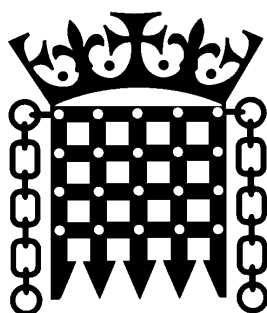


Unemployment by Constituency May 1997

**Research Paper 97/79
11 June 1997**



This paper shows the number of unemployed claimants recorded as resident in each constituency in the United Kingdom in May 1997, together with comparisons with the level a year ago.

Official monthly unemployment rates for parliamentary constituencies only exist for those few constituencies which are self-contained labour markets. This paper also presents up-to-date residence-based unemployment rates not published elsewhere for the constituencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (the constituencies on which the general election was contested). These rates are calculated using figures for the number of unemployed claimants from the monthly count and data for the economically active population from the 1991 Census of Population. Although figures for the number of unemployed claimants are available for constituencies in Scotland, data from the Census of Population have not yet been re-released on this geographical basis, meaning that unemployment rates are not yet available for these constituencies.

**Jane Dyson
Economic Policy
& Statistics Section**

**Alison Penman
Statistics Resource Unit**

House of Commons Library

Library Research Papers are compiled for the benefit of Members of Parliament and their personal staff. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with Members and their staff but cannot advise members of the general public.

CONTENTS

	Page
I Introduction	5
II Residence-based unemployment rates for constituencies, May 1997	
A. alphabetical listing, England & Wales	7
B. highest and lowest, England & Wales	18
C. Northern Ireland constituencies	19
III Change in number of unemployed claimants, United Kingdom constituencies, May 1996 to 1997	
A. alphabetical listing	20
B. greatest changes	32
IV Technical Appendix	33

I Introduction

Official monthly unemployment rates for parliamentary constituencies only exist for those few constituencies which are self-contained labour markets. This paper presents up-to-date unemployment rates not published elsewhere. These use figures for the number of unemployed claimants from the monthly count and figures for the number of people economically active derived from the 1991 Census of Population.

These residence-based rates 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. For a full exposition of the methodology used to calculate these rates, see Research Paper 96/63, *New Unemployment Rates for Parliamentary Constituencies*.

Also shown in the paper are comparisons between the level of unemployment in each constituency presently with that in the same month last year. Data for the current constituencies are not available prior to January 1996.

Notes to tables:

1. At the present time figures for the *number* of people unemployed are available for all constituencies in the United Kingdom. A full explanation of the way in which unemployment data are aggregated into constituency totals, and why it is not presently possible to estimate unemployment *rates* for constituencies in Scotland, is given in the Technical Appendix at the end of this paper.
2. The Boundary Commission reviews in 1995 defined 659 constituencies in the United Kingdom. These were defined in terms of electoral wards as they stood at the time of the review. For the purposes of the unemployment statistics however, constituencies represent a best-fit of frozen 1991 wards to the new constituencies.

Boundary alterations between 1991 and 1995 mean that there will inevitably be approximations to 1995 boundaries in many constituencies. In a number of cases however the changes to ward boundaries were substantial and some wards are now split between new constituencies. These constituencies are indicated with an asterisk in the following tables.

Research Paper 97/79

3. The political parties shown against each party are as they stand currently. The following abbreviations for parties have been used:

LAB	Labour	UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
CON	Conservative	DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
LD	Liberal Democrat	SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
PC	Plaid Cymru	UKU	United Kingdom Unionist
SNP	Scottish National Party	SF	Sinn Fein
SPKR	Speaker	VAC	Vacant Seat
IND	Independent		

