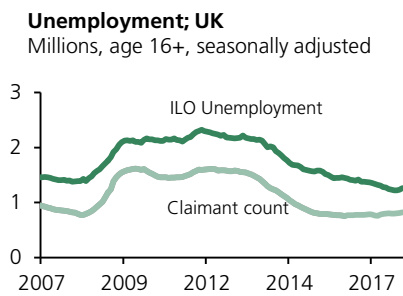




C2: Unemployment

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).¹

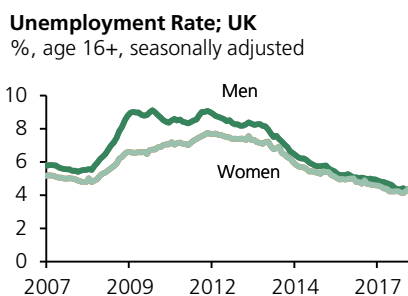


1.47 million people in the UK were unemployed on the ILO definition between October and December 2017, up 46,000 on the previous quarter but down 123,000 on the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 4.4% (the percentage of the economically active population

who are unemployed), up 0.1% points on the previous quarter but down 0.4% points from the previous year.

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



There were 782,000 men unemployed between October and December 2017, up 11,000 on the previous quarter but down 94,000 from a year earlier. 689,000 women were unemployed, up 35,000 on the previous quarter but down 30,000 from a year earlier.

547,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in October- December 2017, up 30,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 12.5%, down from 12.6% the year before.

UK Unemployment
Seasonally adjusted

Age	Total		Men		Women		Youth		
	000's	%	000's	%	000's	%	000's	%	
	16+	16+	16+	16+	16+	16+	16-24	16-24	
Oct-Dec 2014	1,872	5.7	1,042	6.0	830	5.4	751	16.4	
Oct-Dec 2015	1,692	5.1	923	5.2	769	5.0	628	13.7	
Oct-Dec 2016	1,594	4.8	876	4.9	718	4.6	568	12.6	
Jul-Sep 2017	1,425	4.3	770	4.3	654	4.2	517	11.9	
Oct-Dec 2017	1,470	4.4	782	4.4	689	4.4	547	12.5	
<i>Change on qtr</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0.6</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>3.2%</i>		<i>1.5%</i>		<i>5.3%</i>		<i>5.9%</i>	
<i>Change on yr</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>-123</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-94</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>-20</i>	<i>-0.1</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>-7.7%</i>		<i>-10.7%</i>		<i>-4.1%</i>		<i>-4%</i>	

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](#), 21 March 2018

¹ 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](#).