

**JOBCENTRE PLUS Central England Group  
State of the Group Report**

**JANUARY 2012**

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**January 2012**

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# State of the Group Report Central England Group

## 1. Introduction

The seasonally adjusted Jobseeker's Allowance register in the Central England Group currently stands at 323,200. The claimant count is now relatively stable following an upward trend from early 2011.

- Seasonally adjusted claimant count levels are up by 10% on this time last year but are 94% higher than they were in February 2008 when unemployment began to rise in the current recession. The claimant count peaked at 347,800 in October 2009.
- Seasonally adjusted new claim levels are around 7% lower than this time last year and the position has been relatively stable in recent months. On-flows peaked in the early months of 2009 since when they have fallen by around 20%.
- At around 282,500 in the past quarter, vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the Central England Group are 7% higher compared to the corresponding period last year and are up 12% on the previous quarter.

The first section of this report provides information on the impact of the recession in terms of supply, whilst the second section sets out what is available for our customers.

## Section 1

### 1.1. The Current Employment Position

Data is available from the Annual Population Survey – Workforce Analysis up to June 2011. This shows a decline in overall employment in the Central England Group of around 93,000 jobs since December 2008, a fall of 1.7%. Compared to the same period last year, there has been a relatively small increase of 7,200 jobs (0.1%).

The most significant fall since December 2008 was in the construction sector, which fell by 19%, with nearly 92,000 fewer people in employment. Significant falls were also seen in manufacturing and transport & communications – both sectors saw total jobs decline by 10% with 83,100 and 47,800 fewer jobs respectively. Banking, finance & insurance and public administration, education & health have seen a net increase over the period – although this trend has reversed in the past twelve months.

The table below shows the workforce by sector position in June 2011 compared to both December 2008 and a year earlier:

Industry	January – December 2008		July 2009 – June 2010		July 2010 – June 2011		Change since 2008	Change since last year
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%		
Agriculture and fishing	86,500	1.6%	83,500	1.5%	88,000	1.6%	1.7%	5.4%
Energy and water	98,700	1.8%	84,700	1.5%	90,600	1.7%	-8.2%	7.0%
Manufacturing	811,100	14.6%	741,000	13.6%	728,000	13.3%	-10.2%	-1.8%
Construction	490,800	8.8%	401,600	7.3%	399,300	7.3%	-18.6%	-0.6%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	1,110,400	19.9%	1,042,200	19.1%	1,062,500	19.4%	-4.3%	1.9%

Transport & communications	486,100	8.7%	430,700	7.9%	438,300	8.0%	-9.8%	1.8%
Banking, finance & insurance	662,700	11.9%	741,400	13.6%	726,900	13.3%	9.7%	-2.0%
Public administration & health	1,548,000	27.8%	1,665,400	30.5%	1,659,800	30.3%	7.2%	-0.3%
Other services	273,600	4.9%	277,300	5.1%	281,600	5.1%	2.9%	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,567,900</b>		<b>5,467,800</b>		<b>5,475,000</b>		<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

The picture is more stable over the past 12 months, where total employment is virtually unchanged. Changes ranged from an increase of 7.0% in the energy & water sector and a decrease of 2% in banking, finance & insurance.

## Employment Rate

The employment rate for working age people in the UK was 70.3% for the period September to November 2011. This has fallen by 0.1% since the previous quarter (June to August 2011).

At a regional level, employment rates for the period September to November 2011 are:

- **West Midlands**                    **67.5%** (down 0.4% from previous quarter)
- **East Midlands**                    **71.1%** (down 0.9% from previous quarter)
- **East of England**                    **74.3%** (down 0.2% from previous quarter).

The South East has the highest employment rate in the UK of 74.5% - East of England is in second place with 74.3%. The lowest unemployment rate is in the North East at 65.1% - Yorkshire & the Humber and the West Midlands have the joint second lowest rate of 67.5%.

The East Midlands had the largest fall in its employment rate since the previous quarter of 0.9 percentage points. In contrast, Wales increased by 0.9%.

Compared to this time last year, the North East has seen the largest fall in their employment rate of 0.9%. The West Midlands fell by 0.4% and the East Midlands rose by 0.5%.

Local employment rates are available for the period July 2010 to June 2011:

<b>Employment Rate: July 2010 to June 2011</b>	
Birmingham and Solihull	60.0%
Black Country	63.4%
Derbyshire	71.1%
East Anglia	73.7%
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	72.5%
Mercia	72.0%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland	69.3%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	71.0%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>69.8%</b>

There are also significant variations in the employment rate for particular groups in the Central England Group, including:

- an employment rate of 49.0% for people with a disability;

- an employment rate of 62.3% for people aged between 20 and 24.

