

## Regional Labour Market, January 2015



Coverage: UK

Date: **21 January 2015**

Geographical Areas: **Country, European (NUTS), Local Authority, Local Authority and County, Local Enterprise Partnership, Parliamentary Constituency, Region**

Theme: **Labour Market**

### Key Points

- The employment rate in Great Britain was highest in the East of England and the South East (76.6%) and lowest in Wales (68.7%).
- The unemployment rate in Great Britain was highest in the North East (8.5%) and lowest in the South West (4.4%).
- The inactivity rate in Great Britain was highest in Wales (25.9%) and lowest in the East of England (19.3%).
- The headline Claimant Count rate in Great Britain was highest in the North East (4.3%) and lowest in the South East and South West (1.5%).

### In this bulletin:

This bulletin shows the latest key labour market statistics for the regions and countries of Great Britain, along with statistics for local authorities, travel-to-work areas and parliamentary constituencies.

[Data for Northern Ireland](#) are available separately.

### Updated this month

Labour Force Survey estimates for the period September 2014 to November 2014.

Claimant Count for December 2014.

Annual Population Survey estimates for the period October 2013 to September 2014.

### Also in this release

Workforce Jobs estimates for September 2014.

Public and private sector employment for September 2014.

## Overview of regional labour market published 21 January 2015

The employment rate estimates, for those aged 16 to 64, for the three months to November 2014, compared to the three months to August 2014, showed very few large movements for the regions and countries of the UK.

The largest increases in the employment rate estimates were for the West Midlands, at 1.0 percentage point and the North East, at 0.7 percentage points. For both regions, the employment rate estimate for three months ago was low, compared with other recent estimates, with the general pattern much flatter than suggested by the latest estimates.

The largest decrease in the employment rate estimate was for London, at 0.6 percentage points. This followed an employment rate estimate for three months ago that was unusually high, compared with other recent estimates, again with a relatively flat pattern suggested by recent estimates.

For most regions, the general picture has been for employment rates to be increasing or close to flat, with all but one region having employment rates higher than a year ago. The exception is Wales, which has been falling from record highs since late 2013, with the latest estimate 2.2 percentage points lower than a year ago.

Employment rates remain higher in the East of England and South East, both at 76.6% and South West, at 76.3%, than the rest of the UK.

The employment levels for the North East, East Midlands and Scotland, are all at record highs, with many other regions close to record highs. Despite this, the rates are below previous records, due to increasing population levels.

Regional estimates for the unemployment rate are quite volatile, which needs to be allowed for when considering the pattern of change over time.

The largest increase in the unemployment rate estimates for the three months to November 2014, compared to the three months to August 2014, was for Wales, at 0.6 percentage points.

The largest decreases in the unemployment rate estimates for the three months to November 2014, compared to the three months to August 2014, were for the West Midlands, at 1.2 percentage points and North East, at 0.7 percentage points. These decreases are consistent with the increases in the employment rates in these regions, partially due to estimates for three months ago that were high, compared with other recent estimates. The general pattern has been for a much slower rate of decrease.

All regions are showing decreases in the unemployment rate, compared with a year ago.

The unemployment rate for the North East remains the highest in the UK, at 8.5%, followed by Wales, at 7.0% and Yorkshire and The Humber, at 6.8%.

The Claimant Count for December 2014 compared with November 2014, is showing decreases in the count for both men and women across all regions of the UK.

