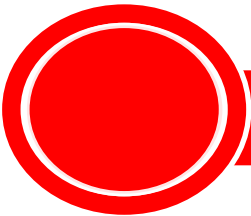
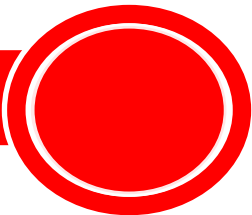


UK Employment Insight

March
2012

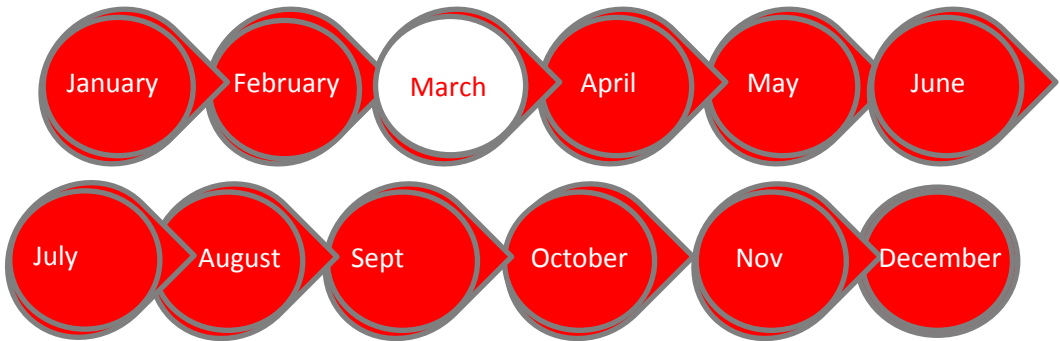
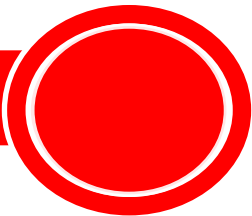
Employment



UK




Insight




Employment Insight Information Source

This Employment Insight contains the latest estimates for employment, unemployment, economic activity, claimant count, average earnings, labour productivity, vacancies and labour disputes. The estimates are used by a wide range of users, particularly across government and the media, to monitor developments in the labour market. All estimates discussed in this Statistical Bulletin are for the United Kingdom and are seasonally adjusted except where otherwise stated. Most of the figures discussed in this Employment Insight are obtained from surveys of households or businesses and are therefore estimates, not precise figures.


Key indicators from November to January 2012:




There were 29.12 million people in employment aged 16 and over, up 9,000 on the quarter. The number of people employed in the public sector fell by 37,000 over the quarter to reach 5.94 million (the lowest figure since June 2003). The number of people employed in the private sector rose by 45,000 on the quarter to reach 23.17 million.



The unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent of the economically active population, up 0.1 on the quarter. There were 2.67 million unemployed people, up 28,000 on the quarter. The unemployment rate has not been higher since 1995..



The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 23.1 per cent, down 0.1 on the quarter. There were 9.30 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, down 27,000 on the quarter.



Total pay (including bonuses) rose by 1.4 per cent on a year earlier, down 0.5 on the three months to December 2011. Regular pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 1.7 per cent on a year earlier, down 0.3 on the three months to December 2011.

Summary

Between August-October 2011 and November-January 2012, there were small increases in both the number of people in employment and the number of unemployed people and there was a small fall in the number of economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64.

The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for the three months to January 2012 was 70.3 per cent, unchanged on the quarter. The number of people in employment aged 16 and over increased by 9,000 on the quarter but fell by 44,000 on the year to reach 29.12 million. The number of part-time employees increased by 60,000 on the quarter to reach 6.61 million and the number of full-time employees increased by 3,000 to reach 18.22 million. The number of self-employed people fell by 52,000 on the quarter to reach 4.09 million and the number of people in other categories of employment fell by 2,000 to reach 199,000. The number of employees and self-employed people who were working part-time because they could not find a full-time job increased by 110,000 on the quarter to reach 1.38 million, the highest figure since comparable records began in 1992.

