

Statistical bulletin

Employment in the UK: July 2020

Estimates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity for the UK.



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Notice

16 July 2020

The effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on our capacity means we have reviewed the existing labour market releases and suspended some publications.

This will protect the delivery and quality of our remaining labour market outputs as well as ensuring we can respond to new demands as a direct result of the coronavirus. More details about the impact on labour market outputs can be found in [our statement](#).

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1 . Other pages in this release

Other commentary from the latest labour market data can be found on the following pages:

- [Labour market overview](#)
- [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain](#)
- [Vacancies, jobs and public sector employment in the UK](#)
- [Single-month Labour Force Survey estimates](#) (including weekly Labour Force Survey estimates)

2 . Main points for March to May 2020

- March to May figures show weakening employment rates, with self-employed and part-time workers seeing reductions; despite these falls, unemployment is not rising, because of increases in people out of work, but not currently looking for work; the reduction in total hours worked is a record both on the year and the quarter despite a third of the period covered being prior to the implementation of coronavirus (COVID-19) measures.
- The UK employment rate was estimated at 76.4%, 0.3 percentage points higher than a year earlier but 0.2 percentage points down on the previous quarter.
- The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 3.9%, 0.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier but largely unchanged compared with the previous quarter.
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at 20.4%, 0.4 percentage points lower than the previous year but 0.2 percentage points up on the previous quarter.
- The total number of weekly hours worked was 877.1 million, down a record 175.3 million hours on the previous year and down a record 175.1 million hours on the previous quarter.

The data in this bulletin come from the Labour Force Survey, a survey of households. It is not practical to survey every household each quarter, so these statistics are estimates based on a large sample.

3 . Coronavirus and measuring the labour market

Latest Labour Force Survey estimates are based on interviews that took place from the start of March to the end of May 2020. Around a third of the interviews relate to the period prior to the start of coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing measures. Interviews in the final week of March and the whole of April and May relate to the period following the start of lockdown and government measures aimed at protecting businesses and jobs.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) definition of employment includes those who worked in a job for at least one hour and those temporarily absent from a job. Workers furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme or who are self-employed but temporarily not in work have a reasonable expectation of returning to their jobs after a temporary period of absence. Therefore they are classified as employed under the ILO definition.

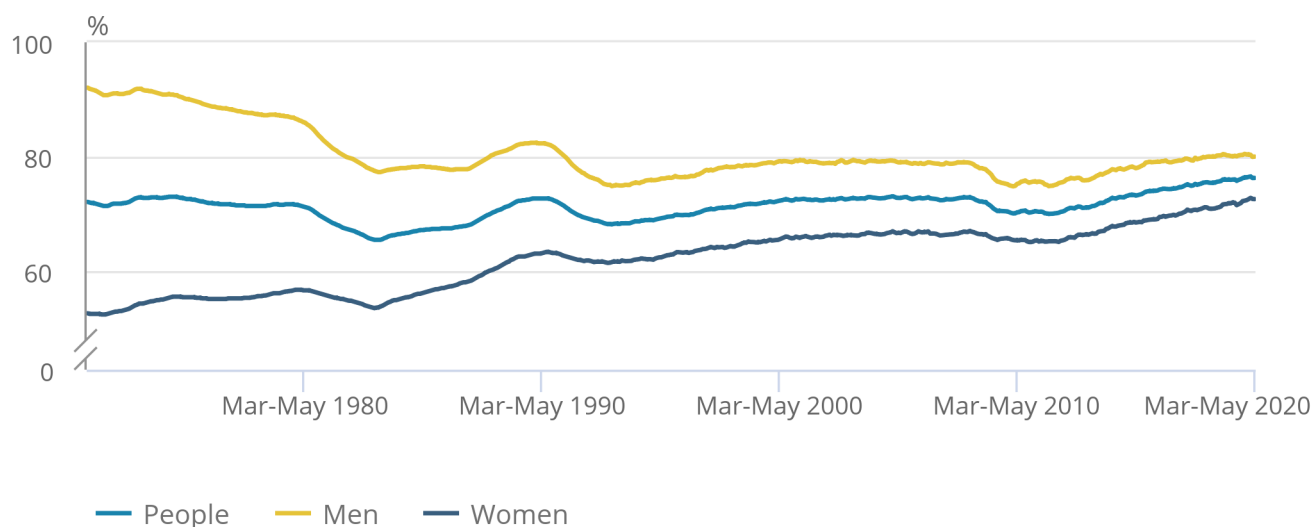
4 . Employment

Figure 1: The employment rate for all people increased by 0.3 percentage points on the year to 76.4%, but was down 0.2 percentage points on the quarter

UK employment rates (aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, between January to March 1971 and March to May 2020

Figure 1: The employment rate for all people increased by 0.3 percentage points on the year to 76.4%, but was down 0.2 percentage points on the quarter

UK employment rates (aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, between January to March 1971 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

[Employment](#) measures the number of people aged 16 years and over in paid work and those who had a job that they were temporarily away from. The employment rate is the proportion of people aged between 16 and 64 years who are in employment.

Estimated employment rates for people aged between 16 and 64 years have generally been increasing since early 2012. Recent increases have largely been driven by increases in the employment rate for women (Figure 1). The employment rate for women has now levelled off, whilst the employment rate for men has decreased.

For March to May 2020:

- the estimated employment rate for all people was 76.4%; this is 0.3 percentage points up on the year but 0.2 percentage points down on the quarter
- the estimated employment rate for men was 80.1%; this is 0.1 percentage points down on the year and 0.4 percentage points down on the quarter
- the estimated employment rate for women was 72.7%; this is 0.7 percentage points up on the year but largely unchanged on the quarter

Imputation used for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was not designed to deal with the changes experienced in the labour market in recent months. Experimental work with adjusted methodology suggests the use of the existing methodology has little impact on the employment rate (less than 0.1 percentage points). Further information can be found in the section on Measuring the data.

A full assessment of labour market flows is due to be released next month as part of the August Employment in the UK release, however, it is possible to gain some understanding of the flows that have contributed to the estimates from information currently available. Despite the estimated fall in employment of 126,000 on the quarter, the estimated number of redundancies has not increased significantly over the period. Instead, experimental estimates based on returns for individual weeks suggest the number of respondents starting a new job declined greatly through the March to May period compared with the same period in previous years. Further details of the experimental weekly figures can be found in the [Single month article](#).

The increase in the employment rate for women in recent years is partly a result of changes to the State Pension age for women, resulting in fewer women retiring between the ages of 60 and 65 years. However, since the equalisation of the State Pension age, the employment rate for women has continued to rise, although levelling off under the current situation.

Estimates for March to May 2020 show 32.95 million people aged 16 years and over in employment, 199,000 more than a year earlier (the smallest annual increase since March to May 2012). This annual increase was mainly driven by women in employment (up by 233,000 on the year to 15.70 million).

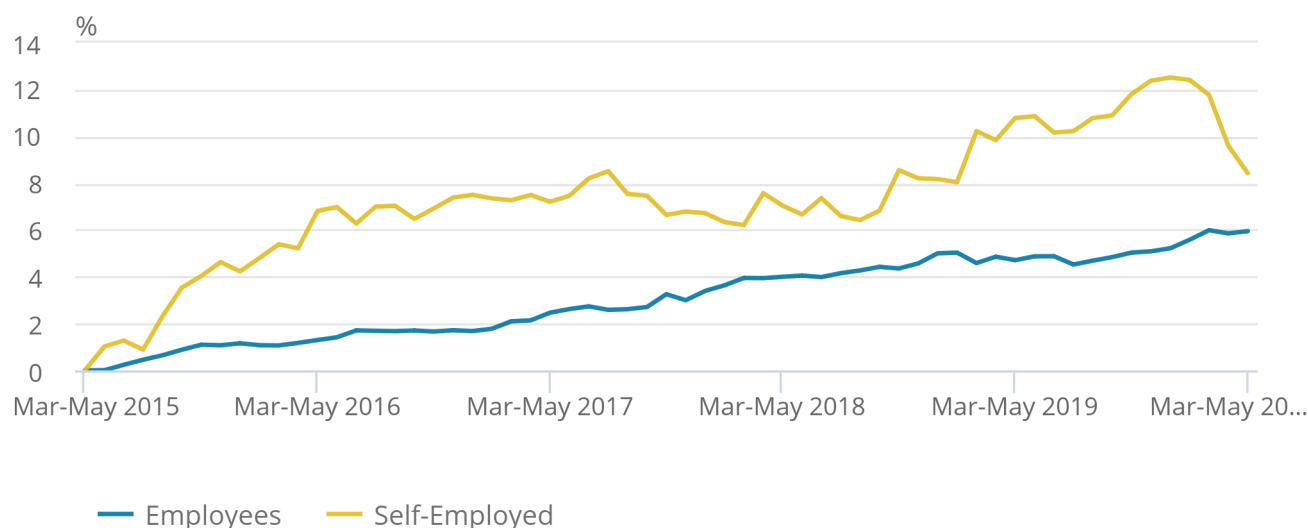
Employment decreased by 126,000 on the quarter. This was the largest quarterly decrease since July to September 2011. The decrease was mainly driven by men in employment (down by 100,000 to 17.25 million), workers aged 65 years and over (down by a record 76,000 to 1.31 million), the self-employed (down by a record 178,000 to 4.85 million) and part-time workers (down by 163,000). Full-time employees (up by 177,000) largely offset the decrease.

Figure 2: Record quarterly decrease for self-employed workers

UK employment percentage growth for employees and self-employed people (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, compared with March to May 2015

Figure 2: Record quarterly decrease for self-employed workers

UK employment percentage growth for employees and self-employed people (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, compared with March to May 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Looking at the estimates for March to May 2020 by type of employment (Figure 2), the number of self-employed has shown a sharp fall, which is not reflected in employees:

- there were 27.95 million paid employees (84.8% of all people in employment), 97,000 more than the previous quarter
- there were 4.85 million self-employed people (14.7% of all people in employment), a record 178,000 fewer than the previous quarter

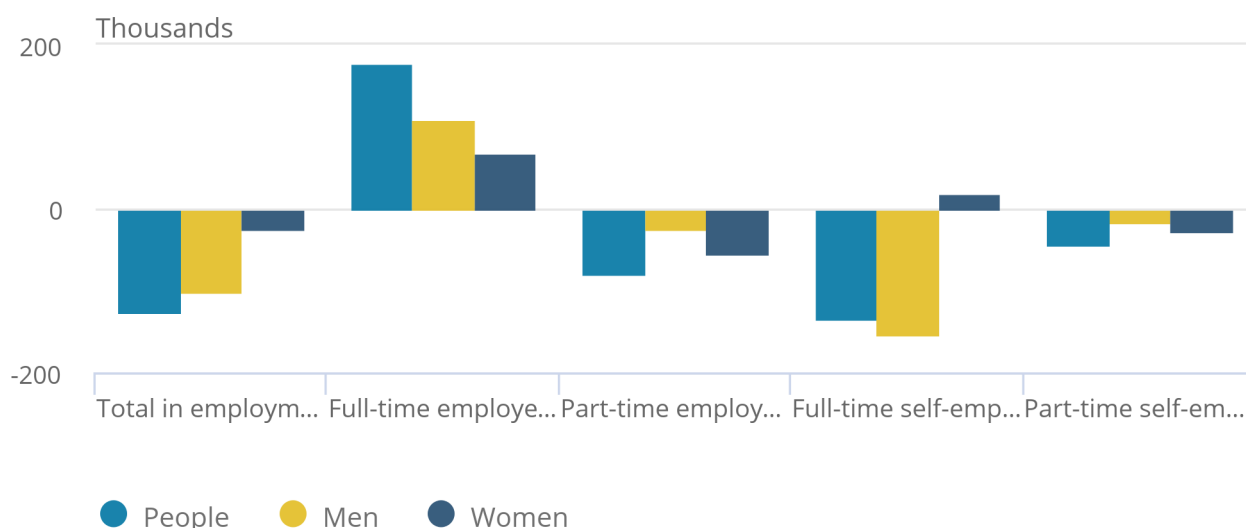
These estimates for paid employees and self-employed people make up over 99% of all people in employment in the UK. The total employment figure also includes two other minor categories, as explained in the [Guide to labour market statistics](#).

