

Statistical bulletin

# Regional labour market statistics in the UK: December 2017

Regional, local authority and parliamentary constituency breakdowns of changes in UK employment, unemployment, economic inactivity and other employment-related statistics.



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# 1 . Main points

- For the three months ending October 2017, the highest employment rate in the UK was in the South East (79.7%) and the lowest was in Northern Ireland (68.1%).
- For the three months ending October 2017, the highest unemployment rate in the UK was in the North East (5.9%) and the lowest was in the South East (3.0%).
- For the three months ending October 2017, the highest economic inactivity rate in the UK was in Northern Ireland (29.0%) and the lowest was in the South East (17.7%).
- Between June and September 2017, the largest increase in workforce jobs in the UK was in the West Midlands at 55,000, whilst the largest decrease was in Yorkshire and The Humber at 36,000.
- In September 2017, the region with the highest proportion of workforce jobs in the services sector was London at 91.2%, which has decreased by 0.7 percentage points since June 2017, whilst the East Midlands had the highest proportion of jobs in the production sector at 13.5%.
- The highest average actual weekly hours worked, for the 12 months ending June 2017, was in London at 33.7 hours and the lowest was in Yorkshire and The Humber at 31.2 hours; for full-time workers, it was highest in London at 38.4 hours and for part-time workers it was highest in Northern Ireland at 16.9 hours.

## 2 . Summary of latest regional labour market statistics

Table 1 shows the latest estimates for employment, unemployment and economic inactivity for August to October 2017 and a comparison with the previous quarter (May to July 2017). Comparing non-overlapping periods (August to October 2017 with May to July 2017) provides a more robust short-term comparison.

**Table 1: Summary of latest headline estimates for regions of the UK, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2017**

UK regions

	Employment rate <sup>1</sup> (%) aged 16 to 64	Change on May to July 2017	Unemployment rate <sup>2</sup> (%) aged 16 and over	Change on May to July 2017	Inactivity rate <sup>3</sup> (%) aged 16 to 64	Change on May to July 2017
United Kingdom	75.1	-0.2	4.3	-0.1	21.5	0.3
Great Britain	75.3	-0.2	4.3	-0.0	21.3	0.2
England	75.4	-0.2	4.3	-0.1	21.1	0.2
North East	72.6	0.8	5.9	-0.1	22.7	-0.8
North West	73.8	-0.6	4.2	0.2	22.9	0.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	72.6	-1.1	5.0	0.2	23.6	0.9
East Midlands	74.3	0.2	4.2	0.3	22.4	-0.4
West Midlands	72.7	-0.1	5.3	-0.5	23.2	0.4
East	77.9	0.2	3.6	-0.2	19.1	-0.0
London	74.5	-0.4	4.9	-0.3	21.6	0.6
South East	79.7	0.1	3.0	-0.2	17.7	0.0
South West	77.6	-0.2	3.7	-0.0	19.2	0.2
Wales	72.8	0.5	4.7	0.4	23.6	-0.6
Scotland	74.9	-0.9	4.1	0.3	21.8	0.7
Northern Ireland	68.1	-0.1	3.9	-1.4	29.0	1.2

Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Calculation of headline employment rate: Number of employed people aged from 16 to 64 divided by the population aged from 16 to 64. Population is the sum of employed plus unemployed plus inactive.
2. Calculation of headline unemployment rate: Number of unemployed people aged 16 and over divided by the sum of employed people aged 16 and over plus unemployed people aged 16 and over.
3. Calculation of headline economic inactivity rate: Number of economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64 divided by the population aged from 16 to 64. Population is the sum of employed plus unemployed plus inactive.

### 3 . Things you need to know about this release

This bulletin shows the latest main labour market statistics for the regions and countries of the UK, along with statistics for local authorities, travel-to-work areas and Parliamentary constituencies.

Data for Northern Ireland, although included in this bulletin, are available separately, in full, in the [Northern Ireland Labour Market Report](#) on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website.

## Updated this month

Labour Force Survey estimates for the period August to October 2017.

Workforce jobs estimates for September 2017, including revisions from annual benchmarking and seasonal adjustment review.

Public and private sector employment for September 2017, including revisions due to reclassifications.

## Also in this release

Annual Population Survey estimates for the period July 2016 to June 2017.

## Labour market statistics

Labour market statistics measure many different aspects of work and jobs and provide an insight into the economy. They are also very much about people, including their participation in the labour force, the types of work they do, the earnings and benefits they receive and their working patterns.

We have developed a framework for labour market statistics to describe the concepts within the labour market and their relationship to each other. The framework is based on labour supply and demand.

Labour supply consists of people who are employed, as well as those people defined as unemployed or economically inactive, who are considered to be potential labour supply. Our framework distinguishes between these three categories of worker and also between the different working arrangements of those in employment such as employees, the self-employed and those on government schemes.

Labour demand is represented by employers, who have a need for work to be done and who offer compensation for this work to the employees who undertake it. Employers group this work to form jobs.

This approach has wide international acceptance, including by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Users of labour market statistics include central and local government, economists, financial analysts, journalists, businesses, trade unions, employer associations, students, teachers, industrial tribunals, academic researchers and lobby groups.

They use them for the analysis, evaluation, monitoring and planning of the labour market and economy. Labour market statistics are also used for social analysis and help inform a wide range of government policies towards population groups of particular concern (women, young people, older people and jobless households).

## About labour market statuses

Everybody aged 16 or over is either employed, unemployed or economically inactive. The employment estimates include all people in work including those working part-time. People not working are classed as unemployed if they have been looking for work within the last four weeks and are able to start work within the next two weeks. A common misconception is that the unemployment statistics are a count of people on benefits; this is not the case, as they include unemployed people not claiming benefits.

