

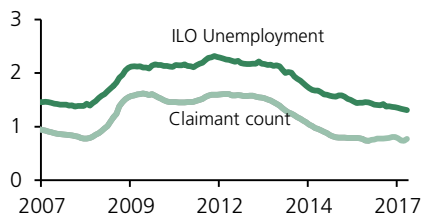


C2: Unemployment

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

Unemployment; UK

Millions, age 16+, seasonally adjusted



ILO unemployment was 1.53 million people in the UK in February - April 2017, down 50,000 on the previous quarter and down 145,000 from the previous year.

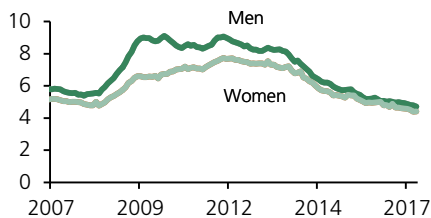
The unemployment rate was 4.6% (the percentage of the

economically active population who are unemployed), down 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter and down 0.5 percentage points on February - April 2016.

Unemployment has generally been falling over the last few years. The unemployment rate is now at the joint lowest point it has been since 1975.²

Unemployment Rate; UK

% , age 16+, seasonally adjusted



There were 840,000 men unemployed in February - April 2017, down 26,000 on the previous quarter and 58,000 from a year earlier. 690,000 women were unemployed, down 24,000 on the previous quarter and down 87,000 from a year earlier.

564,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in February - April 2017, down 57,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 12.5%, down from 13.6% a 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
Feb-Apr 2014	2,167	6.6	1,207	6.9	960	6.3	848	18.3
Feb-Apr 2015	1,822	5.5	1,010	5.8	812	5.3	734	16.0
Feb-Apr 2016	1,676	5.0	898	5.1	778	5.0	621	13.6
Nov-Jan 2017	1,580	4.7	866	4.9	714	4.6	554	12.3
Feb-Apr 2017	1,530	4.6	840	4.7	690	4.4	564	12.5
<i>Change on qtr</i>								
<i>Level</i>	-50	-0.2	-26	-0.2	-24	-0.2	10	0.2
<i>%</i>	-3.2%		-3.0%		-3.3%		1.8%	
<i>Change on yr</i>								
<i>Level</i>	-145	-0.5	-58	-0.3	-87	-0.6	-57	-1.1
<i>%</i>	-8.7%		-6.5%		-11.2%		-9%	

Source: ONS Labour Market Statistics, A05, A06, CLA01

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

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Updates

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 12 July 2017

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](#)

² Since records began in 1971.

BRIEFING PAPER

Number , 30 April 2015

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