



# Labour Market Analysis

Monthly Update – April Release

April 2018

Economic Growth Service

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# 1. Summary

## 1.1 Cornwall

### Jobseekers Allowance

- The total JSA figure in March for Cornwall was 2,761. Since February numbers in Cornwall have decreased by 85 or 3.0%.
- The March total for Cornwall was the lowest recorded for any March during the run of data since 1992.
- Compared to March 2017, the number of claimants in Cornwall decreased by 386 or 12%.
- Since November 2012, the numbers have fallen in each month compared to the same month in the previous year in Cornwall.
- Comparing the change in numbers for Cornwall between February and the following March each year (since 1992) indicates that numbers decreased in all of the 27 years.
- Cornwall's JSA rate in March was 0.8%, down on the 0.9% rate in February<sup>1</sup>.
- Compared to March 2017, Cornwall's rate fell by 0.2 points, from 1.0% to 0.8%.

### Community Network Areas

- On a monthly basis 13 of the 19 CNAs saw decreases, while 4 saw increases, with 2 no change (0 or + or - 1).
- Highest rates in March were in Newquay (1.5%), Camborne-Pool-Redruth (1.3%) then Bodmin, St. Austell and West Penwith (all 1.1%). Lowest rates were found in Bude (0.4%).
- Compared to March 2017, 12 areas saw decreases and 3 with increases and 4 stable.

### Occupations

- Comparing March 2018 to February 2018, overall numbers decreased by 85. There were 3 occupations where numbers rose, 16 occupations which were static and 7 where numbers fell.
- In March 2018 there were 390 fewer jobseekers<sup>2</sup> compared to March 2017. Of the 26 occupational groups, 2 saw numbers rise 7 were static and 17 saw numbers fall.

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<sup>1</sup> The JSA rate is based on the number of claimants as a proportion of population aged 16-64. Although the number of JSA claimants may change the rate may not, depending on whether the change in numbers is enough to alter the rate.

<sup>2</sup> All numbers are rounded. Includes 'Occupation unknown'.

### JSA on and off-flows

- In March there were 654 off-flows and 573 on-flows. Of the 655<sup>3</sup> off-flows, 50.4% were accounted for by people obtaining a job, 22.9% failed to sign and 13.7% were for reasons not known.

### **Labour market – Resident based**

- Labour market figures for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly from the Annual Population Survey are available up to December 2017<sup>4</sup>. This data set covers those of working age namely the 16-64 age group who are resident in the area<sup>5</sup>.
- In total there were 324,500 aged 16-64, of whom 255,800 were economically active with 248,300 who were employed. Of those employed, 189,800 were employees with 57,100 self-employed<sup>6</sup>; while 175,900 worked full-time with 71,900 working part-time. There were 7,500 who were unemployed, and 68,700 who were economically inactive.
- The figures show that over the last year the total aged 16-64 has moved up<sup>7</sup>, the numbers of economically active up marginally while the numbers of economically inactive have increased. Employment numbers were up, with a significant rise in self-employed numbers, but slight fall in employee numbers. The number of those working full-time and part-time rose, particularly part-time. The number of unemployed fell substantially over the year, continuing a recent trend.
- Looking at percentage changes over the year, there was a 2% increase in the 16-64 age group, economically active was stable while the number who were inactive increased by 8%. The number employed was up by 1%, with self-employed up by 10% and employees down by 2%. Full-time numbers were up by 1% while Part-time were up by 2%.
- Over the year, the employment rate fell from 77.0% to 76.5%, the self-employment share of employment moved up from 21.2% to 23.1%. The share taken by full-time decreased from 71.3% to 70.8% while part-time went up from 28.7% to 29.0%. Unemployment rates fell back from 3.8% to 2.9%.
- The latest figures show that there were 19,500 people aged 65 plus in the workforce. This represents 7.3% of the workforce, up from the figure of 7.2% a year earlier.
- Numbers working on a non-permanent/flexible basis fell over the year by 100 from 10,600 to 10,500, while the rate fell from 4.0% to 3.9%<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Numbers are always rounded for this dataset.

<sup>4</sup> Figures cover a year and are produced quarterly; all figures for age group 16-64.

<sup>5</sup> Data has been reweighted in line with the latest ONS estimates.

<sup>6</sup> Numbers may not sum to all those employed.

<sup>7</sup> Due to the volatility of the data changes in figures from one period to another may not reflect underlying trends.

<sup>8</sup> Those working on a non-permanent basis as a % of all employed.

## Labour market - Workplace data

- Latest data shows all those in employment, including those aged 65 plus, whose workplace is in Cornwall<sup>9</sup>, up to the year ending December 2017. The data shows there were 257,900 working in Cornwall. Of these 68,400 were self-employed, with 180,800 employees, and with another 8,700 employees deemed to be working on a flexible basis. Compared to the previous quarter total employment has moved up slightly. Over the year, numbers in employment, across all categories decreased by 1,900 from 259,800 to 257,900, this was attributable to a decrease in employee numbers (and those on flexible contracts), offsetting the rise in self-employed numbers. The number on flexible contracts was similar at 8,700 compared to 8,800.
- Average employment figures are running at 258,500 over the last five quarters compared to 259,500 for the previous five quarters.
- Over the year as a share of the workforce, the self-employed share was up by 3.4%, while the employee share fell back and those on flexible contracts remained stable.
- Workplace employment since 2004. Numbers peaked in early 2008 pre-recession, and then fell back before rising until early 2011. Numbers then fell back again until late 2012. Numbers then increased to peak in mid 2014 at 260,700. Numbers then fell back before peaking at 263,300 in late 2016, with a dip for two quarters then going back up to 262,300 in mid 2017, with numbers below that for the latest quarters.

### Sixty-five plus

- Overall since 2004 there has been a general upward trend in both the numbers and share of the workforce of those aged 65 plus. In 2004 there were 6,600 while the figure in mid 2011 was 15,000. Numbers dipped in the 2011 downturn before recovering in early 2014. From then onwards numbers dipped until late 2015 then rose to peak in late 2016 at 20,000, before falling back and now stands at 18,800.

## Vacancies

- In March there were 2,910 job postings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This was up by 580 (25%) from 2,330 in February but down 21% from 3,670 in March 2017.

## Claimant count

- The latest claimant count figures show a total of 4,830 in Cornwall in March, down by 5 on the February total of 4,825. Compared to March 2017 the total was down by 375 or -7.2% from 5,205<sup>10</sup>.
- Over the year comparative figures were Cornwall -7.2%, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly -7.3%, England + 10.7% and United Kingdom +9.0%.
- In March the claimant count rate was 1.5%, the same as the February rate. This compared to rates of 2.1% in England and also for the United Kingdom. Over the year the rate in Cornwall has declined by 0.1 point from 1.6% to

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<sup>9</sup> Data has been reweighted in line with the latest ONS estimates.

<sup>10</sup> NB Previous figures are superseded each month.

1.5%. In contrast the rate in England rose by 0.2 points and in the United Kingdom by 0.1 points.

**Benefit claimants – working age client group**

- The latest release brings the working age data up to August 2017. This gives a total of 28,680 who were claiming out-of-work benefits.
- The all working age benefits total fell on both a quarterly and annual basis. Changes were largely attributable to changes in the number of JSA claimants.

## 1.2 United Kingdom

### Main points for the three months to February 2018

- Estimates from the Labour Force Survey show that, between the quarter September to November 2017 and the quarter December 2017 to February 2018, the number of people in work increased, the number of unemployed people decreased and the number of people aged from 16 to 64 years not working and not seeking or available to work (economically inactive) was little changed.
- There were 32.26 million people in work, 55,000 more than for the quarter September to November 2017 and 427,000 more than for the same quarter a year earlier.
- The employment rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 years who were in work) was 75.4%, higher than for the same quarter a year earlier (74.6%) and the highest since comparable records began in 1971.
- There were 1.42 million unemployed people (people not in work but seeking and available to work), 16,000 fewer than for the quarter September to November 2017 and 136,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- The unemployment rate (the proportion of those in work plus those unemployed, that were unemployed) was 4.2%, down from 4.7% for the same quarter a year earlier and the lowest since 1975.
- There were 8.73 million people aged from 16 to 64 years who were economically inactive (not working and not seeking or available to work), little changed compared with the quarter September to November 2017, but 154,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- The inactivity rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 years who were economically inactive) was 21.2%, lower than for the same quarter a year earlier (21.6%) and the joint lowest since comparable records began in 1971.
- Latest estimates show that average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for price inflation) increased by 2.8%, both excluding and including bonuses, compared with a year earlier.
- Latest estimates show that average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain in real terms (that is, adjusted for price inflation) increased by 0.2% excluding bonuses, and by 0.1% including bonuses, compared with a year earlier.

## **Introduction**

This report sets out the latest data relating to the labour market, based on the data released by the Office for National Statistics (some of which is provided through NOMIS).

NB JSA figures for Cornwall and other areas in Section 2 are not seasonally adjusted and include those aged 16-64s. Figures provided in Section 3 at a UK level are seasonally adjusted and cover those aged 18-64. These are the figures cited on the BBC and other media outlets. Hence, the difference in format will account for any discrepancy in the figures.



## 2. Cornwall

### 2.1 Jobseekers Allowance

The latest JSA count data for February was released on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

[This figure is considered to underestimate the actual numbers unemployed, as it does not include people who are actively seeking work but not claiming Jobseekers Allowance, who are however included in the unemployment figures which are taken as a more accurate representation of the situation. NB. Not seasonally adjusted. Figures for Cornwall cover the unitary area only].

The total JSA figure in March for Cornwall was 2,761. Since February numbers in Cornwall have decreased by 85 or 3.0%. Within the South West, 10 of the 16 County/Unitary areas saw decreases in the number of claimants from the previous month, while 5 saw increases. [Isles of Scilly, no data]. Dorset saw the largest decrease of 13.5%, followed by Bournemouth at - 10.4%. South Gloucestershire saw the largest increase of +5.3%, followed by Bristol with +2.6%. The fall in Cornwall was lower than usual in percentage terms. The March total for Cornwall was the lowest recorded for any March during the run of data since 1992. The UK figure was up by 0.3%, Great Britain was up by 0.5% and South West England down by 2.8%. All details in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: JSA count – numbers**

Date	Mar	Feb	Mar	Change			
	2017	2018	2018	Monthly		Annual	
Area	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bath and NE Somerset	257	177	174	-3	-1.7	-83	-32
Bournemouth	1,509	1,138	1,020	-118	-10.4	-489	-32
Bristol, City of	3,983	3,879	3,981	102	2.6	-2	0
Cornwall	3,147	2,846	2,761	-85	-3.0	-386	-12
Devon	3,177	3,114	3,118	4	0.1	-59	-2
Dorset	1,411	1,186	1,026	-160	-13.5	-385	-27
Gloucestershire	2,801	2,156	2,010	-146	-6.8	-791	-28
Isles of Scilly	5	#	3	#	#	-2	-40
North Somerset	837	358	360	2	0.6	-477	-57
Plymouth	2,753	1,983	1,814	-169	-8.5	-939	-34
Poole	761	489	448	-41	-8.4	-313	-41
Somerset	1,334	658	630	-28	-4.3	-704	-53
South Gloucestershire	1,133	1,082	1,139	57	5.3	6	1
Swindon	734	344	329	-15	-4.4	-405	-55
Torbay	1,180	1,232	1,260	28	2.3	80	7
Wiltshire	1,781	784	757	-27	-3.4	-1,024	-57
Cornwall & IoS	3,152	2,848	2,764	-84	-2.9	-388	-12
SW England	26,803	21,428	20,830	-598	-2.8	-5,973	-22
England	410,718	376,032	378,239	2,207	0.6	-32,479	-8
Great Britain	490,939	445,720	447,947	2,227	0.5	-42,992	-9
United Kingdom	523,190	474,462	476,010	1,548	0.3	-47,180	-9

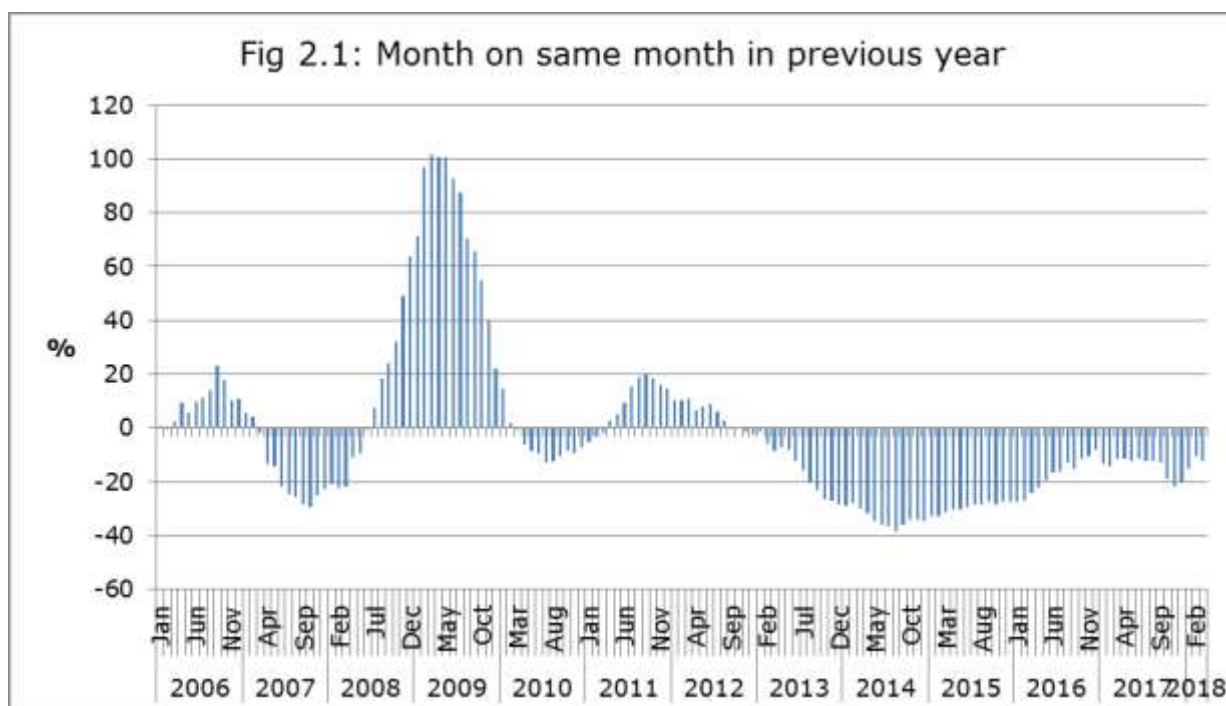
# These figures are suppressed as value is 1 or 2.

