



# Unemployment by constituency, March 2013

RESEARCH PAPER 13/23 20 March 2013

**Various changes were made to the format of this paper from last month's edition. The paper now includes a single data table instead of two. The denominators used to calculate claimant rates for constituencies were also revised, in line with new data from the 2011 Census.**

This paper contains labour market figures for parliamentary constituencies, as well as a summary of the latest national and regional statistics.

- The **number of people claiming JSA** decreased by 1,500 between January and February 2013 to 1.54 million people aged 18 or over.
- The **wider ILO measure of unemployment** was 2.52 million in the period November 2012 to January 2013, an increase of 7,000 from the last quarter but down 136,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate was 7.8%.
- The **number of people in employment** was 29.73 million in November 2012 to January 2013, an all-time high. Employment increased by 131,000 compared to the previous quarter and 590,000 on the previous year. The **employment rate** (the proportion of the population aged 16-64 in work) was 71.5%. This compares to a pre-recession level of 73.0% in March-May 2008.
- The number of **economically inactive people** aged 16-64 was 8.95 million in November 2012 to January 2013, down 118,000 compared to the last quarter and down 320,000 compared to the previous year.

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## Research Paper 13/23

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We welcome comments on our papers; these should be e-mailed to [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk).

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Various changes were made to the format of this paper in the February 2013 edition. The paper now includes a single data table instead of two. The denominators used to calculate claimant rates for constituencies were also revised, in line with new data from the 2011 Census. Therefore the rates shown in editions of *Unemployment by Constituency* from February 2013 onwards are not comparable with those shown in previous editions.

Statistics on Jobcentre Plus vacancies are no longer published following the introduction of a new job search service by DWP from 19 November 2012.

### Publication

*Unemployment by Constituency* is published every month, on the same day that the Office for National Statistics publishes new data on the labour market (a Wednesday in the middle of the month). The next edition will be published on 17 April 2013.

On the day that new labour market statistics are published, an email alert is sent out to every Member with the latest headline unemployment figures for their constituency. Members' staff can also sign up for this email – please contact Aliyah Dar on x5919 to be added to the list.

### Requests for further information and Feedback

For further information or statistics on the labour market, Members and their staff can contact Feargal McGuinness on x4904.

If you have any comments or suggestions about *Unemployment by Constituency*, please contact Feargal McGuinness on x4904.

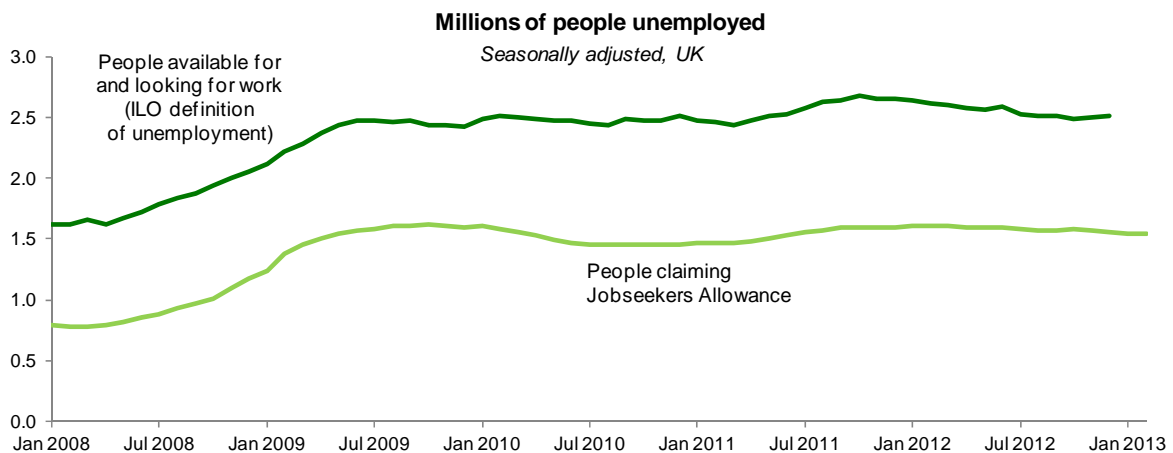


## 1 Employment and unemployment – national

Statistics on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants are one part of a large selection of labour market data released on a monthly basis.<sup>1</sup> This section highlights some of the key national figures in the latest labour market release.

### Unemployment

- The **number of people claiming JSA** decreased by 1,500 between January and February 2013, to 1.54 million people aged 18 or over.<sup>2</sup> It is 67,500 lower (4.2% lower) than in February 2012.
- The number of **men claiming JSA** decreased by 900 between January and February 2013 to 1.01 million. The number of **female** claimants decreased by 600 to 534,000.



