

NOTE: Important ONS statement regarding "Better Jobless Data" in Appendix.

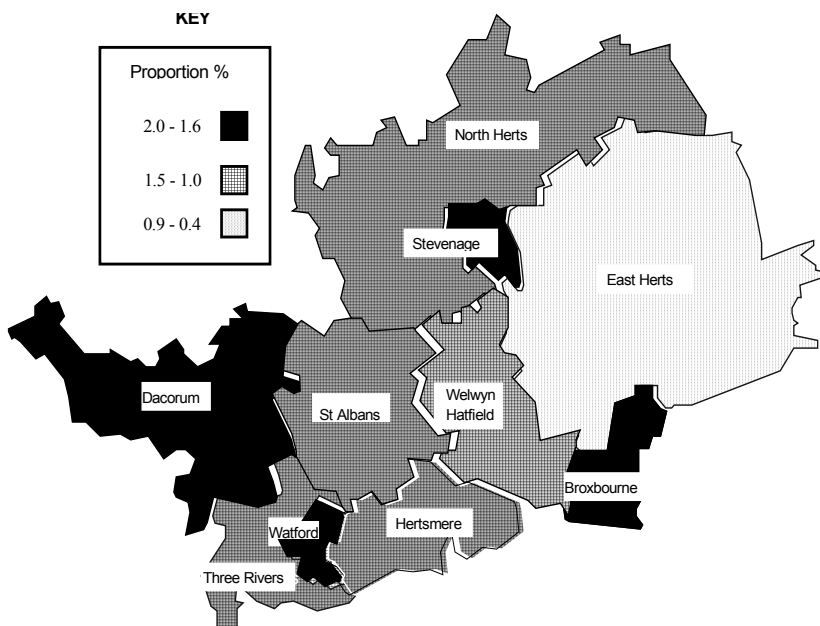
- The official unemployment rate for UK (using the ILO rate) is 5.1% for the period January - March 2003. A rate for Hertfordshire has, at present, been withheld but regional figures have now been released. See Appendix.
- Claimant count unemployment in Hertfordshire for April 2003 stands at 9,337 a proportion of 1.5%. (For an explanation of the new proportions compared to old unemployment rates see Appendix).
- During the last quarter there has been an increase in claimant unemployed of 279 (3.1%) and over the last year by 938 (11.2%).

CLAIMANT COUNT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

DISTRICT	APR 2003				MAR 2003				FEB 2003			
	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion	Male	Female	Total	% proportion
BROXBOURNE	550	301	851	1.6	553	295	848	1.6	615	291	906	1.7
DACORUM	1,016	422	1,438	1.7	989	413	1,402	1.7	1,018	414	1,432	1.7
EAST HERTS	516	233	749	0.9	527	224	751	0.9	541	225	766	0.9
HERTSMERE	621	249	870	1.5	639	234	873	1.5	665	231	896	1.6
NORTH HERTS	726	363	1,089	1.5	746	392	1,138	1.6	725	365	1,090	1.5
ST ALBANS	648	220	868	1.1	657	216	873	1.1	613	229	842	1.0
STEVENAGE	701	253	954	1.9	719	252	971	2.0	734	271	1,005	2.0
THREE RIVERS	511	179	690	1.4	507	191	698	1.4	506	196	702	1.4
WATFORD	685	262	947	1.9	691	243	934	1.8	713	263	976	1.9
WELWYN/HATFIELD	641	240	881	1.5	641	240	881	1.5	674	231	905	1.5
COUNTY	6,615	2,722	9,337	1.5	6,669	2,700	9,369	1.5	6,804	2,716	9,520	1.5

Not seasonally adjusted

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS
IN COUNTY = 9,337 (1.5%)**



- Although the number of unemployed claimants has risen overall during the last quarter, there have been slight decreases in Broxbourne (9), Hertsmere (7), Watford (1) and Welwyn Hatfield (37).
- Since January 2003 North Herts has seen the highest increase in the number of unemployed claimants (167).
- Female claimants have risen at a faster rate (10.5%) than male claimants (0.3%) over the same period.
- During the last quarter although the number of female claimants has risen overall in the county, in Three Rivers there was a slight fall of 7, while in Welwyn Hatfield the number remained the same.

