

National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing August 2011

This briefing paper provides a statistical overview of unemployment trends.

Information is included on Assembly constituencies, Wales and UK nations and regions.

Research
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National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing
August 2011

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Introduction

Unemployment statistics are published each month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This paper is released shortly after the ONS data and aims to provide a brief summary of the latest unemployment situation in Wales and the UK.

Section 1 contains headline figures and analysis. Additional information is provided in sections 2 to 5.

As well as information relating to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and claimant count measures. This paper also includes unofficial residence-based claimant count rates for Assembly Constituencies. These are an alternative measure to those published by the ONS. Due to a slight change in methodology, the unofficial claimant count rates in this briefing are not comparable with those contained in issues previous to August 2010. Further information is available in the Technical Annex.

1: Headlines

ILO unemployment ¹

- In April to June 2011, the ILO unemployment rate in Wales was 8.4 per cent. This compares to 8.8 per cent in April to June 2010. *Figure 2.1;*
- In April to June 2011, the number of ILO unemployed in Wales was 122,000. This has increased by 10,000 since the previous quarter and decreased by 5,000 since the previous year;
- The male ILO rate was 10.6 per cent, compared to 5.9 per cent for females. *Figure 2.1;*
- The ILO rate in Wales was the highest of the four UK nations. *Table 3.1;* and
- Wales had the sixth highest ILO rate of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 4.1.*

Claimant count ²

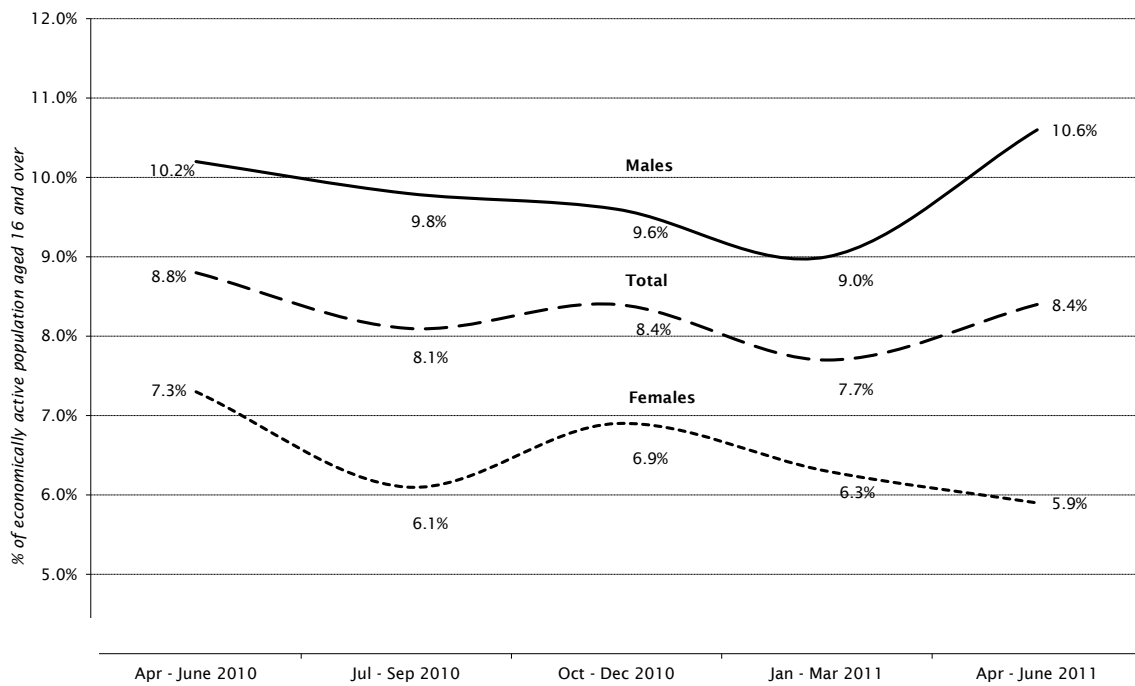
- In July 2011, the total claimant count rate in Wales was 5.5 per cent. This compares to 5.1 per cent in July 2010. *Figure 2.2;*
- The claimant count total in Wales has increased by 2,100 since the previous month and increased by 5,300 since the previous July;
- At 6.8 per cent, Northern Ireland had the highest claimant count rate out of the UK nations. Wales had the second highest rate. *Table 3.2;*
- In July 2011, Wales' claimant count rate was ranked joint fifth highest (with the North West) out of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 4.2;* and
- The Assembly Constituencies with the highest claimant count rates in July 2011 (based on unofficial estimates) were Blaenau Gwent (10.9 per cent) and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (10.8 per cent). The lowest claimant count rate estimates were in Ceredigion (2.7 per cent) and Montgomeryshire (2.7 per cent). *Table 5.2.*