Jobless people who have not been looking for work within the last four weeks or who are unable to start work within the next two weeks are classed as economically inactive. Examples of economically inactive people include people not looking for work because they are students, looking after the family or home, because of illness or disability, or because they have retired.

## **What is the relationship between the Annual Population Survey (APS) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS)?**

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey using international definitions of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity and compiles a wide range of related topics such as occupation, training, hours of work and personal characteristics of household members aged 16 and over. Estimates are produced every month for a rolling three-monthly period; for example, February to April data in a release will be followed by data for March to May in the next release.

The Annual Population Survey (APS), which began in 2004, is compiled from interviews for the LFS, along with additional regional samples. The APS comprises the main variables from the LFS, with a much larger sample size. Consequently, the APS supports more detailed breakdowns than can be reliably produced from the LFS. Estimates are produced every quarter for a rolling annual period; for example, January to December data will be followed by data for April to March when they are next updated.

This bulletin includes labour market estimates at a regional level from the LFS on total employment, unemployment and economic inactivity. More detailed regional estimates for employment by age, full-time and part-time working, economic activity and economic inactivity by age, and reasons for economic inactivity are provided using the APS. Any estimates for geographic areas below regional level are provided using the APS. In tables where APS estimates are provided for detailed geographic areas, regional and national estimates are also provided from APS for comparability.

## **Making comparisons with earlier data**

The most robust estimates of short-term movements in estimates derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are obtained by comparing the estimates for August to October 2017 with the estimates for May to July 2017, which were first published on 13 September 2017. This provides a more robust estimate than comparing with the estimates for July to September 2017. This is because the August and September data are included within both estimates, so observed differences are only between July and October 2017. The LFS is representative of the UK population over a three-month period, not for single month periods.

## **Seasonal adjustment**

All estimates discussed in this statistical bulletin are seasonally adjusted except where otherwise stated. Like many economic indicators, the labour market is affected by factors that tend to occur at around the same time every year; for example, school leavers entering the labour market in July and whether Easter falls in March or April. In order to compare movements other than annual changes in labour market statistics, the data are seasonally adjusted to remove the effects of seasonal factors and the arrangement of the calendar.

## **Where to find explanatory information**

A [Guide to labour market statistics](#), which includes a [Glossary](#), is available.

# **4 . Employment**

## Things you need to know about employment

Employment measures the number of people in work; it differs from the number of jobs because some people have more than one job.

Employment consists of employees, self-employed people, unpaid family workers and people on government-supported training and employment programmes. Unpaid family workers are people who work in a family business who do not receive a formal wage or salary but benefit from the profits of that business. The government-supported training and employment programmes series does not include all people on these programmes; it only includes people engaging in any form of work, work experience or work-related training who are not included in the employees or self-employed series. People on these programmes not engaging in any form of work, work experience or work-related training are not included in the employment estimates; they are classified as unemployed or economically inactive.

A [comparison between estimates of employment and jobs](#) is available.

## Regional employment

The employment rate for people aged from 16 to 64 for the UK was 75.1% for the period August to October 2017. This is a decrease of 0.2 percentage points compared with the previous period (May to July 2017).

The employment rate estimates for those aged 16 to 64, for August to October 2017, compared with May to July 2017, showed a mix of small increases and decreases for the regions and countries of the UK, although the larger changes were generally decreases. The UK region with the highest employment rate was the South East at 79.7%, followed by the East of England at 77.9% and the South West at 77.6%. The highest rate for the same period last year was also in the South East at 78.0%.

The region with the lowest employment rate was Northern Ireland at 68.1%, followed by the North East and Yorkshire and The Humber, both at 72.6%. The lowest rate for the same period last year was also in Northern Ireland at 69.4%. The largest increase in the employment rate estimates compared with the previous period (May to July 2017) was for the North East at 0.8 percentage points, followed by Wales at 0.5 percentage points; neither of these increases are particularly large. The size of the increase for the North East is due to a particularly low estimate three months ago, however, the employment rate for the region has been gently increasing.