The number of people employed in the public sector fell by 37,000 between September and December 2011 to reach 5.94 million, the lowest figure since June 2003. The number of people employed in the private sector increased by 45,000 on the quarter to reach 23.17 million. The unemployment rate for the three months to January 2012 was 8.4 per cent of the economically active population, up 0.1 on the quarter. The unemployment rate was last higher in the three months to November 1995. The total number of unemployed people increased by 28,000 over the quarter to reach 2.67 million. This was the smallest quarterly increase in unemployment since the three months to May 2011. The number of unemployed people aged from 16 to 24 increased by 16,000 over the quarter to reach 1.04 million; this figure includes 311,000 people in full-time education who were looking for work.

The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for the three months to January 2012 was 23.1 per cent, down 0.1 on the quarter. The number of economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64 fell by 27,000 over the quarter to reach 9.30 million. This quarterly fall in economic inactivity was mainly due to a fall of 67,000 in the number of people in the long-term sick category to reach 2.09 million, the lowest figure since the three months to April 1995.

There were 1.61 million people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in February 2012, up 7,200 on January. The number of people claiming JSA for up to six months fell by 10,900 on the month to reach 910,000. This series has now fallen for eight consecutive months and it has decreased by 98,500 since June 2011.

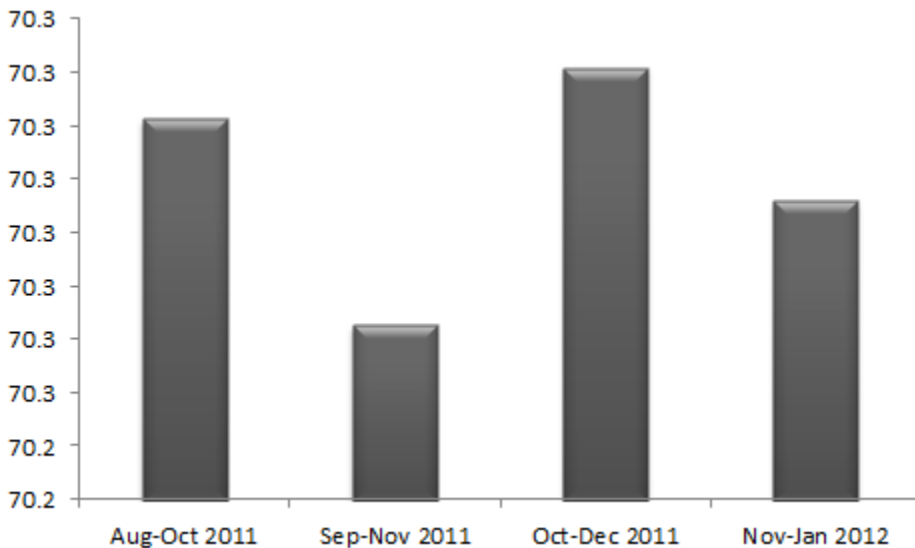
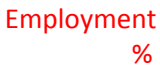
The whole economy earnings annual growth rate for total pay (including bonuses) was 1.4 per cent in the three months to January 2012, down 0.5 on the three months to December. The annual growth rate for the private sector fell from 2.2 per cent to 1.7 per cent and the public sector growth rate fell from 1.7 per cent to 1.3 per cent, the lowest figure since comparable records began in 2001. The annual growth rate for the public sector, excluding financial corporations, fell from 1.1 per cent

Employment

The employment rate for men aged from 16 to 64 was 75.2 per cent, up 0.1 percentage point on the previous quarter. The corresponding employment rate for women was 65.4 per cent, down 0.1 on the previous quarter.

The number of people in employment was 29.12 million in the three months to January 2012, up 9,000 from the three months to October 2011 but down 44,000 on a year earlier. The number of people in full-time employment was 21.23 million in the three months to January 2012, down 50,000 from the three months to October 2011. Of this total, 13.56 million were men and 7.68 million were women. The number of people in part-time employment was 7.88 million in the three months to January 2012, up 59,000 from the three months to October 2011. Of this total, 2.02 million were men and 5.87 million were women.

The number of people employed in the public sector was 5.94 million in December 2011, down 37,000 from September 2011. The number of people employed in the private sector in December 2011 was 23.17 million, up 45,000 from September 2011.