¹ The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. It includes those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks. It is derived from a household survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics each quarter and is the primary measure of unemployment.

² The **claimant count** measures only those people who are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. It is lower than the ILO definition, because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim benefits, or choose not to do so. Rates for Assembly Constituencies are unofficial estimates produced by the Research Service (see the Technical Annex).

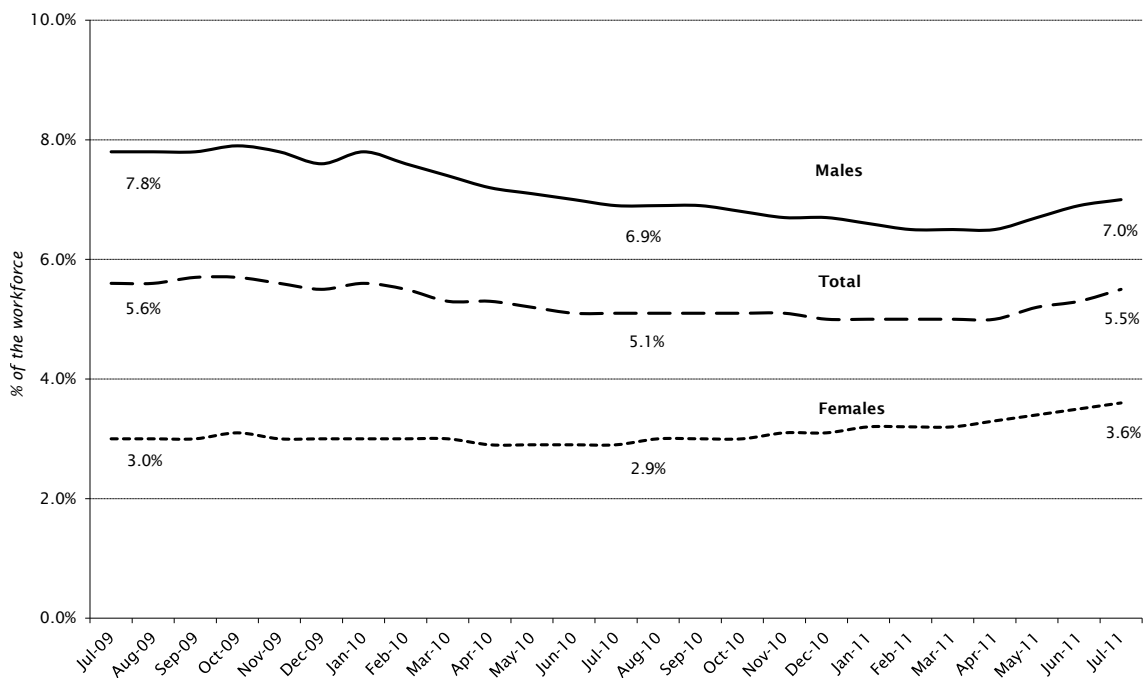
2: Unemployment statistics for Wales ³

Figure 2.1: ILO unemployment rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2.2: Claimant count rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

³ See Technical Annex for definitions of unemployment data used in this paper.