Figure 3: Record quarterly decrease for full-time self-employed men

UK quarterly changes for total in employment, full-time and part-time employees, full-time and part-time self-employed by sex (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between December 2019 to February 2020 and March to May 2020

Figure 3: Record quarterly decrease for full-time self-employed men

UK quarterly changes for total in employment, full-time and part-time employees, full-time and part-time self-employed by sex (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between December 2019 to February 2020 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Men in employment have seen the largest quarterly decrease since July to September 2011. Looking at this more closely, full-time self-employed men (down by a record 153,000 to 2.57 million) are the main drivers of the decrease (Figure 3).

While the LFS estimate of self-employment is showing record decreases, the number of employees in employment continues to increase for March to May 2020, with the number of full-time employees reaching a record high of 21.05 million. Meanwhile, experimental monthly statistics of paid employees from HMRC's Real Time Information (RTI) data suggest that the number of employees on payroll fell by approximately 575,000 between March and May 2020.

Estimates of the number of people in employment on the LFS are consistent with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition of employment. Under this definition employment includes both those who are in work during the reference period and those who are temporarily away from a job. People do not necessarily need to be paid during their absence, as long as they retain enough personal job attachment to consider the absence to be temporary.

Experimental LFS estimates, based on returns for individual weeks, suggest that during May, around 450,000 to 500,000 employees, who identified themselves as being temporarily away from their jobs specifically for coronavirus (COVID-19)-related reasons, were receiving no pay. While these people would still be considered employed under ILO definition, it is likely that they would not be reported in RTI data, which are based on payroll information. Further details of the experimental RTI data can be found in the [RTI article](#), and further details of the experimental weekly figures can be found in the [Single month article](#).

Hours worked

Since estimates began in 1971, [total hours worked](#) by women had generally increased, reflecting increases in both the employment rate for women and the UK population. In contrast, total hours worked by men had been relatively stable because of falls in the employment rate for men, and increases in the share of part-time working, roughly offset by population increases.

Workers temporarily absent from a job as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic would still be classed as employed, however, they would be employed working no hours. This directly impacted the total actual hours worked in March to May 2020. Since the average actual weekly hours are the average of all in employment, those temporarily absent from a job also impacted on those estimates.

Between March to May 2019 and March to May 2020, total actual weekly hours worked in the UK decreased by 175.3 million, or 16.7%, to 877.1 million hours (Figure 4). This was the largest annual decrease since estimates began in 1971, with total hours dropping to its lowest level since May to July 1997. The decrease in total actual weekly hours worked over the year was mainly driven by the decrease in men's total hours worked (down a record 110.8 million hours), but there was also a large fall in women's total hours worked (down a record 64.6 million hours).

Average actual weekly hours fell by a record 5.5 hours on the year to a record low of 26.6 hours. The average weekly hours worked by men decreased a record 6.3 hours to a record low of 29.9 hours, while women's hours decreased a record 4.5 hours to a record low of 23.0 hours.

Figure 4: Largest annual decrease in total actual weekly hours on record

UK total actual weekly hours worked (people aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 1992 and March to May 2020

Figure 4: Largest annual decrease in total actual weekly hours on record

UK total actual weekly hours worked (people aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 1992 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Experimental estimates based on returns for individual weeks suggest that the average number of weekly hours worked increased slightly but remained low throughout May. Further details of the experimental weekly figures can be found in the [Single month article](#).

Between March to May 2019 and March to May 2020, there were decreases in all industries apart from agriculture, forestry, and fishing. The largest decrease in average actual weekly hours was in the accommodation and food service activities industry, with a decrease of 12.0 hours to 16.0 hours per week, followed by construction, down 9.6 hours to 27.2 hours per week. Public administration, defence and social security had the smallest annual decrease, of 1.1 hours, to 31.2 hours per week (Figure 5).

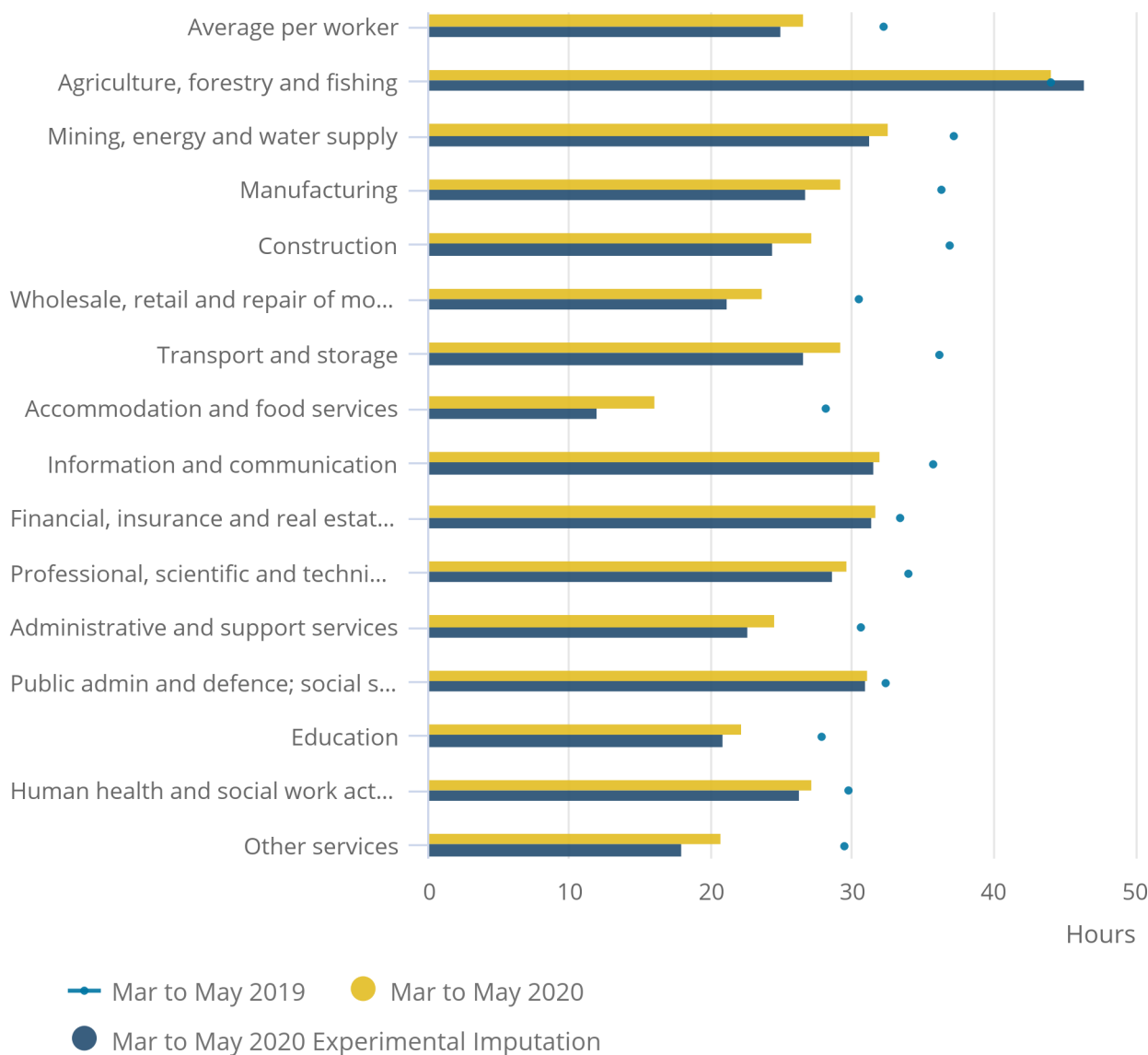
Imputation used for the LFS was not designed to deal with the changes experienced in the labour market in recent months. Experimental work with adjusted methodology suggests the use of the existing methodology has understated the reduction in the actual numbers of hours worked by approximately 5% to 6%. Figure 5 shows the industries that have experienced the largest reduction in hours because of the coronavirus are also those where this reduction is most understated. For example, using this adjusted imputation methodology, the hours worked in accommodation and food service activities decrease by a further four hours compared with the original imputation method, to an average of 12.0 hours a week in March to May 2020. Further information can be found in the section on Measuring the data.

Figure 5: The largest annual decrease in average actual weekly hours worked was in accommodation and food service activities

Average actual weekly hours worked by industry (people aged 16 years and over), not seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2019 and March to May 2020

Figure 5: The largest annual decrease in average actual weekly hours worked was in accommodation and food service activities

Average actual weekly hours worked by industry (people aged 16 years and over), not seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2019 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

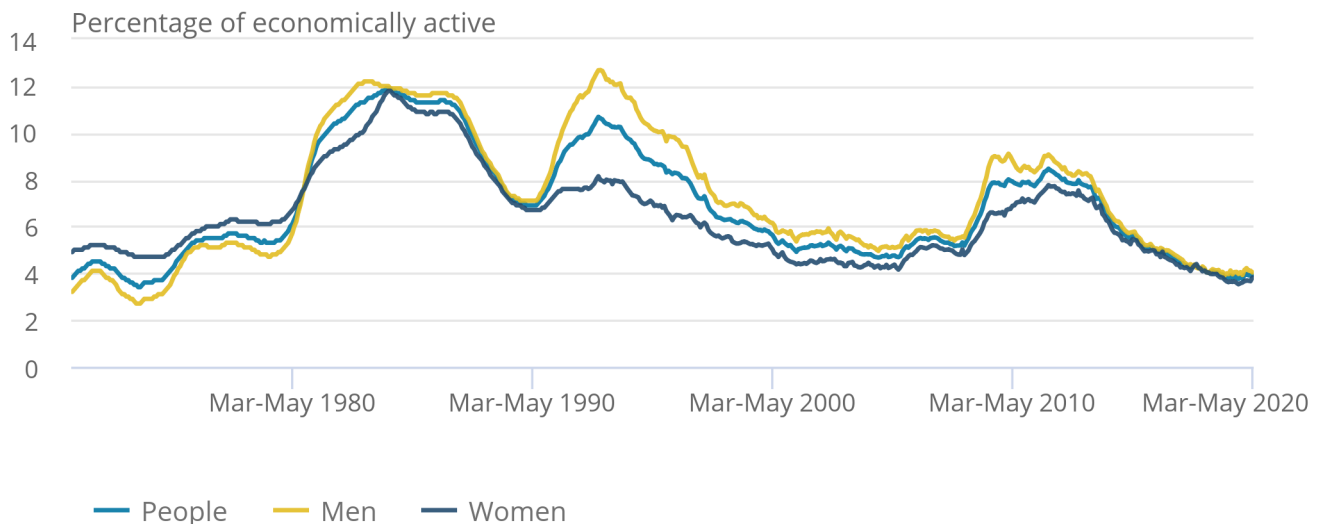
5 . Unemployment

Figure 6: Unemployment rates have levelled off over the last year, following a period of decreasing rates

UK unemployment rates (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between January to March 1971 and March to May 2020

Figure 6: Unemployment rates have levelled off over the last year, following a period of decreasing rates

UK unemployment rates (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between January to March 1971 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

[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. The unemployment rate is not the proportion of the total population who are unemployed. It is the proportion of the economically active population (those in work plus those seeking and available to work) who are unemployed.