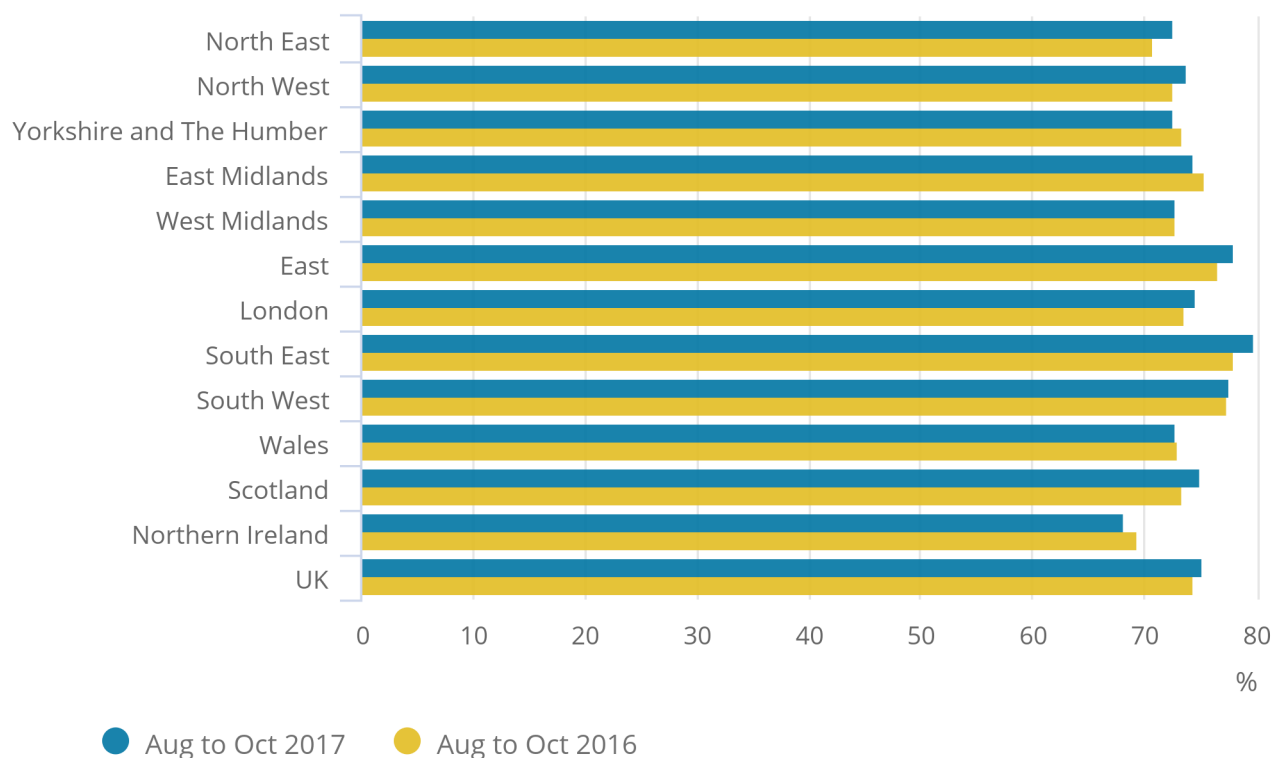
The largest decrease in the employment rate estimates was for Yorkshire and The Humber at 1.1 percentage points, followed by Scotland, at 0.9 percentage points. Both of these decreases bring employment rates for the region below recent record highs.

**Figure 1: Employment rates by region and comparison year-on-year, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2016 and August to October 2017**

UK regions

Figure 1: Employment rates by region and comparison year-on-year, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2016 and August to October 2017

UK regions



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

Over the year, the region with the largest increase in the employment rate was the North East at 1.8 percentage points, followed by Scotland and the South East, both with an increase of 1.7 percentage points.

The region that saw the largest decrease in the employment rate over the past year was Northern Ireland at 1.3 percentage points, followed by the East Midlands at 1.0 percentage point (Figure 1).

## Where to find data about employment

Employment estimates are available for each region in [Dataset HI00 – Headline LFS indicators for all UK regions](#) and [HI01 to HI12 – Headline indicators for individual UK regions \(Tabs 1 and 2\)](#), and [Datasets LI01 to LI05 Local indicators for sub-regional areas of Great Britain](#), for this and further estimate breakdowns by age or geographies.

These tables contain data produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS). A note in the section “Understanding and working with labour market statistics” on the relationship between the LFS and APS entitled “What is the relationship between the APS and the LFS?” is included in this bulletin.

## 5 . Workforce jobs

### Things you need to know about workforce jobs

Workforce jobs measures the number of filled jobs in the economy. The estimates are mainly sourced from employer surveys such as the Short-Term Employment Surveys (STES) and the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). Workforce jobs is a different concept from employment, which is sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), as employment is an estimate of people and some people have more than one job.

A [comparison between estimates of employment and jobs](#) article is available.

The services sector consists of the following industries:

- wholesale and retail trade
- repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles, transport and storage
- accommodation and food service activities
- information and communication
- financial and insurance activities
- real estate activities
- professional, scientific and technical activities
- administrative and support service activities
- public administration and defence
- compulsory social security
- education
- human health and social work activities
- arts, entertainment and recreation
- other service activities
- people employed by households

The production sector consists of the following industries:



- mining and quarrying
- manufacturing
- electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities

The “other” sector consists of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and construction industries.

The Northern Ireland self-employed component of the workforce jobs is published by the [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#) (NISRA) as part of the [Economic and Labour Market Statistics](#).

## **Regional workforce jobs**

Workforce jobs increased in 9 of the 12 regions of the UK between June and September 2017. The largest increase of 55,000 was in the West Midlands, followed by the South East, at 44,000.

The largest decrease was in Yorkshire and The Humber, at 36,000, followed by Northern Ireland and Wales, which both decreased by 4,000.