Total Unemployed DISTRICT	APR 2003	APR 2002	APR 2001	Change 2001-2003 Nos	%
BROXBOURNE	851	841	815	36	4.4
DACORUM	1,438	1,191	1,010	428	42.4
EAST HERTS	749	683	515	234	45.4
HERTSMERE	870	754	679	191	28.1
NORTH HERTS	1,089	903	757	332	43.9
ST ALBANS	868	722	450	418	92.9
STEVENAGE	954	905	883	71	8.0
THREE RIVERS	690	654	547	143	26.1
WATFORD	947	950	797	150	18.8
WELWYN/HATFIELD	881	796	625	256	41.0
COUNTY	9,337	8,399	7,078	2,259	31.9

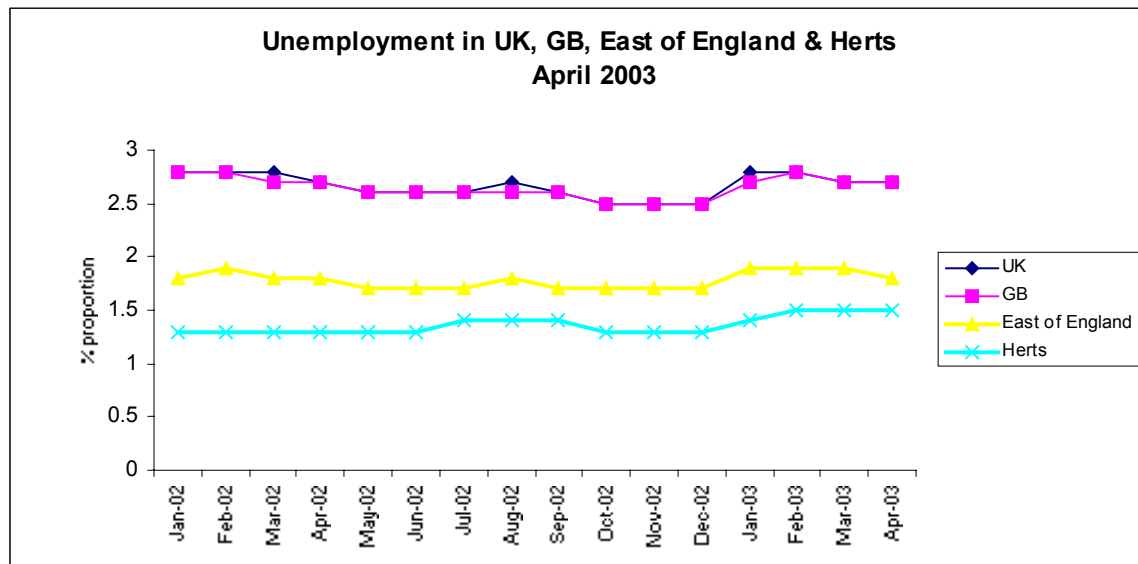
- Claimant count unemployment in Hertfordshire has risen by 31.9% (2,259 claimants) since April 2001.
- The largest increase in the number of claimants was in Dacorum with 428 (42.4%) during this period.
- However, the largest percentage increase since April 2001 was in St Albans, which has nearly doubled (92.9%).
- Broxbourne had the smallest increase in both the number of claimant count unemployment (36) since April 2001 and in the percentage increase (4.4%).

CLAIMANT COUNT COMPARISONS

- During the last quarter there was a slight fall in the percentage of unemployed in the United Kingdom, from 2.8% to 2.7%, and in the East of England, from 1.9% to 1.8%.
- One of the Counties/Unitary Authorities surrounding Hertfordshire, Milton Keynes, had the largest increase of unemployed claimants, from 1.8% to 2.1%, during the same period.