Estimated unemployment rates for both men and women aged 16 years and over have generally been falling since late 2013 but have levelled off in recent periods (Figure 6).

For March to May 2020:

- the estimated UK unemployment rate for all people was 3.9%; 0.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier but largely unchanged compared with the previous quarter
- the estimated UK unemployment rate for men was 4.0%; this is 0.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier but 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous quarter
- the estimated UK unemployment rate for women was 3.8%; this is 0.2 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.1 percentage points higher than the previous quarter

Experimental estimates based on returns for individual weeks suggest that the unemployment rate throughout May was broadly consistent with other weeks within the quarter. Further details of the experimental weekly figures can be found in the [Single month article](#).

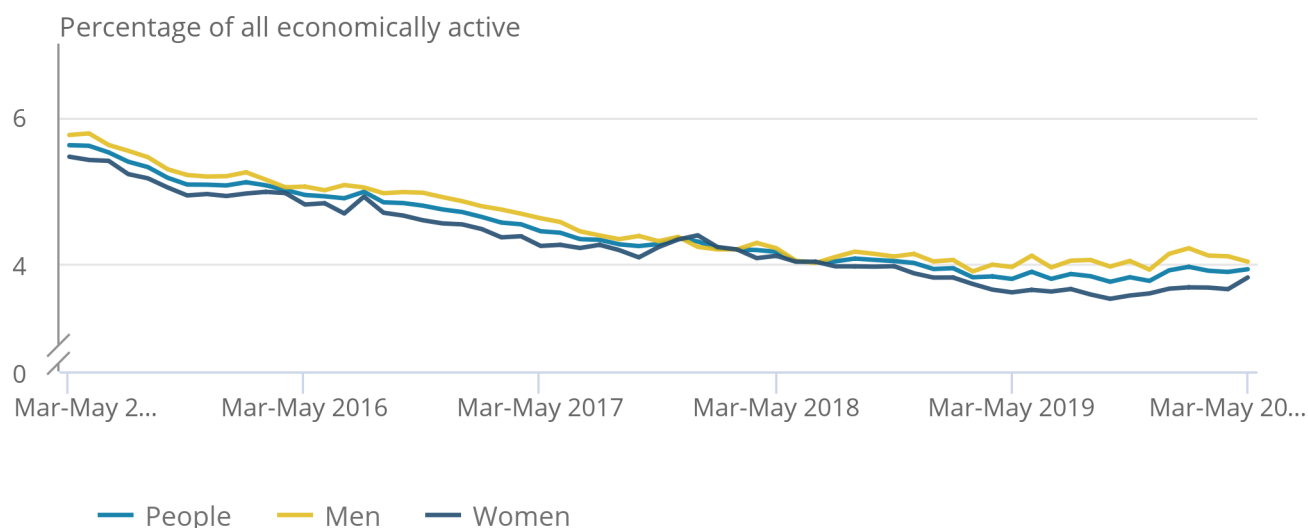
Imputation used for the Labour Force Survey was not designed to deal with the changes experienced in the labour market in recent months. Experimental work with adjusted methodology suggests the use of the existing methodology has little impact on the unemployment rate (less than 0.1 percentage points). Further information can be found in the section on Measuring the data.

Figure 7: The steady fall in unemployment rates for men and women over the last few years has levelled in recent periods

UK unemployment rates (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020

Figure 7: The steady fall in unemployment rates for men and women over the last few years has levelled in recent periods

UK unemployment rates (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020 (Figure 7):

- the estimated unemployment rate for all people fell from 5.6% to 3.9%
- the estimated unemployment rate for men fell from 5.8% to 4.0%
- the estimated unemployment rate for women fell from 5.5% to 3.8%

For March to May 2020, an estimated 1.35 million people were unemployed, down 17,000 on the quarter. This is 501,000 fewer than five years earlier but 55,000 more than a year earlier. The increase on the year is the largest since March to May 2012. It was mainly driven by unemployed women (up 43,000), unemployed people aged 16 to 24 years (up 47,000) and people who have been unemployed for up to six months (up 177,000, the largest annual increase since July to September 2009). However, this was offset somewhat by people who have been unemployed for over 12 months (down 93,000 to a record low of 246,000).

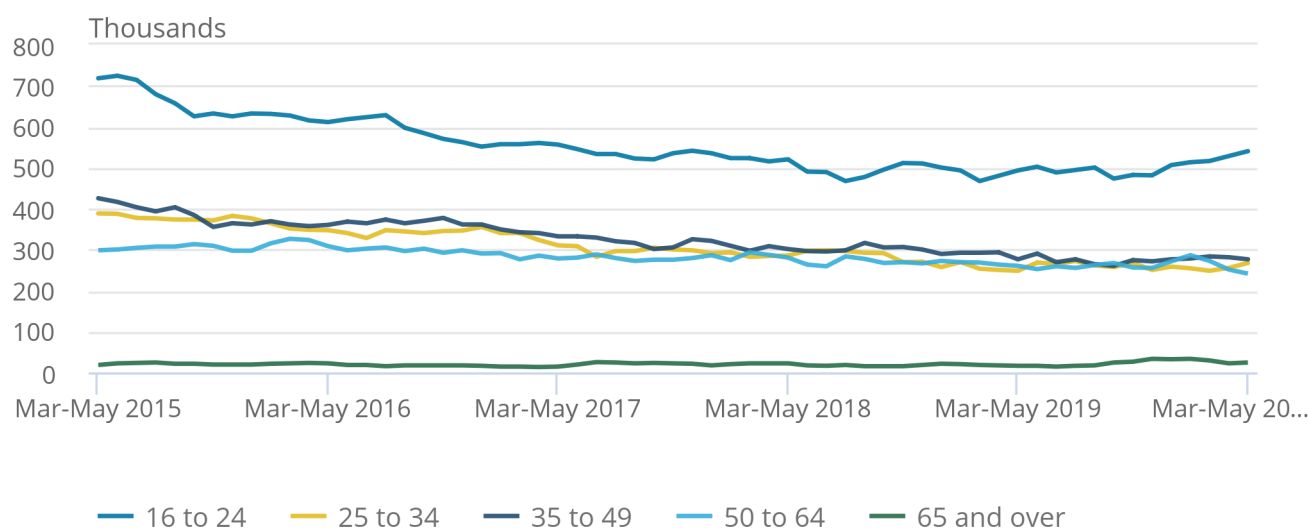
The relative flatness of the unemployment figures may seem surprising, given that there are notable decreases in the number in employment. However, some initial exploratory analysis has suggested that a larger than usual proportion of those leaving employment are not currently looking for a new job and therefore becoming economically inactive, rather than unemployed. In addition, an increased number of respondents who were previously unemployed have moved to economic inactivity in March to May 2020, suggesting that some who were previously unemployed are no longer looking for work.

Figure 8: The number of unemployed people aged 16 to 24 years has increased on the year while other age groups remained steady

Unemployment in the UK by age (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020

Figure 8: The number of unemployed people aged 16 to 24 years has increased on the year while other age groups remained steady

Unemployment in the UK by age (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Looking in more detail at unemployment by age (Figure 8):

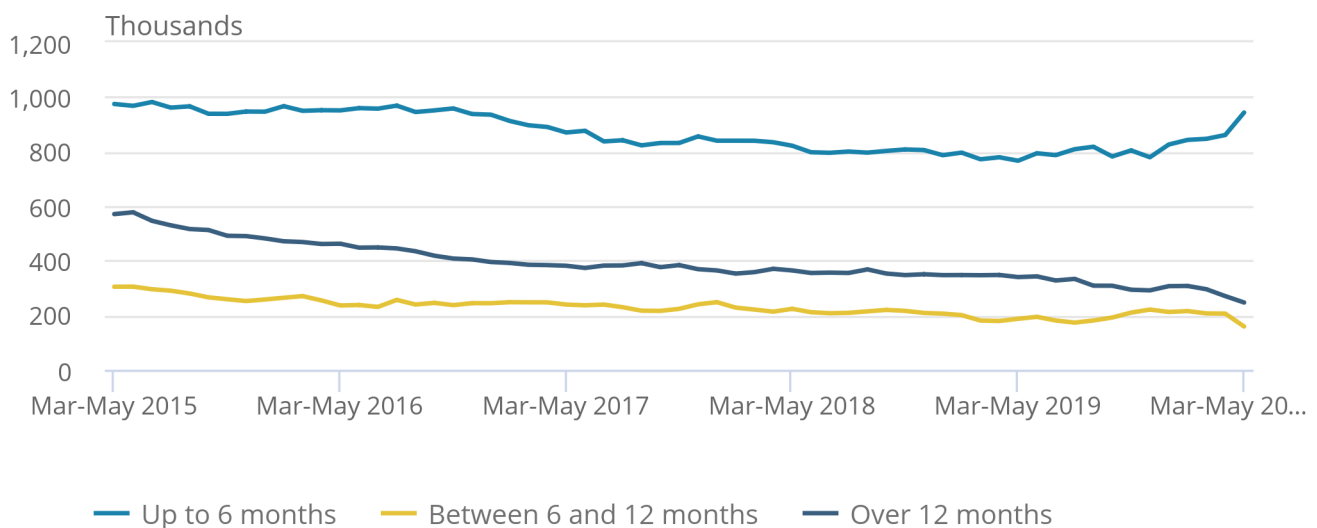
- despite the lack of overall increase in the number of unemployed, the estimated number of people unemployed aged 16 to 24 years increased by 47,000 on the year, and 26,000 on the quarter, to 540,000
- those unemployed aged 25 to 34 years increased by 19,000 on the year, and 13,000 on the quarter, to 267,000
- unemployment for those aged 35 years and over decreased by 11,000 on the year, and 56,000 on the quarter, to 541,000

Figure 9: Long-term unemployment continued to fall, while short-term unemployment has increased

Unemployment in the UK by duration (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020

Figure 9: Long-term unemployment continued to fall, while short-term unemployment has increased

Unemployment in the UK by duration (aged 16 years and over), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Looking in more detail at the increase of 55,000 in unemployment over the last year (Figure 9):

- the estimated number of people unemployed for up to six months increased by 177,000 to 943,000, and it was up by 100,000 on the quarter
- for those unemployed for over six months and up to 12 months, the number fell by 28,000 to a record low of 158,000, with a decrease of 56,000 on the quarter
- long-term unemployment (those unemployed for over one year) was down by 93,000 to a record low of 246,000, with a 61,000 decrease on the quarter

These moves are consistent with the analysis that some of those who have been unemployed for longer periods may have currently stopped looking for work, therefore suppressing the increase in unemployment.

The Claimant Count (Experimental Statistics)

These Claimant Count statistics relate to 11 June 2020. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the coronavirus mean that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed.

Consequently changes in the Claimant Count will not be due wholly to changes in the number of people who are unemployed. We are not able to identify to what extent people who are in work or not in work have affected the numbers.

The Claimant Count is an [Experimental Statistic](#) that seeks to measure the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.

To achieve this, the Claimant Count has generally been a count of the appropriate benefits within the UK's current benefit regime that best meet that criterion. Currently this is a combination of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and claimants of Universal Credit (UC) who fall within the UC "searching for work" conditionality.

Those claiming unemployment-related benefits (either UC or JSA) may be not in work and seeking work, or may be in work but with low income and/or low hours, that make them eligible for unemployment-related benefit support.

Under UC a broader span of claimants became eligible for unemployment-related benefit than under the previous benefit regime. During the roll-out of UC since 2013, movements in the Claimant Count have been significantly affected by this expanding eligibility, rather than labour market conditions. This impact has led to the Claimant Count being reclassified to an Experimental Statistic.

As part of the UK government's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a number of enhancements were introduced to UC. These may have increased the number of people in work eligible for UC through their earnings falling below income thresholds.

Such claims will generally fall within the work search conditionality within UC.

