

Table 4 Measures of employment and unemployment in the UK

Thousands

| | 1979 | 1984 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Employees | 23,092 | 21,000 | 22,783 | 21,863 | 23,977 | 24,997 | 25,195 | 25,345 | 25,574 | 25,092 | 25,017 | 25,118 | 25,213 | 25,514 | 25,960 | 26,504 | 26,771 | 27,065 | 27,494 | 27,652 | 27,770 |
| + Self-employed | 1,833 | 2,695 | 3,542 | 3,549 | 3,254 | 3,644 | 3,749 | 3,822 | 3,846 | 3,870 | 3,990 | 4,058 | 4,224 | 4,262 | 4,558 | 4,575 | 4,772 | 4,798 | 4,780 | 4,968 | 4,614 |
| + Training programmes | - | 309 | 459 | 273 | 143 | 113 | 98 | 109 | 108 | 107 | 128 | 100 | 150 | 158 | 121 | 104 | 82 | 78 | 49 | 51 | 45 |
| + Unpaid family workers | - | - | - | 133 | 109 | 96 | 96 | 101 | 101 | 88 | 94 | 103 | 108 | 110 | 116 | 102 | 118 | 116 | 115 | 128 | 101 |
| = Total in employment | 25,195 | 24,285 | 26,871 | 25,818 | 27,484 | 28,850 | 29,138 | 29,378 | 29,628 | 29,156 | 29,228 | 29,378 | 29,697 | 30,043 | 30,754 | 31,285 | 31,744 | 32,057 | 32,439 | 32,799 | 32,529 |
| of which | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Full-time | - | 19,019 | 20,930 | 19,460 | 20,517 | 21,556 | 21,740 | 21,930 | 22,084 | 21,496 | 21,300 | 21,422 | 21,547 | 21,897 | 22,469 | 22,884 | 23,208 | 23,536 | 23,886 | 24,212 | 24,291 |
| Part-time | - | 4,985 | 5,854 | 6,359 | 6,967 | 7,293 | 7,398 | 7,448 | 7,545 | 7,660 | 7,928 | 7,956 | 8,150 | 8,147 | 8,285 | 8,400 | 8,536 | 8,521 | 8,552 | 8,587 | 8,238 |
| Workers with second jobs | - | 702 | 1,079 | 1,282 | 1,177 | 1,060 | 1,056 | 1,102 | 1,125 | 1,140 | 1,111 | 1,143 | 1,133 | 1,143 | 1,198 | 1,180 | 1,132 | 1,126 | 1,124 | 1,138 | 1,114 |
| + ILO unemployed | 1,432 | 3,241 | 2,053 | 2,436 | 1,587 | 1,464 | 1,671 | 1,655 | 1,786 | 2,403 | 2,497 | 2,594 | 2,572 | 2,474 | 2,026 | 1,781 | 1,633 | 1,476 | 1,380 | 1,306 | 1,550 |
| = Total economically active | 26,627 | 27,526 | 28,924 | 28,254 | 29,070 | 30,314 | 30,809 | 31,033 | 31,415 | 31,559 | 31,726 | 31,971 | 32,268 | 32,517 | 32,779 | 33,065 | 33,377 | 33,533 | 33,819 | 34,104 | 34,079 |
| Economically inactive | 8,311 | 8,655 | 7,899 | 8,686 | 8,694 | 9,047 | 8,987 | 9,157 | 9,138 | 9,271 | 9,446 | 9,452 | 9,208 | 9,089 | 9,024 | 8,996 | 8,898 | 8,827 | 8,694 | 8,566 | 8,635 |
| Claimant unemployed | 1,064 | 2,888 | 1,648 | 2,290 | 1,088 | 862 | 945 | 865 | 906 | 1,528 | 1,496 | 1,534 | 1,586 | 1,421 | 1,036 | 798 | 773 | 795 | 901 | 1,132 | 2,242 |

Sources: Office For National Statistics, Labour market statistics time series and Labour Force Survey.

Notes: 1. Claimant unemployment refers to the number of people aged 18 and over that claim unemployment related benefits. The figures are seasonally adjusted (BCJD) and adjusted for the second quarter of the year.

2. Since 2015, the claimant count has been reclassified as 'experimental' as it includes a proportion of universal credit claimants who are in low-paid work but are required to be actively seeking work.

3. All other figures are from the Labour Force Survey for all those aged 16 and over; except the economically inactive aged 16 to 64. For the years to 1990 they are for the April of the year; from 1993 they are for the second quarter of the year, seasonally adjusted.

4. The LFS definitions of unemployment and inactivity apply for 1979. Thereafter the ILO definition (based on a four-week instead of a one-week job search period) applies.