

12 November 2007

Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
The Economy

London leads fall in civil servant numbers

Economic & Labour Market Review

London's share of civil service employment has fallen faster than in any other region, according to a summary of the Civil Service statistics for 2006 in the November edition of *Economic & Labour Market Review* published today by the Office for National Statistics. In 2006, 16.8 per cent of civil servants worked in London, a drop of 1.4 percentage points since 2003. On a full-time equivalent basis, civil service employment in the capital fell by 7,210 in the three-year period.

Overall figures for civil service numbers have already been published in the quarterly public sector employment release from ONS, showing a recent decline in the number of civil servants from 2004 and 2005 levels. However, the annual statistics present additional detail on matters such as regional breakdowns and diversity.

The regional analysis shows that 72.0 per cent of the total of 519,000 civil servants (full-time equivalent) worked outside London and the South East in September 2006. Despite falling 1.4 percentage points, London's share was still the single biggest, followed by the North West at 12.2 per cent and the South East at 11.2 per cent. The lowest proportion was in Northern Ireland, which accounted for just 1.2 per cent of the total. After London, the biggest fall between 2003 and 2006 was in the South East (down 0.5 percentage points), while the biggest rises were in the South West and Yorkshire and the Humber, both regions seeing an increase of 0.6 percentage points.

There were 4,480 people (full-time equivalent) in senior management grades (0.9 per cent of the workforce), while the largest numbers (214,360 or 45.2 per cent) were in junior administrative grades. The median salary, excluding overtime or one-off bonuses, was roughly £20,000. A quarter of civil servants earned £26,000 or more.

Women accounted for 52.9 per cent of civil servants in 2006, virtually unchanged on the previous year. However, the proportion of women in the Senior Civil Service continued to increase, rising by 2.4 percentage points to 29.8 per cent. The proportion of civil servants from a minority ethnic background rose from 8.1 per cent to 8.4 per cent. In all, 4.4 per cent of civil servants had a declared disability, down slightly from 4.5 per cent the previous year.

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Next publication date
10 December 2007

Other articles this month include:

Revisions to quarterly GDP growth and its components

The key findings from the 2007 GDP revisions analysis show that the initial estimate of GDP growth was 0.15 percentage points below the latest estimate. This is down from the figure of 0.18 calculated following last year's *Blue Book* data set, reflecting lower revisions in the last year.

Using the FRS to examine employment trends of couples

This article uses the Family Resources Survey, produced by the Department for Work and Pensions, to look at changes in income for different types of couples – described as 'work-rich', 'single-earner' and 'work-poor'. This shows that real income has increased for all types of couples, but it has been greatest for work-rich couples.

UK environmental accounts: air emissions and energy use

This article looks at some trends in ONS data on air emissions showing that, on the basis that ONS uses, total UK greenhouse gas emissions fell 9.3 per cent between 1990 and 2005. However, much of this reduction took place in the period up to 1999. Since then, emissions have remained broadly stable, although there has been 20.5 per cent economic growth.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. A monthly ONS publication, *Economic & Labour Market Review* draws together expert research and analysis to build an up-to-date, comprehensive and unique statistical picture of the UK economy and labour market. It is available on the National Statistics website at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14692
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