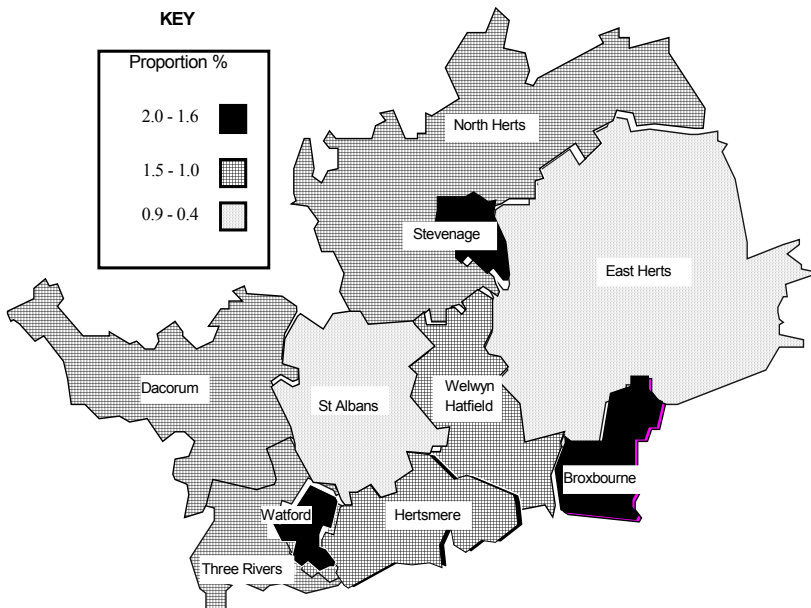
- The official unemployment rate for UK (using the ILO rate) is 4.6% for the period July - September 2004. Quarterly average rates for Hertfordshire, 3.6%, and East of England, 3.9%, have now been released. See Appendix.
- Claimant count unemployment in Hertfordshire for October 2004 stands at 8,176 a proportion of 1.3%. (For an explanation of the new proportions compared to old unemployment rates see Appendix).
- During the last quarter there has been a decrease in claimant unemployed of 298 (3.5%).

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	OCT 2004				SEP 2004				AUG 2004			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	549	300	849	1.6	595	301	896	1.7	578	307	885	1.6
DACORUM	906	378	1,284	1.5	942	405	1,347	1.6	966	407	1,373	1.6
EAST HERTS	433	191	624	0.8	423	212	635	0.8	426	214	640	0.8
HERTSMERE	596	219	815	1.4	596	238	834	1.5	614	245	859	1.5
NORTH HERTS	675	240	915	1.3	683	290	973	1.3	710	311	1,021	1.4
ST ALBANS	490	176	666	0.8	492	206	698	0.9	495	205	700	0.9
STEVENAGE	596	202	798	1.6	615	237	852	1.7	643	245	888	1.8
THREE RIVERS	399	173	572	1.1	395	178	573	1.2	394	165	559	1.1
WATFORD	642	249	891	1.7	662	266	928	1.8	654	282	936	1.8
WELWYN/HATFIELD	550	212	762	1.3	607	243	850	1.4	606	250	856	1.4
COUNTY	5,836	2,340	8,176	1.3	6,010	2,576	8,586	1.3	6,086	2,631	8,717	1.4

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS
IN COUNTY = 8,176 (1.3%)



- Although the number of unemployed claimants in the county fell during the last quarter, St Albans and Three Rivers had slight increases, 4 and 42 respectively.
- North Herts had the largest fall in the actual number of unemployed, 89, and together with Welwyn Hatfield also had the largest percentage decrease of 8.9% during this period.
- Since July 2004 the percentage of unemployed females fell at a faster rate, 6.1%, compared to males at 2.4%.

