

National Assembly for Wales Unemployment Briefing

November 2009

This paper provides a statistical overview of unemployment trends.

Information is included on Assembly constituencies, Wales and UK nations and regions.



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National Assembly for Wales
Unemployment Briefing

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Unemployment Briefing: November 2009

Headlines: ILO unemployment ¹

- Between July and September 2009, the ILO unemployment rate in Wales was 8.7%. This compares to 6.5% between July and September 2008. *Figure 1.1;*
- Between July and September 2009, the number of ILO unemployed in Wales was 125,000. This has increased by 14,000 since the previous quarter and by 31,000 since the previous year;
- The male ILO rate was 10.0%, compared to 7.2% for females. *Figure 1.1;*
- The ILO rate in Wales was the highest of the four UK nations. *Table 2.1;* and
- Wales had the joint fourth highest ILO rate out of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 3.1.*

Headlines: Claimant count ²

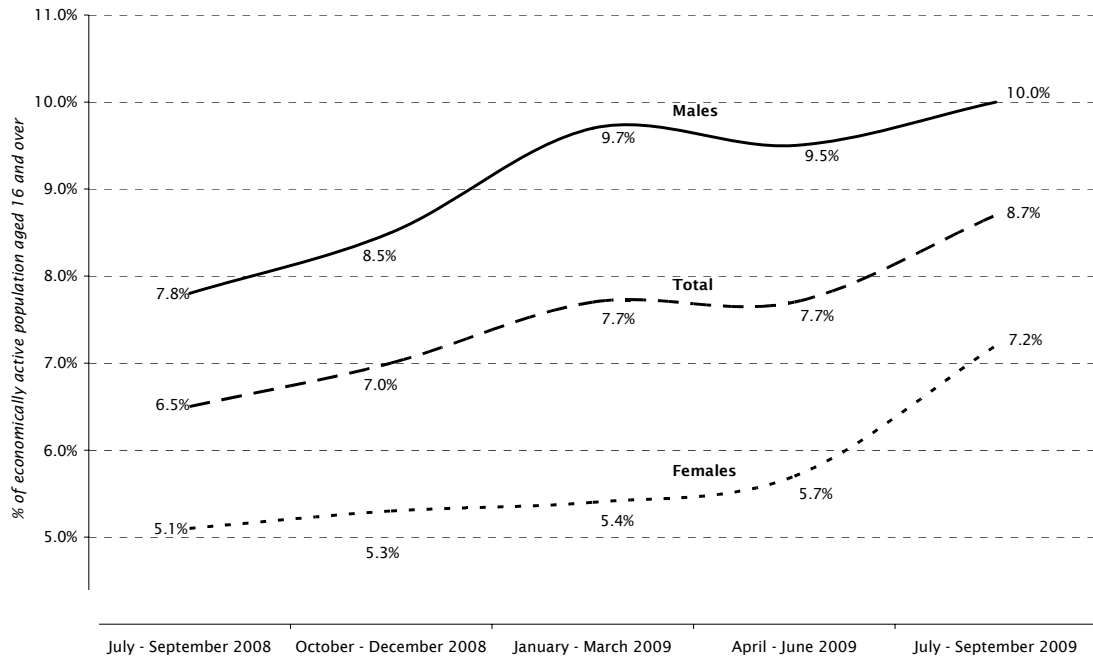
- In October 2009, the total claimant count rate in Wales was 5.8%. This compares to 3.6% in October 2008. *Figure 1.2;*
- The claimant count total in Wales has risen by some 300 since the previous month and risen by some 30,400 since the previous October.
- At 6.2%, Northern Ireland had the highest claimant count rate out of the UK nations. Wales had the second highest rate. *Table 2.2;*
- In October 2009, Wales' claimant count rate was ranked joint fifth highest out of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 3.2;* and
- The Assembly Constituencies with the highest claimant count rate (based on unofficial estimates) were Blaenau Gwent (12.0%) and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (11.8%). The lowest claimant count rate estimates were in Ceredigion (2.9%) and Dwyfor Meirionydd (3.0%). *Table 4.2.*

¹ The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. It includes those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks. It is derived from a household survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics each quarter and is the primary measure of unemployment.

² The **claimant count** measures only those people who are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. It is lower than the ILO definition, because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim benefits, or choose not to do so. Rates for Assembly Constituencies are unofficial estimates produced by the Members' Research Service.