Consequently, while some of any movement in the Claimant Count would be because of changes in the number of people who are out of work, a certain amount of the movement will be because of changes in the number of people in work who are eligible for UC as part of the government response. We are not able to identify to what extent these two factors have affected the numbers.

At 09:30 this morning (16 July 2020), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are due to publish their latest [Alternative Claimant Count statistics](#). This attempts to model what the Claimant Count would look like once the migration to UC is completed. This release will include a breakdown between those claimants who are "in work", that is, in receipt of earnings, and those who are "out of work", not in receipt of earnings. While this will not fully tell us how many claimants are employed, unemployed or economically inactive, it will help in the understanding of the impact of the coronavirus on benefit claims.

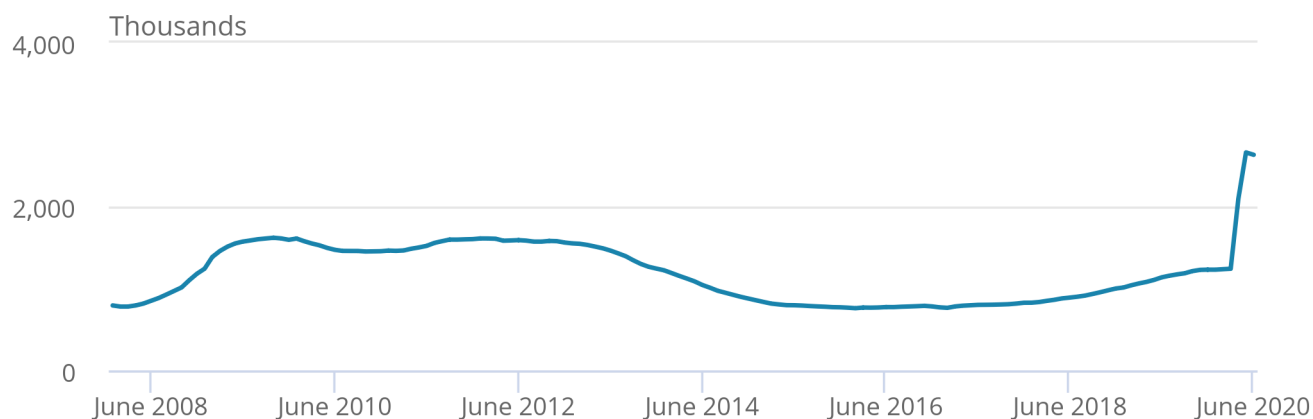
The Claimant Count decreased in June 2020 to 2.6 million (Figure 10). This represents a monthly decrease of 1.1% but an increase of 112.2%, or 1.4 million, since March 2020.

Figure 10: UK Claimant Count level increased by 112.2% since March 2020

UK Claimant Count, seasonally adjusted, between January 2008 and June 2020

Figure 10: UK Claimant Count level increased by 112.2% since March 2020

UK Claimant Count, seasonally adjusted, between January 2008 and June 2020



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

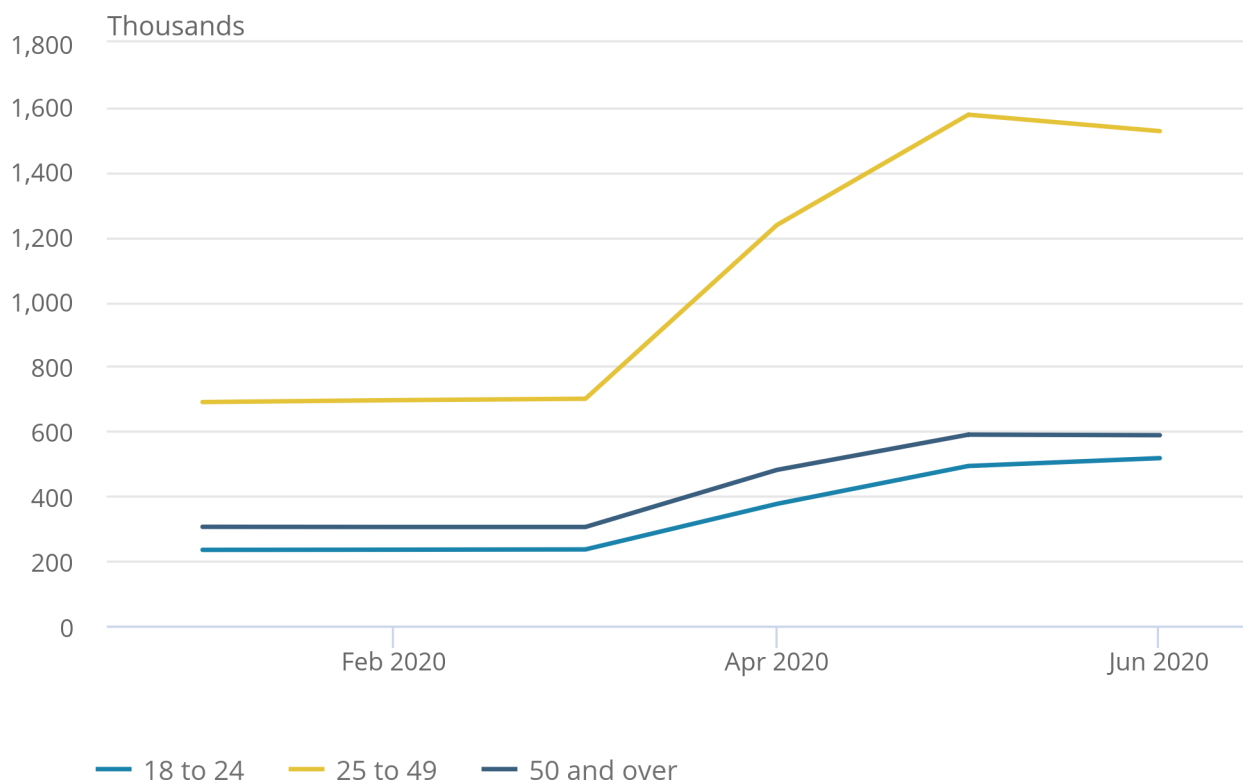
The monthly decrease in the Claimant Count was driven by those aged 25 to 49 years, who decreased by 3.2% in June 2020. This was partially offset by the Claimant Count for those aged 18 to 24 years, which continued to increase by a further 4.9% in June 2020 (Figure 11).

Figure 11: The Claimant Count increased for those aged 18 to 24 years

UK Claimant Count by age, seasonally adjusted, January 2020 to June 2020

Figure 11: The Claimant Count increased for those aged 18 to 24 years

UK Claimant Count by age, seasonally adjusted, January 2020 to June 2020



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

6 . Economic inactivity

[Economic inactivity](#) measures people without a job but who are not classed as unemployed because they have not been actively seeking work within the last four weeks and/or they are unable to start work within the next two weeks. Our headline measure of economic inactivity is for those aged between 16 and 64 years.

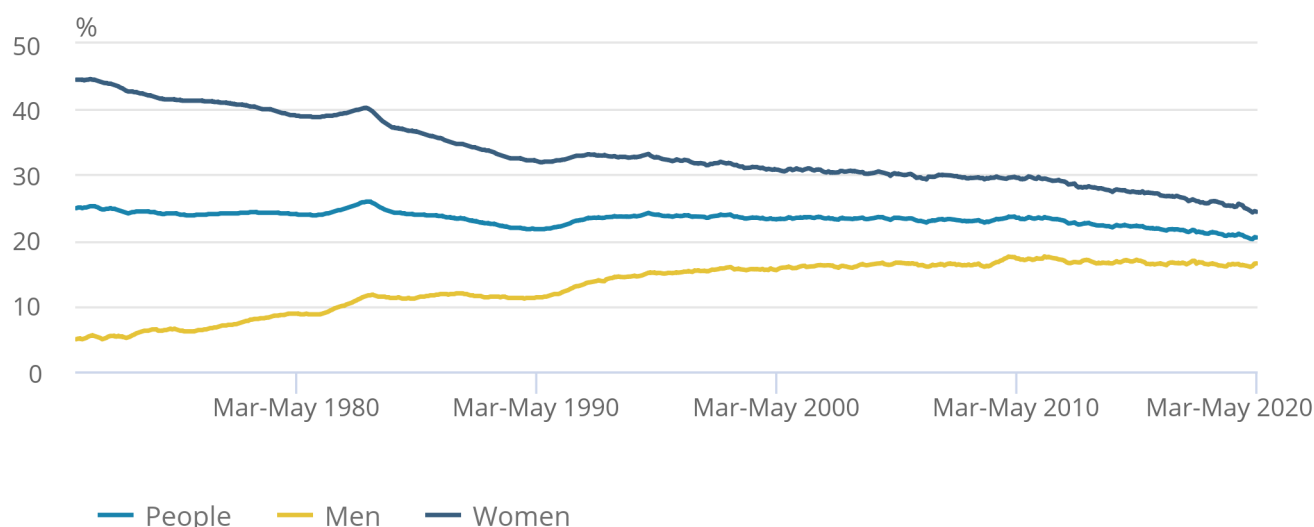
Since comparable records began in 1971, the economic inactivity rate for all people aged between 16 and 64 years has generally been falling (although it increased during recessions). This is because of a gradual fall in the economic inactivity rate for women (as seen in Figure 12). Over recent years, the economic inactivity rate for men has been relatively flat.

Figure 12: The overall economic inactivity rate for people aged between 16 and 64 years was at 20.4%, down 0.4 percentage points on the year, but up 0.2 percentage points on the quarter

UK economic inactivity rate (all people aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, between January to March 1971 and March to May 2020

Figure 12: The overall economic inactivity rate for people aged between 16 and 64 years was at 20.4%, down 0.4 percentage points on the year, but up 0.2 percentage points on the quarter

UK economic inactivity rate (all people aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, between January to March 1971 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

For people aged between 16 and 64 years, for March to May 2020:

- the estimated economic inactivity rate for all people was 20.4%; this is down by 0.4 percentage points on the year but up by 0.2 percentage points on the quarter
- the estimated economic inactivity rate for men was 16.5%; this is up by 0.1 percentage points on the year and up by a joint record 0.5 percentage points on the quarter
- the estimated economic inactivity rate for women was 24.3%; this is down by 0.9 percentage points on the year and down by 0.1 percentage points on the quarter

Experimental estimates based on returns for individual weeks suggest that the economic inactivity rate remained steady through May. Further details of the experimental weekly figures can be found in the [Single month article](#).

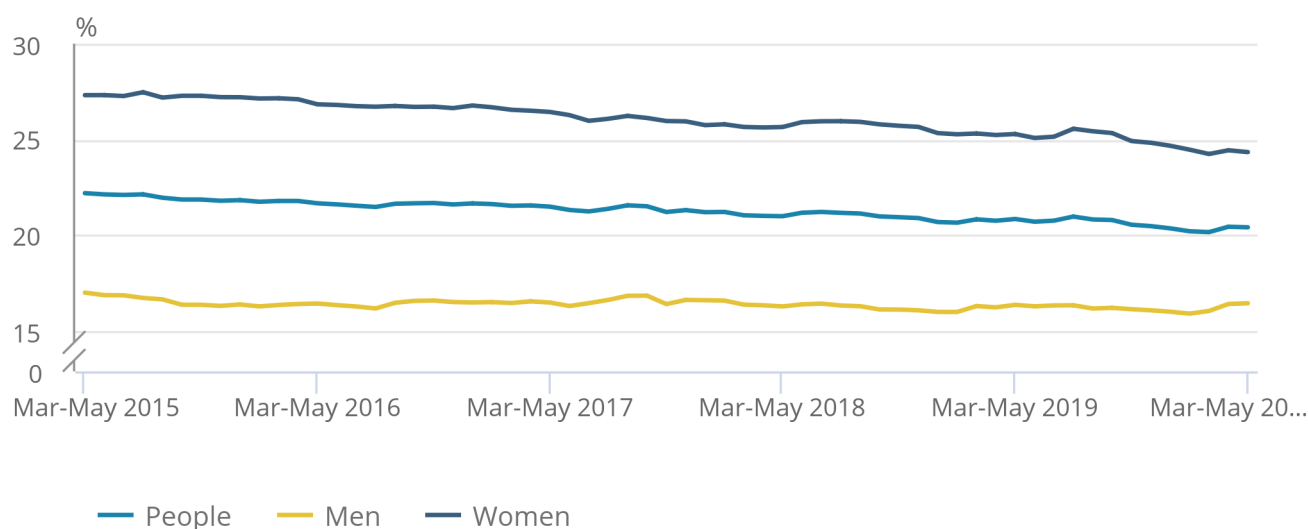
Imputation used for the Labour Force Survey was not designed to deal with the changes experienced in the labour market in recent months. Experimental work with adjusted imputation methodology suggests the use of the existing methodology has little impact on the economic inactivity rate (less than 0.1 percentage points). Further information can be found in the section on Measuring the data.