Total Unemployed	OCT 2004	OCT 2003	OCT 2002	Change 2002-2004 Nos	%
DISTRICT					
BROXBOURNE	849	828	759	90	11.9
DACORUM	1,284	1,342	1,265	19	1.5
EAST HERTS	624	649	658	-34	-5.2
HERTSMERE	815	881	825	-10	-1.2
NORTH HERTS	915	1,032	856	59	6.9
ST ALBANS	666	821	775	-109	-14.1
STEVENAGE	798	865	848	-50	-5.9
THREE RIVERS	572	614	681	-109	-16.0
WATFORD	891	865	950	-59	-6.2
WELWYN/HATFIELD	762	767	819	-57	-7.0
COUNTY	8,176	8,664	8,436	-260	-3.1

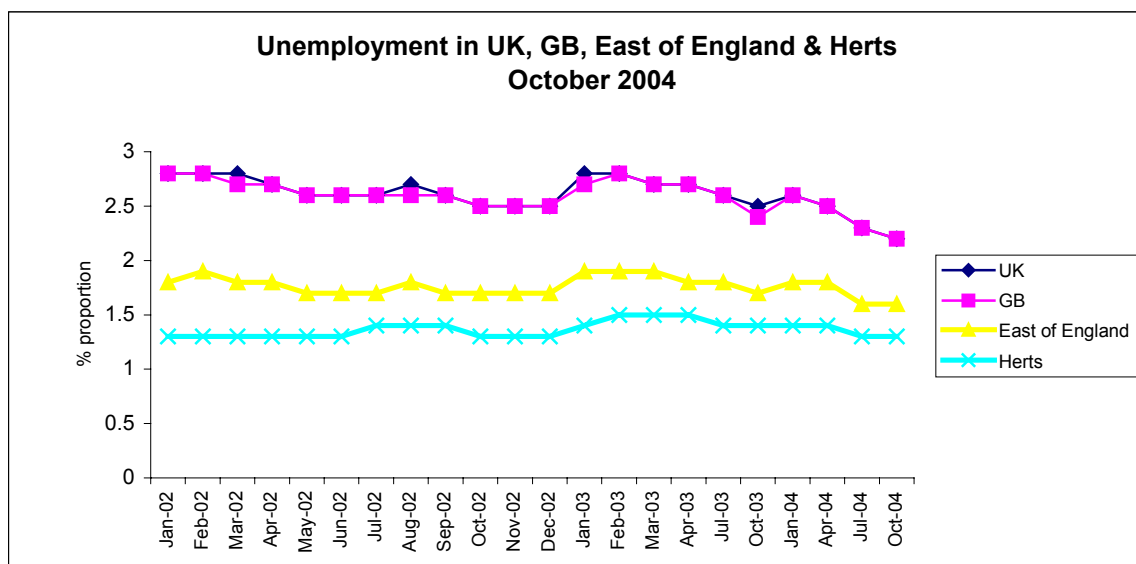
- Claimant unemployment in Hertfordshire has fallen by 3.1%, 260 (claimants) since October 2002.
- St Albans and Three Rivers had the largest decrease in the number of claimants during this period, both with 109 and Three Rivers also had the largest percentage decrease of 16.0%.
- Hertsmere had the smallest fall in the number of claimant count unemployed (10) since October 2002.
- Three districts had an increase in the number of unemployed claimants during the same period, the largest being 90 in Broxbourne.

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Nationally and regionally the number of unemployed claimants has continued to fall during the last quarter.
- However, in two of the London Boroughs - Barnet and Enfield - there have been slight increases in unemployment of 88 and 111 respectively.
- Since July 2004 the only County / Unitary Authority to experience an increase in the number of unemployed claimants is Norfolk with 145 (1.6%).

October 2004 REGIONS	Nos Unemployed	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Nos Unemployed	% proportion
			LUTON	3,199	2.8
EAST OF ENGLAND	53,037	1.6	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	3,683	1.5
SOUTH EAST	67,183	1.4	MILTON KEYNES	2,336	1.6
GREATER LONDON	159,233	3.2	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,351	1.1
GREAT BRITAIN	777,607	2.2	PETERBOROUGH	2,201	2.2
UNITED KINGDOM	806,790	2.2	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	4,265	1.2
			SOUTHEND	2,348	2.5
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	1,881	2.0
BARNET	5,279	2.5	ESSEX (remainder)	11,066	1.4
ENFIELD	6,103	3.4	HERTFORDSHIRE	8,176	1.3
HARROW	2,920	2.2	NORFOLK	9,335	2.0
HILLINGDON	3,311	2.1	OXFORDSHIRE	3,579	0.9
			SUFFOLK	6,883	1.7

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There are 835 long-term unemployed (LTU) claimants in Hertfordshire, representing 10.2% of all unemployed, compared to 860, 10.1% in July 2004.
- Since July 2004 the only age group to experience an increase in the number of actual claimants was the 55+ group, 20 (11.1%).
- The largest fall, of 25, (8.6%) was in the 45 - 54 year old age group during the same period.