3: Unemployment statistics for UK nations

Table 3.1: ILO unemployment rates

April to June	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2011	8.4	7.9	7.7	7.3	7.9
2010	8.8	7.7	8.4	6.7	7.8
2009	7.6	7.9	7.1	6.6	7.8

Source: Office for National Statistics/ Stats Wales

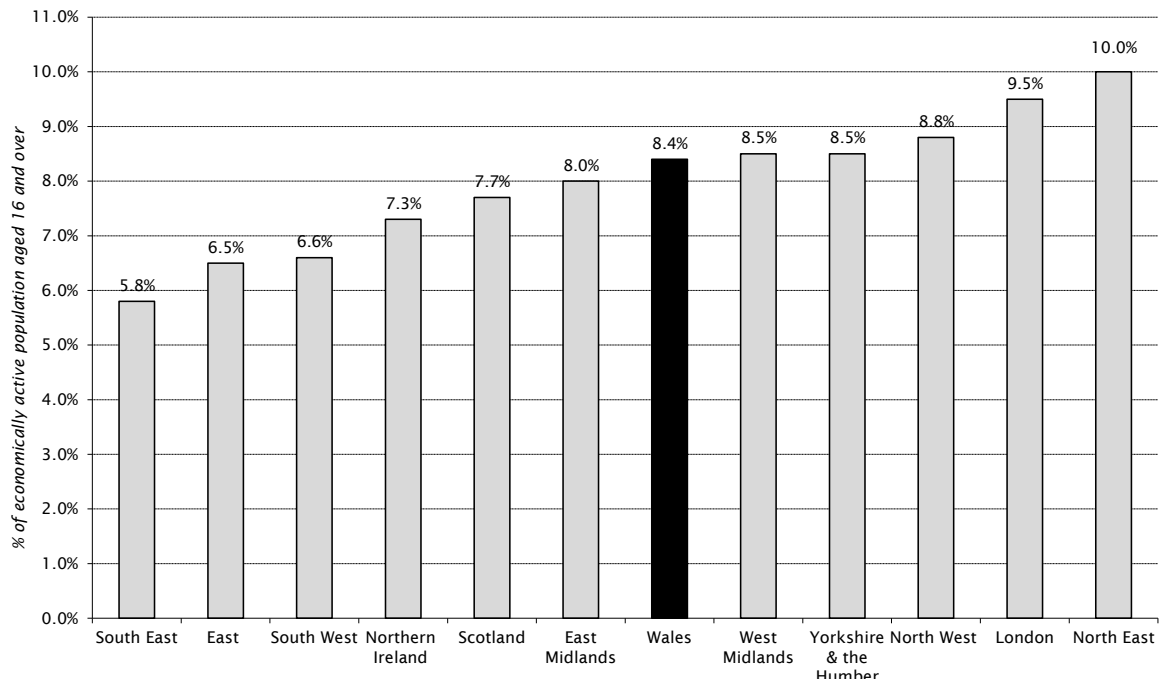
Table 3.2: Claimant count rates

July	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2011	5.5	4.7	5.4	6.8	4.9
2010	5.1	4.4	5.1	6.4	4.6
2009	5.6	4.8	4.9	5.8	4.9

