

National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing October 2012

This briefing paper provides a statistical overview of unemployment trends.

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

Research
Service



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

The Research Service provides expert and impartial research and information to support Assembly Members and committees in fulfilling the scrutiny, legislative and representative functions of the National Assembly for Wales.

Research Service briefings are compiled for the benefit of Assembly Members and their support staff. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with Members and their staff but cannot advise members of the general public. We welcome comments on our briefings; please post or email to the addresses below.

An electronic version of this paper can be found on the National Assembly's website at: www.assemblywales.org/research

Further hard copies of this paper can be obtained from:

**Research Service
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA**

Email: Research.Service@wales.gov.uk

Twitter: [@NAWRResearch](https://twitter.com/NAWRResearch)

© National Assembly for Wales Commission Copyright 2012

The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading or derogatory context. The material must be acknowledged as copyright of the National Assembly for Wales Commission and the title of the document specified.

Enquiry no: 12/2718

National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing
October 2012

Gareth Thomas

Paper number: 12/ 047

Research
Service



Unemployment Briefing: October 2012

Introduction

Unemployment statistics are published each month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This paper is released shortly after the ONS data and aims to provide a brief summary of the latest unemployment situation in Wales and the UK.

Section 1 contains headline figures and analysis relating to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and claimant count measures. Additional information is provided in sections 2 to 7. These sections cover comparative information on unemployment rates between genders, age groups, and between Wales and the other UK nations and regions. Additionally, information and analysis on long-term unemployment, and the latest unemployment figures for Assembly Constituencies is provided.

The Research Service is able to provide **Assembly Members and their staff** with more detailed analyses in relation to unemployment and long-term labour market trends on request. If you would like us to do this, please contact Gareth Thomas on 029 2089 8917 or at gareth.david.thomas@wales.gov.uk

1. Headline Figures

Table 1.1: Headline unemployment figures

Measure	Latest figure	Change since previous	
		Month/quarter	Year
Number of ILO unemployed people in Wales (June - August 2012)	125,000	↓ Decrease of 7,000 since last quarter	↓ Decrease of 8,000
ILO unemployment rate in Wales (June - August 2012)	8.3%	↓ Decrease of 0.7 percentage points since last quarter	↓ Decrease of 0.9 percentage points
Claimant count in Wales (September 2012)	79,700	↑ Increase of 200 since last month	↑ Increase of 1,800
Claimant count rate in Wales (September 2012)	5.5%	→ 0.0 percentage points since last month	↑ Increase of 0.1 percentage points

Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – October 2012 Headline indicators for Wales: Table 1 – Summary of LFS headline indicators](#) and [Table 7: Claimant Counts and Rates](#)

Labour Force Survey and ILO Unemployment

- In June to August 2012, the male ILO rate was 8.3%, which has decreased from 11.4% the previous year. The female ILO rate was 8.3%, which increased from 6.6% since the previous year. *Figure 2.1;*
- Wales has had the highest ILO unemployment rate of the UK nations in each quarter in the year to June to August 2012. *Figure 3.1* and
- In July 2011 to June 2012, 50,300 people aged 16-24 were ILO unemployed; the ILO rate for 16-24 year olds was 23.6%. *Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1.*

Claimant count

- In September 2012 20,900 people in Wales had been claiming JSA for over 12 months. This has increased from 10,700 since the previous September. *Figure 5.2;*
- The claimant count for the 18-24 age group was 25,500 in September 2012. This has decreased by 125 since the previous month and by 1,670 since the previous September. *Table 6.2;* and
- The Assembly Constituencies with the highest claimant count rates in September 2012 (based on unofficial estimates) were Blaenau Gwent (12.2%) and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (11.8%). The lowest claimant count rate estimates were in Ceredigion and Montgomeryshire (both 2.8%). *Table 7.2*

ILO Unemployment

The **International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment is the primary measure used in the UK and internationally**, and UK figures are derived by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from the Labour Force Survey. In the UK people who are classed as ILO unemployed are **those who are without a job, are available to start work in the next two weeks, who have been seeking a job in the last four weeks or are waiting to start a job already obtained.**

The ILO unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed people as a percentage of the economically active population (this includes people who are in employment and those who are defined as ILO unemployed).

Claimant Count

The claimant count measures people who are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). It is lower than the ILO definition, because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim benefits, or choose not to do so. **It is the most up-to-date unemployment measure, particularly for smaller areas.**

The claimant count rate is calculated in three ways in this paper:

- **For all figures and tables except those for age groups and Assembly Constituencies it has been calculated using the workplace based claimant count rate** which is used by the ONS in its Regional Labour Market Statistics publication. **This is the number of JSA claimants resident in an area as a percentage of the number of workforce jobs plus JSA claimants in an area.**
- **For age groups, claimant count rates are calculated by the ONS as a percentage of the population of the relevant age group.** They are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore take no account of factors such as labour market recruitment patterns. They also do not take account of differences in economic activity levels between areas.
- **For Assembly Constituencies, the claimant count rates are calculated unofficially by the Research Service using the same methodology as the House of Commons Library.** They are calculated by expressing the number of JSA claimants as a percentage of the economically active population aged between 16 and 64 residing in the constituency. They are an alternative measure to the ONS claimant count rates, which calculate the number of JSA claimants as a percentage of the total population aged 16 to 64 who reside in an area. The population figures are estimates based on the 2001 Census and 2008 Mid-Year Estimates.

Seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted data

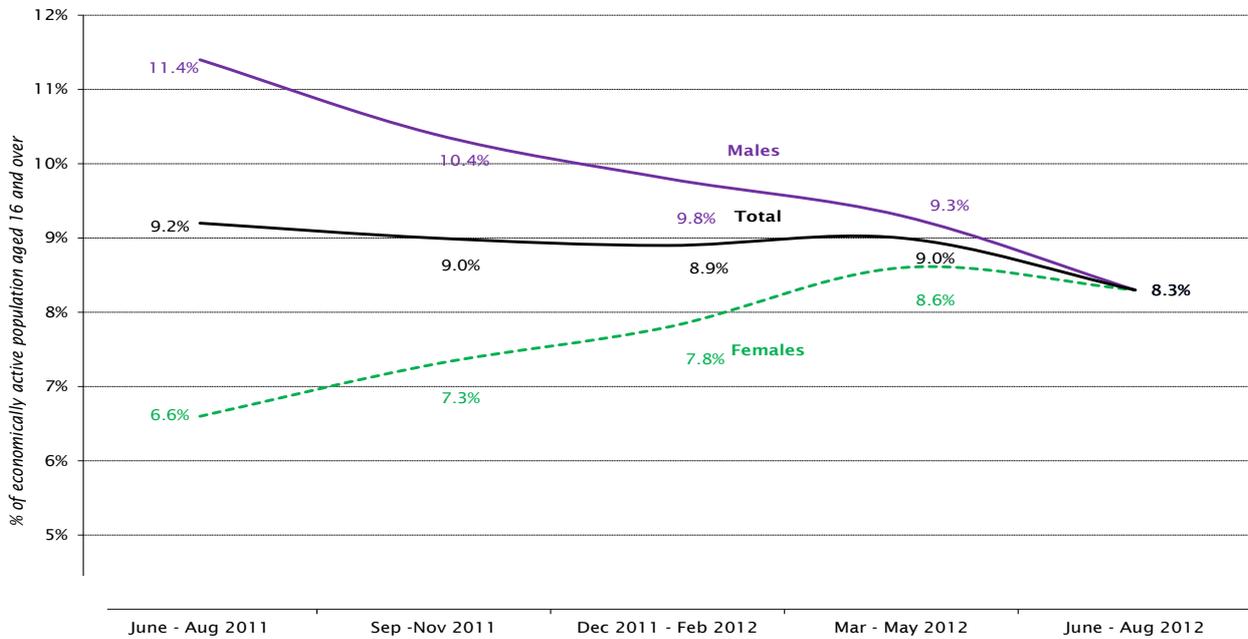
Headline ILO unemployment and claimant count data for Wales and the other UK nations and regions is seasonally adjusted by the ONS. This means that it is statistically adjusted to remove seasonal factors such as holidays and labour market recruitment patterns. For example, a large number of people leave full-time education and enter the labour market in the summer. To make it easier to identify labour market trends the ONS seasonally adjusts this data.

Other unemployment data such as that for age groups and Assembly Constituencies is not seasonally adjusted by the ONS.

2. Unemployment rates in Wales

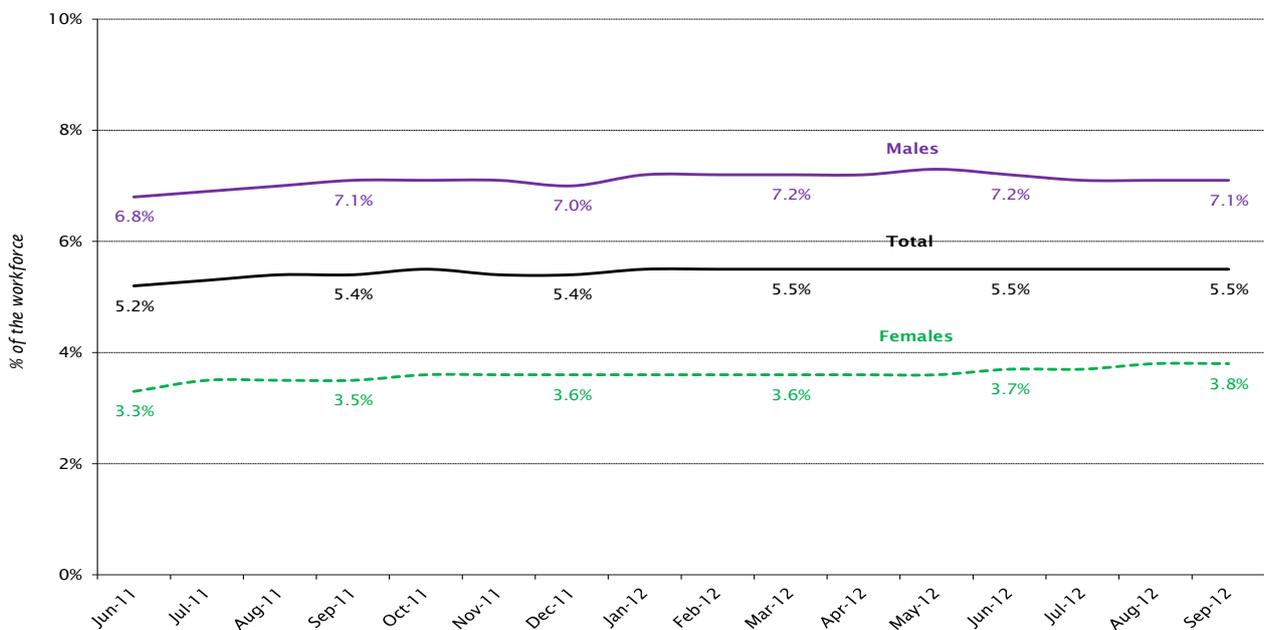
This section provides information on unemployment rates in Wales by gender for the two main measures of unemployment.

Figure 2.1: ILO unemployment rates for Wales, by gender (seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – October 2012 Headline indicators for Wales: Table 1 – Summary of LFS headline indicators](#)

Figure 2.2: Claimant count rates for Wales, by gender (seasonally adjusted)

