



UNEMPLOYMENT BULLETIN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

OCTOBER 2006

QUARTERLY

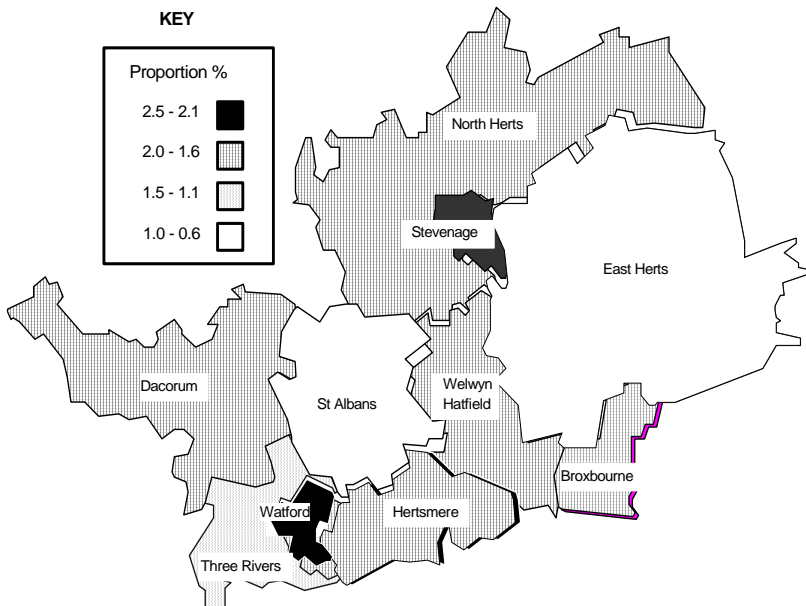
- The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for UK and East of England, using the International Labour Organisation (ILO) rate, is 5.6% and 5.0% respectively, for the three month rolling period of July - September 2006.
- A new provisional table showing Annual Population Survey Labour Market Summary data has been included at the end of this fact sheet.
- The claimant count (ie those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance) in Hertfordshire for October 2006 is 10,359, giving a proportion of 1.6%.
- During the last quarter there has been a decrease of 389 (3.6%) in the county claimant count.

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	OCT 2006				SEP 2006				AUG 2006			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	685	330	1,015	1.9	699	324	1,023	1.9	723	336	1,059	2.0
DACORUM	1,141	528	1,669	2.0	1,131	529	1,660	2.0	1,151	506	1,657	1.9
EAST HERTS	522	269	791	1.0	540	287	827	1.0	558	301	859	1.0
HERTSMERE	638	303	941	1.7	670	304	974	1.7	676	305	981	1.7
NORTH HERTS	824	381	1,205	1.6	849	402	1,251	1.7	814	381	1,195	1.6
ST ALBANS	606	251	857	1.0	629	265	894	1.1	611	271	882	1.1
STEVENAGE	857	305	1,162	2.4	856	331	1,187	2.4	874	340	1,214	2.5
THREE RIVERS	450	178	628	1.2	452	194	646	1.3	431	202	633	1.2
WATFORD	778	285	1,063	2.1	789	281	1,070	2.1	783	289	1,072	2.1
WELWYN/HATFIELD	721	307	1,028	1.7	777	336	1,113	1.9	818	347	1,165	1.9
COUNTY	7,222	3,137	10,359	1.6	7,392	3,253	10,645	1.7	7,439	3,278	10,717	1.7

Not seasonally adjusted

TOTAL CLAIMANT COUNT IN THE COUNTY = 10,359 (1.6%)



- The overall number of claimants has decreased in the county during the last quarter and this has been reflected throughout the districts, with the exception of North Herts which had an increase of 67 during this period.
- Since July 2006 the largest decrease of 152 in claimants was in Welwyn Hatfield which also had the highest percentage decrease of 12.9%.
- During the last quarter there was a larger fall in the number of male claimants, (326) compared to 63 females.
- Stevenage, with a proportion of 2.4%, continued to be the highest in the county.