October 2004 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% of All Unemployed	October 2003	
					% of All Unemployed	Total
18 - 24	30	10	40	2.0	1.9	38
25 - 34	110	25	135	7.4	8.5	165
35 - 44	160	40	200	11.2	13.0	258
45 - 54	190	70	265	17.4	17.1	290
55+	155	40	200	22.6	20.1	179
TOTAL	645	190	835	10.2	10.7	930

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

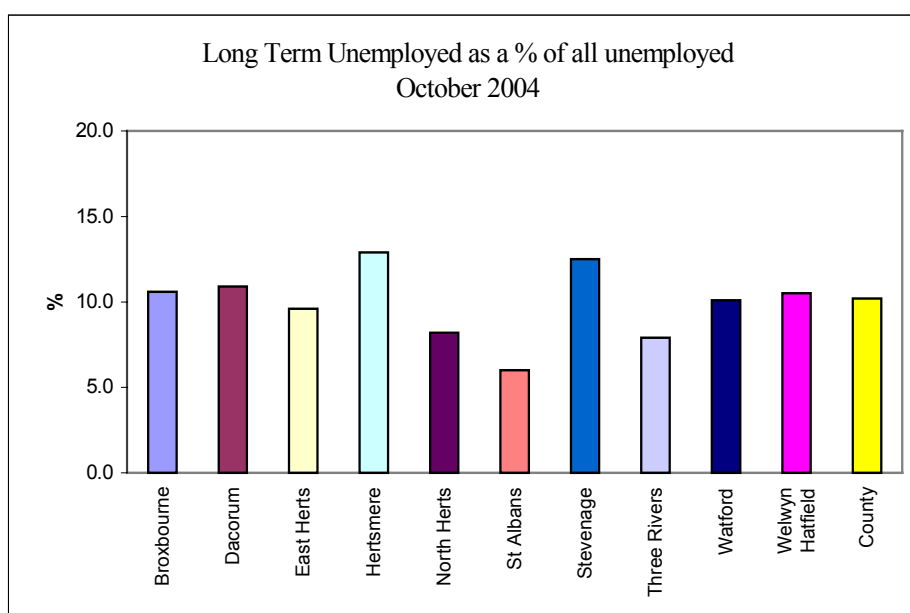
Not seasonally adjusted

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	70	70	0	20	20	90	10.6
Dacorum	5	110	115	0	25	25	140	10.9
East Herts	5	45	50	0	10	10	60	9.6
Hertsmere	10	75	85	0	20	20	105	12.9
North Herts	0	50	50	0	25	25	75	8.2
St Albans	5	25	30	0	10	10	40	6.0
Stevenage	0	80	80	0	20	20	100	12.5
Three Rivers	0	30	30	0	15	15	45	7.9
Watford	0	75	75	0	15	15	90	10.1
Welwyn Hatfield	0	60	60	0	20	20	80	10.5
County	30	620	650	10	180	190	835	10.2

Data rounded to nearest 5 (disclosure control)

Not seasonally adjusted



- The percentage of LTU in the county increased slightly by 0.1% since July 2004.
- However, five out of the ten districts have experienced decreases in their percentage of LTU.
- St Albans had the largest percentage decrease of 1.6% during the last quarter.
- While Stevenage had the largest percentage increase of 1.3% during the same period.
- St Albans remains the district with the lowest percentage of LTU, 6.0%.
- Hertsmere remains the district with the highest percentage LTU, 12.9%, in the county.

