

Latest ONS data on employment (June-August 2020)

Gender analysis

Unemployment and redundancies rose to levels last seen in 2009

- Unemployment rate for all people is now 4.5%.
- Women's unemployment rate is 4.0%, same as in the last quarter and up 0.3 percentage points compared to previous year.
- Men's unemployment rate is 4.9%, an increase of 0.4 pp on quarter and 0.9 pp on year.
- The number of redundancies rose sharply, to 9.1 per 1,000 men and 7.3 per 1,000 women. For men this is more than double the redundancies rate of same period last year, and for women it is 1.8 times last year's rate.

The Chancellor's Winter Economic Plan announcements have come too late for many people who were made redundant by firms who were anticipating the end of the furlough scheme in October.

Sharp increase in women employees working full-time (fewer self-employed PT women)

- There has been a sharp increase in women working full-time as employees: 300,000 more on the year and 80,000 more on the quarter.
- In contrast, there has been a decrease in part-time self-employed women: 80,000 fewer on the year and 50,000 fewer on the quarter.
- There has also been an increase of men employees in full-time compared to last year (50,000) although fewer 30,000 than in the last quarter.
- The sharpest decrease in employment for men has been in the number of self-employed men working full-time: 300,000 fewer than last year and 50,000 fewer than in last quarter.

Economic activity is higher than a year ago – but more women are unemployed

- A higher proportion of women are classed as economically active than a year ago (59.2% compared to 58.9%). But at the same time, a higher proportion of women are unemployed (4.0% compared to 3.7%).
- Women's employment rate has been decreasing since the end of 2019, when it reached a high of 57.7% (now 56.9%).
- The % of women who are economically active is unchanged since April-June at 59.2%.
- Men's economic activity rate at 68.2% is lower than last year (-0.7 pp) and quarter (-0.1 pp).

Economic activity includes people who are currently employed, unemployed and looking for a job.

Vacancies are picking up but still 40% lower than pre-pandemic

- The number of job vacancies are going up and are now significantly higher than May's low.
- However, vacancies in August were still around 40% below last year's levels.

Pay growth is recovering but still below inflation

- Wages have returned to growth (0.8%), but some sectors are still seeing decreases in pay.

Benefit claimant count is 120.3% higher than in March 2020

- Since March 2020, 1.5 million more people are claiming benefits.
- This includes people who are out of work or who are on low income and/or hours.

Based on analysis of ONS data on labour market overview (October 2020):

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/october2020>