April 2003	Nos Unemployed	% proportion		Nos Unemployed	% proportion
REGIONS			COUNTIES / UNITARY AUTHORITIES		
EAST OF ENGLAND	60,778	1.8	LUTON	3,721	3.2
SOUTH EAST	78,571	1.6	BEDFORDSHIRE (remainder)	4,490	1.9
GREATER LONDON	173,486	3.7	MILTON KEYNES	2,790	2.1
GREAT BRITAIN	932,361	2.7	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (remainder)	4,281	1.4
UNITED KINGDOM	966,093	2.7	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	4,677	1.3
			SOUTHEND	2,846	3.0
LONDON BOROUGHS			THURROCK	1,913	2.1
BARNET	5,783	2.9	ESSEX (remainder)	12,957	1.6
ENFIELD	5,878	3.4	HERTFORDSHIRE	9,337	1.5
HARROW	2,906	2.2	NORFOLK	10,280	2.2
HILLINGDON	3,621	2.4	OXFORDSHIRE	4,377	1.1
			SUFFOLK	8,200	2.1

Not seasonally adjusted



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

- There are 877 long-term unemployed (LTU) claimants in Hertfordshire, representing 9.4% of all unemployed, compared to 9.8% in April 2002.
- Although the number of LTU claimants in the county has risen overall by 55 (6.7%) over the last year, the percentage of LTU in the county continues to fall
- There has been a slight decrease of 21 in the number of LTU in the 25-34 age group.
- The percentage of Male ITU (7.1%) has increased at a faster rate than Female LTU (5.0%) since April 2002.

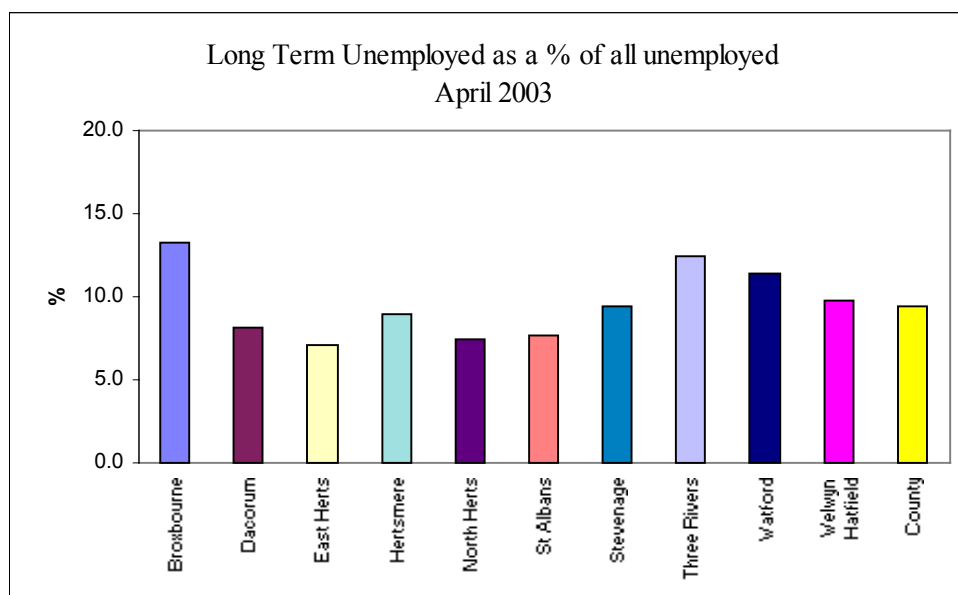
April 2003 Age	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% of All Unemployed	April 2002	
					% of All Unemployed	Total
18 - 24	13	5	18	1.0	1.0	16
25 - 34	127	35	162	7.2	9.0	183
35 - 44	204	30	234	10.9	11.1	217
45 - 54	230	58	288	15.2	15.0	260
55+	132	43	175	17.5	17.1	146
TOTAL	706	171	877	9.4	9.8	822