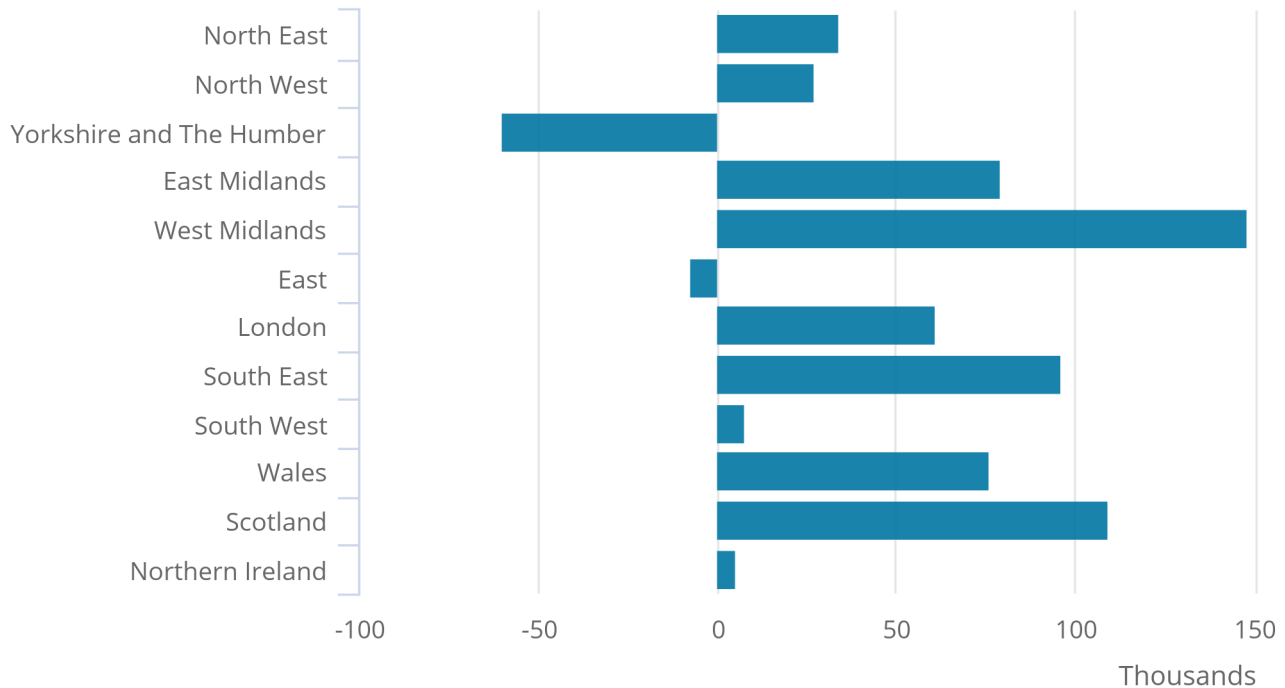
Compared with the same month last year (September 2016), the largest increase in workforce jobs was in the West Midlands, at 148,000. The only decreases were in Yorkshire and The Humber, at 60,000 and the East of England at 7,000.

**Figure 2: Change in workforce jobs, by region, seasonally adjusted, September 2016 and September 2017**

UK regions

Figure 2: Change in workforce jobs, by region, seasonally adjusted, September 2016 and September 2017

UK regions



Source: Office for National Statistics

The East Midlands had the highest proportion of jobs in the production sector at 13.5%, while London had the lowest proportion at 3.0%. This is due to London having primarily service-based industries within its region, such as financial and administrative sectors.

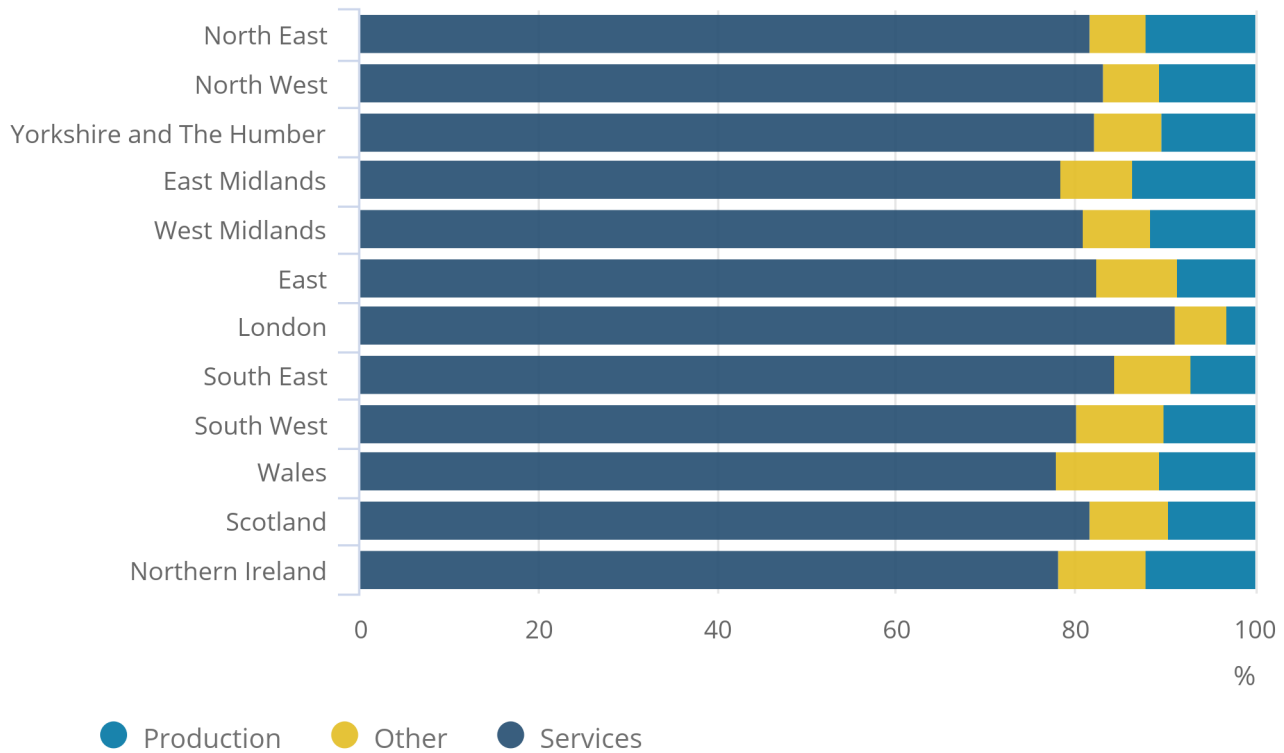
For the services sector, London had the highest proportion at 91.2%, whilst Wales had the lowest proportion at 77.9% (Figure 3). The services sector currently accounts for 83.3% of the total workforce jobs in the UK.

**Figure 3: Proportion of workforce jobs by broad industry group, by region, September 2017**

UK regions

Figure 3: Proportion of workforce jobs by broad industry group, by region, September 2017

UK regions



Source: Office for National Statistics

## Where to find data about workforce jobs

Workforce jobs estimates are available for each region in [Datasets HI01 to HI12 – Headline indicators for individual UK regions](#) (Tabs 4 and 5).

