

National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing: October 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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Headlines: ILO unemployment ¹

- Between June and August 2009, the ILO unemployment rate in Wales was 9.1%. This compares to 5.9% between June and August 2008. *Figure 1.1*;
- Between June and August 2009, the number of ILO unemployed in Wales was 130,000. This has increased by 24,000 since the previous quarter and by 45,000 since the previous year;
- The male ILO rate was 10.3%, compared to 7.7% for females. *Figure 1.1*;
- The ILO rate was the highest of the four UK nations. *Table 2.1*; and
- Wales had the third highest ILO rate out of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 3.1*.

Headlines: Claimant count ²

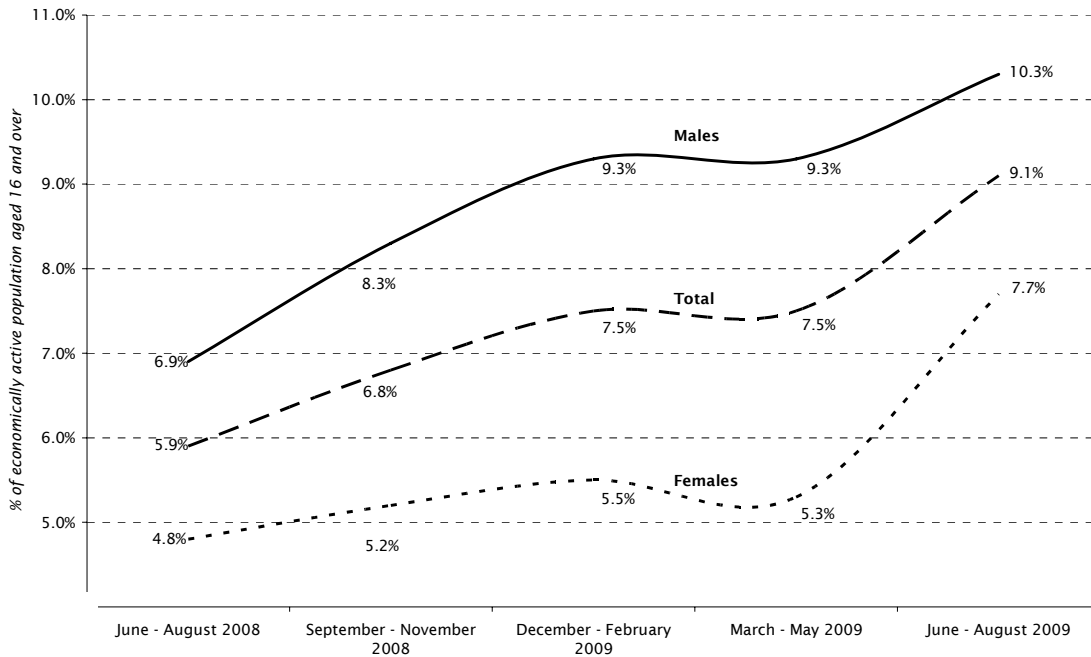
- In September 2009, the total claimant count rate in Wales reached 5.6%. This compares to 3.3% in September 2008. *Figure 1.2*;
- The claimant count total in Wales has fallen by some 520 since the previous month and risen by some 31,800 since the previous September.
- At 6.1%, Northern Ireland had the highest claimant count rate out of the UK nations. Wales had the second highest rate. *Table 2.2*;
- In August 2009, Wales' claimant count rate was ranked sixth highest out of the 12 UK nations and regions. *Figure 3.2*; and
- The Assembly Constituencies with the highest claimant count rate (based on unofficial estimates) were Blaenau Gwent (12.1%) and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (12.0%). The lowest claimant count rate estimates were in Ceredigion (2.7%) 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.