4. One seat is presently vacant: Uxbridge.

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
	18	Aberavon	LAB	1,455	381	1,836	9.3%	3.4%	6.9%
516		Aldershot	CON	825	281	1,106	2.3%	1.1%	1.8%
328		Aldridge - Brownhills	CON	1,298	423	1,721	5.4%	2.4%	4.1%
399		Altrincham & Sale West	CON	1,138	321	1,459	4.6%	1.7%	3.3%
	35	Alyn & Deeside	LAB	1,163	354	1,517	5.5%	2.3%	4.1%
318		Amber Valley	LAB	1,522	445	1,967	5.7%	2.3%	4.3%
507		Arundel & South Downs	CON	559	202	761	2.5%	1.2%	2.0%
185		Ashfield	LAB	2,252	598	2,850	8.7%	3.2%	6.4%
304		Ashford	CON	1,607	461	2,068	6.0%	2.4%	4.5%
230		Ashton under Lyne	LAB	2,150	541	2,691	7.9%	2.6%	5.6%
454		Aylesbury	CON	1,111	348	1,459	3.5%	1.5%	2.6%
478		Banbury	CON	906	311	1,217	2.9%	1.4%	2.3%
81		Barking *	LAB	2,070	659	2,729	11.6%	5.3%	9.0%
123		Barnsley Central	LAB	2,354	535	2,889	11.0%	3.4%	7.7%
108		Barnsley East & Mexborough	LAB	2,492	616	3,108	11.1%	4.0%	8.2%
201		Barnsley West & Penistone	LAB	1,764	508	2,272	8.2%	3.2%	6.1%
174		Barrow & Furness	LAB	2,340	556	2,896	9.1%	3.1%	6.6%
231		Basildon	LAB	2,158	713	2,871	7.3%	3.3%	5.6%
465		Basingstoke *	CON	1,062	338	1,400	3.4%	1.4%	2.5%
188		Bassetlaw	LAB	2,105	542	2,647	8.6%	3.1%	6.4%
203		Bath *->	LD	1,917	651	2,568	8.2%	3.4%	6.1%
269		Batley & Spen	LAB	1,696	406	2,102	7.0%	2.3%	5.0%
125		Battersea	LAB	2,833	1,052	3,885	10.5%	4.5%	7.7%
515		Beaconsfield	CON	610	231	841	2.3%	1.2%	1.8%
241		Beckenham	CON	2,047	628	2,675	7.3%	2.9%	5.4%
215		Bedford	LAB	2,034	647	2,681	7.8%	3.3%	5.9%
220		Berwick-upon-Tweed	LD	1,472	420	1,892	7.7%	3.1%	5.8%
9		Bethnal Green & Bow	LAB	5,210	1,364	6,574	20.8%	8.3%	15.8%
323		Beverley & Holderness	CON	1,328	498	1,826	5.3%	2.7%	4.2%
334		Bexhill & Battle	CON	971	304	1,275	5.3%	2.2%	4.0%
306		Bexleyheath & Crayford	LAB	1,383	501	1,884	5.7%	2.8%	4.5%
317		Billericay	CON	1,611	509	2,120	5.6%	2.5%	4.3%
23		Birkenhead	LAB	3,976	955	4,931	18.8%	5.9%	13.3%
103		Birmingham, Edgbaston	LAB	2,619	799	3,418	11.4%	4.4%	8.4%
73		Birmingham, Erdington	LAB	3,254	879	4,133	12.5%	4.8%	9.3%
143		Birmingham, Hall Green	LAB	2,130	580	2,710	10.0%	3.7%	7.3%
39		Birmingham, Hodge Hill	LAB	2,910	737	3,647	15.0%	5.6%	11.2%
1		Birmingham, Ladywood	LAB	6,445	1,695	8,140	26.3%	10.1%	19.7%
124		Birmingham, Northfield	LAB	1,959	592	2,551	10.4%	4.2%	7.7%
70		Birmingham, Perry Barr	LAB	3,275	950	4,225	12.8%	5.0%	9.5%
133		Birmingham, Selly Oak	LAB	2,496	777	3,273	10.2%	4.0%	7.5%
6		Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath	LAB	5,468	1,549	7,017	20.9%	9.9%	16.8%
128		Birmingham, Yardley	LAB	1,971	566	2,537	10.2%	4.0%	7.6%
208		Bishop Auckland	LAB	1,929	476	2,405	8.3%	2.8%	6.0%
493		Blaby	CON	741	270	1,011	2.7%	1.3%	2.1%
168		Blackburn	LAB	2,423	494	2,917	9.6%	2.7%	6.7%
211		Blackpool North & Fleetwood	LAB	2,017	492	2,509	8.6%	2.6%	5.9%
132		Blackpool South	LAB	2,857	682	3,539	10.9%	3.3%	7.5%
	6	Blaenau Gwent	LAB	1,992	515	2,507	11.3%	4.2%	8.4%
216		Blaydon	LAB	1,887	471	2,358	8.3%	2.7%	5.8%
164		Blyth Valley	LAB	2,079	612	2,691	9.4%	3.5%	6.8%
359		Bognor Regis & Littlehampton	CON	1,044	301	1,345	5.2%	1.9%	3.7%
184		Bolsover	LAB	2,024	467	2,491	8.9%	2.9%	6.4%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
235		Bolton North East	LAB	1,981	392	2,373	8.1%	2.1%	5.5%
214		Bolton South East	LAB	1,933	443	2,376	8.3%	2.6%	5.9%
410		Bolton West	LAB	966	299	1,265	4.3%	1.7%	3.2%
26		Bootle	LAB	3,635	803	4,438	18.2%	5.4%	12.8%
300		Boston & Skegness	CON	1,315	442	1,757	5.9%	2.7%	4.5%
496		Bosworth	CON	681	269	950	2.6%	1.4%	2.1%
198		Bournemouth East	CON	1,755	468	2,223	8.7%	3.0%	6.2%
116		Bournemouth West	CON	2,114	550	2,664	11.0%	3.9%	8.0%
513		Bracknell	CON	778	222	1,000	2.5%	1.0%	1.8%
66		Bradford North	LAB	3,208	825	4,033	13.4%	4.7%	9.7%
165		Bradford South	LAB	2,484	602	3,086	9.7%	3.0%	6.8%
35		Bradford West	LAB	3,703	1,008	4,711	15.8%	6.3%	11.9%
347		Braintree	LAB	1,290	477	1,767	4.7%	2.5%	3.8%
	38	Brecon & Radnorshire	LD	871	307	1,178	5.0%	2.5%	4.0%
31		Brent East	LAB	3,873	1,319	5,192	16.2%	6.9%	12.1%
190		Brent North	LAB	1,663	712	2,375	7.8%	4.4%	6.3%
27		Brent South	LAB	4,267	1,427	5,694	17.2%	7.2%	12.7%
233		Brentford & Isleworth	LAB	2,328	876	3,204	7.3%	3.4%	5.6%
456		Brentwood & Ongar	CON	863	260	1,123	3.4%	1.4%	2.6%
	31	Bridgend	LAB	1,348	421	1,769	6.9%	2.9%	5.2%
227		Bridgwater	CON	1,823	559	2,382	7.4%	3.2%	5.7%
239		Brigg & Goole	LAB	1,591	501	2,092	7.0%	3.2%	5.4%
69		Brighton, Kemptown	LAB	2,845	888	3,733	12.7%	5.3%	9.5%
38		Brighton, Pavilion	LAB	3,544	1,272	4,816	15.2%	6.9%	11.5%
127		Bristol East	LAB	2,802	769	3,571	10.6%	3.8%	7.6%
232		Bristol North West	LAB	2,091	546	2,637	7.8%	2.7%	5.6%
144		Bristol South	LAB	2,949	716	3,665	10.2%	3.4%	7.3%
150		Bristol West	LAB	2,694	938	3,632	9.7%	4.1%	7.1%
355		Bromley & Chislehurst	CON	1,286	441	1,727	4.9%	2.2%	3.7%
387		Bromsgrove	CON	1,176	443	1,619	4.4%	2.2%	3.4%
363		Broxbourne	CON	1,262	450	1,712	4.7%	2.3%	3.7%
333		Broxtowe	LAB	1,419	492	1,911	5.2%	2.4%	4.0%
518		Buckingham	CON	522	163	685	2.2%	1.0%	1.7%
368		Burnley	LAB	1,222	321	1,543	5.2%	1.7%	3.6%
250		Burton	LAB	1,818	581	2,399	6.8%	3.0%	5.2%
429		Bury North	LAB	1,041	306	1,347	4.0%	1.5%	2.9%
339		Bury South	LAB	1,297	358	1,655	5.5%	1.9%	3.9%
430		Bury St Edmunds	CON	969	388	1,357	3.6%	2.0%	2.9%
	4	Caernarfon	PC	1,754	461	2,215	11.5%	4.3%	8.6%
	16	Caerphilly	LAB	2,124	518	2,642	9.9%	3.3%	7.2%
327		Calder Valley	LAB	1,530	484	2,014	5.7%	2.3%	4.2%
10		Camberwell & Peckham	LAB	4,257	1,507	5,764	20.7%	8.8%	15.3%
247		Cambridge	LAB	1,604	525	2,129	7.0%	3.0%	5.3%
303		Cannock Chase	LAB	1,582	499	2,081	5.8%	2.6%	4.5%
248		Canterbury	CON	1,713	479	2,192	7.2%	2.6%	5.2%
	9	Cardiff Central	LAB	2,144	659	2,803	11.4%	4.4%	8.3%
	39	Cardiff North	LAB	965	287	1,252	5.3%	1.9%	3.8%
	1	Cardiff South & Penarth	LAB	2,669	592	3,261	12.8%	3.8%	9.0%
	2	Cardiff West	LAB	2,489	613	3,102	12.4%	4.0%	8.8%
182		Carlisle	LAB	1,946	546	2,492	9.0%	3.2%	6.4%
	26	Carmarthen East & Dinefwr	LAB	1,174	362	1,536	7.0%	3.1%	5.4%
	12	Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire	LAB	1,863	517	2,380	10.4%	4.1%	7.8%
311		Carshalton & Wallington	LD	1,514	487	2,001	6.0%	2.5%	4.4%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
325		Castle Point	LAB	1,348	468	1,816	5.2%	2.7%	4.2%
374		Central Suffolk & North Ipswich	CON	1,137	369	1,506	4.6%	2.1%	3.6%
	27	Ceredigion	PC	1,112	377	1,489	6.9%	3.3%	5.4%
476		Charnwood	CON	833	312	1,145	3.0%	1.5%	2.3%
291		Chatham & Aylesford	LAB	1,768	532	2,300	6.0%	2.6%	4.6%
502		Cheadle	CON	680	216	896	2.8%	1.1%	2.1%
242		Cheltenham	LD	1,812	530	2,342	7.3%	2.7%	5.3%
526		Chesham & Amersham	CON	550	143	693	2.1%	0.7%	1.5%
162		Chesterfield	LAB	2,397	642	3,039	9.4%	3.4%	6.9%
277		Chester, City of	LAB	1,624	438	2,062	6.7%	2.4%	4.9%
462		Chichester	CON	841	278	1,119	3.4%	1.5%	2.6%
289		Chingford & Woodford Green	CON	1,381	473	1,854	6.1%	2.8%	4.7%
330		Chipping Barnet	CON	1,369	512	1,881	5.3%	2.6%	4.1%
390		Chorley	LAB	1,274	380	1,654	4.6%	1.8%	3.4%
414		Christchurch	CON	752	279	1,031	3.9%	2.0%	3.1%
209		Cities of London & Westminster	CON	2,416	958	3,374	7.7%	3.8%	6.0%
183		Cleethorpes	LAB	1,999	719	2,718	8.0%	4.2%	6.4%
	34	Clwyd South *>	LAB	1,064	301	1,365	6.0%	2.4%	4.5%
	32	Clwyd West <*	LAB	1,182	292	1,474	7.2%	2.3%	5.1%
305		Colchester	LD	1,617	527	2,144	5.8%	2.6%	4.5%
326		Colne Valley	LAB	1,470	477	1,947	5.6%	2.4%	4.2%
453		Congleton	CON	844	278	1,122	3.4%	1.5%	2.6%
	8	Conwy	LAB	1,901	484	2,385	11.9%	3.8%	8.3%
113		Copeland	LAB	2,223	561	2,784	10.9%	4.0%	8.1%
356		Corby	LAB	1,361	397	1,758	5.1%	2.0%	3.7%
503		Cotswold	CON	597	218	815	2.6%	1.3%	2.1%
118		Coventry North East	LAB	2,953	795	3,748	10.7%	4.0%	7.9%
234		Coventry North West	LAB	2,084	673	2,757	7.4%	3.2%	5.6%
158		Coventry South	LAB	2,300	632	2,932	9.5%	3.6%	7.0%
408		Crawley	LAB	1,158	365	1,523	4.3%	1.7%	3.2%
279		Crewe & Nantwich	LAB	1,589	485	2,074	6.4%	2.7%	4.8%
204		Crosby	LAB	1,656	460	2,116	8.5%	3.0%	6.0%
177		Croydon Central	LAB	2,851	880	3,731	8.9%	3.5%	6.5%
89		Croydon North	LAB	3,829	1,329	5,158	11.8%	5.1%	8.8%
412		Croydon South	CON	1,192	388	1,580	4.2%	1.8%	3.1%
	14	Cynon Valley	LAB	1,661	370	2,031	10.8%	3.3%	7.6%
186		Dagenham	LAB	1,791	521	2,312	8.5%	3.4%	6.4%
110		Darlington	LAB	2,662	683	3,345	11.3%	3.9%	8.2%
281		Dartford	LAB	1,721	503	2,224	6.4%	2.6%	4.8%
485		Daventry	CON	822	339	1,161	2.7%	1.5%	2.2%
	37	Delyn	LAB	988	308	1,296	5.3%	2.3%	4.0%
297		Denton & Reddish	LAB	1,625	460	2,085	6.3%	2.3%	4.5%
193		Derby North	LAB	2,278	673	2,951	8.5%	3.4%	6.3%
64		Derby South	LAB	3,697	961	4,658	13.3%	4.9%	9.8%
444		Devizes	CON	1,039	389	1,428	3.5%	1.8%	2.8%
267		Dewsbury	LAB	1,541	375	1,916	7.0%	2.3%	5.0%
154		Don Valley	LAB	2,188	586	2,774	9.4%	3.6%	7.0%
47		Doncaster Central	LAB	3,348	874	4,222	14.3%	5.2%	10.5%
83		Doncaster North	LAB	2,684	567	3,251	12.5%	3.9%	9.0%
138		Dover	LAB	2,483	684	3,167	10.0%	3.9%	7.4%
161		Dudley North	LAB	2,328	666	2,994	9.0%	3.8%	6.9%
255		Dudley South	LAB	1,698	554	2,252	6.6%	3.1%	5.2%
51		Dulwich & West Norwood	LAB	3,787	1,417	5,204	14.0%	6.1%	10.4%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
240		Durham, City of	LAB	1,604	464	2,068	7.5%	2.7%	5.4%
213		Ealing North *	LAB	2,369	803	3,172	7.9%	3.4%	5.9%
169		Ealing Southall	LAB	2,885	921	3,806	9.1%	3.6%	6.7%
67		Ealing, Acton & Shepherd's Bush	LAB	3,887	1,401	5,288	12.9%	5.6%	9.6%
176		Easington	LAB	1,858	390	2,248	9.5%	2.7%	6.5%
375		East Devon	CON	900	294	1,194	4.7%	2.0%	3.6%
30		East Ham	LAB	4,005	1,183	5,188	15.4%	7.0%	12.1%
455		East Hampshire	CON	994	301	1,295	3.5%	1.4%	2.6%
511		East Surrey	CON	727	229	956	2.6%	1.1%	1.9%
396		East Worthing & Shoreham	CON	1,070	358	1,428	4.4%	1.9%	3.3%
224		East Yorkshire	CON	1,732	527	2,259	7.6%	3.2%	5.7%
260		Eastbourne	CON	1,466	483	1,949	7.0%	2.8%	5.1%
475		Eastleigh	LD	863	240	1,103	3.2%	1.2%	2.3%
259		Eccles	LAB	1,793	427	2,220	7.2%	2.3%	5.1%
395		Eddisbury	CON	1,041	279	1,320	4.4%	1.7%	3.3%
78		Edmonton	LAB	2,942	957	3,899	12.1%	5.3%	9.2%
295		Ellesmere Port & Neston	LAB	1,526	424	1,950	6.3%	2.3%	4.6%
380		Elmet	LAB	1,230	368	1,598	4.8%	1.8%	3.5%
141		Eltham	LAB	2,080	641	2,721	10.0%	4.0%	7.4%
179		Enfield North	LAB	2,251	722	2,973	8.6%	3.7%	6.5%
210		Enfield, Southgate	LAB	1,837	678	2,515	7.7%	3.7%	5.9%
340		Epping Forest	CON	1,317	497	1,814	4.9%	2.5%	3.9%
504		Epsom & Ewell	CON	739	242	981	2.7%	1.2%	2.0%
301		Erewash	LAB	1,810	520	2,330	6.1%	2.4%	4.5%
52		Erith & Thamesmead	LAB	3,442	1,120	4,562	13.5%	6.0%	10.3%
490		Esher & Walton	CON	794	242	1,036	2.9%	1.2%	2.2%
225		Exeter	LAB	2,195	644	2,839	8.1%	2.9%	5.7%
98		Falmouth & Camborne	LAB	2,634	712	3,346	11.5%	4.3%	8.5%
467		Fareham	CON	813	285	1,098	3.2%	1.5%	2.5%
338		Faversham & Mid Kent	CON	1,291	424	1,715	5.0%	2.3%	3.9%
218		Feltham & Heston	LAB	2,218	689	2,907	7.7%	3.2%	5.8%