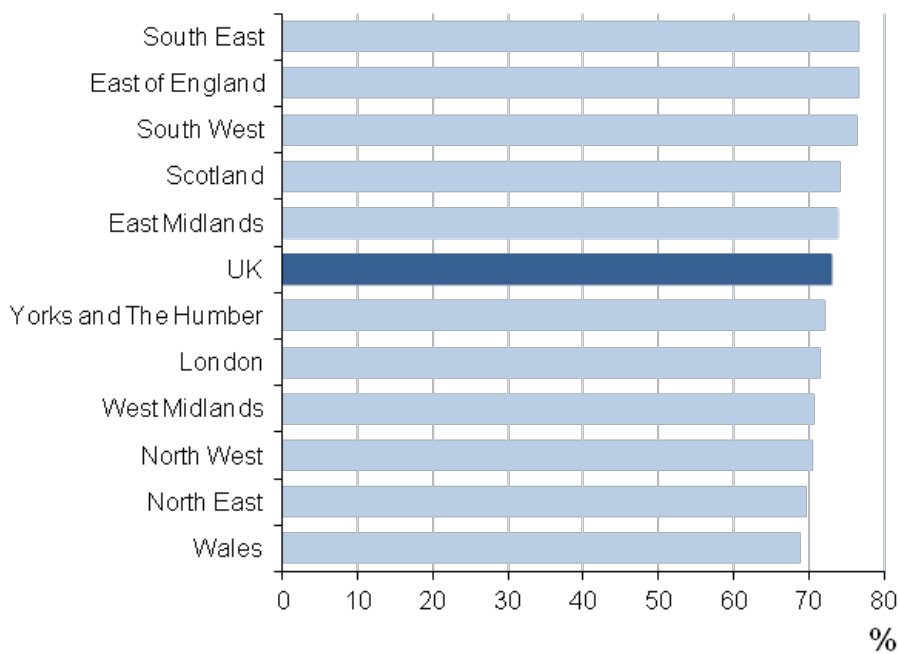
## Employment

The employment rate for people aged from 16 to 64 for the UK was 73.0%, for the period September to November 2014.

The regions with the highest rate in Great Britain were the East of England and the South East, both at 76.6%, followed by the South West, at 76.3%. The region with the lowest rate was Wales, at 68.7%, followed by the North East, at 69.7%, and the North West, at 70.4%.

The regions with the largest increase in the employment rate on the previous period (June 2014 to August 2014), was the West Midlands, with an increase of 1.0 percentage point, followed by the North East, with an increase of 0.7 percentage points and Scotland with an increase of 0.2 percentage points. London had the largest decrease in the employment rate, with a decrease of 0.6 percentage points, followed by the East of England, the East Midlands and the North West, all with a decrease of 0.2 percentage points. There was no change in the UK employment rate.

**Figure 1: Employment Rates, September 2014 to November 2014, Seasonally Adjusted**



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

### Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(17 Kb)

Over the year, the region with the largest increase in the employment rate was the North East, with an increase of 2.0 percentage points, followed by the South West, with an increase of 1.9