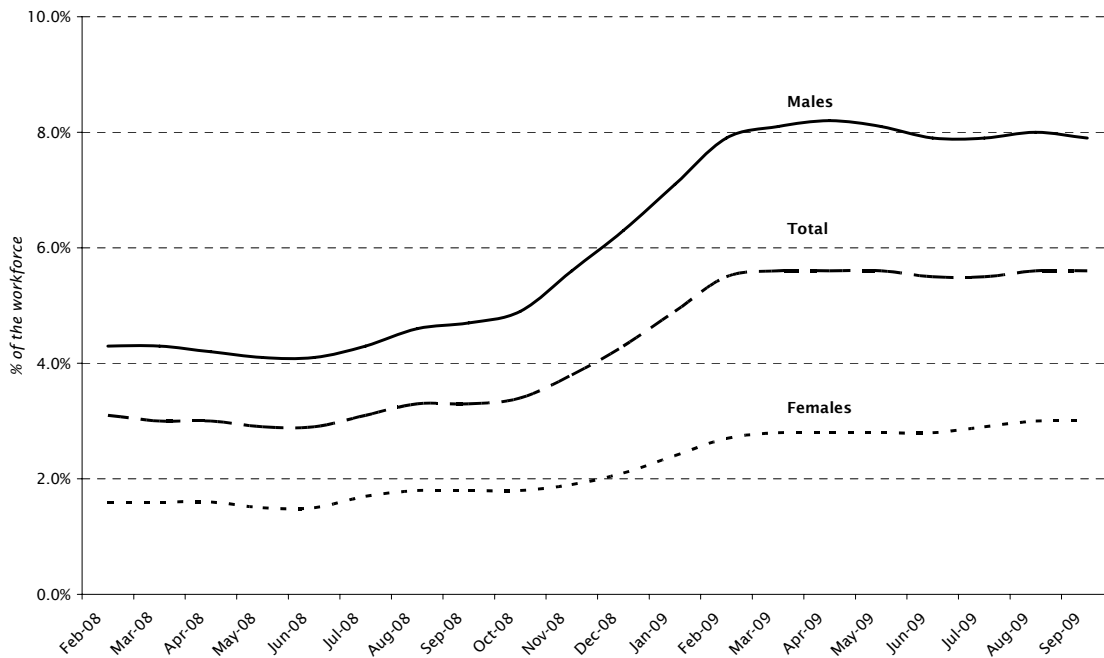
1: Summary unemployment statistics for Wales ³

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
June 2009 to August 2009	9.1%	7.9%	7.1%	7.1%	7.9%
June 2008 to August 2008	5.9%	5.9%	4.7%	4.3%	5.7%
June 2007 to August 2007	5.2%	5.5%	4.6%	3.7%	5.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics

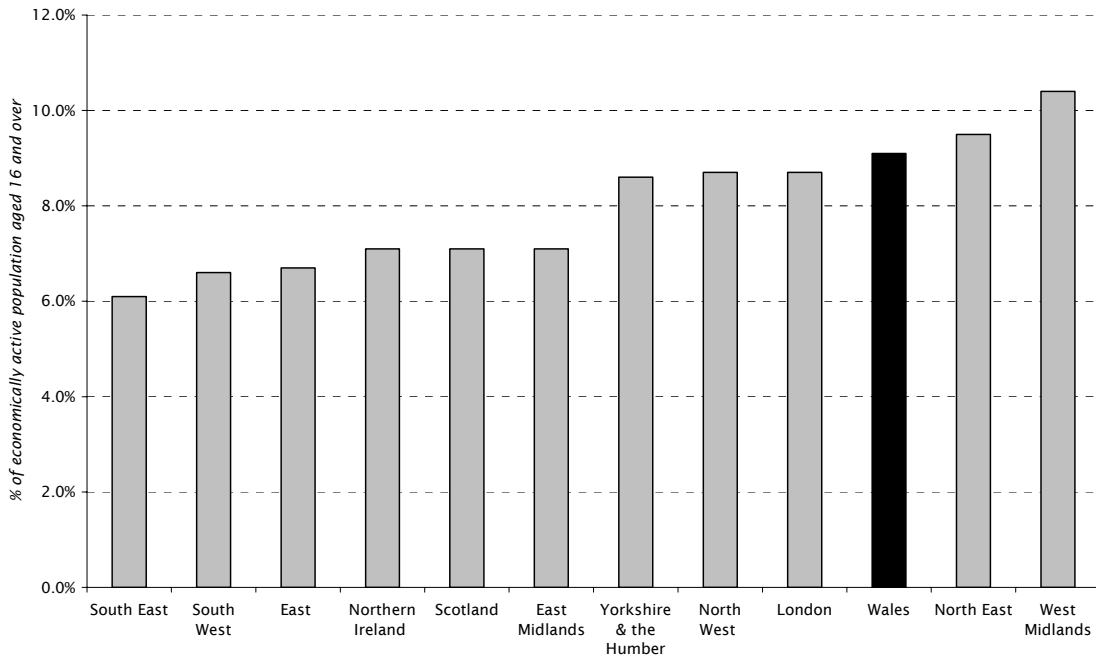
Table 2.2: Claimant count rates

	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2009 (September)	5.6%	4.9%	4.6%	6.1%	4.9%
2008 (September)	3.3%	2.9%	2.9%	3.4%	2.9%
2007 (September)	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics

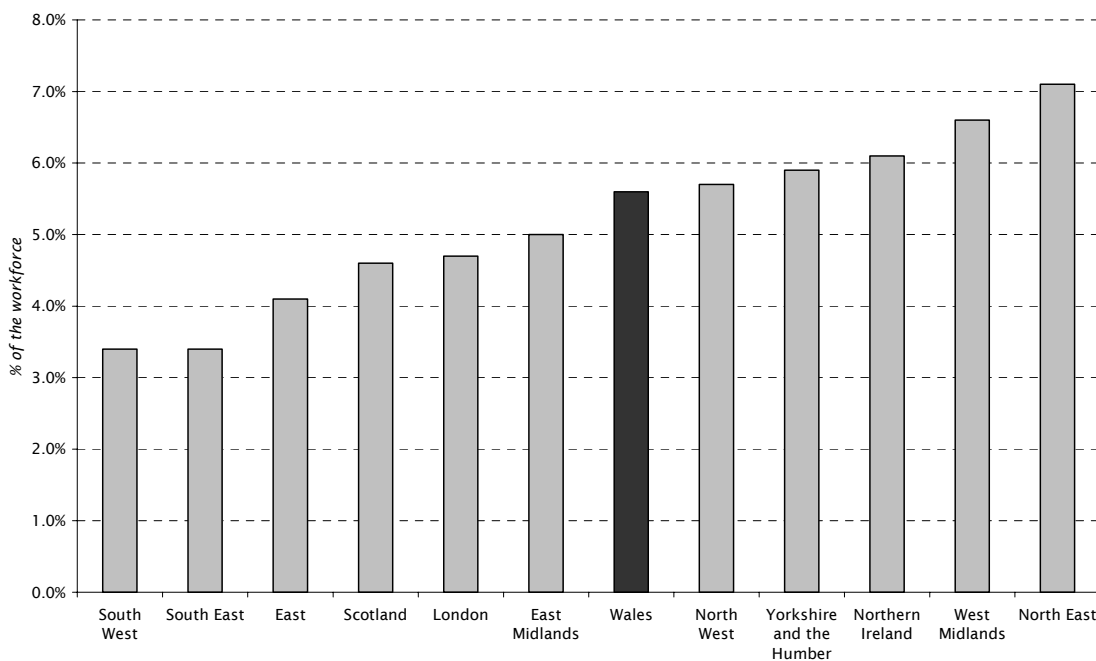
3: Summary unemployment statistics for UK nations and regions

Figure 3.1: ILO unemployment rates (June 2009 – August 2009)