229		Finchley & Golders Green	LAB	1,978	853	2,831	7.0%	3.9%	5.6%
111		Folkestone & Hythe	CON	2,731	666	3,397	11.2%	3.8%	8.1%
365		Forest of Dean	LAB	1,034	387	1,421	4.5%	2.5%	3.7%
477		Fylde	CON	754	189	943	3.3%	1.1%	2.3%
284		Gainsborough	CON	1,317	481	1,798	5.8%	3.1%	4.7%
199		Gateshead East & Washington West	LAB	2,013	541	2,554	8.6%	3.0%	6.2%
302		Gedling	LAB	1,567	507	2,074	6.1%	2.5%	4.5%
290		Gillingham	LAB	1,676	563	2,239	5.9%	2.9%	4.6%
223		Gloucester	LAB	2,297	681	2,978	7.8%	3.0%	5.7%
351		Gosport	CON	1,271	438	1,709	4.8%	2.3%	3.8%
	33	Gower	LAB	1,238	356	1,594	6.9%	2.6%	5.0%
364		Grantham & Stamford	CON	1,164	429	1,593	4.7%	2.3%	3.7%
207		Gravesham	LAB	2,136	618	2,754	7.8%	3.3%	6.0%
59		Great Grimsby	LAB	3,345	829	4,174	13.7%	4.9%	10.1%
68		Great Yarmouth	LAB	3,037	861	3,898	12.7%	5.2%	9.6%
33		Greenwich & Woolwich	LAB	3,731	1,274	5,005	16.0%	7.0%	12.0%
510		Guildford	CON	741	223	964	2.6%	1.0%	1.9%
4		Hackney North & Stoke Newington	LAB	5,722	2,100	7,822	23.8%	11.3%	18.3%
3		Hackney South & Shoreditch	LAB	5,997	1,992	7,989	25.5%	10.4%	18.7%
249		Halesowen & Rowley Regis	LAB	1,703	507	2,210	6.9%	2.9%	5.2%
140		Halifax	LAB	2,689	735	3,424	10.3%	3.6%	7.4%
427		Haltemprice & Howden	CON	817	340	1,157	3.6%	2.0%	2.9%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
121		Halton	LAB	2,426	655	3,081	10.7%	4.0%	7.8%
96		Hammersmith & Fulham	LAB	3,653	1,559	5,212	11.4%	5.3%	8.5%
97		Hampstead & Highgate	LAB	2,844	1,377	4,221	10.8%	5.9%	8.5%
457		Harborough	CON	863	315	1,178	3.4%	1.6%	2.6%
283		Harlow	LAB	1,630	515	2,145	6.3%	2.7%	4.8%
401		Harrogate & Knaresborough	LD	975	371	1,346	4.4%	2.0%	3.3%
261		Harrow East	LAB	1,924	762	2,686	6.4%	3.3%	5.1%
337		Harrow West	LAB	1,420	513	1,933	5.1%	2.4%	3.9%
49		Hartlepool	LAB	3,433	810	4,243	14.5%	4.8%	10.5%
136		Harwich	LAB	2,108	544	2,652	10.2%	3.7%	7.5%
102		Hastings & Rye	LAB	2,826	739	3,565	11.8%	4.0%	8.4%
270		Havant	CON	1,745	428	2,173	7.0%	2.3%	5.0%
252		Hayes & Harlington	LAB	1,619	531	2,150	6.8%	3.0%	5.2%
448		Hazel Grove	LD	912	223	1,135	3.9%	1.2%	2.7%
447		Hemel Hempstead	LAB	1,037	296	1,333	3.7%	1.4%	2.7%
195		Hemsworth	LAB	2,016	503	2,519	8.7%	2.9%	6.2%
192		Hendon	LAB	2,286	855	3,141	8.1%	4.0%	6.3%
524		Henley	CON	537	180	717	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%
293		Hereford *>	LD	1,488	518	2,006	6.0%	2.8%	4.6%
498		Hertford & Stortford	CON	755	260	1,015	2.7%	1.3%	2.1%
438		Hertsmere	CON	929	328	1,257	3.7%	1.8%	2.9%
392		Hexham	CON	880	300	1,180	4.3%	2.0%	3.4%
202		Heywood & Middleton	LAB	2,261	642	2,903	8.4%	3.1%	6.1%
394		High Peak	LAB	1,225	338	1,563	4.6%	1.7%	3.3%
469		Hitchin & Harpenden	CON	829	253	1,082	3.2%	1.4%	2.4%
20		Holborn & St Pancras	LAB	4,036	1,442	5,478	18.3%	7.8%	13.5%
350		Hornchurch	LAB	1,156	360	1,516	5.0%	2.1%	3.8%
62		Hornsey & Wood Green	LAB	3,956	1,590	5,546	12.9%	6.2%	9.8%
517		Horsham	CON	619	222	841	2.2%	1.0%	1.7%
155		Houghton & Washington East	LAB	2,178	515	2,693	10.0%	3.1%	7.0%
104		Hove	LAB	2,530	888	3,418	11.0%	4.9%	8.3%
93		Huddersfield	LAB	2,663	735	3,398	11.9%	4.4%	8.7%
451		Huntingdon	CON	1,026	426	1,452	3.2%	1.9%	2.7%
346		Hyndburn	LAB	1,238	378	1,616	5.2%	2.0%	3.8%
266		Ilford North	LAB	1,611	590	2,201	6.5%	3.1%	5.0%
119		Ilford South *	LAB	2,930	992	3,922	10.1%	4.8%	7.9%
171		Ipswich	LAB	2,298	602	2,900	9.1%	3.3%	6.6%
126		Isle of Wight	LD	3,179	992	4,171	10.2%	4.3%	7.7%
13		Islington North	LAB	4,701	1,847	6,548	19.7%	8.9%	14.7%
22		Islington South & Finsbury	LAB	3,840	1,479	5,319	17.4%	8.4%	13.4%
	28	Islwyn	LAB	1,225	330	1,555	7.2%	2.7%	5.3%
95		Jarrow	LAB	2,575	621	3,196	11.9%	3.9%	8.5%
285		Keighley	LAB	1,420	547	1,967	6.1%	3.0%	4.7%
256		Kensington & Chelsea	CON	1,954	1,038	2,992	6.1%	4.0%	5.1%
415		Kettering	LAB	1,125	373	1,498	4.1%	1.8%	3.1%
74		Kingston upon Hull East	LAB	2,941	784	3,725	12.3%	4.8%	9.3%
53		Kingston upon Hull North	LAB	3,398	968	4,366	13.6%	5.5%	10.3%
63		Kingston upon Hull West & Hessle	LAB	2,986	896	3,882	12.9%	5.4%	9.8%
361		Kingston & Surbiton	LD	1,424	530	1,954	4.8%	2.3%	3.7%
349		Kingswood	LAB	1,439	442	1,881	5.1%	2.1%	3.8%
88		Knowsley North & Sefton East	LAB	3,085	863	3,948	12.1%	4.5%	8.8%
41		Knowsley South	LAB	3,699	894	4,593	15.2%	5.0%	10.9%
341		Lancaster & Wyre	LAB	1,214	437	1,651	5.1%	2.3%	3.9%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
28		Leeds Central	LAB	4,251	973	5,224	17.8%	5.5%	12.6%
42		Leeds East	LAB	3,168	806	3,974	15.0%	5.1%	10.8%
178		Leeds North East	LAB	1,972	630	2,602	8.9%	3.5%	6.5%
280		Leeds North West	LAB	1,351	458	1,809	6.5%	2.7%	4.8%
157		Leeds West	LAB	2,332	582	2,914	9.9%	3.2%	7.0%
145		Leicester East	LAB	2,101	714	2,815	9.6%	4.2%	7.2%
80		Leicester South	LAB	3,120	859	3,979	12.5%	4.5%	9.0%
77		Leicester West	LAB	3,038	794	3,832	12.9%	4.4%	9.2%
251		Leigh	LAB	1,763	500	2,263	7.0%	2.7%	5.2%
406		Leominster <*	CON	920	328	1,248	4.0%	2.1%	3.2%
381		Lewes	LD	955	297	1,252	4.7%	1.9%	3.5%
75		Lewisham East	LAB	2,553	814	3,367	12.7%	5.0%	9.3%
43		Lewisham West	LAB	3,266	1,055	4,321	14.9%	5.8%	10.7%
17		Lewisham, Deptford	LAB	4,291	1,456	5,747	19.3%	7.8%	14.1%
50		Leyton & Wanstead	LAB	3,359	1,077	4,436	14.1%	5.7%	10.4%
441		Lichfield	CON	857	338	1,195	3.5%	1.9%	2.8%
82		Lincoln	LAB	2,854	799	3,653	12.2%	4.7%	9.0%
76		Liverpool, Garston	LAB	2,851	761	3,612	13.0%	4.5%	9.3%
2		Liverpool, Riverside	LAB	5,439	1,460	6,899	26.3%	9.4%	19.0%
21		Liverpool, Walton	LAB	4,281	1,097	5,378	18.9%	6.3%	13.5%
36		Liverpool, Wavertree	LAB	3,910	1,027	4,937	16.8%	5.5%	11.7%
18		Liverpool, West Derby	LAB	4,341	1,063	5,404	19.7%	6.5%	14.1%
	13	Llanelli	LAB	1,820	535	2,355	10.4%	4.2%	7.8%
345		Loughborough	LAB	1,191	410	1,601	5.0%	2.3%	3.9%
282		Louth & Horncastle	CON	1,359	448	1,807	6.0%	2.9%	4.8%
425		Ludlow	CON	792	296	1,088	3.6%	2.0%	3.0%
265		Luton North	LAB	1,767	523	2,290	6.8%	2.7%	5.1%
153		Luton South	LAB	2,484	675	3,159	9.3%	3.8%	7.1%
436		Macclesfield	CON	1,068	302	1,370	4.0%	1.5%	2.9%
501		Maidenhead	CON	762	195	957	2.9%	1.0%	2.1%
384		Maidstone & The Weald	CON	1,290	373	1,663	4.7%	1.8%	3.5%
245		Makerfield	LAB	1,758	508	2,266	7.1%	2.8%	5.3%
377		Maldon & East Chelmsford	CON	1,142	350	1,492	4.5%	2.0%	3.5%
55		Manchester, Blackley	LAB	3,039	664	3,703	14.3%	4.3%	10.1%
5		Manchester, Central	LAB	5,037	1,246	6,283	24.0%	8.5%	17.6%
15		Manchester, Gorton	LAB	3,727	1,013	4,740	19.9%	7.4%	14.6%
56		Manchester, Withington	LAB	2,848	947	3,795	13.7%	5.6%	10.1%
152		Mansfield	LAB	2,268	616	2,884	9.7%	3.6%	7.1%
187		Medway	LAB	2,041	669	2,710	8.0%	3.9%	6.4%
	21	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	PC	896	299	1,195	8.2%	3.9%	6.4%
236		Meriden	CON	2,195	654	2,849	7.4%	3.0%	5.5%
	5	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	LAB	2,107	471	2,578	11.7%	3.7%	8.4%
495		Mid Bedfordshire	CON	638	286	924	2.5%	1.6%	2.1%
446		Mid Dorset & North Poole	CON	898	278	1,176	3.7%	1.5%	2.8%
348		Mid Norfolk	CON	1,274	444	1,718	4.8%	2.4%	3.8%
522		Mid Sussex	CON	596	175	771	2.2%	0.9%	1.6%
449		Mid Worcestershire	CON	827	304	1,131	3.4%	1.7%	2.7%
25		Middlesbrough	LAB	4,465	1,072	5,537	18.3%	6.2%	13.2%
115		Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland	LAB	2,650	688	3,338	10.9%	4.0%	8.0%
309		Milton Keynes South West	LAB	1,592	508	2,100	5.9%	2.5%	4.4%
130		Mitcham & Morden	LAB	2,494	830	3,324	10.0%	4.4%	7.6%
528		Mole Valley	CON	460	118	578	1.8%	0.6%	1.3%
	36	Monmouth	LAB	1,047	376	1,423	5.2%	2.5%	4.0%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
	40	Montgomeryshire	LD	504	188	692	3.3%	1.8%	2.7%
151		Morecambe & Lunesdale	LAB	2,114	586	2,700	9.7%	3.6%	7.1%
320		Morley & Rothwell	LAB	1,496	389	1,885	6.0%	2.0%	4.3%
	22	Neath	LAB	1,495	386	1,881	8.5%	3.0%	6.2%
464		New Forest East	CON	785	264	1,049	3.2%	1.5%	2.5%
409		New Forest West	CON	801	255	1,056	4.2%	1.8%	3.2%
264		Newark	LAB	1,580	584	2,164	6.3%	3.3%	5.1%
514		Newbury	LD	692	213	905	2.4%	1.0%	1.8%
61		Newcastle upon Tyne Central	LAB	2,802	802	3,604	13.8%	5.0%	9.9%
44		Newcastle upon Tyne East & Wallsend	LAB	3,194	784	3,978	15.2%	4.8%	10.7%
170		Newcastle upon Tyne North	LAB	2,198	499	2,697	9.8%	2.8%	6.7%
332		Newcastle-under-Lyme	LAB	1,273	371	1,644	5.5%	2.1%	4.0%
	20	Newport East	LAB	1,681	485	2,166	8.6%	3.5%	6.5%
	15	Newport West	LAB	1,972	534	2,506	9.9%	3.6%	7.2%
315		Normanton	LAB	1,323	410	1,733	5.9%	2.4%	4.4%
196		North Cornwall	LD	2,093	711	2,804	7.9%	3.9%	6.2%
274		North Devon	LD	1,567	544	2,111	6.3%	3.0%	4.9%
494		North Dorset	CON	597	216	813	2.7%	1.3%	2.1%
180		North Durham	LAB	2,128	507	2,635	9.2%	2.9%	6.5%
468		North East Bedfordshire	CON	773	287	1,060	3.1%	1.6%	2.5%
288		North East Cambridgeshire	CON	1,596	565	2,161	5.9%	3.0%	4.7%
253		North East Derbyshire	LAB	1,783	526	2,309	6.9%	2.8%	5.2%
520		North East Hampshire	CON	584	198	782	2.1%	1.0%	1.7%
458		North East Hertfordshire	CON	847	306	1,153	3.3%	1.6%	2.6%
366		North East Milton Keynes	LAB	1,232	434	1,666	4.7%	2.2%	3.6%
459		North Essex	CON	797	259	1,056	3.3%	1.5%	2.6%
286		North Norfolk	CON	1,431	479	1,910	6.0%	2.9%	4.7%
372		North Shropshire	CON	1,119	392	1,511	4.5%	2.3%	3.6%
16		North Southwark & Bermondsey	LD	4,471	1,502	5,973	18.9%	8.1%	14.1%
419		North Swindon	LAB	1,033	346	1,379	4.0%	1.8%	3.0%
85		North Thanet	CON	2,641	682	3,323	12.3%	4.3%	8.9%
99		North Tyneside	LAB	2,693	698	3,391	11.9%	4.0%	8.5%
362		North Warwickshire	LAB	1,315	448	1,763	4.7%	2.3%	3.7%
385		North West Cambridgeshire	CON	1,253	394	1,647	4.5%	2.0%	3.4%
166		North West Durham	LAB	2,069	522	2,591	9.3%	3.2%	6.7%
519		North West Hampshire *	CON	621	232	853	2.1%	1.1%	1.7%
371		North West Leicestershire	LAB	1,106	333	1,439	4.8%	2.0%	3.6%
246		North West Norfolk	LAB	1,799	595	2,394	6.8%	3.1%	5.3%
463		North Wiltshire	CON	930	320	1,250	3.2%	1.6%	2.5%
254		Northampton North	LAB	1,940	615	2,555	7.0%	2.8%	5.2%
307		Northampton South	LAB	1,765	542	2,307	6.0%	2.4%	4.5%
480		Northavon	LD	898	314	1,212	2.9%	1.4%	2.3%
237		Norwich North	LAB	1,914	619	2,533	7.2%	3.1%	5.5%
107		Norwich South	LAB	2,794	729	3,523	11.4%	4.0%	8.2%
19		Nottingham East	LAB	4,445	1,263	5,708	19.0%	7.1%	13.9%
57		Nottingham North	LAB	3,366	758	4,124	14.3%	4.4%	10.1%
65		Nottingham South	LAB	3,104	805	3,909	13.5%	4.7%	9.7%
319		Nuneaton	LAB	1,537	471	2,008	5.7%	2.4%	4.3%
	24	Ogmore	LAB	1,370	362	1,732	7.8%	2.8%	5.7%
360		Old Bexley & Sidcup	CON	1,190	471	1,661	4.7%	2.5%	3.7%
316		Oldham East & Saddleworth	LAB	1,722	445	2,167	6.2%	2.0%	4.4%
219		Oldham West & Royton	LAB	2,084	543	2,627	8.1%	2.7%	5.8%
402		Orpington	CON	1,305	430	1,735	4.3%	1.9%	3.3%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
205		Oxford East	LAB	1,975	600	2,575	8.3%	3.1%	6.0%
488		Oxford West & Abingdon	LD	804	272	1,076	2.9%	1.3%	2.2%
353		Pendle	LAB	1,132	331	1,463	5.1%	2.0%	3.8%
428		Penrith & The Border	CON	871	332	1,203	3.6%	2.0%	2.9%