Figure 13: The economic inactivity rate for people aged between 16 and 64 years has been decreasing over the past five years, but increased slightly on the quarter

UK economic inactivity rate (all people aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020

Figure 13: The economic inactivity rate for people aged between 16 and 64 years has been decreasing over the past five years, but increased slightly on the quarter

UK economic inactivity rate (all people aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, between March to May 2015 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Estimates for March to May 2020 show 8.46 million people aged between 16 and 64 years not in the labour force (economically inactive). This was 603,000 fewer than five years earlier and 157,000 fewer than a year earlier. The annual decrease was driven by women (down 184,000 to 5.07 million) and people aged 18 to 34 years (down 212,000).

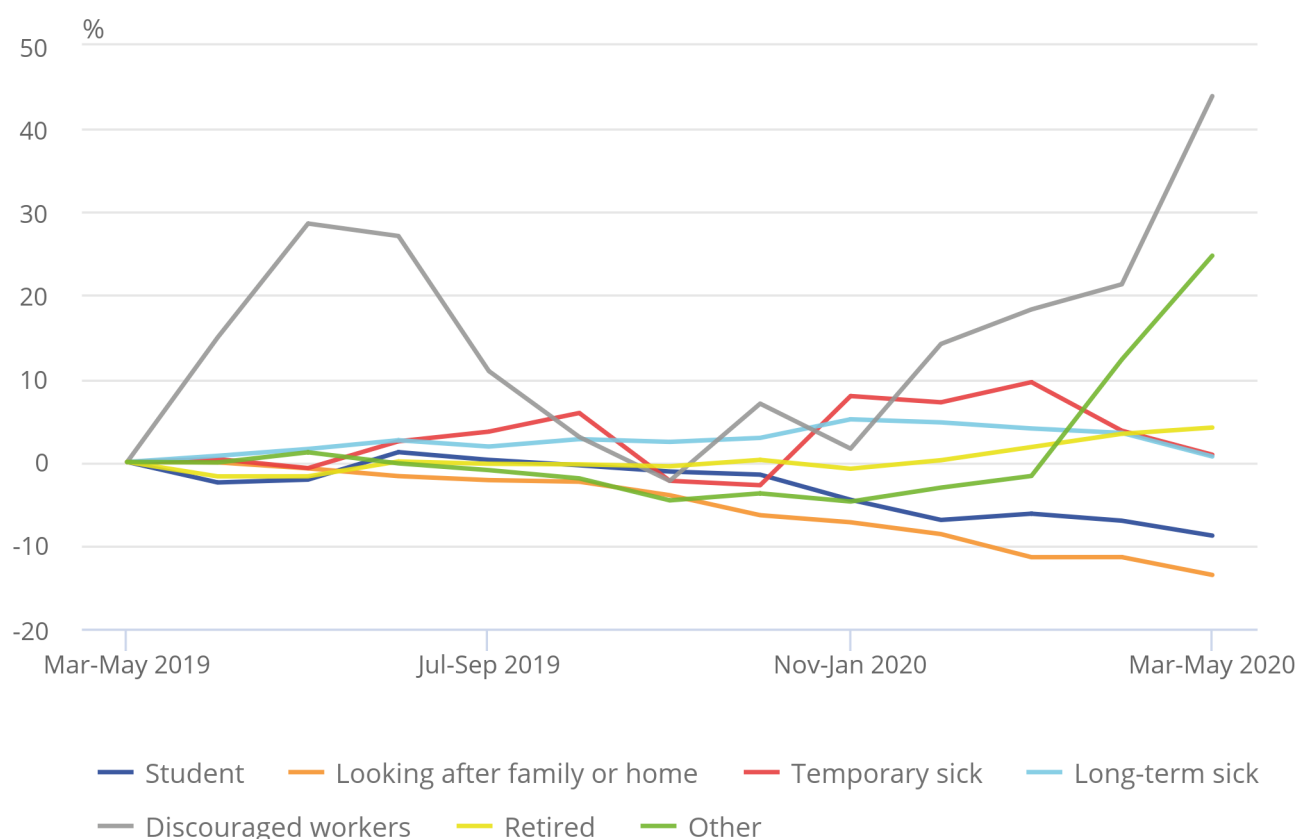
The estimated fall of 603,000 in economic inactivity over the last five years was largely among women, with a decrease of 551,000. This reflects changes to the State Pension age, resulting in fewer women retiring between the ages of 60 and 65 years, as well as more women in younger age groups participating in the labour market.

Figure 14: Record annual increase for people who were economically inactive because of “other reasons”

Economically inactive people percentage growth by reason in the UK (aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, compared with March to May 2019

Figure 14: Record annual increase for people who were economically inactive because of “other reasons”

Economically inactive people percentage growth by reason in the UK (aged 16 to 64 years), seasonally adjusted, compared with March to May 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Looking at the movements in economic inactivity over the last year by reason (Figure 14), we see that the largest decrease was for people looking after the family or home (down by a record 273,000, or 13.6%, on the year to a record low of 1.74 million), followed by economically inactive students (down a record 202,000, or 8.8%, on the year). However, it was partially offset by an increase in the number of people who were economically inactive for other reasons (up a record 244,000, or 24.8%, on the year to a record high of 1.23 million). Discouraged workers also increased by 14,000 (43.9%) on the year, and 9,000 on the quarter, to 45,000, the highest level since November to January 2015.

Other reasons include people who:

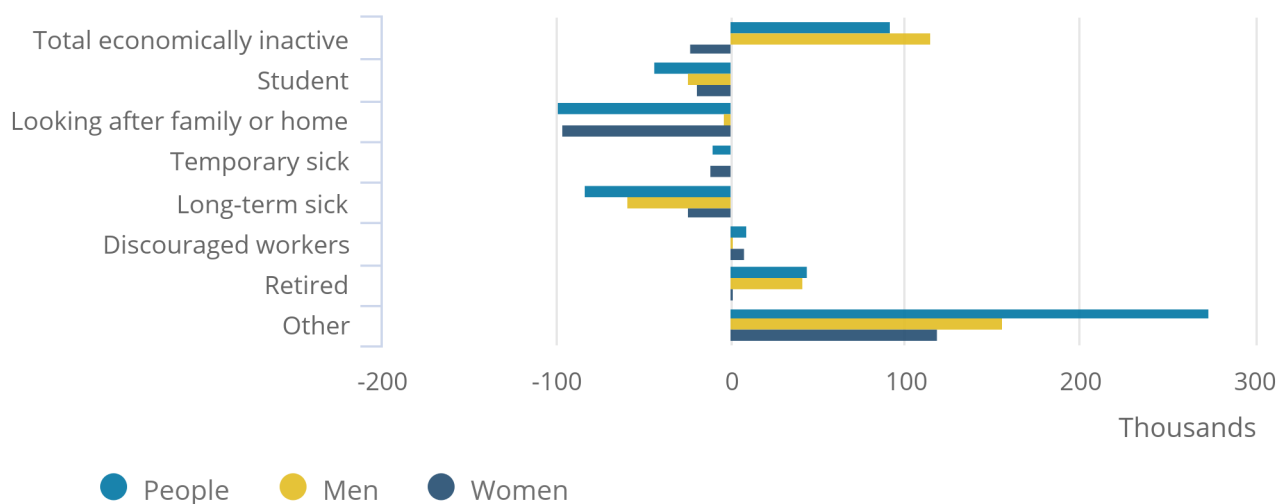
- are waiting the results of a job application
- have not yet started looking for work
- do not need or want employment
- have given an uncategorised reason for being economically inactive
- have not given a reason for being economically inactive

Figure 15: Record quarterly increase for men who were economically inactive because of “other reasons”

Economically inactive people (aged 16 to 64 years) by reason and sex in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between December 2019 to February 2020 and March to May 2020

Figure 15: Record quarterly increase for men who were economically inactive because of “other reasons”

Economically inactive people (aged 16 to 64 years) by reason and sex in the UK, seasonally adjusted, between December 2019 to February 2020 and March to May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Estimates for March to May 2020 show a quarterly increase of 92,000 in the number of people who are economically inactive in the UK. This was mainly driven by people who were economically inactive because of other reasons (up a record 274,000 to a record high of 1,228,000) (Figure 15).

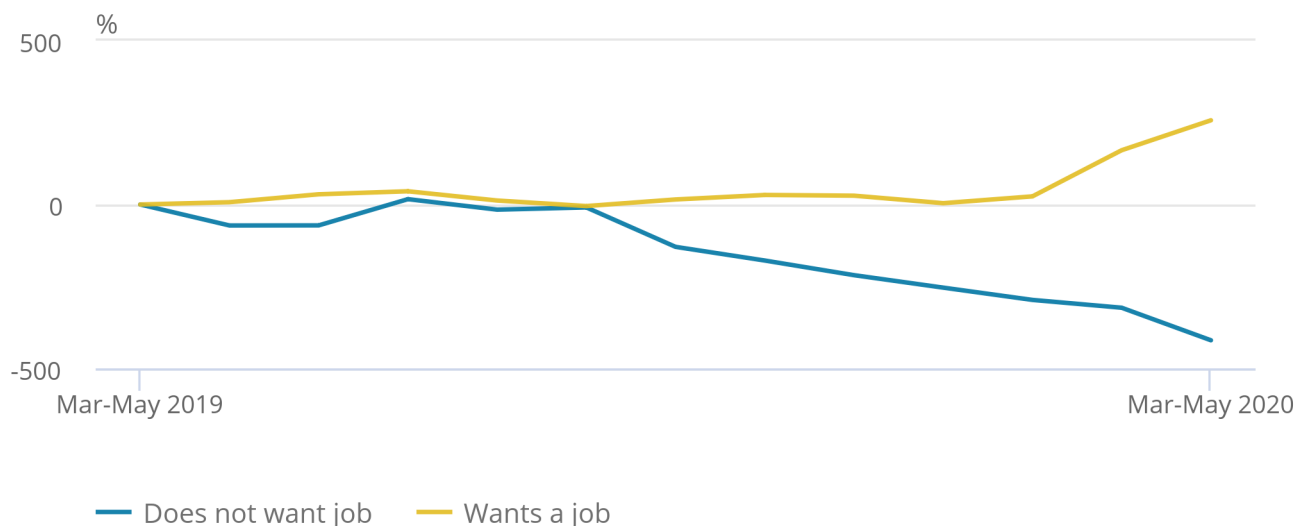
Those who are economically inactive and who want a job increased by a record 257,000 on the year and a record 253,000 on the quarter, while those who do not want a job decreased by a record 414,000 on the year and 161,000 on the quarter (Figure 16). This suggests that people who want employment are not currently looking for work, and is a further explanation of why we are not seeing a large rise in unemployment. (See Section 8: Glossary for definitions of employment, unemployment, and economic inactivity.)