Total Claimant Count	OCT 2006	OCT 2005	OCT 2004	Change 2004-2006	
DISTRICT				Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	1,015	982	849	166	19.6
DACORUM	1,669	1,467	1,284	385	30.0
EAST HERTS	791	757	624	167	26.8
HERTSMERE	941	900	815	126	15.5
NORTH HERTS	1,205	908	915	290	31.7
ST ALBANS	857	777	666	191	28.7
STEVENAGE	1,162	903	798	364	45.6
THREE RIVERS	628	615	572	56	9.8
WATFORD	1,063	1,005	891	172	19.3
WELWYN/HATFIELD	1,028	944	762	266	34.9
COUNTY	10,359	9,258	8,176	2,183	26.7

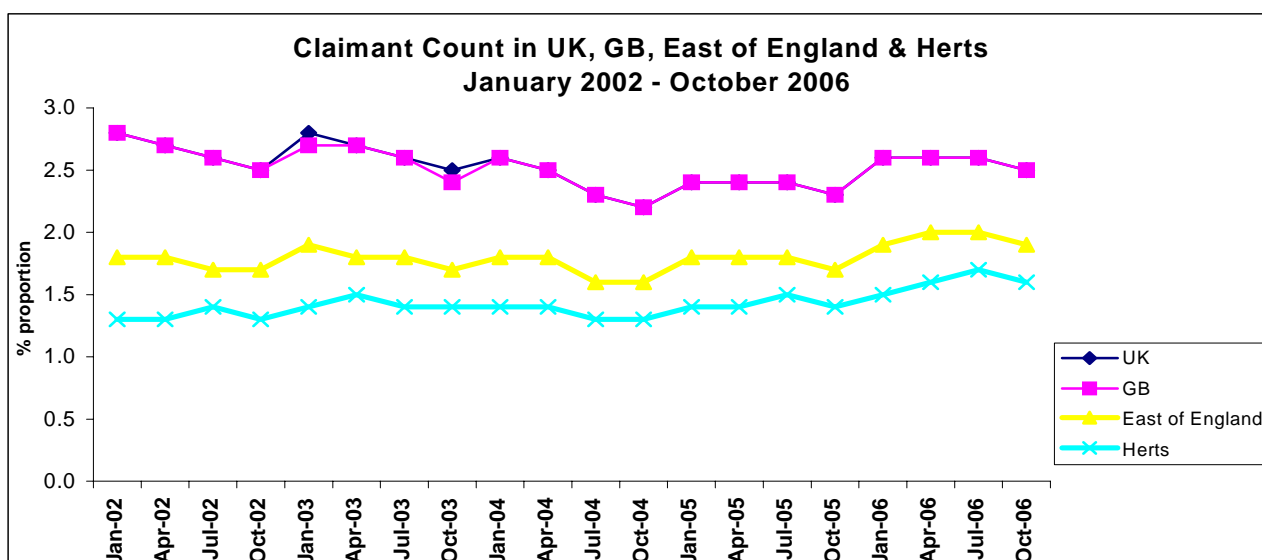
- Since October 2004 the claimant count in Hertfordshire increased by 2,183 claimants (26.7%).
- Dacorum had the largest increase, of 385, in claimants, while Stevenage had the highest percentage increase of 45.6% during this period.
- During the last quarter Three Rivers had both lowest increases, in the numbers of claimants (56) and percentage increase (9.8%).

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- Since July 2006 the claimant count, Nationally and in the South East region, fell. However, in the East of England region there was a slight increase of 307.
- Since the last quarter the claimant count in seven of the counties / unitary authorities surrounding Hertfordshire decreased while it increased in six. Hertfordshire had the largest decrease of 389 in the actual number of claimants while the highest percentage decrease of 5.6% was in Oxfordshire.
- During the same period the largest increase of 327 in the actual number of claimants and the largest percentage increase of 6.8% were both in Cambridgeshire (remainder).