[Evidence presented to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee suggests that a proportion of JSA claimants who are sanctioned move off JSA but do not gain employment. It is not known what impact this has on the JSA figures but the implication is that they under-estimate the actual figures].

Compared to March 2017, the number of claimants in Cornwall decreased by 386 or 12%. This compares to decreases across the UK of 9%, Great Britain also with 9% and South West England by 22%. Cornwall saw a higher fall in percentage terms than the UK and GB but below the SW England fall. Over the year 14 authorities saw a decrease in numbers. The largest percentage decreases were North Somerset and Wiltshire (each -57%), and Swindon (-55%). Torbay saw an increase of 7%.

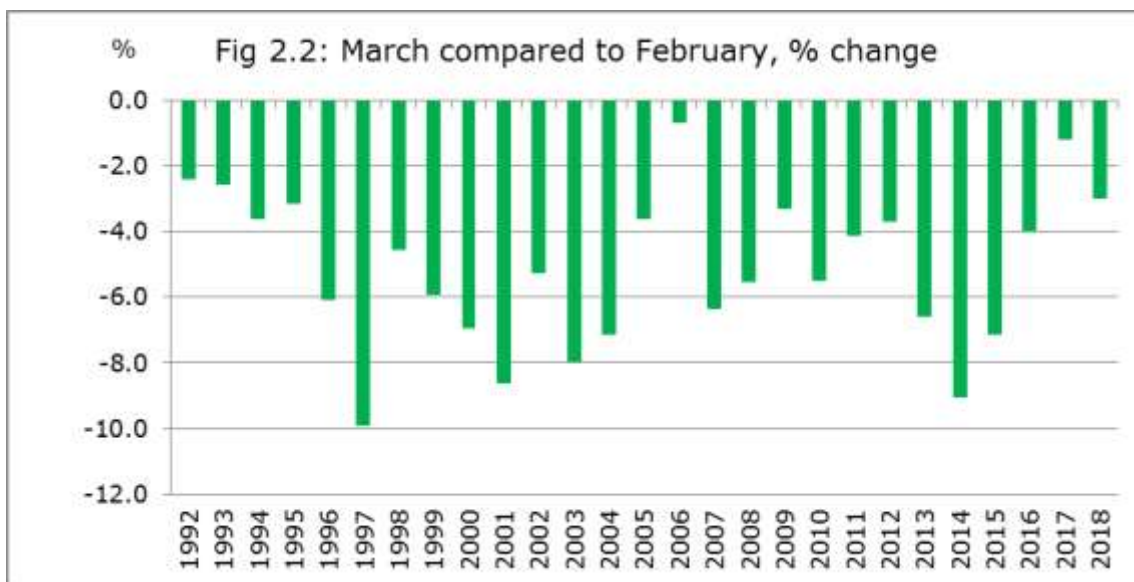
Since November 2012, the numbers have fallen each month compared to the same month in the previous year in Cornwall.

Fig 2.1 tracks the change comparing each month with the same month in the previous year in percentage terms since 2006. The labour market started to turn down in July 2008 with increases in job seeker numbers rising thereafter, peaking in the quarter March to May 2009. The rate of increase then fell back before returning to positive territory in March 2010 with numbers decreasing. However by April 2011 the situation deteriorated again with an increase in claimants until December 2011, remaining in negative territory until August 2012. From November 2012 the position turned positive, with a year-on-year percentage fall, peaking in -38% in August 2014. After that there was a reduction in the rate of fall, with six months stable at -12%. Since September 2017 the rate of decline increased with -19% in October, -22% in November and 20% in December. However, in January the rate fell back to 15%, with 11% in February and 12% in March.



Comparing the change in numbers for Cornwall between February and the following March each year (since 1992) indicates that numbers decreased in all of the 27 years. The downward movement in numbers was prevalent from 1998 to 2001 and 2014 to 2017. The highest decreases were 1997 (-9.9%), 2001 (-8.6%), and 2014 (-9.1%). The latest decrease of -3% was below the average of -5.1% over the period.

Figure 2.2 below shows the change expressed in percentage terms for each year.



### JSA rate

Cornwall's JSA rate in March was 0.8%, down on the 0.9% rate in February. Compared to the previous month, JSA rates fell in 5 local authorities, were stable in 9 and increased in 1. [There is no data for the Isles of Scilly].

Comparative JSA count rates for March were: Cornwall 0.8%, UK 1.1%, Great Britain also 1.1%, and South West England 0.6% respectively.

Compared to March 2017, Cornwall's rate fell by 0.2 points, from 1.0% to 0.8%. Twelve authorities saw rates fall over the year, while 2 saw rates remain stable and another 2 saw rates rise. [Isles of Scilly, no data].

All data is in Table 2.2.

<b>Table 2.2: JSA count – rate</b>							
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Change			
	2017	2018	2018	Monthly		Annual	
Area	No's	No's	No's	No's	%	No's	%
Bath and NE Somerset	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-50
Bournemouth	1.2	0.9	0.8	-0.1	-11.1	-0.4	-33
Bristol, City of	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Cornwall	1.0	0.9	0.8	-0.1	-11.1	-0.2	-20
Devon	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Dorset	0.6	0.5	0.4	-0.1	-20.0	-0.2	-33
Gloucestershire	0.7	0.6	0.5	-0.1	-16.7	-0.2	-29
Isles of Scilly	0.4	#	0.2	#	#	-0.2	-50
North Somerset	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-57
Plymouth	1.6	1.2	1.1	-0.1	-8.3	-0.5	-31
Poole	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-38
Somerset	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-50
South Gloucestershire	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.1	16.7	0.1	17
Swindon	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-60
Torbay	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	7
Wiltshire	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-50
Cornwall & IoS	1.0	0.9	0.8	-0.1	-11.1	-0.2	-20
SW England	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-25
England	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-8
Great Britain	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-8
UK	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-15

## 2.2 Community Network Areas

The number of claimants and the JSA rate varies within Cornwall, and different areas show different trends. Table 2.3 compares the most recent figures and shows changes on a monthly and annual basis. On a monthly basis 13 of the 19 CNAs saw decreases, while 4 saw increases, with 2 no change (0 or + or - 1). The largest decreases were in St. Agnes & Perranporth and St. Blazey, Fowey & Lostwithiel (-16%), followed by Liskeard & Looe (-15%). Biggest increase was in Bodmin (+6%).

Compared to March 2017, 14 areas saw decreases and 4 with increases and 1 stable. The largest decreases were Bude (-48%), then Launceston (-51%), and Liskeard & Looe (-41%). Largest increase was in Newquay (+13%).

<b>Table 2.3: CNA, JSA count – numbers</b>							
Area	Mar	Feb	Mar	Change			
	2017	2018	2018	Monthly		Annual	
	No's	No's	No's	No's	%	No's	%
Bodmin	144	126	134	8	6	-10	-7
Bude	77	46	40	-6	-13	-37	-48
Camelford	46	43	41	-2	-5	-5	-11
Caradon	78	53	51	-2	-4	-27	-35
China Clay	170	173	170	-3	-2	0	0
Cornwall Gateway	143	127	109	-18	-14	-34	-24
Camborne-Pool-Redruth	556	475	475	0	0	-81	-15
Falmouth & Penryn	279	263	259	-4	-2	-20	-7
Hayle & St Ives	140	151	143	-8	-5	3	2
Helston & Lizard	151	153	133	-20	-13	-18	-12
Launceston	99	54	49	-5	-9	-50	-51
Liskeard & Looe	174	120	102	-18	-15	-72	-41
Newquay	226	248	255	7	3	29	13
St Agnes & Perranporth	61	75	63	-12	-16	2	3
St Austell	215	195	200	5	3	-15	-7
St Blazey, Fowey & Lostwithiel	86	82	69	-13	-16	-17	-20
Truro & Roseland	196	163	161	-2	-1	-35	-18
Wadebridge & Padstow	60	62	63	1	2	3	5
West Penwith	246	237	244	7	3	-2	-1
<b>Cornwall</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>-85</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-386</b>	<b>-12</b>

It should be noted that as JSA count figures are based on where people live rather than where they work, changes do not necessarily reflect the local economy but also commuting patterns. Vacancies require skills sets which are not always available in the immediate locality and jobs will of course be open to competition.

Table 2.4 shows the JSA rate by CNA<sup>11</sup>. Highest rates in March were in Newquay (1.5%), Camborne-Pool-Redruth (1.3%) then Bodmin, St. Austell and West

<sup>11</sup> Rates based on 2015 MYE data.

Penwith (all 1.1%). Lowest rates were found in Bude (0.4%). Compared to March 2017, 12 areas saw rates decline, 3 rates rise with 4 stable.

<b>Table 2.4: CNA, JSA – rate</b>					
Period	Mar	Feb	Mar	Change	
	2017	2018	2018	Monthly	Annual
Area	%	%	%	%	%
Bodmin	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.1	-0.1
Bude	0.8	0.5	0.4	-0.1	-0.4
Camelford	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Caradon	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.0	-0.2
China Clay	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Cornwall Gateway	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	-0.1
Camborne-Pool-Redruth	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.0	-0.2
Falmouth & Penryn	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.0	-0.1
Hayle & St Ives	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.1
Helston & Lizard	0.8	0.8	0.7	-0.1	-0.1
Launceston	0.8	0.5	0.4	-0.1	-0.4
Liskeard & Looe	1.0	0.7	0.6	-0.1	-0.4
Newquay	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.2
St Agnes & Perranporth	0.6	0.7	0.6	-0.1	0.0
St Austell	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.0	-0.1
St Blazey, Fowey & Lostwithiel	0.8	0.7	0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Truro & Roseland	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	-0.1
Wadebridge & Padstow	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1
West Penwith	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
<b>Cornwall</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

## 2.3 Jobseekers by occupation - changes

Comparing March 2018 to February 2018, overall numbers decreased by 85. There were 3 occupations where numbers rose, 16 occupations which were static and 7 where numbers fell. The largest decrease was for 'Sales Occupations' down 60 from 2,085 to 2,025.

[The figures show claimants usual occupation; it does not mean that when they get a job it is in that occupation]

All data is in Table 2.5.

<b>Table 2.5: Changes in jobseeker numbers – Mar 2018 compared to Feb 2018</b>			
Period	Feb	Mar	Change
Usual Occupation	No's	No's	No's
11 : Corporate Managers	180	185	5
34 : Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	5	10	5
51 : Skilled Agricultural Trades	25	30	5
21 : Science and Technology Professionals	5	5	0
22 : Health Professionals	0	0	0
23 : Teaching and Research Professionals	0	0	0
24 : Business and Public Service Professionals	0	0	0
31 : Science and Technology Associate Professionals	5	5	0
33 : Protective Service Occupations	0	0	0
35 : Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	0	0	0
41 : Administrative Occupations	55	55	0
42 : Secretarial and Related Occupations	5	5	0
53 : Skilled Construction and Building Trades	10	10	0
54 : Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	15	15	0
61 : Caring Personal Service Occupations	15	15	0
62 : Leisure and Other Personal Service Occupations	10	10	0
72 : Customer Service Occupations	5	5	0
81 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	15	15	0
82 : Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	10	10	0
12 : Managers and Proprietors in Agriculture and Services	5	0	-5
32 : Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	5	0	-5
52 : Skilled Metal and Electronic Trades	10	5	-5
92 : Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	90	85	-5
91 : Elementary Trades, Plant and Storage Related Occupations	90	80	-10
00 : Occupation unknown	195	180	-15
71 : Sales Occupations	2,085	2,025	-60
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>-85</b>

In March 2018 there were 390 fewer jobseekers<sup>12</sup> compared to March 2017. Of the 26 occupational groups, 2 saw numbers rise 7 were static and 17 saw numbers fall – (Table 2.6)<sup>13</sup>. The biggest reductions were: 'Sales occupations' (-210), 'Elementary Trades, Plant and Storage Related Occupations' (-40), and 'Elementary Administration and Service Occupations' (-35).