- The wider **ILO measure of unemployment** was 2.52 million in the period November 2012 to January 2013, an increase of 7,000 from the last quarter but down 136,000 from the same period a year ago.<sup>3</sup>
- The **unemployment rate** – the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed – was 7.8% in November 2012 to January 2013, unchanged from the last quarter and 0.5% points lower than the same period a year before.
- **Male unemployment** was virtually unchanged (+1,000) over the last quarter, but fell by 98,000 over the last year, to 1.43 million in November 2012 to January 2013.

**Measuring unemployment:** two sets of statistics are used to measure unemployment:

**The claimant count** – the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance. This is the most up to date information and is available for local areas, but can be affected by changes to benefit rules.

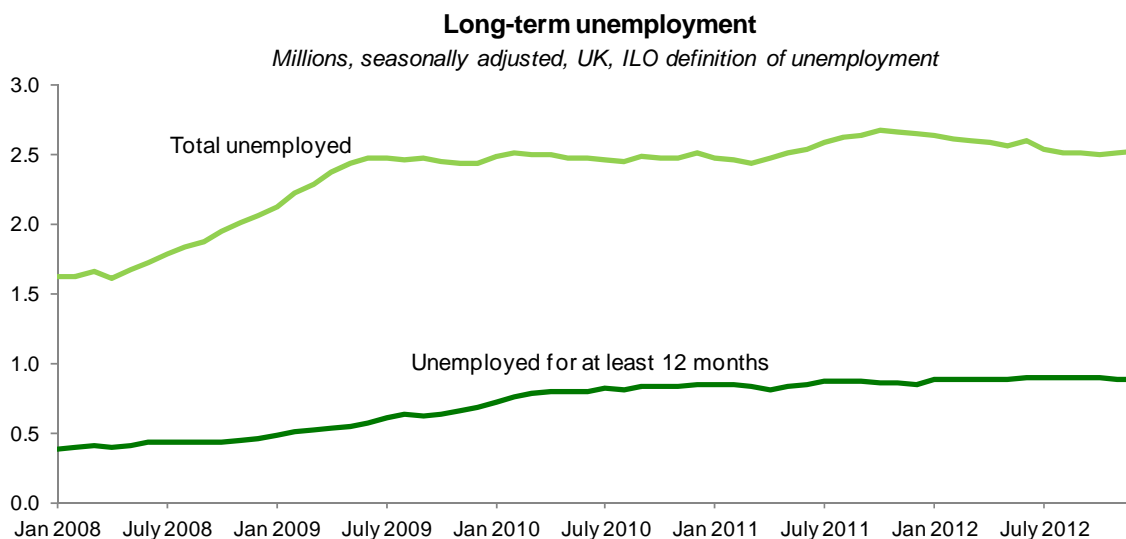
**ILO unemployment** – the standard international measure, which includes everyone looking for and available for work, whether or not they are claiming Jobseekers Allowance. This is measured using surveys; data for constituencies and local authorities have a time lag and are subject to more sampling variation.

<sup>1</sup> The latest labour market release is available from the [ONS website](#). This section is based on data from this release and [local labour market statistics from NOMIS](#). The figures used in this section are seasonally adjusted in general.

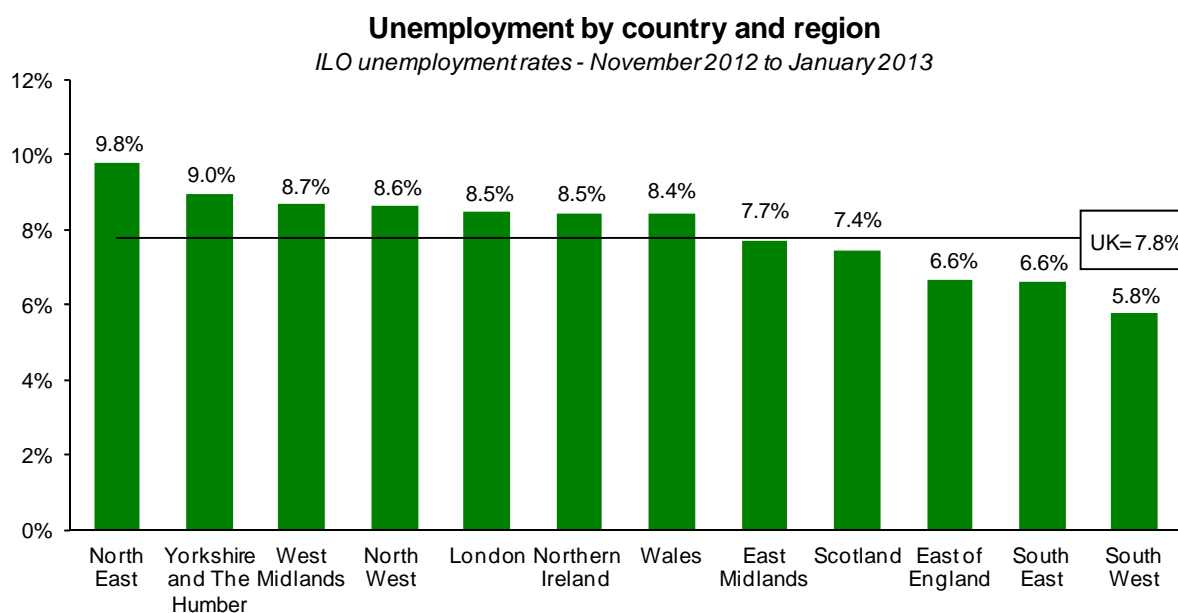
<sup>2</sup> Figures for claimants aged 18+ are seasonally adjusted to remove the effects of changes to the claimant count that tend to happen every year. JSA data for constituencies later in this paper are not seasonally adjusted. Section 2 looks at patterns and trends in the non-seasonally adjusted constituency data.