While comparable estimates for workforce jobs by industry begin in 1978, there is information back to 1841, based on census data (not comparable with the latest estimates), available from [2011 Census Analysis](#).

## 6 . Actual hours worked (first published 18 October 2017)

## Things you need to know about actual hours worked

Actual hours worked measures the number of hours worked in the economy. Changes in actual hours worked reflect changes in the number of people in employment and the average hours worked by those people.

### Regional actual hours worked

For the period July 2016 to June 2017, the UK region with the highest average actual weekly hours worked (for all workers) was London at 33.7 hours, followed by Northern Ireland at 33.1 hours. Yorkshire and The Humber had the lowest number of hours worked at 31.2 hours.

The UK region with the largest increase in the average hours worked, compared with the same period last year (July 2015 to June 2016) was Scotland, with an increase of 0.4 hours, a percentage increase of 1.2%. This was followed by the East of England, with an increase of 0.3 hours (a percentage increase of 0.8%). The largest decrease in the average hours worked was in the East Midlands, with a decrease of 0.5 hours (a percentage decrease of 1.7%).

The region with the highest average actual weekly hours worked in full-time jobs was London, at 38.4 hours. This represents an increase of 0.2 hours and a percentage increase of 0.6%, compared with the same period last year. The lowest were Scotland and the North West, both at 36.7 hours. For part-time jobs, the region with the highest average hours worked was Northern Ireland at 16.9 hours and the lowest was the South East at 15.7 hours.

For men, the region with the highest average hours worked was Northern Ireland, at 38.9 hours and for women it was London, at 28.8 hours. The largest difference in average hours worked between men and women was in Northern Ireland, where men worked on average 12.1 more hours per week than women. The largest change compared with the same period last year (July 2015 to June 2016) was seen for women in the East Midlands, where the average hours worked decreased by 2.7% to 26.7 hours. For men the largest change was in Scotland, where the average hours worked increased by 1.4% to 36.1 hours per week (Figure 4).

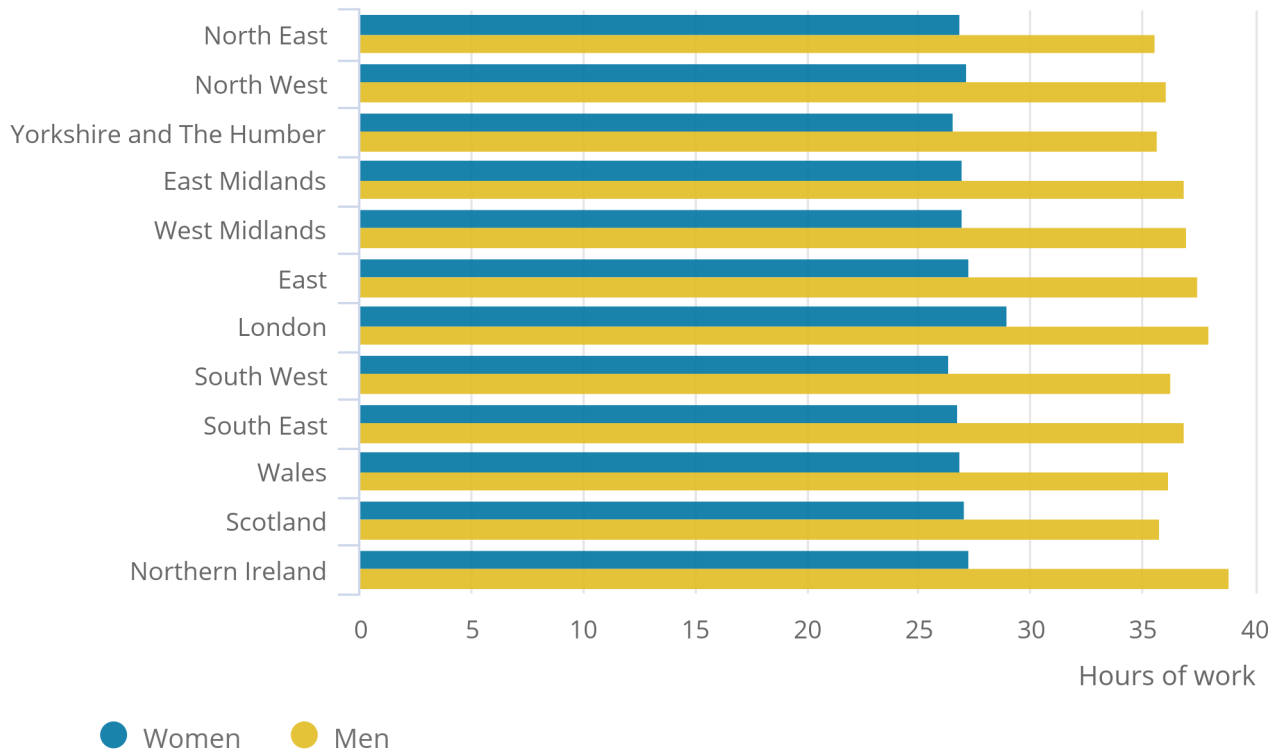
The region with the largest difference in total hours worked between men and women was London, where men worked a total of 35.0 million more hours than women. The regions with the smallest difference were Northern Ireland and the North East, where men worked only 7.0 million more hours than women.