**Table 2.6: Changes in jobseeker numbers – Mar 2018 compared to Mar 2017**

Period	2017	2018	Change	
Usual Occupation	No's	No's	No's	%
51 : Skilled Agricultural Trades	20	30	10	50
62 : Leisure and Other Personal Service Occupations	5	10	5	100
21 : Science and Technology Professionals	5	5	0	0
22 : Health Professionals	0	0	0	0
24 : Business and Public Service Professionals	0	0	0	0
33 : Protective Service Occupations	0	0	0	0
34 : Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	10	10	0	0
42 : Secretarial and Related Occupations	5	5	0	0
72 : Customer Service Occupations	5	5	0	0
12 : Managers and Proprietors in Agriculture and Services	5	0	-5	-100
23 : Teaching and Research Professionals	5	0	-5	-100
31 : Science and Technology Associate Professionals	10	5	-5	-50
32 : Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	5	0	-5	-100
35 : Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	5	0	-5	-100
52 : Skilled Metal and Electronic Trades	10	5	-5	-50
54 : Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	20	15	-5	-25
11 : Corporate Managers	195	185	-10	-5
81 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	25	15	-10	-40
82 : Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	20	10	-10	-50
00 : Occupation unknown	195	180	-15	-8
53 : Skilled Construction and Building Trades	25	10	-15	-60
61 : Caring Personal Service Occupations	30	15	-15	-50
41 : Administrative Occupations	75	55	-20	-27
92 : Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	120	85	-35	-29
91 : Elementary Trades, Plant and Storage Related Occupations	120	80	-40	-33
71 : Sales Occupations	2,235	2,025	-210	-9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>-390</b>	<b>-12</b>

<sup>12</sup> All numbers are rounded. Includes 'Occupation unknown'.

<sup>13</sup> The figures do not necessarily show which occupations people have moved into only the usual occupation of the claimant prior to claiming JSA.



## 2.4 JSA on and off-flows

In March there were 654 off-flows and 573 on-flows. Of the 655<sup>14</sup> off-flows, 50.4% were accounted for by people obtaining a job, 22.9% failed to sign and 13.7% were for reasons not known. All details in Table 2.7.

<b>Table 2.7: Off-flows –reasons</b>		
Reason	No's	%
Found work or increased work to more than 16 hours a week*	330	50.4
Failed to sign	150	22.9
Not known	90	13.7
Claimed benefit other than JSA	25	3.8
Gone abroad	20	3.1
Ceased claiming	20	3.1
Other reasons	10	1.5
Government supported training	5	0.8
Education or approved training	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>100.0</b>

[\* 325 found work]

NOMIS state: *The percentage of off-flows with a "not known" or "failed to sign" destination has increased since the start of the series (representing 44% of total UK off-flows in July 2009). This is because the completion levels of the forms filled in by JSA leavers have decreased. Many of these unknown leavers will have moved into employment.*

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<sup>14</sup> Numbers are always rounded for this dataset.

## 2.5 Labour market – Resident data

Labour market figures for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly from the Annual Population Survey are available up to December 2017<sup>15</sup>. This data set covers those of working age namely the 16-64 age group who are resident in the area<sup>16</sup>.

In total there were 324,500 aged 16-64, of whom 255,800 were economically active with 248,300 who were employed. Of those employed, 189,800 were employees with 57,100 self-employed<sup>17</sup>; while 175,900 worked full-time with 71,900 working part-time. There were 7,500 who were unemployed, and 68,700 who were economically inactive.

The figures show that over the last year the total aged 16-64 has moved up<sup>18</sup>, the numbers of economically active up marginally while the numbers of economically inactive have increased. Employment numbers were up, with a significant rise in self-employed numbers, but slight fall in employee numbers. The number of those working full-time and part-time rose, particularly part-time. The number of unemployed fell substantially over the year, continuing a recent trend.

All data in Table 2.8.

<b>Table 2.8: Labour market indicators – Cornwall &amp; IoS</b>							
Date	Period					Change	
	Jan-16	Apr-16	Jul-16	Oct-16	Jan-17	Prev Qtr	Year
Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17			
Group	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's
16-64	318,600	320,600	322,600	322,400	324,500	2,100	5,900
Econ active	255,100	258,500	260,500	254,100	255,800	1,700	700
Econ inactive	63,500	62,100	62,100	68,300	68,700	400	5,200
Employed	245,400	249,000	252,000	246,200	248,300	2,100	2,900
Unemployed	9,700	9,500	8,400	7,800	7,500	-300	-2,200
Employees	193,100	193,900	190,400	187,700	189,800	2,100	-3,300
Self employed	51,800	54,400	60,000	57,100	57,100	0	5,300
Full-time	175,000	178,800	178,500	175,100	175,900	800	900
Part-time	70,400	69,900	73,300	70,700	71,900	1,200	1,500

Looking at percentage changes over the year, there was a 2% increase in the 16-64 age group, economically active was stable while the number who were inactive increased by 8%. The number employed was up by 1%, with self-employed up by 10% and employees down by 2%. Full-time numbers were up by 1% while Part-time were up by 2%.

<sup>15</sup> Figures cover a year and are produced quarterly; all figures for age group 16-64.

<sup>16</sup> Data has been reweighted in line with the latest ONS estimates.

<sup>17</sup> Numbers may not sum to all those employed.

<sup>18</sup> Due to the volatility of the data changes in figures from one period to another may not reflect underlying trends.

**Table 2.9: Labour market indicators – Cornwall & IoS**

Date	Jan-16	Jan-17	Change year-on-year	
	Dec-16	Dec-17		
Group	No's	No's	No's	%
16-64	318,600	324,500	5,900	2
Econ active	255,100	255,800	700	0
Econ inactive	63,500	68,700	5,200	8
Employed	245,400	248,300	2,900	1
Unemployed	9,700	7,500	-2,200	-23
Employees	193,100	189,800	-3,300	-2
Self employed	51,800	57,100	5,300	10
Full-time	175,000	175,900	900	1
Part-time	70,400	71,900	1,500	2

Over the year, the employment rate fell from 77.0% to 76.5%, the self-employment share of employment moved up from 21.2% to 23.1%. The share taken by full-time decreased from 71.3% to 70.8% while part-time went up from 28.7% to 29.0%. Unemployment rates fell back from 3.8% to 2.9%.

**Table 2.10: Labour market indicators – Cornwall & IoS**

Date	Period					Change	
	Jan-16	Apr-16	Jul-16	Jul-16	Jan-17	Prev Qtr	
	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Jun-17	Dec-17	Year	
Group	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Econ active	80.1	80.6	80.7	78.8	78.8	0.0	-1.3
Econ inactive	19.9	19.4	19.3	21.2	21.2	0.0	1.3
Employed	77.0	77.7	78.1	76.4	76.5	0.1	-0.5
Unemployed	3.8	3.7	3.2	3.1	2.9	-0.2	-0.9
Employees	78.8	78.1	76	76.7	76.9	0.2	-1.9
Self employed	21.2	21.9	24	23.3	23.1	-0.2	1.9
Full-time	71.3	71.8	70.8	71.1	70.8	-0.3	-0.5
Part-time	28.7	28.1	29.1	28.7	29.0	0.3	0.3

Fig 2.3 shows trends over time. Pre-recession employment figures peaked at 236,300 then fell back between 2008 and 2010 before picking up in mid-2011. Self-employed numbers increased from early 2006 until early 2008 before falling back slightly. Highs were reached again in late 2011 (52,300), declining up to early 2013 before rising again and peaking at 55,100 in 2014. Numbers then fell back before picking up again in 2016 to reach 57,100 for the latest period. Employee numbers rose from 2004 to 2006 (191,000), then steadily declined to 172,300 in 2010. Numbers then rose again to reach 188,300 in mid-2014, since when numbers fell back until early 2015, then remained stable prior to the latest increases to stand at 189,800. After reaching a low of 7,500 in early 2006 the numbers of unemployed rose to peak in 2010 at 23,000 before falling back to 12,400 in early 2012. Numbers climbed again until mid-2013 to 15,600 then fell until mid-2015 to 9,700. There was then a period when numbers rose again reaching 15,100 in mid 2016, since when numbers have fallen back and now stand at 7,500.

Economic activity numbers peaked in the mid and late 2011 periods then fell back until mid 2012. Numbers then increased reaching 255,500 in late 2014 before dropping back to a low of 250,800 in mid 2016. Since then numbers have climbed back with the latest figure at 255,800. After dipping down in late 2016 to mid 2017, economic inactivity numbers have moved again to stand at 68,700.

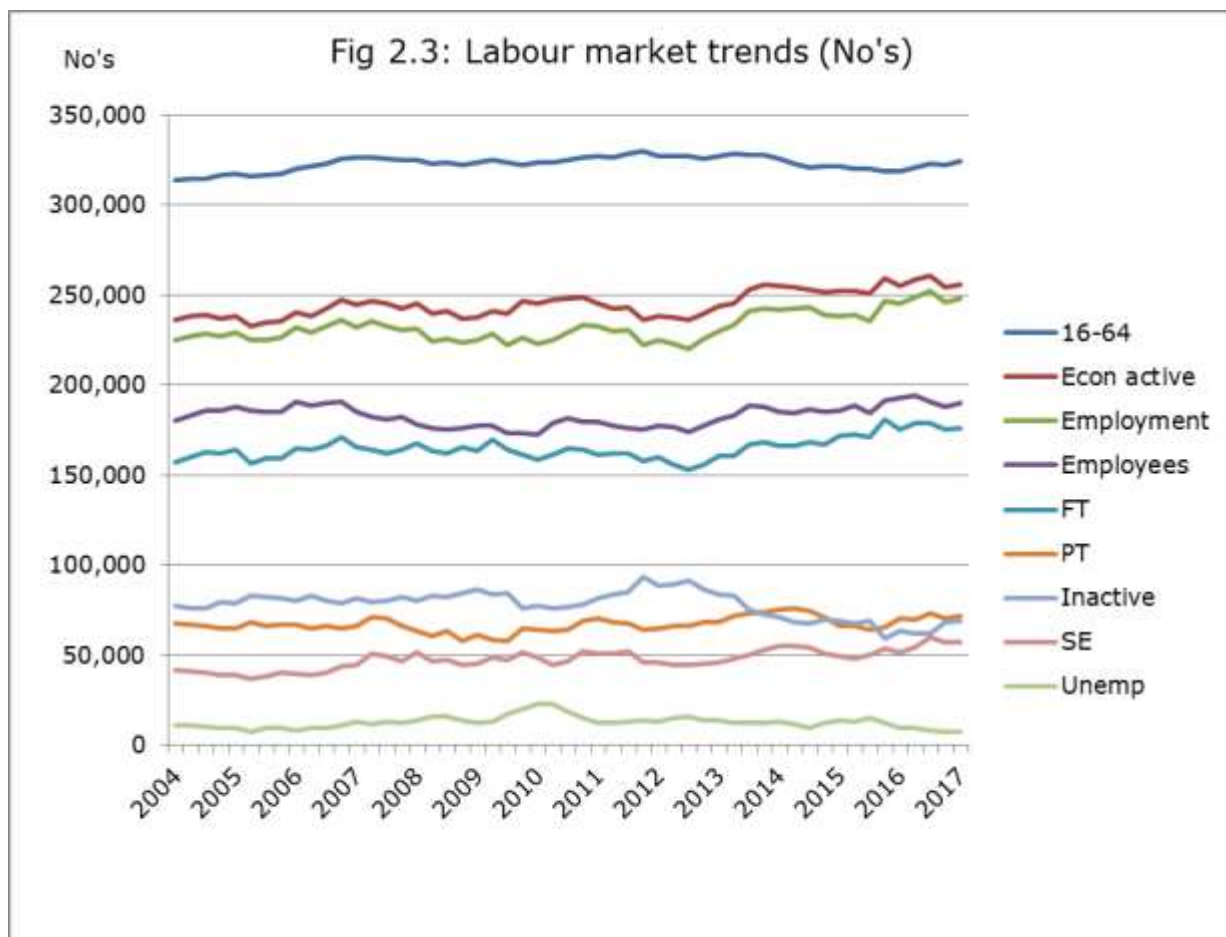
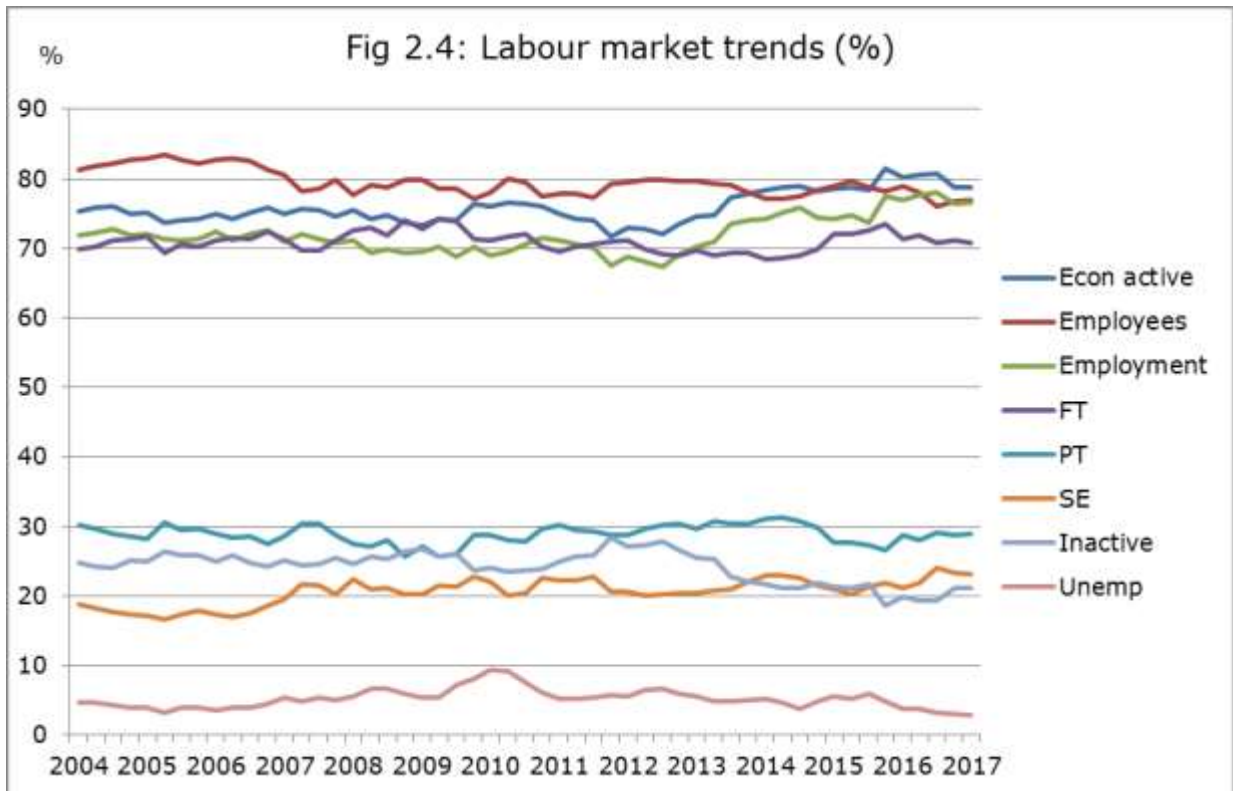