173		Peterborough	LAB	2,386	722	3,108	8.8%	3.6%	6.6%
147		Plymouth, Devonport	LAB	2,711	793	3,504	9.3%	4.1%	7.2%
32		Plymouth, Sutton	LAB	3,847	1,180	5,027	15.9%	6.7%	12.0%
175		Pontefract & Castleford	LAB	2,032	524	2,556	9.0%	3.2%	6.6%
	29	Pontypridd	LAB	1,607	434	2,041	7.3%	2.6%	5.2%
314		Poole	CON	1,323	339	1,662	6.1%	2.1%	4.4%
12		Poplar & Canning Town	LAB	4,711	1,289	6,000	19.5%	7.8%	14.7%
228		Portsmouth North	LAB	1,812	491	2,303	7.7%	2.8%	5.6%
84		Portsmouth South	LD	3,222	828	4,050	12.1%	4.4%	8.9%
	10	Preseli Pembrokeshire	LAB	1,973	549	2,522	10.5%	4.4%	8.1%
122		Preston	LAB	2,769	676	3,445	10.9%	3.6%	7.8%
470		Pudsey	LAB	843	297	1,140	3.3%	1.4%	2.4%
206		Putney	LAB	1,804	684	2,488	8.1%	3.6%	6.0%
423		Rayleigh	CON	989	349	1,338	3.8%	1.9%	3.0%
383		Reading East	LAB	1,348	353	1,701	4.7%	1.7%	3.5%
411		Reading West	LAB	1,245	308	1,553	4.4%	1.5%	3.1%
72		Redcar	LAB	3,223	738	3,961	13.0%	4.2%	9.3%
276		Redditch	LAB	1,508	577	2,085	6.2%	3.2%	4.9%
58		Regent's Park & Kensington North	LAB	4,194	1,773	5,967	13.0%	6.6%	10.1%
497		Reigate	CON	669	203	872	2.8%	1.1%	2.1%
	11	Rhondda	LAB	1,986	449	2,435	10.9%	3.6%	8.0%
508		Ribble Valley	CON	646	244	890	2.5%	1.2%	1.9%
433		Richmond	CON	884	363	1,247	3.5%	2.1%	2.9%
367		Richmond Park	LD	1,329	565	1,894	4.6%	2.5%	3.6%
129		Rochdale	LAB	2,575	594	3,169	10.7%	3.3%	7.6%
60		Rochford & Southend East	CON	3,377	905	4,282	13.6%	5.1%	10.0%
370		Romford	LAB	1,077	352	1,429	4.7%	2.1%	3.6%
482		Romsey	CON	712	244	956	2.9%	1.4%	2.2%
418		Rossendale & Darwen	LAB	1,062	332	1,394	4.1%	1.7%	3.0%
172		Rother Valley	LAB	2,220	643	2,863	8.9%	3.5%	6.6%
48		Rotherham	LAB	3,059	723	3,782	14.5%	4.8%	10.5%
397		Rugby & Kenilworth	LAB	1,267	437	1,704	4.3%	2.0%	3.3%
445		Ruislip - Northwood	CON	852	274	1,126	3.8%	1.6%	2.8%
500		Runnymede & Weybridge	CON	743	251	994	2.7%	1.2%	2.1%
373		Rushcliffe	CON	1,353	430	1,783	4.8%	2.0%	3.6%
509		Rutland & Melton	CON	623	245	868	2.4%	1.3%	1.9%
431		Ryedale	CON	778	322	1,100	3.6%	2.0%	2.9%
474		Saffron Walden	CON	801	325	1,126	2.8%	1.7%	2.4%
94		Salford	LAB	2,407	548	2,955	12.0%	3.8%	8.6%
461		Salisbury	CON	1,003	314	1,317	3.4%	1.5%	2.6%
194		Scarborough & Whitby	LAB	2,124	613	2,737	8.6%	3.3%	6.3%
181		Scunthorpe	LAB	1,888	564	2,452	8.4%	3.6%	6.5%
272		Sedgefield	LAB	1,504	435	1,939	6.7%	2.6%	5.0%
343		Selby	LAB	1,294	463	1,757	4.9%	2.4%	3.9%
440		Sevenoaks	CON	921	309	1,230	3.6%	1.7%	2.8%
156		Sheffield, Attercliffe	LAB	2,270	644	2,914	9.5%	3.6%	7.0%
37		Sheffield, Brightside	LAB	3,404	789	4,193	16.2%	5.2%	11.6%
8		Sheffield, Central	LAB	4,692	1,268	5,960	21.4%	8.2%	16.0%
308		Sheffield, Hallam	LD	1,059	415	1,474	5.8%	2.8%	4.5%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
87		Sheffield, Heeley	LAB	2,843	764	3,607	12.2%	4.4%	8.8%
238		Sheffield, Hillsborough	LAB	2,025	706	2,731	7.2%	3.2%	5.5%
257		Sherwood	LAB	1,826	524	2,350	6.9%	2.7%	5.1%
336		Shipley	LAB	1,317	419	1,736	5.4%	2.1%	3.9%
400		Shrewsbury & Atcham	LAB	1,164	347	1,511	4.5%	1.8%	3.3%
167		Sittingbourne & Sheppey	LAB	2,109	693	2,802	8.4%	4.1%	6.7%
499		Skipton & Ripon	CON	666	261	927	2.6%	1.4%	2.1%
389		Sleaford & North Hykeham	CON	1,067	365	1,432	4.3%	2.1%	3.4%
244		Slough	LAB	2,015	536	2,551	7.2%	2.6%	5.3%
435		Solihull	CON	1,044	405	1,449	3.7%	1.9%	2.9%
393		Somerton & Frome *	LD	1,094	404	1,498	4.1%	2.2%	3.3%
505		South Cambridgeshire	CON	701	232	933	2.6%	1.2%	2.0%
342		South Derbyshire	LAB	1,414	438	1,852	5.1%	2.2%	3.9%
271		South Dorset	CON	1,536	473	2,009	6.5%	2.8%	5.0%
491		South East Cambridgeshire	CON	780	296	1,076	2.7%	1.4%	2.2%
273		South East Cornwall	LD	1,571	565	2,136	6.2%	3.2%	5.0%
472		South Holland & The Deepings	CON	682	273	955	2.9%	1.7%	2.4%
382		South Norfolk	CON	1,201	461	1,662	4.3%	2.3%	3.5%
450		South Ribble	LAB	969	298	1,267	3.7%	1.4%	2.7%
34		South Shields	LAB	3,455	796	4,251	16.6%	5.4%	12.0%
403		South Staffordshire	CON	1,188	387	1,575	4.2%	1.9%	3.2%
407		South Suffolk	CON	974	344	1,318	4.0%	2.0%	3.2%
331		South Swindon	LAB	1,565	460	2,025	5.5%	2.1%	4.1%
106		South Thanet	LAB	2,272	627	2,899	11.1%	4.2%	8.2%
439		South West Bedfordshire	CON	1,074	342	1,416	3.7%	1.6%	2.9%
386		South West Devon	CON	1,074	391	1,465	4.4%	2.2%	3.4%
481		South West Hertfordshire	CON	835	239	1,074	3.0%	1.2%	2.3%
358		South West Norfolk	CON	1,335	556	1,891	4.4%	2.7%	3.7%
525		South West Surrey	CON	545	169	714	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%
160		Southampton, Itchen	LAB	2,545	571	3,116	9.6%	3.1%	6.9%
149		Southampton, Test	LAB	2,596	615	3,211	10.1%	3.3%	7.2%
159		Southend West	CON	2,045	639	2,684	9.2%	3.9%	6.9%
222		Southport	LD	1,775	565	2,340	7.9%	3.1%	5.7%
471		Spelthorne	CON	939	297	1,236	3.3%	1.4%	2.4%
489		St Albans	LAB	722	262	984	2.8%	1.3%	2.2%
197		St Helens North	LAB	2,098	551	2,649	8.5%	3.1%	6.2%
135		St Helens South	LAB	2,406	613	3,019	10.4%	3.6%	7.5%
100		St Ives	LD	2,497	864	3,361	10.7%	5.3%	8.4%
376		Stafford	LAB	1,173	369	1,542	4.7%	2.0%	3.6%
421		Staffordshire Moorlands	LAB	1,012	320	1,332	4.0%	1.7%	3.0%
258		Stalybridge & Hyde	LAB	1,694	530	2,224	6.8%	2.8%	5.1%
298		Stevenage	LAB	1,598	488	2,086	6.0%	2.5%	4.5%
262		Stockport	LAB	1,809	400	2,209	7.3%	2.1%	5.1%
46		Stockton North	LAB	3,301	868	4,169	14.4%	5.2%	10.5%
131		Stockton South	LAB	2,448	701	3,149	10.2%	3.9%	7.5%
137		Stoke-on-Trent Central	LAB	2,270	602	2,872	10.2%	3.7%	7.5%
278		Stoke-on-Trent North	LAB	1,425	386	1,811	6.6%	2.5%	4.9%
313		Stoke-on-Trent South	LAB	1,548	437	1,985	6.1%	2.3%	4.4%
483		Stone	CON	675	260	935	2.7%	1.5%	2.2%
310		Stourbridge	LAB	1,477	464	1,941	5.8%	2.5%	4.4%
473		Stratford-on-Avon	CON	892	330	1,222	3.0%	1.5%	2.4%
29		Streatham	LAB	4,867	1,863	6,730	16.5%	7.4%	12.3%
217		Stretford & Urmston	LAB	2,132	539	2,671	8.2%	2.7%	5.8%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
405		Stroud	LAB	1,111	429	1,540	4.0%	2.1%	3.2%
321		Suffolk Coastal	CON	1,425	476	1,901	5.4%	2.6%	4.3%
71		Sunderland North	LAB	2,769	572	3,341	13.5%	3.9%	9.5%
40		Sunderland South	LAB	3,491	764	4,255	15.6%	4.6%	11.0%
527		Surrey Heath	CON	591	153	744	1.9%	0.7%	1.4%
413		Sutton Coldfield	CON	1,037	408	1,445	4.0%	2.0%	3.1%
417		Sutton & Cheam	LD	988	332	1,320	4.1%	1.8%	3.1%
	17	Swansea East	LAB	1,981	430	2,411	10.0%	2.9%	7.0%
	3	Swansea West	LAB	2,098	538	2,636	12.0%	4.1%	8.6%
329		Tamworth	LAB	1,367	469	1,836	5.2%	2.6%	4.1%
466		Tatton	IND	787	197	984	3.5%	1.2%	2.5%
292		Taunton *	LD	1,677	533	2,210	6.2%	2.6%	4.6%
312		Teignbridge	CON	1,504	469	1,973	6.0%	2.4%	4.4%
287		Telford	LAB	1,453	391	1,844	6.4%	2.3%	4.7%
442		Tewkesbury	CON	875	324	1,199	3.6%	1.8%	2.8%
148		Thurrock	LAB	2,515	734	3,249	9.5%	3.9%	7.2%
416		Tiverton & Honiton	CON	1,011	354	1,365	3.9%	1.9%	3.1%
434		Tonbridge & Malling	CON	925	293	1,218	3.8%	1.7%	2.9%
101		Tooting	LAB	3,082	1,080	4,162	11.6%	4.8%	8.4%
112		Torbay	LD	2,569	687	3,256	11.3%	3.9%	8.1%
	23	Torfaen	LAB	1,739	462	2,201	8.3%	3.0%	6.1%
268		Torrige & West Devon	LD	1,607	597	2,204	6.2%	3.3%	5.0%
275		Totnes	CON	1,329	475	1,804	6.3%	3.1%	4.9%
7		Tottenham	LAB	6,223	2,065	8,288	22.3%	9.6%	16.8%
200		Truro & St Austell	LD	1,998	641	2,639	8.0%	3.5%	6.1%
443		Tunbridge Wells	CON	924	304	1,228	3.7%	1.6%	2.8%
391		Twickenham	LD	1,280	452	1,732	4.5%	2.0%	3.4%
24		Tyne Bridge	LAB	4,180	865	5,045	18.8%	5.5%	13.3%
146		Tynemouth	LAB	2,243	595	2,838	10.2%	3.5%	7.2%
322		Upminster	LAB	1,160	335	1,495	5.6%	2.3%	4.2%
354		Uxbridge	VAC	1,154	389	1,543	4.9%	2.2%	3.7%
	19	Vale of Clwyd	LAB	1,468	366	1,834	9.3%	3.0%	6.5%
	25	Vale of Glamorgan	LAB	1,867	566	2,433	7.6%	3.2%	5.7%
479		Vale of York	CON	669	328	997	2.6%	1.8%	2.3%
11		Vauxhall	LAB	5,790	2,024	7,814	20.5%	8.4%	14.9%
212		Wakefield	LAB	2,112	583	2,695	8.0%	3.0%	5.9%
45		Wallasey	LAB	3,242	918	4,160	14.8%	5.4%	10.7%
105		Walsall North	LAB	2,831	750	3,581	10.9%	4.3%	8.3%
79		Walsall South	LAB	2,808	862	3,670	11.9%	5.3%	9.2%
54		Walthamstow	LAB	3,315	1,121	4,436	13.5%	5.9%	10.1%
120		Wansbeck	LAB	2,276	578	2,854	11.2%	3.6%	7.8%
452		Wansdyke <*	LAB	865	331	1,196	3.4%	1.7%	2.7%
512		Wantage	CON	670	225	895	2.4%	1.1%	1.9%
86		Warley	LAB	2,503	774	3,277	11.7%	5.0%	8.9%
299		Warrington North	LAB	1,638	469	2,107	6.1%	2.4%	4.5%
352		Warrington South	LAB	1,279	417	1,696	5.0%	2.1%	3.8%
398		Warwick & Leamington	LAB	1,276	419	1,695	4.5%	1.9%	3.3%
388		Watford	LAB	1,389	369	1,758	4.8%	1.7%	3.4%
92		Waveney	LAB	2,881	912	3,793	11.2%	5.1%	8.7%
506		Wealden	CON	688	264	952	2.5%	1.3%	2.0%
191		Weaver Vale	LAB	1,955	586	2,541	8.5%	3.5%	6.3%
369		Wellingborough	LAB	1,399	427	1,826	4.9%	2.0%	3.6%
324		Wells	CON	1,290	468	1,758	5.3%	2.7%	4.2%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
460		Welwyn Hatfield	LAB	891	272	1,163	3.5%	1.4%	2.6%
109		Wentworth	LAB	2,537	585	3,122	11.4%	3.7%	8.2%
114		West Bromwich East	LAB	2,523	767	3,290	10.5%	4.5%	8.0%
91		West Bromwich West	SPKR	2,791	810	3,601	11.3%	4.9%	8.7%
404		West Chelmsford	CON	1,234	416	1,650	4.2%	1.9%	3.2%
437		West Derbyshire	CON	908	345	1,253	3.6%	1.9%	2.9%
422		West Dorset	CON	795	318	1,113	3.7%	2.0%	3.0%
14		West Ham	LAB	4,346	1,345	5,691	19.1%	8.3%	14.6%
221		West Lancashire	LAB	2,042	556	2,598	7.9%	2.9%	5.8%
424		West Suffolk	CON	1,130	423	1,553	3.6%	2.0%	3.0%
432		West Worcestershire	CON	842	277	1,119	3.8%	1.7%	2.9%
344		Westbury	CON	1,369	485	1,854	4.9%	2.4%	3.9%
486		Westmorland & Lonsdale	CON	658	221	879	2.9%	1.2%	2.2%
243		Weston-Super-Mare	LD	1,677	514	2,191	7.0%	2.9%	5.3%
163		Wigan	LAB	2,084	581	2,665	9.2%	3.6%	6.8%
335		Wimbledon	LAB	1,288	469	1,757	5.2%	2.4%	3.9%
484		Winchester	LD	809	258	1,067	2.9%	1.2%	2.2%
492		Windsor	CON	787	274	1,061	2.8%	1.3%	2.2%
263		Wirral South	LAB	1,426	446	1,872	6.9%	2.7%	5.1%
226		Wirral West	LAB	1,528	545	2,073	7.6%	3.4%	5.7%
523		Witney	CON	577	243	820	2.0%	1.2%	1.6%
521		Woking	CON	640	176	816	2.2%	0.9%	1.7%
529		Wokingham	CON	413	138	551	1.5%	0.7%	1.1%
117		Wolverhampton North East	LAB	2,433	644	3,077	10.5%	4.1%	7.9%
90		Wolverhampton South East	LAB	2,333	596	2,929	11.7%	4.5%	8.8%
142		Wolverhampton South West	LAB	2,203	709	2,912	9.6%	4.2%	7.3%
487		Woodspring	CON	722	236	958	2.9%	1.2%	2.2%
294		Worcester	LAB	1,496	464	1,960	6.2%	2.5%	4.6%
139		Workington	LAB	2,361	629	2,990	10.0%	3.7%	7.4%
296		Worsley	LAB	1,548	435	1,983	6.3%	2.3%	4.6%
379		Worthing West	CON	995	258	1,253	5.0%	1.6%	3.5%
426		Wrekin, The	LAB	845	275	1,120	3.8%	1.7%	3.0%
	30	Wrexham	LAB	1,230	366	1,596	7.1%	2.8%	5.2%
420		Wycombe	CON	1,250	318	1,568	4.2%	1.5%	3.0%
357		Wyre Forest	LAB	1,323	450	1,773	4.9%	2.2%	3.7%
134		Wythenshawe & Sale East	LAB	2,744	611	3,355	10.9%	3.1%	7.5%
378		Yeovil *	LD	1,157	425	1,582	4.4%	2.3%	3.5%
	7	Ynys-Mon	PC	1,923	575	2,498	10.7%	4.8%	8.4%
189		York, City of	LAB	2,429	696	3,125	8.9%	3.2%	6.3%
		England and Wales		1,075,628	323,224	1,398,852	7.7%	3.1%	5.7%