<sup>3</sup> Much of the data in this section, such as ILO unemployment and employment, are based on estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As these are liable to sampling variability, small changes in the figures should be interpreted with caution as they may be a result of sampling error. More information on sampling variability is available from [table A11 of the labour market statistical section of the ONS website](#).

- 1.09 million **women** were unemployed in November 2012 to January 2013, up very slightly (+5,000) from the previous quarter but down 37,000 over the last year.
- In November 2012 to January 2013, 993,000 **people aged 16-24** were unemployed, 48,000 more than in the previous quarter but down 45,000 on the previous year. The unemployment rate for this age group was 21.2% of the economically active population, up by 0.9% points on the last quarter but down by 1.1% points compared with a year ago.



- The number of people who have been **unemployed for longer than twelve months** was 887,000 in November 2012 to January 2013, down 16,000 on the previous quarter but up 35,000 on the previous year.
- 451,000 people had been **unemployed for longer than two years** in November 2012 to January 2013, virtually unchanged (+2,000) compared to the last quarter but 46,000 more than in the same period a year before.

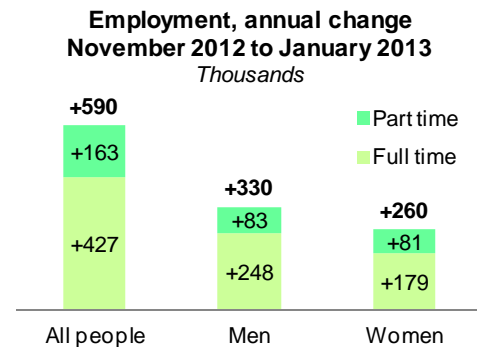


- On a **country and regional** basis the unemployment rate was highest in the North East (9.8%) in November 2012 to January 2013. ILO unemployment fell by 1.6% points in

London over the last year, the largest decrease of any country or region. The second largest annual decrease was in Scotland (down 1.1% points).

### Employment

- The number of people in **employment** increased by 131,000 over the last quarter and by 590,000 over the last year to 29.73 million in November 2012 to January 2013. The employment rate (the proportion of the population in work) for those aged 16-64 was 71.5%, up 0.3% points from the last quarter and up 1.1% points from the year before. This compares to a pre-recession level of 73.0% in March to May 2008.
- The number of people in **full-time employment** was 21.68 million in November 2012 to January 2013, 195,000 more than in the previous quarter and up 427,000 on year ago.
- The number of people **employed part-time** in November 2012 to January 2013 was 8.06 million, a decrease of 64,000 compared to the previous quarter but up 163,000 on the year before. The number of people working in **part-time jobs because they could not find a full-time job** was 1.40 million – 17.7% of all part-time workers. This is 6,000 fewer than in the last quarter but 12,000 more than the same period last year.
- **Public sector employment** fell by 20,000 over the last quarter to 5.72 million, while **private sector employment** increased by 151,000 over the last quarter to 24.01 million in December 2012. Compared to the same period a year ago, public sector employment fell by 313,000 and private sector employment rose by 904,000. However these annual changes are affected by the reclassification of English FE colleges in Q2 2012, which resulted in 196,000 employees being reclassified from the public to the private sector.



### Inactivity

- 8.95 million people aged 16-64 were **economically inactive** (not in work and not looking for work) in the period November 2012 to January 2013, 22.3% of the population in this age group – the lowest proportion since 1991. The economically inactive population decreased by 118,000 on the previous quarter and 320,000 on the previous year.

### Vacancies

- There were 494,000 **job vacancies** in the three months to February 2013, up 2,000 compared with the previous quarter and 30,000 higher than a year before.

### Earnings

- Average weekly **total pay** rose by 1.2% in the period November 2012 to January 2013 in Great Britain compared with the same period the year before. Bonus pay was up by 0.9%, while regular pay (which excludes bonuses) increased by 1.2%.
- Average weekly total pay in the private sector rose by 1.1% in the period November 2012 to January 2013 compared with the same period the year before. In the public sector (including financial services) pay rose by 2.0%. Note that these figures are affected slightly by reclassification of certain further education bodies from the public to the private sector – more details are available from the [ONS labour market bulletin](#).