Source: Office for National Statistics/ Stats Wales

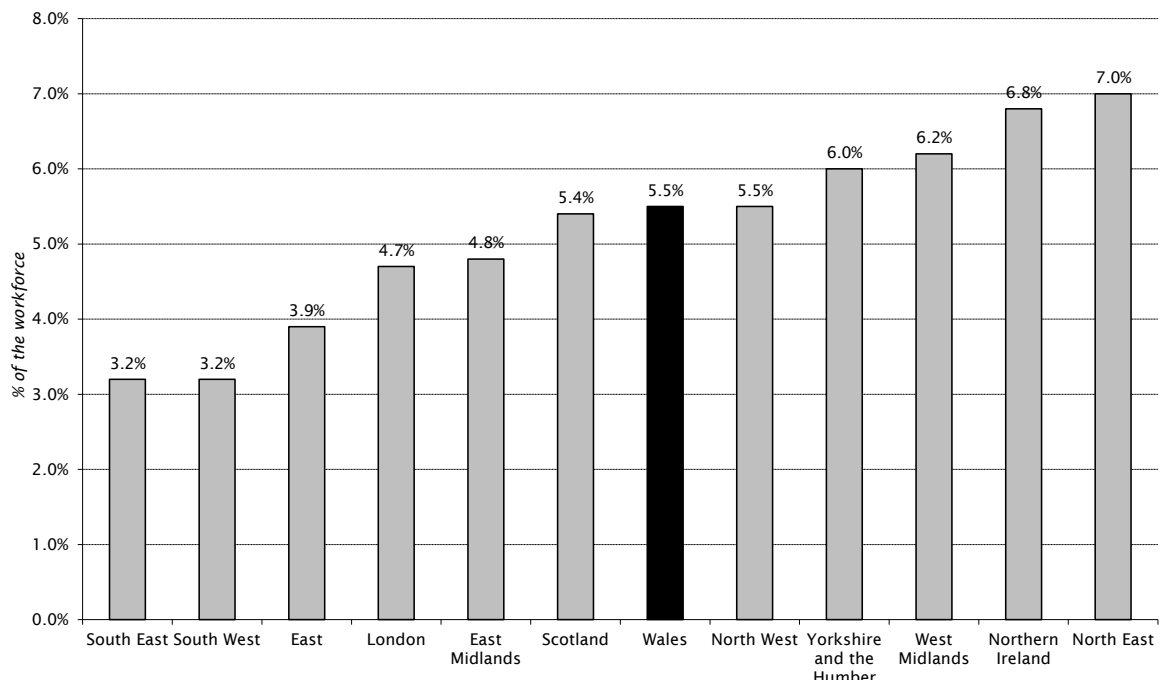
4: Unemployment statistics for UK nations and regions

Figure 4.1: ILO unemployment rates (April to June 2011)



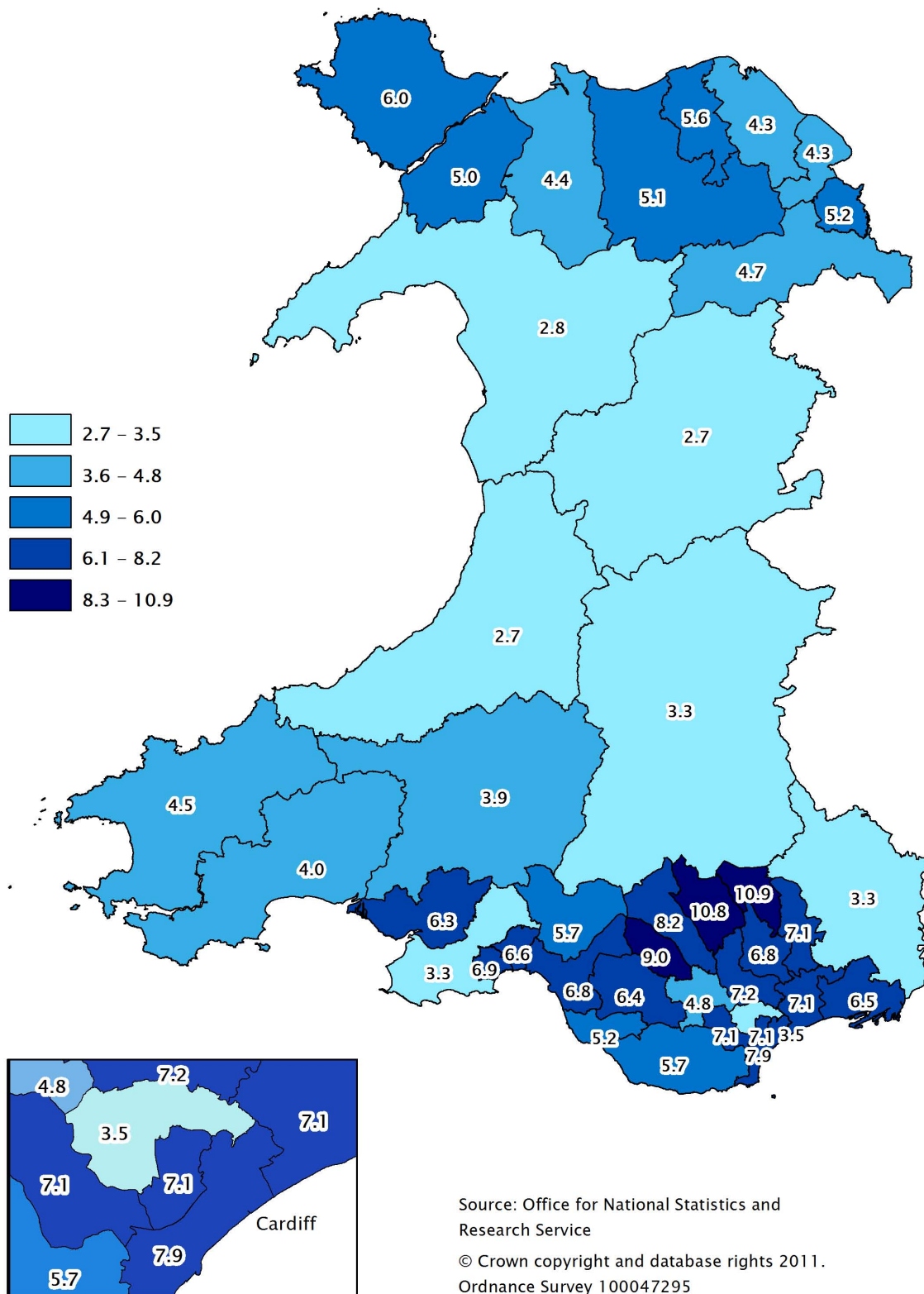
Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 4.2: Claimant count rates (July 2011)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Map 5.2: Unofficial claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, July 2011 ⁵