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	3	86	89	2	21	23	112	13.2
Dacorum	3	88	91	1	25	26	117	8.1
East Herts	1	43	44	0	9	9	53	7.1
Hertsmere	0	61	61	0	16	16	77	8.9
North Herts	1	58	59	1	21	22	81	7.4
St Albans	3	52	55	0	12	12	67	7.7
Stevenage	0	76	76	0	14	14	90	9.4
Three Rivers	1	66	67	0	19	19	86	12.5
Watford	0	93	93	0	15	15	108	11.4
Welwyn Hatfield	1	70	71	1	14	15	86	9.8
County	13	693	706	5	166	171	877	9.4

Not seasonally adjusted



- The majority of districts have seen a fall in the percentage of LTU during the last quarter, with Watford having the largest percentage decrease of 2.7%.
- However, the percentage of LTU has risen in North Herts (1.2%) and St Albans (1.5%).
- Broxbourne has the highest percentage of LTU, 13.2%.
- East Herts has the lowest percentage of LTU in the county, 7.1%.

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY OCCUPATION *

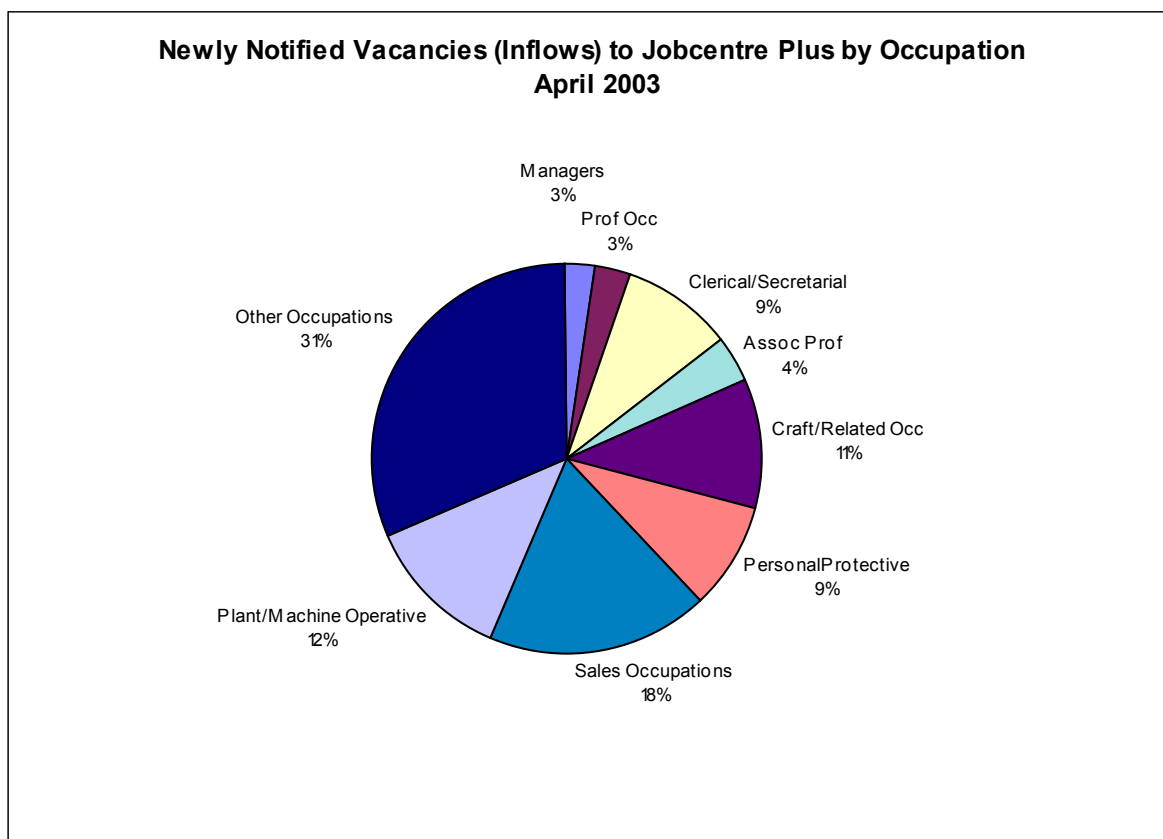
NB This data is only new inflows not stock and gives an indication of the types of occupational vacancies being notified.