## 2 Analysis and maps of unemployment for constituencies

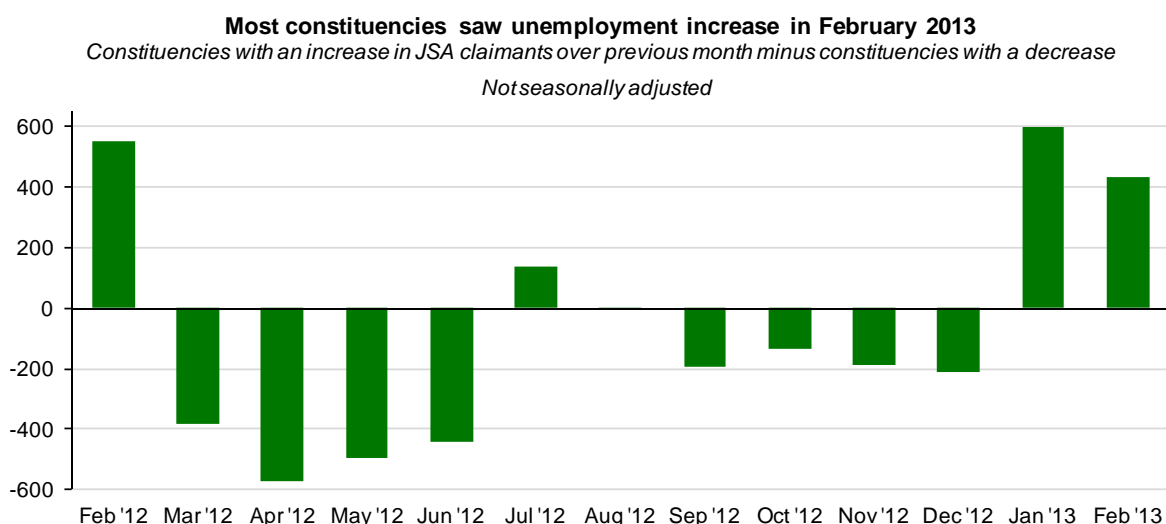
Statistics on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants are released monthly for each constituency. Unlike the national figures shown earlier in the paper, these figures are not seasonally adjusted and so reflect changes to the claimant count that tend to happen every year. On this non-seasonally adjusted basis, the number of people in the UK claiming Jobseekers Allowance in February 2013 was 1.61 million, up 32,000 (+2.0%) on the previous month but down 72,200 (-4.3%) on a year before.<sup>4</sup> National data taking the seasonal factors into account show that the claimant count fell by 1,500 between January and February.

The tables in Section 3 show figures for each constituency on this basis, along with figures for countries and regions (at the end of each of the tables).

### 2.1 Rises and falls for constituencies

Over the last year, between February 2012 and February 2013, the claimant count increased in 109 constituencies (17%) and decreased in 540 constituencies (83%). Over the last month, between January and February 2013, 541 constituencies (83%) recorded an increase whereas the claimant count decreased in 105 constituencies (16%).

The chart below shows the balance of constituencies that have experienced an increase or decrease in the claimant count over each month in the past year.



### 2.2 Maps

The following pages contain maps showing how the claimant count varies across the UK. The first map shows the areas which have the highest proportion of economically active people claiming JSA – these include Birmingham, the South Wales Valleys and parts of West and South Yorkshire. The second map shows how the number of people claiming JSA in each constituency has changed over the last year. Areas with some of the largest increases include Northern Ireland and the North East.

<sup>4</sup> Seasonally adjusted figures are given in the first section.