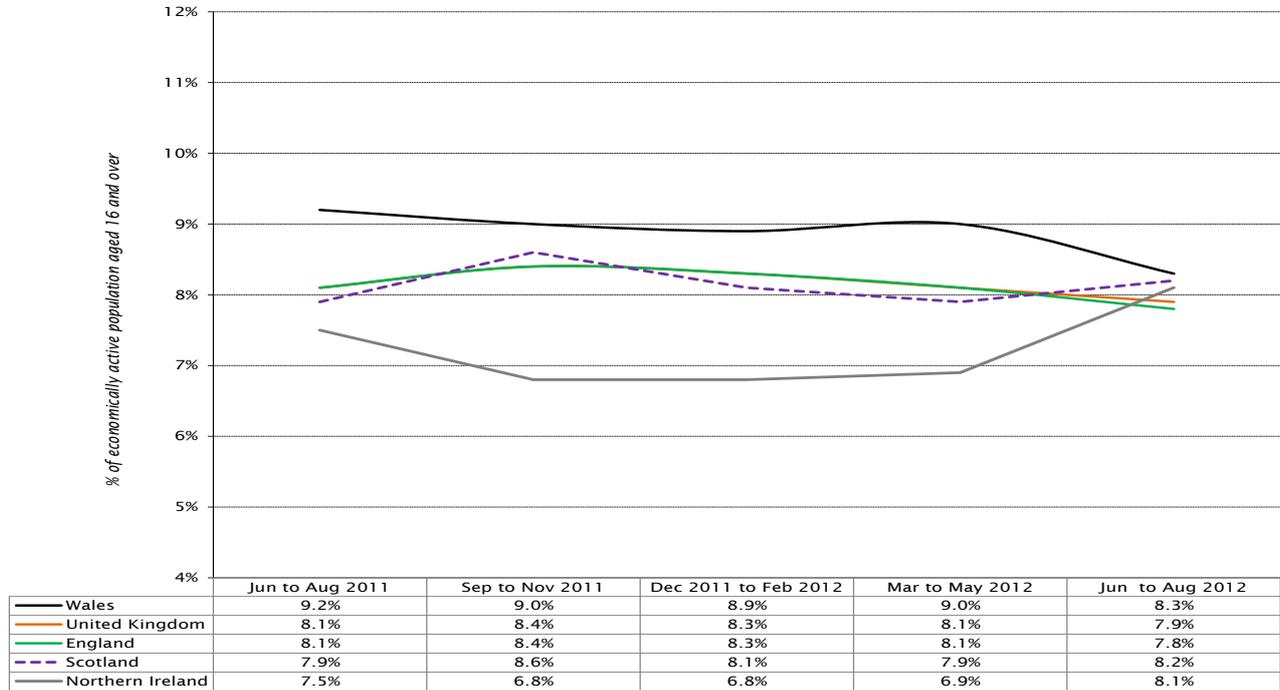


Source: Office for National Statistics, [Claimant Count and Vacancies series](#)

3. Unemployment statistics for UK nations

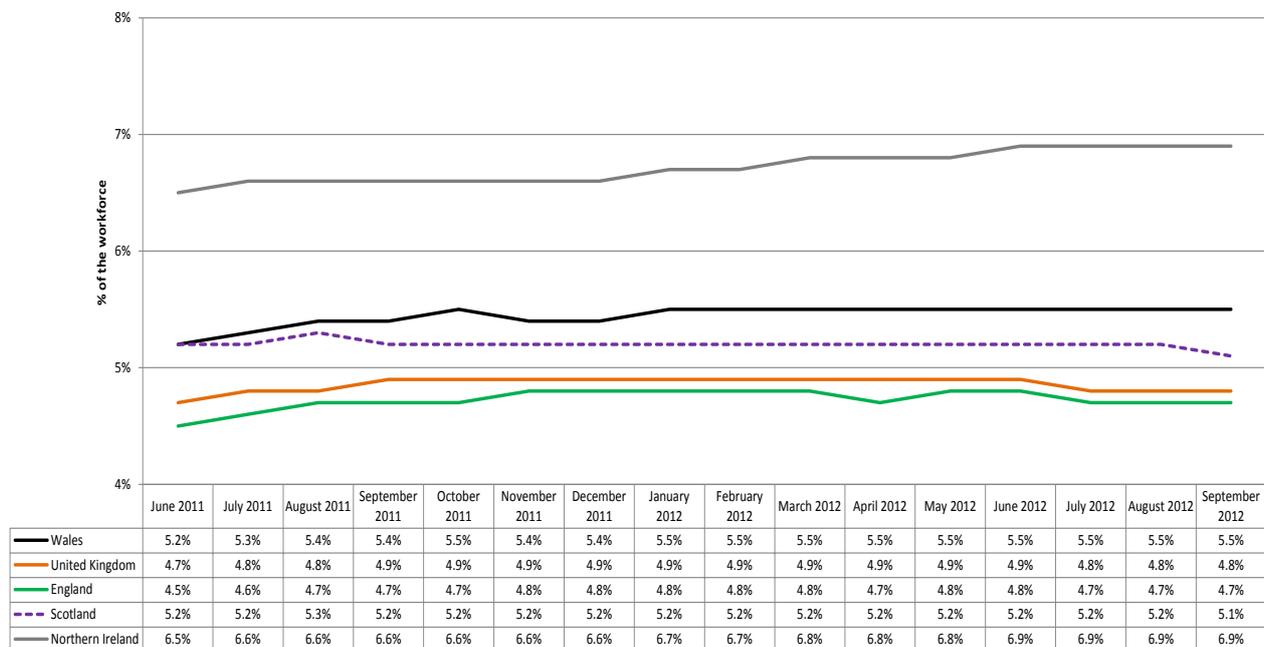
This section provides comparative information on unemployment rates in Wales and the UK nations for the two main measures of unemployment.