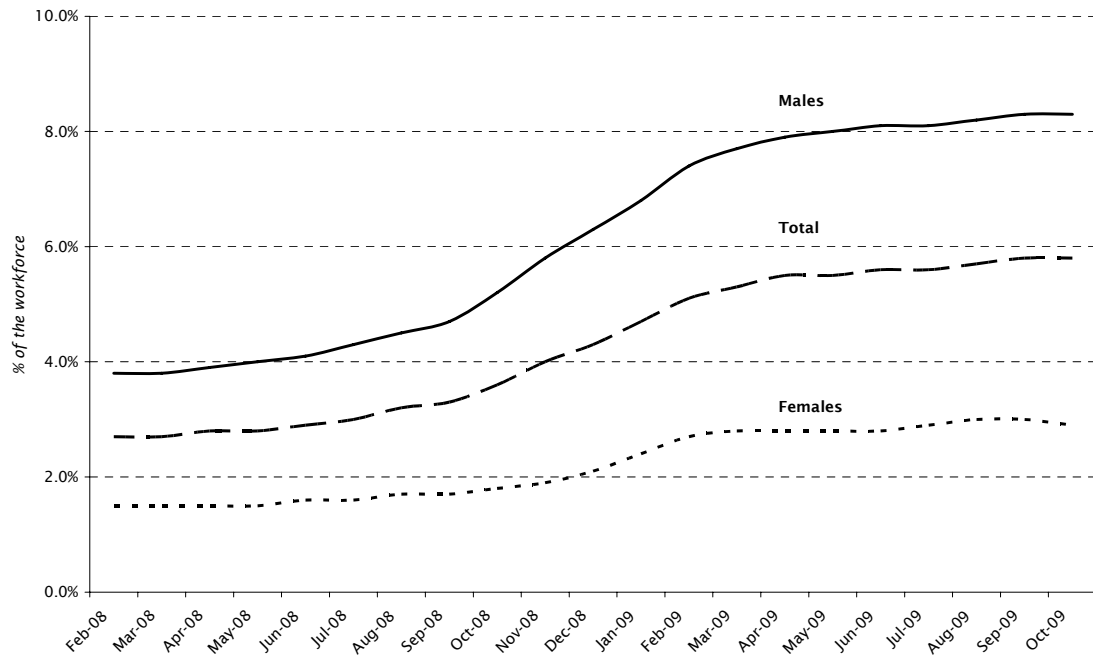
1: Summary unemployment statistics for Wales ³

Figure 1.1: ILO unemployment rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 1.2: Claimant count rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

³ See Technical Annex for definitions of unemployment data used in this paper.

2: Summary unemployment statistics for UK nations

Table 2.1: ILO unemployment rates

	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
July 2009 to September 2009	8.7%	7.9%	7.2%	7.2%	7.8%
July 2008 to September 2008	6.5%	6.0%	4.7%	4.2%	5.9%
July 2007 to September 2007	5.2%	5.4%	4.9%	3.9%	5.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics

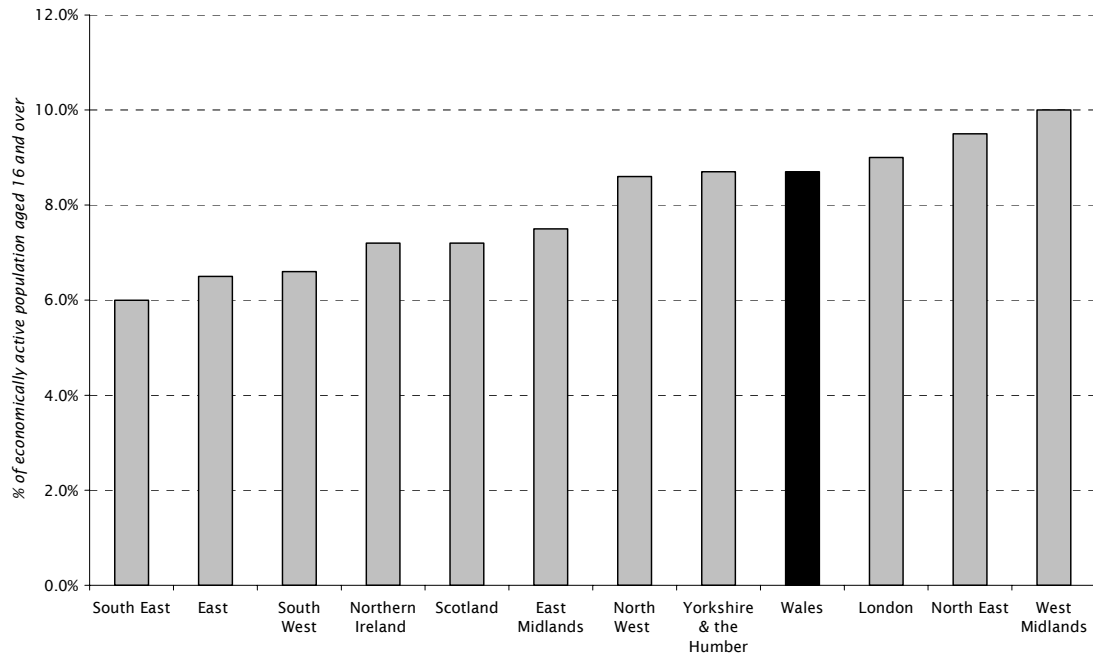
Table 2.2: Claimant count rates

	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2009 (October)	5.8%	5.0%	4.8%	6.2%	5.1%
2008 (October)	3.6%	3.1%	3.1%	3.6%	3.1%
2007 (October)	2.8%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics

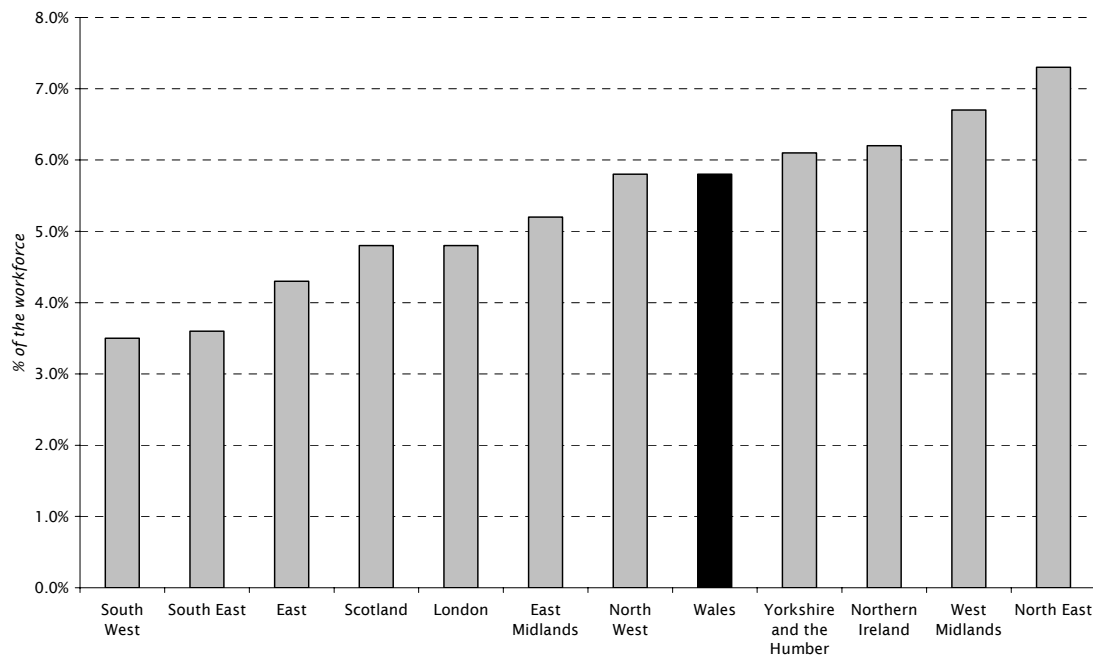
3: Summary unemployment statistics for UK nations and regions

Figure 3.1: ILO unemployment rates (July 2009 – September 2009)