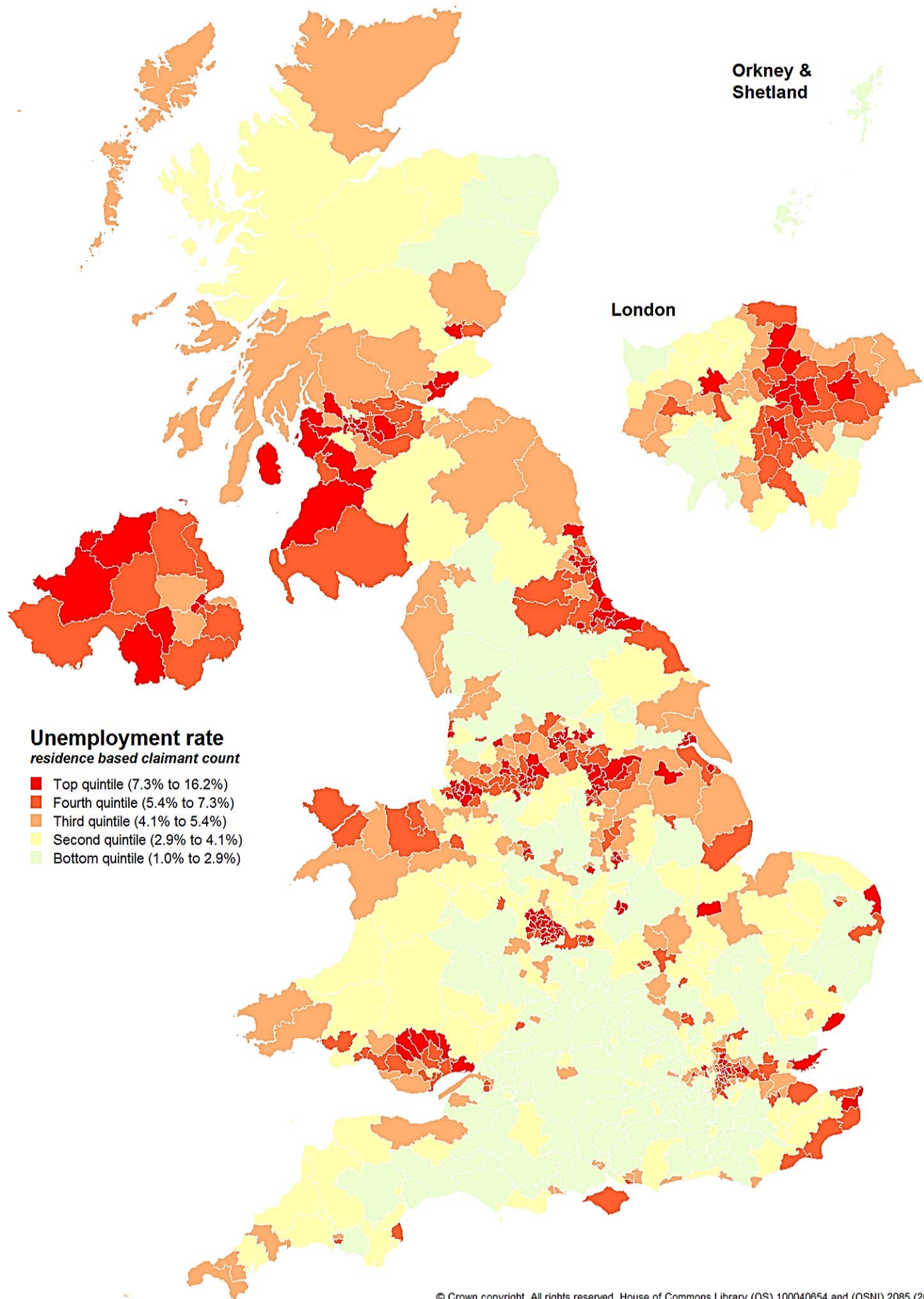
Figures on the number of claimants of Jobseekers Allowance are affected by changes to benefit rules – see Section 4.3 of a discussion of recent changes, which affect (a) lone parents and (b) long-term claimants (especially young people).



# Unemployment by constituency in February 2013

Constituencies in United Kingdom

Library residence-based claimant rate, expressed as quintile groups (20% bands)