- In Hertfordshire a total of 3,192 vacancies were notified during the last quarter, this was a drop of 26.9% since October 2002.
- The highest number of vacancies by occupational sector in Hertfordshire is within "Other Occupations" with 1,008 newly notified vacancies, which accounts for 31% of the total. St Albans Jobcentre Plus had the largest number of vacancies in this group, with 173.
- The Watford Jobcentre Plus had the highest total number of newly notified vacancies, 540.

OCCUPATIONS

District	Occupational definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2003 Total	Oct 2002 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	1	8	25	4	26	34	9	37	60	204	228	-10.5
Borehamwood	3	5	16	3	17	11	31	23	38	147	173	-15.0
Hertford	5	3	15	12	17	15	23	47	51	188	285	-34.0
Hemel Hempstead	6	5	32	11	31	14	57	32	115	303	511	-40.7
Hitchin	7	14	8	6	29	26	56	15	44	205	201	2.0
Hatfield	4	3	12	1	15	21	22	14	46	138	309	-55.3
Letchworth	8	4	17	8	22	33	35	37	42	206	247	-16.6
St Albans	10	3	45	8	30	12	52	17	173	350	410	-14.6
Stevenage	5	17	24	20	20	36	36	18	105	281	447	-37.1
Watford	16	15	40	17	80	21	162	58	131	540	995	-45.7
Waltham Cross	3	8	17	10	38	28	29	39	92	264	305	-13.4
Welwyn Garden City	9	3	34	24	11	3	16	15	59	174	123	41.5
Stansted Airport	7	1	8	1	4	29	48	42	52	192	134	43.3
TOTAL	84	89	293	125	340	283	576	394	1,008	3,192	4,368	-26.9

* 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 |
|---|---|

NEW MONTHLY JOBCENTRE PLUS NOTIFIED VACANCIES (INFLOWS) BY INDUSTRY *

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

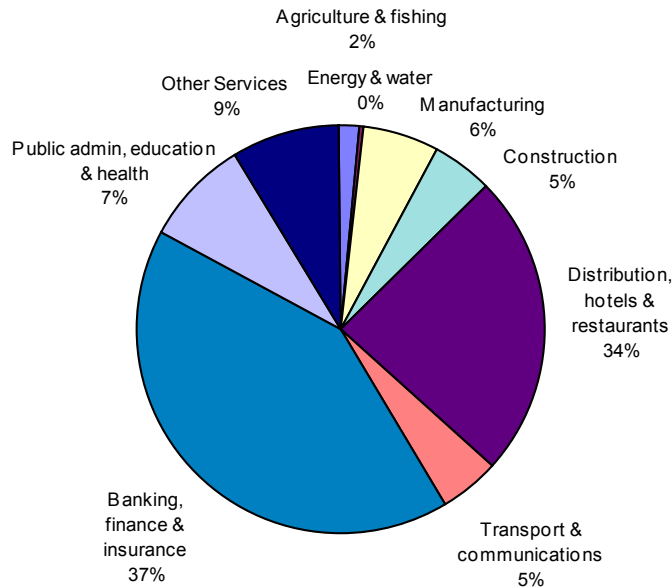
- The two sectors with the highest numbers of vacancies by industrial sector in Hertfordshire are Banking, Finance and Insurance (1,318) and Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants (764) and together they account for 71% of the total.
- Watford Jobcentre Plus with 286 has the largest number of vacancies in the Banking, etc, sector.
- Within the Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants sector the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Jobcentre Plus had the largest numbers of vacancies, (107) and (106) respectively.