Unfortunately, ethnicity estimates within the annual population survey are currently unavailable.

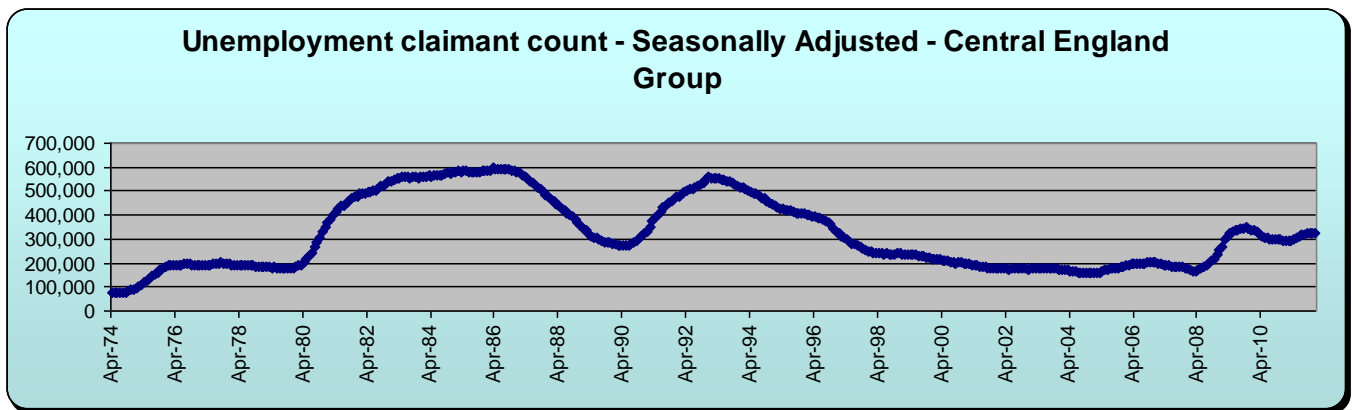
There are also significant geographical differences in employment rates within the Group. At Local Authority level the highest employment rates are in East Northamptonshire (82.8%), Wychavon (82.7%) and South Derbyshire (82.1%). The lowest rates are in Nottingham (55.5%), Birmingham (58.3%) and Tamworth (59.8%).

## 1.2 Unemployment

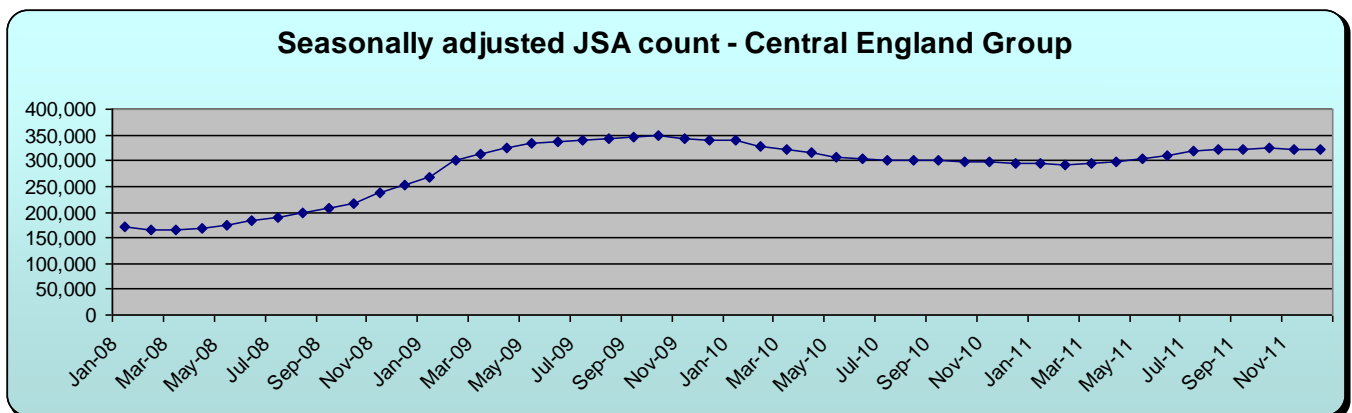
Seasonally adjusted JSA unemployment currently stands at 323,200 in the Central England Group. This is unchanged from the month before and is relatively stable following a eight-month run of increases from early in 2011. Prior to this, unemployment had been declining from a peak of 347, 800 in October 2009.

Unemployment is currently 9.8% higher than this time last year (294,400). The claimant count unemployment rate currently stands at 4.0% of the working age population, compared to 3.7% a year ago.

For interest, the graph below illustrates the seasonally adjusted unemployment claimant count back to 1974.



The graph below shows the recent trend – unemployment is currently relatively stable following an upward trend during early 2011:



## Changes in JSA Claimant Count by Group/Country (unadjusted)

Looking at the national picture, unadjusted JSA remained fairly steady in all Groups over the past month; most Groups saw their registers rise or fall by less than one percentage point. Over the past twelve months, Central England saw an increase of 10.0%, in line with the national average of 10.1%.

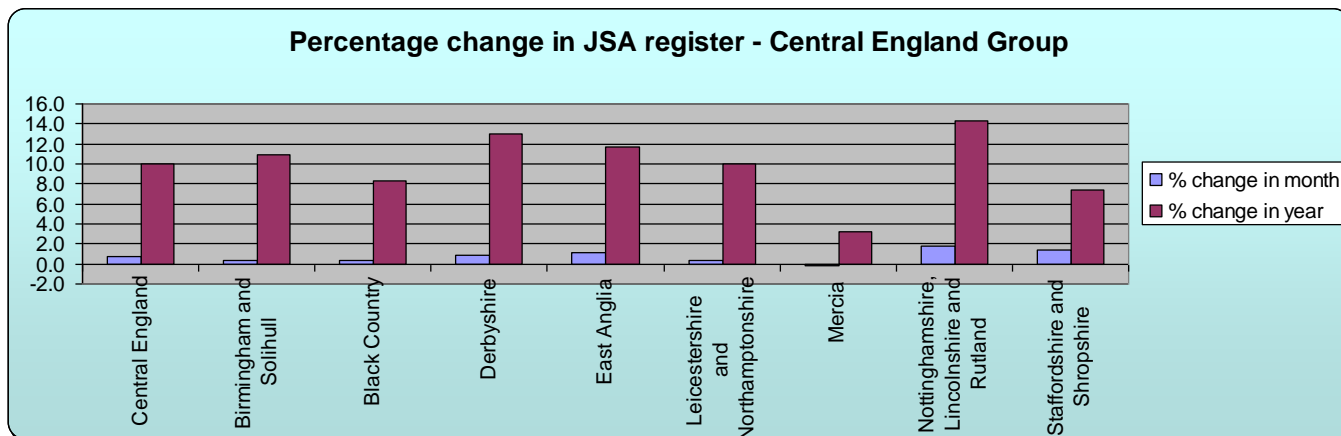
Area	December 2010	November 2011	December 2011	change in month		Change in year	
	number	number	Number	number	%cha	number	%cha
Central England	287,801	314,159	316,501	2,342	0.7%	28,700	10.0%
London and the Home Counties	303,777	339,408	338,716	-692	-0.2%	34,939	11.5%
North East England	221,295	244,826	249,289	4,463	1.8%	27,994	12.7%
North West England	173,006	195,557	196,233	676	0.3%	23,227	13.4%
Scotland	136,200	138,028	139,134	1,106	0.8%	2,934	2.2%
Southern England	176,050	191,195	193,151	1,956	1.0%	17,101	9.7%
Wales	70,181	76,210	76,712	502	0.7%	6,531	9.3%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>1,425,192</b>	<b>1,558,756</b>	<b>1,568,849</b>	<b>10,093</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>143,657</b>	<b>10.1%</b>

## District Unemployment Levels (unadjusted)

Over the past 12 months all Districts in the Central England Group have seen an overall rise in the number of JSA customers, with the largest increases recorded in Nottingham, Lincolnshire & Rutland (14.3%) and Derbyshire (13.0%). The lowest increase was in Mercia (3.2%).

The picture is more stable over the past month – all but one District saw a slight reduction in their registers with an overall fall of 0.7%.

Area	December 2010	November 2011	December 2011	change in month		change in year	
	number	number	number	number	%cha	number	%cha
Birmingham and Solihull	50,328	55,622	55,828	206	0.4%	5,500	10.9%
Black Country	42,137	45,494	45,646	152	0.3%	3,509	8.3%
Derbyshire	21,395	23,963	24,171	208	0.9%	2,776	13.0%
East Anglia	40,642	44,889	45,387	498	1.1%	4,745	11.7%
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	32,816	35,985	36,094	109	0.3%	3,278	10.0%
Mercia	30,757	31,820	31,746	-74	-0.2%	989	3.2%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland	39,908	44,798	45,599	801	1.8%	5,691	14.3%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	29,818	31,588	32,030	442	1.4%	2,212	7.4%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>287,801</b>	<b>314,159</b>	<b>316,501</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>28,700</b>	<b>10.0%</b>



At county/unitary local authority level, almost all authorities have seen a rise in their JSA registers over the past year, the largest increases being in Derby (20.8%), Nottingham (16.7%), Herefordshire (6.1%) and Nottinghamshire (16.1%).

At the other extreme, Warwickshire is the only authority to have seen their register fall, by 4.3%.

The Central England Group holds four of the top ten parliamentary constituencies nationally with the highest percentage of JSA claimants (taken as a percentage of the working age population). The Birmingham constituencies of Ladywood and Hodge Hill are in the top two places at 11.3% and 10.2% respectively. Birmingham Erdington is in joint third place at 8.7% and Wolverhampton South East is in joint ninth place at 8.4%.

## ILO Unemployment

ILO (International Labour Organisation) unemployment in the UK for the period September to November 2011 stands at 2.69 million. This represents an unemployment rate of 8.4% of the economically active population. This is an increase of 118,000 (0.3%) from the previous quarter.

At a regional level, ILO unemployment currently stands at:

- 243,000 in the West Midlands (9.2%) – up 0.3% from previous quarter
- 190,000 in the East Midlands (8.3%) – up 0.4% from previous quarter
- 220,000 in the East of England (7.2%) – up 0.5% from previous quarter.

The region with the highest unemployment rate was the North East at 12.0%, followed by Yorkshire & the Humber at 10.1%. The region with the lowest rate was the South East at 6.4% followed by South West at 6.5%.

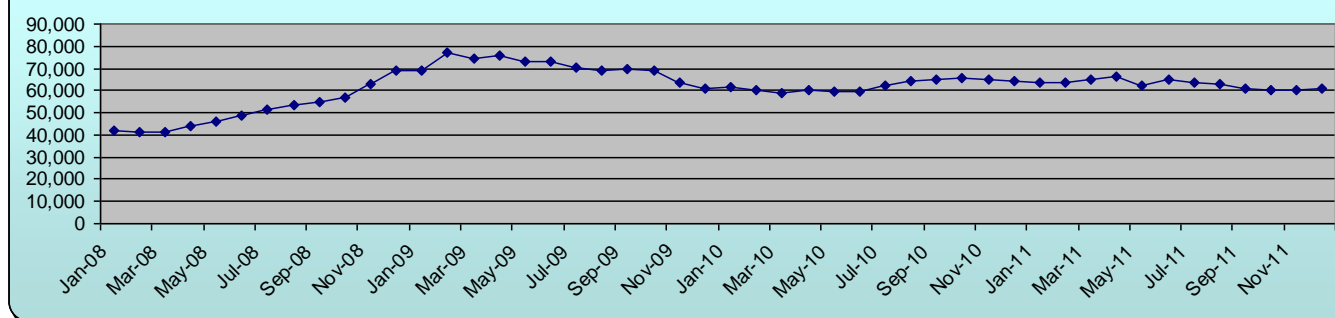
The UK unemployment rate of 8.4% compares favourably with the EU average of 9.4% - the unemployment rate in France is 9.8% and in Spain 22.9%. The unemployment rate in the United States is the same as ours (8.4%); in Germany the rate is 5.5%.

## 1.3 On Flows

Seasonally adjusted on-flows in the Central England Group totalled 181,100 over the three-month period October to December 2011, down 7.2% on the corresponding period a year ago. Nationally, on-flows fell by 6.4%. The trend remains relatively stable; on-flows are 3.1% lower compared to the previous quarter (July to September 2011).

The chart overleaf illustrates how the number of people making new claims each month has remained relatively stable in recent months. The figure peaked in February 2009 during the recent recession.

### JSA On-flows - Seasonally Adjusted - Central England Group



### Changes in JSA on-flows (unadjusted)

When comparing the period October to December 2011 with the corresponding period 12 months ago, all Districts saw a fall in their on-flow levels. The largest declines were seen in Birmingham & Solihull (down 12.1%) and the Black Country (down 10.6%). The smallest decreases were in Derbyshire (4.1%) and East Anglia (5.6%).

At a more local level over the past year, the largest decreases were seen in Sandwell (down 15%), Rutland and Birmingham (both down 13%), Coventry and Shropshire (both down 12%). In contrast, on-flows increased by 4% in Derby.

Compared to the past quarter, once again all Districts saw a decline in their on-flow levels. The largest fall was in Birmingham and Solihull (down 13.4%) and the smallest falls were in Derbyshire and Nottingham, Lincolnshire & Rutland (both down 2.2%).

