

# National Assembly for Wales

## Unemployment Briefing March 2012

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  
March 2012

Gareth Thomas

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# Unemployment Briefing: March 2012

## 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 6.**

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 <sup>1</sup>

- In November 2011 to January 2012, the ILO unemployment rate in Wales was 9.1 per cent. This has risen from 8.5 per cent in November 2010 to January 2011. *Figure 2.1;*
- In November 2011 to January 2012, the number of ILO unemployed in Wales was 134,000. This has increased by 1,000 since the previous quarter and increased by 10,000 since the previous year;
- The male ILO rate was 10.5 per cent, compared to 7.4 per cent for females. *Figure 2.1;*
- The ILO rate in Wales was the highest of the four UK nations. *Table 3.1;*
- Wales had the joint fifth highest ILO rate of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 4.1;* and
- In July 2010 to June 2011, 49,200 people aged 16-24 were ILO unemployed; the ILO rate for 16-24 year olds was 22.9 per cent. *Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1*

### Claimant count <sup>2</sup>

- In February 2012, the total claimant count rate in Wales was 5.7 per cent. This compares to 5.0 per cent in February 2011. *Figure 2.2;*
- The claimant count total in Wales has increased by 700 since the previous month and increased by 9,700 since the previous February;
- At 6.9 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 February 2012, Wales' claimant count rate was ranked sixth highest out of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 4.2;*
- The claimant count for the 18-24 age group has increased by 910 since the previous month and increased by 3,425 since the previous February. *Table 5.2;* and
- The Assembly Constituencies with the highest claimant count rates in February 2012 (based on unofficial estimates) were Blaenau Gwent (12.4 per cent) and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (12.1 per cent). The lowest claimant count rate estimates were in Montgomeryshire (3.2 per cent) and Ceredigion (3.4 per cent). *Table 6.2.*

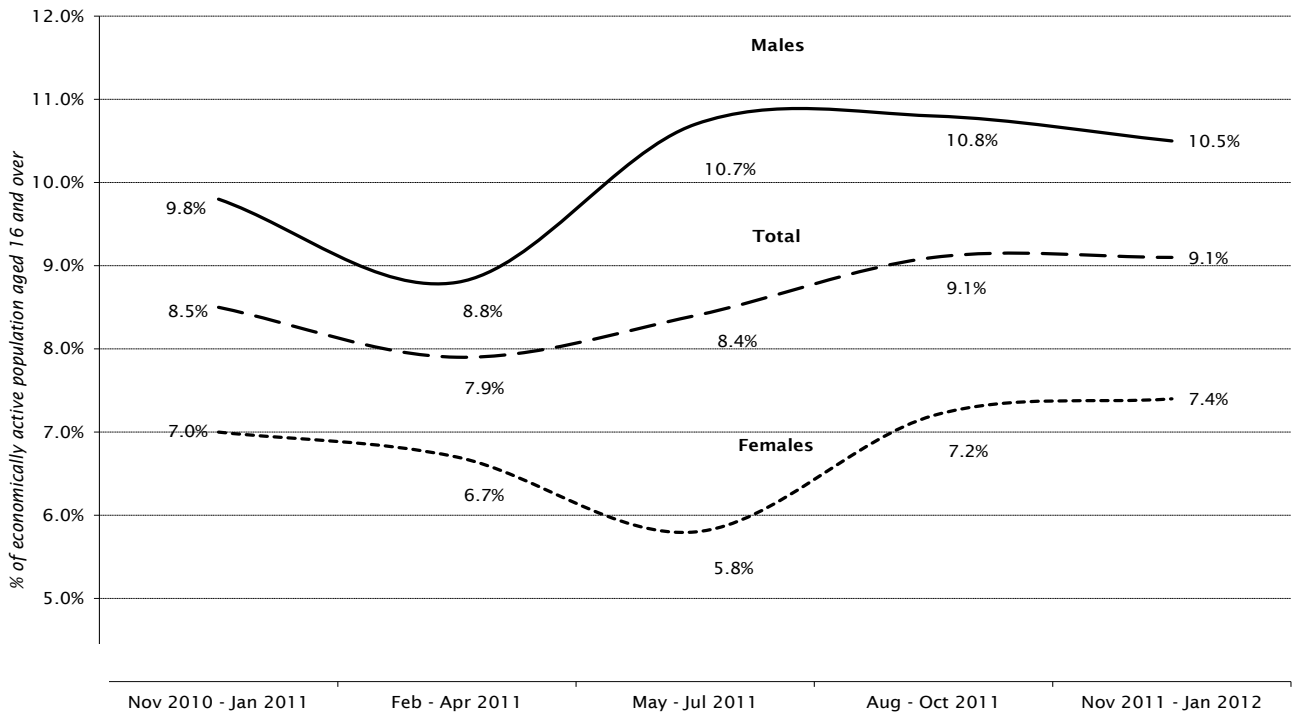
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<sup>1</sup> The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. It includes those who are out of work and want a job, have 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