Fig 2.4 shows rates and shares over time. From 2004 to 2007 employees accounted for over 80% of the workforce. Their share fell slightly to lows around 77% in 2008 and mid 2012 with a slight rise thereafter. However levels are still below the 80% level, averaging 76.9% over the year. The self-employed share followed the opposite pattern, averaging 23.1% over the last year.

Unemployment reached lows in early 2006 (3.2%) to 2006 (3.5%). There was then a steady upward trend to reach 9.4% in 2010. Thereafter the rate fell, down to 3.8% in mid 2015 followed by a number of increases, however the latest rate is down to 2.9%. In terms of full-time employment, pre-recession the figure hovered around 70.7%, rising to 72.6% from 2008 to mid-2011, from early 2013 to late 2015 the share fell below 70%, before rising and averaging 71.1% over the last year.



Comparing Cornwall to the UK using the average for four sets of yearly data<sup>19</sup>, removes some of the volatility in the data. Comparing the averages in Table 2.11 below shows that: economic activity rates and employment rates are marginally above the UK rates. Economically inactive rates are below. As expected both self-employment and part-time employment are higher in Cornwall and conversely employee levels and full-time employment are lower. Average unemployment runs at 3.2%, below the UK average.

<b>Table 2.11: Labour market indicators - Cornwall and UK</b>			
	Cornwall	UK	Ratio
Status	%	%	%
Econ active	79.7	78.0	1.02
Economically inactive	20.3	22.0	0.92
Employed	77.2	74.3	1.04
Unemployed	3.2	4.7	0.69
Employees	76.9	85.7	0.90
Self employed	23.1	14.3	1.61
Full-time	71.1	74.7	0.95
Part-time	28.7	25.1	1.14

The ratio shows with the figure for Cornwall divided by the UK figure. E.g. 79.7 divided by 78.0 gives a ratio of 1.02. Numbers greater than 1 show Cornwall has a higher percentage than the UK, less than 1 show that Cornwall has a lower percentage share than the UK.

<sup>19</sup> Each period covers one year, and each year includes 3 of the quarters covered in the previous year.

### All employment, flexible and 65+

The latest figures show that there were 19,500 people aged 65 plus in the workforce. This represents 7.3% of the workforce, up from the figure of 7.2% a year earlier.

Numbers working on a non-permanent/flexible basis fell over the year by 100 from 10,600 to 10,500, while the rate fell from 4.0% to 3.9%<sup>20</sup>.

All details in Table 2.12.

<b>Table 2.12: All Employment – Cornwall</b>							
	Period					Change	
	Jan-16	Apr-16	Jul-16	Oct-16	Jan-17	Prev Qtr	Year ago
	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17		
Group	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's
65+	19,000	18,200	19,100	19,100	19,500	400	500
16-64	245,400	249,000	252,000	246,200	248,300	2,100	2,900
All	264,400	267,200	271,100	265,300	267,800	2,500	3,400
Non-permanent	10,600	9,300	11,200	8,800	10,500	1,700	-100
Group	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
65+	7.2	6.8	7	7.2	7.3	0.1	0.1
16-64	92.8	93.2	93	92.8	92.7	-0.1	-0.1
Non-permanent	4.0	3.5	4.1	3.3	3.9	0.6	-0.1

[The category flexible includes: Flexible working hours, Annualised hours contract, Term time working, Job Share, Nine day fortnight, Four and a half day week, Zero-hours contract, On call working].

Source: NOMIS, Annual Population Survey, 17 April 2018.

<sup>20</sup> Those working on a non-permanent basis as a % of all employed.

## 2.6 Labour market - Workplace data

Table 2.13 shows all those in employment, including those aged 65 plus, whose workplace is in Cornwall<sup>21</sup>, up to the year ending December 2017. The data shows there were 257,900 working in Cornwall. Of these 68,400 were self-employed, with 180,800 employees, and with another 8,700 employees deemed to be working on a flexible basis. Compared to the previous quarter total employment has moved up slightly. Over the year, numbers in employment, across all categories decreased by 1,900 from 259,800 to 257,900, this was attributable to a decrease in employee numbers (and those on flexible contracts), offsetting the rise in self-employed numbers. The number on flexible contracts was similar at 8,700 compared to 8,800.

Average employment figures are running at 258,500 over the last five quarters compared to 259,500 for the previous five quarters.

<b>Table 2.13: Workplace Employment (No's)</b>							
	Period					Change	
	Jan-16	Apr-16	Jul-16	Oct-16	Jan-17	Prev Qtr	Year ago
	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17		
Group	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's	No's
Employees	190900	187400	184200	180500	180800	300	-10100
Self-employed	60100	62900	70400	67700	68400	700	8300
Other flexibility	8800	6900	7700	6900	8700	1800	-100
<b>All</b>	<b>259800</b>	<b>257200</b>	<b>262300</b>	<b>255100</b>	<b>257900</b>	<b>2800</b>	<b>-1900</b>

Over the year as a share of the workforce, the self-employed share was up by 3.4%, while the employee share fell back and those on flexible contracts remained stable. All in Table 2.14.

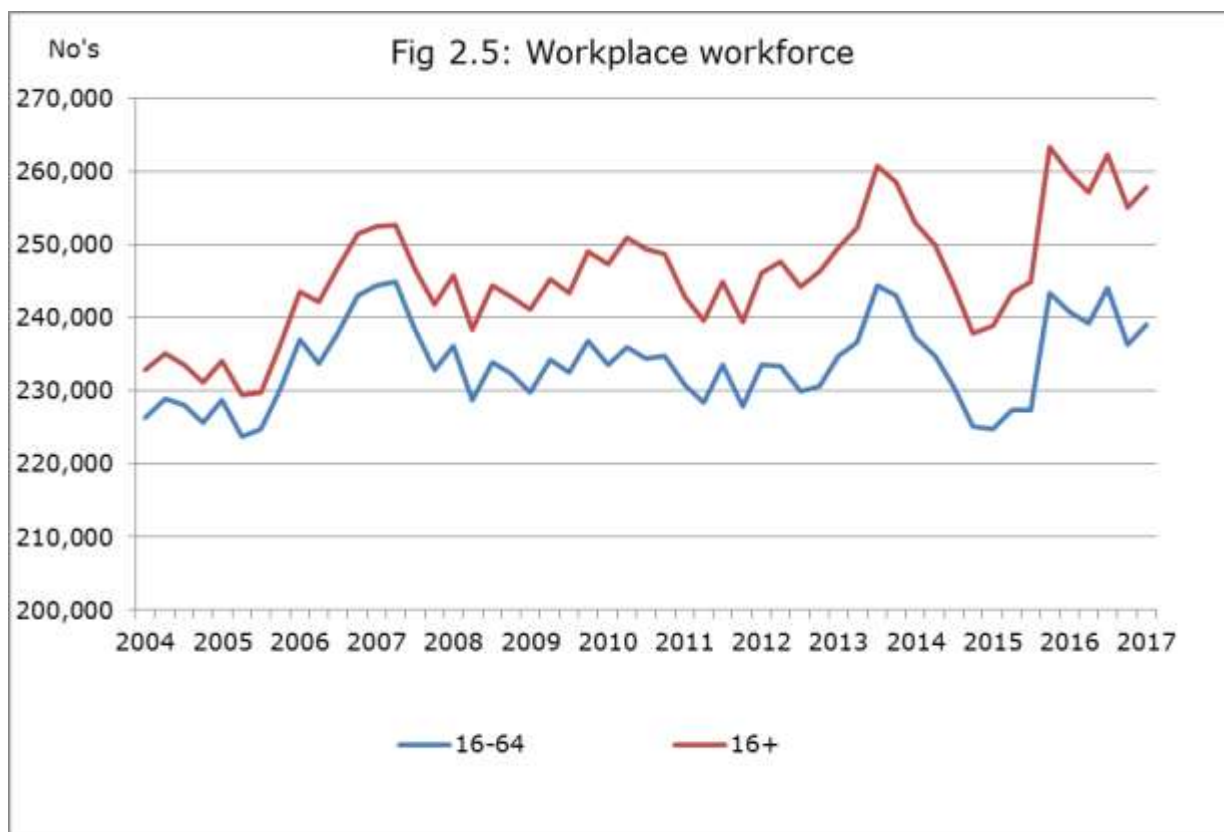
<b>Table 2.14: Workplace Employment (%)</b>							
	Period					Change	
	Jan-16	Apr-16	Jul-16	Oct-16	Jan-17	Prev Qtr	Year ago
	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17		
Group	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Employees	73.5	72.9	70.2	70.8	70.1	-0.7	-3.4
Self-employed	23.1	24.5	26.8	26.5	26.5	0.0	3.4
Other flexibility	3.4	2.7	2.9	2.7	3.4	0.7	0.0
<b>All</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Fig 2.5 shows workplace employment since 2004. Numbers peaked in early 2008 pre-recession, and then fell back before rising until early 2011. Numbers then fell back again until late 2012. Numbers then increased to peak in mid 2014 at 260,700. Numbers then fell back before peaking at 263,300 in late 2016, with a

<sup>21</sup> Data has been reweighted in line with the latest ONS estimates.



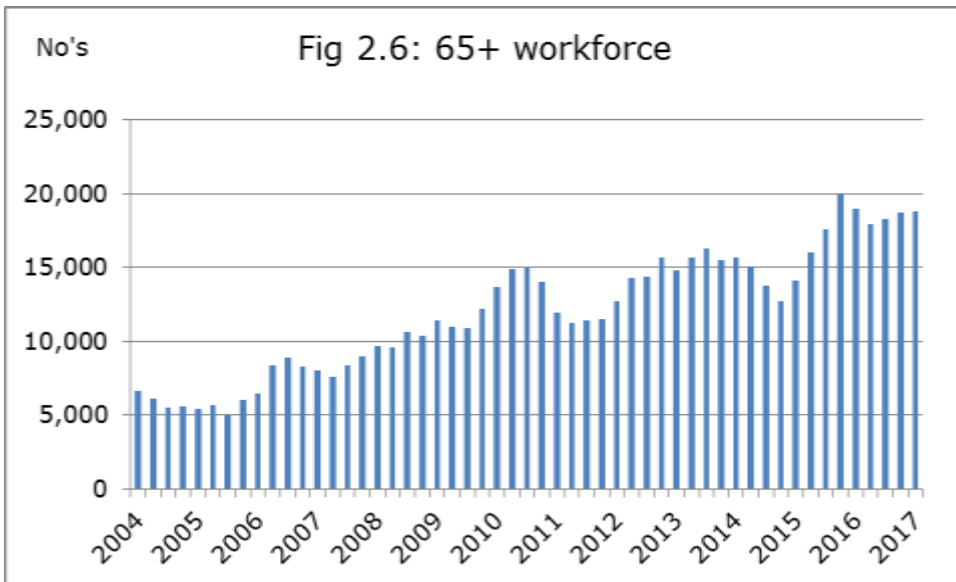
dip for two quarters then going back up to 262,300 in mid 2017, with numbers below that for the latest quarters. The chart also shows the 16-64 workforce.



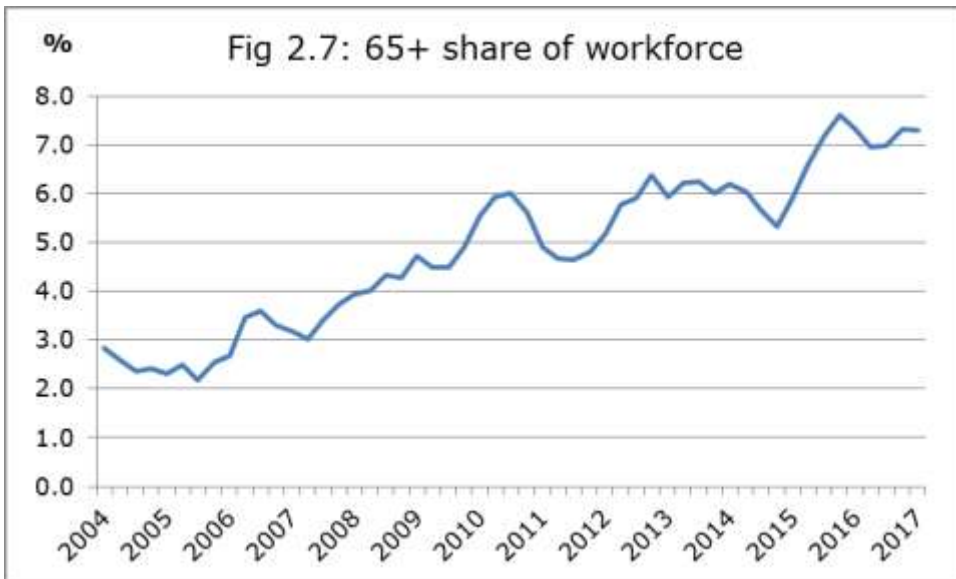
### Sixty-five plus

Figs 2.6 and 2.7 set out what has happened to those aged 65 plus in the workplace workforce. Overall since 2004 there has been a general upward trend in both the numbers and share of the workforce of those aged 65 plus. In 2004 there were 6,600 while the figure in mid 2011 was 15,000. Numbers dipped in the 2011 downturn before recovering in early 2014. From then onwards numbers dipped until late 2015 at 12,700 then rose to peak in late 2016 at 20,000, before falling back and now stands at 18,800.





In 2004, the 65 plus age group constituted 2.8% of the workforce, by late 2013 it had reached 6.4% and now stands at 7.3%.



[NB Workplace data is now provided at both a Cornwall and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly level. However, there are issues about the accuracy of the latter set of data as the discrepancy between the two data sets is substantial. Therefore data for Cornwall is used instead].

Source: ONS, APS, Workplace analysis, 17 April 2018.

## 2.7 Vacancies

In March there were 2,910 job postings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This was up by 580 (25%) from 2,330 in February but down 21% from 3,670 in March 2017.

[NB. The vacancy data used here is from a different source than that used by ONS at a UK level].

Source: Labour Insight/Jobs, Burning Glass.

## 2.8 Claimant Count

The latest claimant count figures show a total of 4,830 in Cornwall in March, down by 5 on the February total of 4,825. Compared to March 2017 the total was down by 375 or -7.2% from 5,205<sup>22</sup>.

Over the year comparative figures were Cornwall -7.2%, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly -7.3%, England + 10.7% and United Kingdom +9.0%.

**Table 2.15: Claimant count (16+)**

Date	Cornwall	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	England	United Kingdom
Mar-17	5,205	5,215	658,310	817,320
Apr-17	4,955	4,960	664,080	821,535
May-17	4,605	4,610	658,050	811,510
Jun-17	4,330	4,335	650,045	801,060
Jul-17	4,145	4,150	644,690	796,550
Aug-17	3,980	3,985	649,795	802,350
Sep-17	3,885	3,890	648,890	795,540
Oct-17	3,840	3,845	649,440	793,460
Nov-17	4,020	4,025	648,215	792,040
Dec-17	4,290	4,295	654,630	801,160
Jan-18	4,600	4,605	677,355	829,505
Feb-18	4,825	4,830	714,645	874,430
Mar-18	4,830	4,835	728,440	890,525
Monthly change	5	5	13,795	16,095
Annual change	-375	-380	70,130	73,205
% Monthly change	0.1	0.1	1.9	1.8
% Annual change	-7.2	-7.3	10.7	9.0

Source: NOMIS/DWP.

In March the claimant count rate was 1.5%, the same as the February rate. This compared to rates of 2.1% in England and also for the United Kingdom. Over the year the rate in Cornwall has declined by 0.1 point from 1.6% to 1.5%. In contrast the rate in England rose by 0.2 points and in the United Kingdom by 0.1 points.

<sup>22</sup> NB Previous figures are superseded each month.

**Table 2.16: Claimant count (16-64)**

Date	Cornwall	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	England	United Kingdom
Mar-17	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.0
Apr-17	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.0
May-17	1.4	1.4	1.9	2.0
Jun-17	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.9
Jul-17	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.9
Aug-17	1.2	1.2	1.9	1.9
Sep-17	1.2	1.2	1.9	1.9
Oct-17	1.2	1.2	1.9	1.9
Nov-17	1.2	1.2	1.9	1.9
Dec-17	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.9
Jan-18	1.4	1.4	1.9	2.0
Feb-18	1.5	1.5	2.1	2.1
Mar-18	1.5	1.5	2.1	2.1
Monthly change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Annual change	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.1

Source: NOMIS/DWP, 17 April 2018.

*Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.*

*[The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed:*

- from April 2015, the Claimant Count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all JSA claimants*
- between May 2013 and March 2015, the Claimant Count includes all out of work Universal Credit claimants as well as all JSA claimants*
- between October 1996 and April 2013, the Claimant Count is a count of the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)*
- between January 1971 (when comparable estimates start) and September 1996, it is an estimate of the number of people who would have claimed unemployment-related benefit if Jobseeker's Allowance had existed at that time*

*The Claimant Count includes people who claim unemployment-related benefits but who do not receive payment. For example, some claimants will have had their benefits stopped for a limited period of time by Jobcentre Plus. Some people claim JSA in order to receive National Insurance Credits]. NOMIS*

## 2.9 Benefit claimants – Working age client group

The latest release brings the working age data up to August 2017. This gives a total of 28,680 who were claiming out-of-work benefits.

The all working age benefits total fell on both a quarterly and annual basis. Changes were largely attributable to changes in the number of JSA claimants.

**Table 2.17: Cornwall - No's**

Group\Period	Aug	Nov	Feb	May	Aug	Change	
	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	On last Qtr	Annual
JSA	2,660	3,040	3,150	2,570	2,280	-290	-380
ESA	20,980	21,030	21,210	21,310	21,400	90	420
Incapacity benefit	1050	740	680	540	500	-40	-550
Income support	4,850	4,650	4,600	4,490	4,500	10	-350
<b>Out-of-work benefits</b>	<b>29,540</b>	<b>29,460</b>	<b>29,640</b>	<b>28,910</b>	<b>28,680</b>	<b>-230</b>	<b>-860</b>

[NB This dataset varies slightly from the previous dataset which has not been updated by DWP].

Source: NOMIS/DWP, Benefit claimants, 21 February 2018.

## 3. United Kingdom

### 3.1 Main points for December 2017 to February 2018

- Estimates from the Labour Force Survey show that, between the quarter September to November 2017 and December 2017 to February 2018, the number of people in work increased, the number of unemployed people decreased and the number of people aged from 16 to 64 years not working and not seeking or available to work (economically inactive) was little changed.
- There were 32.26 million people in work, 55,000 more than for the quarter September to November 2017 and 427,000 more than for a year earlier.
- The employment rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 years who were in work) was 75.4%, higher than for the same quarter a year earlier (74.6%) and the highest since comparable records began in 1971.
- There were 1.42 million unemployed people (people not in work but seeking and available to work), 16,000 fewer than for the quarter September to November 2017 and 136,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- The unemployment rate (the proportion of those in work plus those unemployed, that were unemployed) was 4.2%, down from 4.7% for the same quarter a year earlier and the lowest since 1975.
- There were 8.73 million people aged from 16 to 64 years who were economically inactive (not working and not seeking or available to work), little changed compared with the quarter September to November 2017 but 154,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- The inactivity rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 years who were economically inactive) was 21.2%, lower than for the same quarter a year earlier (21.6%) and the joint lowest since comparable records began in 1971.
- Latest estimates show that average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for price inflation) increased by 2.8%, both excluding and including bonuses, compared with a year earlier.
- Latest estimates show that average weekly earnings for employees in Great Britain in real terms (that is, adjusted for price inflation) increased by 0.2% excluding bonuses, and by 0.1% including bonuses, compared with a year earlier.

Source: ONS.

All data is shown in Table 3.1.

<b>Table 3.1: UK - Labour market indicators</b>				
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Comparisons</b>	
		<b>3M<sup>23</sup> to Feb 18</b>	<b>3M to Nov 17</b>	<b>Year ago</b>
Employment <sup>24</sup>	Rate	75.4		74.6
In employment (16+)	No's	32.26m	+55,000	+427,000
Employees	No's	27.34m		+497,000
Self-employed	No's	4.76m		-30,000
Total hours worked per week	No's	1.03bn	+4.2m	
Average hours worked per week	Nos	32	↑	-0.4
Unemployment	Rate	4.2		
Unemployment	No's	1.42m	-16,000	-136,000
Unemployed - over 12 months	No's	353,000		-37,000
Unemployed -16-24 <sup>25</sup>	No's	525,000		
Inactivity	Rate	21.2		21.6
Inactivity	No's	8.73 m	=	-154,000
Redundant	No's	97,000	-12,000	-9,000
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>		<b>Feb 17</b>
Average regular weekly pay (ex bonuses) <sup>26</sup>		£483		£469
		<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	<b>Year ago</b>
Workforce jobs	No's	35.11m	-64,000	+407,000
		<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	<b>Year ago</b>
Public sector employment <sup>27</sup>	No's	5.35 m	-132,000	
Private sector employment	No's	26.9 m	+300,000	
		<b>3 M to Mar 18</b>	<b>3 M to Dec 17</b>	<b>Year ago</b>
Vacancies	No's	815,000	=	+44,000

Source: Office for National Statistics, Labour Market Statistics, Statistical Bulletin, 17 April 2018.

<sup>23</sup> Months

<sup>24</sup> 16-64 age group

<sup>25</sup> 352,000 excluding those in full-time education - 173,000.

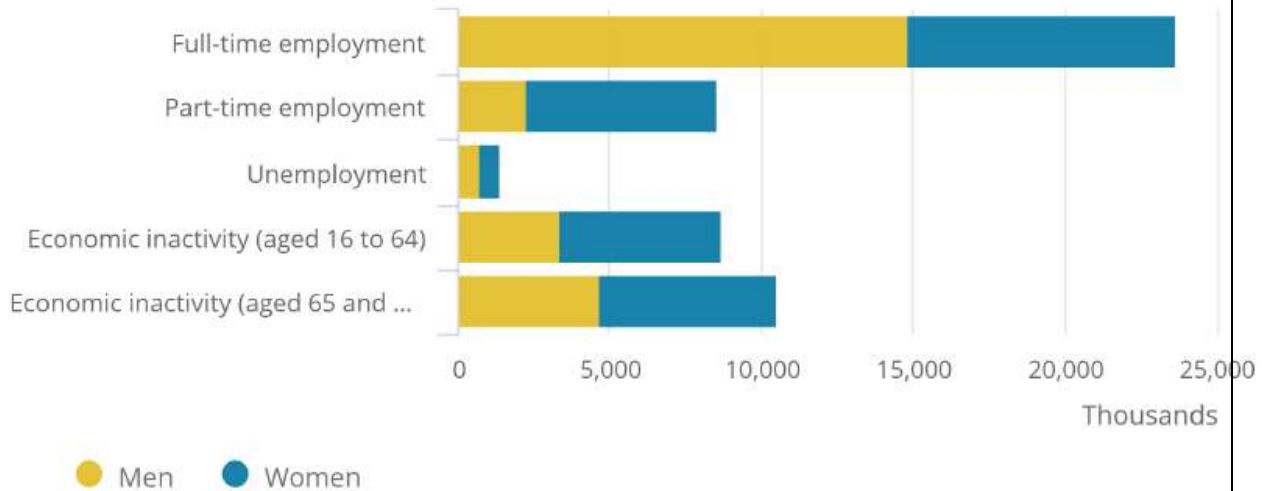
<sup>26</sup> Great Britain

<sup>27</sup> Mainly reflecting reclassification of some educational bodies.

### 3.2 Summary of Labour Market Statistics

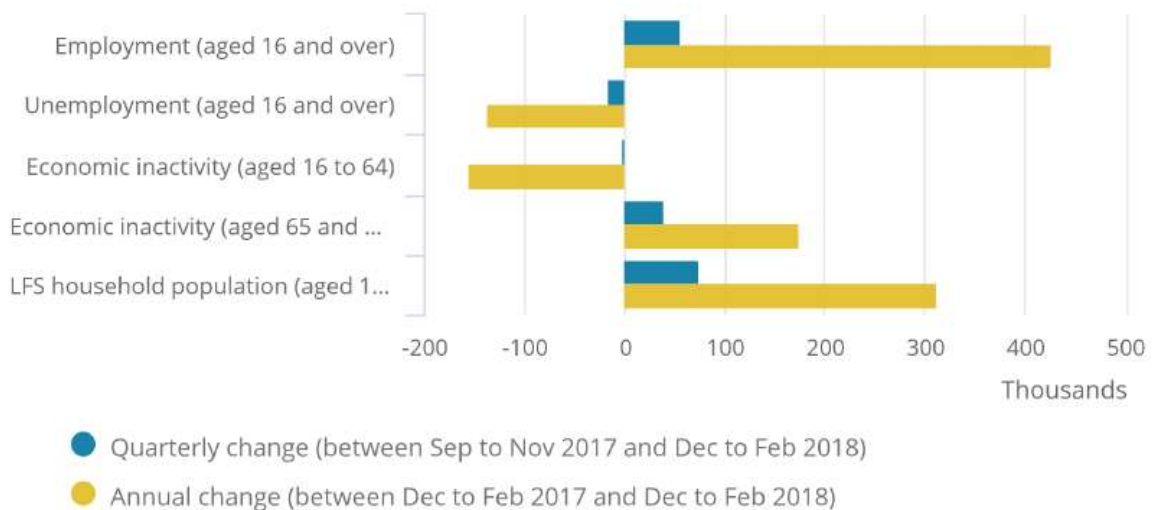
Figs 3.1 and 3.2 show the latest estimates, for the quarter December 2017 to February 2018, for employment, unemployment and economic inactivity and show how these estimates compare with the previous quarter (September to November 2017) and the previous year same quarter (December 2016 to February 2017). Comparing the estimates for the quarter December 2017 to February 2018 with those for that the quarter of September to November 2017 provides the most robust short-term comparison.

Fig 3.1: Summary of UK labour market statistics for December 2017 to February 2018, seasonally adjusted.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Fig 3.2: Quarterly and annual changes in the number of people in the UK labour market, seasonally Adjusted.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

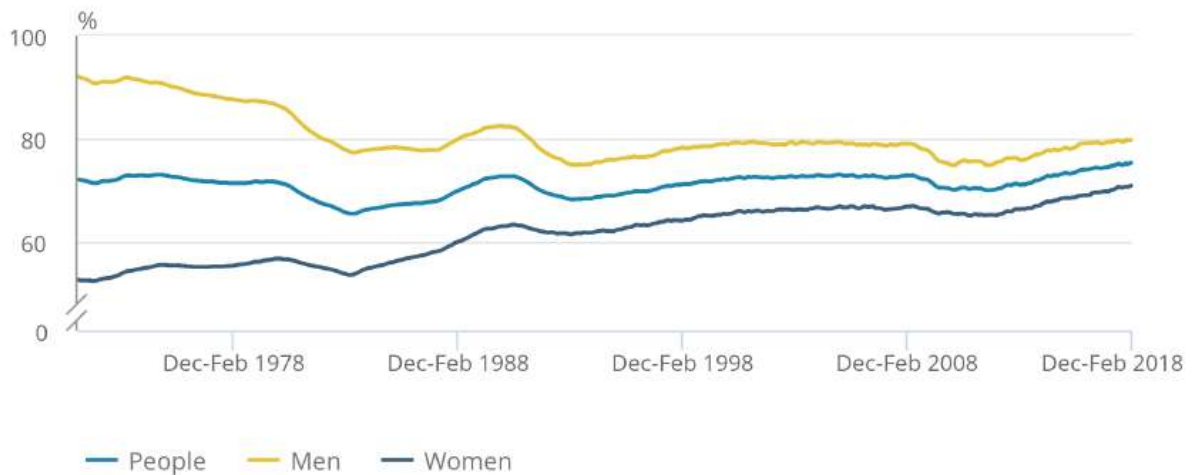
### 3.3 Employment

Employment measures the number of people in work and differs from the number of jobs because some people have more than one job.

#### Commentary

The proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 years in work is known as the employment rate. Fig 3.3 shows the employment rates for people, men and women aged from 16 to 64 years since comparable records began in 1971. The lowest employment rate for people was 65.6% in 1983, during the economic downturn of the early 1980s. The employment rates for people, men and women have been generally increasing since early 2012. For the latest time period, December 2017 to February 2018, the employment rate for people was 75.4%, up from 74.6% for a year earlier and the highest since comparable records began in 1971.

Fig 3.3: UK Employment rate (aged 16 to 64) - January to March 1971 to December to February 2018.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Fig 3.4 looks in more detail at the employment rate for the last 5 years.

Fig 3.4: UK Employment rate (16 to 64), seasonally adjusted, December to February 2013 to December to February 2018.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics



For December 2017 to February 2018:

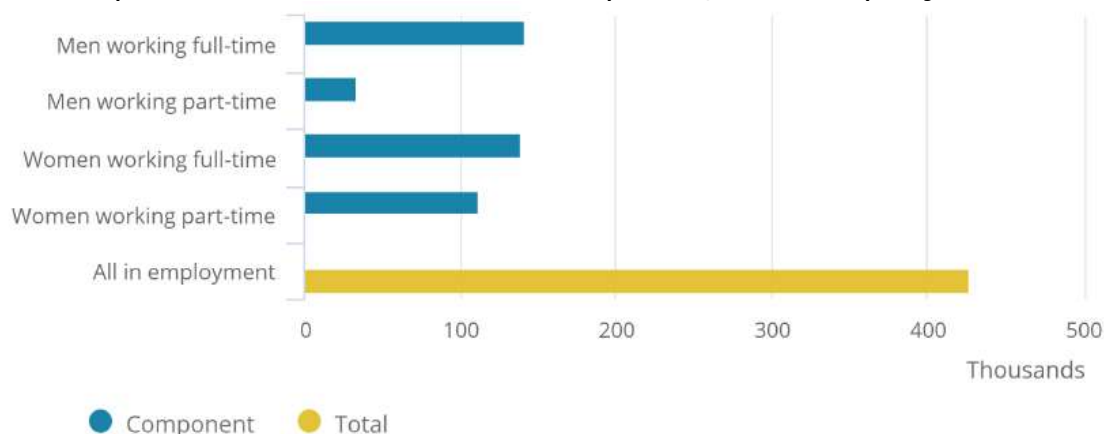
- 75.4% of people aged from 16 to 64 years were in work, up from 74.6% for a year earlier and the highest since comparable records began in 1971
- 79.8% of men aged from 16 to 64 years were in work, up from 79.4% for a year earlier
- 71.0% of women aged from 16 to 64 years were in work, the highest employment rate for women since comparable records began in 1971

The increase in the employment rate for women over the last few years has been partly due to ongoing changes to the State Pension age for women, resulting in fewer women retiring between the ages of 60 and 65.

For December 2017 to February 2018, there were 32.26 million people in work, 55,000 more than for September to November 2017 and 427,000 more than for a year earlier.

Fig 3.5 shows how the estimates for full-time and part-time employment by sex for December 2017 to February 2018 compare with those for a year earlier. The annual increase in the number of people in employment (427,000) was mainly due to more people in full-time employment (280,000).

Fig 3.5: Changes in people in employment in the UK between December to February 2017 and December to February 2018, seasonally adjusted.



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

Comparing the estimates for employees and self-employed people for December 2017 to February 2018 with those for a year earlier:

- employees increased by 497,000 to 27.34 million (84.7% of all people in work)
- self-employed people decreased by 30,000 to 4.76 million (14.7% of all people in work)

Employees and self-employed people do not account for all people in employment as there are two minor additional categories; unpaid family workers and people on government-supported training and employment programmes.

## **Notes for Employment**

1. Employment consists of employees, self-employed people, unpaid family workers and people on government supported training and employment programmes.

2. Unpaid family workers are people who work in a family business who do not receive a formal wage or salary but benefit from the profits of that business.

3. The Government supported training and employment programmes series does not include all people on these programmes; it only includes people engaging in any form of work, work experience or work-related training who are not included in the employees or self-employed series. People on these programmes NOT engaging in any form of work, work experience or work-related training are not included in the employment estimates; they are classified as unemployed or economically inactive.

## **3.4 Public and Private Sector Employment**

### **What is public and private sector employment?**

Public sector employment measures the number of people in paid work in the public sector. The public sector comprises central government, local government and public corporations. Estimates of public sector employment are obtained from information provided by public sector organisations.

Private sector employment is estimated as the difference between total employment, sourced from the Labour Force Survey, and public sector employment.

### **Commentary**

The estimates of public and private sector employment for December 2017 have been impacted by the reclassification of English housing associations, which are included in the private sector for December 2017 but are included in the public sector between September 2008 and September 2017.

There were 5.35 million people employed in the public sector for December 2017. This was 132,000 fewer than for September 2017. This large fall in public sector employment was entirely due to the reclassification of English housing associations. Excluding the effects of this reclassification, public sector employment increased by 9,000 between September and December 2017.

There were 26.90 million people employed in the private sector for December 2017, 300,000 more than for September 2017. This large increase in private sector employment was partly due to the reclassification of English housing associations. Excluding the effects of this reclassification, private sector employment increased by 159,000 between September and December 2017.

For December 2017, 16.6% of all people in work were employed in the public sector and the remaining 83.4% worked in the private sector.

### 3.5 Actual Hours Worked

#### What is actual hours worked?

Actual hours worked measures the number of hours worked in the economy. Changes in actual hours worked reflect changes in the number of people in employment and the average hours worked by those people.

#### Commentary

Between September to November 2017 and December 2017 to February 2018, total hours worked per week increased by 4.2 million to 1.03 billion. This increase in hours worked per week reflected an increase of 55,000 in the number of people in employment (as explained in and a small increase in the average hours worked by people in employment.

For December 2017 to February 2018:

- people worked, on average, 32.0 hours per week, slightly more than for September to November 2017 but 0.4 hours fewer than for a year earlier; this annual fall reflects more hours worked over the 2016 to 2017 Christmas and New Year period compared with previous years
- people working full-time worked, on average, 37.2 hours per week in their main job, unchanged compared with September to November 2017 but fewer than for a year earlier
- people working part-time worked, on average, 16.2 hours per week in their main job, slightly more than for September to November 2017 but slightly fewer than for a year earlier

Fig 3.6 shows total hours worked and the number of people in work, as indices, for the last 5 years.

Fig 3.6: Total hours worked and number of people in work in the UK, December to February 2013 to December to February 2018.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

## 3.6 Workforce Jobs

### What is Workforce Jobs?

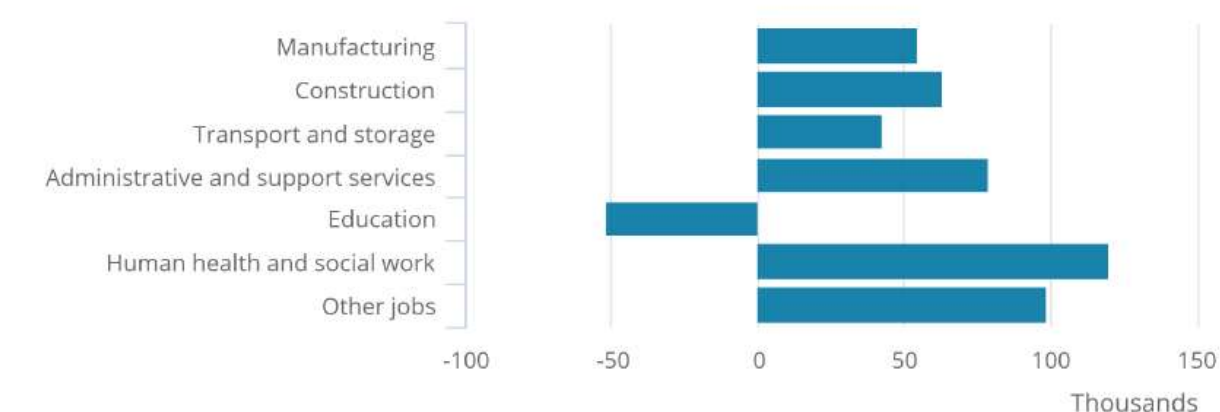
Workforce jobs measures the number of filled jobs in the economy. The estimates are mainly sourced from employer surveys. Workforce jobs is a different concept from employment, which is sourced from the Labour Force Survey, as employment is an estimate of people and some people have more than one job.

### Commentary

For December 2017, there were 35.11 million workforce jobs, 64,000 fewer than for September 2017 but 407,000 more than for a year earlier.

Fig 3.7 shows changes in the number of jobs by industrial sector between December 2016 and December 2017.