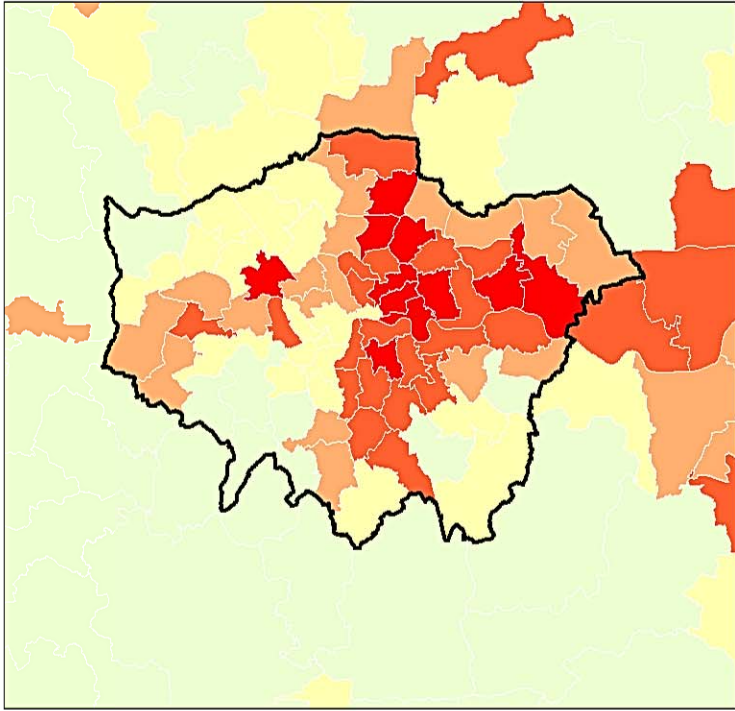


# Unemployment by constituency in February 2013

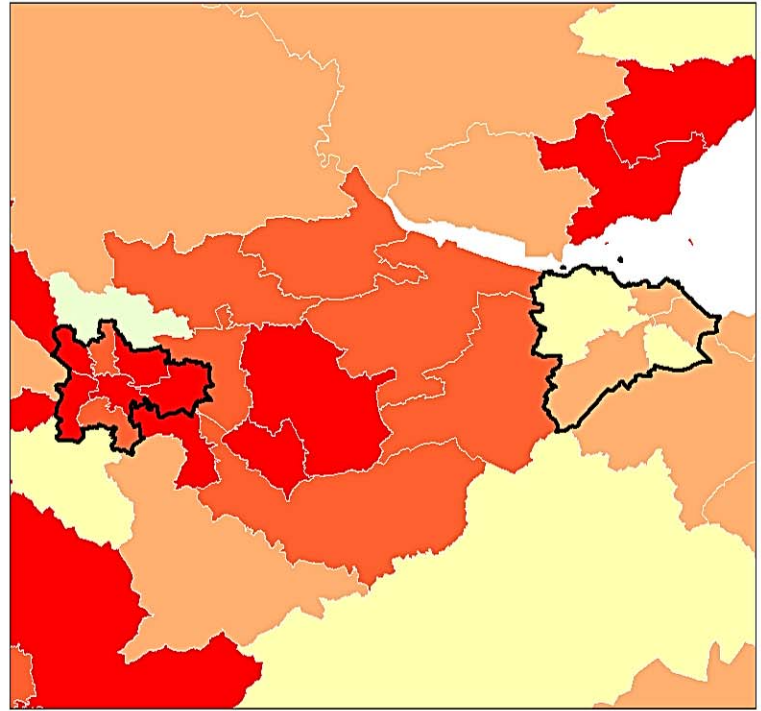
Selected major conubations and surrounding areas - not to scale

Library residence-based claimant rate, expressed as quintile groups (20% bands)

## Greater London



## Edinburgh and Glasgow

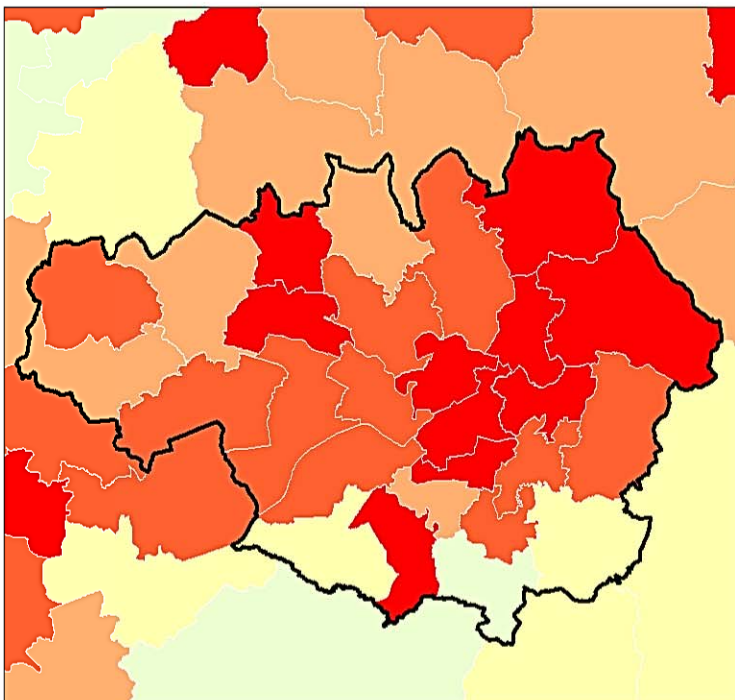


### Unemployment rate

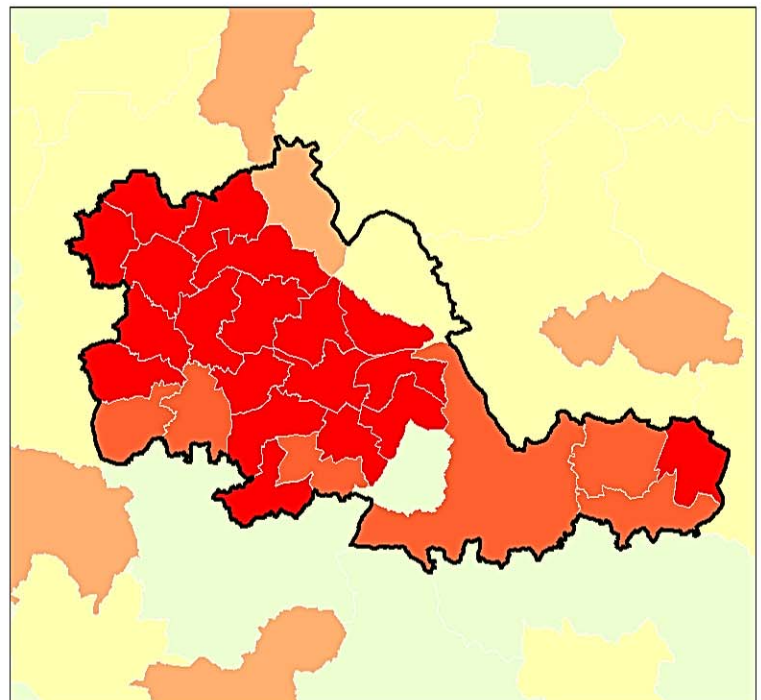
residence based claimant count

- Top quintile (7.3% to 16.2%)
- Fourth quintile (5.4% to 7.3%)
- Third quintile (4.1% to 5.4%)
- Second quintile (2.9% to 4.1%)
- Bottom quintile (1.0% to 2.9%)