October 2006 REGIONS	Numbers of claimants	% proportion	COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
			LUTON	4,214	3.6
EAST OF ENGLAND	65,795	1.9	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,592	1.8
SOUTH EAST	80,935	1.6	MILTON KEYNES	3,150	2.2
GREATER LONDON	166,640	3.3	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	3,429	1.2
GREAT BRITAIN	906,328	2.5	PETERBOROUGH	2,902	2.9
UNITED KINGDOM	933,661	2.5	CAMBRIDGESHIRE (remainder)	5,167	1.4
			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	2,954	3.1
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	2,261	2.5
BARNET	5,370	2.5	ESSEX (remainder)	14,182	1.8
ENFIELD	6,724	3.8	HERTFORDSHIRE	10,359	1.6
HARROW	3,177	2.3	NORFOLK	11,035	2.3
HILLINGDON	3,821	2.4	OXFORDSHIRE	4,221	1.1
			SUFFOLK	8,129	2.0

Not seasonally adjusted



LONG TERM CLAIMANTS IN HERTFORDSHIRE (more than 1 year)

- There are 1,440 long-term claimants (LTC) in Hertfordshire, a proportion of 13.9% compared to 1,330, 12.4% in July 2006.
- The number of male LTC in the county increased by 70 compared to the number of female LTC which increased by 35.
- The largest increase of 30 in the total number of LTC during this period was in the 25 - 34 and 55+ age groups.
- The number of LTC in the 18 - 24 year old age group remained the same since the last quarter.

October 2006 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%	October	2005
					% Proportion of all claimants	Total
18 - 24	65	35	105	3.7	3.6	85
25 - 34	220	55	270	12.4	9.4	185
35 - 44	275	80	355	16.1	11.8	240
45 - 54	295	105	405	21.3	16.6	295
55+	225	85	305	28.2	22.2	205
TOTAL	1,075	360	1,440	13.9	10.9	1,005

