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Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
Labour Market

Labour Market Trends – last issue in present format

Labour Market Trends December 2006

Today sees the last issue of *Labour Market Trends** in its present format. From January the publication will be combined with *Economic Trends* into the new *Economic and Labour Market Review*. Today's issue has articles on recent trends in public sector employment and on a new urban/rural indicator in the Labour Force Survey.

Labour Market Trends has seen a number of changes since it was founded as the *Labour Gazette* in 1893. It has been published under various titles, including the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, the *Employment and Productivity Gazette* and the *Employment Gazette*. It became *Labour Market Trends* in 1995 when its production was taken over by the Central Statistical Office, one of ONS's predecessor organisations, under which title it has had 134 monthly editions.

The new *Economic and Labour Market Review* is designed primarily for economists and labour market analysts. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in the economy and/or labour market, including journalists, policy-makers, decision-makers and academic and social researchers.

The new journal will have three distinct strands – a top-level look at what's new and developing in the UK economy and labour market, and the production of the statistics used to measure them; articles from expert authors; and a range of supporting information about data and sources. This will include an easy-to-use directory of online tables of economic and labour market data on the National Statistics website.

All the data previously found in the tables in *Economic Trends* and *Labour Market Trends* will still be available, although some may be in a different format. The range of tables provided by the two journals has been streamlined and rationalised.

***Labour Market Trends Volume 114 No 12. For subscriptions and sales, tel: 01256 357893, fax: 01256 812358. Downloadable free at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=550>**

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Public sector employment

This article, which was published on the National Statistics website on 23 November 2006, introduces the new seasonally adjusted quarterly public sector employment figures. Previously these statistics were not seasonally adjusted, but following the introduction of quarterly figures in 2005 the development of seasonally adjusted series became a key priority. On the seasonally adjusted basis, public sector employment reached a peak for recent years in the second and third quarters of 2005, at 5.849 million, and has since levelled off to stand at 5.839 million in the second quarter of 2006 .

The new urban/rural indicator in the Labour Force Survey

A new indicator classifying areas in which people live into a range of urban and rural categories was introduced into the Labour Force Survey in 2005. Analysis of this variable, which uses the Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004, showed that in the second quarter of 2006 some 78 per cent of the population of Great Britain aged 16 or over lived in urban areas. Urban areas had a younger age structure than rural ones: some 45 per cent of those living in urban areas were aged 25 to 49, compared with 39 per cent in rural areas. The working-age employment rate was higher in rural areas, at 78 per cent, compared with 73 per cent in urban areas.

News and research items in this issue of *Labour Market Trends* include:

- Low pay estimates, spring 2006
- 2006 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
- “And finally...” – a valedictory note from the managing editor

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. An electronic version of *Labour Market Trends* is downloadable on the National Statistics website at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=550>
2. *Labour Market Trends* first appeared as the *Labour Gazette* in 1893, changing its title to the *Board of Trade Labour Gazette* in 1904. In 1918 it was taken over by the Ministry of Labour, reverting to the title *Labour Gazette* before becoming the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* in 1923. It did not change its name again until 1968, when it briefly became the *Employment and Productivity Gazette*. In 1971 it became the *Department of Employment Gazette*, which was shortened to *Employment Gazette* in 1980. In 1995 it transferred to the Central Statistical Office and was retitled *Labour Market Trends*.
3. The article on the new seasonally adjusted public sector employment series is available on the National Statistics website at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=1686>
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