INDUSTRY

District	Industrial definitions (see bottom of page)									Apr 2003 Total	Oct 2002 Total	% change
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Bishop's Stortford	11	0	14	8	50	17	64	28	12	204	228	-10.5
Borehamwood	0	0	9	7	45	5	33	33	15	147	173	-15.0
Hertford	5	0	19	7	56	4	78	16	3	188	285	-34.0
Hemel Hempstead	2	1	6	24	106	17	119	12	16	303	511	-40.7
Hitchin	2	0	18	10	47	11	78	22	17	205	201	2.0
Hatfield	0	2	7	9	24	5	76	10	5	138	309	-55.3
Letchworth	4	1	20	2	52	9	85	13	20	206	247	-16.6
St Albans	0	0	22	11	82	7	118	19	91	350	410	-14.6
Stevenage	2	0	10	6	76	3	131	31	22	281	447	-37.1
Watford	17	0	21	38	107	14	286	35	22	540	995	-45.7
Waltham Cross	12	1	36	23	49	14	66	40	23	264	305	-13.4
Welwyn Garden City	1	0	9	4	37	2	100	15	6	174	123	41.5
Stansted Airport	0	0	3	4	33	41	84	1	26	192	134	43.3
TOTAL	56	5	194	153	764	149	1,318	275	278	3,192	4,368	-26.9

- Refer to appendix for details of Vacancy data

Newly Notified Vacancies (Inflows) to Jobcentre Plus by Industry April 2003

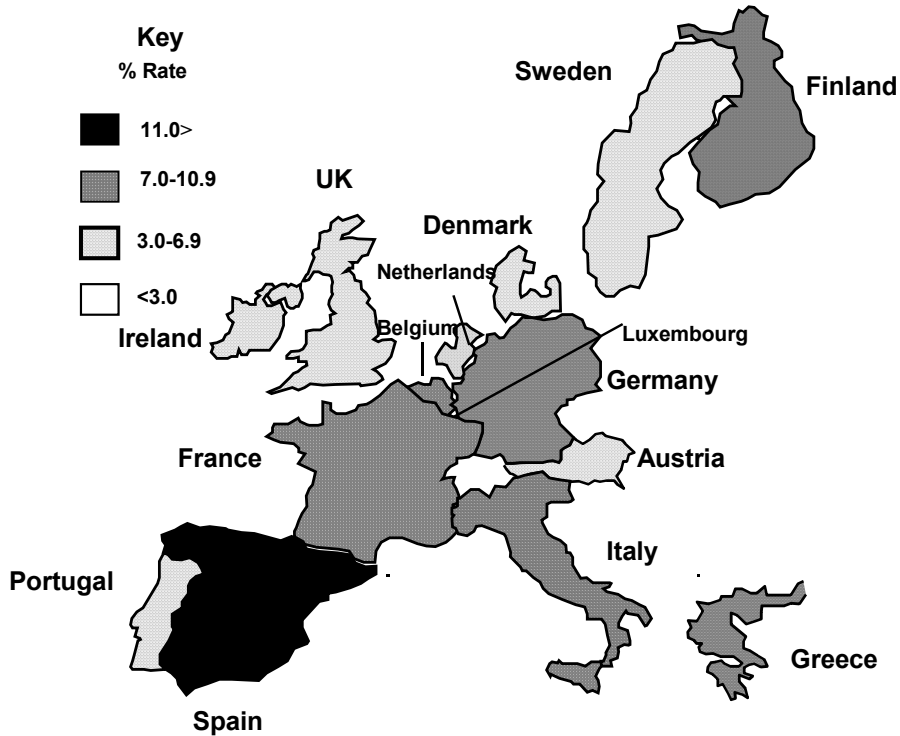


Definitions of industrial sectors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 now stands at 7.9% in February 2003, an increase of 0.2% since November 2002.
- The unemployment rate in the majority of countries has risen slightly with the largest increase in Portugal, from 5.1% to 6.7%.
- However, in Finland and the United Kingdom, the unemployment rate has fallen by 0.1% since November 2002. In Greece the rate fell from 9.9% to 9.6% between September and December 2002.



Unemployment rates for the European Union

February 2003

% rate

Spain	11.9
Greece	9.6**
France	9.1
Italy	9.0*
Finland	8.8
Germany	8.7
Belgium	7.7
Portugal	6.7
Sweden	5.1
UK	5.1*
Denmark	5.0
Ireland	4.5
Austria	4.2
Netherlands	3.4*
Luxembourg	2.8
Union Average	7.9

Source: Labour Market Trends

* Jan 2003

** Dec 2002

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

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- Unemployment percentage proportions for Parliamentary Constituencies have been temporarily withdrawn. ONS are awaiting ward level working age population data from the 2001 Census. They will use these to calculate and publish resident-based claimant count proportions for Parliamentary Constituency areas. The expected date of release for the necessary Census data at ward level is mid 2003.

Parliamentary Constituencies	Numbers of Unemployed April 2003	Unemployment % Proportion April 2003
Broxbourne	876	N/A
Hemel Hempstead	1,153	N/A
Hertford & Stortford	604	N/A
Hertsmere	870	N/A
Hitchin & Harpenden	719	N/A
North East Hertfordshire	659	N/A
South West Hertfordshire	772	N/A
St Albans	673	N/A
Stevenage	1,028	N/A
Watford	1,127	N/A
Welwyn Hatfield	856	N/A

TOWN CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

Claimant unemployment ranked in descending order by unemployment % rate

RANK	TOWN	DISTRICT	NUMBERS OF CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYED April 2003	% RATE *
1	Waltham Cross	Broxbourne	161	3.2
2	Borehamwood	Hertsmere	471	3.1
3	South Oxhey	Three Rivers	163	3.0
4	Hitchin	North Herts	422	2.5
5	Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1070	2.5
6	Stevenage	Stevenage	954	2.4
7	Watford	Watford	947	2.3
8	Rickmansworth	Three Rivers	127	2.3
9	Letchworth	North Herts	359	2.2
10	Welwyn Garden City	Welwyn Hatfield	469	2.2
11	Cheshunt	Broxbourne	410	2.0
12	Abbots Langley	Three Rivers	126	1.9
13	Hatfield	Welwyn Hatfield	301	1.8
14	Berkhamsted	Dacorum	136	1.7
15	Broxbourne Town	Broxbourne	118	1.6
16	Baldock	North Herts	83	1.6
17	Hoddesdon	Broxbourne	162	1.5
18	St Albans	St Albans	583	1.5
19	Potters Bar	Hertsmere	161	1.5
20	Hertford	East Herts	171	1.4
21	Bishop's Stortford	East Herts	197	1.3
22	Chorleywood	Three Rivers	64	1.3
23	Tring	Dacorum	82	1.2
24	Radlett	Hertsmere	53	1.2
25	Bushey	Hertsmere	122	1.2
26	Croxley Green	Three Rivers	81	1.2
27	Ware	East Herts	99	1.0
28	Royston	North Herts	66	0.9
29	Harpenden	St Albans	114	0.8

Not Seasonally adjusted

* These rates have been calculated using local estimates of the workforce from the 1991 Census and will be updated as soon as 2001 Census ward data are available in 2003, in line with the new resident percentage proportions.

- Overall, claimant count unemployment has increased in the main towns of Hertfordshire during the last quarter. The largest increase was in Hitchin with 80.
- However, in ten of the towns there has been a fall in the number of claimant unemployed during the same period, the largest fall of 38 being in Welwyn Garden City.

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.

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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 tables below show quarterly national, regional and county unemployment figures from the Labour Force Survey. A full re-weighting of the LFS dataset is not available until further population estimates and projections are published in line with 2001 Census results.

Autumn 2002 (Not seasonally adjusted)

All Persons	In Employment			ILO Unemployed	Total Econ active	Econ Inactive
	Employees	Self-employed	Total ¹			
United Kingdom ⁵	24,334	3,191	27,723	1,463	29,187	17,374
Great Britain	23,709	3,106	26,984	1,419	28,403	16,866
East of England	2,318	327	2,662	123	2,784	1,511
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
London	2,891	478	3,388	247	3,636	2,084
South East	3,492	536	4,049	159	4,208	2,149

All Persons	All aged 16 & over ²	Economic Activity rates % ³		Employment rate % ⁴	ILO Unemployment rate %
		all age 16+	16-59/64	16-59/64	all 16+
United Kingdom ⁵	46,560	62.7	78.3	74.3	5.0
Great Britain	45,269	62.7	78.4	74.4	5.0
East of England	4,295	64.8	81.4	77.7	4.4
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
London	5,720	63.6	74.8	69.6	6.8
South East	6,358	66.2	82.4	79.2	3.8

Source: "Labour Force Survey" National Statistics © Crown copyright 2003.

NOTE: Estimates are presented for regions and metropolitan districts (consistent with pre-census mid-year 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.

An explanation of old rates and new proportions

Claimant Count Rates

The traditional claimant count rates express the number of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of corresponding mid year estimate of the workforce jobs in the area plus the number of claimants. The number of workforce jobs is mainly collected through postal employer surveys and comprises; employee jobs, self-employed jobs, HM forces and government supported trainees.

Claimant Count Rates Jan 2002-Nov 2002 (percentage)

	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Welwyn Hatfield	County	GB	East of England
Jan-02	2.2	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.4	3.3	2.3
Feb-02	2.3	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	3.4	2.3
Mar-02	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.5	3.3	2.3
Apr-02	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.2	2.3
May-02	2.1	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.1	2.2
Jun-02	2.1	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.1	2.1
Jul-02	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.5	3.1	2.2
Aug-02	2.1	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.8	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.6	3.1	2.2
Sep-02	2.1	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.6	3.1	2.2
Oct-02	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.0	2.1
Nov-02	2.0	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.5	3.0	2.1

Claimant Count Proportions

The new proportions express the number of claimants as a percentage of the estimated population of working age resident in an area and are thus wholly resident based. The population of the working age is defined as those aged 16-59 women and 16-64 for men.

Claimant Count Proportions Jan 2002-Nov 2002 (percentage)

	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Welwyn Hatfield	County	GB	East of England
Jan-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.3	2.8	1.8
Feb-02	1.6	1.5	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.3	2.8	1.9
Mar-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.7	1.8
Apr-02	1.6	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.7	1.8
May-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.3	2.6	1.7
Jun-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.6	1.7
Jul-02	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.4	2.6	1.7
Aug-02	1.5	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.8
Sep-02	1.5	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.8	1.4	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.7
Oct-02	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	2.5	1.7
Nov-02	1.4	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	2.5	1.7

The effects of new proportions in Hertfordshire

Nationally, on average the new proportions are around a fifth smaller than the traditional rates. But there are variations around this.

In Hertfordshire the new proportions are about 15% smaller than the traditional rates. Rates on the former basis in Broxbourne were the highest in the County at 2.0%. Expressed as a proportion of the working age population it is lower at 1.4%. At the other extreme the old rates in Watford were 1.6% and in Welwyn Hatfield 1.2%, they are now higher using proportions at 1.7% and 1.4% respectively.

This contrast reflects the extent relative to the resident population in these districts.

