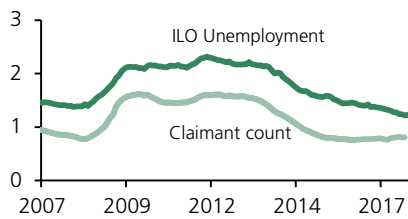




## C2: Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment is the headline measure of unemployment in the UK. Another measure is the claimant count – the number of people claiming unemployment benefits (namely, Jobseeker’s Allowance or people claiming Universal Credit who are required to seek work).<sup>1</sup>

**Unemployment; UK**  
Millions, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



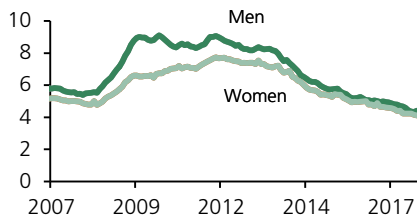
1.43 million people in the UK were unemployed on the ILO definition in August- October 2017, down 26,000 on the previous quarter and down 182,000 on the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 4.3% (the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed), down 0.1% points from the previous quarter and down 0.6% points from the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 4.3% (the percentage of the

Unemployment has been falling over the past few years and the unemployment rate is now at its joint lowest point since 1975.

**Unemployment Rate; UK**  
%, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



There were 783,000 men unemployed in August- October 2017, down slightly on the previous quarter and down 103,000 from a year earlier.

647,000 women were unemployed, down 21,000 on the previous quarter and down 80,000 from a year earlier.

523,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in August- October 2017, down 60,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 12.0%, down from 13.0% the year before.

**UK Unemployment**  
Seasonally adjusted

Age	Total		Men		Women		Youth	
	000's 16+	% 16+	000's 16+	% 16+	000's 16+	% 16+	000's 16-24	% 16-24
Aug-Oct 2014	1,952	6.0	1,086	6.2	866	5.7	757	16.6
Aug-Oct 2015	1,713	5.2	936	5.3	777	5.0	624	13.6
Aug-Oct 2016	1,612	4.8	885	5.0	726	4.7	583	13.0
May-Jul 2017	1,455	4.3	788	4.4	667	4.2	528	11.9
Aug-Oct 2017	1,429	4.3	783	4.4	647	4.1	523	12.0
<i>Change on qtr</i>								
Level	-26	-0.1	-5	0.0	-21	-0.1	-5	0.1
%	-1.8%		-0.7%		-3.1%		-1.0%	
<i>Change on yr</i>								
Level	-182	-0.6	-103	-0.6	-80	-0.5	-60	-1.0
%	-11.3%		-11.6%		-11.0%		-10%	

Source: ONS Labour Market Statistics, A05, A06,

Notes: The unemployment rate is a percentage of the economically active population unemployed

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### Updates

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 24 January 2018

<sup>1</sup> The introduction of Universal Credit is having an impact on claimant count statistics. For more information please see the Library’s briefing [Universal Credit and the claimant count](#).