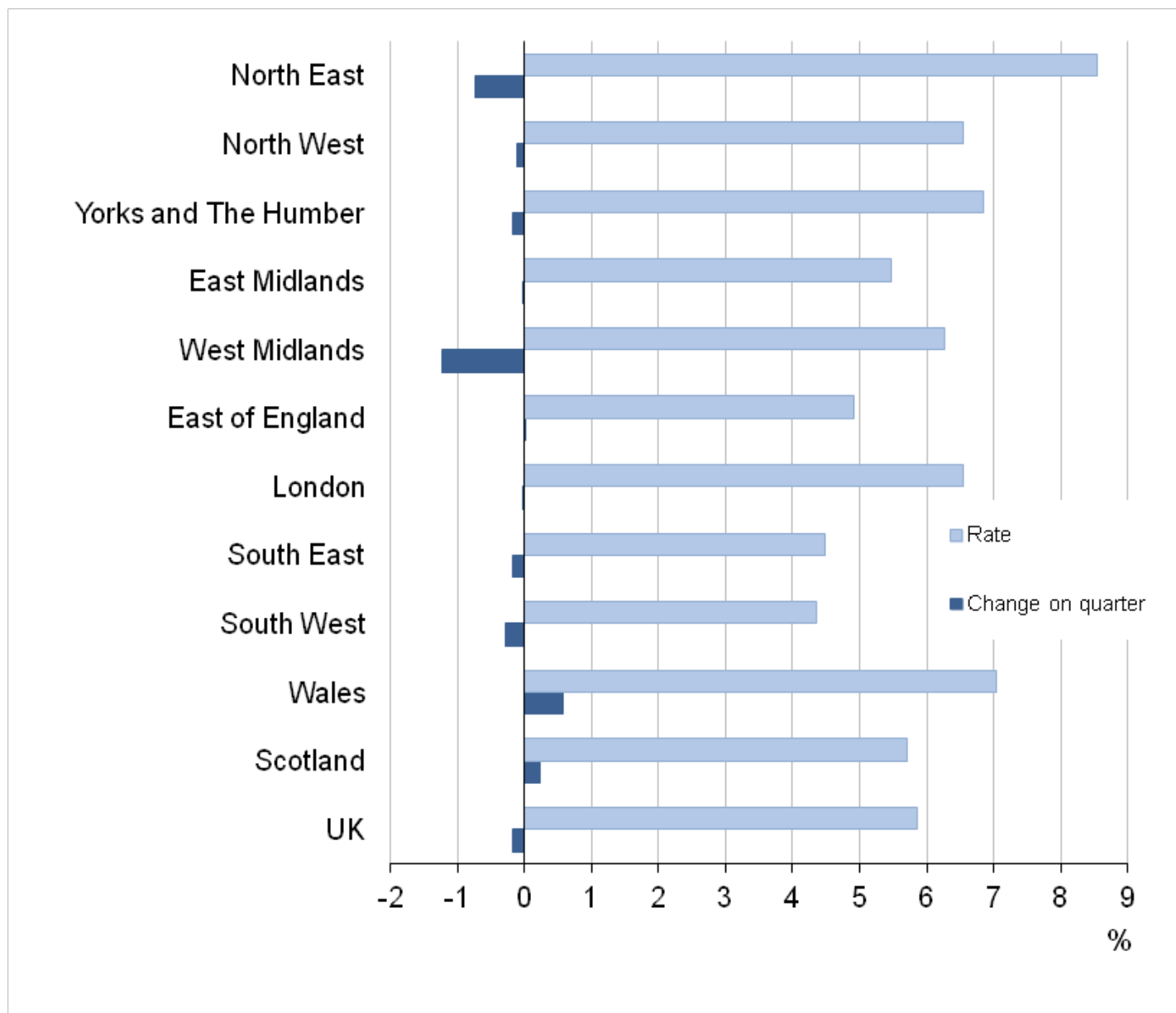
percentage points and Scotland and the North West, both with an increase of 1.5 percentage points. The only decrease in the employment rate was in Wales, at 2.2 percentage points. The South East and Yorkshire and The Humber both had the smallest increases of 0.6 percentage points, followed by the West Midlands and London, both at 0.9 percentage points.

## Unemployment

The unemployment rate for people aged 16 and over for the UK was 5.8%, for the period September to November 2014.

The region with the highest rate in Great Britain was the North East, at 8.5%, followed by Wales, at 7.0% and Yorkshire and The Humber, at 6.8%. The regions with the lowest rate were the South West, at 4.4%, followed by the South East, at 4.5% and the East of England, at 4.9%.

The regions with the largest decrease in the unemployment rate on the previous period (June 2014 to August 2014), were the West Midlands, at 1.2 percentage points, followed by the North East, at 0.7 percentage points and the South West, at 0.3 percentage points. There were only two regions with an increase in the unemployment rate: Wales and Scotland, at 0.6 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively. The unemployment rates in the East Midlands, the East of England and London remained unchanged. The UK rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points.

**Figure 2: Unemployment Rates, September 2014 to November 2014, Seasonally Adjusted**

Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

### Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(17 Kb)

Over the year, all regions showed a decrease in the unemployment rate. The largest decreases were in the South West, at 2.4 percentage points, London and the West Midlands, both at 1.8 percentage points and the North East, at 1.6 percentage points.