Source: Office for National Statistics

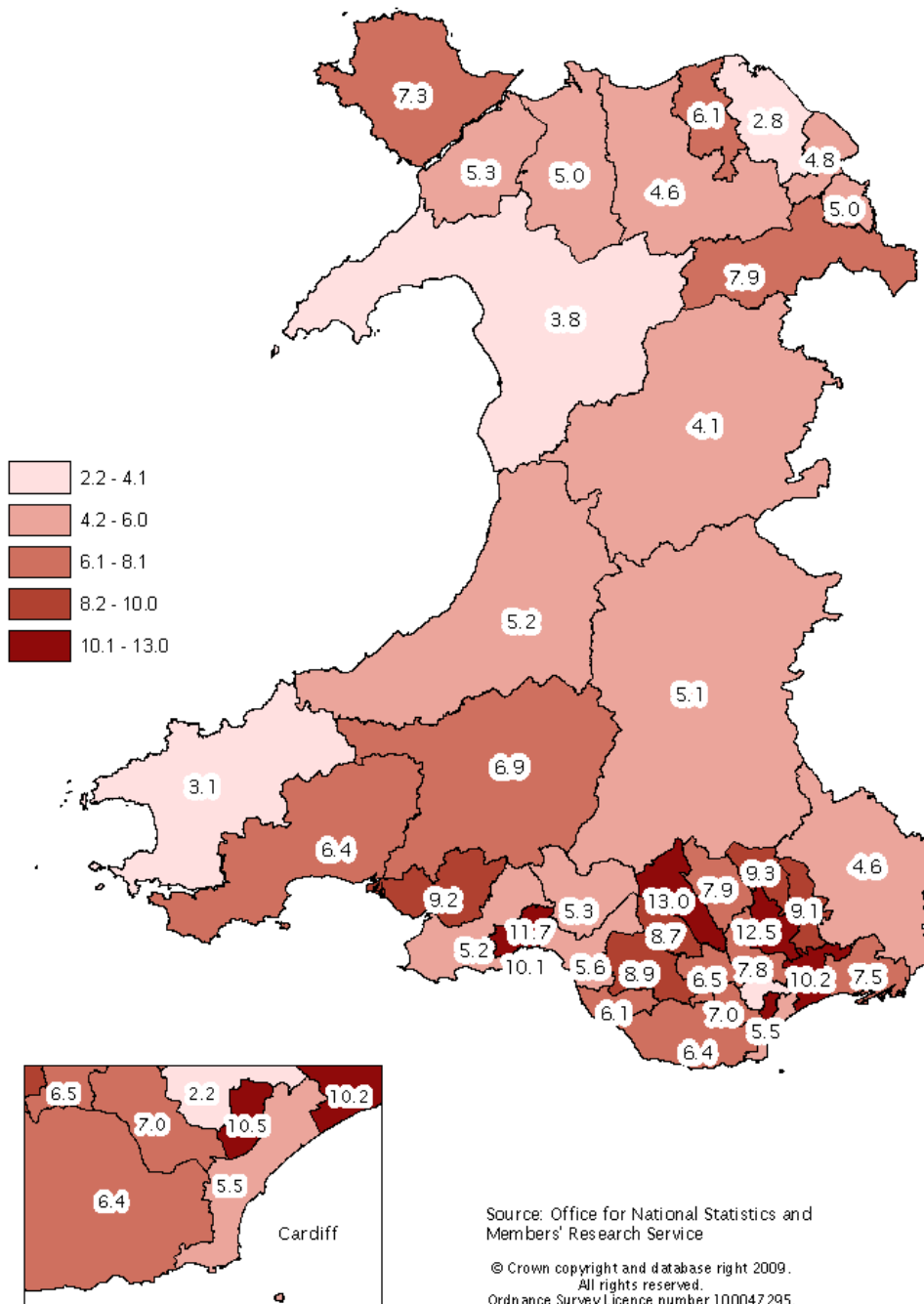
Figure 3.2: Claimant count rates (September 2009)



Source: Office for National Statistics

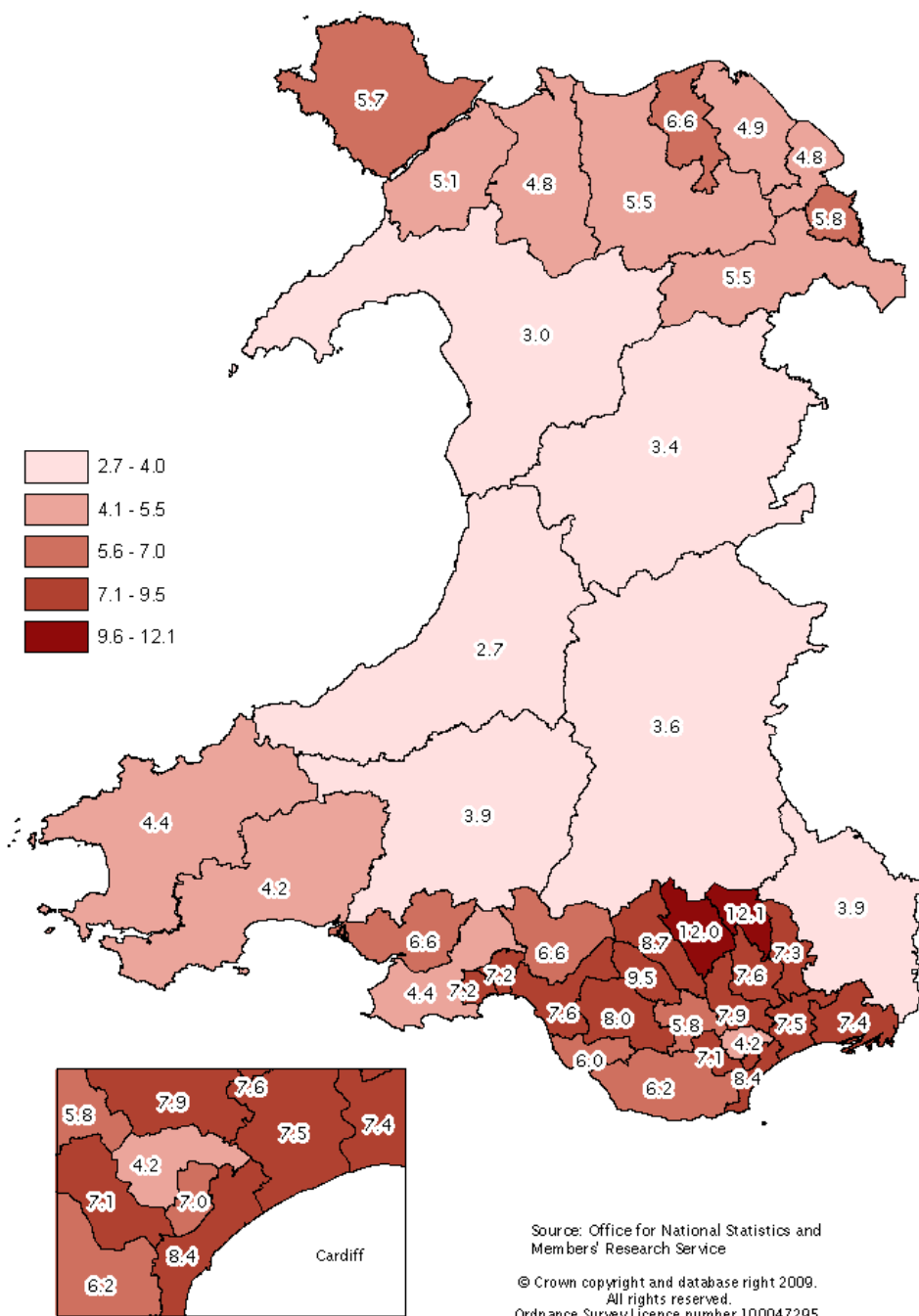
4: Summary statistics for Assembly constituencies

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, September 2009 ⁵



⁵ 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, September 2009

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	1,380	475	1,855
Aberconwy	907	262	1,169
Alyn and Deeside	1,352	537	1,889
Arfon	993	285	1,278
Blaenau Gwent	2,438	885	3,323
Brecon and Radnorshire	778	323	1,101
Bridgend	1,363	524	1,887
Caerphilly	2,136	693	2,829
Cardiff Central	1,779	587	2,366
Cardiff North	1,205	427	1,632
Cardiff South and Penarth	2,518	888	3,406
Cardiff West	1,986	737	2,723
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	800	301	1,101
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	993	315	1,308
Ceredigion	620	233	853
Clwyd South	1,324	442	1,766
Clwyd West	1,256	382	1,638
Cynon Valley	1,755	602	2,357
Delyn	1,176	446	1,622
Dwyfor Meirionydd	575	191	766
Gower	1,070	377	1,447
Islwyn	1,731	561	2,292
Llanelli	1,560	432	1,992
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	2,506	789	3,295
Monmouth	1,002	394	1,396
Montgomeryshire	693	279	972
Neath	1,410	540	1,950
Newport East	1,853	632	2,485
Newport West	1,984	660	2,644
Ogmore	1,860	634	2,494
Pontypridd	1,477	536	2,013
Preseli Pembrokeshire	1,035	325	1,360
Rhondda	1,942	616	2,558
Swansea East	1,778	540	2,318
Swansea West	1,559	553	2,112
Torfaen	1,965	614	2,579
Vale of Clwyd	1,547	426	1,973
Vale of Glamorgan	1,919	724	2,643
Wrexham	1,353	526	1,879
Ynys Mon	1,197	441	1,638
Wales	58,775	20,134	78,909