II Residence-based unemployment rates by parliamentary constituency, England and Wales, May 1997

B. (not seasonally adjusted) - highest and lowest

Rank by overall unemployment rate		Party	Claimants			Rate			
Eng	Wal		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
1		Birmingham, Ladywood	LAB	6,445	1,695	8,140	26.3%	10.1%	19.7%
2		Liverpool, Riverside	LAB	5,439	1,460	6,899	26.3%	9.4%	19.0%
3		Hackney South & Shoreditch	LAB	5,997	1,992	7,989	25.5%	10.4%	18.7%
4		Hackney North & Stoke Newington	LAB	5,722	2,100	7,822	23.8%	11.3%	18.3%
5		Manchester, Central	LAB	5,037	1,246	6,283	24.0%	8.5%	17.6%
6		Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath	LAB	5,468	1,549	7,017	20.9%	9.9%	16.8%
7		Tottenham	LAB	6,223	2,065	8,288	22.3%	9.6%	16.8%
8		Sheffield, Central	LAB	4,692	1,268	5,960	21.4%	8.2%	16.0%
9		Bethnal Green & Bow	LAB	5,210	1,364	6,574	20.8%	8.3%	15.8%
10		Camberwell & Peckham	LAB	4,257	1,507	5,764	20.7%	8.8%	15.3%
11		Vauxhall	LAB	5,790	2,024	7,814	20.5%	8.4%	14.9%
12		Poplar & Canning Town	LAB	4,711	1,289	6,000	19.5%	7.8%	14.7%
13		Islington North	LAB	4,701	1,847	6,548	19.7%	8.9%	14.7%
14		West Ham	LAB	4,346	1,345	5,691	19.1%	8.3%	14.6%
15		Manchester, Gorton	LAB	3,727	1,013	4,740	19.9%	7.4%	14.6%
16		North Southwark & Bermondsey	LD	4,471	1,502	5,973	18.9%	8.1%	14.1%
17		Lewisham, Deptford	LAB	4,291	1,456	5,747	19.3%	7.8%	14.1%
18		Liverpool, West Derby	LAB	4,341	1,063	5,404	19.7%	6.5%	14.1%
19		Nottingham East	LAB	4,445	1,263	5,708	19.0%	7.1%	13.9%
20		Holborn & St Pancras	LAB	4,036	1,442	5,478	18.3%	7.8%	13.5%
21		Liverpool, Walton	LAB	4,281	1,097	5,378	18.9%	6.3%	13.5%
22		Islington South & Finsbury	LAB	3,840	1,479	5,319	17.4%	8.4%	13.4%
23		Birkenhead	LAB	3,976	955	4,931	18.8%	5.9%	13.3%
24		Tyne Bridge	LAB	4,180	865	5,045	18.8%	5.5%	13.3%
25		Middlesbrough	LAB	4,465	1,072	5,537	18.3%	6.2%	13.2%
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
505		South Cambridgeshire	CON	701	232	933	2.6%	1.2%	2.0%
506		Wealden	CON	688	264	952	2.5%	1.3%	2.0%
507		Arundel & South Downs	CON	559	202	761	2.5%	1.2%	2.0%
508		Ribble Valley	CON	646	244	890	2.5%	1.2%	1.9%
509		Rutland & Melton	CON	623	245	868	2.4%	1.3%	1.9%
510		Guildford	CON	741	223	964	2.6%	1.0%	1.9%
511		East Surrey	CON	727	229	956	2.6%	1.1%	1.9%
512		Wantage	CON	670	225	895	2.4%	1.1%	1.9%
513		Bracknell	CON	778	222	1,000	2.5%	1.0%	1.8%
514		Newbury	LD	692	213	905	2.4%	1.0%	1.8%
515		Beaconsfield	CON	610	231	841	2.3%	1.2%	1.8%
516		Aldershot	CON	825	281	1,106	2.3%	1.1%	1.8%
517		Horsham	CON	619	222	841	2.2%	1.0%	1.7%
518		Buckingham	CON	522	163	685	2.2%	1.0%	1.7%
519		North West Hampshire *	CON	621	232	853	2.1%	1.1%	1.7%
520		North East Hampshire	CON	584	198	782	2.1%	1.0%	1.7%
521		Woking	CON	640	176	816	2.2%	0.9%	1.7%
522		Mid Sussex	CON	596	175	771	2.2%	0.9%	1.6%
523		Witney	CON	577	243	820	2.0%	1.2%	1.6%
524		Henley	CON	537	180	717	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%
525		South West Surrey	CON	545	169	714	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%
526		Chesham & Amersham	CON	550	143	693	2.1%	0.7%	1.5%
527		Surrey Heath	CON	591	153	744	1.9%	0.7%	1.4%
528		Mole Valley	CON	460	118	578	1.8%	0.6%	1.3%
529		Wokingham	CON	413	138	551	1.5%	0.7%	1.1%
		England and Wales		1,075,628	323,224	1,398,852	7.7%	3.1%	5.7%