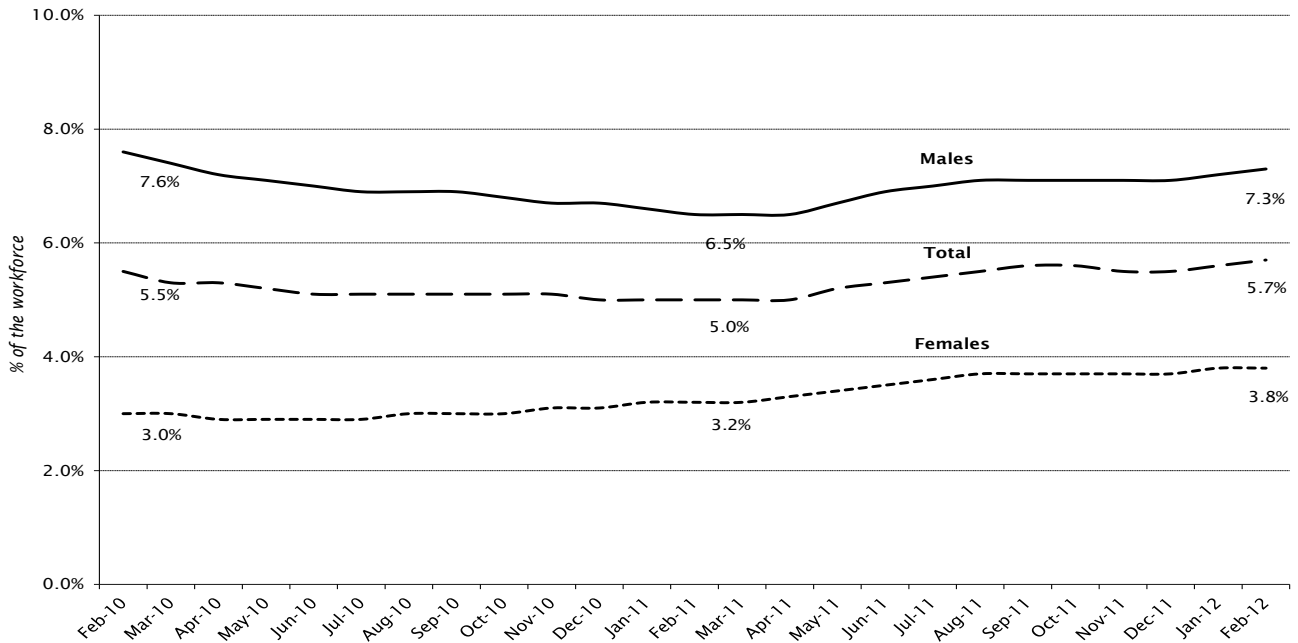
## 2: Unemployment statistics for Wales <sup>3</sup>

Figure 2.1: ILO unemployment rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2.2: Claimant count rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

<sup>3</sup> See Technical Annex for definitions of unemployment data used in this paper.