Source: Nomis

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

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	10.2	4.4	7.6
Aberconwy	6.9	2.4	4.8
Alyn and Deeside	6.2	3.0	4.8
Arfon	7.4	2.5	5.1
Blaenau Gwent	16.0	7.2	12.1
Brecon and Radnorshire	4.6	2.3	3.6
Bridgend	8.0	3.7	6.0
Caerphilly	11.0	4.3	7.9
Cardiff Central	10.0	3.7	7.0
Cardiff North	6.1	2.3	4.2
Cardiff South and Penarth	11.8	4.7	8.4
Cardiff West	9.9	4.1	7.1
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	5.1	2.4	3.9
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	5.9	2.2	4.2
Ceredigion	3.6	1.6	2.7
Clwyd South	7.5	3.1	5.5
Clwyd West	7.9	2.8	5.5
Cynon Valley	11.9	4.9	8.7
Delyn	6.4	3.0	4.9
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	4.0	1.7	3.0
Gower	6.1	2.5	4.4
Islwyn	10.4	4.1	7.6
Llanelli	9.4	3.1	6.6
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	16.6	6.4	12.0
Monmouth	5.2	2.4	3.9
Montgomeryshire	4.4	2.2	3.4
Neath	8.6	4.0	6.6
Newport East	10.1	4.1	7.4
Newport West	10.4	4.0	7.5
Ogmore	10.8	4.6	8.0
Pontypridd	7.9	3.3	5.8
Preseli Pembrokeshire	6.2	2.4	4.4
Rhondda	13.0	5.2	9.5
Swansea East	10.2	3.7	7.2
Swansea West	9.8	4.1	7.2
Torfaen	10.3	3.8	7.3
Vale of Clwyd	9.7	3.0	6.6
Vale of Glamorgan	8.3	3.7	6.2
Wrexham	7.8	3.6	5.8
Ynys Mon	7.6	3.5	5.7
Wales	8.6	3.5	6.2

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.

Table 4.3: Claimant count change between August and September 2009 by Assembly Constituency (a)

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	7	18	25
Aberconwy	22	18	40
Alyn and Deeside	-21	-41	-62
Arfon	-10	-4	-14
Blaenau Gwent	-18	7	-11
Brecon and Radnorshire	-7	7	0
Bridgend	-26	-16	-42
Caerphilly	1	7	8
Cardiff Central	27	-5	22
Cardiff North	19	-13	6
Cardiff South and Penarth	6	-13	-7
Cardiff West	-50	-38	-88
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	-40	-11	-51
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	-19	5	-14
Ceredigion	-1	-21	-22
Clwyd South	31	9	40
Clwyd West	12	-13	-1
Cynon Valley	27	7	34
Delyn	-21	0	-21
Dwyfor Meirionydd	17	10	27
Gower	10	-10	0
Islwyn	-34	-44	-78
Llanelli	-8	-7	-15
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	5	27	32
Monmouth	8	19	27
Montgomeryshire	-47	-10	-57
Neath	-33	2	-31
Newport East	2	-5	-3
Newport West	-56	-46	-102
Ogmore	-14	20	6
Pontypridd	6	-26	-20
Preseli Pembrokeshire	-30	19	-11
Rhondda	15	19	34
Swansea East	27	-20	7
Swansea West	-66	9	-57
Torfaen	-63	-28	-91
Vale of Clwyd	19	-15	4
Vale of Glamorgan	-36	21	-15
Wrexham	32	1	33
Ynys Mon	-66	6	-60
Wales	-373	-155	-528

Source: Nomis

(a) Count of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance

Table 4.4: Residence-based claimant count rate change between August and September 2009 by Assembly Constituency (percentage point change) (a)

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	0.1	0.2	0.1
Aberconwy	0.2	0.2	0.2
Alyn and Deeside	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Arfon	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Blaenau Gwent	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Brecon and Radnorshire	0.0	0.1	0.0
Bridgend	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Caerphilly	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cardiff Central	0.2	0.0	0.1
Cardiff North	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Cardiff South and Penarth	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Cardiff West	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Ceredigion	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Clwyd South	0.2	0.1	0.1
Clwyd West	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Cynon Valley	0.2	0.1	0.1
Delyn	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Dwyfor Meirionydd	0.1	0.1	0.1
Gower	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Islwyn	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3
Llanelli	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	0.0	0.2	0.1
Monmouth	0.0	0.1	0.1
Montgomeryshire	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2
Neath	-0.2	0.0	-0.1
Newport East	0.0	0.0	0.0
Newport West	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Ogmore	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Pontypridd	0.0	-0.2	-0.1
Preseli Pembrokeshire	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Rhondda	0.1	0.2	0.1
Swansea East	0.2	-0.1	0.0
Swansea West	-0.4	0.1	-0.2
Torfaen	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3
Vale of Clwyd	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Vale of Glamorgan	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Wrexham	0.2	0.0	0.1
Ynys Mon	-0.4	0.0	-0.2
Wales	-0.1	0.0	0.0

Source: Members' Research Service

(a) Unofficial residence based rates: Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over derived from the 2001 Census

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 has stated 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 mean 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.