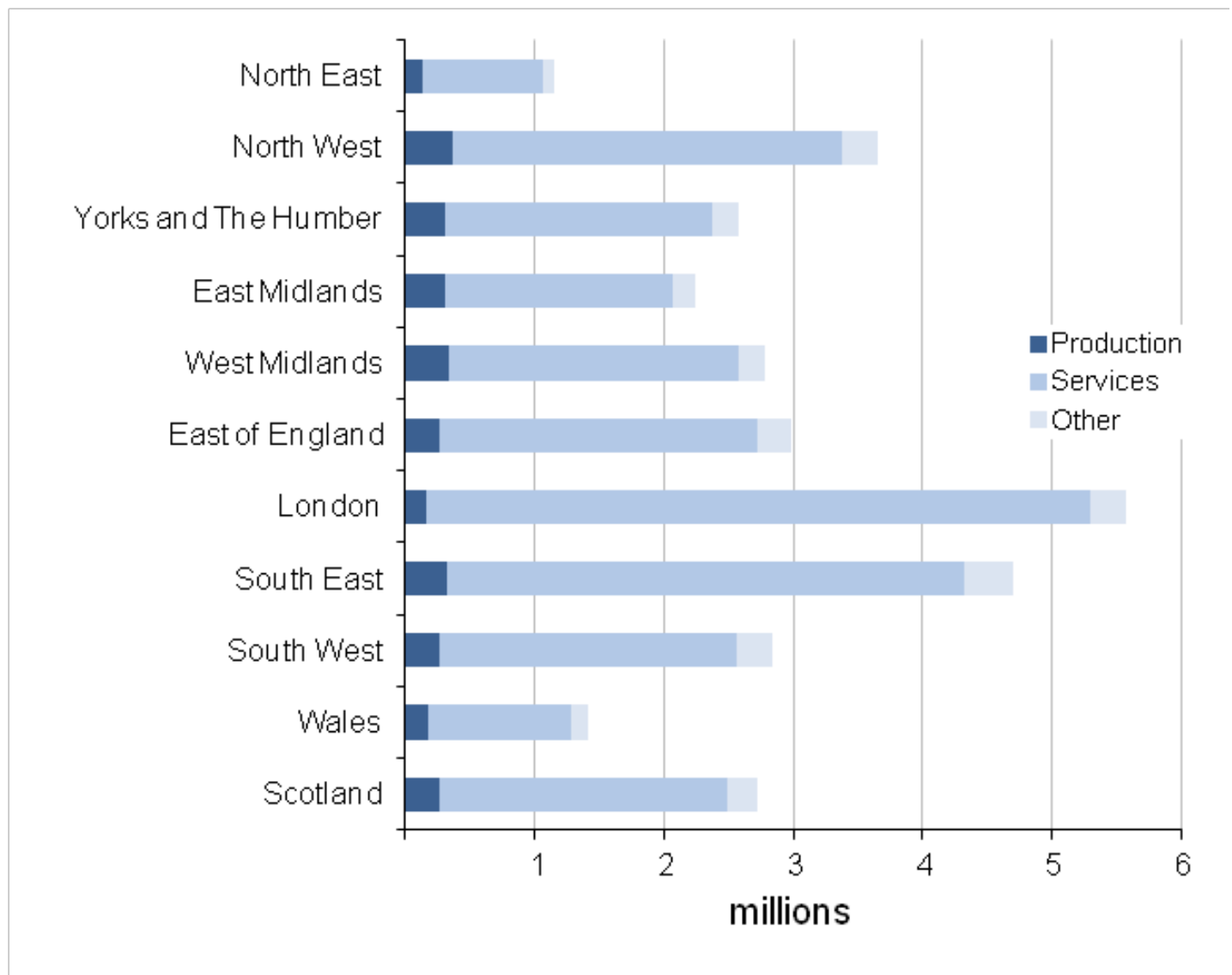
An [interactive chart](#) showing regional unemployment rates over time is available.

## Workforce Jobs (First published on 17 December 2014)

Workforce Jobs increased in 6 of the 11 regions of Great Britain between June 2014 and September 2014. The largest increase of 39,000 was in the South East, followed by the North West, which increased by 34,000. London was unchanged, remaining at 5.579 million. The largest decrease of 13,000 was in the South West, followed by the North East, which decreased by 7,000.