Figure 16: Record quarterly increase for economically inactive people who want a job

Change in number of economically inactive people (aged 16 to 64 years) who want a job and who do not want a job in UK, seasonally adjusted, compared with March to May 2019

Figure 16: Record quarterly increase for economically inactive people who want a job

Change in number of economically inactive people (aged 16 to 64 years) who want a job and who do not want a job in UK, seasonally adjusted, compared with March to May 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

7 . Employment in the UK data

[Employment, unemployment and economic inactivity](#)

Dataset A05 SA | Released 16 July 2020

Estimates of UK employment, unemployment and economic inactivity broken down into age bands.

[Full-time, part-time and temporary workers](#)

Dataset EMP01 SA | Released 16 July 2020

Estimates of UK employment including a breakdown by sex, type of employment, and full-time and part-time working.

[Actual weekly hours worked](#)

Dataset HOUR01 SA | Released 16 July 2020

Estimates for the hours that people in employment work in the UK.

[Unemployment by age and duration](#)

Dataset UNEM01 SA | Released 16 July 2020

Estimates of unemployment in the UK including a breakdown by sex, age group and the length of time people are unemployed.

[Economic inactivity by reason](#)

Dataset INAC01 SA | Released 16 July 2020

Estimates of those not in the UK labour force measured by the reasons given for economic inactivity.

[Labour Force Survey sampling variability](#)

Dataset A11 | Released 16 July 2020

Labour Force Survey (LFS) sampling variability (95% confidence intervals).

8 . Glossary

Actual and usual hours worked

Statistics for [usual hours worked](#) measure how many hours people usually work per week. Compared with [actual hours worked](#), they are not affected by absences and so can provide a better measure of normal working patterns. For example, a person who usually works 37 hours a week but who was on holiday for a week would be recorded as working zero actual hours for that week, while usual hours would be recorded as 37 hours.

Economic inactivity

People not in the labour force (also known as [economically inactive](#)) are not in employment but do not meet the internationally accepted definition of unemployment because they have not been seeking work within the last four weeks and/or are unable to start work in the next two weeks. The economic inactivity rate is the proportion of people aged between 16 and 64 years who are not in the labour force.

Employment

[Employment](#) measures the number of people in paid work or who had a job that they were temporarily away from (for example, because they were on holiday or off sick). This differs from the number of jobs because some people have more than one job. The employment rate is the proportion of people aged between 16 and 64 years who are in employment. A more detailed explanation is available in our [guide to labour market statistics](#).

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. The unemployment rate is not the proportion of the total population who are unemployed. It is the proportion of the economically active population (that is, those in work plus those seeking and available to work) who are unemployed.

A [more detailed glossary](#) is available.

9 . Measuring the data

This bulletin relies on data collected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the largest household survey in the UK.

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [LFS QMI](#).

The [LFS performance and quality monitoring reports](#) provide data on response rates and other quality-related issues for the LFS.

Coronavirus

In response to the developing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are working to ensure that we continue to publish economic statistics. For more information, please see [COVID-19 and the production of statistics](#).

We have reviewed all publications and data published as part of the labour market release in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This has led to the [postponement of some publications and datasets](#) to ensure that we can continue to publish our main labour market data. This will protect the delivery and quality of our remaining outputs as well as ensuring we can respond to new demands as a direct result of the coronavirus.

For more information on how labour market data sources, among others, will be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, see the [statement](#) published on 27 March 2020. A further [article](#) published on 6 May 2020, detailed some of the challenges that we have faced in producing estimates at this time.

Our latest data and analysis on the impact of the coronavirus on the UK economy and population is now available on our dedicated [coronavirus webpage](#). This will be the hub for all special coronavirus-related publications, drawing on all available data.

Impact of the coronavirus on data collection

The Labour Force Survey design is based on interviewing households over five consecutive quarters. Generally, the first of these interviews, called wave 1, takes place face-to-face, with most subsequent interviews, for waves 2 to 5, conducted by telephone.

During March, we stopped conducting face-to-face interviews, instead switching to using telephone interviewing exclusively for all waves. This initially caused a significant drop in response.

New measures have been introduced to improve this, which have increased sample sizes during April and May, although they are still below normal Labour Force Survey sample sizes.

Impact of the coronavirus on survey imputation methodology

The normal imputation for non-response to the Labour Force Survey relies on rolling forward previous responses. Although this method is adequate under normal circumstances, it is not designed to deal with the changes experienced in the labour market in recent months. A new experimental imputation methodology has been researched to improve the measurement of the labour market at this time.

Because of time and system constraints, it has not been possible to fully integrate this methodology into the results within this release, but early indications suggest that:

- there is little impact from the use of existing methodology on the headline measures of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity (less than 0.1 percentage points)
- measures relating to hours in this release understate the reduction in the actual number of hours worked by approximately 5% to 6%

We hope to include more information in later releases as this work develops.

Impact of the coronavirus on survey weighting methodology

Because of the impact on data collection, different weeks throughout the quarter have different achieved sample sizes. To mitigate this impact on estimates the weighting methodology was enhanced to include weekly calibration to ensure that samples from each week had roughly equal representation within the overall three-month estimate. This meant that any impacts seen from changes in the labour market in those weeks would be fully represented within the estimates.

Impact of government measures to protect businesses on the Labour Force Survey estimates

During late March, the government announced a number of measures to protect UK businesses. This included the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), also referred to as furloughing, and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) classifies people within the labour market in line with International Labour Organization (ILO) definitions. Under the ILO definition employment includes employed persons "at work", that is, who worked in a job for at least one hour; and employed persons "not in work" because of temporary absence from a job, or to working time arrangements.

Under the current schemes it is likely that workers would have an expectation of returning to that job and would consider the absence from work as temporary. Therefore, those people absent from work under the current schemes would generally be classified as employed under ILO definitions.

In many cases, however, they would be employed but not in work. This absence would have an impact on the total hours worked. This would also be reflected in the average actual hours worked, which are based on the average hours per person employed, rather than the average hours per person at work. While actual hours would be significantly affected, there is unlikely to be any impact on usual hours, which would reflect normal working patterns.

After EU withdrawal

As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020.

After the transition period, we will continue to produce our labour market statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) definitions and agreed international statistical guidance.

10 . Strengths and limitations

The figures in this bulletin come from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which gathers information from a [sample](#) of households across the UK rather than from the whole population. The sample is designed to be as accurate as possible given practical limitations such as time and cost constraints. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This can have an impact on how changes in the estimates should be interpreted, especially for short-term comparisons.

As the number of people available in the sample gets smaller, the variability of the estimates that we can make from that sample size gets larger. Estimates for small groups (for example, unemployed people aged between 16 and 17 years), which are based on small subsets of the LFS sample, are less reliable and tend to be more volatile than for larger aggregated groups (for example, the total number of unemployed people).

In general, changes in the numbers (and especially the rates) reported in this bulletin between three-month periods are small and are not usually greater than the level that can be explained by sampling variability. Short-term movements in reported rates should be considered alongside longer-term patterns in the series and corresponding movements in other sources to give a fuller picture.

Comparability

The data in this bulletin follow internationally accepted definitions specified by the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#). This ensures that the estimates for the UK are comparable with those for other countries.

Further information is available in [A guide to labour market statistics](#).

Table 1: Labour Force Survey sampling variability
Sampling variability (95% confidence intervals) of UK Labour Force Survey estimates, March to May 2020

	Level	Sampling variability of level ¹	Change on quarter	Sampling variability of change on quarter ¹	Change on year	Sampling variability of change on year ¹
Employment (000s, aged 16 and over)	32,948	± 201	-126	± 163	199	± 256
Employment rate (aged 16 to 64)	76.4	± 0.4	-0.2	± 0.4	0.3	± 0.6
Average weekly hours	27.4	± 0.2	-4.5	± 0.2	-4.8	± 0.3
Unemployment (000s, aged 16 and over)	1,347	± 78	-17	± 80	55	± 101
Unemployment rate (aged 16 and over)	3.9	± 0.2	0.0	± 0.2	0.1	± 0.3
Economically active (000s, aged 16 and over)	34,295	± 193	-142	± 159	254	± 246
Economic activity rate (aged 16 to 64)	79.6	± 0.4	-0.2	± 0.4	0.4	± 0.5
Economically inactive (000s, aged 16 to 64)	8,462	± 174	92	± 143	-157	± 223
Economic inactivity rate (aged 16 to 64)	20.4	± 0.4	0.2	± 0.4	-0.4	± 0.5
Redundancies (000s, aged 16 and over)	114	± 21	8	± 28	14	± 28

Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

Notes

1. The sampling variability estimates are for 95% confidence intervals and are calculated on data that are not seasonally adjusted. [Back to table](#)
2. These data are part of data Table A11: Labour Force Survey sampling variability, which is part of the Labour market overview, UK release. [Back to table](#)

11 . Related links

[Labour market in the regions of the UK: July 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 16 July 2020

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

[Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\). UK: May 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 28 May 2020

Quarterly bulletin examining estimates of men and women aged between 16 and 24 years in the UK who are not studying or in employment.

[Working and workless households in the UK: October to December 2019](#)

Bulletin | Released 4 March 2020

Commentary on quarterly estimates of the economic status of UK households and the people living in them.

[Improvements to the Labour Force Survey longitudinal dataset weighting methodology](#)

Methodology article | Released 21 January 2020

Information about the change that has been made and the impact this has on Labour Force Survey (LFS) flows estimates in dataset X02, released 18 February 2020.

[Coronavirus and the effects on UK labour market statistics](#)

Article | Released 6 May 2020

How the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the wider containment efforts is expected to impact upon the UK labour market, providing some of the practical challenges that the Office for National Statistics is likely to face.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Latest data and analysis on coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effect on the economy and society. Includes recent articles on coronavirus and self-employment in the UK, coronavirus and employment for parents in the UK, and coronavirus and employment for those aged 70 years and over in the UK.

Index of Tables

The table below provides an index of the tables appearing in this Statistical Bulletin (only those not in grey) and it shows how these table numbers match up with the Excel spreadsheet datasets which are available on the website at:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/july2020/relateddata>

Table number	Table description	Dataset
	SUMMARY	
1	Labour Force Survey Summary	Dataset A02 SA
2(1) & 2(2)	Labour market status by age group	Dataset A05 SA
	EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS	
3	Full-time, part-time & temporary workers	Dataset EMP01 SA
4	Public and private sector employment	Dataset EMP02
4(1)	Public sector employment by industry	Dataset EMP03
5	Workforce jobs summary	Dataset JOBS01
6 (**)	Workforce jobs by industry	Dataset JOBS02
7 & 7(1)	Actual weekly hours and Usual weekly hours worked	Dataset HOUR01 SA
	NON-UK WORKERS	
8	Employment by country of birth and nationality	Dataset EMP06
8(1)	Unemployment and economic inactivity by country of birth and nationality	Dataset A12
	UNEMPLOYMENT	
9(1) & 9(2)	Unemployment by age and duration	Dataset UNEM01 SA
	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY	
10(*)	Economic activity by age	Dataset A05 SA
11	Economic inactivity by reason	Dataset INAC01 SA
12	Labour market and educational status of young people	Dataset A06 SA
	EARNINGS	
13	Average Weekly Earnings (nominal) - Total pay	Dataset EARN01
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	LABOUR DISPUTES	
18	Labour disputes	Dataset LABD01
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21	Vacancies by industry	Dataset VACS02
	REDUNDANCIES	
22	Redundancies levels and rates	Dataset RED01 SA
	REGIONAL SUMMARY	
23	Regional labour market summary	Dataset A07

(*) Tables 2 and 10 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file have been amalgamated into one spreadsheet (Dataset A05 SA).
(**) Table JOBS02 provides more detail than Table 6 in the Statistical Bulletin pdf file.

The following symbols are used in the tables: p provisional, r revised, .. Not available,* suppressed due to small sample size.
The four-character identification codes appearing in the tables are the ONS references for the data series appearing in the Labour Market Statistics dataset which is available on the website at:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/labourmarketstatistics>

SUMMARY

1 Summary of headline LFS¹ indicators

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

	LFS household population ¹		Headline indicators					
			Employment		Unemployment		Inactivity	
	All aged 16 & over	All aged 16 to 64	Level	Rate ²	Level	Rate ³	Level	Rate ⁴
			All aged 16 & over	All aged 16 to 64	All aged 16 & over	All aged 16 & over	All aged 16 to 64	All aged 16 to 64
	MGSL	LF2O	MGRZ	LF24	MGSC	MGSX	LF2M	LF2S
People								
Mar-May 2018	52,978	41,236	32,395	75.6	1,408	4.2	8,662	21.0
Mar-May 2019	53,252	41,317	32,749	76.0	1,292	3.8	8,619	20.9
Jun-Aug 2019	53,321	41,339	32,693	75.9	1,314	3.9	8,676	21.0
Sep-Nov 2019	53,391	41,363	32,901	76.3	1,306	3.8	8,506	20.6
Dec-Feb 2020	53,463	41,388	33,073	76.6	1,364	4.0	8,370	20.2
Mar-May 2020	53,534	41,423	32,948	76.4	1,347	3.9	8,462	20.4
Change on quarter	71	35	-126	-0.2	-17	0.0	92	0.2
Change %	0.1	0.1	-0.4		-1.2		1.1	
Change on year	282	106	199	0.3	55	0.1	-157	-0.4
Change %	0.5	0.3	0.6		4.3		-1.8	
Men								
	MGSM	YBTG	MGSA	MGSV	MGSD	MGSY	YBSO	YBTM
Mar-May 2018	25,916	20,503	17,138	80.1	754	4.2	3,343	16.3
Mar-May 2019	26,068	20,554	17,280	80.2	712	4.0	3,368	16.4
Jun-Aug 2019	26,107	20,567	17,256	80.2	727	4.0	3,366	16.4
Sep-Nov 2019	26,145	20,581	17,317	80.4	729	4.0	3,326	16.2
Dec-Feb 2020	26,183	20,595	17,345	80.5	763	4.2	3,281	15.9
Mar-May 2020	26,221	20,615	17,245	80.1	724	4.0	3,396	16.5
Change on quarter	38	19	-100	-0.4	-39	-0.2	115	0.5
Change %	0.1	0.1	-0.6		-5.1		3.5	
Change on year	153	61	-35	-0.1	12	0.1	27	0.1
Change %	0.6	0.3	-0.2		1.7		0.8	
Women								
	MGSN	LF2P	MGSB	LF25	MGSE	MGSZ	LF2N	LF2T
Mar-May 2018	27,062	20,733	15,257	71.2	654	4.1	5,319	25.7
Mar-May 2019	27,184	20,763	15,469	72.0	580	3.6	5,251	25.3
Jun-Aug 2019	27,215	20,772	15,437	71.6	586	3.7	5,310	25.6
Sep-Nov 2019	27,247	20,782	15,584	72.3	577	3.6	5,180	24.9
Dec-Feb 2020	27,279	20,792	15,728	72.7	601	3.7	5,089	24.5
Mar-May 2020	27,313	20,808	15,702	72.7	623	3.8	5,067	24.3
Change on quarter	34	16	-26	0.0	22	0.1	-22	-0.1
Change %	0.1	0.1	-0.2		3.6		-0.4	
Change on year	129	45	233	0.7	43	0.2	-184	-0.9
Change %	0.5	0.2	1.5		7.4		-3.5	

Source: Labour Force Survey

Labour market statistics enquiries: labour.market@ons.gov.uk

1. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a survey of households in the UK.
2. The headline employment rate is the number of people aged 16 to 64 in employment divided by the population aged 16 to 64.
3. The headline unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people (aged 16+) divided by the economically active population (aged 16+). The economically active population is defined as those in employment plus those who are unemployed.
4. The headline inactivity rate is the number of people aged 16 to 64 divided by the population aged 16-64.

Note on headline employment, unemployment and inactivity rates

The headline employment and inactivity rates are based on the population aged 16 to 64 but the headline unemployment rate is based on the economically active population aged 16 and over. The employment and inactivity rates for those aged 16 and over are affected by the inclusion of the retired population in the denominators and are therefore less meaningful than the rates for those aged from 16 to 64. However, for the unemployment rate for those aged 16 and over, no such effect occurs as the denominator for the unemployment rate is the economically active population which only includes people in work or actively seeking and able to work.

Note on headline employment, unemployment and inactivity levels

The headline employment and unemployment levels are for those aged 16 and over; they measure all people in work or actively seeking and able to work. However, the headline inactivity level is for those aged 16 to 64. The inactivity rate for those aged 16 and over is less meaningful as it includes elderly people who have retired from the labour force.

EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

7 Actual weekly hours worked

United Kingdom (hours worked by people aged 16 and over), seasonally adjusted

Average (mean) actual weekly hours worked					
	Total weekly hours (millions) ¹²	All workers ¹	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Second Jobs
People	YBUS	YBUV	YBUY	YBVB	YBVE
Mar-May 2018	1,032.5	31.9	37.0	16.3	10.1
Mar-May 2019	1,052.4	32.1	37.4	16.3	9.6
Jun-Aug 2019	1,049.2	32.1	37.3	16.3	10.1
Sep-Nov 2019	1,054.1	32.0	37.1	16.3	9.5
Dec-Feb 2020	1,052.2	31.8	36.9	16.2	9.7
Mar-May 2020	901.3	27.4	32.0	13.0	9.1
Change on quarter	-150.9	-4.5	-4.8	-3.2	-0.6
Change %	-14.3	-14.0	-13.2	-19.5	-6.6
Change on year	-151.2	-4.8	-5.4	-3.3	-0.5
Change %	-14.4	-14.9	-14.4	-20.3	-5.3
Men	YBUT	YBUW	YBUZ	YBVC	YBVF
Mar-May 2018	619.5	36.1	38.9	15.9	11.2
Mar-May 2019	626.3	36.2	39.0	16.2	10.7
Jun-Aug 2019	626.5	36.3	39.0	16.3	10.7
Sep-Nov 2019	626.4	36.2	38.8	16.2	10.3
Dec-Feb 2020	622.5	35.9	38.5	15.9	10.7
Mar-May 2020	532.8	30.9	33.0	12.4	10.4
Change on quarter	-89.7	-5.0	-5.5	-3.5	-0.3
Change %	-14.4	-13.9	-14.3	-22.0	-2.4
Change on year	-93.5	-5.4	-6.0	-3.9	-0.3
Change %	-14.9	-14.8	-15.5	-23.8	-2.4
Women	YBUU	YBUX	YBVA	YBVD	YBVG
Mar-May 2018	412.9	27.1	33.9	16.5	9.3
Mar-May 2019	426.1	27.5	34.7	16.4	8.8
Jun-Aug 2019	422.7	27.4	34.5	16.3	9.6
Sep-Nov 2019	427.7	27.4	34.4	16.4	8.8
Dec-Feb 2020	429.7	27.3	34.2	16.3	9.0
Mar-May 2020	368.5	23.5	30.5	13.2	8.2
Change on quarter	-61.2	-3.9	-3.7	-3.0	-0.9
Change %	-14.2	-14.1	-11.0	-18.7	-9.9
Change on year	-57.6	-4.1	-4.2	-3.1	-0.7
Change %	-13.5	-14.8	-12.2	-19.2	-7.7

1 Main and second job

2 Total actual weekly hours worked including paid and unpaid overtime.

3 Main job only. The split between full-time and part-time employment is based on respondents' self-classification.

UNEMPLOYMENT

9(2) Unemployment by age and duration

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

	25-49							50 and over						
	All	Rate(%) ¹	Up to 6 months	Over 6 and up to 12 months	All over 12 months	% over 12 months	All over 24 months	All	Rate (%) ¹	Up to 6 months	Over 6 and up to 12 months	All over 12 months	% over 12 months	All over 24 months
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	MGVI	MGXB	YBYH	YBYK	YBYN	YBYQ	YBYT	YBVT	YBVW	YBYW	YBYZ	YBZC	YBZF	YBZI
People														
Mar-May 2018	586	3.1	323	93	170	29.0	95	302	2.9	139	49	113	37.5	66
Mar-May 2019	524	2.8	299	68	156	29.8	93	275	2.6	128	41	107	38.7	63
Jun-Aug 2019	548	2.9	324	69	155	28.2	79	271	2.5	134	43	94	34.8	59
Sep-Nov 2019	542	2.8	317	86	138	25.6	78	283	2.6	147	39	97	34.3	66
Dec-Feb 2020	532	2.8	324	81	127	23.9	71	319	2.9	151	57	111	34.7	79
Mar-May 2020	543	2.8	380	56	107	19.7	58	265	2.4	150	37	77	29.2	51
Change on quarter	11	0.1	57	-25	-21	-4.3	-14	-54	-0.5	-1	-20	-33	-5.5	-28
Change %	2.0		17.5	-31.3	-16.2		-19.0	-16.9		-0.5	-34.7	-30.2		-35.8
Change on year	19	0.1	81	-13	-50	-10.2	-36	-11	-0.1	22	-3	-29	-9.6	-12
Change %	3.6		27.1	-18.7	-31.7		-38.1	-3.9		17.2	-8.0	-27.6		-19.2
Men	YBYF	MGXC	YBYI	YBYL	YBYO	YBYR	YBYU	YBYU	YBVX	YBYX	YBZA	YBZD	YBZG	YBZJ
Mar-May 2018	287	2.9	151	44	92	31.9	53	171	3.1	77	25	69	40.1	41
Mar-May 2019	266	2.6	140	36	90	33.7	59	150	2.6	61	23	66	44.2	38
Jun-Aug 2019	272	2.7	147	32	93	34.2	50	159	2.8	73	26	60	37.4	42
Sep-Nov 2019	276	2.7	157	40	78	28.4	48	160	2.8	80	22	59	36.5	41
Dec-Feb 2020	273	2.7	167	42	63	23.3	37	188	3.2	85	35	68	36.2	48
Mar-May 2020	273	2.7	180	37	57	20.7	34	161	2.8	87	21	53	33.0	35
Change on quarter	0	0.0	13	-5	-7	-2.6	-3	-27	-0.4	2	-15	-15	-3.1	-13
Change %	0.2		7.6	-12.5	-11.0		-8.1	-14.3		2.8	-41.1	-21.7		-27.0
Change on year	7	0.1	40	1	-33	-13.1	-25	11	0.2	26	-2	-13	-11.2	-3
Change %	2.8		28.7	1.5	-37.0		-42.6	7.3		42.8	-8.9	-19.8		-7.5
Women	YBYG	MGXD	YBYJ	YBYM	YBYP	YBYS	YBYV	YBYV	YBVY	YBYY	YBZB	YBZE	YBZH	YBZK
Mar-May 2018	299	3.4	172	49	78	26.2	42	131	2.6	62	24	45	34.1	25
Mar-May 2019	258	2.9	159	32	67	25.8	35	125	2.5	67	18	40	32.2	25
Jun-Aug 2019	276	3.1	177	37	62	22.4	29	112	2.2	61	16	35	31.1	18
Sep-Nov 2019	266	3.0	160	46	60	22.6	29	122	2.4	67	17	38	31.3	25
Dec-Feb 2020	259	2.9	156	39	64	24.7	35	131	2.5	66	22	43	32.6	31
Mar-May 2020	269	3.0	200	19	50	18.6	24	104	2.0	63	16	24	23.1	16
Change on quarter	10	0.1	44	-20	-14	-6.0	-11	-27	-0.5	-3	-5	-19	-9.5	-15
Change %	4.0		28.2	-51.9	-21.4		-30.5	-20.7		-4.8	-24.1	-43.8		-49.5
Change on year	11	0.1	41	-13	-16	-7.2	-11	-22	-0.5	-4	-1	-16	-9.0	-9
Change %	4.4		25.8	-41.7	-24.6		-30.7	-17.2		-6.0	-7.0	-40.4		-37.0

Source: Labour Force Survey
Labour market statistics enquiries: labour.market@ons.gov.uk

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY

11 Economic inactivity: reasons

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

	Total aged 16-64									
	Economic inactivity by reason (aged 16 to 64)									Wanting/not wanting a job (aged 16 to 64)
	Student	Looking after family / home	Temp sick	Long-term sick	Discouraged workers	Retired	Other	Does not want job	Wants a job ¹	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
People	LF2M	LF63	LF65	LF67	LF69	LFL8	LF6B	LF6D	LFL9	LFM2
Mar-May 2018	8,662	2,326	2,019	169	2,004	28	1,126	990	6,722	1,940
Mar-May 2019	8,619	2,289	2,014	165	2,016	31	1,120	984	6,776	1,844
Jun-Aug 2019	8,676	2,316	1,980	169	2,069	39	1,120	982	6,792	1,884
Sep-Nov 2019	8,506	2,263	1,934	161	2,065	30	1,114	939	6,646	1,859
Dec-Feb 2020	8,370	2,130	1,840	177	2,112	35	1,122	954	6,522	1,848
Mar-May 2020	8,462	2,087	1,741	166	2,030	45	1,166	1,228	6,361	2,101
Change on quarter	92	-43	-99	-10	-83	9	44	274	-161	253
Change %	1.1	-2.0	-5.4	-5.9	-3.9	26.0	3.9	28.7	-2.5	13.7
Change on year	-157	-202	-273	1	13	14	46	244	-414	257
Change %	-1.8	-8.8	-13.6	0.9	0.7	43.9	4.1	24.8	-6.1	13.9
Men	YBSO	BEEH	BEAQ	BEDI	BEDL	YCFP	BEDR	BEDU	YBWA	YBWD
Mar-May 2018	3,343	1,150	233	82	974	17	460	426	2,535	808
Mar-May 2019	3,368	1,168	224	86	948	20	500	422	2,618	751
Jun-Aug 2019	3,366	1,160	227	73	962	24	508	411	2,598	768
Sep-Nov 2019	3,326	1,147	232	66	961	17	504	399	2,558	767
Dec-Feb 2020	3,281	1,076	226	80	973	24	495	406	2,505	776
Mar-May 2020	3,396	1,052	222	81	915	25	537	562	2,459	937
Change on quarter	115	-24	-3	1	-58	1	42	155	-46	161
Change %	3.5	-2.2	-1.4	1.4	-6.0	5.4	8.5	38.2	-1.9	20.8
Change on year	27	-116	-1	-5	-32	5	36	140	-159	186
Change %	0.8	-9.9	-0.6	-5.8	-3.4	24.5	7.3	33.2	-6.1	24.7
Women	LF2N	LF64	LF66	LF68	LF6A	LFM3	LF6C	LF6E	LFM4	LFM5
Mar-May 2018	5,319	1,176	1,785	87	1,030	11	666	564	4,187	1,132
Mar-May 2019	5,251	1,122	1,790	78	1,069	11	619	562	4,158	1,093
Jun-Aug 2019	5,310	1,156	1,753	95	1,107	15	612	571	4,194	1,116
Sep-Nov 2019	5,180	1,116	1,702	95	1,104	13	610	539	4,088	1,092
Dec-Feb 2020	5,089	1,054	1,614	96	1,139	11	627	547	4,017	1,072
Mar-May 2020	5,067	1,035	1,518	85	1,114	19	629	666	3,902	1,164
Change on quarter	-22	-19	-96	-11	-24	8	2	119	-114	92
Change %	-0.4	-1.8	-5.9	-11.9	-2.1	69.0	0.3	21.7	-2.8	8.6
Change on year	-184	-87	-272	6	46	9	10	104	-256	71
Change %	-3.5	-7.7	-15.2	8.2	4.3	80.5	1.6	18.4	-6.1	6.5
Percentage of economically inactive aged from 16 to 64 (%)										
People	LF6V	LF6X	LF6Z	LF73	LF75	LF77	LF79	LF7B	LF7D	LF7F
Mar-May 2018	100.0	26.9	23.3	1.9	23.1	0.3	13.0	11.4	77.6	22.4
Mar-May 2019	100.0	26.6	23.4	1.9	23.4	0.4	13.0	11.4	78.6	21.4
Jun-Aug 2019	100.0	26.7	22.8	1.9	23.8	0.5	12.9	11.3	78.3	21.7
Sep-Nov 2019	100.0	26.6	22.7	1.9	24.3	0.4	13.1	11.0	78.1	21.9
Dec-Feb 2020	100.0	25.5	22.0	2.1	25.2	0.4	13.4	11.4	77.9	22.1
Mar-May 2020	100.0	24.7	20.6	2.0	24.0	0.5	13.8	14.5	75.2	24.8
Men	BEBP	BEEH	BEEK	BEEN	BEEQ	BEET	BEEW	BEEZ	BEAS	BEGT
Mar-May 2018	100.0	34.4	7.0	2.5	29.1	0.5	13.8	12.8	75.8	24.2
Mar-May 2019	100.0	34.7	6.6	2.6	28.1	0.6	14.9	12.5	77.7	22.3
Jun-Aug 2019	100.0	34.5	6.7	2.2	28.6	0.7	15.1	12.2	77.2	22.8
Sep-Nov 2019	100.0	34.5	7.0	2.0	28.9	0.5	15.1	12.0	76.9	23.1
Dec-Feb 2020	100.0	32.8	6.9	2.4	29.7	0.7	15.1	12.4	76.4	23.6
Mar-May 2020	100.0	31.0	6.6	2.4	27.0	0.7	15.8	16.5	72.4	27.6
Women	LF6W	LF6Y	LF72	LF74	LF76	LF78	LF7A	LF7C	LF7E	LF7G
Mar-May 2018	100.0	22.1	33.6	1.6	19.4	0.2	12.5	10.6	78.7	21.3
Mar-May 2019	100.0	21.4	34.1	1.5	20.4	0.2	11.8	10.7	79.2	20.8
Jun-Aug 2019	100.0	21.8	33.0	1.8	20.8	0.3	11.5	10.8	79.0	21.0
Sep-Nov 2019	100.0	21.6	32.9	1.8	21.3	0.2	11.8	10.4	78.9	21.1
Dec-Feb 2020	100.0	20.7	31.7	1.9	22.4	0.2	12.3	10.8	78.9	21.1
Mar-May 2020	100.0	20.4	30.0	1.7	22.0	0.4	12.4	13.1	77.0	23.0

Data Source: Labour Force Survey.

Labour market statistics enquiries: labour.market@ons.gov.uk

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY

12 Educational status, economic activity and inactivity of people aged from 16 to 24

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

	All aged 16 to 24				In full-time education (FTE)				Not in full-time education (FTE) ¹					
	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	Employed ²	Unemployed ²	Economically inactive	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Economically inactive		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Levels														
People														
	16-17	1,420	320	108	992	1,197	245	74	877	223	74	34	115	
	18-24	5,458	3,465	432	1,561	1,721	621	117	983	3,737	2,844	315	578	
	16-24	6,878	3,785	540	2,553	2,918	866	192	1,860	3,960	2,918	348	693	
Men														
	16-17	727	156	65	507	607	112	44	451	121	44	21	56	
	18-24	2,787	1,786	225	776	812	260	37	514	1,975	1,526	188	261	
	16-24	3,514	1,942	290	1,282	1,418	372	81	965	2,096	1,570	209	317	
Women														
	16-17	693	164	43	486	590	134	31	426	102	30	12	60	
	18-24	2,671	1,679	207	785	909	361	80	469	1,762	1,318	127	317	
	16-24	3,364	1,843	250	1,271	1,500	494	111	895	1,864	1,349	139	376	
Changes on quarter														
People														
	16-17	7	-18	2	22	-28	-21	6	-13	34	3	-4	35	
	18-24	-11	-22	24	-13	-42	-43	29	-28	31	22	-5	15	
	16-24	-4	-39	26	9	-69	-64	36	-41	65	25	-9	50	
Men														
	16-17	3	8	3	-7	-8	5	7	-20	11	3	-4	12	
	18-24	-6	-8	-15	18	-19	-19	-5	5	13	11	-10	13	
	16-24	-2	-1	-12	11	-26	-14	2	-14	24	13	-14	25	
Women														
	16-17	3	-26	-1	30	-20	-26	0	7	23	1	0	23	
	18-24	-5	-13	39	-31	-23	-24	34	-33	18	11	5	2	
	16-24	-2	-39	38	-1	-43	-50	34	-26	41	11	5	25	
Rates(%) ³														
People														
	16-17		22.5	25.2	69.9		20.5	23.2	73.3		33.3	31.1	51.7	
	18-24		63.5	11.1	28.6		36.1	15.9	57.1		76.1	10.0	15.5	
	16-24		55.0	12.5	37.1		29.7	18.1	63.7		73.7	10.7	17.5	
Men														
	16-17		21.4	29.3	69.7		18.5	28.0	74.4		36.3	32.5	46.2	
	18-24		64.1	11.2	27.8		32.0	12.6	63.4		77.3	11.0	13.2	
	16-24		55.3	13.0	36.5		26.2	17.9	68.1		74.9	11.8	15.1	
Women														
	16-17		23.7	20.9	70.1		22.6	18.7	72.2		29.7	29.0	58.2	
	18-24		62.9	11.0	29.4		39.7	18.1	51.6		74.8	8.8	18.0	
	16-24		54.8	11.9	37.8		33.0	18.3	59.7		72.4	9.4	20.2	
Changes on quarter														
People														
	16-17		-1.4	1.4	1.2		-1.2	2.9	0.6		-4.4	-3.3	9.2	
	18-24		-0.3	0.6	-0.2		-1.6	4.2	-0.2		-0.1	-0.2	0.3	
	16-24		-0.5	0.6	0.2		-1.5	3.8	0.1		-0.6	-0.3	1.0	
Men														
	16-17		1.0	-0.1	-1.4		1.1	2.4	-2.3		-1.3	-5.2	6.5	
	18-24		-0.2	-0.6	0.7		-1.6	-0.5	2.1		0.0	-0.6	0.6	
	16-24		0.0	-0.5	0.3		-0.5	0.9	0.2		-0.2	-0.8	1.0	
Women														
	16-17		-3.8	2.1	4.0		-3.6	2.4	3.5		-8.1	-0.4	11.7	
	18-24		-0.4	1.9	-1.1		-1.6	7.5	-2.3		-0.1	0.2	-0.1	
	16-24		-1.1	1.8	0.0		-2.3	5.9	-0.1		-1.0	0.2	0.9	

Relationship between columns: 1=5+9; 2=6+10; 3=7+11.

Source: Labour Force Survey

Labour market statistics enquiries: labour.market@ons.gov.uk

1. Not in full-time education includes people in part-time education and/or some form of training. Estimates of the number of young people who were not in employment, education or training ("NEET") cannot therefore be derived from this table. Estimates of young people who were NEET are published separately at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/bulletins/youngpeoplenotineducationemploymentortrainingneet/latest>

2. People in full-time education are employed if they have a part-time job or unemployed if they are looking for part-time employment.

3. Denominator = all persons in the relevant age group for economically active, total in employment and economically inactive; economically active for unemployment.