## Greater Manchester



## West Midlands







## 2.3 Highest and lowest claimant numbers and claimant rates

The tables show the constituencies ranking highest and lowest in terms of the claimant rate and claimant numbers.

Claimant rate			Number of claimants		
		Claimant rate			Number of claimants
1	Birmingham, Ladywood	16.2%	1	Birmingham, Ladywood	8,950
2	Birmingham, Hodge Hill	15.6%	2	Leeds Central	7,594
3	Belfast West	14.9%	3	Birmingham, Hodge Hill	6,871
4	Middlesbrough	14.6%	4	West Ham	6,402
5	Foyle	13.6%	5	Tottenham	6,332
6	Belfast North	12.7%	6	Middlesbrough	6,027
7	Bradford West	12.5%	7	Foyle	5,943
8	Nottingham North	12.3%	8	Manchester Central	5,931
9	Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	12.2%	9	Brent Central	5,826
10	Liverpool, Walton	12.1%	10	Bradford West	5,728
:	:	:	:	:	:
641	Wokingham	1.6%	641	Derbyshire Dales	712
642	North Dorset	1.6%	642	Wyre and Preston North	711
643	Westmorland and Lonsdale	1.6%	643	North East Hampshire	673
644	Buckingham	1.6%	644	Westmorland and Lonsdale	652
645	Mid Sussex	1.5%	645	Henley	650
646	Kenilworth and Southam	1.4%	646	Kenilworth and Southam	580
647	North East Hampshire	1.3%	647	Gordon	568
648	Henley	1.3%	648	Na h-Eileanan An Iar	519
649	Gordon	1.0%	649	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	468
650	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	0.9%	650	Orkney and Shetland	402

Claimant rate is calculated as the number of claimants divided by the estimated economically active population aged 16-64.

Claimants aged 18-24			Claims of duration over 12 months		
		Number			Number
1	Birmingham, Hodge Hill	2,045	1	Birmingham, Ladywood	3,410
2	Birmingham, Ladywood	2,005	2	Leeds Central	2,460
3	Leeds Central	1,970	3	Middlesbrough	2,355
4	Middlesbrough	1,745	4	Birmingham, Hodge Hill	2,310
5	Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough	1,710	5	Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	2,070
6	Bradford West	1,680	6	Kingston upon Hull North	2,050
7	Foyle	1,670	7	Kingston upon Hull East	1,940
=7	Nottingham North	1,670	8	Camberwell and Peckham	1,875
9	Bradford East	1,660	9	Foyle	1,865
10	Belfast West	1,615	10	Tottenham	1,855
:	:	:	:	:	:
641	Stratford-on-Avon	160	641	South West Devon	110
=641	Buckingham	160	642	Gordon	105
=641	North East Hampshire	160	643	Stratford-on-Avon	90
644	Kenilworth and Southam	150	=643	Kenilworth and Southam	90
645	Mole Valley	145	=643	North East Hampshire	90
646	Gordon	140	646	Mid Dorset and North Poole	85
647	Henley	135	=646	West Dorset	85
648	Orkney and Shetland	120	648	Orkney and Shetland	80
=648	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	120	649	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	75
650	Na h-Eileanan An Iar	95	650	Westmorland and Lonsdale	70

Figures for claimants aged 18-24 and claims of duration over 12 months are rounded to the nearest five.













































## 4 Information about sources, methods and copyright

### 4.1 Sources and copyright

The original source for all data in this paper is the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Changes over time, rankings, the ratio of JSA claimants to vacancies and the 'Library rate' have been calculated by the Library. The specific source for data is shown below:

- JSA claimant count: non-seasonally adjusted data, downloaded from NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>. As unemployment has a seasonal pattern, comparisons should be made using the same month in each year. Data for constituencies are available from 2004 onwards.
- *Claimant rate* is the number of claimants as a proportion of the resident economically active population aged 16 to 64, as estimated by the Library (see section 4.2 for more details). These rates are higher than the population-based rates published by ONS on the NOMIS site: the Library's claimant rates are the percentage of the *economically active* population in this age range rather than the whole population in the age range (as used by ONS).
- *Age and duration breakdowns for JSA claimants* are also available from NOMIS.
- Statistics on Jobcentre Plus vacancies (formerly shown in Table 2 of this research paper) are no longer published at a constituency level. The final month for which data were released was November 2012. DWP introduced a new job search service, *Universal Jobmatch*, on 19 November 2012 but owing to the design of the service, it currently cannot be used to make comparisons between numbers of vacancies and the claimant count.