The East Midlands had the highest proportion of jobs in the production sector, at 13.8% whilst London had the lowest proportion, at 2.9%. For the service sector, London had the highest proportion, at 92.1% whilst Wales had the lowest proportion, at 78.0%.

**Figure 3: Workforce Jobs by broad industry group, September 2014, Seasonally Adjusted**



Source: Office for National Statistics

## Download chart

**XLS** [XLS format](#)  
(21.5 Kb)

## Jobseeker's Allowance

The seasonally adjusted headline Claimant Count rate for the UK was 2.6% in December 2014, down 0.1 percentage point from November 2014, with the level down 29,700.

The region with the highest rate in Great Britain was the North East, at 4.3%, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month. The next highest rates were in Yorkshire and The Humber and Wales, both at 3.5% and the West Midlands, at 3.2%.

The regions with the lowest rate were the South East and the South West, both at 1.5%. The next lowest rates were seen in the East of England, at 1.9% and London, at 2.3%.

**Figure 4: Claimant Count Rates, December 2014, Seasonally Adjusted**

Source: Department for Work and Pensions

### Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)

(17 Kb)

## Local Authority Labour Market Indicators

For the period October 2013 to September 2014, the local authorities with the highest employment rate in Great Britain, were Oadby and Wigston, at 85.9%, Huntingdonshire, at 85.6% and Dartford, at 85.5%. Pendle in Lancashire, at 56.9%, was the only local authority with a rate lower than 60%.

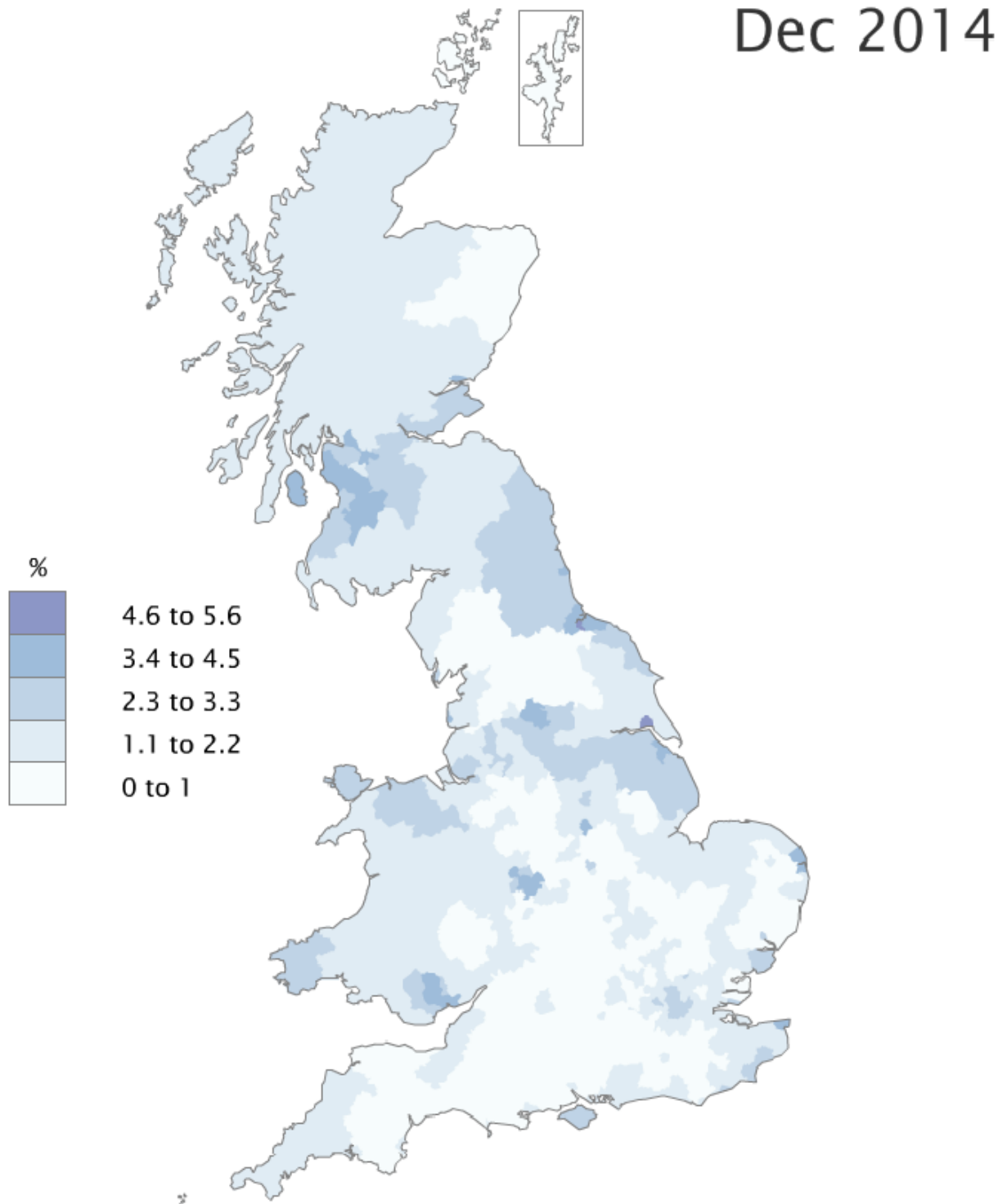
For the period October 2013 to September 2014, the local authority with the highest unemployment rate in Great Britain, was Middlesbrough, at 12.3%, followed by Liverpool and Hartlepool, both at 12.2% and Kingston upon Hull, at 12.1%. There were 6 local authorities with a rate of less than 3%:



Eden in Cumbria, Hart in Hampshire, Mid Sussex and Mole Valley, all at 2.9%, Stratford on Avon, at 2.6% and South Northamptonshire, at 2.5%.

In December 2014, the local authorities with the lowest proportion of the population, aged from 16 to 64 years, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Great Britain, were Harrogate, Richmondshire, Harborough and 10 other local authorities, all at 0.5%, followed by 18 local authorities, all at 0.6% and a further 23 local authorities, all at 0.7%. These were followed by a further 63 local authorities, with a proportion of 1.0% or less. The proportion was highest in Kingston upon Hull, at 4.9%, followed by Middlesbrough, at 4.6% and Wolverhampton, South Tyneside and Birmingham, all at 4.4%. There were a further 5 local authorities in Great Britain, all with a proportion of 4.0% or more.

Figure 5: Claimant Count Map



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions

## Download map

[PNG](#) [PNG format](#)  
(78.4 Kb)

An [interactive version](#) of this map showing Claimant Count proportions by local authority over time is available. This map also shows Claimant Count proportions for males, females, 18 to 24 year olds and those claiming for over 12 months.

The job density of an area is the number of jobs per head, of resident population, aged 16 to 64. In 2012, the highest jobs density in Great Britain was the City of London, at 77.46 and the lowest was East Renfrewshire, at 0.38. Westminster (4.25), Camden (2.11) and Tower Hamlets, Islington and Kensington and Chelsea (all 1.30), all in London, were the next highest jobs densities. The highest jobs density outside London was Watford at 1.25. After East Renfrewshire, the lowest jobs densities were Lewisham (0.39) and Waltham Forest and East Dunbartonshire, both at 0.43, followed by Newham and Haringey, both at 0.44.