**Figure 4: Average (mean) actual weekly hours of work, by region and by sex, July 2016 to June 2017**

UK regions

Figure 4: Average (mean) actual weekly hours of work, by region and by sex, July 2016 to June 2017

UK regions



Source: Annual Population Survey: Office for National Statistics

## Where to find data about hours worked

Hours worked estimates are available for each region in [Datasets HI01 to HI12 – Headline indicators for individual UK regions](#) (Tab 6). These estimates are based on data from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

The national data are also available in the UK labour market statistical bulletin in Datasets [Hour1 – Actual weekly hours worked \(seasonally adjusted\)](#) and [Hour2 – Usual weekly hours worked \(seasonally adjusted\)](#). These estimates are based on data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

## 7 . Unemployment

## Things you need to know about unemployment

Unemployment measures people without a job who have been actively seeking work within the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks.

### Regional unemployment

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

The unemployment rate for people aged 16 and over for the UK was 4.3%, for the period August to October 2017. This has decreased by 0.1 percentage points compared with the previous period (May to July 2017).

The highest unemployment rate in the UK for August to October 2017 was for the North East at 5.9%. The next highest rates were seen in the West Midlands at 5.3% and Yorkshire and The Humber at 5.0%. The region with the lowest rate was the South East at 3.0%, followed by the East of England at 3.6% and the South West at 3.7%.

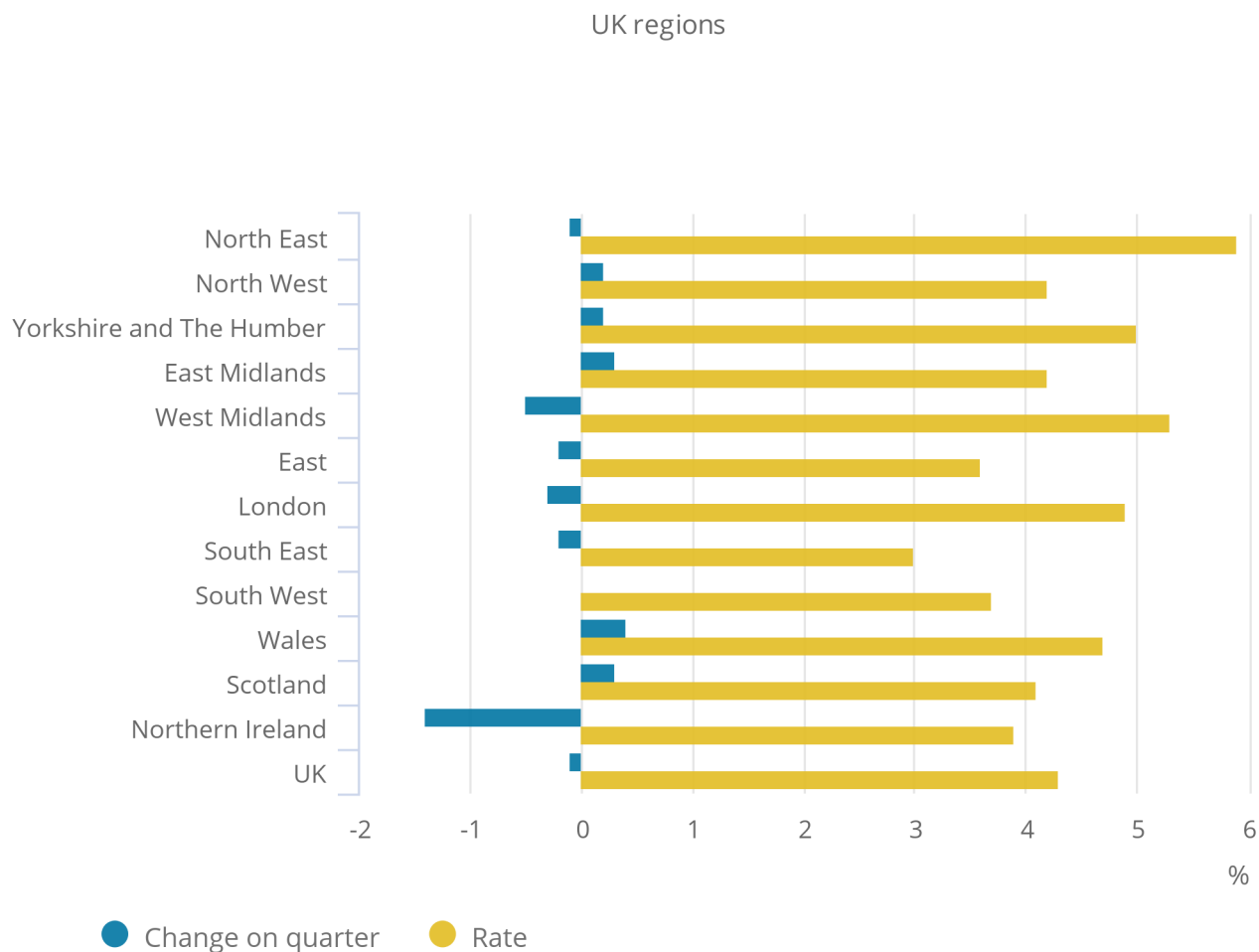
The unemployment rate estimates for August to October 2017, compared with May to July 2017 are generally showing very few large changes, for the regions of the UK. The largest increase in the unemployment rate on the previous period (May to July 2017) was seen in Wales, at 0.4 percentage points, followed by Scotland and the East Midlands, both at 0.3 percentage points. The exception to the small changes is Northern Ireland, where the unemployment estimate has decreased by 1.4 percentage points. Although the unemployment rate for Northern Ireland has been decreasing over the past few years, this latest estimate is showing an unusually large decrease.

The general picture across the UK, allowing for some individual volatility, is still an overall pattern of flat or gently falling unemployment rates.

**Figure 5: Unemployment rates by region, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2017**

UK regions

Figure 5: Unemployment rates by region, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2017



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

The only region to see an increase in the unemployment rate over the year was Wales, with an increase of 0.4 percentage points. All other regions of the UK are showing either decreases or no change in the unemployment rate compared with a year ago. The largest decrease was in Northern Ireland, at 1.7 percentage points, followed by the Scotland, at 1.2 percentage points.