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

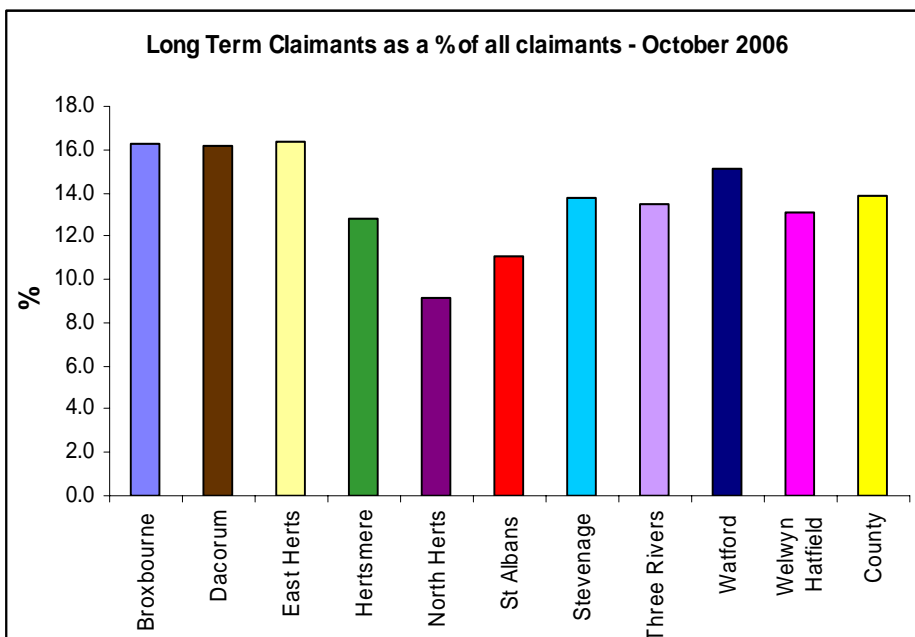
Not seasonally adjusted

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	115	120	5	45	50	165	16.3
Dacorum	10	190	200	10	55	65	270	16.2
East Herts	10	90	100	5	30	35	130	16.4
Hertsmere	5	80	85	5	30	35	120	12.8
North Herts	0	80	80	0	25	25	110	9.1
St Albans	5	70	75	5	20	25	95	11.1
Stevenage	10	125	135	0	30	30	160	13.8
Three Rivers	5	55	60	0	25	25	85	13.5
Watford	10	115	125	5	30	35	160	15.1
Welwyn Hatfield	5	95	100	0	30	30	135	13.1
County	65	1,010	1,075	35	325	360	1,440	13.9

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

Not seasonally adjusted



- Since July 2006 the actual number and percentage of LTC in the county have increased, by 110 and 0.2% respectively.
- Dacorum had the largest increase of 25 in the actual number of LTC and also the highest percentage increase of 2.8% during this period.
- Hertsmere and Watford had the smallest increase of 5 in the actual number of LTC since July 2006.
- The actual number of LTC in Three Rivers remained the same as in July 2006 but the percentage of LTC increased by 0.3%.
- The district with the lowest proportion of LTC remains North Herts, with 9.1%.

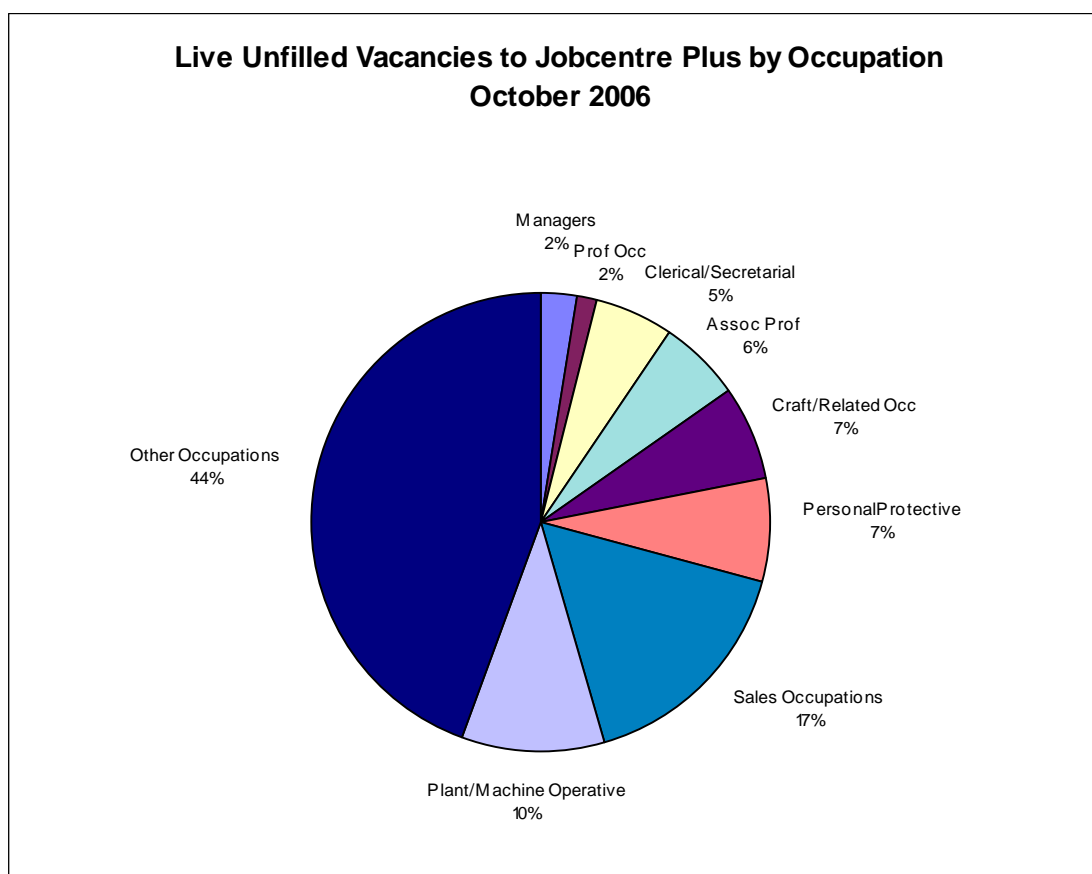
NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY OCCUPATION

