

Labour Market Statistics Headlines – August 2007

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

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

The **employment rate** for people of working age was **74.4%** in the three months to June 2007, up **0.1** percentage point from the previous three months but down **0.1** percentage point on the year. The total **employment level** was **29.07 million**, up **93,000** on the previous three months and up **144,000** on the same period a year ago.

The number of **Workforce Jobs** in March 2007 was **31.59 million**, down **22,000** on the quarter but up **265,000** over the year.

Manufacturing employee jobs fell by **46,000** to **2.96 million** in the three months to June 2007 when compared with a year earlier.

The **unemployment rate** was **5.4%** in the three months to June 2007, down **0.2** percentage points from the previous three months and down **0.1** percentage point on the year. The **unemployment level** was **1.65 million**, down **45,000** on the previous three months and down **29,000** on the year.

The **claimant count** in July 2007 was **855,300**. This was down **8,500** compared with the revised June figure of **863,800**, and down **99,800** over the year. The **CC rate** for July 2007 was **2.6%** of the workforce, virtually unchanged from the previous month but down **0.3** percentage points on the year.

The number of **claimants in the New Deal groups** (computerised claims only) in July 2007 were:

18-24 claiming for over 6 months	44,400 (-1,400 from the previous month)
25 and over claiming 18 months to 2 years	33,400 (-1000 from the previous month)
25 and over claiming for more than 2 years	41,500 (-400 from the previous month)
TOTAL	119,300 (-2,800 from the previous month)

The **economic inactivity rate** for people of working age for the three months to June 2007 was **21.2%**, unchanged on the previous three months but up **0.2** percentage points on the year.

The **number of economically inactive people** of working age was **7.95 million** in the three months to June 2007, up **7,000** on the previous three months and up **124,000** on the year. Of this total, **3.19 million** were men and **4.76 million** were women.

There were **653,800 job vacancies** in the three months to July 2007, up **14,900** from the previous three months and up **61,800** over the year.

There were **2.5** vacancies per 100 employee jobs, up **0.1** from the previous quarter.

The **redundancy rate** for the three months to June 2007 was **4.8** per 1,000 employees, down **1.0** on the previous three months and down **0.7** on the year.

The GB whole economy **average earnings excluding bonuses** annual growth rate was **3.4%** in the three months to June 2007, down **0.1** percentage point from the May rate. The corresponding rate **including bonuses** was **3.3%**, down **0.2** percentage points from the May rate. The figures for the main industrial categories were:

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Excluding bonuses</u>	<u>Including bonuses</u>
Public sector	3.1% (down 0.1pp)	3.1% (unchanged)
Private sector	3.5% (down 0.1pp)	3.4% (down 0.2 pp)
Manufacturing	3.8% (down 0.1pp)	3.8% (up 0.1 pp)
Services	3.5% (unchanged)	3.3% (down 0.2 pp)
Private sector services	3.7% (unchanged)	3.4% (down 0.2 pp)

Briefing notes for Labour Market Statistics release – 15 August 2007

Summary

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

Employment

The working age employment rate for the three months ending June 2007 was 74.4 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous three months but down 0.1 percentage point on the year. The total employment level rose by 93,000 over the previous three months and by 144,000 over the year to reach 29.07 million.

The total number of hours worked per week was 934.9 million, up 7.8 million from the previous three months and up 8.6 million over the year. This is the highest figure since comparable records began in 1971.

Manufacturing Jobs

There were 2.96 million manufacturing employee jobs in the three months to June 2007, a fall of 46,000 (1.5 per cent) compared with the same period a year earlier. This is the lowest figure since comparable records began in 1978.

Vacancies

There were 653,800 job vacancies in the three months to July 2007, up 14,900 from the previous three months and up 61,800 compared with the previous year.

Redundancies

In the three months to June 2007, 120,000 people were made redundant in the three months prior to their Labour Force Survey interview. This is down 25,000 from the previous three months and down 18,000 on the year. This is the lowest figure since comparable records began in 1995.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate was 5.4 per cent for the three months ending June 2007, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous three months and down 0.1 on the year. The number of unemployed people was 1.65 million, down 45,000 from the previous three months and down 29,000 over the year.

Claimant Count

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance benefit in July 2007 was 855,300, down 8,500 from the revised figure for June 2007 and down 99,800 on the year. The claimant count has now fallen for ten consecutive months.

Economic inactivity

The economic inactivity rate for people of working age was 21.2 per cent for the three months ending June 2007, unchanged from the previous three months but up 0.2 percentage points on the year. The number of inactive people of working age rose by 7,000 from the previous three months and by 124,000 over the year to reach 7.95 million.

Average earnings

The whole economy annual growth rate, excluding bonuses, was 3.4 per cent in the three months to June 2007. This is equal to the lowest figure since comparable records began in 2001 and is down 0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The corresponding rate, including bonuses, was 3.3 per cent, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month.

Manufacturing productivity and unit wage costs

In the three months to June 2007, manufacturing productivity rose by 3.4 per cent and manufacturing unit wage costs rose by 0.4 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

Labour Disputes

There were 93,000 working days lost during June 2007.