Fig 3.7: Changes in the number of jobs in the UK between December 2016 and December 2017, seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics

Looking at a longer-term comparison, between June 1978 (when comparable records began) and December 2017:

- the proportion of jobs accounted for by the manufacturing and mining and quarrying sectors fell from 26.4% to 7.8%
- the proportion of jobs accounted for by the services sector increased from 63.2% to 83.3%.

## 3.7 Average Weekly Earnings

### What is Average Weekly Earnings?

Average Weekly Earnings measures money paid to employees in Great Britain in return for work done, before tax and other deductions from pay. The estimates do not include earnings of self-employed people. Estimates are available for both total pay (which includes bonuses) and for regular pay (which excludes bonus payments).

## Commentary

For February 2018 in nominal terms (that is, not adjusted for price inflation):

- average regular pay (excluding bonuses) for employees in Great Britain was £483 per week before tax and other deductions from pay, up from £469 per week for a year earlier
- average total pay (including bonuses) for employees in Great Britain was £513 per week before tax and other deductions from pay, up from £501 per week for a year earlier

Between December 2016 to February 2017 and December 2017 to February 2018, in nominal terms, both regular pay and total pay increased by 2.8%.

Fig 3.8 compares the annual growth rates for both regular and total pay, in nominal terms, for the last 5 years.

Fig 3.8: Great Britain average earnings annual growth rates, December to February 2013 to December to February 2018.



Source: Monthly Wages & Salaries Survey, Office for National Statistics

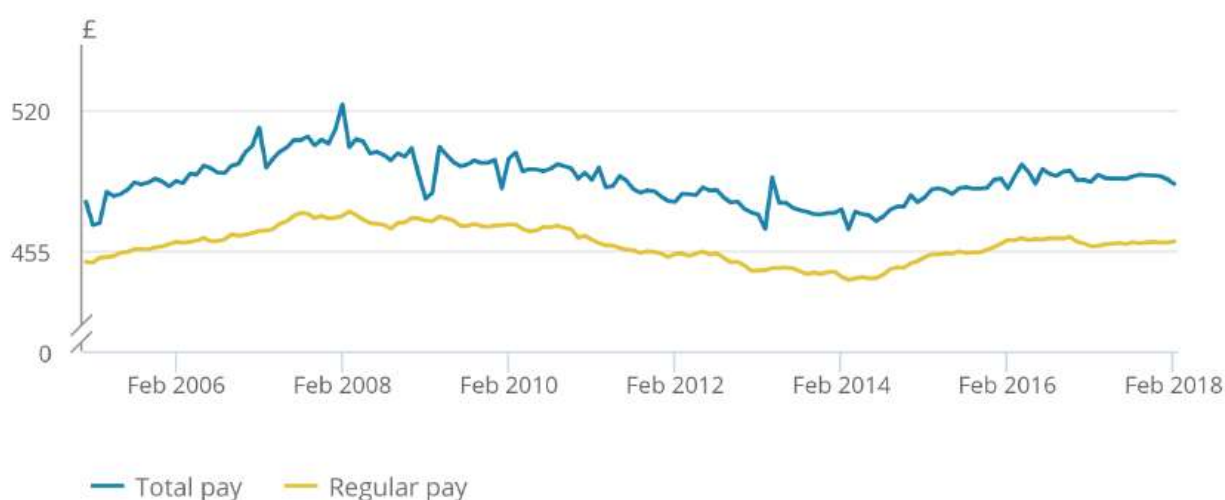
Looking at longer-term movements, average total pay for employees in Great Britain in nominal terms increased from £376 per week in January 2005 to £513 per week in February 2018; an increase of 36.2%. Over the same period, the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) increased by 34.0%.

For February 2018 in real terms (constant 2015 prices):

- average regular pay (excluding bonuses) for employees in Great Britain was £459 per week before tax and other deductions from pay, £14 lower than the pre-downturn peak of £473 per week recorded for March 2008
- average total pay (including bonuses) for employees in Great Britain was £486 per week before tax and other deductions from pay, £36 lower than the pre-downturn peak of £522 per week recorded for February 2008.

Fig 3.9 shows average weekly earnings for total pay and regular pay in real terms (constant 2015 prices) since comparable records began in 2005.

Fig 3.9: Great Britain average weekly earnings at constant 2015 prices, seasonally adjusted, January 2005 to February 2018.



Source: Monthly Wages and Salaries Survey, Office for National Statistics

Between December 2016 to February 2017 and December 2017 to February 2018, in real terms (that is, adjusted for consumer price inflation), regular pay for employees in Great Britain increased by 0.2% while total pay for employees in Great Britain increased by 0.1%.

### Notes for Average Weekly Earnings

1. The estimates relate to Great Britain and include salaries but not unearned income, benefits in kind or arrears of pay.
2. As well as pay settlements, the estimates reflect bonuses, changes in the number of paid hours worked and the impact of employees paid at different rates joining and leaving individual businesses. The estimates also reflect changes in the overall structure of the workforce; for example, fewer low paid jobs in the economy would have an upward effect on the earnings growth rate.

## 3.8 Unemployment

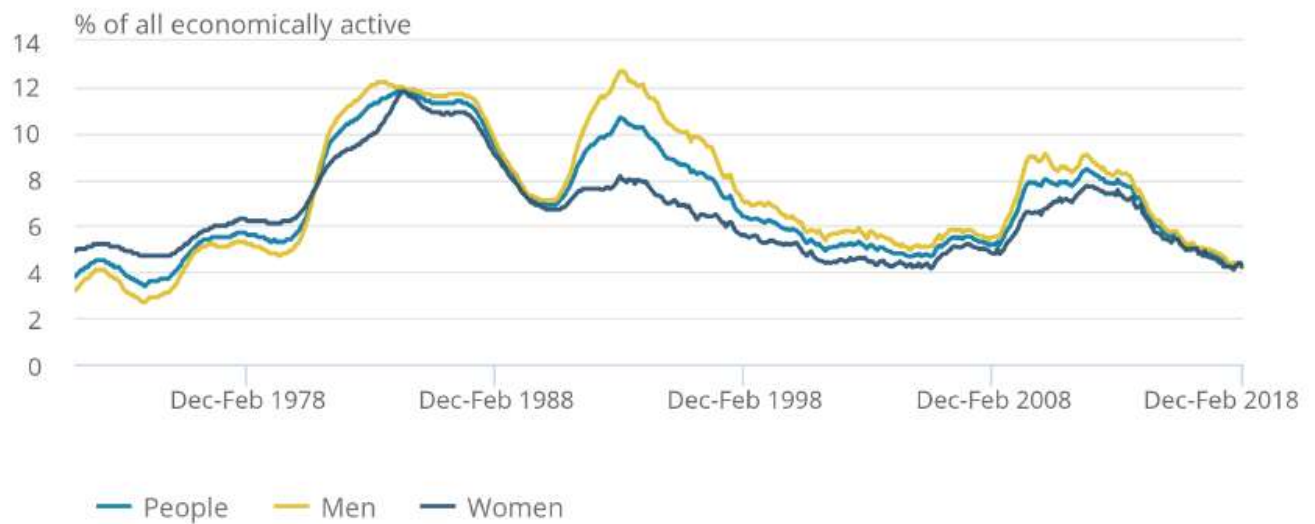
### What is unemployment?

Unemployment measures people without a job who have been actively seeking work within the last four weeks and are available to start work within the next two weeks.

### Commentary

The proportion of economically active people aged 16 years and over who are out of work and seeking work is known as the unemployment rate. As shown in Fig 3.10 (which shows unemployment rates for people, men and women), the lowest unemployment rate for people recorded since comparable records began in 1971 was 3.4% in late 1973 to early 1974 and the highest rate, 11.9%, was recorded in 1984 during the downturn of the early 1980s. The unemployment rate for people for the latest time period, December 2017 to February 2018, was 4.2%, the lowest since 1975.

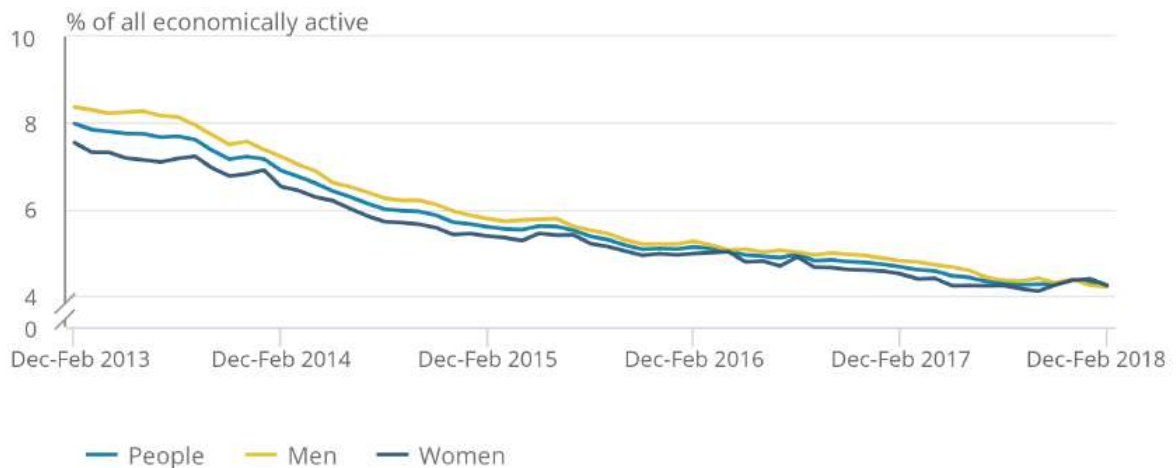
Fig 3.10: UK Unemployment rate (aged 16 and over), seasonally adjusted, January to March 1971 to December to February 2018



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Fig 3.11 looks in more detail at the unemployment rate for the last 5 years.

Fig 3.11: UK Unemployment rate (aged 16 and over), seasonally adjusted, December to February 2013 to December to February 2018



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

For December 2017 to February 2018:

- the unemployment rate for people was 4.2%; it was last lower in 1975
- the unemployment rate for men was 4.2%; it was last lower in 1975
- the unemployment rate for women was 4.2%, lower than for a year earlier (4.5%)

For December 2017 to February 2018, there were:

- 1.42 million unemployed people, 16,000 fewer than for September to November 2017, 136,000 fewer than for a year earlier and the lowest since June to August 2005



- 751,000 unemployed men, 17,000 fewer than for September to November 2017, 104,000 fewer than for a year earlier and the lowest since September to November 1975
- 672,000 unemployed women, little changed compared with September to November 2017 but 32,000 fewer than for a year earlier

Looking at unemployment by how long people have been out of work and seeking work, for December 2017 to February 2018, there were:

- 842,000 people who had been unemployed for up to six months, 77,000 fewer than for a year earlier
- 228,000 people who had been unemployed for between six months and one year, 22,000 fewer than for a
- year earlier 353,000 people who had been unemployed for over one year, 37,000 fewer than for a year earlier

### 3.9 Economic Inactivity

#### What is economic inactivity?

Economically inactive people are not in employment but do not meet the internationally accepted definition of unemployment because they have not been seeking work within the last four weeks and/or they are unable to start work within the next two weeks.

#### Commentary

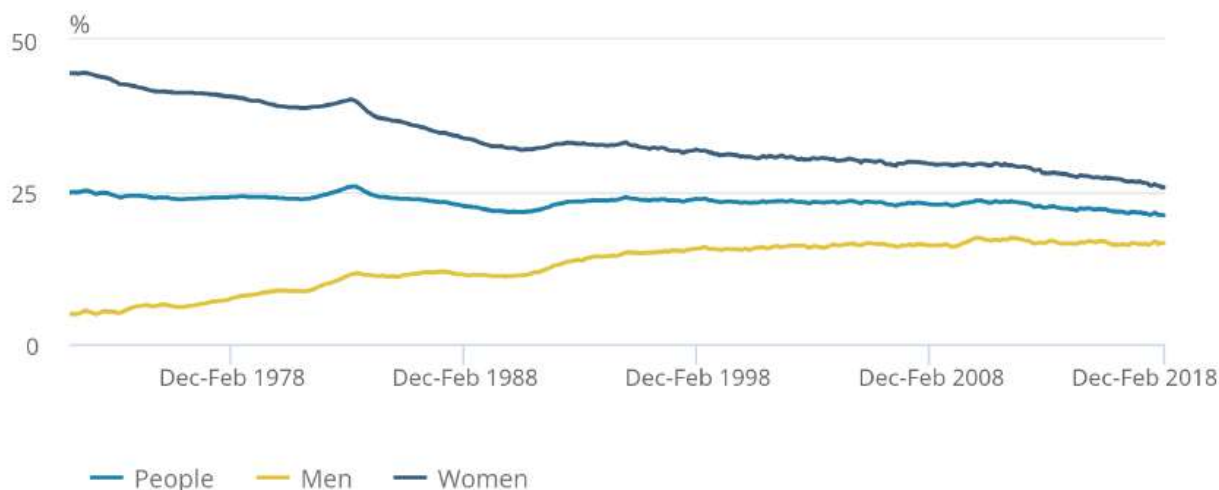
The proportion of people, aged from 16 to 64 years, not in work and neither seeking nor available to work is known as the economic inactivity rate. Fig 3.12 shows that, since comparable records began in 1971, the economic inactivity rate for people has been generally falling (although it increased during economic downturns) due to a gradual fall in the economic inactivity rate for women. The economic inactivity rate for men has been gradually rising.

