

Employment and Skills Briefing (March 2015)



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The following information summarises the DWP (Central England Group) [State of the Group Report March 2015](#) and provides a focus on East Midlands through District level / local authority / LEP data.

National data is also covered, providing a context for regional and local employment and skills.

JSA Unemployment (claimant count)

The seasonally adjusted JSA Register (Central England Group) currently stands at **154,200**. This is **down 6,000 (3.7%)** from the previous month (February), continuing a downward trend from Summer 2012.

Employment Rate

UK: 73.3% (for the period November 2014 to January 2015) **up 0.3%** from the previous quarter.

East Midlands: 74.1%, unchanged from the previous quarter.

Unemployment Rate

When seasonally adjusted, the national claimant count reduced by 3.8% over the past month.

The claimant count **fell by 3.9% in the East Midlands over the past month.**

The ILO Unemployment* rate for the UK is: 5.7% (down 0.3% from the previous quarter). For the East Midlands it is 5.0%, down 0.6% from the previous quarter.

Vacancies

ONS statistics show 735,000 UK job vacancies for the period December 2014 to February 2015.

This was 140,000 up on a year earlier and the highest level recorded since comparable records began in 2001.

New JSA Claims on-flows (unadjusted)

Seasonally adjusted on-flows (the number of people making new claims to Jobseeker's Allowance) in the Central England Group totalled 110,900 over the three-month period December 2014 to February 2015, down 22.2% on the corresponding period a year ago.

In the **East Midlands based districts**, unadjusted on-flows were down by 3.8% on the previous quarter, and down 23% on the corresponding period 12 months ago.

Stopping JSA Claims (off-flows)

Seasonally adjusted off-flow rates (the number of people stopping JSA claims) in the Central England Group are down 7.4% from the previous quarter, and 21.3% on the same period last year. In the **East Midlands based districts**, they are down by 23% from the previous quarter and 21.5% on the same period last year.

Age and Duration of the Unemployed

The number of people who have been claiming for more than 6 months (Central England Group) has fallen by 38% over the past year to 67,555.

Youth Unemployment

The Central England Group continues to see significant reductions in its 18-24 register. Bar a small seasonal increase from the previous month, the current total of 40,925 is the lowest ever recorded since comparable records began in 1985 (over 200,000 young claimants then)

In the **East Midlands**, the number of young people (18-24) claiming for more than 6 months has fallen by 41% since January 2014.

**ILO Unemployment is different from the claimant count, which measures only those people who are claiming unemployment-related benefits (JSA since 1996). The claimant count is normally the lower measure because some unemployed people are not entitled to claim unemployment-related benefits, or choose not to do so.*



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JSA Claimant Count (unadjusted): Local Enterprise Partnerships (East Midlands), January to February 2015

Local Enterprise Partnership	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Change	
	number	number	change	% change
Greater Lincolnshire	15,758	15,485	-273	-1.7
Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	28,343	29,071	728	2.6
Northamptonshire	7,473	7,965	492	6.6
South East Midlands	16,957	17,975	1,018	6.0
Leicester and Leicestershire	10,638	10,684	46	0.4

Skills: Qualification levels in the East Midlands

Data on the qualification levels of the working age population is currently available for the year to December 2013.

(East Midlands District data below):

District	NVQ level 4+	NVQ level 3+	NVQ level 2+	NVQ level 1+	% No Quals
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	31.4%	53.0%	70.0%	82.7%	10.5%
Midland Shires*	27.9%	50.6%	69.5%	83.2%	10.2%
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland	29.2%	52.6%	69.5%	82.8%	10.7%

*Includes Derbyshire

Statistical First Release: 19+ years FE and Skills (England), March 2015

- The total number of adult learners participating in government-funded further education in 2013/14 was 2.9 million. After a fall in 2010/11, figures were reasonably steady for the next three years, with a further decrease (10.7 per cent) in 2013/14.
- There were 59,100 learners with a **24+ Advanced Learning Loan** in 2013/14. Provisional data shows that there were 59,600 learners with a Loan in the first two quarters of 2014/15.
- There were 10,400 **Traineeship** starts in 2013/14. Provisional data show that there were 9,200 Traineeship starts in the first two quarters of the 2014/15 academic year.
- There were 440,400 **Apprenticeship** starts in the 2013/14 academic year, a decrease of 13.7 per cent on 2012/13. Provisional data show 669,300 learners participated on Apprenticeships in the first two quarters of the 2014/15 academic year, and there were 248,700 starts.



