

Economic Factsheet: Unemployment and Economic Inactivity November 2016



Unemployment is an important indicator of the state of the economy. There are several measures which can be used to show levels of unemployment and economic inactivity:

- **Claimant count** – This shows the number of people who are out of work and claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and is often expressed as a rate. Data is published monthly.
- **Unemployment rate** – Often called the ILO unemployment rate, this measure assesses the number of jobless people who want to work, are available to work and are actively seeking employment. This measure is usually higher than the claimant rate as not all people looking for work are either eligible or choose to claim JSA. Data is published quarterly.
- **Economic inactivity** – This is a broader measure of people who are economically inactive for a range of reasons, including students, people who are unable to work due to illness, retired people and those looking after family/home. Data is published quarterly.

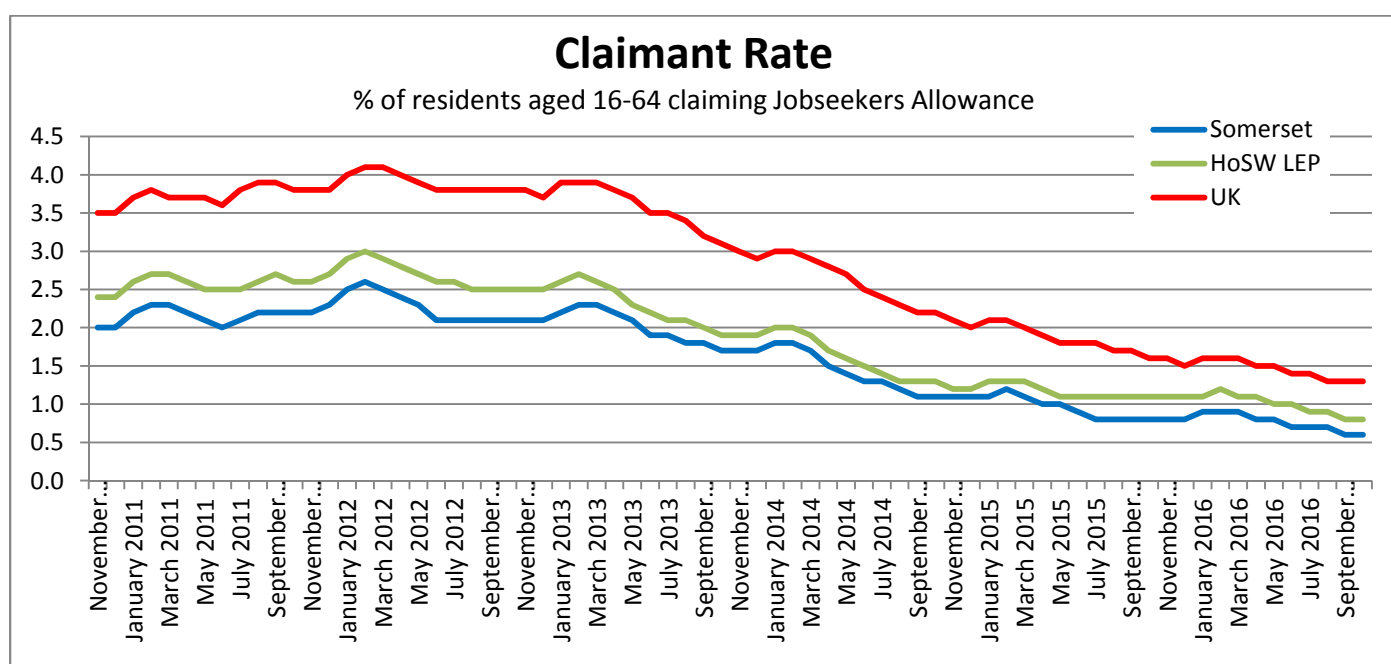
Claimant Count (October 2016)

% of residents aged 16-64 claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)

Area	Current claimant rate (%)	Qtrly change (April 2016- July 2016)	Annual Change (July 2015 -16)
Somerset	0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Mendip	0.4	-0.2	-0.3
Sedgemoor	0.4	-0.3	-0.6
South Somerset	0.7	0.0	0.0
Taunton Deane	0.9	0.0	0.0
West Somerset	0.4	0.0	-0.1
HOSW LEP	0.8	-0.1	-0.3
UK	1.3	-0.1	-0.3

In July 2016, 0.6% of people in Somerset aged 16-64 were claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). Taunton Deane has the highest claimant rate in Somerset (0.9%) and Mendip, Sedgemoor and West Somerset all have the lowest with 0.4%.

Source: Claimant count with rates and proportions, NOMIS 2016



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Somerset has a consistently lower claimant rate than the UK and Heart of the South West LEP area. Somerset's claimant rate is steadily declining.

Unemployment rate (June 2016)

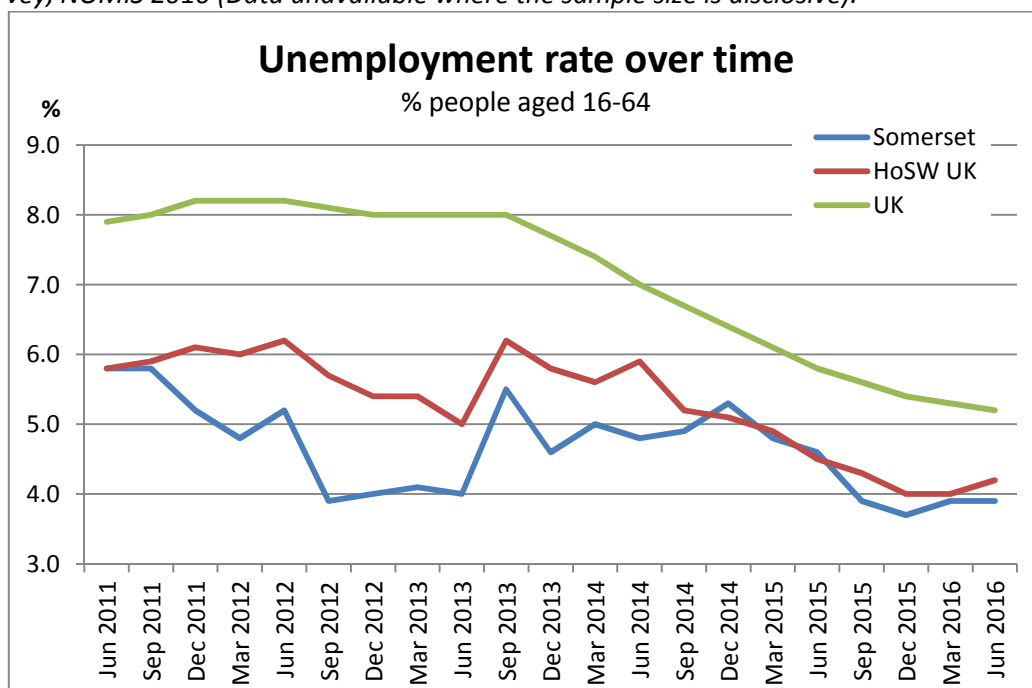
% of residents aged 16-64 who are unemployed

Area	Current unemployment rate (%)	Qtrly Change (March 2016 – June 2016)	Annual Change (June 2015 - 2016)
Somerset	3.9	0	-0.7
Mendip	5.7	-0.3	3.2
Sedgemoor	4.7	0.5	-1.8
South Somerset	3.4	-0.1	-0.9
Taunton Deane	2.7	-0.3	-2.5
West Somerset	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Heart of the South West LEP	4.2	0.0	-0.3
UK	5.2	-0.1	-0.6

ILO unemployment in Somerset stood at 3.9% in June 2016, lower than the Heart of the South West LEP area (4.0%) and the UK as a whole (5.2%). Somerset's unemployment rate has fallen over the last year (0.7%). Available data shows Mendip has the highest unemployment rate of all the districts (5.7%).

Source: Annual population survey, NOMIS 2016 (Data unavailable where the sample size is disclosive).

Somerset's unemployment rate is consistently lower than the national level. After peaking at 8% in December 2010, the general trend has been downwards but fluctuations in the last year show the rate increasing slightly and then falling. Over the same period, the UK unemployment rate remained constant, with signs of a declining trend from September 2013.



Source: Annual population survey, NOMIS 2016

Economic inactivity (June 2016)

Area	Current economic inactivity rate (%)	Qtrly change (March 2016 – June 2016)	Annual Change (June 2015 - 2016)	% of economically inactive who want a job	Qtrly change (March 2016 – June 2016)	Annual Change (June 2015-2016)
Somerset	19.5	0.5	2.6	34.3	2.9	7.1
Mendip	23.5	-0.7	4.7	35.9	3.6	1.6
Sedgemoor	20.6	0.9	0.6	41.0	4.2	12.1
South Somerset	17.5	0.8	0.5	27.5	6.7	7.3
Taunton Deane	17.7	-0.5	4.7	30.4	-5.9	4.4
West Somerset	18.2	6.2	6.1	46.8	N/A	N/A
HoSW LEP	20	0.7	0.5	30.4	1.1	4.7
UK	22.3	0	-0.3	24.2	-0.1	0.3

Source: Annual population survey, NOMIS 2016. NB. Some data unavailable due to small sample size.

Somerset's economic inactivity rate is lower than nationally. Mendip has the highest proportion of economically inactive residents (23.5%), closely followed by Sedgemoor (20.6%) and West Somerset (18.2%). South Somerset has the lowest economic inactivity rate (17.5%). West Somerset (46.8%) and Sedgemoor (41%) has the highest proportion of economically inactive persons who want a job.