### 3: Unemployment statistics for UK nations

Table 3.1: ILO unemployment rates

November to January	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2011-12	9.1	8.4	8.7	6.5	8.4
2010-11	8.5	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9
2009-10	9.1	7.8	7.8	6.3	7.8

Source: Office for National Statistics/ Stats Wales

Table 3.2: Claimant count rates

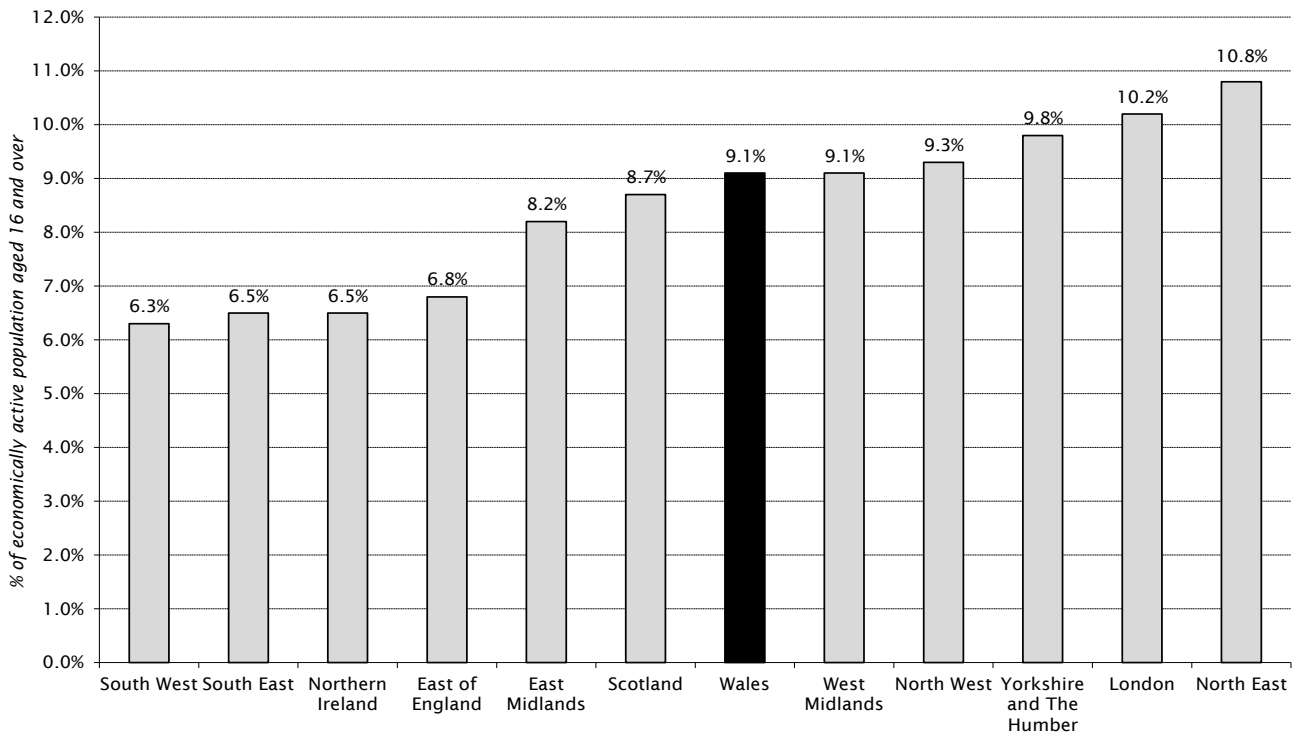
February	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2012	5.7	4.9	5.3	6.9	5.0
2011	5.0	4.4	5.1	6.7	4.5
2010	5.5	4.8	5.1	6.3	4.9