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 6,043 live unfilled vacancies during October 2006, this was a decrease of 1.1% since October 2005.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire was within "Other Occupations" with 2,693 live unfilled vacancies and accounted for 44% of the total. Watford had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 734.
- Overall Watford had the highest total of live unfilled vacancies, 1,148.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Oct 2006 Total	Oct 2005 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	17	5	38	21	23	12	16	62	276	470	287	63.8
Dacorum	10	9	28	71	57	106	116	172	460	1,029	1,068	-3.7
East Hertfordshire	17	17	31	38	57	25	39	64	137	425	925	-54.1
Hertsmere	8	12	24	25	17	75	61	19	59	300	392	-23.5
North Hertfordshire	24	10	32	37	37	22	117	54	295	628	533	17.8
St Albans	15	2	25	16	49	30	73	37	166	413	858	-51.9
Stevenage	10	23	55	29	36	2	347	57	279	838	842	-0.5
Three Rivers	3	3	8	4	8	5	6	5	101	143	210	-31.9
Watford	22	9	21	41	70	90	140	21	734	1,148	471	143.7
Welwyn Hatfield	17	5	66	68	62	59	85	101	186	649	526	23.4
TOTAL	143	95	328	350	416	426	1,000	592	2,693	6,043	6,112	-1.1



Definitions of occupational sectors:

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

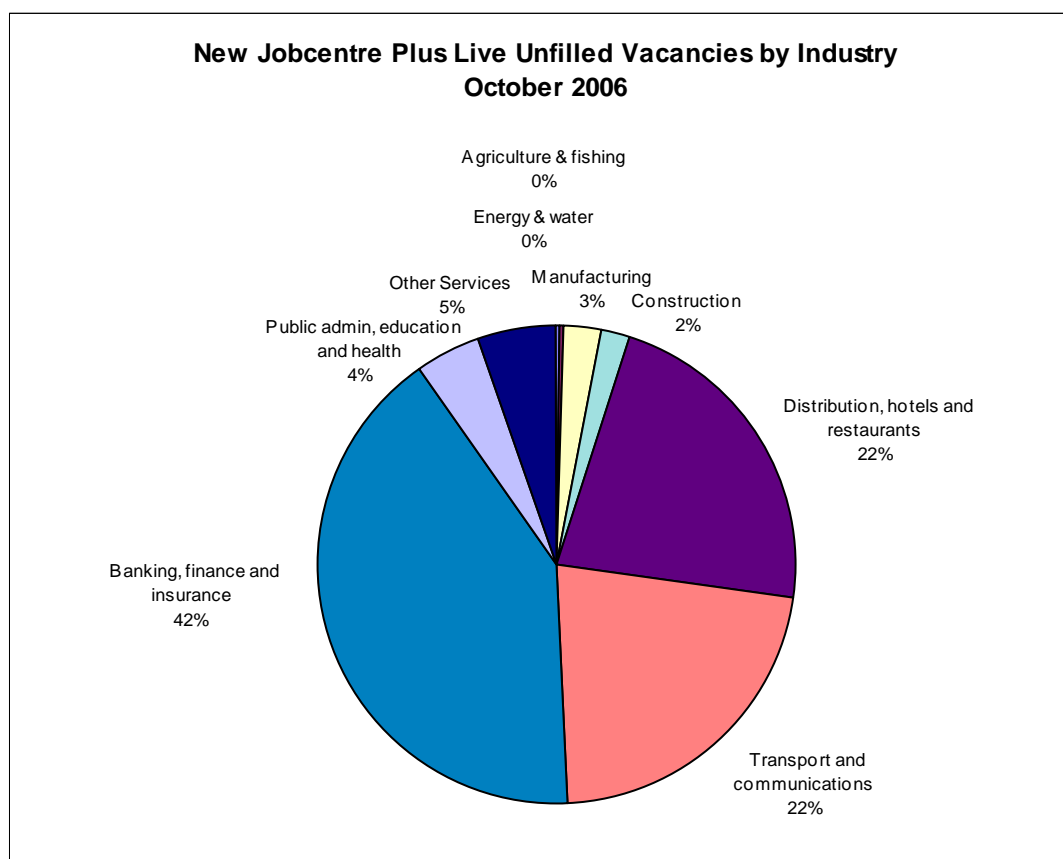
NEW JOBCENTRE PLUS LIVE UNFILLED VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY

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 2,487 and represented 42% of the total.
- Watford, with 417, had the largest number of vacancies in the Banking sector and also the largest number of vacancies in the Transport and Communications sector, 517.

INDUSTRY

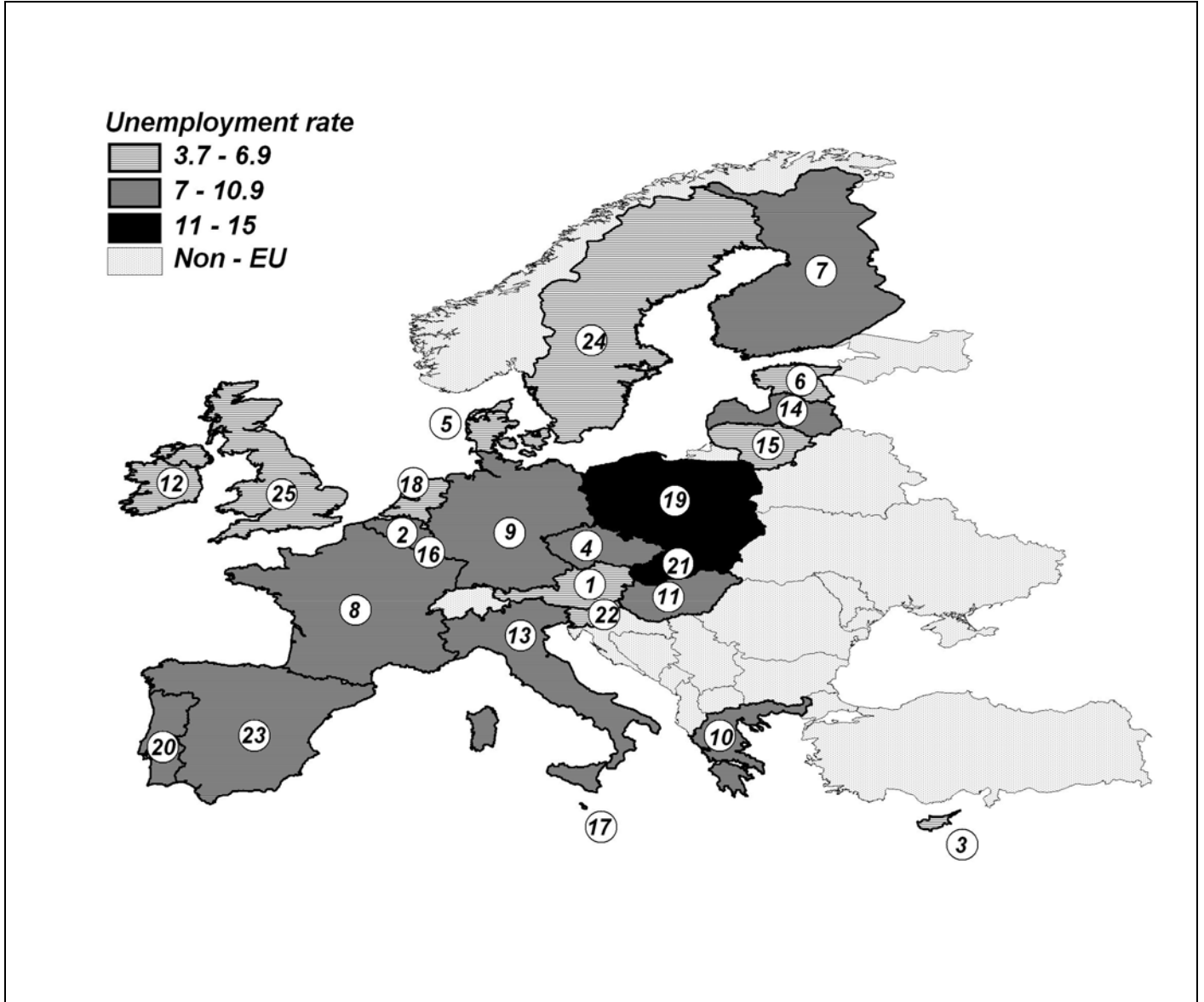
District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Oct 2006 Total	Oct 2005 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Broxbourne	2	2	18	5	65	9	178	29	162	470	287	63.8
Dacorum	3	3	12	11	143	408	376	66	7	1,029	1,068	-3.7
East Hertfordshire	1	4	38	14	89	3	231	27	18	425	925	-54.1
Hertsmere	0	1	16	4	43	5	179	37	15	300	392	-23.5
North Hertfordshire	2	4	16	10	144	94	277	35	46	628	533	17.8
St Albans	1	1	11	7	148	36	173	17	19	413	858	-51.9
Stevenage	0	3	15	19	402	115	250	11	23	838	842	-0.5
Three Rivers	1	0	1	13	12	57	50	8	1	143	210	-31.9
Watford	2	2	14	21	134	517	417	32	9	1,148	471	143.7
Welwyn Hatfield	3	0	14	12	167	76	358	5	16	649	526	23.4
TOTAL	15	20	155	116	1,347	1,320	2,487	267	316	6,043	6,112	-1.1