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY OCCUPATION

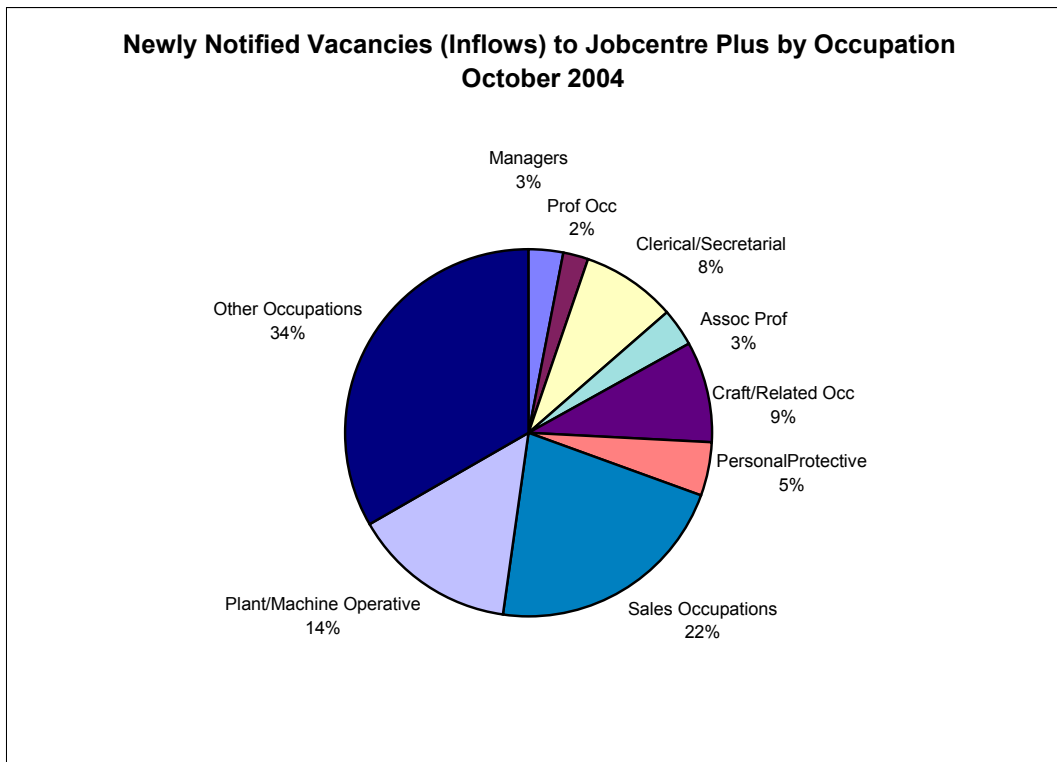
NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of occupational vacancies being notified.

- In Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) a total of 6,575 vacancies were notified during October 2004, this was a decrease of 10.6% since October 2003.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is within "Other Occupations" with 2,200 newly notified vacancies, which accounts for 34% of the total. Watford Jobcentre Plus had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 308.
- Overall the St Albans Jobcentre Plus had the highest total of newly notified vacancies, 1,038.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Oct 2004 Total	Oct 2003 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	16	11	26	9	26	16	102	25	114	345	222	55.4
Borehamwood	15	9	35	14	17	18	76	26	63	273	174	56.9
Hertford	10	24	29	21	50	12	46	22	120	334	277	20.6
Hemel Hempstead	26	11	46	13	91	15	78	67	291	638	1,162	-45.1
Hitchin	5	3	39	21	33	16	105	21	112	355	284	25.0
Hatfield	6	21	61	21	15	9	62	100	126	421	377	11.7
Letchworth	10	6	46	10	38	15	75	36	120	356	332	7.2
St Albans	9	18	39	17	62	40	201	394	258	1,038	662	56.8
Stevenage	14	11	64	25	73	24	212	36	280	739	721	2.5
Watford	55	24	75	42	104	58	232	73	308	971	903	7.5
Waltham Cross	25	3	44	10	48	22	191	63	244	650	341	90.6
Welwyn Garden City	7	5	24	13	26	5	43	28	102	253	264	-4.2
Stansted Airport	3	2	19	2	3	51	17	43	62	202	227	-11.0
TOTAL	201	148	547	218	586	301	1,440	934	2,200	6,575	5,946	10.6

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data



Definitions of occupational sectors:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managers 2. Professional Occupations 3. Clerical / Secretarial 4. Associated Professional 5. Craft Related Occupations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Personal and Protective 7. Sales Occupations 8. Plant / Machine Operatives 9. Other Occupations |
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NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY INDUSTRY *