### Where to find data about unemployment

Unemployment estimates are available for each region in [Dataset HI00 – Headline LFS indicators for all UK regions](#) and [HI01 to HI12 – Headline indicators for individual UK regions](#) (Tab 2(2)), and Datasets [LI01 to LI05 – Local indicators for sub-regional areas of Great Britain](#), for further estimate breakdowns by age or geographies.

These tables contain data produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS). A note in the section “Understanding and working with labour market statistics” on the relationship between the LFS and APS entitled “What is the relationship between the APS and the LFS?” is included in this bulletin.

## 8 . Economic inactivity

### Things you need to know about economic inactivity

Economically inactive people are not in employment but do not meet the internationally accepted definition of unemployment. This is because they have not been seeking work within the last four weeks and/or they are unable to start work within the next two weeks.

### Regional economic inactivity

The economic inactivity rate for people aged from 16 to 64 for the UK was 21.5%, for the period August to October 2017, up 0.3 percentage points on the previous period (May to July 2017). The UK region with the highest rate was Northern Ireland at 29.0%, followed by Wales and Yorkshire and The Humber, both at 23.6%. The region with the lowest rate was the South East at 17.7%, followed by the East of England at 19.1% and the South West at 19.2%.

The region with the largest increase in the economic inactivity rate on the previous period (May to July 2017) was Northern Ireland at 1.2 percentage points, followed by Yorkshire and The Humber, at 0.9 percentage points. The only areas to show a decrease were the North East, Wales and the East Midlands.

Over the year, the region with the largest increase in the economic inactivity rate were Northern Ireland at 2.7 percentage points, followed by the East Midlands at 1.5 percentage points. The largest decreases in the rate were in the North East at 1.4 percentage points and the South East at 1.3 percentage points (Figure 6).

Northern Ireland also had the highest economic inactivity rate at 26.3%, in the same period in 2016. The current rate is now 7.5 percentage points higher than the UK rate.

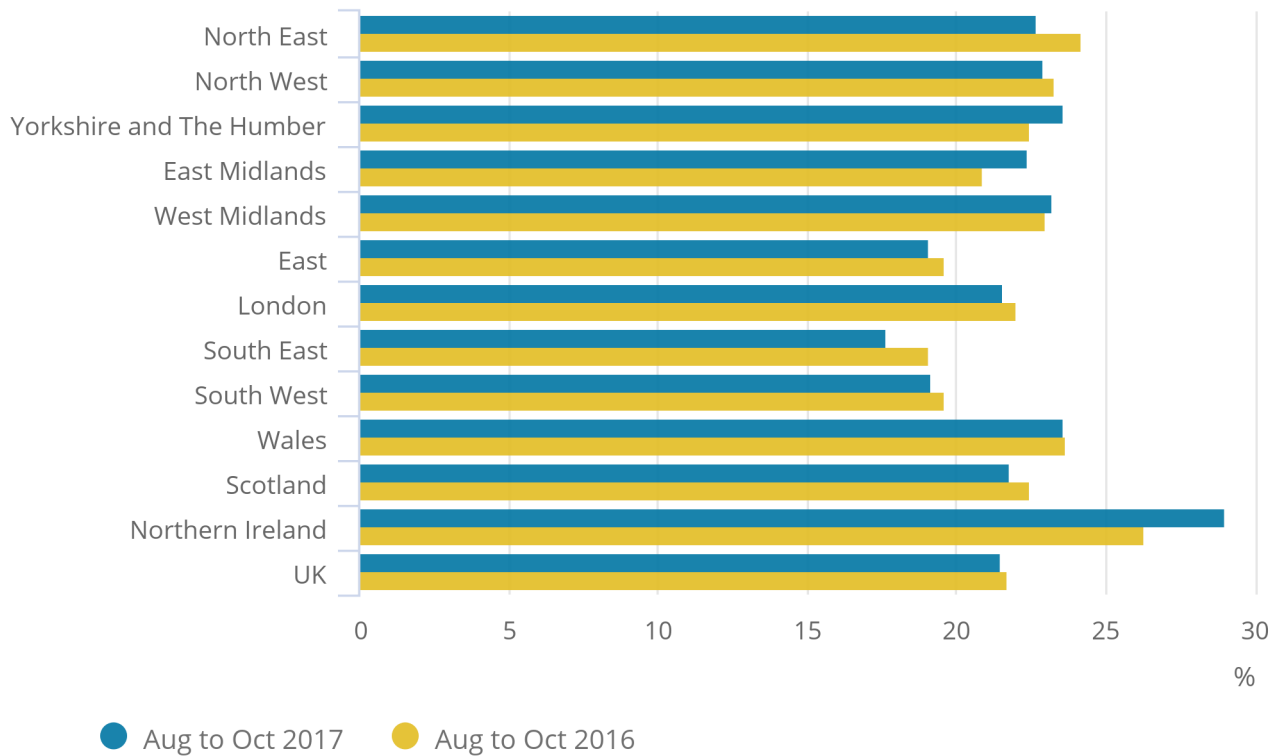


**Figure 6: Economic inactivity rate by region and comparison year-on-year, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2016 and August to October 2017**

UK regions

Figure 6: Economic inactivity rate by region and comparison year-on-year, seasonally adjusted, August to October 2016 and August to October 2017

UK regions



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

## Where to find data about economic inactivity

Economic inactivity estimates are available for each region in [Dataset HI00 – Headline LFS indicators for all UK regions](#) and [HI01 to HI12 – Headline indicators for individual UK regions](#) (Tabs 10 and 11), and [Datasets LI01 to LI05 – Local indicators for sub-regional areas of Great Britain](#), for further estimate breakdowns by age, reason or geographies.