⁵ Source: Research Service. Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a **percentage** of the economically active population aged between 16 and 64. See technical annex for details.

Table 5.1 Claimant count by Assembly Constituency, July 2011

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	1,199	533	1,732
Aberconwy	767	290	1,057
Alyn and Deeside	1,111	617	1,728
Arfon	919	355	1,274
Blaenau Gwent	2,018	1,015	3,033
Brecon and Radnorshire	684	337	1,021
Bridgend	1,190	571	1,761
Caerphilly	1,810	826	2,636
Cardiff Central	1,949	706	2,655
Cardiff North	1,052	446	1,498
Cardiff South and Penarth	2,498	1,126	3,624
Cardiff West	1,989	862	2,851
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	748	385	1,133
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	918	354	1,272
Ceredigion	604	265	869
Clwyd South	1,040	501	1,541
Clwyd West	1,096	465	1,561
Cynon Valley	1,487	768	2,255
Delyn	936	504	1,440
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	503	190	693
Gower	746	383	1,129
Islwyn	1,432	705	2,137
Llanelli	1,339	644	1,983
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	1,995	987	2,982
Monmouth	804	400	1,204
Montgomeryshire	513	294	807
Neath	1,189	542	1,731
Newport East	1,512	706	2,218
Newport West	1,832	850	2,682
Ogmore	1,423	645	2,068
Pontypridd	1,210	550	1,760
Preseli Pembrokeshire	973	436	1,409
Rhondda	1,634	754	2,388
Swansea East	1,534	698	2,232
Swansea West	1,506	603	2,109
Torfaen	1,705	836	2,541
Vale of Clwyd	1,277	486	1,763
Vale of Glamorgan	1,798	743	2,541
Wrexham	1,150	555	1,705
Ynys Mon	1,220	514	1,734

Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 5.2: Unofficial residence-based claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, July 2011 (a)