**Residence-based unemployment rates
by parliamentary constituency, May 1997**

C. Northern Ireland (not seasonally adjusted)

NI	Party	Claimants			Rate			
		Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	
1	Belfast West	SF	4,949	726	5,675	24.3%	5.1%	16.4%
2	Foyle	SDLP	4,736	974	5,710	20.6%	6.5%	15.0%
3	Belfast North	UU	3,508	715	4,223	19.4%	5.6%	13.6%
4	West Tyrone	UU	3,230	672	3,902	15.8%	5.7%	12.1%
5	Newry & Armagh	SDLP	3,516	772	4,288	14.2%	5.2%	10.8%
6	Fermanagh & South Tyrone	UU	2,897	729	3,626	13.3%	5.7%	10.5%
7	East Londonderry	UU	2,896	743	3,639	13.6%	5.5%	10.4%
8	Mid Ulster	SF	2,514	581	3,095	12.6%	4.9%	9.7%
9	Belfast South	UU	2,765	986	3,751	12.8%	5.4%	9.4%
10	South Down	SDLP	2,632	767	3,399	11.1%	5.1%	8.8%
11	Belfast East	DU	2,326	590	2,916	11.1%	3.6%	7.8%
12	North Antrim	DU	2,587	669	3,256	10.1%	4.1%	7.8%
13	East Antrim	UU	2,269	607	2,876	9.6%	3.6%	7.2%
14	Upper Bann	UU	2,039	545	2,584	8.2%	3.1%	6.1%
15	North Down	UKU	1,543	570	2,113	7.3%	3.7%	5.8%
16	Strangford	UU	1,752	507	2,259	7.4%	3.0%	5.6%
17	South Antrim	UU	1,593	501	2,094	6.1%	2.7%	4.7%
18	Lagan Valley	UU	1,409	494	1,903	5.4%	2.8%	4.3%
Northern Ireland			49,161	12,148	61,309	12.1%	4.4%	9.0%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
658		40			Aberavon	1,990	1,836	(154)	-7.7%
445			17		Aberdeen Central	2,545	1,978	(567)	-22.3%
275			9		Aberdeen North	1,694	1,229	(465)	-27.4%
189			4		Aberdeen South	1,964	1,373	(591)	-30.1%
651			68		Airdrie & Shotts	3,261	2,921	(340)	-10.4%
48	48				Aldershot	1,803	1,106	(697)	-38.7%
235	220				Aldridge - Brownhills	2,403	1,721	(682)	-28.4%
182	175				Altrincham & Sale West	2,103	1,459	(644)	-30.6%
221		3			Alyn & Deeside	2,134	1,517	(617)	-28.9%
199	190				Amber Valley	2,799	1,967	(832)	-29.7%
600			44		Angus	2,830	2,373	(457)	-16.1%
367			12		Argyll & Bute	2,479	1,877	(602)	-24.3%
24	24				Arundel & South Downs	1,309	761	(548)	-41.9%
327	294				Ashfield	3,847	2,850	(997)	-25.9%
283	255				Ashford	2,844	2,068	(776)	-27.3%
281	253				Ashton under Lyne	3,702	2,691	(1,011)	-27.3%
65	65				Aylesbury	2,326	1,459	(867)	-37.3%
635			60		Ayr	2,791	2,415	(376)	-13.5%
16	16				Banbury	2,152	1,217	(935)	-43.4%
163			2		Banff & Buchan	1,796	1,231	(565)	-31.5%
485	424				Barking *	3,454	2,729	(725)	-21.0%
624	520				Barnsley Central	3,370	2,889	(481)	-14.3%
586	497				Barnsley East & Mexborough	3,747	3,108	(639)	-17.1%
557	478				Barnsley West & Penistone	2,781	2,272	(509)	-18.3%
395	352				Barrow & Furness	3,788	2,896	(892)	-23.5%
229	215				Basildon	4,025	2,871	(1,154)	-28.7%
87	86				Basingstoke *	2,172	1,400	(772)	-35.5%
308	277				Bassetlaw	3,601	2,647	(954)	-26.5%
269	244				Bath *>	3,545	2,568	(977)	-27.6%
266	242				Batley & Spen	2,903	2,102	(801)	-27.6%
233	219				Battersea	5,433	3,885	(1,548)	-28.5%
28	28				Beaconsfield	1,426	841	(585)	-41.0%
217	207				Beckenham	3,768	2,675	(1,093)	-29.0%
323	291				Bedford	3,625	2,681	(944)	-26.0%
348			12		Belfast East	3,903	2,916	(987)	-25.3%
427			15		Belfast North	5,474	4,223	(1,251)	-22.9%
254			6		Belfast South	5,204	3,751	(1,453)	-27.9%
389			13		Belfast West	7,448	5,675	(1,773)	-23.8%
359	321				Berwick-upon-Tweed	2,514	1,892	(622)	-24.7%
382	343				Bethnal Green & Bow	8,641	6,574	(2,067)	-23.9%
187	179				Beverley & Holderness	2,624	1,826	(798)	-30.4%
164	157				Bexhill & Battle	1,859	1,275	(584)	-31.4%
259	237				Bexleyheath & Crayford	2,608	1,884	(724)	-27.8%
108	106				Billericay	3,216	2,120	(1,096)	-34.1%
615	515				Birkenhead	5,808	4,931	(877)	-15.1%
335	301				Birmingham, Edgbaston	4,596	3,418	(1,178)	-25.6%
464	409				Birmingham, Erdington	5,272	4,133	(1,139)	-21.6%
523	453				Birmingham, Hall Green	3,366	2,710	(656)	-19.5%
425	377				Birmingham, Hodge Hill	4,729	3,647	(1,082)	-22.9%
514	445				Birmingham, Ladywood	10,158	8,140	(2,018)	-19.9%
415	367				Birmingham, Northfield	3,314	2,551	(763)	-23.0%
293	264				Birmingham, Perry Barr	5,779	4,225	(1,554)	-26.9%
227	214				Birmingham, Selly Oak	4,591	3,273	(1,318)	-28.7%
540	466				Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath	8,654	7,017	(1,637)	-18.9%
307	276				Birmingham, Yardley	3,454	2,537	(917)	-26.5%
536	463				Bishop Auckland	2,971	2,405	(566)	-19.1%
134	131				Blaby	1,498	1,011	(487)	-32.5%
530	460				Blackburn	3,614	2,917	(697)	-19.3%
496	431				Blackpool North & Fleetwood	3,166	2,509	(657)	-20.8%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
561	481				Blackpool South	4,323	3,539	(784)	-18.1%
611		34			Blaenau Gwent	2,961	2,507	(454)	-15.3%
321	289				Blaydon	3,191	2,358	(833)	-26.1%
529	459				Blyth Valley	3,334	2,691	(643)	-19.3%
32	32				Bognor Regis & Littlehampton	2,260	1,345	(915)	-40.5%
289	260				Bolsover	3,411	2,491	(920)	-27.0%
260	238				Bolton North East	3,284	2,373	(911)	-27.7%
285	257				Bolton South East	3,260	2,376	(884)	-27.1%
224	212				Bolton West	1,777	1,265	(512)	-28.8%
606	510				Bootle	5,276	4,438	(838)	-15.9%
31	31				Boston & Skegness	2,962	1,757	(1,205)	-40.7%
130	128				Bosworth	1,413	950	(463)	-32.8%
107	105				Bournemouth East	3,374	2,223	(1,151)	-34.1%
315	284				Bournemouth West	3,611	2,664	(947)	-26.2%
4	4				Bracknell	1,961	1,000	(961)	-49.0%
609	512				Bradford North	4,777	4,033	(744)	-15.6%
537	464				Bradford South	3,812	3,086	(726)	-19.0%
602	506				Bradford West	5,610	4,711	(899)	-16.0%
112	110				Braintree	2,675	1,767	(908)	-33.9%
228		4			Brecon & Radnorshire	1,652	1,178	(474)	-28.7%
301	270				Brent East	7,092	5,192	(1,900)	-26.8%
377	338				Brent North	3,127	2,375	(752)	-24.0%
474	415				Brent South	7,243	5,694	(1,549)	-21.4%
290	261				Brentford & Isleworth	4,387	3,204	(1,183)	-27.0%
81	80				Brentwood & Ongar	1,753	1,123	(630)	-35.9%
477		23			Bridgend	2,248	1,769	(479)	-21.3%
406	361				Bridgwater	3,109	2,382	(727)	-23.4%
470	412				Brigg & Goole	2,663	2,092	(571)	-21.4%
347	311				Brighton, Kemptown	4,997	3,733	(1,264)	-25.3%
454	401				Brighton, Pavilion	6,161	4,816	(1,345)	-21.8%
303	272				Bristol East	4,875	3,571	(1,304)	-26.7%
122	120				Bristol North West	3,940	2,637	(1,303)	-33.1%
373	334				Bristol South	4,831	3,665	(1,166)	-24.1%
274	247				Bristol West	5,010	3,632	(1,378)	-27.5%
128	126				Bromley & Chislehurst	2,575	1,727	(848)	-32.9%
241	226				Bromsgrove	2,256	1,619	(637)	-28.2%
93	92				Broxbourne	2,631	1,712	(919)	-34.9%
239	224				Broxtowe	2,665	1,911	(754)	-28.3%
26	26				Buckingham	1,171	685	(486)	-41.5%
471	413				Burnley	1,964	1,543	(421)	-21.4%
460	405				Burton	3,066	2,399	(667)	-21.8%
139	136				Bury North	1,991	1,347	(644)	-32.3%
209	200				Bury South	2,344	1,655	(689)	-29.4%
106	104				Bury St Edmunds	2,061	1,357	(704)	-34.2%
587		32			Caernarfon	2,669	2,215	(454)	-17.0%
296		11			Caerphilly	3,612	2,642	(970)	-26.9%
472			22		Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross	2,597	2,041	(556)	-21.4%
546	472				Calder Valley	2,477	2,014	(463)	-18.7%
434	384				Camberwell & Peckham	7,452	5,764	(1,688)	-22.7%
192	183				Cambridge	3,040	2,129	(911)	-30.0%
202	193				Cannock Chase	2,958	2,081	(877)	-29.6%
331	298				Canterbury	2,954	2,192	(762)	-25.8%
507		28			Cardiff Central	3,517	2,803	(714)	-20.3%
316		12			Cardiff North	1,697	1,252	(445)	-26.2%
401		19			Cardiff South & Penarth	4,260	3,261	(999)	-23.5%
465		22			Cardiff West	3,954	3,102	(852)	-21.5%
563	482				Carlisle	3,043	2,492	(551)	-18.1%
499		27			Carmarthen East & Dinefwr	1,935	1,536	(399)	-20.6%
579		31			Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire	2,877	2,380	(497)	-17.3%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
495			24		Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley	3,802	3,011	(791)	-20.8%
184	177				Carshalton & Wallington	2,878	2,001	(877)	-30.5%
60	60				Castle Point	2,903	1,816	(1,087)	-37.4%
519			25		Central Fife	3,522	2,828	(694)	-19.7%
243	227				Central Suffolk & North Ipswich	2,098	1,506	(592)	-28.2%
392		17			Ceredigion	1,950	1,489	(461)	-23.6%
230	216				Charnwood	1,603	1,145	(458)	-28.6%
111	109				Chatham & Aylesford	3,486	2,300	(1,186)	-34.0%
78	77				Cheadle	1,402	896	(506)	-36.1%
312	281				Cheltenham	3,177	2,342	(835)	-26.3%
3	3				Chesham & Amersham	1,427	693	(734)	-51.4%
504	437				Chesterfield	3,816	3,039	(777)	-20.4%
244	228				Chester, City of	2,872	2,062	(810)	-28.2%
57	57				Chichester	1,794	1,119	(675)	-37.6%
180	173				Chingford & Woodford Green	2,681	1,854	(827)	-30.8%
334	300				Chipping Barnet	2,532	1,881	(651)	-25.7%
181	174				Chorley	2,386	1,654	(732)	-30.7%
64	64				Christchurch	1,644	1,031	(613)	-37.3%
479	419				Cities of London & Westminster	4,281	3,374	(907)	-21.2%
486	425				Cleethorpes	3,440	2,718	(722)	-21.0%
76		1			Clwyd South *>	2,144	1,365	(779)	-36.3%
149		2			Clwyd West <*	2,162	1,474	(688)	-31.8%
649			67		Clydebank & Milngavie	2,825	2,520	(305)	-10.8%
560			34		Clydesdale	2,709	2,217	(492)	-18.2%
643			64		Coatbridge & Chryston	2,616	2,304	(312)	-11.9%
124	122				Colchester	3,200	2,144	(1,056)	-33.0%
295	265				Colne Valley	2,662	1,947	(715)	-26.9%
141	137				Congleton	1,655	1,122	(533)	-32.2%
492		25			Conwy	3,015	2,385	(630)	-20.9%
524	454				Copeland	3,457	2,784	(673)	-19.5%
75	75				Corby	2,762	1,758	(1,004)	-36.4%
36	36				Cotswold	1,364	815	(549)	-40.2%
291	262				Coventry North East	5,131	3,748	(1,383)	-27.0%
345	310				Coventry North West	3,692	2,757	(935)	-25.3%
306	275				Coventry South	3,993	2,932	(1,061)	-26.6%
118	116				Crawley	2,292	1,523	(769)	-33.6%
268	243				Crewe & Nantwich	2,864	2,074	(790)	-27.6%
344	309				Crosby	2,834	2,116	(718)	-25.3%
365	327				Croydon Central	4,935	3,731	(1,204)	-24.4%
379	340				Croydon North	6,786	5,158	(1,628)	-24.0%
63	63				Croydon South	2,523	1,580	(943)	-37.4%
607			46		Cumbernauld & Kilsyth	2,249	1,896	(353)	-15.7%
549			30		Cunninghame North	2,876	2,340	(536)	-18.6%
614			48		Cunninghame South	3,290	2,792	(498)	-15.1%
242		5			Cynon Valley	2,830	2,031	(799)	-28.2%
196	187				Dagenham	3,291	2,312	(979)	-29.7%
605	509				Darlington	3,979	3,345	(634)	-15.9%
299	268				Dartford	3,039	2,224	(815)	-26.8%
156	150				Daventry	1,700	1,161	(539)	-31.7%
270		9			Delyn	1,789	1,296	(493)	-27.6%
305	274				Denton & Reddish	2,844	2,085	(759)	-26.7%
409	363				Derby North	3,849	2,951	(898)	-23.3%
527	457				Derby South	5,776	4,658	(1,118)	-19.4%
165	158				Devizes	2,081	1,428	(653)	-31.4%
219	209				Dewsbury	2,697	1,916	(781)	-29.0%
577	490				Don Valley	3,357	2,774	(583)	-17.4%
603	507				Doncaster Central	5,025	4,222	(803)	-16.0%
450	397				Doncaster North	4,174	3,251	(923)	-22.1%
637	523				Dover	3,648	3,167	(481)	-13.2%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
515	446				Dudley North	3,734	2,994	(740)	-19.8%
380	341				Dudley South	2,962	2,252	(710)	-24.0%
343	308				Dulwich & West Norwood	6,970	5,204	(1,766)	-25.3%
610			47		Dumbarton	3,410	2,882	(528)	-15.5%
533			26		Dumfries	2,892	2,337	(555)	-19.2%
629			55		Dundee East	4,410	3,787	(623)	-14.1%
627			54		Dundee West	3,699	3,173	(526)	-14.2%
539			29		Dunfermline East	3,108	2,520	(588)	-18.9%
407			14		Dunfermline West	2,551	1,955	(596)	-23.4%
488	426				Durham, City of	2,617	2,068	(549)	-21.0%
214	204				Ealing North *	4,473	3,172	(1,301)	-29.1%
236	221				Ealing Southall	5,313	3,806	(1,507)	-28.4%
461	406				Ealing, Acton & Shepherd's Bush	6,754	5,288	(1,466)	-21.7%
320	288				Easington	3,043	2,248	(795)	-26.1%
212				4	East Antrim	4,062	2,876	(1,186)	-29.2%
375	336				East Devon	1,573	1,194	(379)	-24.1%
413	366				East Ham	6,743	5,188	(1,555)	-23.1%
97	96				East Hampshire	1,981	1,295	(686)	-34.6%
458			19		East Kilbride	2,741	2,144	(597)	-21.8%
414				14	East Londonderry	4,728	3,639	(1,089)	-23.0%
569			37		East Lothian	1,956	1,611	(345)	-17.6%
18	18				East Surrey	1,686	956	(730)	-43.3%
172	165				East Worthing & Shoreham	2,077	1,428	(649)	-31.2%
433	383				East Yorkshire	2,921	2,259	(662)	-22.7%
232	218				Eastbourne	2,727	1,949	(778)	-28.5%
25	25				Eastleigh	1,886	1,103	(783)	-41.5%
534			27		Eastwood	1,925	1,557	(368)	-19.1%
280	252				Eccles	3,055	2,220	(835)	-27.3%
185	178				Eddisbury	1,898	1,320	(578)	-30.5%
554			33		Edinburgh Central	3,174	2,590	(584)	-18.4%
616			49		Edinburgh East & Musselburgh	2,510	2,134	(376)	-15.0%
550			31		Edinburgh North & Leith	4,030	3,281	(749)	-18.6%
625			53		Edinburgh Pentlands	2,289	1,963	(326)	-14.2%
568			36		Edinburgh South	2,397	1,971	(426)	-17.8%
383			13		Edinburgh West	2,108	1,605	(503)	-23.9%
551	475				Edmonton	4,783	3,899	(884)	-18.5%
151	145				Ellesmere Port & Neston	2,860	1,950	(910)	-31.8%
190	181				Elmet	2,285	1,598	(687)	-30.1%
478	418				Eltham	3,455	2,721	(734)	-21.2%
547	473				Enfield North	3,656	2,973	(683)	-18.7%
447	395				Enfield, Southgate	3,233	2,515	(718)	-22.2%
160	154				Epping Forest	2,650	1,814	(836)	-31.5%
17	17				Epsom & Ewell	1,733	981	(752)	-43.4%
173	166				Erewash	3,387	2,330	(1,057)	-31.2%
543	469				Erith & Thamesmead	5,619	4,562	(1,057)	-18.8%
14	14				Esher & Walton	1,837	1,036	(801)	-43.6%
491	428				Exeter	3,590	2,839	(751)	-20.9%
466			20		Falkirk East	2,599	2,039	(560)	-21.5%
581			40		Falkirk West	2,833	2,346	(487)	-17.2%
575	488				Falmouth & Camborne	4,058	3,346	(712)	-17.5%
20	20				Fareham	1,901	1,098	(803)	-42.2%
125	123				Faversham & Mid Kent	2,558	1,715	(843)	-33.0%
310	279				Feltham & Heston	3,949	2,907	(1,042)	-26.4%
482				16	Fermanagh & South Tyrone	4,593	3,626	(967)	-21.1%
403	358				Finchley & Golders Green	3,697	2,831	(866)	-23.4%
582	493				Folkestone & Hythe	4,099	3,397	(702)	-17.1%
218	208				Forest of Dean	2,001	1,421	(580)	-29.0%
553				18	Foyle	6,999	5,710	(1,289)	-18.4%
117	115				Fylde	1,420	943	(477)	-33.6%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
272	245				Gainsborough	2,481	1,798	(683)	-27.5%
456			18		Galloway & Upper Nithsdale	2,587	2,023	(564)	-21.8%
251	234				Gateshead East & Washington West	3,545	2,554	(991)	-28.0%
170	163				Gedling	3,017	2,074	(943)	-31.3%
46	46				Gillingham	3,655	2,239	(1,416)	-38.7%
570			38		Glasgow Anniesland	3,013	2,482	(531)	-17.6%
619			51		Glasgow Baillieston	3,938	3,364	(574)	-14.6%
641			62		Glasgow Cathcart	2,439	2,145	(294)	-12.1%
623			52		Glasgow Govan	3,792	3,250	(542)	-14.3%
638			61		Glasgow Kelvin	3,938	3,420	(518)	-13.2%
655			70		Glasgow Maryhill	4,768	4,372	(396)	-8.3%
630			56		Glasgow Pollok	3,579	3,076	(503)	-14.1%
593			42		Glasgow Rutherglen	2,637	2,198	(439)	-16.6%
634			59		Glasgow Shettleston	3,601	3,112	(489)	-13.6%
642			63		Glasgow Springburn	4,294	3,780	(514)	-12.0%
481	421				Gloucester	3,774	2,978	(796)	-21.1%
186			3		Gordon	1,509	1,050	(459)	-30.4%
273	246				Gosport	2,358	1,709	(649)	-27.5%
572		30			Gower	1,934	1,594	(340)	-17.6%
319	287				Grantham & Stamford	2,157	1,593	(564)	-26.1%
188	180				Gravesham	3,943	2,754	(1,189)	-30.2%
617	516				Great Grimsby	4,905	4,174	(731)	-14.9%
639	524				Great Yarmouth	4,487	3,898	(589)	-13.1%
644			65		Greenock & Inverclyde	2,172	1,916	(256)	-11.8%
574	487				Greenwich & Woolwich	6,071	5,005	(1,066)	-17.6%
40	40				Guildford	1,602	964	(638)	-39.8%
594	502				Hackney North & Stoke Newington	9,380	7,822	(1,558)	-16.6%
598	504				Hackney South & Shoreditch	9,532	7,989	(1,543)	-16.2%
429	379				Halesowen & Rowley Regis	2,864	2,210	(654)	-22.8%
621	518				Halifax	3,996	3,424	(572)	-14.3%
171	164				Haltemprice & Howden	1,683	1,157	(526)	-31.3%
542	468				Halton	3,796	3,081	(715)	-18.8%
631			57		Hamilton North & Bellshill	3,028	2,603	(425)	-14.0%
648			66		Hamilton South	2,241	1,987	(254)	-11.3%
484	423				Hammersmith & Fulham	6,601	5,212	(1,389)	-21.0%
391	349				Hampstead & Highgate	5,529	4,221	(1,308)	-23.7%
408	362				Harborough	1,537	1,178	(359)	-23.4%
252	235				Harlow	2,977	2,145	(832)	-27.9%
89	88				Harrogate & Knaresborough	2,082	1,346	(736)	-35.4%
459	404				Harrow East	3,433	2,686	(747)	-21.8%
364	326				Harrow West	2,558	1,933	(625)	-24.4%
646	525				Hartlepool	4,803	4,243	(560)	-11.7%
213	203				Harwich	3,744	2,652	(1,092)	-29.2%
422	374				Hastings & Rye	4,625	3,565	(1,060)	-22.9%
179	172				Havant	3,146	2,173	(973)	-30.9%
354	317				Hayes & Harlington	2,865	2,150	(715)	-25.0%
155	149				Hazel Grove	1,662	1,135	(527)	-31.7%
41	41				Hemel Hempstead	2,213	1,333	(880)	-39.8%
451	398				Hemsworth	3,228	2,519	(709)	-22.0%
526	456				Hendon	3,895	3,141	(754)	-19.4%
8	8				Henley	1,335	717	(618)	-46.3%
311	280				Hereford *>	2,722	2,006	(716)	-26.3%
10	10				Hertford & Stortford	1,866	1,015	(851)	-45.6%
49	49				Hertsmere	2,047	1,257	(790)	-38.6%
154	148				Hexham	1,728	1,180	(548)	-31.7%
446	394				Heywood & Middleton	3,733	2,903	(830)	-22.2%
211	202				High Peak	2,209	1,563	(646)	-29.2%
101	99				Hitchin & Harpenden	1,649	1,082	(567)	-34.4%
589	498				Holborn & St Pancras	6,593	5,478	(1,115)	-16.9%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
88	87				Hornchurch	2,348	1,516	(832)	-35.4%
361	323				Hornsey & Wood Green	7,343	5,546	(1,797)	-24.5%
80	79				Horsham	1,314	841	(473)	-36.0%
246	230				Houghton & Washington East	3,748	2,693	(1,055)	-28.1%
300	269				Hove	4,670	3,418	(1,252)	-26.8%
571	486				Huddersfield	4,123	3,398	(725)	-17.6%
79	78				Huntingdon	2,269	1,452	(817)	-36.0%
510	442				Hyndburn	2,023	1,616	(407)	-20.1%
287	259				Ilford North	3,018	2,201	(817)	-27.1%
369	330				Ilford South *	5,174	3,922	(1,252)	-24.2%
332			10		Inverness East, Nairn & Lochaber	3,238	2,403	(835)	-25.8%
532	462				Ipswich	3,589	2,900	(689)	-19.2%
435	385				Isle of Wight	5,391	4,171	(1,220)	-22.6%
525	455				Islington North	8,128	6,548	(1,580)	-19.4%
576	489				Islington South & Finsbury	6,438	5,319	(1,119)	-17.4%
487		24			Islwyn	1,968	1,555	(413)	-21.0%
517	448				Jarrow	3,984	3,196	(788)	-19.8%
298	267				Keighley	2,689	1,967	(722)	-26.9%
240	225				Kensington & Chelsea	4,170	2,992	(1,178)	-28.2%
