

Table 4 Measures of employment and unemployment in the UK

Thousands

	1979	1984	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Employees	23,092	21,000	22,783	21,863	23,977	24,997	25,017	25,118	25,213	25,514	25,960	26,504	26,771	27,065	27,494	27,781	27,841	28,196	28,564	28,820	29,125
+ Self-employed	1,833	2,695	3,542	3,549	3,254	3,644	3,990	4,058	4,224	4,262	4,558	4,575	4,772	4,798	4,780	4,962	4,577	4,231	4,243	4,379	4,338
+ Training programmes	-	309	459	273	143	113	128	100	150	158	121	104	82	78	49	52	44	41	70	63	54
+ Unpaid family workers	-	-	-	133	109	96	94	103	108	110	116	102	118	116	115	128	98	87	80	88	99
= Total in employment	25,195	24,285	26,871	25,818	27,484	28,850	29,228	29,381	29,723	30,097	30,818	31,346	31,810	32,128	32,507	32,923	32,559	32,555	32,957	33,351	33,616
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Full-time	-	19,019	20,930	19,460	20,517	21,556	21,300	21,422	21,547	21,897	22,469	22,884	23,208	23,536	23,886	24,263	24,264	24,526	24,647	24,794	25,225
Part-time	-	4,985	5,854	6,359	6,967	7,293	7,928	7,956	8,150	8,147	8,285	8,400	8,536	8,521	8,552	8,660	8,294	8,029	8,311	8,557	8,390
Workers with second jobs	-	702	1,079	1,282	1,177	1,060	1,111	1,143	1,133	1,143	1,198	1,180	1,132	1,126	1,124	1,144	1,112	1,173	1,244	1,189	1,253
+ ILO unemployed	1,432	3,241	2,053	2,436	1,587	1,464	2,497	2,593	2,570	2,474	2,026	1,780	1,635	1,479	1,385	1,311	1,570	1,545	1,304	1,407	1,510
= Total economically active	26,627	27,526	28,924	28,254	29,070	30,314	31,726	31,974	32,293	32,571	32,844	33,126	33,445	33,607	33,892	34,234	34,129	34,100	34,261	34,757	35,126
Economically inactive	8,311	8,655	7,899	8,686	8,694	9,047	9,446	9,453	9,218	9,114	9,058	9,037	8,953	8,896	8,788	8,644	8,837	9,011	9,219	9,228	9,378
Claimant unemployed	1,064	2,888	1,648	2,290	1,088	862	1,496	1,534	1,586	1,421	1,036	798	773	795	901	1,133	2,243	2,280	1,590	1,536	1,674

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 2024 inclusive.