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	8.4	4.7	6.8
Aberconwy	5.9	2.6	4.4
Alyn and Deeside	5.1	3.4	4.3
Arfon	6.6	3.0	5.0
Blaenau Gwent	13.3	8.1	10.9
Brecon and Radnorshire	4.1	2.4	3.3
Bridgend	6.4	3.7	5.2
Caerphilly	9.1	5.0	7.2
Cardiff Central	9.6	4.1	7.1
Cardiff North	4.7	2.2	3.5
Cardiff South and Penarth	10.1	5.3	7.9
Cardiff West	9.3	4.6	7.1
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	4.7	2.9	3.9
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	5.4	2.4	4.0
Ceredigion	3.4	1.8	2.7
Clwyd South	5.7	3.4	4.7
Clwyd West	6.6	3.3	5.1
Cynon Valley	10.0	6.2	8.2
Delyn	5.1	3.4	4.3
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	3.6	1.7	2.8
Gower	4.1	2.5	3.3
Islwyn	8.3	5.0	6.8
Llanelli	7.8	4.4	6.3
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	13.1	7.9	10.8
Monmouth	4.1	2.4	3.3
Montgomeryshire	3.1	2.2	2.7
Neath	7.1	4.0	5.7
Newport East	8.1	4.6	6.5
Newport West	8.9	4.9	7.1
Ogmore	7.9	4.5	6.4
Pontypridd	6.1	3.3	4.8
Preseli Pembrokeshire	5.7	3.1	4.5
Rhondda	11.0	6.5	9.0
Swansea East	8.3	4.5	6.6
Swansea West	8.9	4.4	6.9
Torfaen	8.8	5.2	7.1
Vale of Clwyd	7.6	3.3	5.6
Vale of Glamorgan	7.4	3.6	5.7
Wrexham	6.4	3.7	5.2
Ynys Mon	7.7	4.0	6.0

Source: Research Service

(a) Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 to 64. See technical annex for details.

Technical Annex: Definitions of unemployment data

ILO unemployment

Definition: ILO (International Labour Organisation) unemployment is the number of those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks.

Methodology used for calculating rates: ILO rates are calculated as a percentage of the population aged 16 and over who are economically active. Economically active people are those who are either in work or are unemployed under the ILO definition.

Source: The number of ILO unemployed is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a sample survey of around 60,000 UK households carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS states that quarter on quarter changes at regional level are particularly subject to sampling variability and **should be interpreted in the context of changes over several quarters rather than in isolation**. The figures have also been adjusted by ONS to take account of seasonal factors.

Geographical availability: The sample based nature of the LFS means that data for areas within Wales (such as Assembly Constituencies and local authorities) is not available on a rolling three-monthly basis. Data for Assembly Constituencies is only available on a rolling twelve-monthly basis, updated once a quarter.

Usage: ILO unemployment is now the headline unemployment indicator for the UK. It is a more encompassing measure of unemployment than the claimant count and enables international comparison of rates. The definition is used by most other countries, as well as Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Claimant Count

Definition: The claimant count measures the number of people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance.

Methodology used for calculating rates: Two methods have been used in this paper;

1. Workplace based rates. These rates have been calculated as the number of claimants resident in each area as a percentage of workforce jobs plus the claimant count. This approach is used for all figures and tables apart from those containing figures for Assembly Constituencies; and
2. Unofficial claimant count rates. The UK Parliamentary Constituencies introduced for the 2010 general election are the **same** as Assembly Constituencies. Claimant count **proportions for constituencies** are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS claimant count proportions use the population aged 16 to 64 as a denominator and so take no account of differences between areas in the proportion that are economically active.

Claimant count **rates for Assembly Constituencies** have been calculated by the Research Service, expressing the number of claimants as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 to 64 who are resident in the constituency. This produces an alternative measure of unemployment to those published by the ONS. The proportion of economically active residents in each constituency is derived from the 2001 Census of Population and then applied to the 2008 resident population estimates of the number aged 16-64, as produced by the ONS.

This is a change from the methodology used from May to July 2010, when the number of claimants was expressed as a percentage of the economically active residents **of working age** derived from the 2001 Census of Population and the 2008 population estimates. Prior to May 2010, the number of claimants was expressed as a percentage of economically active residents aged 16 and over, derived exclusively from the 2001 Census of Population. These changes are in line with new methodologies adopted by the House of Commons Library.

Source: The claimant count comes from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus. It is always lower than the ILO measure of unemployment because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim Jobseekers allowance, or choose not to do so. The figures have also been adjusted by ONS to take account of seasonal factors (apart from those shown in Maps 5.1 and 5.2, and Tables 5.1 and 5.2).

Geographical availability: It is available across a broad of smaller administrative areas, including Assembly constituencies and wards.

Usage: Although it only provides a partial picture, the greater coverage and timeliness of the claimant count is useful to maintain a picture of the labour market at a local level.