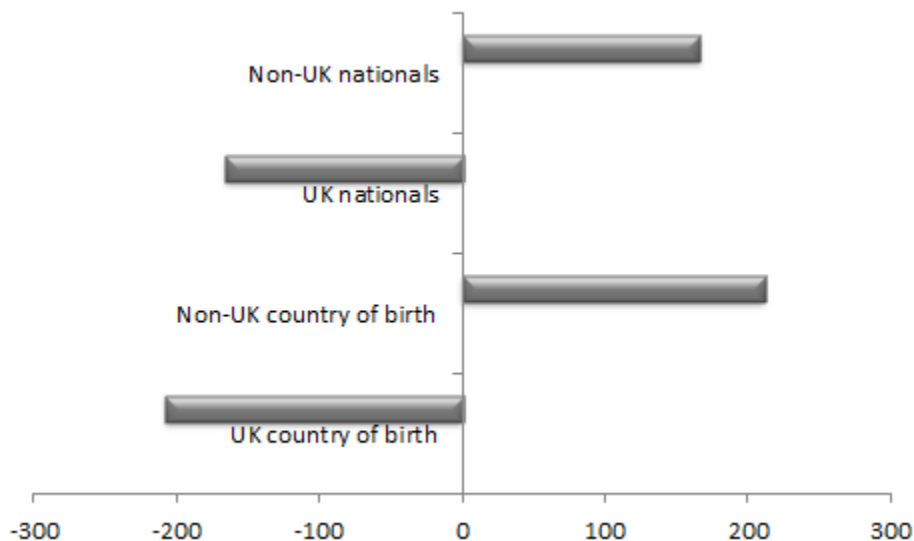
Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

UK Employment Insight

ONS publishes estimates of employment by both country of birth and by nationality. The number of non-UK born people in employment is greater than the number of non-UK nationals in employment, as the non-UK born series includes many UK nationals. The estimates relate to the number of people in employment rather than the number of jobs. These statistics have sometimes been incorrectly interpreted as indicating the proportion of new jobs that are taken by foreign migrants.

The number of UK nationals in employment was 26.61 million in the three months to December 2011, down 166,000 on a year earlier. The number of non-UK nationals in employment was 2.58 million, up 166,000 from a year earlier. The employment rate for UK nationals aged from 16 to 64 was 70.8 per cent in the three months to December 2011, down 0.1 percentage point on a year earlier. The corresponding employment rate for non-UK nationals was 67.4 per cent, down 0.5 percentage points on a year earlier. The number of UK born people in employment was 25.07 million in the three months to December 2011, down 208,000 on a year earlier. The number of non-UK born people in employment was 4.12 million, up 212,000 from a year earlier. The employment rate for UK born people aged from 16 to 64 was 71.3 per cent in the three months to December 2011, virtually unchanged on a year earlier. The corresponding employment rate for non-UK born people was 66.4 per cent, down 1.0 percentage point on a year earlier.

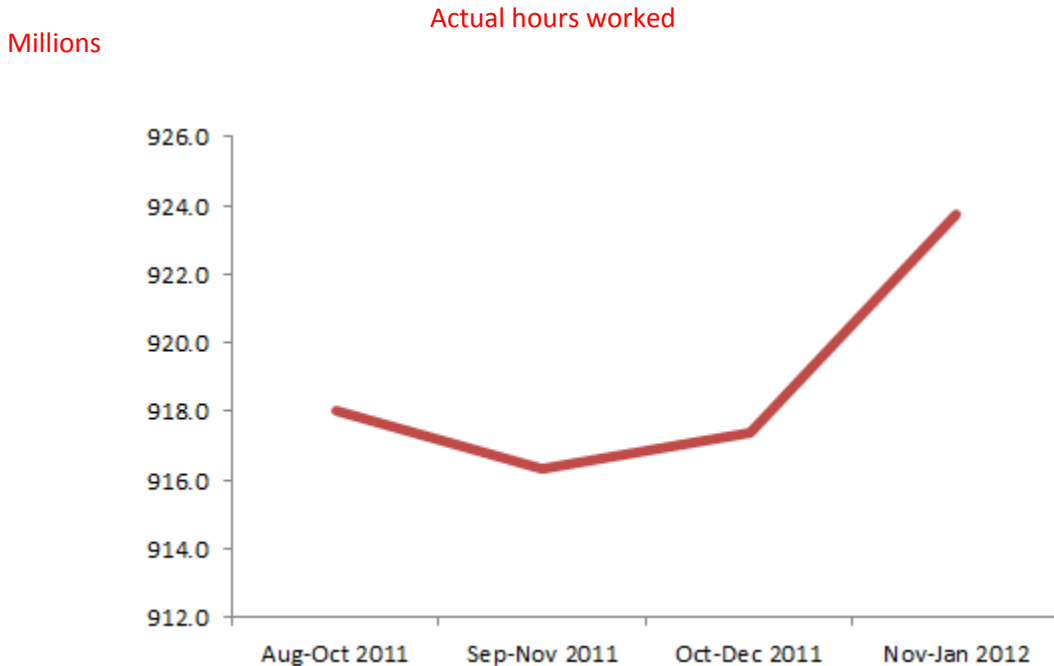
Employment by country of birth and nationality, changes on year between November to January 2012