71	71				Kettering	2,362	1,498	(864)	-36.6%
659			72		Kilmarnock & Loudoun	3,414	3,152	(262)	-7.7%
399	355				Kingston upon Hull East	4,867	3,725	(1,142)	-23.5%
368	329				Kingston upon Hull North	5,761	4,366	(1,395)	-24.2%
309	278				Kingston upon Hull West & Hessle	5,281	3,882	(1,399)	-26.5%
197	188				Kingston & Surbiton	2,781	1,954	(827)	-29.7%
147	142				Kingswood	2,762	1,881	(881)	-31.9%
489			23		Kirkcaldy	3,525	2,787	(738)	-20.9%
500	433				Knowsley North & Sefton East	4,972	3,948	(1,024)	-20.6%
622	519				Knowsley South	5,360	4,593	(767)	-14.3%
140			3		Lagan Valley	2,811	1,903	(908)	-32.3%
390	348				Lancaster & Wyre	2,164	1,651	(513)	-23.7%
508	440				Leeds Central	6,554	5,224	(1,330)	-20.3%
578	491				Leeds East	4,807	3,974	(833)	-17.3%
476	417				Leeds North East	3,307	2,602	(705)	-21.3%
341	306				Leeds North West	2,428	1,809	(619)	-25.5%
400	356				Leeds West	3,807	2,914	(893)	-23.5%
304	273				Leicester East	3,841	2,815	(1,026)	-26.7%
443	392				Leicester South	5,125	3,979	(1,146)	-22.4%
397	353				Leicester West	5,012	3,832	(1,180)	-23.5%
426	378				Leigh	2,934	2,263	(671)	-22.9%
86	85				Leominster <*	1,938	1,248	(690)	-35.6%
72	72				Lewes	1,973	1,252	(721)	-36.5%
388	347				Lewisham East	4,419	3,367	(1,052)	-23.8%
498	432				Lewisham West	5,448	4,321	(1,127)	-20.7%
463	408				Lewisham, Deptford	7,331	5,747	(1,584)	-21.6%
356	318				Leyton & Wanstead	5,907	4,436	(1,471)	-24.9%
126	124				Lichfield	1,782	1,195	(587)	-32.9%
325	292				Lincoln	4,934	3,653	(1,281)	-26.0%
146			1		Linlithgow	2,398	1,633	(765)	-31.9%
566	484				Liverpool, Garston	4,400	3,612	(788)	-17.9%
612	513				Liverpool, Riverside	8,147	6,899	(1,248)	-15.3%
613	514				Liverpool, Walton	6,344	5,378	(966)	-15.2%
595	503				Liverpool, Wavertree	5,907	4,937	(970)	-16.4%
608	511				Liverpool, West Derby	6,404	5,404	(1,000)	-15.6%
222			5		Livingston	2,661	1,892	(769)	-28.9%
657		39			Llanelli	2,555	2,355	(200)	-7.8%
317	285				Loughborough	2,170	1,601	(569)	-26.2%
276	248				Louth & Horncastle	2,490	1,807	(683)	-27.4%
166	159				Ludlow	1,585	1,088	(497)	-31.4%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
203	194				Luton North	3,255	2,290	(965)	-29.6%
349	312				Luton South	4,227	3,159	(1,068)	-25.3%
556	477				Macclesfield	1,677	1,370	(307)	-18.3%
50	50				Maidenhead	1,557	957	(600)	-38.5%
100	98				Maidstone & The Weald	2,535	1,663	(872)	-34.4%
462	407				Makerfield	2,892	2,266	(626)	-21.6%
113	111				Maldon & East Chelmsford	2,257	1,492	(765)	-33.9%
360	322				Manchester, Blackley	4,912	3,703	(1,209)	-24.6%
559	480				Manchester, Central	7,681	6,283	(1,398)	-18.2%
585	496				Manchester, Gorton	5,715	4,740	(975)	-17.1%
467	410				Manchester, Withington	4,837	3,795	(1,042)	-21.5%
404	359				Mansfield	3,765	2,884	(881)	-23.4%
394	351				Medway	3,547	2,710	(837)	-23.6%
449		21			Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	1,535	1,195	(340)	-22.1%
318	286				Meriden	3,861	2,849	(1,012)	-26.2%
396		18			Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	3,372	2,578	(794)	-23.5%
45	45				Mid Bedfordshire	1,515	924	(591)	-39.0%
42	42				Mid Dorset & North Poole	1,941	1,176	(765)	-39.4%
333	299				Mid Norfolk	2,314	1,718	(596)	-25.8%
6	6				Mid Sussex	1,459	771	(688)	-47.2%
132				2	Mid Ulster	4,589	3,095	(1,494)	-32.6%
58	58				Mid Worcestershire	1,811	1,131	(680)	-37.5%
437	387				Middlesbrough	7,156	5,537	(1,619)	-22.6%
386	346				Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland	4,381	3,338	(1,043)	-23.8%
355			11		Midlothian	1,780	1,336	(444)	-24.9%
216	206				Milton Keynes South West	2,959	2,100	(859)	-29.0%
416	368				Mitcham & Morden	4,316	3,324	(992)	-23.0%
2	2				Mole Valley	1,226	578	(648)	-52.9%
294		10			Monmouth	1,946	1,423	(523)	-26.9%
265		7			Montgomeryshire	956	692	(264)	-27.6%
412			15		Moray	2,636	2,027	(609)	-23.1%
444	393				Morecambe & Lunesdale	3,474	2,700	(774)	-22.3%
314	283				Morley & Rothwell	2,556	1,885	(671)	-26.3%
596			43		Motherwell & Wishaw	2,818	2,360	(458)	-16.3%
645		38			Neath	2,132	1,881	(251)	-11.8%
35	35				New Forest East	1,757	1,049	(708)	-40.3%
95	94				New Forest West	1,618	1,056	(562)	-34.7%
313	282				Newark	2,935	2,164	(771)	-26.3%
5	5				Newbury	1,739	905	(834)	-48.0%
374	335				Newcastle upon Tyne Central	4,750	3,604	(1,146)	-24.1%
440	390				Newcastle upon Tyne East & Wallsend	5,130	3,978	(1,152)	-22.5%
261	239				Newcastle upon Tyne North	3,731	2,697	(1,034)	-27.7%
144	140				Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,416	1,644	(772)	-32.0%
338		14			Newport East	2,909	2,166	(743)	-25.5%
387		16			Newport West	3,289	2,506	(783)	-23.8%
225				5	Newry & Armagh	6,021	4,288	(1,733)	-28.8%
339	304				Normanton	2,327	1,733	(594)	-25.5%
288				11	North Antrim	4,464	3,256	(1,208)	-27.1%
174	167				North Cornwall	4,067	2,804	(1,263)	-31.1%
215	205				North Devon	2,976	2,111	(865)	-29.1%
115	113				North Dorset	1,229	813	(416)	-33.8%
263				9	North Down	2,921	2,113	(808)	-27.7%
626	521				North Durham	3,072	2,635	(437)	-14.2%
19	19				North East Bedfordshire	1,845	1,060	(785)	-42.5%
322	290				North East Cambridgeshire	2,923	2,161	(762)	-26.1%
220	210				North East Derbyshire	3,250	2,309	(941)	-29.0%
428			16		North East Fife	1,817	1,402	(415)	-22.8%
83	82				North East Hampshire	1,217	782	(435)	-35.7%
39	39				North East Hertfordshire	1,917	1,153	(764)	-39.9%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
340	305				North East Milton Keynes	2,237	1,666	(571)	-25.5%
30	30				North Essex	1,785	1,056	(729)	-40.8%
405	360				North Norfolk	2,493	1,910	(583)	-23.4%
223	211				North Shropshire	2,124	1,511	(613)	-28.9%
439	389				North Southwark & Bermondsey	7,706	5,973	(1,733)	-22.5%
90	89				North Swindon	2,132	1,379	(753)	-35.3%
573			39		North Tayside	2,065	1,702	(363)	-17.6%
328	295				North Thanet	4,484	3,323	(1,161)	-25.9%
419	371				North Tyneside	4,401	3,391	(1,010)	-22.9%
264	241				North Warwickshire	2,436	1,763	(673)	-27.6%
169	162				North West Cambridgeshire	2,396	1,647	(749)	-31.3%
592	501				North West Durham	3,113	2,591	(522)	-16.8%
104	102				North West Hampshire *	1,296	853	(443)	-34.2%
198	189				North West Leicestershire	2,048	1,439	(609)	-29.7%
541	467				North West Norfolk	2,952	2,394	(558)	-18.9%
55	55				North Wiltshire	2,012	1,250	(762)	-37.9%
452	399				Northampton North	3,271	2,555	(716)	-21.9%
453	400				Northampton South	2,952	2,307	(645)	-21.8%
33	33				Northavon	2,035	1,212	(823)	-40.4%
567	485				Norwich North	3,081	2,533	(548)	-17.8%
520	450				Norwich South	4,385	3,523	(862)	-19.7%
352	315				Nottingham East	7,615	5,708	(1,907)	-25.0%
506	439				Nottingham North	5,175	4,124	(1,051)	-20.3%
376	337				Nottingham South	5,149	3,909	(1,240)	-24.1%
522	452				Nuneaton	2,496	2,008	(488)	-19.6%
633			58		Ochil	2,615	2,255	(360)	-13.8%
562		29			Ogmore	2,115	1,732	(383)	-18.1%
175	168				Old Bexley & Sidcup	2,408	1,661	(747)	-31.0%
102	100				Oldham East & Saddleworth	3,302	2,167	(1,135)	-34.4%
157	151				Oldham West & Royton	3,845	2,627	(1,218)	-31.7%
656			71		Orkney & Shetland	879	808	(71)	-8.1%
82	81				Orpington	2,702	1,735	(967)	-35.8%
193	184				Oxford East	3,676	2,575	(1,101)	-30.0%
206	197				Oxford West & Abingdon	1,527	1,076	(451)	-29.5%
535			28		Paisley North	2,780	2,250	(530)	-19.1%
588			41		Paisley South	3,211	2,667	(544)	-16.9%
152	146				Pendle	2,144	1,463	(681)	-31.8%
384	344				Penrith & The Border	1,580	1,203	(377)	-23.9%
654			69		Perth	2,270	2,059	(211)	-9.3%
337	303				Peterborough	4,175	3,108	(1,067)	-25.6%
245	229				Plymouth, Devonport	4,878	3,504	(1,374)	-28.2%
420	372				Plymouth, Sutton	6,524	5,027	(1,497)	-22.9%
503	436				Pontefract & Castleford	3,213	2,556	(657)	-20.4%
441		20			Pontypridd	2,632	2,041	(591)	-22.5%
136	133				Poole	2,460	1,662	(798)	-32.4%
302	271				Poplar & Canning Town	8,195	6,000	(2,195)	-26.8%
158	152				Portsmouth North	3,370	2,303	(1,067)	-31.7%
438	388				Portsmouth South	5,226	4,050	(1,176)	-22.5%
636		36			Preseli Pembrokeshire	2,912	2,522	(390)	-13.4%
448	396				Preston	4,426	3,445	(981)	-22.2%
121	119				Pudsey	1,706	1,140	(566)	-33.2%
256	236				Putney	3,451	2,488	(963)	-27.9%
29	29				Rayleigh	2,262	1,338	(924)	-40.8%
74	74				Reading East	2,676	1,701	(975)	-36.4%
53	53				Reading West	2,505	1,553	(952)	-38.0%
432	382				Redcar	5,126	3,961	(1,165)	-22.7%
513	444				Redditch	2,603	2,085	(518)	-19.9%
518	449				Regent's Park & Kensington North	7,432	5,967	(1,465)	-19.7%
13	13				Reigate	1,562	872	(690)	-44.2%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
640		37			Rhondda	2,794	2,435	(359)	-12.8%
262	240				Ribble Valley	1,231	890	(341)	-27.7%
162	156				Richmond	1,820	1,247	(573)	-31.5%
207	198				Richmond Park	2,683	1,894	(789)	-29.4%
590	499				Rochdale	3,812	3,169	(643)	-16.9%
558	479				Rochford & Southend East	5,235	4,282	(953)	-18.2%
62	62				Romford	2,282	1,429	(853)	-37.4%
137	134				Romsey	1,415	956	(459)	-32.4%
358	320				Rossendale & Darwen	1,853	1,394	(459)	-24.8%
601			45		Ross, Skye & Inverness West	3,177	2,667	(510)	-16.1%
509	441				Rother Valley	3,589	2,863	(726)	-20.2%
652	528				Rotherham	4,198	3,782	(416)	-9.9%
249			7		Roxburgh & Berwickshire	1,461	1,052	(409)	-28.0%
238	223				Rugby & Kenilworth	2,377	1,704	(673)	-28.3%
99	97				Ruislip - Northwood	1,719	1,126	(593)	-34.5%
21	21				Runnymede & Weybridge	1,718	994	(724)	-42.1%
109	107				Rushcliffe	2,704	1,783	(921)	-34.1%
38	38				Rutland & Melton	1,449	868	(581)	-40.1%
208	199				Ryedale	1,558	1,100	(458)	-29.4%
66	66				Saffron Walden	1,792	1,126	(666)	-37.2%
201	192				Salford	4,201	2,955	(1,246)	-29.7%
44	44				Salisbury	2,170	1,317	(853)	-39.3%
469	411				Scarborough & Whitby	3,486	2,737	(749)	-21.5%
490	427				Scunthorpe	3,101	2,452	(649)	-20.9%
336	302				Sedgefield	2,607	1,939	(668)	-25.6%
226	213				Selby	2,465	1,757	(708)	-28.7%
84	83				Sevenoaks	1,914	1,230	(684)	-35.7%
580	492				Sheffield, Attercliffe	3,522	2,914	(608)	-17.3%
628	522				Sheffield, Brightside	4,885	4,193	(692)	-14.2%
555	476				Sheffield, Central	7,301	5,960	(1,341)	-18.4%
342	307				Sheffield, Hallam	1,976	1,474	(502)	-25.4%
531	461				Sheffield, Heeley	4,466	3,607	(859)	-19.2%
483	422				Sheffield, Hillsborough	3,459	2,731	(728)	-21.0%
231	217				Sherwood	3,289	2,350	(939)	-28.5%
480	420				Shipley	2,202	1,736	(466)	-21.2%
103	101				Shrewsbury & Atcham	2,300	1,511	(789)	-34.3%
350	313				Sittingbourne & Sheppey	3,744	2,802	(942)	-25.2%
27	27				Skipton & Ripon	1,572	927	(645)	-41.0%
120	118				Sleaford & North Hykeham	2,147	1,432	(715)	-33.3%
91	90				Slough	3,929	2,551	(1,378)	-35.1%
371	332				Solihull	1,911	1,449	(462)	-24.2%
114	112				Somerton & Frome *	2,266	1,498	(768)	-33.9%
98				1	South Antrim	3,202	2,094	(1,108)	-34.6%
22	22				South Cambridgeshire	1,612	933	(679)	-42.1%
362	324				South Derbyshire	2,452	1,852	(600)	-24.5%
279	251				South Dorset	2,766	2,009	(757)	-27.4%
255				7	South Down	4,715	3,399	(1,316)	-27.9%
52	52				South East Cambridgeshire	1,736	1,076	(660)	-38.0%
167	160				South East Cornwall	3,109	2,136	(973)	-31.3%
77	76				South Holland & The Deepings	1,496	955	(541)	-36.2%
278	250				South Norfolk	2,289	1,662	(627)	-27.4%
133	130				South Ribble	1,878	1,267	(611)	-32.5%
599	505				South Shields	5,071	4,251	(820)	-16.2%
123	121				South Staffordshire	2,352	1,575	(777)	-33.0%
131	129				South Suffolk	1,959	1,318	(641)	-32.7%
138	135				South Swindon	2,996	2,025	(971)	-32.4%
564	483				South Thanet	3,538	2,899	(639)	-18.1%
47	47				South West Bedfordshire	2,311	1,416	(895)	-38.7%
178	171				South West Devon	2,121	1,465	(656)	-30.9%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
51	51				South West Hertfordshire	1,734	1,074	(660)	-38.1%
168	161				South West Norfolk	2,752	1,891	(861)	-31.3%
11	11				South West Surrey	1,302	714	(588)	-45.2%
143	139				Southampton, Itchen	4,584	3,116	(1,468)	-32.0%
250	233				Southampton, Test	4,457	3,211	(1,246)	-28.0%
410	364				Southend West	3,500	2,684	(816)	-23.3%
411	365				Southport	3,045	2,340	(705)	-23.2%
54	54				Spelthorne	1,992	1,236	(756)	-38.0%
34	34				St Albans	1,651	984	(667)	-40.4%
430	380				St Helens North	3,431	2,649	(782)	-22.8%
418	370				St Helens South	3,919	3,019	(900)	-23.0%
584	495				St Ives	4,053	3,361	(692)	-17.1%
502	435				Stafford	1,941	1,542	(399)	-20.6%
505	438				Staffordshire Moorlands	1,672	1,332	(340)	-20.3%
210	201				Stalybridge & Hyde	3,148	2,224	(924)	-29.4%
96	95				Stevenage	3,195	2,086	(1,109)	-34.7%
552			32		Stirling	2,092	1,706	(386)	-18.5%
417	369				Stockport	2,868	2,209	(659)	-23.0%
620	517				Stockton North	4,880	4,169	(711)	-14.6%
501	434				Stockton South	3,965	3,149	(816)	-20.6%
653	529				Stoke-on-Trent Central	3,178	2,872	(306)	-9.6%
378	339				Stoke-on-Trent North	2,383	1,811	(572)	-24.0%
421	373				Stoke-on-Trent South	2,576	1,985	(591)	-22.9%
116	114				Stone	1,409	935	(474)	-33.6%
353	316				Stourbridge	2,588	1,941	(647)	-25.0%
271				10	Strangford	3,118	2,259	(859)	-27.5%
161	155				Stratford-on-Avon	1,784	1,222	(562)	-31.5%
468			21		Strathkelvin & Bearsden	2,292	1,799	(493)	-21.5%
436	386				Streatham	8,698	6,730	(1,968)	-22.6%
457	403				Stretford & Urmston	3,415	2,671	(744)	-21.8%
183	176				Stroud	2,218	1,540	(678)	-30.6%
442	391				Suffolk Coastal	2,449	1,901	(548)	-22.4%
398	354				Sunderland North	4,368	3,341	(1,027)	-23.5%
402	357				Sunderland South	5,558	4,255	(1,303)	-23.4%
7	7				Surrey Heath	1,405	744	(661)	-47.0%
177	170				Sutton Coldfield	2,093	1,445	(648)	-31.0%
69	69				Sutton & Cheam	2,088	1,320	(768)	-36.8%
632		35			Swansea East	2,803	2,411	(392)	-14.0%
597		33			Swansea West	3,147	2,636	(511)	-16.2%
297	266				Tamworth	2,510	1,836	(674)	-26.9%
148	143				Tatton	1,444	984	(460)	-31.9%
282	254				Taunton *	3,040	2,210	(830)	-27.3%
329	296				Teignbridge	2,660	1,973	(687)	-25.8%
351	314				Telford	2,461	1,844	(617)	-25.1%
159	153				Tewkesbury	1,752	1,199	(553)	-31.6%
493	429				Thurrock	4,107	3,249	(858)	-20.9%
191	182				Tiverton & Honiton	1,950	1,365	(585)	-30.0%
110	108				Tonbridge & Malling	1,847	1,218	(629)	-34.1%
366	328				Tooting	5,500	4,162	(1,338)	-24.3%
330	297				Torbay	4,389	3,256	(1,133)	-25.8%
324		13			Torfaen	2,974	2,201	(773)	-26.0%
248	232				Torrige & West Devon	3,062	2,204	(858)	-28.0%
127	125				Totnes	2,690	1,804	(886)	-32.9%
528	458				Tottenham	10,270	8,288	(1,982)	-19.3%
286	258				Truro & St Austell	3,619	2,639	(980)	-27.1%
37	37				Tunbridge Wells	2,051	1,228	(823)	-40.1%
253			8		Tweeddale, Ettrick & Lauderdale	1,328	957	(371)	-27.9%
205	196				Twickenham	2,460	1,732	(728)	-29.6%
385	345				Tyne Bridge	6,623	5,045	(1,578)	-23.8%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
431	381				Tynemouth	3,675	2,838	(837)	-22.8%
194	185				Upminster	2,132	1,495	(637)	-29.9%
257				8	Upper Bann	3,584	2,584	(1,000)	-27.9%
277	249				Uxbridge	2,126	1,543	(583)	-27.4%
258		6			Vale of Clwyd	2,539	1,834	(705)	-27.8%
346		15			Vale of Glamorgan	3,257	2,433	(824)	-25.3%
92	91				Vale of York	1,534	997	(537)	-35.0%
544	470				Vauxhall	9,618	7,814	(1,804)	-18.8%
423	375				Wakefield	3,496	2,695	(801)	-22.9%
647	526				Wallasey	4,695	4,160	(535)	-11.4%
521	451				Walsall North	4,455	3,581	(874)	-19.6%
583	494				Walsall South	4,426	3,670	(756)	-17.1%
424	376				Walthamstow	5,754	4,436	(1,318)	-22.9%
370	331				Wansbeck	3,764	2,854	(910)	-24.2%
15	15				Wansdyke <*	2,116	1,196	(920)	-43.5%
59	59				Wantage	1,432	895	(537)	-37.5%
381	342				Warley	4,309	3,277	(1,032)	-23.9%
393	350				Warrington North	2,759	2,107	(652)	-23.6%
363	325				Warrington South	2,245	1,696	(549)	-24.5%
119	117				Warwick & Leamington	2,546	1,695	(851)	-33.4%
105	103				Watford	2,671	1,758	(913)	-34.2%
650	527				Waveney	4,248	3,793	(455)	-10.7%
12	12				Wealden	1,723	952	(771)	-44.7%
516	447				Weaver Vale	3,168	2,541	(627)	-19.8%
195	186				Wellingborough	2,603	1,826	(777)	-29.9%
94	93				Wells	2,696	1,758	(938)	-34.8%
61	61				Welwyn Hatfield	1,859	1,163	(696)	-37.4%
604	508				Wentworth	3,714	3,122	(592)	-15.9%
234			6		West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine	1,306	935	(371)	-28.4%
548	474				West Bromwich East	4,044	3,290	(754)	-18.6%
545	471				West Bromwich West	4,430	3,601	(829)	-18.7%
135	132				West Chelmsford	2,444	1,650	(794)	-32.5%
237	222				West Derbyshire	1,748	1,253	(495)	-28.3%
153	147				West Dorset	1,630	1,113	(517)	-31.7%
455	402				West Ham	7,278	5,691	(1,587)	-21.8%
473	414				West Lancashire	3,305	2,598	(707)	-21.4%
565			35		West Renfrewshire	1,647	1,350	(297)	-18.0%
142	138				West Suffolk	2,287	1,553	(734)	-32.1%
512				17	West Tyrone	4,877	3,902	(975)	-20.0%
204	195				West Worcestershire	1,590	1,119	(471)	-29.6%
200	191				Westbury	2,638	1,854	(784)	-29.7%
618			50		Western Isles	1,312	1,117	(195)	-14.9%
70	70				Westmorland & Lonsdale	1,390	879	(511)	-36.8%
176	169				Weston-Super-Mare	3,175	2,191	(984)	-31.0%
591	500				Wigan	3,203	2,665	(538)	-16.8%
150	144				Wimbledon	2,577	1,757	(820)	-31.8%
56	56				Winchester	1,716	1,067	(649)	-37.8%
67	67				Windsor	1,680	1,061	(619)	-36.8%
511	443				Wirral South	2,340	1,872	(468)	-20.0%
475	416				Wirral West	2,635	2,073	(562)	-21.3%
23	23				Witney	1,412	820	(592)	-41.9%
68	68				Woking	1,291	816	(475)	-36.8%
1	1				Wokingham	1,202	551	(651)	-54.2%
326	293				Wolverhampton North East	4,156	3,077	(1,079)	-26.0%
247	231				Wolverhampton South East	4,076	2,929	(1,147)	-28.1%
284	256				Wolverhampton South West	4,001	2,912	(1,089)	-27.2%
9	9				Woodspring	1,775	958	(817)	-46.0%
145	141				Worcester	2,879	1,960	(919)	-31.9%
538	465				Workington	3,692	2,990	(702)	-19.0%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997
United Kingdom Constituencies
A. (not seasonally adjusted) - alphabetical listing

