

Table 4 Measures of employment and unemployment in the UK

Thousands

| | 1979 | 1984 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Employees | 23,092 | 20,942 | 22,504 | 22,710 | 22,330 | 21,579 | 21,318 | 21,423 | 21,684 | 22,078 | 22,554 | 22,962 | 23,405 | 23,851 | 24,096 | 24,262 | 24,392 | 24,508 | 24,792 | 25,006 | 25,093 | 25,400 |
| + Self-employed | 1,833 | 2,688 | 3,494 | 3,531 | 3,374 | 3,446 | 3,407 | 3,490 | 3,555 | 3,464 | 3,462 | 3,365 | 3,290 | 3,238 | 3,263 | 3,321 | 3,512 | 3,605 | 3,612 | 3,672 | 3,766 | 3,816 |
| + Training programmes | - | 318 | 496 | 471 | 436 | 381 | 359 | 337 | 286 | 250 | 220 | 176 | 160 | 145 | 155 | 111 | 98 | 131 | 119 | 100 | 109 | 123 |
| + Unpaid family workers | - | - | - | - | - | 180 | 150 | 145 | 139 | 127 | 118 | 102 | 100 | 109 | 96 | 94 | 84 | 99 | 101 | 85 | 101 | 116 |
| = Total in employment | 24,925 | 23,974 | 26,502 | 26,717 | 26,154 | 25,586 | 25,234 | 25,396 | 25,663 | 25,918 | 26,354 | 26,605 | 26,954 | 27,343 | 27,610 | 27,788 | 28,085 | 28,343 | 28,624 | 28,864 | 29,069 | 29,455 |
| + ILO unemployed | 1,528 | 3,209 | 2,059 | 1,959 | 2,391 | 2,732 | 2,890 | 2,689 | 2,415 | 2,293 | 1,997 | 1,738 | 1,712 | 1,590 | 1,380 | 1,490 | 1,434 | 1,384 | 1,384 | 1,615 | 1,616 | 1,568 |
| = Total economically active | 26,453 | 27,183 | 28,561 | 28,676 | 28,545 | 28,318 | 28,124 | 28,086 | 28,078 | 28,211 | 28,351 | 28,343 | 28,666 | 28,933 | 28,990 | 29,278 | 29,519 | 29,727 | 30,008 | 30,479 | 30,685 | 31,023 |
| Economically inactive | 15,727 | 16,557 | 16,146 | 16,133 | 16,350 | 16,674 | 16,897 | 16,981 | 17,115 | 17,137 | 17,155 | 17,334 | 17,222 | 17,199 | 17,450 | 17,449 | 17,498 | 17,635 | 17,779 | 17,705 | 17,902 | 17,952 |
| Claimant unemployed | 1,070 | 2,860 | 1,790 | 1,574 | 2,208 | 2,691 | 2,912 | 2,651 | 2,307 | 2,153 | 1,618 | 1,351 | 1,275 | 1,104 | 971 | 951 | 944 | 859 | 853 | 952 | 876 | 827 |

Sources: Economic & Labour Market Review, Labour Force Survey Historical Supplement, Office for National Statistics.

Notes: Claimant unemployment figures are seasonally adjusted for the second quarter of the year. This series relates only to claimants aged 18+, and is based on the current definition of claimant unemployment. All other figures are from the Labour Force Survey for the April of each year and include all those aged from 16 to retirement ages, and are not seasonally adjusted. The Labour Force definitions of unemployment and inactivity apply for 1979. Thereafter, the ILO definition (based on a four week instead of a one week job search period) applies.