These tables contain data produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS). A note in the section “Understanding and working with labour market statistics” on the relationship between the LFS and APS entitled “What is the relationship between the APS and the LFS?” is included in this bulletin.

## 9 . Local labour market indicators

## Things you need to know about labour market indicators

Local labour market indicators cover employment, unemployment, economic inactivity and jobs density, for sub-regional geographic areas such as local and unitary authorities, counties and regions in the UK for the most recent 12-month period available of the Annual Population Survey (APS). The jobs density of an area is the number of jobs per head, of resident population, aged 16 to 64.

### Indicators from the Annual Population Survey (first published 18 October 2017)

For the period July 2016 to June 2017, the local authorities with the highest employment rates in Great Britain were Hart in Hampshire, at 88.0%, the Orkney Islands, at 87.0% and Crawley, at 86.7%. Weymouth and Portland is the local authority with the lowest rate, at 58.7%, followed by Nottingham, at 58.8% and Sandwell and Ceredigion, both at 62.9%.

For the period July 2016 to June 2017, the local authorities with the highest unemployment rates in Great Britain were Hartlepool, at 9.7%, followed by Middlesbrough, at 8.7% and South Tyneside, at 8.3%. The local authorities with the lowest rates were South Lakeland, at 2.2%, followed by Mid Sussex, Eden and Hart in Hampshire, all at 2.3%. These were followed by a further 49 local authorities all under 3.0%.

### Jobs densities (first published 18 January 2017)

The jobs density of an area is the number of jobs per head, of resident population, aged 16 to 64. In 2015, the highest jobs density in Great Britain was the City of London at 84.29 and the lowest was Lewisham at 0.40. Westminster (4.30) and Camden (2.23), both in London, were the next highest jobs densities. The highest jobs density outside London was the Isles of Scilly at 2.01. After Lewisham, the lowest jobs densities were East Renfrewshire at 0.43, followed by East Dunbartonshire at 0.45 and Waltham Forest at 0.46.

## Where to find data about local labour market indicators

Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates are available in [Datasets LI01 to LI05 – Local indicators for sub-regional areas of Great Britain](#) and Claimant Count estimates are available in Datasets [CC01 – Claimant Count by unitary and local authority](#) and [CC02 – Claimant Count by parliamentary constituency](#), [CC02.1 – Claimant Count for constituencies of the Scottish Parliament](#), and [CC03 – Claimant Count for Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) in this statistical bulletin.

These tables contain data produced from the APS. A note in the section “Understanding and working with labour market statistics” entitled “What is the relationship between the APS and the LFS?” is included in this bulletin.

## 10 . Upcoming changes and future publication dates

### Future publication dates

24 January 2018  
21 February 2018  
21 March 2018  
18 April 2018  
16 May 2018  
13 June 2018

## 11 . Links to related statistics

Further information on labour market statistics is available in the following publications:

- [UK Labour Market statistics](#)
- [Public sector employment](#)
- [Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)](#)
- [Labour productivity](#)
- [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\)](#)
- [Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#)
- [regional and local area statistics are also available at NOMIS®](#)

We have also produced:

- [ad hoc data and analysis related to employment and employee types](#)
- [methodological articles related to employment and employee types](#)

## Historic articles published in Economic and Labour Market Review and Labour Market Trends

Articles about labour market statistics were published in Labour Market Trends (up until 2006) and in Economic and Labour Market Review (from 2007 to 2011). Editions of [Labour Market Trends](#) are available from July 2001 until January 2006, when the publication was discontinued. Editions of [Economic and Labour Market Review](#) are available from the first edition, published in February 2007, up until the last edition, published in May 2011.

## 12 . Quality and methodology

### Accuracy and reliability of survey estimates

Most of the figures in this statistical bulletin come from surveys of households or businesses. Surveys gather information from a sample rather than from the whole population. The sample is designed carefully to allow for this, and to be as accurate as possible given practical limitations such as time and cost constraints, but results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This means that they are subject to a margin of error, which can have an impact on how changes in the numbers should be interpreted, especially in the short-term.

Changes in the numbers reported in this statistical bulletin (and especially the rates) between three-month periods are usually not greater than the margin of error. In practice, this means that small, short-term movements in reported rates (for example, within plus or minus 0.3 percentage points) should be treated as indicative, and considered alongside medium- and long-term patterns in the series and corresponding movements in administrative sources, where available, to give a fuller picture.

## Quality information

One indication of the reliability of the main indicators in this bulletin can be obtained by monitoring the size of revisions. These summary measures are available in [Dataset S02 Regional labour market: Sampling variability and revisions summary](#) spreadsheet and show the size of revisions over the last five years.

The revised data may be subject to sampling or other sources of error. Our standard presentation is to show five years' worth of revisions (that is, 60 observations for a monthly series, 20 for a quarterly series).

## Other quality information

The Quality and Methodology Information reports for labour market statistics contain important information on:

- the strengths and limitations of the data and how it compares with related data
- users and uses of the data
- how the output was created
- the quality of the output including the accuracy of the data

## Quality and Methodology Information reports for various labour market topics are available:

[Labour Force Survey Quality and Methodology Information](#)

[Labour Force Survey performance and quality monitoring reports](#)

[Vacancy Survey Quality and Methodology Information](#)

[Workforce jobs Quality and Methodology Information](#)

[Average weekly earnings \(AWE\) Quality and Methodology Information](#)

[Labour disputes Quality and Methodology Information](#)

Further information about the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is available from the [Labour Force Survey - user guide](#).