

Labour market analysis – January 2009 data

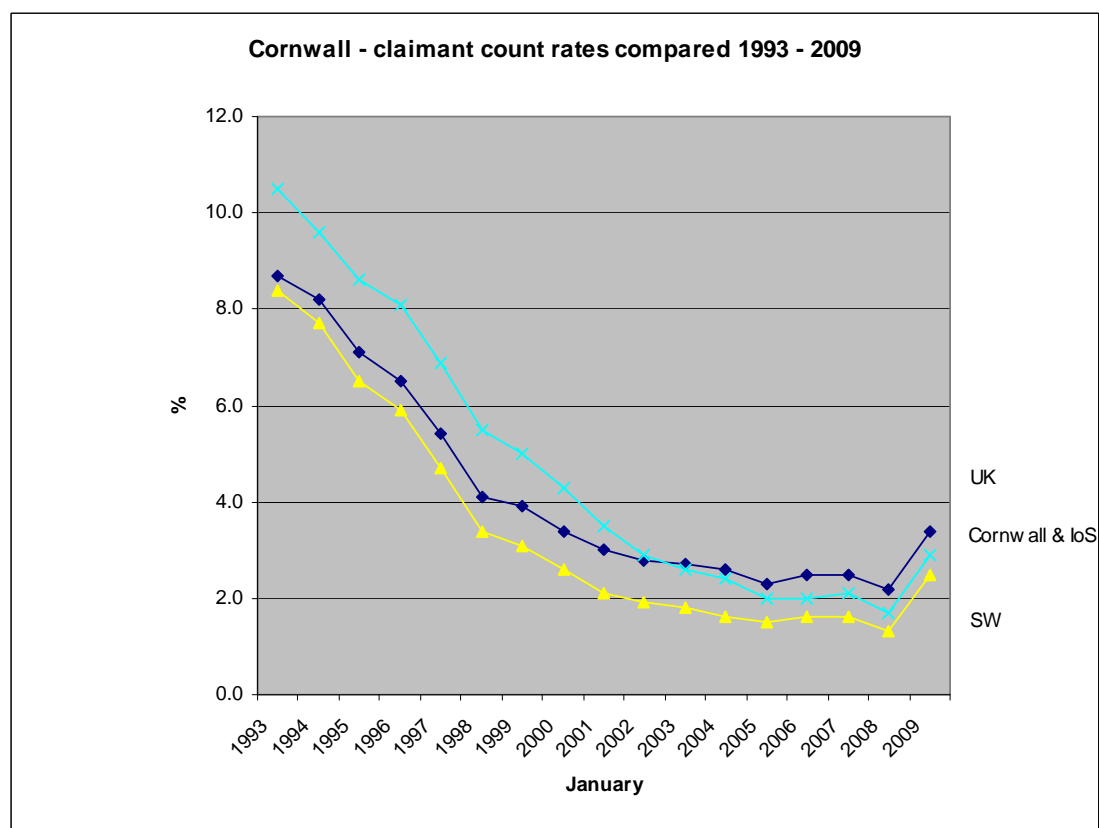
Claimant count

The latest claimant count data was released on 11th February 2009. The figures relate to those claiming Jobseekers Allowance. *[This figure is considered to underestimate the actual numbers unemployed, hence though useful the unemployment figures are taken as a more accurate representation of the situation].*

As expected there has been an increase in the numbers claiming. The total for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is now 8,998 or 2.9%. The UK rate is 3.4% and the SW rate 2.5%. Since December numbers in Cornwall have increased by 1,134, a rise of 14.4%. Comparative figures for the UK and SW are 11.2% and 15.1%.

The figure below shows the changes in the claimant rates. In Cornwall, this year shows an upward movement after last years dip when the lowest rate since 1993 of 1.7% was recorded, which with the exception of 2007, was preceded by a period of steady but limited decreases then two years of flat-lining. The UK rate showed a similar pattern.

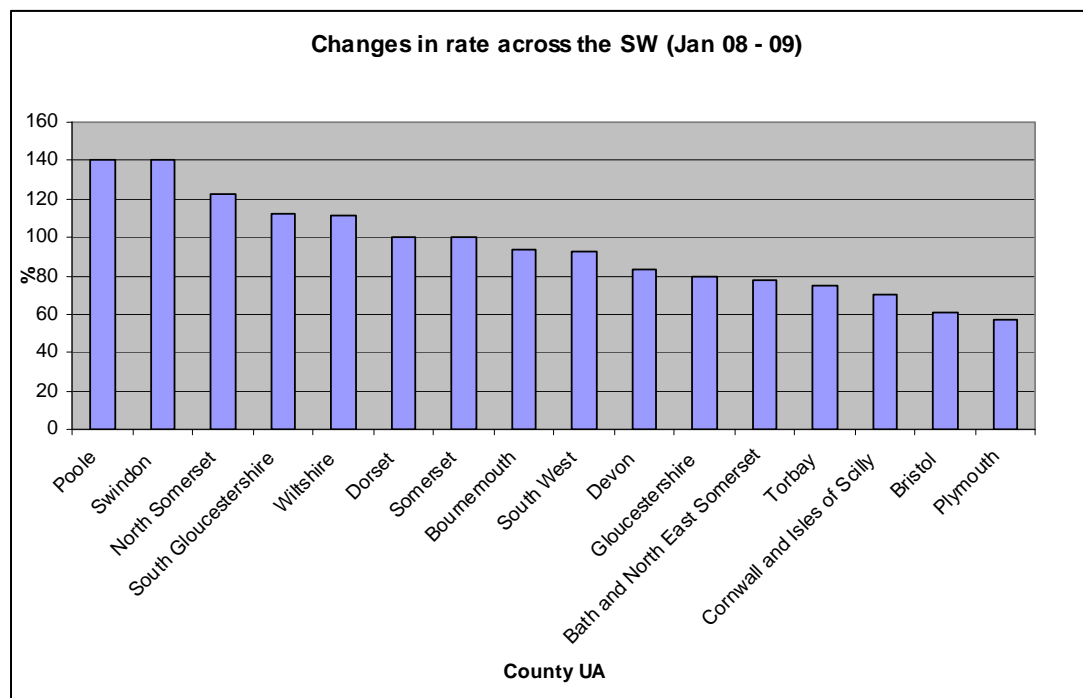
Fig 1: Claimant count



Since January 2008 the number of claimants has risen by 3,746 or 71%. This compares to an increase of 54% across the UK and 87% across the South West. The last time Cornwall's January figure was higher than this was in 2001 when it equalled 10,369. Figure 2, shows the percentage

change in the claimant count rate over the past year. Across SW England the 2009 rate was 92% above the 2008 rate, for Cornwall the figure was 71%.

Fig 2: Changes in claimant count rate



Unemployment data

Up to date unemployment data is not available at a sub-regional level. The latest figure for Cornwall which covered the period July 2007 – June 2008, was 13,200. This represents an increase of 1200 on the previous year. Unemployment figures have trended upwards since Apr 2005 - Mar 2006. *[Unemployment figures relate to those of working age, residence basis].*

Comparative figures for the year ending June 2008 show that Cornwall's rate was above the UK rate.

Table 1: Unemployment comparisons % rate

	United Kingdom	England	South West	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Jul 07-Jun 08	5.3	5.4	3.9	5.4

Source: NOMIS.

Vacancies

The latest vacancies data was released on 11th February 2009. There were 752 vacancies in Cornwall in January. This represents a decline of 736 since December (-98%). This decline reflects a general fall in vacancies - Britain (-100%), SW England (-93%).

Compared to January 2008 the number of vacancies has decreased by 312 or -29%. Again vacancies fell across Britain (- 39%) and the SW (-38%).

One way of analysing the data is to look at the vacancy to claimant count ratio. This, which shows the number of vacancies per claimant, is a crude measure of how buoyant the jobs market is.

Currently the ratio in Cornwall stands at 0.08, the lowest recorded within the last year. The figure for Cornwall is also lower than for the SW (0.14) and Britain (.10). The January 2009 figures are also all below the figures for January 2008. Actual vacancies were lower in January 2009 than in January 2008 for all areas.

Table 2: Labour market comparisons

Month	Great Britain			South West			Cornwall and Isles of Scilly		
	Claimants	Vacancies	Ratio	Claimants	Vacancies	Ratio	Claimants	Vacancies	Ratio
January 2008	806,431	194,349	0.24	41,126	16,733	0.41	5,252	1,064	0.20
December 2008	1,117,512	237,386	0.21	66,710	20,021	0.30	7,864	1,488	0.19
January 2009	1,243,064	118,637	0.10	76,814	10,379	0.14	8,998	752	0.08

Source: Derived from NOMIS.

Notes

The claimant count rate represents the number of claimants of Jobseekers Allowance as a proportion of resident working age population estimates.

Claimant count data available for UK and units within the UK.

Vacancy data only available for Great Britain and units within GB.

Quarterly data UK – (October-December 2008).

There has been a fall in both the number of people in employment and the employment rate. The number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have all increased. The number of inactive people of working age and the inactivity rate have fallen. The number of vacancies has fallen. Growth in average earnings, both including and excluding bonuses is unchanged.

The working age employment rate was 74.1 per cent in the three months to December 2008, down 0.3 percentage points on the three months to September 2008 and down 0.7 percentage points from a year earlier. The employment level was 29.36 million in the three months to December 2008, down 45,000 from the three months to September 2008 and down 37,000 on a year earlier.

The unemployment rate was 6.3 per cent in the three months to December 2008, up 0.4 percentage points from the three months to September 2008 and up 1.1 percentage points from a year earlier. The unemployment level was 1.97 million in the three months to December 2008, up 146,000 from the three months to September 2008 and up 369,000 from a year earlier.

The claimant count in January 2009 was 1.23 million, up 73,800 on the previous month and up 438,100 on a year earlier. The claimant count rate in January 2009 was 3.8 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous month and up 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier.

There were 504,000 job vacancies in the three months to January 2009, down 76,000 from the three months to October 2008 and down 179,000 from a year earlier. There were 1.9 vacancies per 100 employee jobs, down 0.3 on the previous quarter and down 0.7 over the year.

In the three months to December 2008, 259,000 people reported they had become redundant in the three months before their Labour Force Survey interview, up 104,000 from the three months to September 2008 and up 148,000 from a year earlier. The redundancy rate was 10.2 per 1,000 employees, up 4.1 from the three months to September 2008 and up 5.8 from a year earlier.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Labour Market Statistics, First Release, Feb 11th 2009.

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