Source: Office for National Statistics/ Stats Wales



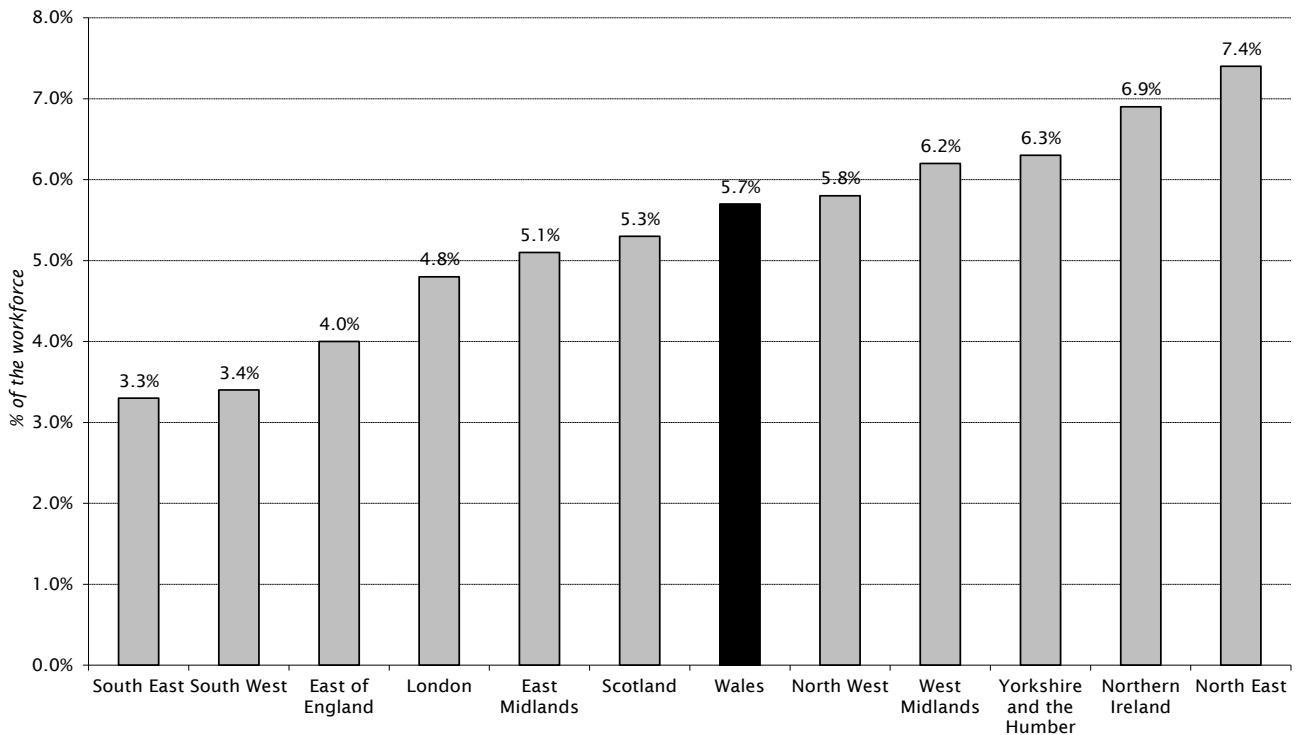
#### 4: Unemployment statistics for UK nations and regions

Figure 4.1: ILO unemployment rates (November 2011 to January 2012)



Source: Office for National Statistics

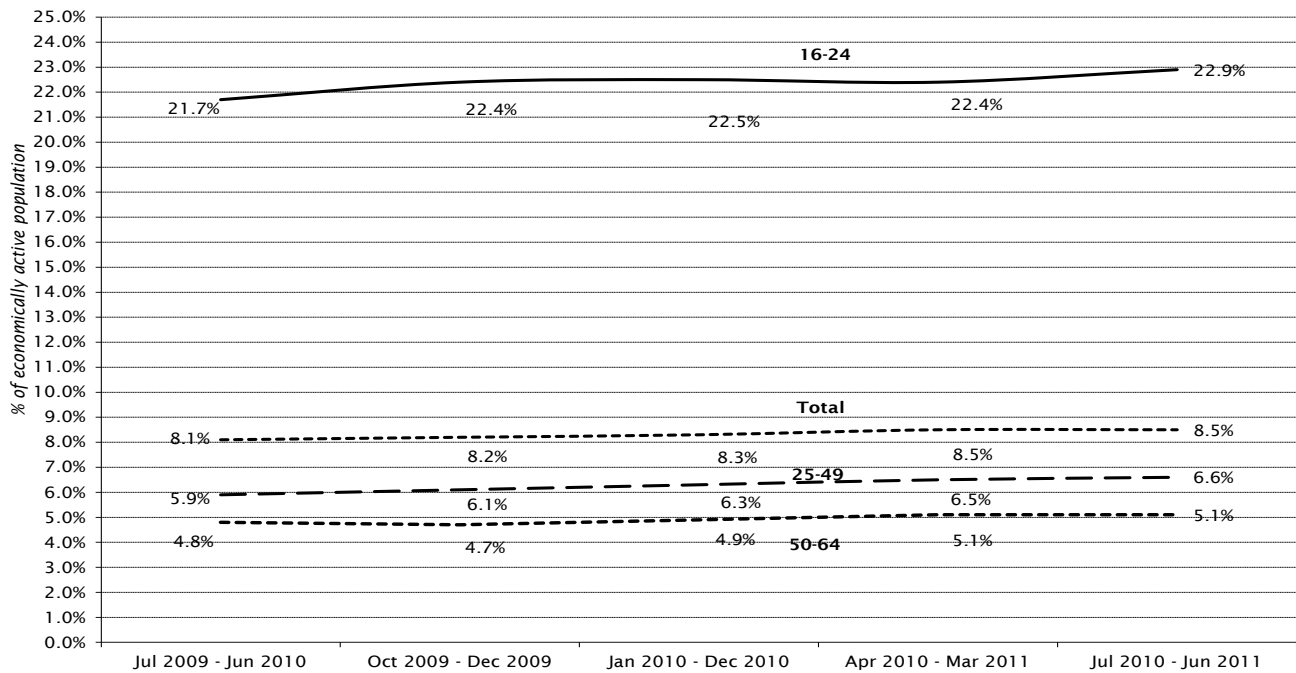
Figure 4.2: Claimant count rates (February 2012)



Source: Office for National Statistics

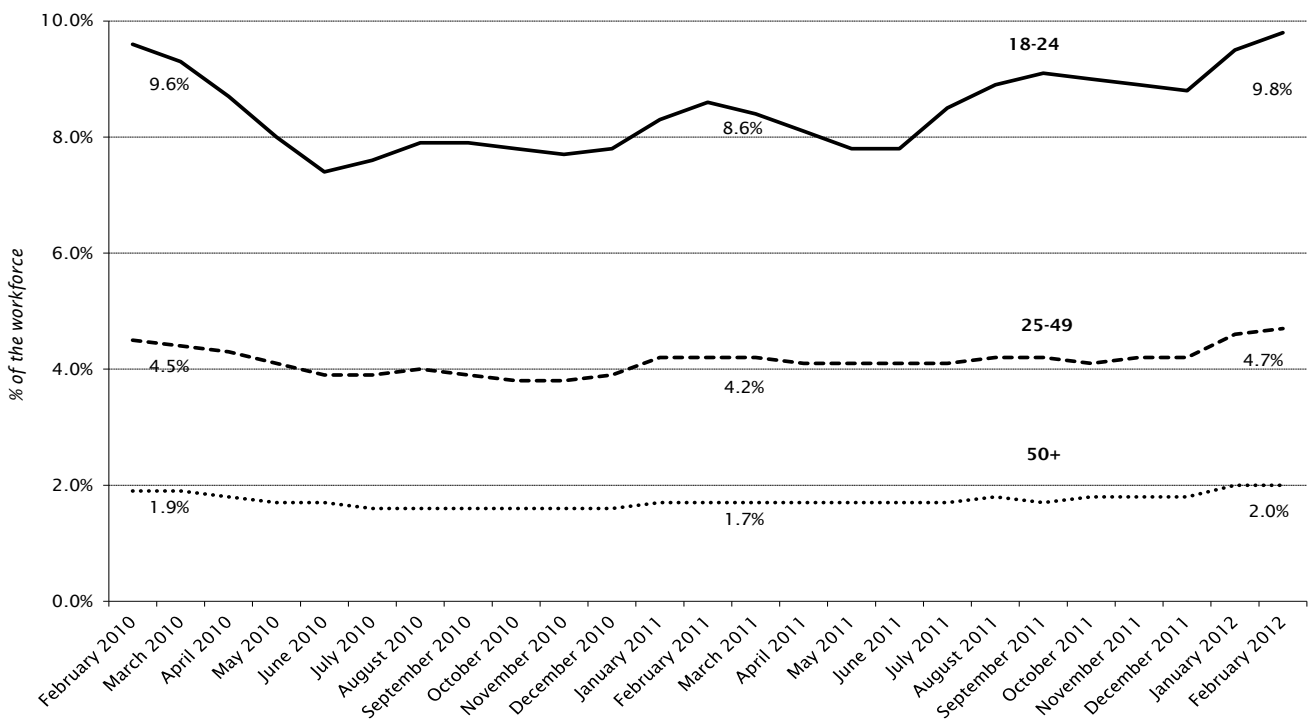
## 5. Unemployment by age group

Figure 5.1: ILO unemployment rates by age group (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 5.2: Claimant count rate by age group (not seasonally adjusted)<sup>4</sup>



Source: Office for National Statistics

<sup>4</sup> Claimant count rates by age group are calculated by the Office for National Statistics as a rate of the population, and do not take into account the proportion of people who are economically inactive.

**Table 5.1: ILO unemployment level by age group**

	<i>not seasonally adjusted</i>			
	<b>16-24</b>	<b>25-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>16 and over</b>
Jul 2009 - Jun 2010	50,100	46,500	17,100	114,200
Oct 2009 - Dec 2009	50,600	47,900	16,900	115,800
Jan 2010 - Dec 2010	50,000	49,600	17,700	117,900
Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	49,200	51,200	18,500	119,600
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	49,200	52,700	18,600	121,100

Source: Office for National Statistics

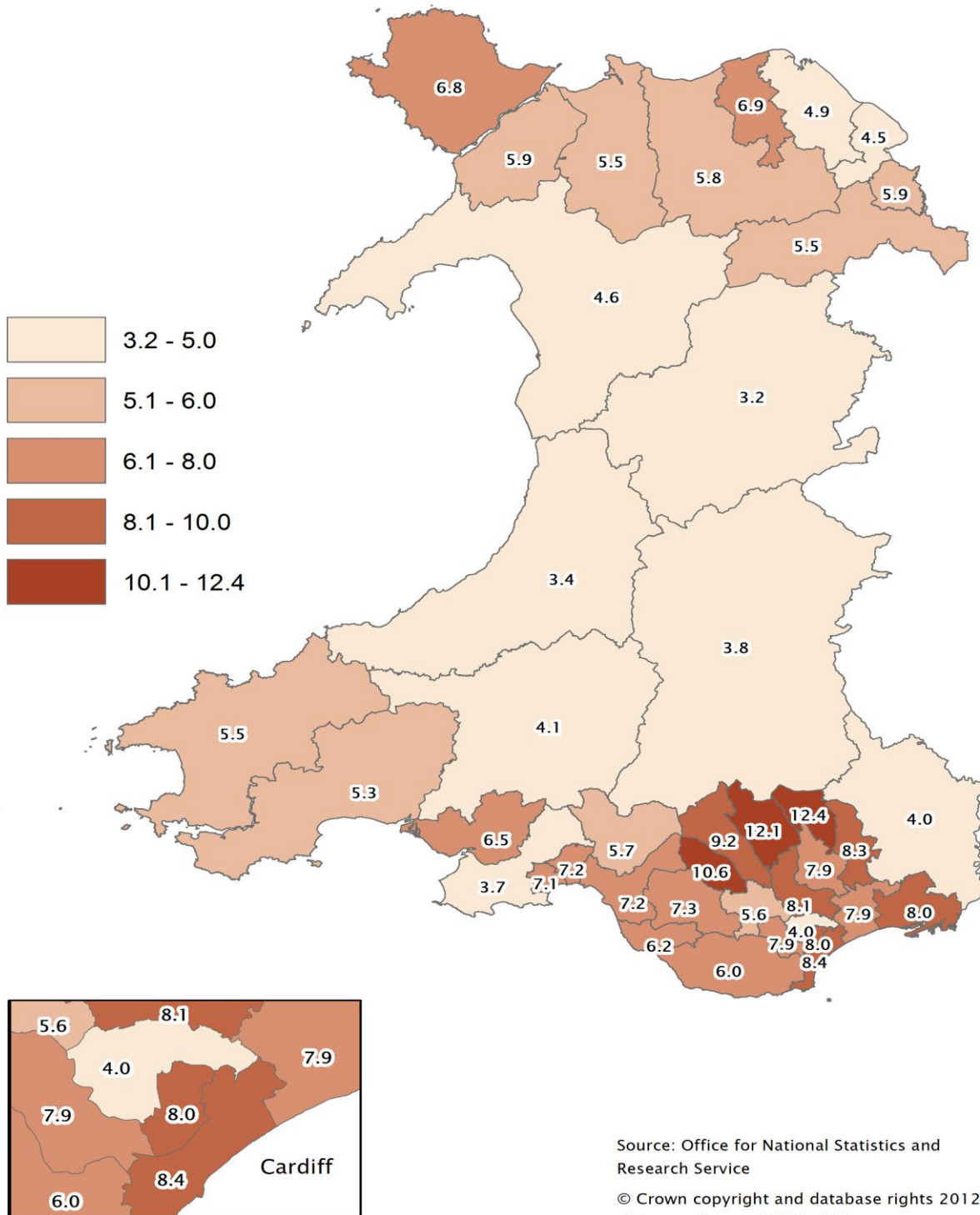
**Table 5.2: Claimant count level by age group**

	<i>Not seasonally adjusted</i>		
	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-49</b>	<b>50+</b>
February 2010	28,695	42,500	11,250
March 2010	27,610	41,060	10,795
April 2010	25,925	40,175	10,680
May 2010	23,850	38,275	10,085
June 2010	22,115	36,835	9,695
July 2010	22,725	36,790	9,420
August 2010	23,560	37,240	9,420
September 2010	23,640	36,440	9,190
October 2010	23,130	35,515	9,200
November 2010	22,975	36,185	9,330
December 2010	23,150	37,165	9,530
January 2011	24,645	40,000	10,190
February 2011	25,685	40,050	10,185
March 2011	25,185	39,275	10,045
April 2011	24,090	38,760	9,970
May 2011	23,335	38,505	9,850
June 2011	23,185	38,215	9,925
July 2011	25,335	39,055	10,080
August 2011	26,645	39,640	10,220
September 2011	27,170	39,340	10,115
October 2011	26,880	39,105	10,220
November 2011	26,415	39,180	10,400
December 2011	26,160	39,635	10,650
January 2012	28,200	43,140	11,550
February 2012	29,110	43,835	11,760

Source: Office for National Statistics



Map 6.2: Unofficial claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, February 2012 <sup>6</sup>



Source: Office for National Statistics and Research Service  
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 Ordnance Survey 100047295

<sup>6</sup> 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 6.1 Claimant count by Assembly Constituency, February 2012**