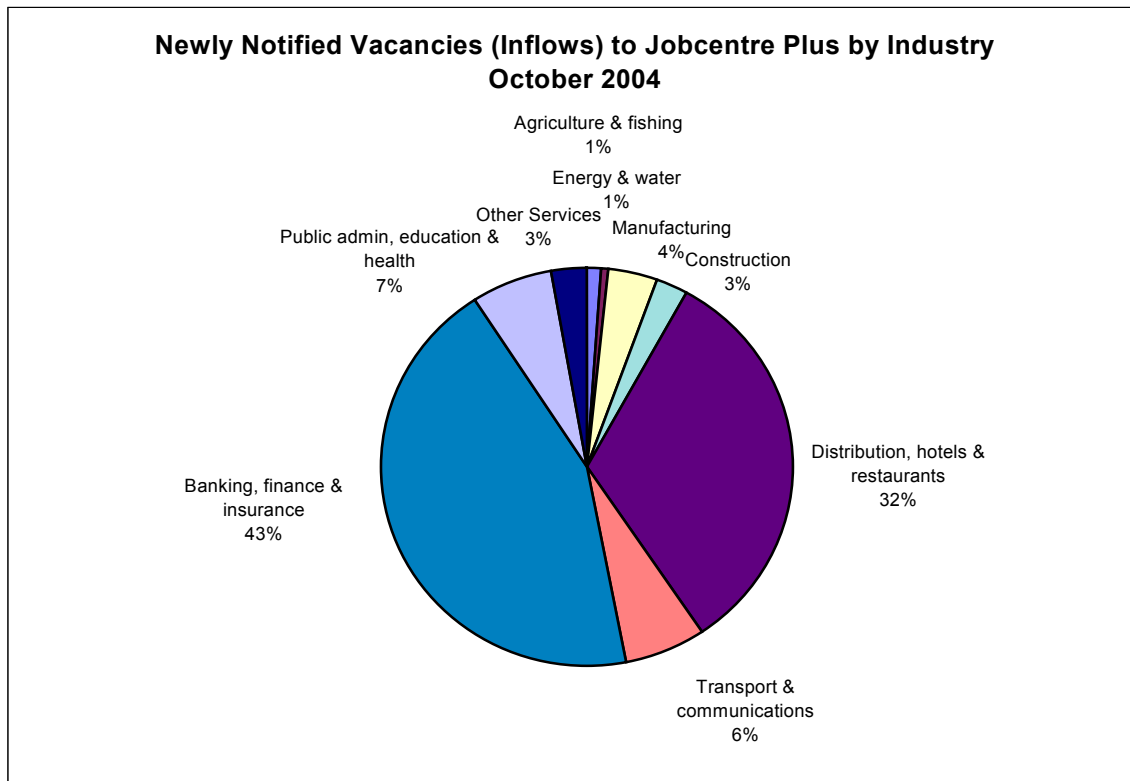
NB This dataset is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of industrial vacancies being notified.

- The sector with the highest number of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire (plus Stansted Airport) is Banking, Finance and Insurance with 2,885 and accounts for 43% of the total.
- St Albans Jobcentre Plus, with 579, has the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector.
- The Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector is the second largest in the County with 2,130 newly notified vacancies and together with the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector, accounts for 75% of vacancies.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Oct 2004 Total	Oct 2003 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	10	0	18	7	140	23	121	20	6	345	222	55.4
Borehamwood	1	1	15	16	75	42	89	27	7	273	174	56.9
Hertford	6	3	13	5	124	24	86	55	18	334	277	20.6
Hemel Hempstead	2	0	35	17	162	63	302	21	36	638	1,162	-45.1
Hitchin	1	5	19	13	63	7	220	23	4	355	284	25.0
Hatfield	8	12	8	17	95	5	251	15	10	421	377	11.7
Letchworth	2	0	24	10	124	8	159	20	9	356	332	7.2
St Albans	7	11	21	15	330	16	579	50	9	1,038	662	56.8
Stevenage	9	4	18	15	266	61	324	28	14	739	721	2.5
Watford	6	5	40	35	323	51	381	106	24	971	903	7.5
Waltham Cross	7	0	26	19	303	8	223	43	21	650	341	90.6
Welwyn Garden City	7	0	12	4	83	4	98	26	19	253	264	-4.2
Stansted Airport	0	0	1	0	42	107	52	0	0	202	227	-11.0
TOTAL	66	41	250	173	2,130	419	2,885	434	177	6,575	5,946	10.6