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

Actual hours worked

Actual hours worked measures the number of hours worked in the economy. Total hours worked per week were 923.8 million in the three months to January 2012, up 5.7 million from the three months to October 2011. Average weekly hours worked in the three months to January 2012 were 31.7, up 0.2 from the three months to October 2011.



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

Earnings In February 2012:

Earnings measures the money received in return for work done, gross of tax. The estimates relate to Great Britain and include salaries but not unearned income, benefits in kind or arrears of pay. Average total pay (including bonuses) was £461 per week in January 2012. In the three months to January 2012 total pay rose by 1.4 per cent on a year earlier, down 0.5 from the three months to December. Average regular pay (excluding bonuses) was £438 per week in January 2012. In the three months to January 2012 regular pay rose by 1.7 per cent on a year earlier, down 0.3 from the three months to December.

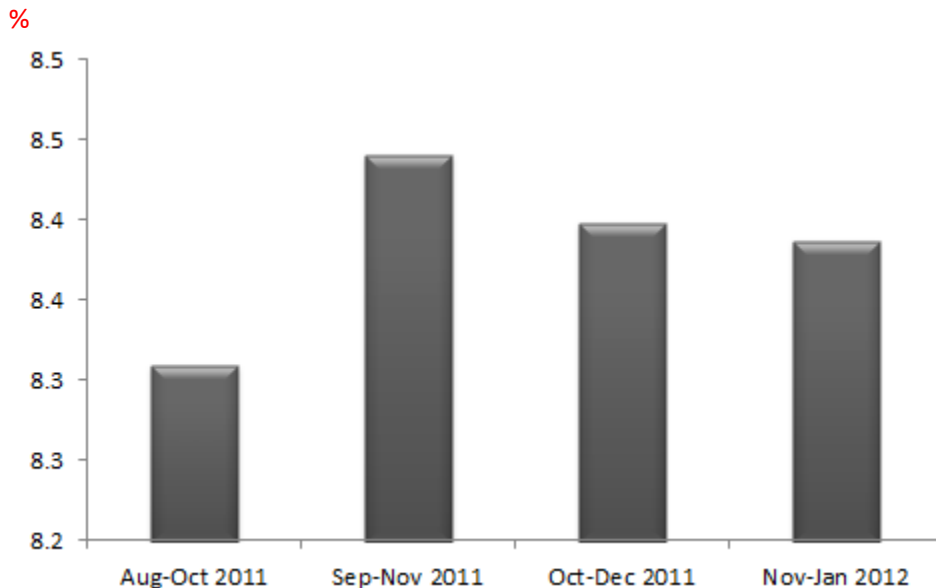
Unemployment - November to January 2012:

Unemployment measures people without a job who have been actively seeking work and are available to start work if a job is offered. The unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent in the three months to January 2012, up 0.1 percentage point from the three months to October 2011 and up 0.4 from a year earlier. Unemployment rates are calculated, in accordance with international guidelines, as the number of unemployed people divided by the economically active population (defined as those in employment plus those who are unemployed).

The number of unemployed people was 2.67 million in the three months to January 2012, up 28,000 from the three months to October 2011 and up 148,000 from a year earlier. The number of unemployed men was 1.54 million in the three months to January 2012, up 5,000 from the three months to October 2011. The number of unemployed women was 1.13 million in the three months to January 2012, up 22,000 from the three months to October 2011. The number of people unemployed for over one year was 855,000 in the three months to January 2012, down 12,000 from the three months to October 2011.

The number of people unemployed for over two years was 405,000 in the three months to January 2012, down 25,000 from the three months to October 2011. The unemployment rate for the European Union was 10.1 per cent of the economically active population in January 2012. The unemployment rate for Japan was 4.6 per cent in January 2012. The unemployment rate for the United States was 8.3 per cent in February 2012.