## Index of Tables

### LFS headline indicators (Employment, unemployment and inactivity):

[Headline Indicators for All Regions \(HI00\) \(7.4 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

**LFS headline indicators (Employment, unemployment and inactivity); Employment and Workforce Jobs estimates; Claimant Count; and Economic Activity and Inactivity estimates for each region are available in the following tables:**

[Headline Indicators for North East \(HI01\) \(2.26 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for North West \(HI02\) \(2.03 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for Yorkshire and The Humber \(HI03\) \(2.44 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for East Midlands \(HI04\) \(2.6 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for West Midlands \(HI05\) \(2.42 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for East of England \(HI06\) \(2.39 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for London \(HI07\) \(2.04 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for South East \(HI08\) \(2.01 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for South West \(HI09\) \(2.01 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for Wales \(HI10\) \(2.25 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Headline Indicators for Scotland \(HI11\) \(2.43 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

**The following tables contain local labour market indicators for all regions:**

[Local Indicators for Unitary and Local Authorities \(LI01\) \(246 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Local Indicators for Parliamentary Constituencies \(LI02\) \(311 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Local Indicators for Constituencies of the Scottish Parliament \(LI02.1\) \(114 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Local Indicators for Travel-to-Work Areas \(LI03\) \(175.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Local Indicators for NUTS3 areas \(LI04\) \(176.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Local Indicators for Local Enterprise Partnerships \(LI05\) \(100.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

**The following tables contain local Claimant Count data for all regions:**

[Claimant Count by Unitary and Local Authority \(JSA01\) \(256 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Claimant Count by Parliamentary Constituency \(JSA02\) \(623 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Claimant Count by Constituencies of the Scottish Parliament \(JSA02.1\) \(123 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Claimant Count by Local Enterprise Partnership \(JSA03\) \(101.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

**Other tables:**

[Summary of Headline Indicators \(S01\) \(73 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Sampling Variability and Revisions Summary \(S02\) \(61 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Claimant Count Denominators \(S03\) \(69 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Model Based Estimates of Unemployment \(M01\) \(2.28 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Estimates of Employment by Age \(Experimental Statistics\) \(X01\) \(6.86 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Estimates of Unemployment by Age \(Experimental Statistics\) \(X02\) \(6.81 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Estimates of Inactivity by Age \(Experimental Statistics\) \(X03\) \(6.83 Mb Excel sheet\)](#)

[Regional public and private sector employment \(RPUB1\) \(144.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)

**Background notes**

**1. This Month's Bulletin**

ONS has updated table LI04 from NUTS 2010 to NUTS 2013 – [see the latest version of the nomenclature](#). As part of this the aggregation method for NUTS3 areas has been revised to use output area type building blocks in line with ONS Geography Policy. This has resulted in minor revisions to some estimates.

Denominators for Westminster Parliamentary constituencies, in tables LI02 and JSA02, and for Scottish parliamentary constituencies in LI02.1 and JSA02.1, have also been updated. These are based on mid-year 2013 population estimates.

In September 2014, ONS also updated the geographic information used to build the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), to reflect the latest 2011 Census geographies. As Travel-to-work areas in table LI03 are built from 2001 Census geographies, it is no longer possible to update this element of the table to this period. Instead, the period of July 2013 to June 2014 JSA remains on the table, whilst the employment, unemployment and economic inactivity estimates have been updated to October 2013 to September 2014, in-line with the other tables in the LI series.

The headline claimant count estimates published in the National Labour Market Statistical Bulletin do not include claimants of Universal Credit. Since July 2014, ONS has published, at [data table CLA03 \(70 Kb Excel sheet\)](#), statistics providing an indicative representation of how the Claimant Count might look if [experimental statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions](#) were included. From this month's release onwards, a version of this table for the North West region will also appear in the Regional Labour Market Bulletin at Table HI02-7(1).

## 2. Next Month's Bulletin

There are no planned changes to next month's bulletin.

## 3. Introduction of Universal Credit

On 29 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) started a Pathfinder for Universal Credit which created the first jobseeker Universal Credit claimants. This has been extended to further Jobcentre Plus Offices (JCP) across Great Britain. Further information for dates of roll out to Universal Credit can be found in the [List of Jobcentre Plus Offices under Universal Credit. \(90.6 Kb Pdf\)](#)

Universal Credit will replace a number of means-tested benefits including income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). It will not replace contributory-based JSA.