For December 2017 to February 2018:

- the economic inactivity rate for people was 21.2%, lower than for a year earlier (21.6%) and the joint lowest since comparable records began in 1971
- the economic inactivity rate for men was 16.6%, higher than for September to November 2017 (16.4%) and for a year earlier (16.5%)
- the economic inactivity rate for women was 25.8%, lower than for September to November 2017 (26.0%) and for a year earlier (26.7%)



Fig 3.12: UK Economic inactivity rate (aged 16 to 64), seasonally adjusted, January to March 1971 to December to February 2018



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Fig 3.13 looks in more detail at the economic inactivity rate for people since comparable records began in 1971. The economic inactivity rate for people increased during the downturn of the early 1980s, reaching a record high of 25.9% in 1983. As the economy improved in the late 1980s, it resumed its downward path, before the economic downturn of the early 1990s drove it back up again. Following an increase in the economic inactivity rate during the economic downturn of 2008 to 2009, it again resumed a generally downward path.

Fig 3.13: UK Economic inactivity rate (people aged 16 to 64), seasonally adjusted, January to March 1971 to December to February 2018.



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

For December 2017 to February 2018, there were 8.73 million people aged from 16 to 64 years not in work and neither seeking nor available to work (known as economically inactive). This was:

- little changed compared with September to November 2017
- 154,000 fewer than for a year earlier

Looking in more detail at the 8.73 million people aged from 16 to 64 years who were economically inactive for December 2017 to February 2018, the two largest categories were students (26.9% of the total) and people looking after the family or home (23.6% of the total):

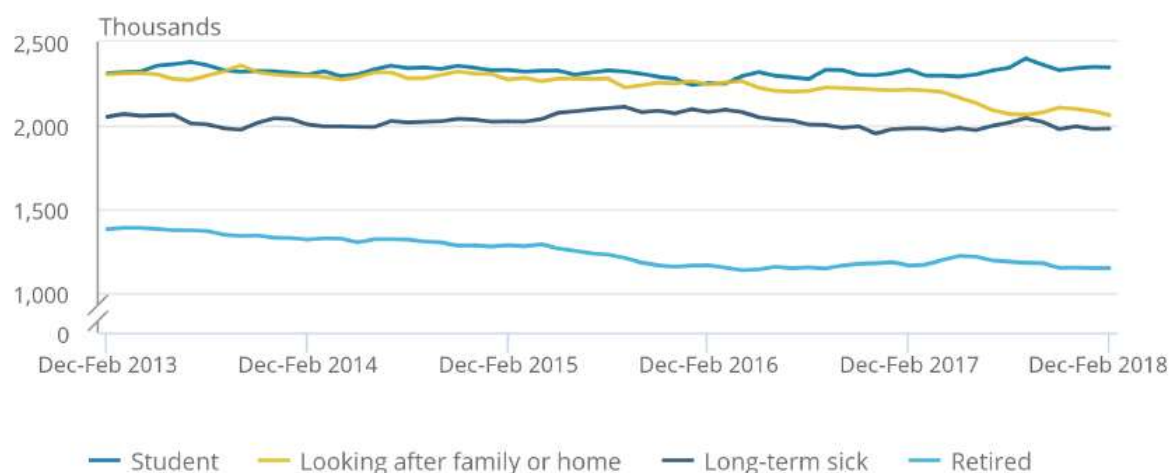
- there were 2.35 million people who were not looking for work because they were studying, 17,000 more than for September to November 2017 and 14,000 more than for a year earlier
- there were 2.06 million people who were not looking for work because they were looking after the family or home, 152,000 fewer than for a year earlier and the lowest since comparable records began in 1993

The third and fourth largest categories were long-term sick (22.7% of the total) and retired (13.2% of the total):

- there were 1.98 million people who were not looking for work due to long-term sickness, little changed compared with September to November 2017 and with a year earlier
- there were 1.15 million people who were not looking for work because they had retired, little changed compared with September to November 2017 but 15,000 fewer than for a year earlier

Fig 3.14 shows the four largest categories of economic inactivity for the last five years. As shown in Fig 3.14, the number of people younger than 65 years in the retired category has fallen by 232,000 over the five-year period from December 2012 to February 2013 to December 2017 to February 2018. This reflects ongoing changes to the State Pension age for women, resulting in fewer women retiring between the ages of 60 and 65 years.

Fig 3.14: Economic inactivity by main category in the UK (aged 16 to 64), seasonally adjusted, December to February 2013 to December to February 2018.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

### 3.10 Young People in the Labour Market

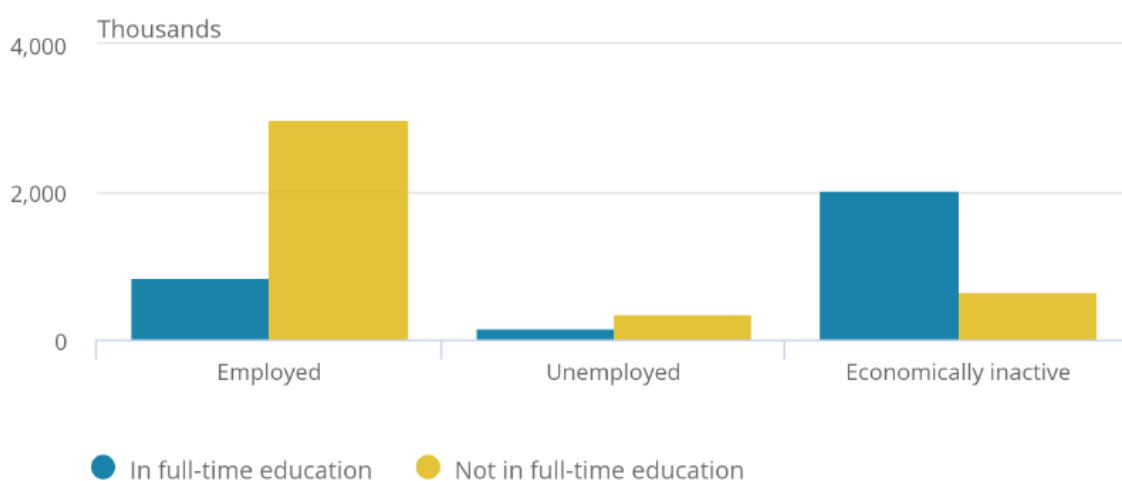
It is a common misconception that all people in full-time education are classified as economically inactive. This is not the case as people in full-time education are included in the employment estimates if they have a part-time job and are included in the unemployment estimates if they are seeking part-time work.

#### Commentary

For December 2017 to February 2018, for people aged from 16 to 24 years, there were:

- 3.83 million people in work (including 861,000 full-time students with part-time jobs)
- 525,000 unemployed people (including 173,000 full-time students looking for part-time work)
- 2.69 million economically inactive people, most of whom (2.04 million) were full-time students

Fig 3.15: Young people (aged 16 to 24) in the UK labour market for December 2017 to February 2018, seasonally adjusted



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

#### Notes:

FTE = Full-time education.

The "Not in full-time education" series includes people in part-time education and/or some form of training.

Fig 3.16 shows how the latest estimates, for December 2017 to February 2018, for employment, unemployment and economic inactivity for people aged from 16 to 24 years compare with the previous quarter (September to November 2017) and the previous year (December 2016 to February 2017). The chart shows that, while the overall UK household population is increasing, it is falling for the 16 to 24 years age group.

Fig 3.16: Quarterly and annual changes in the number of young people (aged 16 to 24) in the UK labour market, seasonally adjusted



Source: Labour Force Survey: Office for National Statistics

For December 2017 to February 2018, the unemployment rate for 16- to 24-year-olds was 12.0%, lower than for a year earlier (12.5%). The unemployment rate for those aged from 16 to 24 years has been consistently higher than that for older age groups. Since comparable records began in 1992:

- the lowest youth unemployment rate was 11.6% for March to May 2001
- the highest youth unemployment rate was 22.5% for late 2011.

Between March to May 1992 (when comparable records began) and December 2017 to February 2018, the proportion of people aged from 16 to 24 years who were in full-time education increased substantially from 26.2% to 43.6%. This increase in the number of young people going into full-time education has reduced the size of the economically active population (those in work plus those seeking and available to work) and therefore increased the unemployment rate (because the unemployment rate is the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed).

### 3.11 Redundancies

#### What are redundancies?

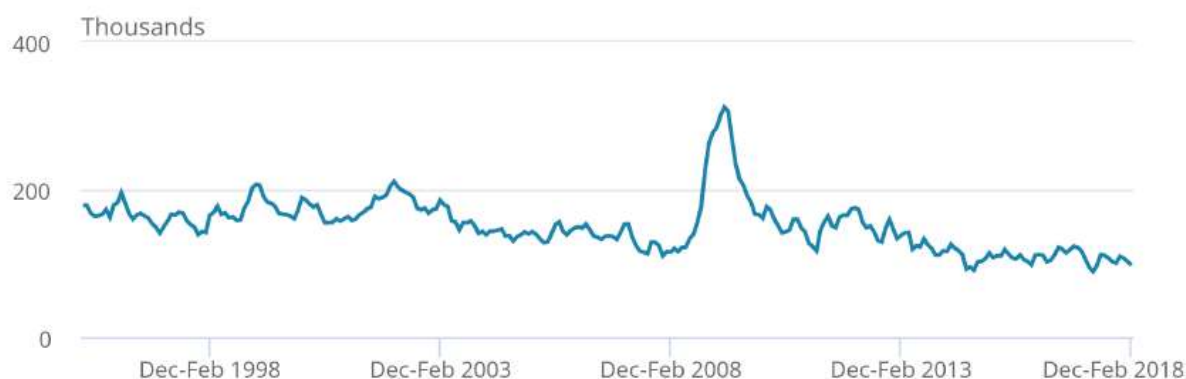
The redundancies estimates measure the number of people who have been made redundant or have taken voluntary redundancy.

#### Commentary

For December 2017 to February 2018, 97,000 people had become redundant in the three months before the Labour Force Survey interviews, 12,000 fewer than for the quarter September to November 2017 and 9,000 fewer than for a year earlier.

Fig 3.17 shows the number of redundancies since comparable records began in 1995.

Fig 3.17: Number of redundancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, March to May 1995 to December to February 2018.



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

### 3.12 Vacancies

#### What are vacancies?<sup>28</sup>

Vacancies are defined as positions for which employers are actively seeking to recruit outside their business or organisation.

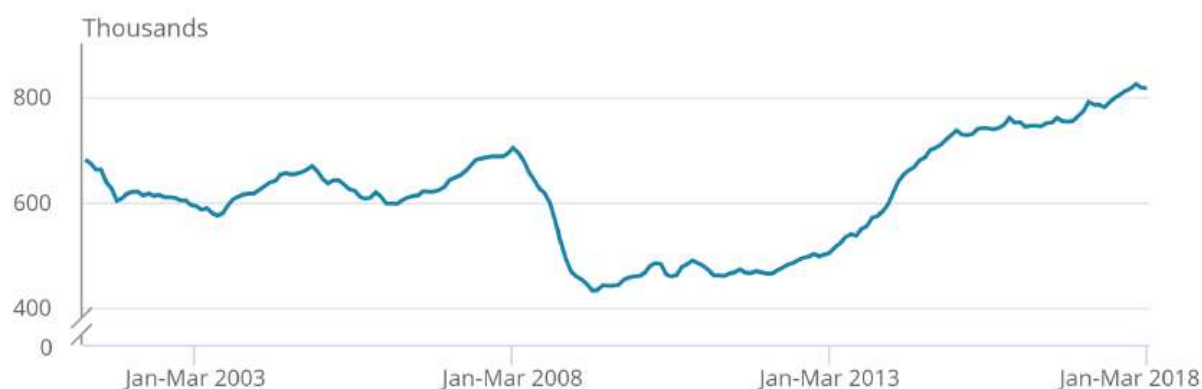
#### Commentary

There were 815,000 job vacancies for January to March 2018. This was:

- unchanged compared with October to December 2017
- 44,000 more than for a year earlier

Fig 3.18 shows the number of job vacancies since comparable records began in 2001.

Fig 3.18: Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, April to June 2001 to January to March 2018



Source: Vacancy Survey, Office for National Statistics

There were 723,000 job vacancies in the services sectors for January to March 2018, accounting for 88.7% of all vacancies. Looking at services in more detail,

<sup>28</sup> These vacancies are different from those used in the Cornwall section, which are not official statistics.

the sectors with the largest number of job vacancies were wholesaling, retailing and repair of motor vehicles (136,000) and human health and social work (129,000).

There were 2.7 job vacancies per 100 filled employee jobs for January to March 2018. The industrial sector showing the largest vacancy rate was accommodation and food service activities (3.9 vacancies per 100 filled employee jobs) and the sector showing the smallest vacancy rate was public administration and defence (1.4 vacancies per 100 filled employee jobs).

**Notes:**

1. The estimates exclude the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector”.

Prepared by:  
Economic Growth Service.

April 2018

If you would like this information  
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