

Employment and Skills Briefing

The following information summarises the DWP (*Central England Group*) *State of the Group Report (October 2015)* and provides a focus on East Midlands through District level, local authority, and LEP data. National data is also covered, providing a context for local employment and skills.

JSA Unemployment (claimant count)

The seasonally adjusted JSA Register (Central England Group) currently stands at **135,900**. This is **down 1,900 (1.4%)** from the previous month. Seasonally adjusted JSA new claims levels are down by around 27% on this time last year.

ILO Unemployment*

ILO unemployment currently stands at 4.6% (109,000) in the **East Midlands** (down 0.2% from previous quarter). The rate for the UK is 5.4%.

Employment Rate

The employment rate for the period June to August in the **East Midlands** was **75.1%** (up 0.4% from previous quarter). This was 1.5% higher than the UK rate.

New JSA Claims (on-flows)

Seasonally adjusted on-flows (the number of people making new claims to Jobseeker's Allowance) in the Central England Group totalled 85,400 from July to September, which was 13.4% lower compared to the previous quarter.

In the **East Midlands** based districts, unadjusted on-flows *increased* by an average of 3.7% from July to September.

Stopping JSA Claims (off-flows)

Seasonally adjusted off-flows in the Central England Group over the period July to September totalled 94,600 down by 13.4% compared to the previous quarter. Unadjusted off-flows in the **East Midlands** based districts were down by an average of 8.2% over the same period.

**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) August to September 2015

Local Enterprise Partnership	August 2015	September 2015	Change	
	number	number	change	%change
Greater Lincolnshire	12,558	12,063	-495	-3.9
Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	24,374	23,528	-846	-3.5
Northamptonshire	6,555	6,354	-201	-3.1
South East Midlands	15,517	15,088	-429	-2.8
Leicester and Leicestershire	8,974	8,567	-407	-4.5

Age and Duration of the Unemployed (September 2015)

The number of people (Central England Group) who have been claiming for more than six months has fallen sharply over the past year, down by 28.3% to 62,420, almost back to pre-recession levels.

The proportion of customers who have been claiming for less than six months is currently 52.7%. This figure peaked at 77% in early 2009.

Youth Unemployment (September 2015)

The Group continues to see significant reductions in its aged 18-24 Jobseeker's Allowance register. The current total of 27,860 is the lowest ever recorded since comparable records began in 1985.

In the past month the 18-24 register fell by 1,115 or 3.8%.

In the East Midlands based districts the register has fallen by an average of 38% over the past year.

The number of young people who have been claiming for more than six months fell by 570 to 9,185 in the last month and the recent trend has been stable.

The total has fallen by 37% in the past year however and is now around pre-recession levels. In the East Midlands based districts this total (6 months + claimants) has fallen by an average of 42% over the past year.

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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 2014*.

This shows that people in the Central England Group have generally lower levels of qualifications than the national average although there is some variation to this at District level.

10.8% of people in Central England Group are recorded as having no qualifications.

District	% Quals to NVQ level 4+	% Quals to NVQ level 3+	% Quals to NVQ level 2+	% Quals to NVQ level 1+	% no Quals
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	32.2%	54.0%	72.4%	85.2%	8.6%
Midland Shires*	29.4%	53.1%	71.4%	84.1%	10.3%
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland	29.4%	51.8%	69.9%	83.2%	10.5%
<i>Central England</i>	30.5%	51.9%	69.6%	82.7%	10.8%

Vacancies (UK)

ONS statistics show that across the UK there were 738,000 job vacancies available at any one time for the period July to September 2015. This is little changed compared to the previous quarter (March to May) and is up 58,000 from a year earlier.

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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.

Occupation	Jobseeker volumes	Percentage of Total Jobseekers
Sales and retail assistants	42,305	48.4%
Other goods handling and storage occupations	6,465	7.4%
General office assistants/clerks	4,625	5.3%
Labourers in process and plant operations	1,570	1.8%
Retail cashiers and check-out operators	940	1.1%
Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers	820	0.9%
Cleaners, domestics	750	0.9%
Customer care occupations	615	0.7%
Care assistants and home carers	700	0.8%
Van drivers	615	0.7%
Kitchen and catering assistants	520	0.6%
Bar staff	415	0.5%
Labourers in building and woodworking trades	440	0.5%
Labourers in other construction trades	460	0.5%
Fork-lift truck drivers	300	0.3%

The Current Employment Position (Sectors)

Data is available from the Annual Population Survey – Workforce Analysis for the year up to June 2015 (Central England Group). The most significant fall since December 2007 was in the construction sector which fell by 22.6%, with 109,800 fewer people in employment.

A significant fall was also seen in the manufacturing sector, which fell by 11.6% with 103,500 fewer jobs.

Many sectors saw an overall rise in employment since 2007 however, in particular banking, finance & insurance which rose by 17.7% and other services which rose by 15.0%. Over the past year there was an encouraging rise in employment in other services (up 11.6%) and distribution, hotels & restaurants (up 3.3%).

The manufacturing, public administration, education & health and banking, finance & insurance sectors also saw an upturn.

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UK Labour Market, October, 2015 (ONS)

Main points for June to August 2015

- There were 31.12 million people in work, 140,000 more than for March to May 2015 and 359,000 more than for a year earlier.
- There were 1.77 million unemployed people (people not in work but seeking and available to work), 79,000 fewer than for March to May 2015 and 198,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- There were 22.77 million people working full-time, 291,000 more than for a year earlier. There were 8.35 million people working part-time, 68,000 more than for a year earlier.
- The employment rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 who were in work) was 73.6%, the highest since comparable records began in 1971.

Full report is [here](#)

Regional Labour Market, October, 2015 (ONS)

- The UK unemployment rate, for the 3 months ending August 2015, was highest in the North East (8.6%) and lowest in the South West (4.0%).
- The UK Claimant Count rate, for September 2015, was highest in Northern Ireland (4.5%) and lowest in the South East (1.3%).
- The largest increase in UK workforce jobs, for June 2015, was in Yorkshire and The Humber, at 37,000. The largest decrease was in the North West, at 23,000.
- The highest proportion of workforce jobs in the service sector was in London, at 91.7%, which has remained unchanged since March 2015. The **East Midlands** had the highest proportion of jobs in the production sector, at 13.7%.

Full Report is [here](#)