Source: Office for National Statistics

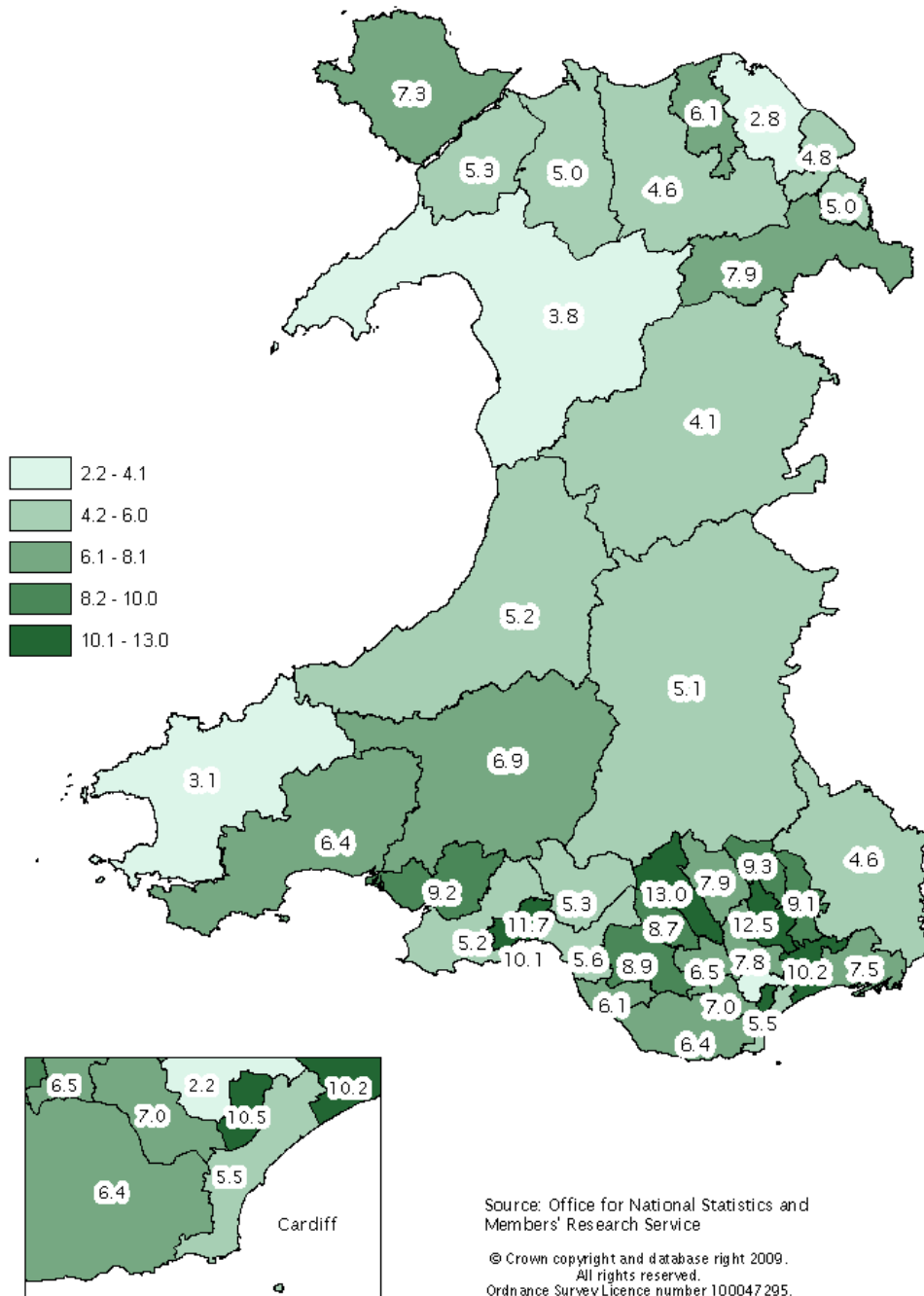
Figure 3.2: Claimant count rates (October 2009)