The denominators used in this paper are partly derived from the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census. Census data for England and Wales are published by the Office for National Statistics. Census data for Scotland are published by the National Records for Scotland (formerly the General Register Office for Scotland). Census data for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. Census data are © Crown copyright.

Denominators are also derived in part from the Office for National Statistics *Annual Population Survey* (NOMIS database) © Crown copyright.

The source of the data on claimant count and population levels contained in this publication is the Office for National Statistics National Statistics (NOMIS database) © Crown copyright.

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### 4.2 Unemployment rate methodology

The claimant rate shown in this paper is calculated by the Library and shows the number of claimants as a proportion of the estimated economically active population aged 16-64 in each constituency in 2011. The ONS publishes a different rate alongside the claimant count data, which uses the resident population aged 16-64 in mid-2010. The 'ONS rate' is the rate used in Written Answers.

Following the release of Census data for constituencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Library has revised the methodology used to calculate the rates shown in this paper. New estimates for the denominators (the economically active population aged 16-64) have been obtained using Census data on the age structure of the population and the

economically active population aged 16-74, in combination with Annual Population Survey data on economic activity by age and region. The new methodology was introduced in last month's edition (February 2013). In previous editions, the denominators were estimated from 2001 Census data on economic activity and mid-2008 population estimates.

For many constituencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the economically active population has increased substantially since 2001. The change in methodology then means the claimant rate shown in this paper is lower than that shown in editions prior to February 2013. However, for some other constituencies, mid-year population estimates overstated the population aged 16-64 compared to the 2011 Census and in these cases the change in methodology will result in a higher claimant rate.

Census data for Westminster parliamentary constituencies in Scotland are yet to be released. Therefore estimates of the economically active population aged 16-64 for Scottish constituencies have been obtained from mid-2011 population estimates, 2001 Census data on economic activity, and Annual Population Survey data on the total active population aged 16-64 in Scotland in 2011. Where constituencies have seen major demographic shifts or socio-economic changes (and growth in economic activity does not mirror that of Scotland as a whole), the methodology will be less accurate.

The claimant rates included in this month's paper are not comparable with the rates shown in editions of *Unemployment by Constituency* prior to February 2013. Further details of the methodology used to calculate rates are provided in Library standard note, [Unemployment by constituency: changes in methodology, 2013](#). The Library will continue to make improvements to denominators as new Census results are released.

The rates presented here should be regarded more as a social measure of relative deprivation than as an economic measure of the mismatch between the supply of and demand for labour, as they take no account of people's ability to seek work outside the constituency in which they live.

### 4.3 Notes and abbreviations

Changes in benefit rules and welfare to work schemes affect the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance. These include:

- From late-2008 to mid-2011, and from May 2012, changes in eligibility rules resulted in fewer lone parents (mostly women) being able to claim Lone Parent Income Support. This led to more lone parents claiming Jobseekers Allowance while they looked for work. ONS's [Table CLA03](#) shows the number of lone parent claimants of Jobseekers Allowance.
- From April 2011, reassessments of Incapacity Benefit claimants have led to some people being declared ineligible for disability benefits. Some will then claim Jobseekers Allowance instead. ONS suggest that the effect of this on monthly changes to the claimant count is likely to be small.
- Since 2010, changes in the way benefits are paid to certain individuals on welfare-to-work programmes have affected the number of long-term claimants of JSA, particularly for young people. Previously, some individuals were moved from claiming JSA on to a Training Allowance when on certain schemes; once they finished the scheme they returned to JSA (if they remained unemployed) but were counted as a new claimant, thereby breaking the original claim's duration. Since 2011, many fewer people have been moved from JSA to a Training Allowance. This has resulted in the statistics showing a higher number of longer-term JSA claimants. A DWP note, [The effect of policy changes on the youth claimant count](#), gives more details.

The following notes should be borne in mind when drawing conclusions from the maps:

- The maps on pages 5-7 show residence-based claimant count rates for February 2013 for constituencies in the United Kingdom, with an expanded view of constituencies in selected major conurbations and surrounding areas.
- The map on page 8 shows the percentage change in residence-based claimant count levels between February 2012 and February 2013 for constituencies in the United Kingdom.
- In both maps the constituencies in the United Kingdom have been divided into five equally sized bands, also known as 'quintile groups', each of which contain approximately 130 constituencies (20% of the total in the United Kingdom). The range in each group is shown on the map, but these ranges are not equal.
- Note also that constituencies with rates near the boundaries of these quintiles will be coloured differently even though their unemployment rates may only differ slightly from those in another, neighbouring quintile group.
- Considering the percentage change does not take account of the absolute level of claimants by constituency. Constituencies with relatively low absolute numbers of claimants could see high percentage changes and vice versa.