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data

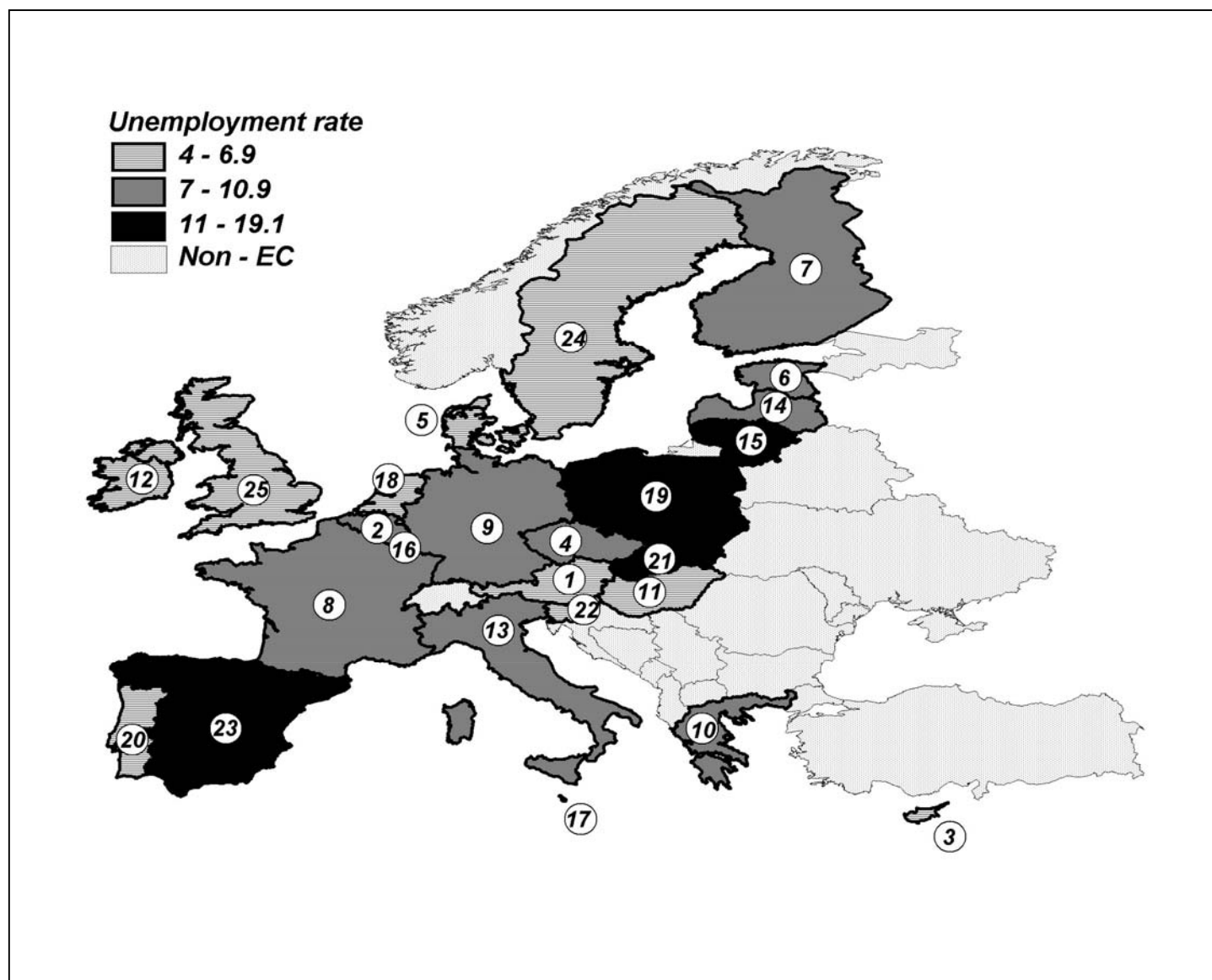


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 9.0% in August 2004. Poland has the highest unemployment rate in the European Union at 18.7%.
- During the last quarter the unemployment rate has fallen in 14 of the countries in the European Union, risen in 6 and remained the same in 5.
- The largest fall in the unemployment rate was 0.7% in Slovakia, while the highest increases were in Austria and Cyprus, both by 0.3%.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - August 2004							
Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.5	8. France	9.6	15. Lithuania	11.0	22. Slovenia	6.2
2. Belgium	8.6	9. Germany	9.9	16. Luxembourg	4.3	23. Spain	11.0
3. Cyprus	4.5	10. Greece	***9.3	17. Malta	*8.7	24. Sweden	6.2
4. Czech Republic	8.5	11. Hungary	5.9	18. Netherlands	*4.8	25. United Kingdom	*4.7
5. Denmark	*5.8	12. Ireland	4.4	19. Poland	18.7		
6. Estonia	8.7	13. Italy	**8.5	20. Portugal	6.4	Union Average	9.0
7. Finland	9.0	14. Latvia	10.6	21. Slovakia	15.7		