Source: Office for National Statistics

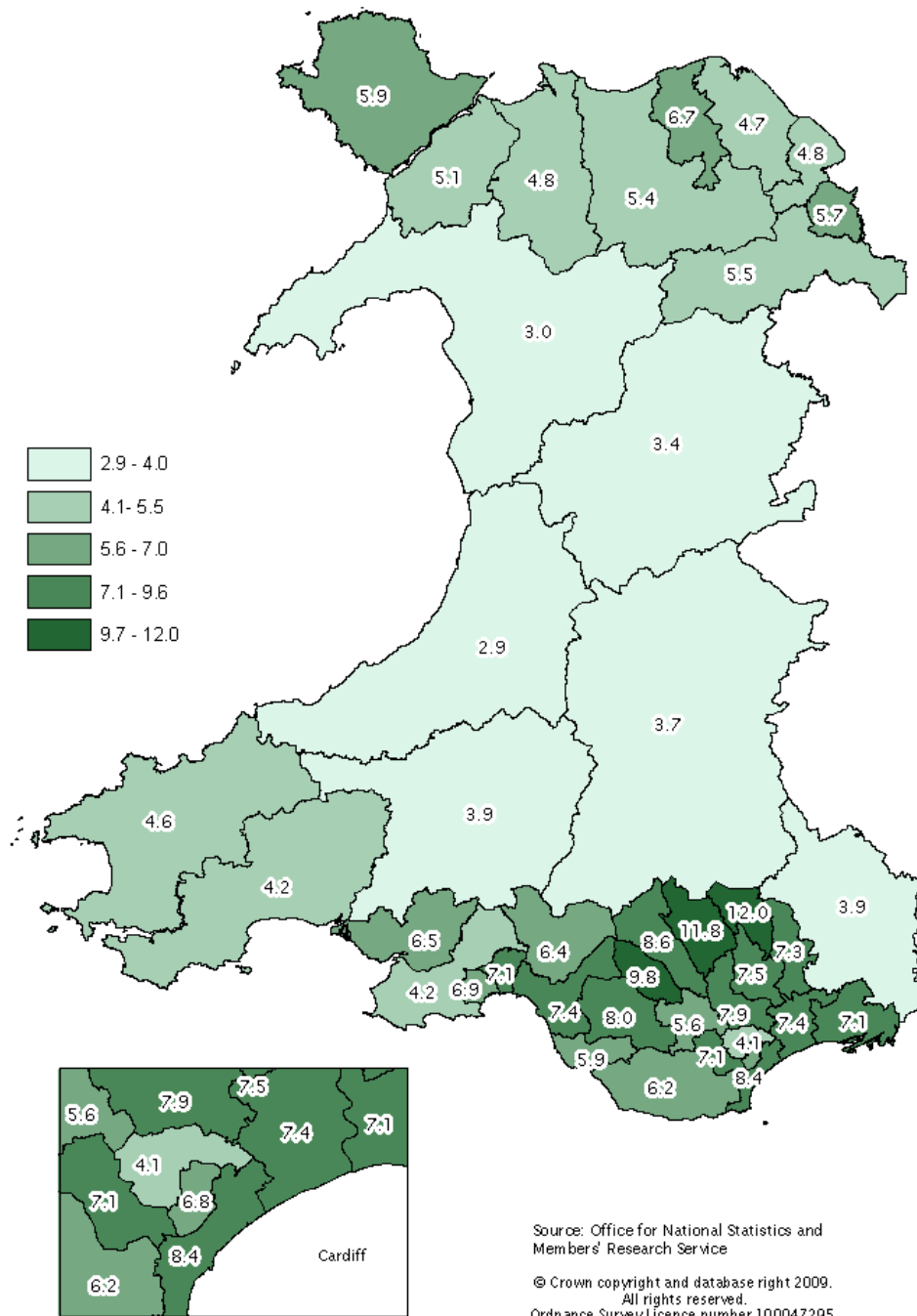
4: Summary statistics for Assembly constituencies

Map 4.1: ILO unemployment rate by Assembly constituency (April 2008 – March 2009)⁴



⁴ Latest available data. The rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons employed as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over.

Map 4.2: Unofficial claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, October 2009 ⁵



⁵ Source: Members' Research Service. Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a **percentage** of the economically active population aged 16 and over as derived from the 2001 Census of Population.

Table 4.1 Claimant count by Assembly Constituency, October 2009*not seasonally adjusted*

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	1,343	468	1,811
Aberconwy	929	238	1,167
Alyn and Deeside	1,382	529	1,911
Arfon	978	286	1,264
Blaenau Gwent	2,428	872	3,300
Brecon and Radnorshire	805	327	1,132
Bridgend	1,359	494	1,853
Caerphilly	2,140	686	2,826
Cardiff Central	1,734	554	2,288
Cardiff North	1,165	414	1,579
Cardiff South and Penarth	2,492	894	3,386
Cardiff West	2,004	712	2,716
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	794	305	1,099
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	1,007	307	1,314
Ceredigion	658	245	903
Clwyd South	1,322	432	1,754
Clwyd West	1,230	381	1,611
Cynon Valley	1,722	605	2,327
Delyn	1,152	411	1,563
Dwyfor Meirionydd	589	189	778
Gower	1,028	356	1,384
Islwyn	1,712	555	2,267
Llanelli	1,548	426	1,974
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	2,479	755	3,234
Monmouth	989	387	1,376
Montgomeryshire	679	281	960
Neath	1,409	492	1,901
Newport East	1,798	590	2,388
Newport West	1,965	649	2,614
Ogmore	1,884	608	2,492
Pontypridd	1,441	497	1,938
Preseli Pembrokeshire	1,058	342	1,400
Rhondda	1,988	656	2,644
Swansea East	1,736	540	2,276
Swansea West	1,544	494	2,038
Torfaen	1,958	607	2,565
Vale of Clwyd	1,592	427	2,019
Vale of Glamorgan	1,955	704	2,659
Wrexham	1,322	521	1,843
Ynys Mon	1,272	408	1,680