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Potential redundancies notified by employers in East Midlands (February 2015)

This data should be treated as an indicator of redundancies that are due to occur where employers have announced at least 20 job losses at a single site (via HR1 notifications)

District	All employers notifying redundancies	Public sector employers notifying redundancies	All potential job losses	Public sector potential job losses
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	9	2	668	108
Midland Shires*	9	0	695	0
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland	5	1	698	284
<i>Central England</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3405</i>	<i>490</i>

*Includes Derbyshire

Jobs Sought by Occupation (Central England Group)

Over the past 3 months, jobseekers who have made new claims in the Central England Group have registered for work in the following top 15 occupational areas

It is worth noting that the SOC code for 'senior officials in national government' is '1111' and it is possible this accounts for the strangely high volumes for this occupation (i.e. people may be typing this in to complete a mandatory field instead of don't know')

Occupation	Jobseeker volumes	Percentage of Total Jobseekers
Sales and retail assistants	49,265	42.1%
Senior officials in national government	11,770	10.1%
Other goods handling and storage occupations	11,420	9.8%
General office assistants/clerks	6,465	5.5%
Labourers in process and plant operations	2,300	2.0%
Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers	1,815	1.6%
Van drivers	1,300	1.1%
Cleaners, domestics	1,250	1.1%
Retail cashiers and check-out operators	1,240	1.1%
Care assistants and home carers	1,205	1.0%
Kitchen and catering assistants	1,015	0.9%
Labourers in other construction trades	995	0.9%
Customer care occupations	945	0.8%
Bar staff	935	0.8%
Labourers in building and woodworking trades	905	0.8%



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UK Labour Market, March (ONS)

Key Points for the three months ending January 2015

- Comparing the estimates for the three months ending January 2015 with those for August to October 2014, employment continued to rise and unemployment continued to fall. These changes maintain the general direction of movement since late 2011/early 2012
- There were 30.94 million people in work, 617,000 more than for a year earlier.
- There were 1.86 million unemployed people, 102,000 fewer than for August to October 2014, 479,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- There were 9.03 million people aged from 16 to 64 who were out of work and not seeking or available to work (known as economically inactive), 14,000 more than for a year earlier.

For full report please click [here](#)

Regional Labour Market, March (ONS)

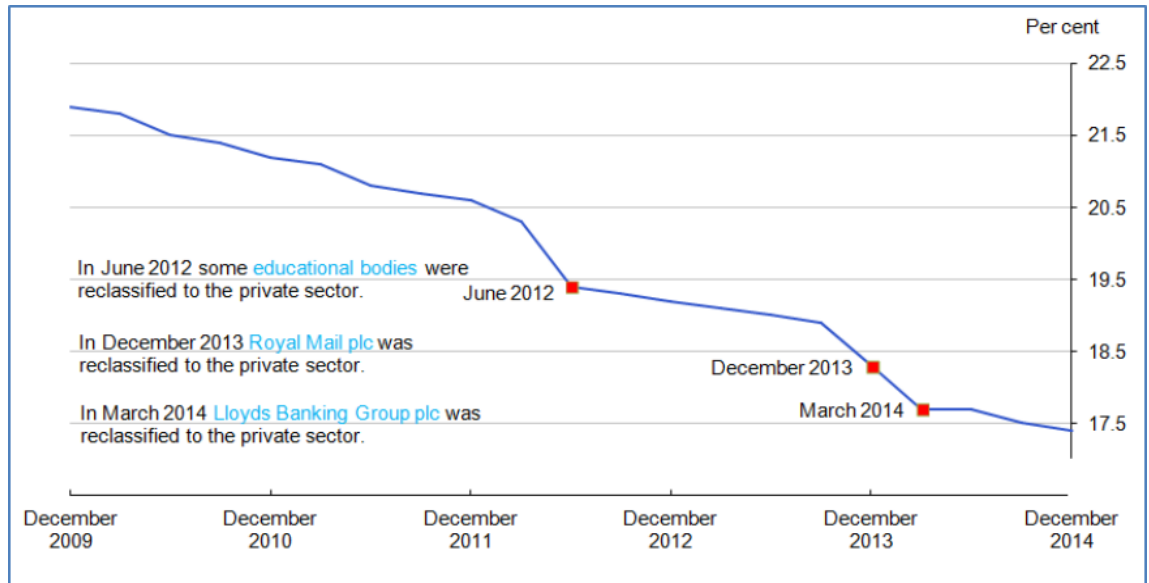
Overview of regional labour market published 18 March 2015