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 |
|---|--|

- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the European Union (EU) stood at 8.0% in August 2006, a fall of 0.2% since May 2006. The unemployment rate in Poland fell by 1.4% over the same time but continued to have the highest unemployment rate in the EU at 15.0%.
- During the last quarter the unemployment rate fell in 14 of the 25 countries in the EU. Slovakia had the largest decrease of 2.4%.
- However, during the same period, the unemployment rate rose in 8 of the EU countries. The largest increase was 0.3% in Hungary.
- The unemployment rate remained fairly static in Cyprus (5.5%) and Greece (9.2%) during 2006 and in Sweden (6.3%) during 2005 / 2006.



Unemployment rates for the European Union - August 2006							
Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate	Country	% rate
1. Austria	4.8	8. France	8.8	15. Lithuania	5.7	22. Slovenia	6.0
2. Belgium	8.6	9. Germany	8.5	16. Luxembourg	4.8	23. Spain	7.8
3. Cyprus	5.5	10. Greece	**9.2	17. Malta	7.4	24. Sweden	***6.3
4. Czech Republic	7.1	11. Hungary	7.6	18. Netherlands	3.8	25. United Kingdom	*5.4
5. Denmark	3.7	12. Ireland	4.4	19. Poland	15.0		
6. Estonia	4.2	13. Italy	**7.4	20. Portugal	7.2	Union Average	8.0
7. Finland	7.8	14. Latvia	7.2	21. Slovakia	13.1		

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Jun 2006

** Mar 2006

*** Mar 2005

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Since July 2006 the claimant count in the majority of the Constituencies across the county decreased. The exceptions to this were increases in Hitchin (22) and North East Hertfordshire (20).
- During the same period the largest decrease in the number of claimants was in Welwyn Hatfield by 144.
- However, over the last year the Stevenage Constituency rose by 262.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of claimants	% proportion
	October 2006	October 2006
Broxbourne	1,037	1.8
Hemel Hempstead	1,364	2.3
Hertford & Stortford	646	1.0
Hertsmere	941	1.6
Hitchin & Harpenden	685	1.3
North East Hertfordshire	777	1.4
South West Hertfordshire	729	1.2
St Albans	691	1.2
Stevenage	1,236	2.2
Watford	1,247	1.9
Welwyn Hatfield	1,006	1.8

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 October 2006	% PROPORTION*
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	147	3.6
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	549	2.7
3	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1,267	2.5
4	Stevenage	Stevenage	1,162	2.4
5	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	225	2.3
6	Letchworth Garden City	North Herts	438	2.2
7	Hitchin	North Herts	406	2.1
8	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	532	2.1
9	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	472	2.0
10	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	386	2.0
11	Watford	Watford	1,138	2.0
12	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	151	1.7
13	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	197	1.6
14	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	152	1.5
15	Abbots Langley	Hertsmere	78	1.4
16	Baldock	North Herts	86	1.4
17	St Albans	St Albans	563	1.3
18	Hertford	East Herts	187	1.2
19	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	149	1.2
20	Ware	East Herts	127	1.2
21	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	108	1.1
22	Tring	Dacorum	91	1.1
23	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	219	1.0
24	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	73	1.0
25	Radlett	Hertsmere	62	1.0
26	Bushey	Hertsmere	101	0.9
27	Royston	North Herts	80	0.9
28	Harpenden	St Albans	108	0.7
29	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	33	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.

- Waltham Cross continued to have the highest proportion of claimant count in the county, 3.6%.
- 19 of the main towns in the county experienced decreases in the numbers of claimant count since July 2006. Welwyn Garden City with 82 had the largest decrease in the actual number of claimants and the highest percentage decrease of 14.7%.
- During the same period Hitchin had the largest increase of 26 in the actual number of claimants while Royston had the highest percentage increase of 17.6%, albeit from a relatively small base.

Source: National Statistics (NOMIS) © Crown Copyright 2006



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

April 2005 to March 2006

Not seasonally adjusted

	Employment ⁽¹⁾		Unemployment ⁽²⁾		Economically inactive ⁽¹⁾		mid-2005 Population ⁽⁴⁾
	Total 16+ (000s)	16-59/64 Rate (%)	Total 16+ (000s)	Rate (%) ⁽³⁾	Total 16- 59/64 (000s)	16-59/64 Rate (%)	16-59/64 (000s)
United Kingdom	28,117	74.1	1,483	5.0	7,986	21.9	37,368
East of England	2,704	77.6	112	4.0	638	19.1	3,380
South East	4,109	79.0	168	3.9	881	17.7	5,011
London	3441	68.6	284	7.6	1235	25.5	5,035
Hertfordshire	542	80.5	19	3.4	107	16.6	647
Broxbourne	44	79.1	2	4.5	8	14.1	53
Dacorum	77	85.5	3	3.2	11	13.4	85
East Herts	71	81.6	2	2.8	14	16.4	82
Hertsmere	47	77.2	1	3.1	13	22.3	57
North Herts	61	78.7	2	3.8	12	16.4	74
St. Albans	69	81.9	2	2.5	14	17.4	83
Stevenage	44	82.9	2	3.8	6	11.8	49
Three Rivers	40	75.4	2	3.8	10	20.6	51
Watford	43	81.6	2	4.2	8	15.8	51
Welwyn Hatfield	46	78.2	2	3.7	11	18.7	62

Source: "Annual Population Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2006. First Release East (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.

A detailed user guide can be found at:

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