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
494	430				Worsley	2,506	1,983	(523)	-20.9%
129	127				Worthing West	1,865	1,253	(612)	-32.8%
85	84				Wrekin, The	1,742	1,120	(622)	-35.7%
267		8			Wrexham	2,204	1,596	(608)	-27.6%
43	43				Wycombe	2,587	1,568	(1,019)	-39.4%
73	73				Wyre Forest	2,794	1,773	(1,021)	-36.5%
292	263				Wythenshawe & Sale East	4,592	3,355	(1,237)	-26.9%
372	333				Yeovil *	2,086	1,582	(504)	-24.2%
497		26			Ynys-Mon	3,150	2,498	(652)	-20.7%
357	319				York, City of	4,156	3,125	(1,031)	-24.8%
United Kingdom						2,147,363	1,620,496	(526,867)	-24.5%

III Change in Unemployed Claimants May 1996 - May 1997

United Kingdom Constituencies

B. (not seasonally adjusted) - highest and lowest

Rank by % change

(largest fall first)

UK	Eng	Wal	Sco	NI		Unemployed Claimants		Change May 96 - May 97	
						May 1996	May 1997	Number	Percentage
1	1				Wokingham	1,202	551	(651)	-54.2%
2	2				Mole Valley	1,226	578	(648)	-52.9%
3	3				Chesham & Amersham	1,427	693	(734)	-51.4%
4	4				Bracknell	1,961	1,000	(961)	-49.0%
5	5				Newbury	1,739	905	(834)	-48.0%
6	6				Mid Sussex	1,459	771	(688)	-47.2%
7	7				Surrey Heath	1,405	744	(661)	-47.0%
8	8				Henley	1,335	717	(618)	-46.3%
9	9				Woodspring	1,775	958	(817)	-46.0%
10	10				Hertford & Stortford	1,866	1,015	(851)	-45.6%
11	11				South West Surrey	1,302	714	(588)	-45.2%
12	12				Wealden	1,723	952	(771)	-44.7%
13	13				Reigate	1,562	872	(690)	-44.2%
14	14				Esher & Walton	1,837	1,036	(801)	-43.6%
15	15				Wansdyke <*	2,116	1,196	(920)	-43.5%
16	16				Banbury	2,152	1,217	(935)	-43.4%
17	17				Epsom & Ewell	1,733	981	(752)	-43.4%
18	18				East Surrey	1,686	956	(730)	-43.3%
19	19				North East Bedfordshire	1,845	1,060	(785)	-42.5%
20	20				Fareham	1,901	1,098	(803)	-42.2%
21	21				Runnymede & Weybridge	1,718	994	(724)	-42.1%
22	22				South Cambridgeshire	1,612	933	(679)	-42.1%
23	23				Witney	1,412	820	(592)	-41.9%
24	24				Arundel & South Downs	1,309	761	(548)	-41.9%
25	25				Eastleigh	1,886	1,103	(783)	-41.5%
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
635			60		Ayr	2,791	2,415	(376)	-13.5%
636		36			Preseli Pembrokeshire	2,912	2,522	(390)	-13.4%
637	523				Dover	3,648	3,167	(481)	-13.2%
638			61		Glasgow Kelvin	3,938	3,420	(518)	-13.2%
639	524				Great Yarmouth	4,487	3,898	(589)	-13.1%
640		37			Rhondda	2,794	2,435	(359)	-12.8%
641			62		Glasgow Cathcart	2,439	2,145	(294)	-12.1%
642			63		Glasgow Springburn	4,294	3,780	(514)	-12.0%
643			64		Coatbridge & Chryston	2,616	2,304	(312)	-11.9%
644			65		Greenock & Inverclyde	2,172	1,916	(256)	-11.8%
645		38			Neath	2,132	1,881	(251)	-11.8%
646	525				Hartlepool	4,803	4,243	(560)	-11.7%
647	526				Wallasey	4,695	4,160	(535)	-11.4%
648			66		Hamilton South	2,241	1,987	(254)	-11.3%
649			67		Clydebank & Milngavie	2,825	2,520	(305)	-10.8%
650	527				Waveney	4,248	3,793	(455)	-10.7%
651			68		Airdrie & Shotts	3,261	2,921	(340)	-10.4%
652	528				Rotherham	4,198	3,782	(416)	-9.9%
653	529				Stoke-on-Trent Central	3,178	2,872	(306)	-9.6%
654			69		Perth	2,270	2,059	(211)	-9.3%
655			70		Glasgow Maryhill	4,768	4,372	(396)	-8.3%
656			71		Orkney & Shetland	879	808	(71)	-8.1%
657		39			Llanelli	2,555	2,355	(200)	-7.8%
658		40			Aberavon	1,990	1,836	(154)	-7.7%
659			72		Kilmarnock & Loudoun	3,414	3,152	(262)	-7.7%
					United Kingdom	2,147,363	1,620,496	(526,867)	-24.5%

IV Technical Appendix

Part of the information held about unemployed claimants is their postcode. The ONS uses the postcode to allocate claimants to the electoral ward in which they live. This mapping exercise is done with the aid of a computer file known as the Central Postcode Directory (CPD), which is compiled and jointly maintained by the Royal Mail and ONS. The CPD cross-references postcodes with codes for electoral wards and grid references. Claims which have an invalid or missing postcode are allocated to wards in proportion to the geographical distribution of correctly coded claims at the relevant local office. Data for wards then form the building blocks for larger geographical areas: constituencies, local authority districts, travel-to-work areas, etc.

CPDs can either be current, reflecting up-to-date ward boundaries, or frozen, in which case they reflect the situation at a particular point in time. Figures from the monthly count of unemployed claimants are coded using a CPD in which the ward boundaries are frozen, which enables comparisons in the level of unemployment in a particular area to be made over a number of months or years without being affected by geographical changes. In May 1996 the ONS moved from using a frozen 1981 CPD to a frozen 1991 CPD.

Between September 1984, when unemployment statistics became available on a ward basis (with data back-calculated to June 1983), and April 1996 the figures for England and Wales have related to frozen 1981 ward boundaries¹ (constituencies, districts and counties being aggregations of wards). 1981 wards were used since it was this geographical basis on which the Census of Population was carried out. The results of the Census were already published for constituencies defined in these terms, so it was an obvious choice to use the same date for the ward-based unemployment data.

The unemployment figures for April 1996 (released in May 1996) and subsequent months use frozen 1991 ward boundaries as their geographical basis for all parts of the United Kingdom (again, to coincide with the geographical definitions used for the Census). Figures for January, February and March 1996 were also re-released on a 1991 ward basis so that a complete calendar year's data for 1996 are now available.

Certain geographical areas (unitary authorities and the present parliamentary constituencies) are *only* defined in terms of frozen 1991 wards for the purposes of unemployment statistics since they have only come into existence recently. This means that unemployment data for

¹ Frozen 1984 wards in Scotland and frozen 1985 wards in Northern Ireland.

these areas are only available from January 1996 onwards.

Although figures for the *number* of unemployed claimants are available for all constituencies, it is presently possible to calculate unemployment *rates* for constituencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland only. This is because data for the economically active population, taken from the 1991 Census and used for the denominators, is not presently available for Scottish constituencies on a frozen 1991 ward base².

The reasons for this stem primarily from the fact that the Census of Population was carried out by three separate bodies: Office for Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS)³ in England and Wales, the General Register Office for Scotland, GRO(S) and the Northern Ireland Census Office.

In the case of the Censuses for England and Wales, and also for Northern Ireland, the raw data relate to areas known as "Enumeration Districts". These data are first best-fitted into electoral wards and then wards are aggregated to form constituency totals. In Scotland the raw data relate to "Output Areas". Census data are not available at a ward level but are aggregated directly into higher level geographical areas such as constituencies and districts.

Because of the way in which the Census was organised fully digitised ward boundaries are available for England and Wales, meaning that frozen 1991 wards have been created for use on the NOMIS database (which holds all the unemployment data for local areas in addition to the Census data in electronic form).

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland parliamentary constituencies are defined in terms of wards. In Scotland however they are defined in terms of aggregations of the regional electoral divisions which were in existence in 1994. The GRO(S) has published Census data for the new constituencies in Scotland, but this was done by means of aggregating output area data directly into constituencies. In the process of doing this they by-passed the creation of 1994 electoral divisions completely, which means that there are no electronically-held geographical definitions of new constituencies defined in terms of frozen 1991 wards, the format in which the unemployment data are held.

² *Constituency Monitors* have however been published which provide data based on the "true" 1995 constituency boundaries. Such figures are not however suitable for calculating unemployment rates since the unemployment data is only available for areas defined in terms of frozen 1991 wards.

³ OPCS has since merged with the Central Statistical Office to form the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

This leads to two problems. Firstly, there was no need to digitally define the 1994 regional electoral divisions. Secondly, and more importantly for unemployment statistics, there is no linkage between 1991 frozen wards and constituencies. ONS are presently attempting to build the geographies for the new constituencies in Scotland by performing a three-way best-fit between output areas, new constituencies and frozen 1991 wards. However, because digitised frozen 1991 ward boundaries were never fully developed for Scotland, this is a very protracted exercise.

At the present time it would appear that the availability of Census data for constituencies in Scotland is still some way off. Since the constituencies in Scotland are not defined in terms of wards at all, there are a number of wards which are split between two (or even more) constituencies. These have to be allocated on a best-fit basis (and it is known that in some cases split wards have been wrongly allocated, for instance between non-adjacent constituencies). Output areas have also been wrongly assigned to constituencies in other cases. Only by meticulous manual checking of all the geographical definitions will the situation be resolved.

An alternative option is also being investigated at present. This is looking at whether it is possible to build the new constituencies from postcode areas (output areas are defined in terms of postcodes in Scotland). In theory this should speed up the exercise, but it does have drawbacks when trying to make comparisons over time.

Recent Library Research Papers:

97/69	The Code of Practice on Access to Official Information	03.06.97
97/70	Education (Schools) Bill [Bill 4 of Session 1997/98]	29.05.97
97/71	The Privatised Railway	30.05.97
97/72	The Railway Passenger Companies	30.05.97
97/73	Economic Indicators	02.06.97
97/74	The Local Government Finance (Supplementary Credit Approvals) Bill [Bill 2 of 1997/98]	03.06.97
97/75	The IGC - The Amsterdam Treaty	04.06.97
97/76	Inflation: the Value of the Pound, 1750-1996	06.06.97
97/77	Prohibiting Hand Guns: the Firearms (Amendment) Bill [Bill 3 of 1997/98]	09.06.97
97/78	Public Expenditure in Scotland and Wales	09.06.97