*not seasonally adjusted*

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>People</b>
Aberavon	1,276	579	1,855
Aberconwy	933	374	1,307
Alyn and Deeside	1,174	628	1,802
Arfon	1,101	402	1,503
Blaenau Gwent	2,325	1,106	3,431
Brecon and Radnorshire	783	370	1,153
Bridgend	1,447	643	2,090
Caerphilly	2,004	940	2,944
Cardiff Central	2,197	809	3,006
Cardiff North	1,204	494	1,698
Cardiff South and Penarth	2,701	1,171	3,872
Cardiff West	2,277	900	3,177
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	800	404	1,204
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	1,192	496	1,688
Ceredigion	769	333	1,102
Clwyd South	1,241	570	1,811
Clwyd West	1,267	496	1,763
Cynon Valley	1,709	820	2,529
Delyn	1,045	580	1,625
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	813	344	1,157
Gower	861	375	1,236
Islwyn	1,704	782	2,486
Llanelli	1,450	614	2,064
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	2,310	1,040	3,350
Monmouth	970	464	1,434
Montgomeryshire	642	323	965
Neath	1,220	514	1,734
Newport East	1,876	849	2,725
Newport West	2,096	877	2,973
Ogmore	1,666	674	2,340
Pontypridd	1,442	624	2,066
Preseli Pembrokeshire	1,192	522	1,714
Rhondda	1,977	830	2,807
Swansea East	1,715	721	2,436
Swansea West	1,571	598	2,169
Torfaen	2,072	888	2,960
Vale of Clwyd	1,554	624	2,178
Vale of Glamorgan	1,951	750	2,701
Wrexham	1,343	584	1,927
Ynys Mon	1,359	606	1,965

Source: Office for National Statistics

**Table 6.2: Unofficial residence-based claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, February 2012 (a)**

*not seasonally adjusted*

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	8.9	5.1	7.2
Aberconwy	7.2	3.4	5.5
Alyn and Deeside	5.4	3.5	4.5
Arfon	8.0	3.4	5.9
Blaenau Gwent	15.3	8.8	12.4
Brecon and Radnorshire	4.7	2.6	3.8
Bridgend	7.8	4.2	6.2
Caerphilly	10.1	5.7	8.1
Cardiff Central	10.8	4.7	8.0
Cardiff North	5.4	2.5	4.0
Cardiff South and Penarth	10.9	5.5	8.4
Cardiff West	10.6	4.8	7.9
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	5.1	3.0	4.1
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	6.9	3.4	5.3
Ceredigion	4.4	2.3	3.4
Clwyd South	6.8	3.9	5.5
Clwyd West	7.7	3.5	5.8
Cynon Valley	11.5	6.6	9.2
Delyn	5.7	3.9	4.9
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	5.8	3.1	4.6
Gower	4.7	2.4	3.7
Islwyn	9.8	5.6	7.9
Llanelli	8.5	4.2	6.5
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	15.1	8.3	12.1
Monmouth	4.9	2.8	4.0
Montgomeryshire	3.9	2.4	3.2
Neath	7.3	3.8	5.7
Newport East	10.0	5.6	8.0
Newport West	10.2	5.1	7.9
Ogmore	9.3	4.7	7.3
Pontypridd	7.3	3.7	5.6
Preseli Pembrokeshire	7.0	3.7	5.5
Rhondda	13.4	7.1	10.6
Swansea East	9.3	4.7	7.2
Swansea West	9.3	4.4	7.1
Torfaen	10.7	5.5	8.3
Vale of Clwyd	9.2	4.2	6.9
Vale of Glamorgan	8.1	3.6	6.0
Wrexham	7.5	3.9	5.9
Ynys Mon	8.6	4.7	6.8

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.

*Availability by age group and geographical area:* The sample based nature of the LFS means that data for different age groups and areas within Wales (such as Assembly Constituencies and local authorities) is not available on a rolling three-monthly basis. Data for age groups, Assembly Constituencies and local authorities 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).

*Availability by age group and geographical area:* Claimant count statistics are available on a monthly basis by age group, and also across a broad range of smaller administrative areas, including Assembly Constituencies, local authorities 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.