Source: Nomis

Table 4.2: Unofficial residence-based claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, October 2009 (a)

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	9.9	4.3	7.4
Aberconwy	7.1	2.1	4.8
Alyn and Deeside	6.4	2.9	4.8
Arfon	7.3	2.5	5.1
Blaenau Gwent	15.9	7.1	12.0
Brecon and Radnorshire	4.7	2.4	3.7
Bridgend	7.9	3.5	5.9
Caerphilly	11.0	4.2	7.9
Cardiff Central	9.8	3.5	6.8
Cardiff North	5.9	2.2	4.1
Cardiff South and Penarth	11.7	4.7	8.4
Cardiff West	10.0	3.9	7.1
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	5.1	2.4	3.9
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	6.0	2.1	4.2
Ceredigion	3.8	1.7	2.9
Clwyd South	7.5	3.0	5.5
Clwyd West	7.7	2.8	5.4
Cynon Valley	11.7	4.9	8.6
Delyn	6.3	2.7	4.7
Dwyfor Meirionydd	4.1	1.7	3.0
Gower	5.8	2.3	4.2
Islwyn	10.3	4.1	7.5
Llanelli	9.4	3.1	6.5
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	16.4	6.1	11.8
Monmouth	5.1	2.4	3.9
Montgomeryshire	4.3	2.2	3.4
Neath	8.6	3.7	6.4
Newport East	9.8	3.8	7.1
Newport West	10.3	3.9	7.4
Ogmore	10.9	4.4	8.0
Pontypridd	7.7	3.1	5.6
Preseli Pembrokeshire	6.3	2.5	4.6
Rhondda	13.3	5.5	9.8
Swansea East	10.0	3.7	7.1
Swansea West	9.7	3.6	6.9
Torfaen	10.2	3.8	7.3
Vale of Clwyd	10.0	3.0	6.7
Vale of Glamorgan	8.5	3.6	6.2
Wrexham	7.6	3.5	5.7
Ynys Mon	8.0	3.2	5.9

Source: Members' Research Service

(a) Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over as derived from the 2001 Census of Population.

Technical Annex: Definitions of unemployment data

ILO unemployment

Definition: ILO (International Labour Organisation) unemployment is a count of the number of those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks.

Methodology used for calculating rates: ILO rates are calculated as a percentage of the population aged 16 and over who are economically active. Economically active people are those who are either in work or are unemployed under the ILO definition.

Source: The number of ILO unemployed is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a quarterly sample survey of around 60,000 UK households carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS states that quarter on quarter changes at regional level are particularly subject to sampling variability and **should be interpreted in the context of changes over several quarters rather than in isolation.**

Geographical availability: The sample based nature of the LFS means that data for areas within Wales (such as Assembly Constituencies and local authorities) is not available on a quarterly basis. Data for Assembly Constituencies is only available on an annual basis.

Usage: ILO unemployment is now the headline unemployment indicator for the UK. It is a more encompassing measure of unemployment than the claimant count and enables international comparison of rates. The definition is used by most other countries, as well as Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Claimant Count

Definition: The claimant count measures the number of people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance.

Methodology used for calculating rates: Two methods have been used in this paper.

1. Workplace based rates. These rates have been calculated as the number of claimants resident in each area as a percentage of workforce jobs plus the claimant count. This approach is used for all figures and tables **not focussing** on Assembly Constituencies.
2. Unofficial claimant count rates. Official Claimant count rates or proportions are not available for the Assembly Constituency boundaries that came into effect in May 2007. Claimant count **proportions for Parliamentary Constituencies** are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS claimant count proportions use the population of working age as a denominator and so take no account of differences between areas in the proportion that are economically active. Residence-based claimant count **rates for Assembly Constituencies** have been calculated by the Members' Research Service, expressing the number of claimants as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over who are resident in the constituency. This produces an alternative measure of unemployment to those published by the Office for National Statistics. The number of economically active residents in each constituency is derived from the 2001 Census of Population results for the revised Assembly Constituency boundaries produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Source: The claimant count comes from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus. It is always lower than the ILO measure of unemployment because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim Jobseekers allowance, or choose not to do so.

Geographical availability: It is available across a broad of smaller administrative areas, including Assembly constituencies and wards.

Usage: Although it only provides a partial picture, the greater coverage and timeliness of the claimant count is useful to maintain a picture of the labour market at a local level.