Unemployment rate (aged 16+)



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

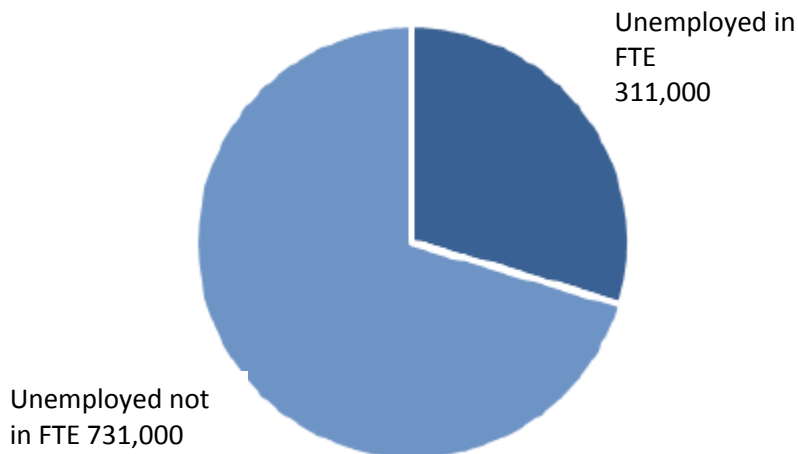
Young people in the labour market

From November to January 2012:

In the three months to January 2012, there were 3.60 million 16 to 24 years olds in employment, down 32,000 from the three months to October 2011. There were 2.66 million economically inactive 16 to 24 year olds (most of whom were in full-time education), up 6,000 on the three months to October 2011. There were 1.04 million unemployed 16 to 24 year olds, up 16,000 from the three months to October 2011.

The unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds was 22.5 per cent in the three months to January 2012, up 0.4 percentage points from the three months to October 2011. In accordance with international guidelines, unemployment rates are calculated as the number of unemployed people divided by the economically active population (defined as those in employment plus those who are unemployed). Movements in youth unemployment rates can therefore be affected by changes to the economically active population, which can result from changes in the number of young people who are economically inactive because they are in full-time education. In accordance with international guidelines, people in full-time education are included in the youth unemployment estimates if they have been looking for work within the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks. Excluding people in full-time education, there were 731,000 unemployed 16 to 24 year olds in the three months to January 2012, up 1,000 from the three months to October 2011. The corresponding unemployment rate was 20.8 per cent of the economically active population for 16 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, up 0.2 percentage points from the three months to October 2011.

Young people (aged 16 to 24) in the labour market from November to January 2012

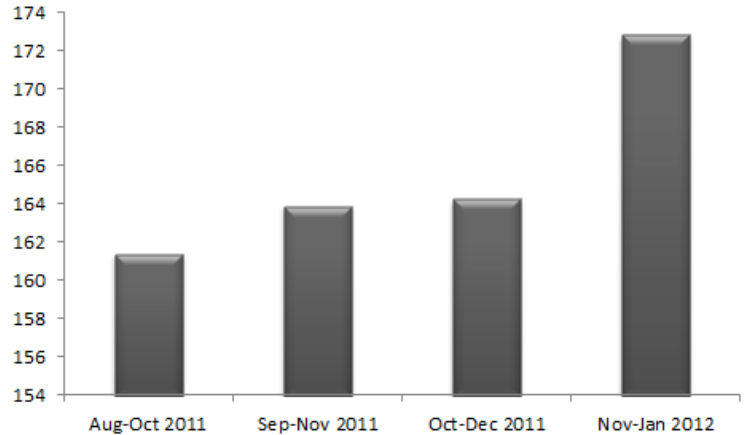


Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

Redundancies

The redundancies estimates measure the number of people who have been made redundant or have taken voluntary redundancy. In the three months to January 2012, 173,000 people had become redundant in the three months before the Labour Force Survey interviews, up 11,000 from the three months to October 2011 and up 30,000 from a year earlier. The redundancy rate was 7.0 per 1,000 employees, up 0.5 on the previous quarter and up 1.3 on a year earlier.

