

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	2021	2022	2023
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	27,752	28,023	28,447	28,666
+ 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	4,256	4,254	4,344
+ Training programmes	-	309	459	273	143	113	98	109	108	107	128	100	150	158	121	104	82	78	49	51	44	40	70	63
+ Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	133	109	96	96	101	101	88	94	103	108	110	116	102	118	116	115	128	100	87	82	87
= 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	29,380	29,714	30,079	30,794	31,314	31,775	32,087	32,458	32,823	32,531	32,493	32,929	33,160
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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	24,289	24,493	24,610	24,639
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	8,220	7,914	8,242	8,521
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	1,163	1,232	1,179
+ 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	2,574	2,482	2,038	1,796	1,653	1,501	1,410	1,340	1,590	1,573	1,320	1,392
= 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	31,973	32,289	32,562	32,832	33,110	33,429	33,588	33,868	34,164	34,120	34,066	34,249	34,552
Economically inactive	8,311	8,655	7,899	8,686	8,694	9,047	8,987	9,157	9,138	9,271	9,446	9,455	9,227	9,130	9,081	9,067	8,988	8,936	8,832	8,736	8,850	9,038	9,186	9,168
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	1,133	2,243	2,280	1,591	1,536

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

- 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 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 and are for people aged 16 and over, except the economically inactive that are for those aged 16 to 64. For the years to 1990 figures 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.
 5. A combination of methodological and operational changes in response to Covid-19 and lower response rates mean that LFS data may be less reliable for 2020 to 2023 inclusive.