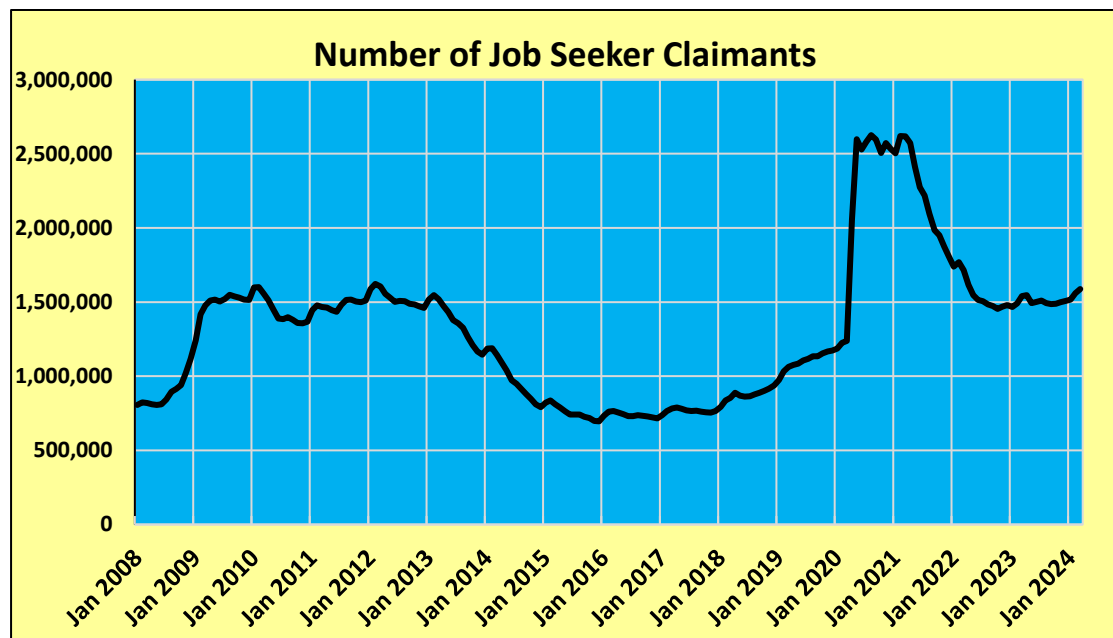


Unemployed Claimants Database

1. Introduction

Unemployment is a key measure of deprivation and hardship; the pandemic has had a significant impact upon the number of claimants as the chart below shows. Claimant numbers rose substantially as the pandemic struck but numbers have now fallen back. Discounting the pandemic a significant upwards trend in claimant numbers has taken place since about 2017.



The unemployed claimant database holds detailed information on unemployment rates and is linked to postcodes so that the data can be easily overlaid onto any database record which holds a postcode. The rates can be used to identify detailed and small geographic areas where the claimant rate is either high or low. It can also be used to identify areas by gender and age claimant rates.

2. Information Held

The Claimant database provides information on the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. From April 2015, the Claimant count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants. JSA claimants are gradually being moved onto the Universal Credit system but there are still some on the old system. The Claimant count includes people who claim unemployment-related benefits but who do not receive payment. For example, some claimants will have had their benefits stopped for a limited time period.

The Department of Work and Pensions publish monthly counts of the numbers of claimant broken out by gender, and age for 2011 Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOA's) in England and Wales and for 2011 DataZones in Scotland. In total there are 41,729 such areas in Great Britain which makes them a reasonably small geographic area averaging around 1,500 residents. Using the count of the number of properties paying council tax as household counts in Scotland from the 2022 Census have still to be published, claimant rates per 000 households by gender and age were calculated for each LSOA or DataZone. These rates were then linked to postcodes so that all postcodes within the same LSOA or Datazone have the same set of rates and a postcode directory was compiled.

Information is held in a directory with job seekers claimant rates for March 2024 and holds the following information for 2,616,738 postcodes in Great Britain:-

1. Postcode 1 Space Between Inward & Outward Postcode
2. Region
3. Number of households paying council tax in the postcode (Census information on household numbers in a postcode was not available in Scotland).
4. Rate for All Claimants per 000 households in March 2024
5. Rate for All Claimants per 000 households banded into equal sized Semi-Deciles – a simple way of identifying areas by claimant rates quickly and easily
6. Rate for Male Claimants per 000 households in March 2024
7. Rate for Female Claimants per 000 households in March 2024
8. Rate for Claimants aged 16-24 per 000 households in March 2024
9. Rate for Claimants 25-29 per 000 households in March 2024
10. Rate for Claimants 30-34 per 000 Households in March 2024
11. Rate for Claimants 35-39 per 000 Households in March 2024
12. Rate for Claimants 40-44 per 000 Households in March 2024
13. Rate for Claimants 45-49 per 000 Households in March 2024
14. Rate for Claimants 50-54 per 000 Households in March 2024
15. Rate for Claimants 55-59 per 000 Households in March 2024
16. Rate for Claimants 60+ per 000 Households in March 2024

3. Claimant Database Audit

The claimant rates are shown below. Although the directory is a database of postcodes, the figures below are weighted by the number of properties paying council tax to reflect the fact that postcodes can hold different numbers of households.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Rate for All Claimants per 000 Households	29362584	.00	1000.00	54.1073	45.21968
Rate for Male Claimants per 000 Households	29362584	.00	1000.00	30.8772	27.67468
Rate for Female Claimants per 000 Households	29362584	.00	277.78	23.2136	19.35738
Rate for Claimants 16-24 per 000 Households	29362584	.00	130.72	9.5163	9.68408
Rate for Claimants 25-29 per 000 Households	29362584	.00	179.74	6.5151	7.43190
Rate for Claimants 30-34 per 000 Households	29362584	.00	114.38	6.9101	7.42963
Rate for Claimants 35-39 per 000 Households	29362584	.00	138.89	6.9069	7.42733
Rate for Claimants 40-44 per 000 Households	29362584	.00	77.37	5.9863	6.80808
Rate for Claimants 45-49 per 000 Households	29362584	.00	62.24	4.4964	5.72157
Rate for Claimants 50+ per 000 Households	29362584	.00	138.89	12.1584	10.42404

The average claimant rate across the country is 54.11 claimants per 000 households. The rate is higher amongst males and those in the oldest age group and close to retirement, and also in younger age groups

The second table shows the regional variations in unemployment.

Report

Rate for All Claimants per 000 Properties paying CT

Region	N	Mean
1 - North East	1254185	52.9079
2 - North West	3387133	59.4807
3 - Yorks & Humberside	2494130	58.9822
4 - East Midlands	2168748	49.4652
5 - West Midlands	2576336	72.3949
6 - East of England	2784088	44.5119
7 - Inner London	1499431	83.6519
8 - Outer London	2252099	83.2177
9 - South East	4059083	42.9368
10 - South West	2636530	36.0817
12 - Scotland	2789347	39.3537
13 - Wales	1461474	43.8240
Total	29362584	54.1073

The table shows strong regional variations with Inner and Outer London having significantly higher claimant rates.

David Griffiths
TRAC Consultancy
18th April 2024