Thousands

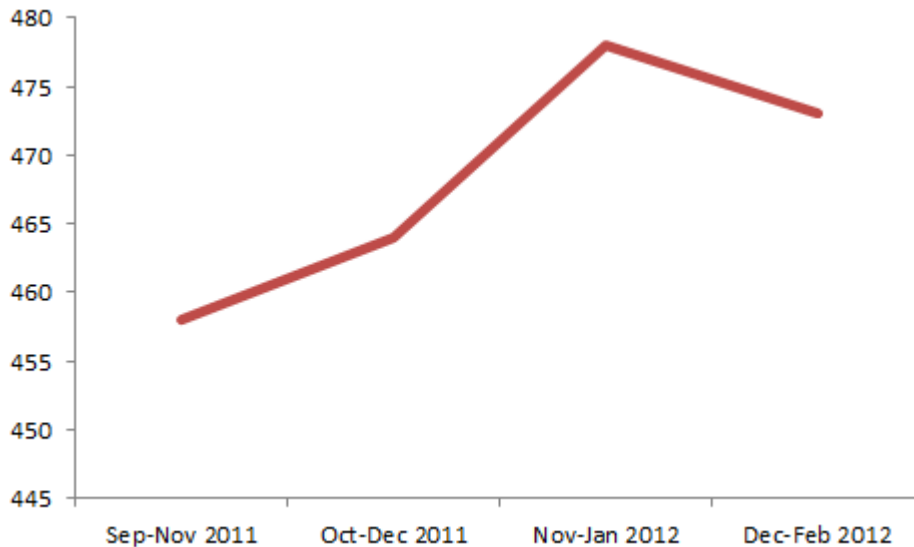


Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

Vacancies

Vacancies are defined as positions for which employers are actively seeking to recruit outside their business or organisation. There were 473,000 job vacancies in the three months to February 2012, up 15,000 on the three months to November 2011 but down 20,000 on a year earlier. There were 1.8 vacancies per 100 employee jobs in the three months to February 2012, up 0.1 percentage point on the previous quarter but down 0.1 on the year.

Thousands

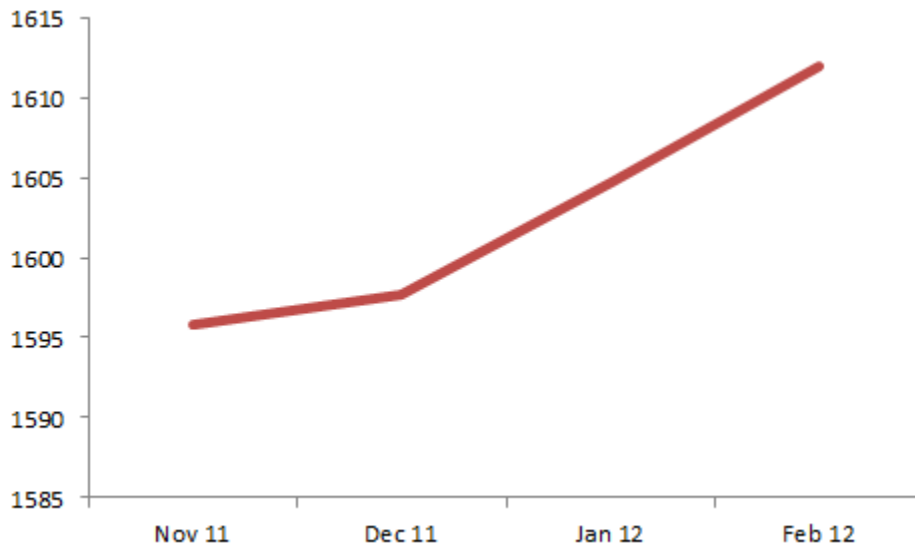


Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

The Claimant Count

The claimant count measures the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and differs from unemployment (which measures people who meet the internationally agreed definition of unemployment). The claimant count can be affected by changes to the overall benefits system. For example, from late 2008 until mid-2011 changes in eligibility rules for Lone Parent Income Support resulted in fewer lone parents (predominantly women) being able to claim that benefit resulting in more lone parents claiming JSA while they look for work. From April 2011, the Dept. for Work and Pensions has been re-assessing claimants of Incapacity Benefit (IB) resulting in some people who have been declared ineligible for IB claiming JSA while they look for work. The effect of this exercise on monthly changes in the claimant count is likely to be small. The claimant count in February 2012 was 1.61 million, up 7,200 on the previous month and up 162,100 on a year earlier. The claimant count rate was 5.0 per cent, unchanged on the previous month but up 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier.

Thousands





resource
manage