- The employment rate estimates for those aged 16 to 64, for the 3 months to January 2015, compared to the 3 months to October 2014, showed increases for nearly all of the regions and countries of the UK.
- The largest increases in the employment rate estimates were for Wales and the West Midlands.
- The South West is the only region in Great Britain to have a decrease in the latest employment rate estimate at 0.1 percentage points.
- The employment levels for the North East, North West, West Midlands and London are all at record highs, with many other regions close to record highs. The employment rate for the North East, at 70.2%, is also at a record high.
- Regional estimates for the unemployment rate are quite volatile, which needs to be allowed for when considering the pattern of change over time.
- There were no large increases in the unemployment rate estimates for the 3 months to January 2015, compared to the 3 months to October 2014.
- The largest decreases in the unemployment rate estimates for the 3 months to January 2015, compared to the 3 months to October 2014, were for the North East, Yorkshire and The Humber, and Wales.
- All regions are showing decreases in the unemployment rate compared with a year ago.

For full report please click [here](#)

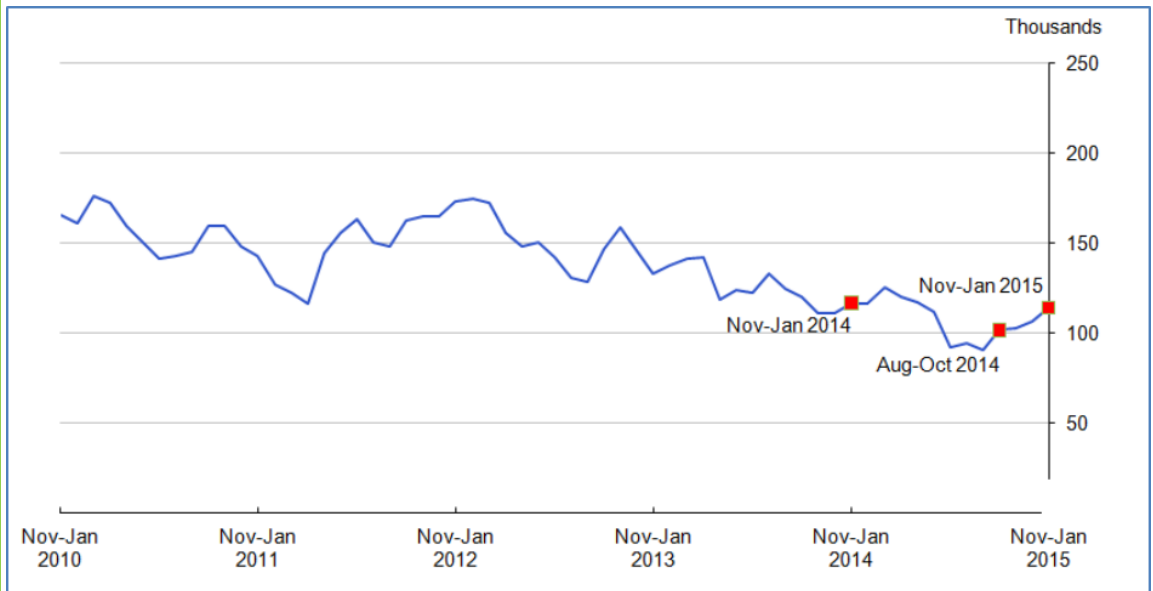
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UK: Public sector employment as a percentage of total employment, seasonally adjusted (2009- 2014)



Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey - Office for National Statistics

UK Redundancies, seasonally adjusted (2010-2015)



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics