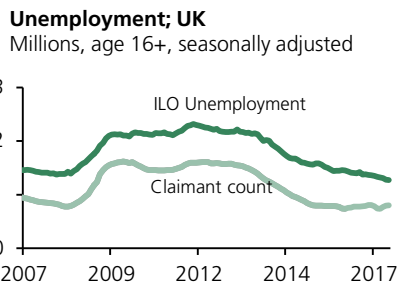


## C2: Unemployment

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>

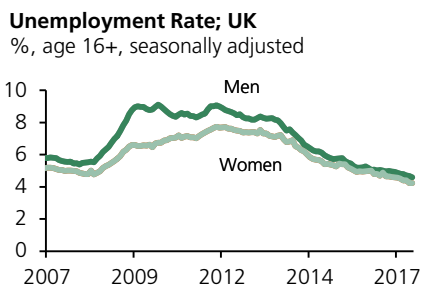


ILO unemployment was 1.48 million people in the UK in April - June 2017, down 57,000 on the previous quarter and down 157,000 from the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 4.4% (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 April - June 2016.

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

Unemployment has generally been falling over the last few years. The unemployment rate is now at its lowest point since 1975.<sup>2</sup>



There were 818,000 men unemployed in April - June 2017, down 34,000 on the previous quarter and 74,000 from a year earlier. 666,000 women were unemployed, down 23,000 on the previous quarter and down 83,000 from a year earlier.

545,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in April - June 2017, down 78,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 12.2%, down from 13.6% a year before.

**UK Unemployment**  
Seasonally adjusted

| Age                  | Total        |              | Men          |             | Women         |             | Youth          |             |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
|                      | 000's<br>16+ | %<br>16+     | 000's<br>16+ | %<br>16+    | 000's<br>16+  | %<br>16+    | 000's<br>16-24 | %<br>16-24  |
| Apr-Jun 2014         | 2,061        | 6.3          | 1,140        | 6.5         | 921           | 6.0         | 764            | 16.7        |
| Apr-Jun 2015         | 1,848        | 5.6          | 1,015        | 5.8         | 832           | 5.4         | 727            | 15.8        |
| Apr-Jun 2016         | 1,640        | 4.9          | 892          | 5.0         | 749           | 4.8         | 623            | 13.6        |
| Jan-Mar 2017         | 1,541        | 4.6          | 852          | 4.8         | 688           | 4.4         | 562            | 12.5        |
| Apr-Jun 2017         | 1,484        | 4.4          | 818          | 4.6         | 666           | 4.2         | 545            | 12.2        |
| <i>Change on qtr</i> | <i>Level</i> | <i>-57</i>   | <i>-34</i>   | <i>-0.2</i> | <i>-23</i>    | <i>-0.2</i> | <i>-17</i>     | <i>-0.3</i> |
|                      | <i>%</i>     | <i>-3.7%</i> | <i>-4.0%</i> |             | <i>-3.3%</i>  |             | <i>-3.1%</i>   |             |
| <i>Change on yr</i>  | <i>Level</i> | <i>-157</i>  | <i>-74</i>   | <i>-0.4</i> | <i>-83</i>    | <i>-0.6</i> | <i>-78</i>     | <i>-1.4</i> |
|                      | <i>%</i>     | <i>-9.5%</i> | <i>-8.3%</i> |             | <i>-11.1%</i> |             | <i>-13%</i>    |             |

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

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

<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](#)

<sup>2</sup> Since records began in 1971.

### Subject Specialist

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### Updates

ONS, [Labour Market Statistics](#), 13  
September 2017

## BRIEFING PAPER

Number , 30 April 2015

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