The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. Since October 1996, it has been a count of the number of people claiming JSA. Following a consultation in 2012 by ONS, it was agreed that, with the introduction of Universal Credit, the Claimant Count would include:

- people claiming contribution-based JSA (which is not affected by the introduction of Universal Credit)
- people claiming income-based JSA during the transition period while this benefit is being gradually phased out, and

- people claiming Universal Credit who are not earning and who are subject to a full set of labour market jobseeker requirements, that is, required to be actively seeking work and available to start work.

Since July 2014, ONS has published an indicative adjusted Claimant Count including experimental estimates of claimants of Universal Credit as well as JSA claimants at [data table CLA03 \(70 Kb Excel sheet\)](#). From this month's [UK Labour Market Statistical Bulletin](#) these statistics are also published in Table 10(1) of the release. A version of this table for the North West is included in this release as part of [data table HI02 \(2.03 Mb Excel sheet\)](#). Numbers of claimants of Universal Credit for more detailed geographies are available from the [DWP Universal Credit - monthly experimental official statistics](#).

ONS will include jobseeker Universal Credit claims in the Claimant Count statistics as soon as possible.

#### 4. **Publication Policy**

A list of the job titles of those given [pre-publication access](#) to the contents of this Statistical Bulletin is available on the ONS website.

#### 5. **Quality Issues**

One indication of the reliability of the key indicators in this bulletin can be obtained by monitoring the size of revisions. These summary measures are available in the [Regional Labour Market Sampling Variability spreadsheet \(61 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) available with this bulletin and show the size of revisions over the last five years. The revised data itself may be subject to sampling or other sources of error. The ONS standard presentation is to show five years worth of revisions (that is, 60 observations for a monthly series, 20 for a quarterly series).

Further information on the Quality of and Methods for Workforce Jobs estimates can be found in the [Summary Quality Report. \(295.4 Kb Pdf\)](#)

#### 6. **Other Quality information**

[Quality and Methodology Information papers](#) for labour market statistics are available on the ONS website. Further information about the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is available from:

- [the LFS User Guide](#), and
- [LFS Performance and Quality Monitoring Reports](#).

#### 7. **Definitions and Concepts**

An article explaining how [unemployment and the Claimant Count \(141 Kb Pdf\)](#) series are defined and measured and the difference between the two series is available, along with an article to help users [interpret labour market statistics](#) and highlight some common misunderstandings. A more detailed [Guide to Labour Market Statistics](#) is also available.

#### 8. **Sampling Variability**

Very few statistical revisions arise as a result of 'errors' in the popular sense of the word. All estimates, by definition, are subject to statistical 'error' but in this context the word refers to the uncertainty.

Some data in the bulletin are based on statistical samples and, as such, are subject to sampling variability. If many samples were drawn, each would give different results. The ranges shown in the [Regional Labour Market Sampling Variability spreadsheet \(61 Kb Excel sheet\)](#), available with this bulletin, represent '95% confidence intervals'. It is expected that in 95% of samples the range would contain the true value.

## 9. Special Events

ONS has published commentary, analysis and policy on 'Special Events' which may affect statistical outputs. For full details go to the [Special Events page](#) on the ONS website.

10. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html) or from the Media Relations Office email: [media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

## Copyright

© Crown copyright 2015

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document is also available on our website at [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk).

## Statistical contacts

Name	Phone	Department	Email
Bob Watson	+44 (0)1633 455070	Regional and local data/Claimant Count	<a href="mailto:bob.watson@ons.gsi.gov.uk">bob.watson@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Nicholas Palmer	+44 (0)1633 455839	Regional and national Labour Force Survey	<a href="mailto:nicholas.palmer@ons.gsi.gov.uk">nicholas.palmer@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Mark Williams	+44 (0)1633 456728	Workforce Jobs	<a href="mailto:mark.williams@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mark.williams@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>

---

### Next Publication Date:

18 February 2015

### Issuing Body:

Office for National Statistics

### Media Contact Details:

Telephone: 0845 604 1858  
(8.30am-5.30pm Weekdays)

Emergency out of hours (limited service): 07867 906553

Email:

[media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk)