

Labour Market Statistics

Headlines – June 2009

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

The number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have increased. The employment rate and the number of employed people have fallen. There are fewer vacancies. The number of inactive people of working age and the inactivity rate have increased. Earnings growth, excluding bonuses, has fallen. Earnings growth, including bonuses, has increased.

The **employment rate** for people of working age was **73.3%** in the three months to April 2009, down **0.8** percentage points on the previous three months and down **1.5** percentage points on the year. The total **employment level** was **29.11 million**, down **271,000** on the previous three months and down **399,000** on the same period a year ago.

The number of **workforce jobs** in March 2009 was **31.19 million**, down **108,000** on the quarter and down **455,000** over the year.

The number of **manufacturing employee jobs** in the three months to April 2009 was **2.70 million**, down **184,000** over the year.

The **unemployment rate** was **7.2%** in the three months to April 2009, up **0.7** percentage points from the previous three months and up **1.9** percentage points on the year. The **unemployment level** was **2.26 million**, up **232,000** on the previous three months and up **605,000** on the year.

The **claimant count** in May 2009 was **1.54 million**. This was up **39,300** compared with the revised April 2009 figure and up **726,100** over the year. The claimant count rate for May 2009 was **4.8%** of the workforce, up **0.1** percentage point from the previous month and up **2.2** percentage points on the year.

The number of **claimants in the New Deal groups** (computerised claims only) in May 2009 were:

18-24 claiming for over 6 months	70,900 (up 6,500 from the previous month)
25 and over claiming for 18 months to 2 years	26,100 (up 1,000 from the previous month)
25 and over claiming for more than 2 years	21,000 (down 200 from the previous month)
TOTAL	118,000 (up 7,300 from the previous month)

The **economic inactivity rate** for people of working age for the three months to April 2009 was **20.8%**, up **0.2** percentage points on the previous three months but unchanged on the year.

The **number of economically inactive people** of working age was **7.89 million** in the three months to April 2009, up **92,000** on the previous three months and up **32,000** on the year. Of this total, **3.20 million** were men and **4.69 million** were women.

The **number of job vacancies** was **444,000** in the three months to May 2009, down **38,000** from the previous three months and down **230,000** over the year.

There were **1.7** vacancies per 100 employee jobs, down **0.1** on the previous quarter and down **0.9** over the year.

The **redundancies level** for the three months to April 2009 was **302,000** people, up **36,000** on the previous three months and up **191,000** on the year.

The GB whole economy **average earnings excluding bonuses** annual growth rate was **2.7%** in the three months to April 2009, down **0.3** percentage points from the three months to March 2009. The corresponding rate **including bonuses** was **0.8%**, up **1.1** percentage points from the previous period. Corresponding annual growth rates for the main industrial categories were:

Industry	Excluding bonuses	Including bonuses
Public sector	3.5% (down 0.1 pp)	3.6% (unchanged)
Private sector	2.6% (down 0.3 pp)	0.3% (up 1.4 pp)
Manufacturing	1.0% (down 0.1 pp)	1.2% (up 0.2 pp)
Services	3.0% (down 0.3 pp)	0.7% (up 1.3 pp)

Briefing notes for Labour Market Statistics release – 17 June 2009

Summary

The number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have increased. The employment rate and the number of employed people have fallen. There are fewer vacancies. The number of inactive people of working age and the inactivity rate have increased. Earnings growth, excluding bonuses, has fallen. Earnings growth, including bonuses, has increased.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate was 7.2 per cent for the three months to April 2009. This is up 0.7 percentage points from the previous three months and up 1.9 percentage points on the year. The number of unemployed people was 2.26 million, up 232,000 from the previous three months and up 605,000 over the year.

Claimant Count

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance benefit in May 2009 was 1.54 million. It is up 39,300 from the revised figure for April 2009 and up 726,100 on the year.

Redundancies

In the three months to April 2009, 302,000 people became redundant in the three months prior to the Labour Force Survey interviews. This is up 36,000 on the previous three months and up 191,000 on the year. This is the highest figure since comparable records began in 1995.

Employment

The working age employment rate for the three months to April 2009 was 73.3 per cent, down 0.8 percentage points from the previous three months and down 1.5 percentage points on the year. The total employment level fell by 271,000 over the previous three months and by 399,000 over the year to reach 29.11 million. This is the largest quarterly fall in the employment level since comparable records began in 1971. The number of hours worked per week fell by 16.8 million on the quarter to reach 918.9 million.

The number of people employed in the public sector was 6.02 million in March 2009, up 15,000 on the quarter. The number of people employed in the private sector was 23.09 million, down 286,000 on the quarter.

Jobs

The number of workforce jobs in March 2009 was 31.19 million, down 108,000 on the quarter and down 455,000 over the year.

The number of manufacturing employee jobs in the three months to April 2009 was 2.70 million, down 184,000 (6.4 per cent) over the year. This is the lowest figure since comparable records began in 1978.

Vacancies

There were 444,000 job vacancies in the three months to May 2009, down 38,000 from the previous three months and down 230,000 compared with the previous year. This is the lowest figure since comparable records began in 2001.

Economic inactivity

The economic inactivity rate for people of working age was 20.8 per cent for the three months to April 2009. This is up 0.2 percentage points from the previous three months but unchanged on the year. The number of inactive people of working age rose by 92,000 from the previous three months and by 32,000 over the year to reach 7.89 million.

Average earnings

Average earnings, excluding bonuses, increased by 2.7 per cent in the three months to April 2009 compared with the previous year. This is the lowest annual growth rate since comparable records began in 2001. Average earnings, including bonuses, increased by 0.8 per cent in the three months to April 2009 compared with the previous year.

Manufacturing productivity and unit wage costs

In the three months to April 2009, manufacturing productivity decreased by 7.5 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier. Manufacturing unit wage costs rose by 9.4 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

Labour Disputes

In April 2009, there were 2,000 working days lost due to labour disputes from 6 stoppages.