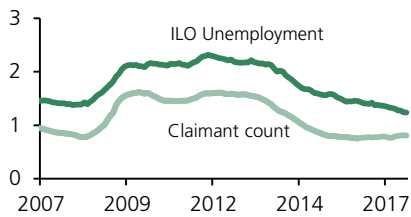


C2: Unemployment

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

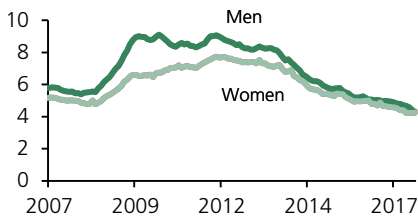


1.44 million people in the UK were unemployed on the ILO definition in June-August 2017, down 52,000 on the previous quarter and down 215,000 on the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 4.3% (the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed), down 0.2% points from the previous quarter and down 0.7% points from the previous year.

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 775,000 men unemployed in June-August 2017, down 56,000 on the previous quarter and down 118,000 from a year earlier. 668,000 women were unemployed, up 4,000 on the previous quarter and down 98,000 from a year earlier.

524,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in June-August 2017, down 97,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 11.9%, down from 13.7% 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
Jun-Aug 2014	1,968	6.0	1,094	6.3	874	5.7	732	16.0
Jun-Aug 2015	1,772	5.4	970	5.5	802	5.2	674	14.6
Jun-Aug 2016	1,658	5.0	893	5.0	765	4.9	621	13.7
Mar-May 2017	1,495	4.5	831	4.7	664	4.2	562	12.5
Jun-Aug 2017	1,443	4.3	775	4.4	668	4.2	524	11.9
<i>Change on qtr</i>								
<i>Level</i>	-52	-0.2	-56	-0.3	4	0.0	-38	-0.6
<i>%</i>	-3.5%		-6.8%		0.6%		-6.8%	
<i>Change on yr</i>								
<i>Level</i>	-215	-0.7	-118	-0.6	-98	-0.7	-97	-1.7
<i>%</i>	-13.0%		-13.2%		-12.7%		-16%	

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](#), 15
November 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](#).