

Table 5a Claimant unemployment rates in the UK by country/region

Percentages at first quarter of each year

Country/region	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North East	–	3.7	6.9	15.4	9.1	11.0	6.5	3.6	6.8	6.6	7.5	7.0	5.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.3	5.1	5.6	8.9	6.3	5.2	5.1	5.2
North West	–	3.0	4.9	12.6	7.0	8.4	4.3	2.7	5.4	5.0	5.7	5.1	3.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.5	4.0	7.8	5.4	4.8	4.7	5.0
Yorkshire & The Humber	2.7	2.2	3.9	11.2	6.2	8.3	4.6	2.7	5.8	5.4	6.1	5.7	4.5	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.9	7.6	5.3	4.7	4.8	5.1
East Midlands	2.1	1.9	3.2	9.3	4.6	7.3	3.4	2.3	4.9	4.2	4.8	4.4	3.3	2.2	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.4	3.1	6.4	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.5
West Midlands	1.8	2.0	3.9	12.1	5.4	8.0	4.1	3.1	6.4	5.7	6.0	5.4	4.2	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.5	4.3	8.3	6.2	5.5	5.6	6.4
East	–	1.6	2.5	7.5	2.9	6.4	2.6	2.0	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.6	2.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.5	6.1	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.9
London	–	1.4	2.5	8.2	4.4	9.1	3.9	3.3	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.9	2.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.9	7.8	4.9	4.2	4.5	5.3
South East	–	1.4	2.1	6.7	2.4	5.8	2.0	1.5	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.0	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.2	5.7	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.5
South West	2.7	2.4	3.5	8.5	3.6	6.7	2.7	1.5	3.2	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.3	5.4	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.0
England	–	2.1	3.5	9.7	4.8	7.7	3.6	2.5	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.7	3.2	7.0	4.7	4.0	4.2	4.6
Wales	3.9	3.0	5.1	13.0	6.3	8.2	4.5	2.7	5.4	4.9	5.5	5.4	4.1	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.2	3.8	6.9	4.7	4.1	4.0	4.2
Scotland	3.8	2.9	5.7	12.0	8.0	7.8	4.7	3.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	3.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.8	7.2	4.5	3.8	3.5	3.6
Great Britain	2.4	2.2	3.8	10.1	5.1	7.8	3.7	2.5	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.4	3.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.7	3.3	7.0	4.7	4.0	4.1	4.5
Northern Ireland	6.5	4.6	8.0	15.3	13.0	11.6	5.5	3.3	6.1	6.5	6.9	7.2	6.4	5.2	4.2	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.0	6.0	4.0	3.7	3.7	4.0
United Kingdom	–	2.2	3.9	10.2	5.3	7.9	3.7	2.6	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.6	3.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.8	3.3	7.0	4.6	4.0	4.1	4.5

Source: Office for National Statistics, claimant count and vacancies dataset.

Notes: 1. Figures are for the first quarter of the year and are seasonally adjusted. Figures from 1997 are affected by the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance and from 2013 by universal credit.

2. Figures for government office regions are unavailable for the years prior to 1975, except where they coincide with standard regions.

3. ONS caution that the claimant count unemployment series does not provide a wholly reliable representation of the labour market (see table 4 notes), but it provides a useful indication of variations in unemployment between areas and over time.

Table 5b Unemployment rates in the UK by country/region

Percentages

Country/region	1970	1975	1980	1985	2002	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North East	-	-	-	-	6.8	6.3	9.7	9.9	10.8	10.3	9.8	7.8	7.5	6.0	4.8	5.6	4.9	5.6	4.9	3.7	4.8	4.5
North West	-	-	-	-	5.4	4.3	8.3	8.5	9.5	7.8	7.1	5.8	4.8	4.2	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.7	4.3	3.5	4.7	4.8
Yorkshire & The Humber	-	-	-	-	5.3	5.0	9.2	8.5	9.4	8.8	7.6	6.8	5.7	4.8	4.4	4.8	3.8	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.2	4.9
East Midlands	-	-	-	-	4.2	4.1	7.3	7.9	8.4	7.8	5.6	4.7	4.4	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.9	2.3	3.2	5.5	4.9
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	5.5	4.4	8.9	8.8	8.6	9.9	7.5	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.7	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.9
East	-	-	-	-	3.5	3.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.2	4.5	3.4	3.8	3.1	2.4	3.5	3.5	3.1	4.3	3.8	4.8
London	-	-	-	-	6.7	6.9	9.3	9.5	8.9	8.5	7.0	6.4	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.3	5.2	6.2	4.4	4.8	5.1	6.0
South East	-	-	-	-	3.9	3.6	6.0	5.8	6.4	6.3	4.5	4.4	3.7	3.4	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.1	2.9	3.6	3.8	3.9
South West	-	-	-	-	3.5	3.3	6.3	6.5	5.9	5.8	4.9	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.1	2.5	3.6	3.5	2.5	3.4	3.8	3.2
England	-	-	-	-	2.4	2.2	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4
Wales	-	-	-	-	5.9	4.4	8.9	7.7	8.7	8.0	6.3	6.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.9	2.8	4.0	3.9	5.0	3.7	4.6
Scotland	-	-	-	-	6.7	5.8	8.4	7.7	8.0	7.5	6.9	5.5	5.4	3.7	4.2	3.2	4.5	4.4	3.6	3.2	5.0	3.6
Great Britain	-	-	-	-	2.5	2.3	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.3
Northern Ireland	-	-	-	-	5.5	4.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.9	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.2	3.5	3.1	3.0	4.2	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.2
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	2.5	2.3	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.3

Source: Office for National Statistics, Regional labour market: estimates of unemployment by age.

Notes: 1. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and are based on rolling three-monthly figures from the Labour Force Survey.

2. Figures are unavailable for the years prior to 2002.

3. These estimates are derived from the same data source as the UK level figures, but sampling variability due to relatively small sample sizes means the figures should be used with caution and are not designated official statistics.