

Labour Market Statistics

Headlines – June 2008

All data are seasonally adjusted. All data are for the UK unless otherwise stated.

This month's figures show an increase in the number of people in employment but the employment rate is unchanged. The number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have all increased. The inactivity rate and the number of inactive people of working age have both fallen. The number of vacancies has increased slightly. Growth in average earnings excluding bonuses has increased but earnings growth including bonuses has fallen.

The **employment rate** for people of working age was **74.9%** in the three months to April 2008, unchanged on the previous three months but up **0.5** percentage points on the year. The total **employment level** was **29.55 million**, up **76,000** on the previous three months and up **466,000** on the same period a year ago.

The number of **Workforce Jobs** in March 2008 was **31.67 million**, up **44,000** on the quarter and up **237,000** over the year.

Manufacturing employee jobs fell by **33,000** to **2.89 million** in the three months to April 2008 when compared with a year earlier.

The **unemployment rate** was **5.3%** in the three months to April 2008, up **0.1** percentage point from the previous three months but down **0.2** percentage points on the year. The **unemployment level** was **1.64 million**, up **38,000** on the previous three months but down **34,000** on the year.

The **claimant count** in May 2008 was **819,300**. This was up **9,000** compared with the revised April 2008 figure of **810,300**, but down **58,100** over the year. The **CC rate** for May 2008 was **2.5%** of the workforce, unchanged from the previous month but down **0.2** percentage points on the year.

The number of **claimants in the New Deal groups** (computerised claims only) in May 2008 were:

18-24 claiming for over 6 months	36,400 (-400 from the previous month)
25 and over claiming 18 months to 2 years	22,400 (-900 from the previous month)
25 and over claiming for more than 2 years	26,300 (-1,400 from the previous month)
TOTAL	85,100 (-2,700 from the previous month)

The **economic inactivity rate** for people of working age for the three months to April 2008 was **20.8%**, down **0.1** percentage point on the previous three months and down **0.4** percentage points on the year.

The **number of economically inactive people** of working age was **7.86 million** in the three months to April 2008, down **23,000** on the previous three months and down **107,000** on the year. Of this total, **3.19 million** were men and **4.67 million** were women.

There were **678,600 job vacancies** in the three months to May 2008, up **100** from the previous three months and up **35,200** over the year.

There were **2.6** vacancies per 100 employee jobs, unchanged from the previous quarter.

The **redundancy rate** for the three months to April 2008 was **4.3** per 1,000 employees, down **0.1** percentage point on the previous three months and down **0.8** percentage points on the year.

The GB whole economy **average earnings excluding bonuses** annual growth rate was **3.9%** in the three months to April 2008, up **0.1** percentage point from the three months to March 2008. The corresponding rate **including bonuses** was **3.8%**, down **0.2** percentage points from the three months to March 2008. The figures for the main industrial categories were:

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Excluding bonuses</u>	<u>Including bonuses</u>
Public sector	4.1% (up 0.2 pp)	3.8% (unchanged)
Private sector	3.8% (unchanged)	3.8% (down 0.2 pp)
Manufacturing	3.2% (down 0.3 pp)	3.5% (down 0.3 pp)
Services	4.2% (up 0.2 pp)	4.2% (down 0.1pp)
Private sector services	4.2% (up 0.1 pp)	4.2% (down 0.2 pp)

Briefing notes for Labour Market Statistics release – 11 June 2008

Summary

This month's figures show an increase in the number of people in employment but the employment rate is unchanged. The number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have all increased. The inactivity rate and the number of inactive people of working age have both fallen. The number of vacancies has increased slightly. Growth in average earnings excluding bonuses has increased but earnings growth including bonuses has fallen.

Employment

The working age employment rate for the three months to April 2008 was 74.9 per cent, unchanged from the previous three months but up 0.5 percentage points on the year. The total employment level rose by 76,000 over the previous three months and by 446,000 over the year to reach 29.55 million, the highest figure since comparable records began in 1971. The number of people employed in the public sector was 5.76 million in March 2008, down 20,000 on the quarter and down 39,000 on the year. The number of people employed in the private sector was 23.80 million, up 96,000 on the quarter and up 485,000 on the year.

The total number of hours worked per week was 943.7 million, up 6.3 million from the previous three months and up 13.7 million over the year.

Jobs

The number of workforce jobs in March 2008 was 31.67 million, up 44,000 on the quarter and up 237,000 over the year. This is the highest figure since comparable records began in 1959.

There were 2.89 million manufacturing employee jobs in the three months to April 2008, a fall of 33,000 (1.1 per cent) compared with the same period a year earlier. This is the lowest figure since comparable records began in 1978.

Vacancies

There were 678,600 job vacancies in the three months to May 2008, up 100 from the previous three months and up 35,200 compared with the previous year.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate was 5.3 per cent for the three months to April 2008, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous three months but down 0.2 percentage points on the year. The number of unemployed people was 1.64 million, up 38,000 from the previous three months but down 34,000 over the year.

Claimant Count

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance benefit in May 2008 was 819,300. It is up 9,000 from the revised figure for April 2008 but down 58,100 on the year. The Claimant Count has now increased for the last four months.

Redundancies

In the three months to April 2008, 110,000 people were made redundant in the three months prior to their Labour Force Survey interview. This is down 2,000 from the previous three months and down 19,000 on the year.

Economic inactivity

The economic inactivity rate for people of working age was 20.8 per cent for the three months to April 2008, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous three months and down 0.4 percentage points on the year. The number of inactive people of working age fell by 23,000 from the previous three months and by 107,000 over the year to reach 7.86 million.

Average earnings

The whole economy earnings annual growth rate, excluding bonuses, was 3.9 per cent in the three months to April 2008, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The corresponding rate, including bonuses, was 3.8 per cent, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month.

Manufacturing productivity and unit wage costs

In the three months to April 2008, manufacturing productivity rose by 2.7 per cent and manufacturing unit wage costs rose by 0.8 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

Labour Disputes

During April 2008 there were 142,000 working days lost due to labour disputes.