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Jul 2004

** Jan 2004

*** Dec 2003

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Overall unemployment in the Constituencies has fallen during the last quarter, with the exceptions of the Broxbourne and Watford Constituencies which experienced small increases of 17 and 23 respectively.
- The St Albans Constituency had the largest decrease in the actual number of unemployed, 122 and the highest percentage decrease, 19.1%, over the same period.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of Unemployed	Unemployment % Proportion
	October 2004	October 2004
Broxbourne	871	1.5
Hemel Hempstead	1,031	1.8
Hertford & Stortford	484	0.8
Hertsmere	815	1.4
Hitchin & Harpenden	570	1.1
North East Hertfordshire	579	1.0
South West Hertfordshire	649	1.1
St Albans	516	0.9
Stevenage	868	1.5
Watford	1,053	1.6
Welwyn Hatfield	740	1.3

TOWN CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

Claimant unemployment ranked in descending order by unemployment % Proportion

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYED October 2004	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	138	3.4
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	466	2.3
3	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	190	1.9
4	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	960	1.9
5	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	415	1.8
6	Watford	Watford	960	1.7
7	Hitchin	North Herts	330	1.7
8	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	402	1.6
9	Stevenage	Stevenage	798	1.6
10	Letchworth	North Herts	303	1.6
11	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	250	1.3
12	Abbots Langley	Three Rivers	73	1.3
13	Baldock	North Herts	72	1.2
14	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	154	1.2
15	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	97	1.1
16	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	131	1.1
17	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	108	1.1
18	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	110	1.1
19	St Albans	St Albans	422	1.0
20	Bushey	Hertsmere	107	1.0
21	Tring	Dacorum	77	0.9
22	Hertford	East Herts	147	0.9
23	Ware	East Herts	100	0.9
24	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	57	0.8
25	Radlett	Hertsmere	45	0.7
26	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	150	0.7
27	Royston	North Herts	58	0.6
28	Harpenden	St Albans	98	0.6
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	24	0.4

* 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 previous town unemployment statistics. However, revised figures for April and July 2004 have been calculated, please see following page.

- Waltham Cross has the highest unemployment rate in the county of 3.4%.
- Hemel Hempstead and Watford have the highest actual number of unemployed claimants, 960.
- Chorleywood has the lowest number of unemployed, 24, and the lowest unemployment rate in the county of 0.4%.

Source: National Statistics (NOMIS)

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APPENDIX: A comparison between Unemployment Statistics

ONS Statement: "Better Jobless Data"

Following a recent quality review of its labour market statistics, the Office for National Statistics have implemented three of the most significant improvements recommended in the review.

- Labour Force Survey** - The monthly unemployment figures from the LFS, will be relabelled "unemployment" rather than "ILO unemployment". This will emphasise that the LFS figures provide the official, and only internationally comparable, measure of unemployment in the UK.
- Claimant Count** - Claimant count data will be continued to be published monthly to provide further information about the labour market, but these will not be presented as an alternative measure of UK unemployment.
- Claimant Count Rates** - Workplace-based claimant count rates for local areas will be withdrawn and replaced with resident-based claimant count rates for local areas as the proportion of the population of working-age resident in each area that are claimants. (See back page for details).

LFS: Labour Force Survey

ILO: International Labour Organisation

The 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.

Autumn 2003 - Summer 2004 (Not seasonally adjusted)

000's

All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total ¹			
Great Britain	23,653	3,474	27,327	1,372	28,699	16,861
East of England	2,329	381	2,726	102	2,828	1,489
Hertfordshire	450	81	535	20	555	265
London	2,876	529	3,437	257	3,694	2,077
South East	3,426	591	4,038	159	4,197	2,196

All Persons	All aged 16 & over ²	Economic Activity rates (%) ³		Employment rate (%)	ILO Unemployment rate (%) ⁴
		all age 16+	16 - 59/64		
Great Britain	45,559	63.0	78.7	74.9	4.8
East of England	4,317	65.5	82.1	79.1	3.6
Hertfordshire	821	67.7	84.8	81.7	3.6
London	5,771	64.0	75.2	69.9	6.9
South East	6,392	65.7	81.8	78.6	3.8

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

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.