Figure 3.1: ILO unemployment rates for UK nations, seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – October 2012 Summary of headline indicators – Table 1](#) and Stats Wales [\[000430\]](#)

Figure 3.2: Claimant count rates for UK nations

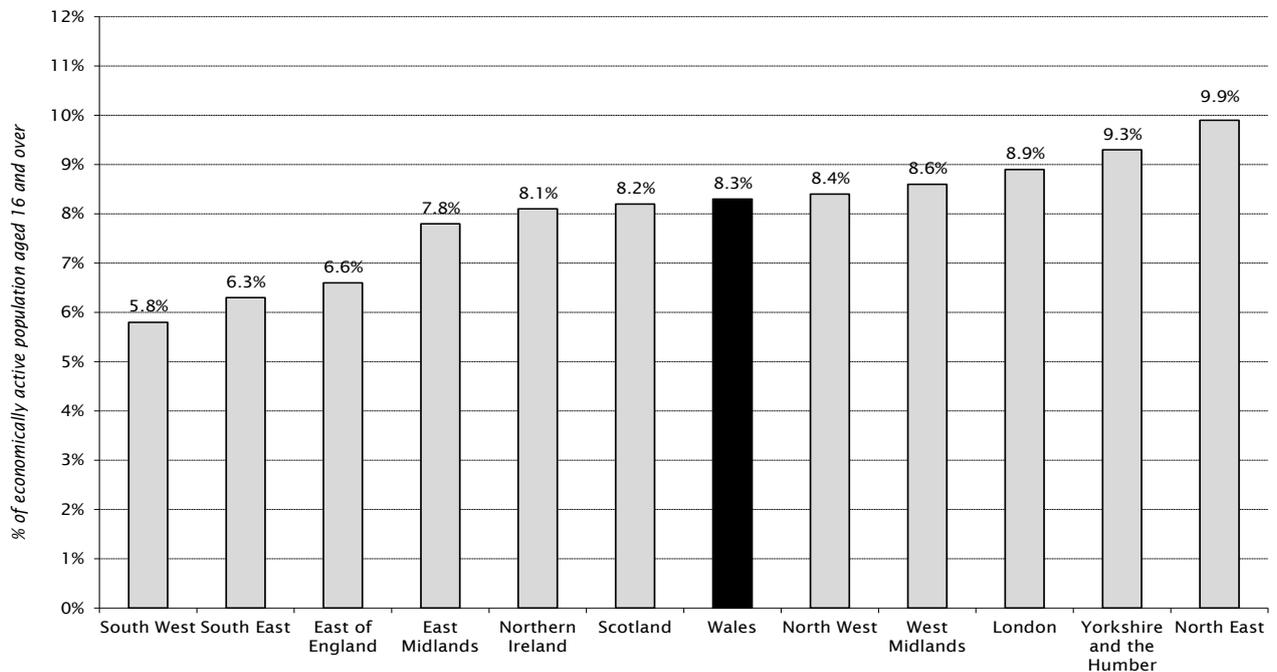


Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – October 2012 Summary of headline indicators – Table 2](#) and Stats Wales [\[007317\]](#)

4. Unemployment rates in UK regions and nations

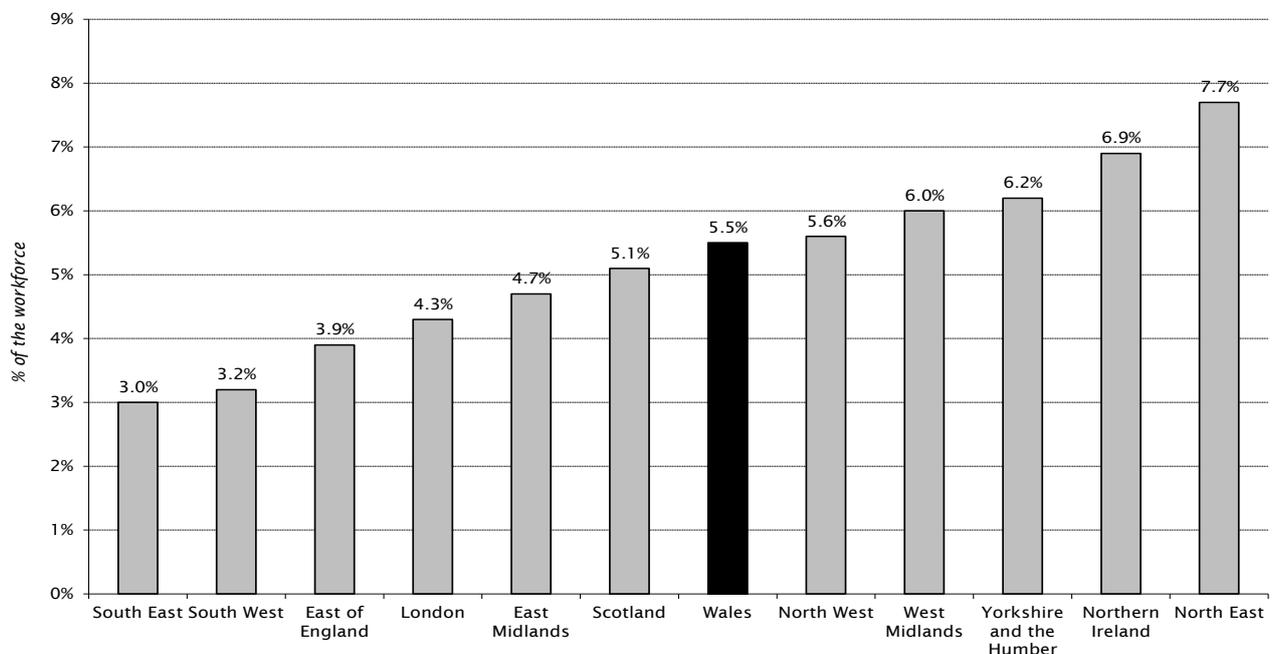
This section provides information on the latest unemployment rates in Wales compared to the UK nations and regions for the two main unemployment measures.

Figure 4.1: ILO unemployment rates (June to August 2012) (seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – October 2012 Summary of headline indicators – Table 1](#)

Figure 4.2: Claimant count rates (September 2012) (seasonally adjusted)



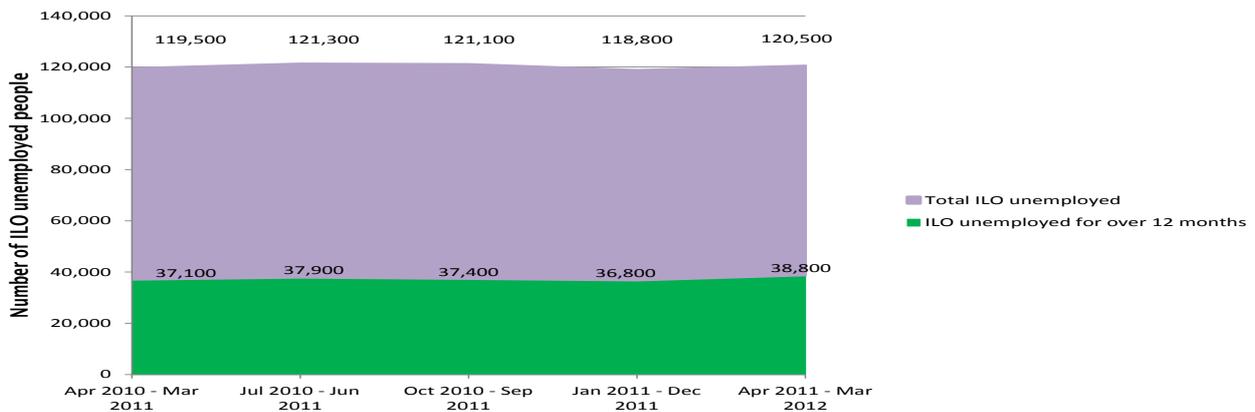
Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – October 2012 Summary of headline indicators – Table 2](#)

5. Long-term unemployment in Wales

This section provides analysis of the number of people that are classed as long-term unemployed for both main measures of unemployment.

Statistics relating to the duration of unemployment using the ILO measure are published by the Welsh Government in its *Key Economic Statistics* publication. This data is available on a rolling twelve-monthly basis, updated once a quarter. **Updated statistics are due to be published on 19 October.**

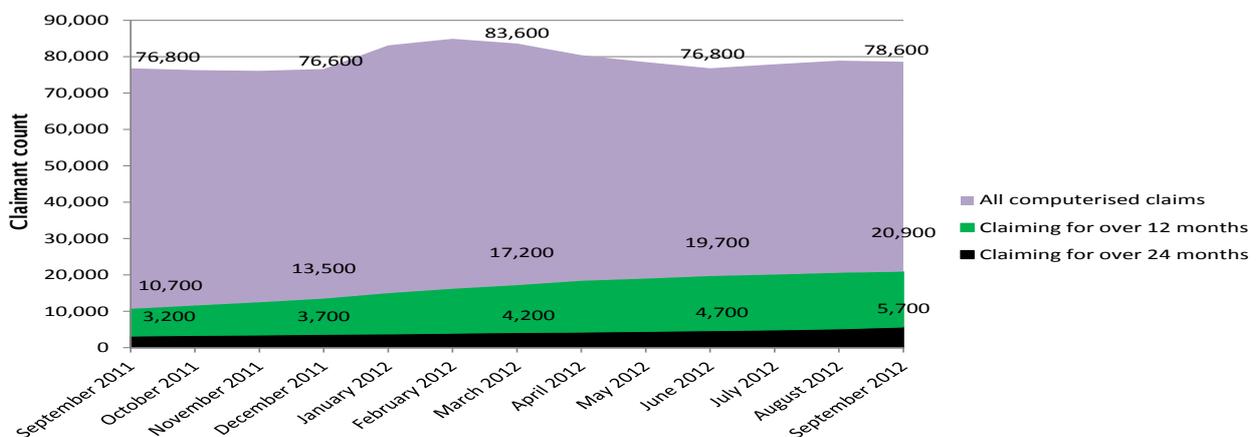
Figure 5.1: ILO unemployment in Wales by duration of unemployment (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Welsh Government, [Key Economic Statistics, September 2012](#)

The ONS publishes data to show the number of JSA claimants that have been claiming for over 12 and 24 months. The figures for those claiming JSA for over 12 months include those claiming for over 24 months. **These figures are not seasonally adjusted, and are for computerised claims as only these claims are analysed by the ONS in terms of duration. For these reasons comparisons cannot be made with the claimant count statistics in the other sections of this paper.**

Figure 5.2: Claimant count in Wales by duration of computerised claims (not seasonally adjusted)



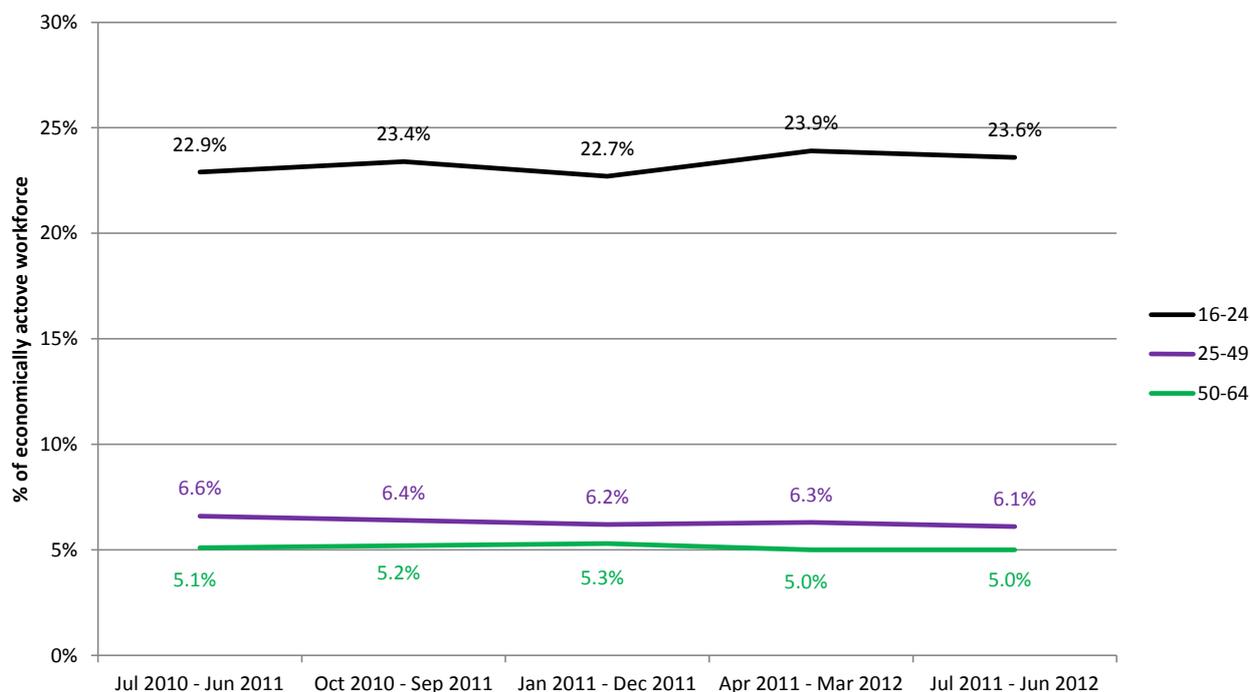
Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics - October 2012 Headline indicators for Wales: Table 8 - Claimant Count by Age and Duration \(Computerised claims only\)](#)

6. Unemployment by age group

This section of the paper gives information on the number and percentage of unemployed people in Wales for the two main measures of unemployment, by age group.

The sample based nature of the Labour Force Survey means that ILO unemployment statistics for different age groups and areas within Wales such as Assembly Constituencies are not available on a rolling three-monthly basis. This data is available on a rolling twelve-monthly basis, updated once a quarter.

Figure 6.1: ILO unemployment rates by age group (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office for National Statistics, [NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics](#)

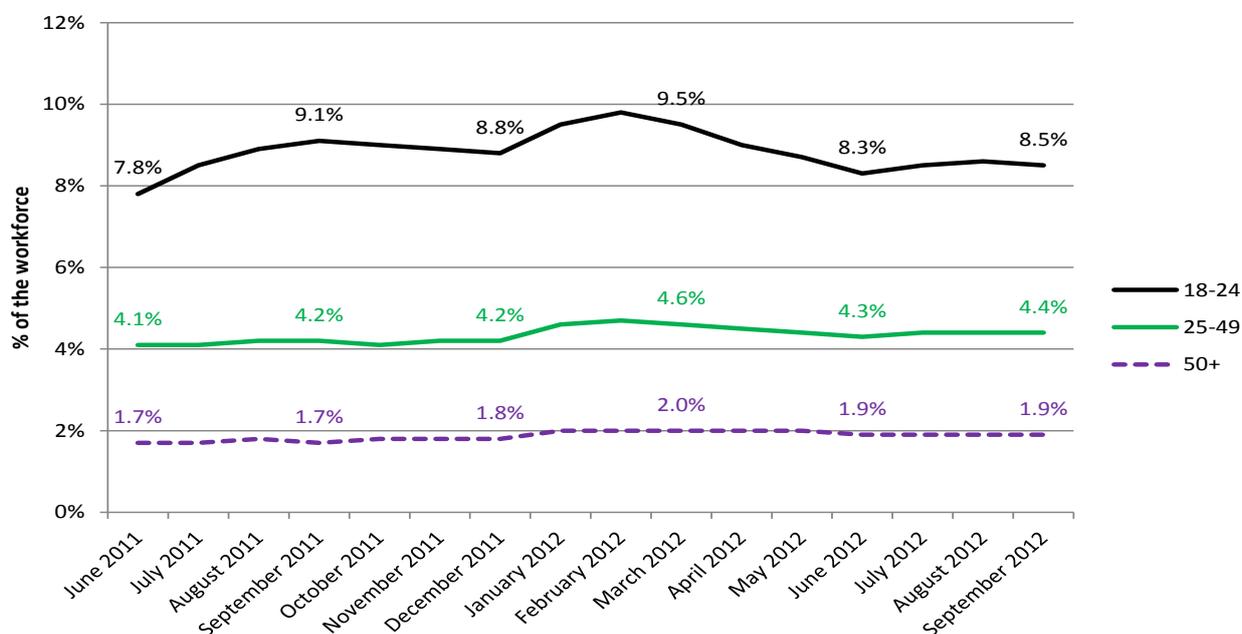
Table 6.1: Number of ILO unemployed people by age group (not seasonally adjusted)

	Age group (years)		
	16-24	25-49	50-64
Jul 2010 - Jun 2011	49,500	52,500	18,600
Oct 2010 - Sep 2011	50,300	50,700	19,200
Jan 2011 - Dec 2011	49,100	49,100	19,500
Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	50,900	49,900	18,700
Jul 2011 - Jun 2012	50,300	49,000	18,700

Source: Office for National Statistics, [NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics](#)

Claimant count rates by age group are calculated by the Office for National Statistics as a percentage of the population, and do not take into account whether people are economically active or not. They are also not seasonally adjusted, and so are not comparable with the claimant count rates in the rest of the paper.

Figure 6.2: Claimant count rate by age group (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office for National Statistics, [NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics: Labour Market Profile Wales](#)

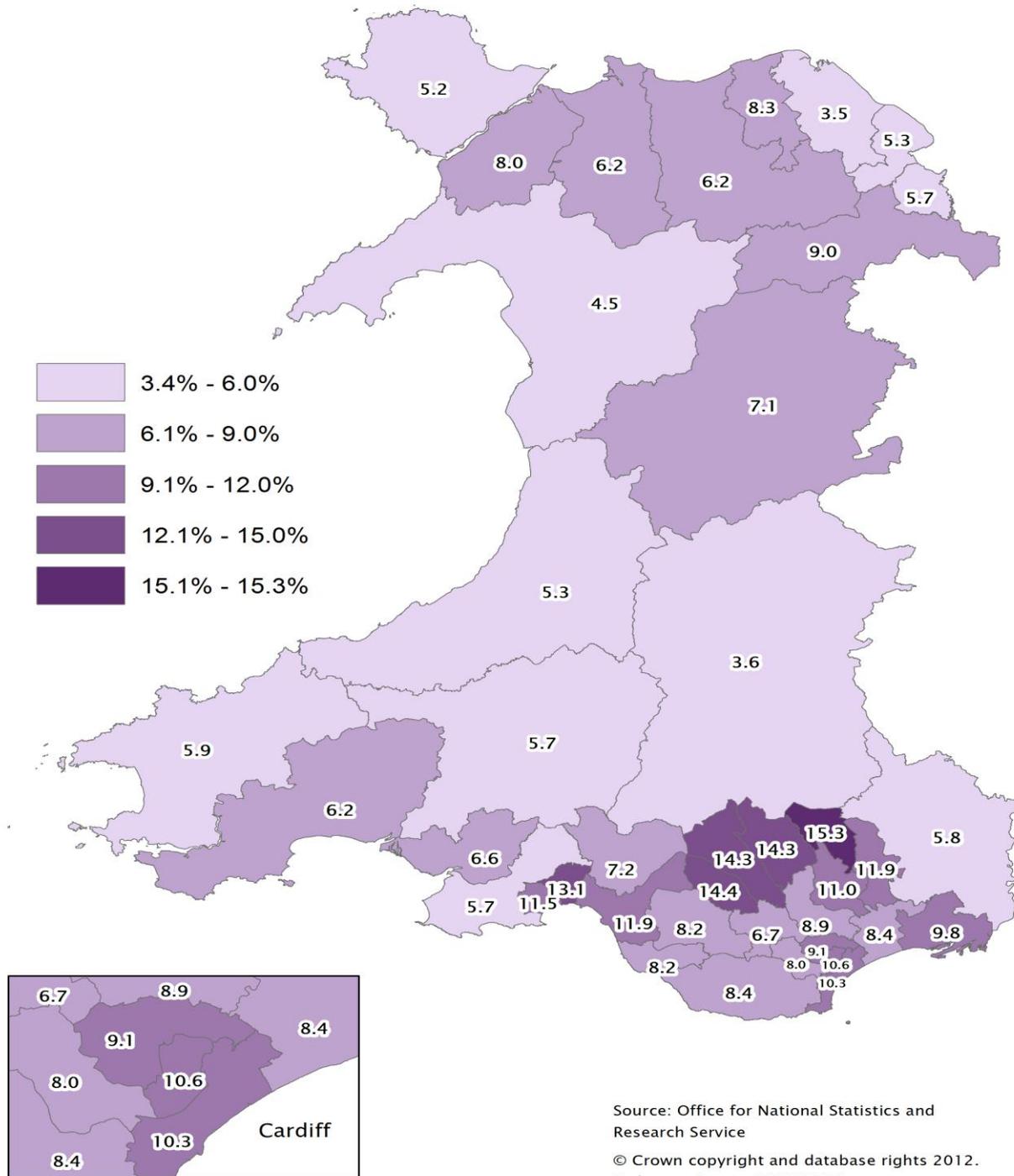
Table 6.2: Number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance, by age group (not seasonally adjusted)

	18-24	25-49	50+
June 2011	23,185	38,215	9,925
July 2011	25,335	39,055	10,080
August 2011	26,645	39,640	10,220
September 2011	27,170	39,340	10,115
October 2011	26,880	39,105	10,220
November 2011	26,415	39,180	10,400
December 2011	26,160	39,635	10,650
January 2012	28,200	43,140	11,550
February 2012	29,110	43,835	11,760
March 2012	28,455	43,290	11,680
April 2012	26,770	41,985	11,520
May 2012	25,920	41,090	11,360
June 2012	24,665	40,830	11,180
July 2012	25,370	41,275	11,150
August 2012	25,625	41,915	11,230
September 2012	25,500	41,825	11,190

Source: Office for National Statistics, [NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics: Labour Market Profile Wales](#)

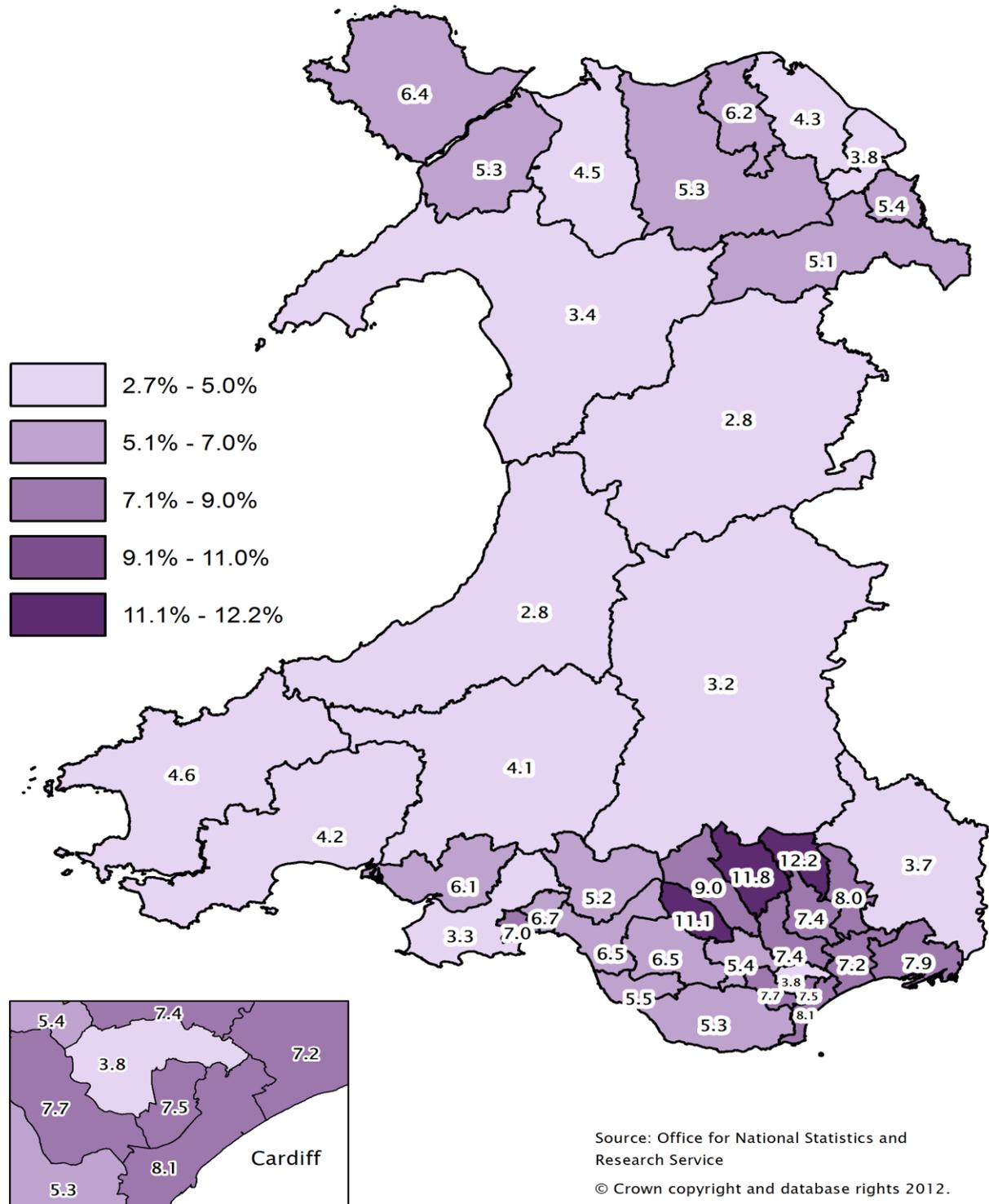
7: Unemployment statistics for Assembly Constituencies

Map 7.1: ILO unemployment rates by Assembly constituency (July 2011 to June 2012)¹



¹ Latest available data (not seasonally adjusted). The rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over.

Map 7.2: Unofficial claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, September 2012²



² Source: Research Service. Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a **percentage** of the economically active population aged between 16 and 64. See page 4 for details.

The tables in this section of the paper show the latest figures for the number and percentage of unemployed people in Assembly Constituencies for the two main measures of unemployment, and also the ranking of each Constituency's unemployment rate.

Table 7.1: ILO unemployment numbers, rates and rank by Assembly Constituency, July 2011 - June 2012 (not seasonally adjusted) (a)

Constituency	Number ILO unemployed	ILO unemployment rate	Constituency rank for ILO unemployment rate
Aberavon	2,949	11.9	6
Aberconwy	1,384	6.2	27
Alyn and Deeside	2,038	5.3	35
Arfon	2,069	8.0	21
Blaenau Gwent	4,642	15.3	1
Brecon and Radnorshire	1,180	3.6	39
Bridgend	3,310	8.2	19
Caerphilly	3,572	8.9	15
Cardiff Central	4,103	10.6	10
Cardiff North	4,611	9.1	13
Cardiff South and Penarth	5,598	10.3	11
Cardiff West	3,485	8.0	21
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	1,752	5.7	32
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	2,147	6.2	27
Ceredigion	1,827	5.3	35
Clwyd South	3,506	9.0	14
Clwyd West	2,161	6.2	27
Cynon Valley	4,126	14.3	3
Delyn	1,238	3.5	40
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	1,332	4.5	38
Gower	2,064	5.7	32
Islwyn	3,643	11.0	9
Llanelli	2,436	6.6	26
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	4,606	14.3	3
Monmouth	2,302	5.8	31
Montgomeryshire	2,309	7.1	24
Neath	2,607	7.2	23
Newport East	3,685	9.8	12
Newport West	3,348	8.4	16
Ogmore	2,705	8.2	19
Pontypridd	2,922	6.7	25
Preseli Pembrokeshire	2,074	5.9	30
Rhondda	3,731	14.4	2
Swansea East	4,747	13.1	5
Swansea West	4,009	11.5	8
Torfaen	4,677	11.9	6
Vale of Clwyd	2,880	8.3	18
Vale of Glamorgan	3,990	8.4	16
Wrexham	1,874	5.7	32
Ynys Mon	1,669	5.2	37

Source: Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics - October 2012: Table LI02 Local Indicators for Parliamentary Constituencies](#)

Note:

- (a) The Assembly Constituency with the highest ILO unemployment rate is ranked as 1, and the Assembly Constituency with the lowest ILO unemployment rate is ranked as 40.

Table 7.2: Claimant count and unofficial residence-based claimant count rates and rank by Assembly Constituency, September 2012 (not seasonally adjusted) (a), (b)

Constituency	Claimant count	Claimant count rate	Constituency rank for claimant count rate
Aberavon	1,667	6.5	15
Aberconwy	1,088	4.5	29
Alyn and Deeside	1,538	3.8	33
Arfon	1,364	5.3	24
Blaenau Gwent	3,396	12.2	1
Brecon and Radnorshire	980	3.2	38
Bridgend	1,871	5.5	20
Caerphilly	2,702	7.4	11
Cardiff Central	2,809	7.5	9
Cardiff North	1,588	3.8	34
Cardiff South and Penarth	3,747	8.1	5
Cardiff West	3,082	7.7	8
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	1,186	4.1	32
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	1,330	4.2	31
Ceredigion	888	2.8	40
Clwyd South	1,674	5.1	27
Clwyd West	1,629	5.3	23
Cynon Valley	2,461	9.0	4
Delyn	1,416	4.3	30
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	852	3.4	36
Gower	1,117	3.3	37
Islwyn	2,332	7.4	10
Llanelli	1,928	6.1	19
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	3,267	11.8	2
Monmouth	1,322	3.7	35
Montgomeryshire	839	2.8	39
Neath	1,589	5.2	26
Newport East	2,687	7.9	7
Newport West	2,729	7.2	12
Ogmore	2,096	6.5	16
Pontypridd	1,962	5.4	22
Preseli Pembrokeshire	1,432	4.6	28
Rhondda	2,926	11.1	3
Swansea East	2,265	6.7	14
Swansea West	2,140	7.0	13
Torfaen	2,849	8.0	6
Vale of Clwyd	1,961	6.2	18
Vale of Glamorgan	2,380	5.3	25
Wrexham	1,784	5.4	21
Ynys Mon	1,840	6.4	17

Source: Research Service and Office for National Statistics, [Regional Labour Market Statistics – August 2012: Table JSA02 Claimant count for Parliamentary Constituencies](#)

Note:

- (a) Claimants of Jobseekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 to 64. See glossary for details.
- (b) The Assembly Constituency with the highest claimant count rate is ranked as 1, and the Assembly Constituency with the lowest ILO claimant count rate is ranked as 40.