District	Total On-flows			% Change	
	Oct – Dec 2010	July – Sept 2011	Oct – Dec 2011	Year	Quarter
	Birmingham & Solihull	28,121	28,540	24,726	-12.1%
Black Country	23,813	23,002	21,278	-10.6%	-7.5%
Derbyshire	15,488	15,349	14,848	-4.1%	-3.3%
East Anglia	29,782	28,745	28,111	-5.6%	-2.2%
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	24,837	25,631	23,243	-6.4%	-9.3%
Mercia	23,812	23,184	21,553	-9.5%	-7.0%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	28,824	27,651	27,029	-6.2%	-2.2%
Staffordshire & Shropshire	23,486	22,843	22,173	-5.6%	-2.9%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>198,163</b>	<b>194,945</b>	<b>192,961</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>

### 1.4 Off Flows

Seasonally adjusted off-flows in the Central England Group over the period October to December 2011 totalled 180,300 and are 9.5% lower than they were during the same period 12 months ago. The trend is improving however as they have risen by 4.0% in comparison to the previous quarter.

Looking at District level (unadjusted figures), all Districts have seen their off-flow levels decline compared to the corresponding period last year. Decreases range from 7.0% in the Black Country to 13.0% in Birmingham and Solihull.

Off-flow levels have risen in all Districts compared to the previous quarter however. The group-wide unadjusted average increase is 4.3%. Increases range from 0.4% in East Anglia to 10.4% in Mercia.

District	Oct – Dec 2010	July – Sept 2011	Oct – Dec 2011	% Change	
				Year	Quarter
Birmingham and Solihull	29,287	23,961	25,483	-13.0%	6.4%
Black Country	23,750	21,191	21,819	-8.1%	3.0%
Derbyshire	16,119	13,909	14,983	-7.0%	7.7%
East Anglia	29,812	26,788	26,897	-9.8%	0.4%
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	26,716	24,105	24,461	-8.4%	1.5%
Mercia	25,400	21,098	23,292	-8.3%	10.4%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	27,626	24,893	25,589	-7.4%	2.8%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	24,079	21,273	22,327	-7.3%	5.0%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>202,789</b>	<b>177,218</b>	<b>184,851</b>	<b>-8.8%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>

## Off-flow Destinations

It can be useful to look at the reasons why people stopped claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (off-flow destinations). The table below lists the reasons people stopped claiming in the past quarter and compares this to the same period last year. A significant proportion is noted as 'failed to sign' or 'not known' – ie, they stop claiming but do not tell us why, but most likely they have found work. The proportion of people who moved onto government-supported training has declined over the past twelve months – likely as a result of the Work Programme.

Reason	Oct – Dec 2010	% Total	Oct – Dec 2011	% Total
Found work	86,720	42.8%	83,245	45.0%
Claimed Incapacity Benefit	1,085	0.5%	1,035	0.6%
Claimed another benefit	1,950	1.0%	2,190	1.2%
Gone to full-time education	3,750	1.8%	3,920	2.1%
Gone onto approved training	140	0.1%	110	0.1%
Transfer to Govt-supported training	19,560	9.6%	1,600	0.9%
Retirement age reached	125	0.1%	135	0.1%
Gone to prison	1,265	0.6%	1,730	0.9%
New claim review	1,585	0.8%	1,070	0.6%
Defective claim	1,260	0.6%	1,325	0.7%
Ceased claiming	4,770	2.4%	5,025	2.7%
Deceased	50	0.0%	50	0.0%
Not known	17,980	8.9%	19,125	10.3%
Failed to sign	52,595	25.9%	53,950	29.2%
Gone abroad	6,400	3.2%	6,485	3.5%
Increases work to 16+ hours/week	1,205	0.6%	1,175	0.6%
Claimed Income Support	2,340	1.2%	2,670	1.4%
Column Total	202,790	100%	184,950	100%

## 1.5 Age and Duration of the Unemployed – December 2011

Age/ Duration	Numbers	% of Total	UK %
<b>18-24</b>	98,875	31.3%	29.8%
<b>25-49</b>	168,390	53.3%	54.6%
<b>50+</b>	48,010	15.2%	15.4%
<b>0-6 months</b>	183,380	58.0%	59.4%
<b>6-12 months</b>	70,015	22.2%	21.9%
<b>1-2 years</b>	43,160	13.7%	13.8%
<b>2 years+</b>	19,440	6.2%	5.0%

At 132,615, the number of people who have claiming for more than six months rose slightly in the last month continuing an upward trend throughout 2011. The previous peak was at 137,550 in April 2010.

The proportion of customers who have been claiming for less than six months is currently 58.0% - it previously slumped to 56.5% in June 2010.

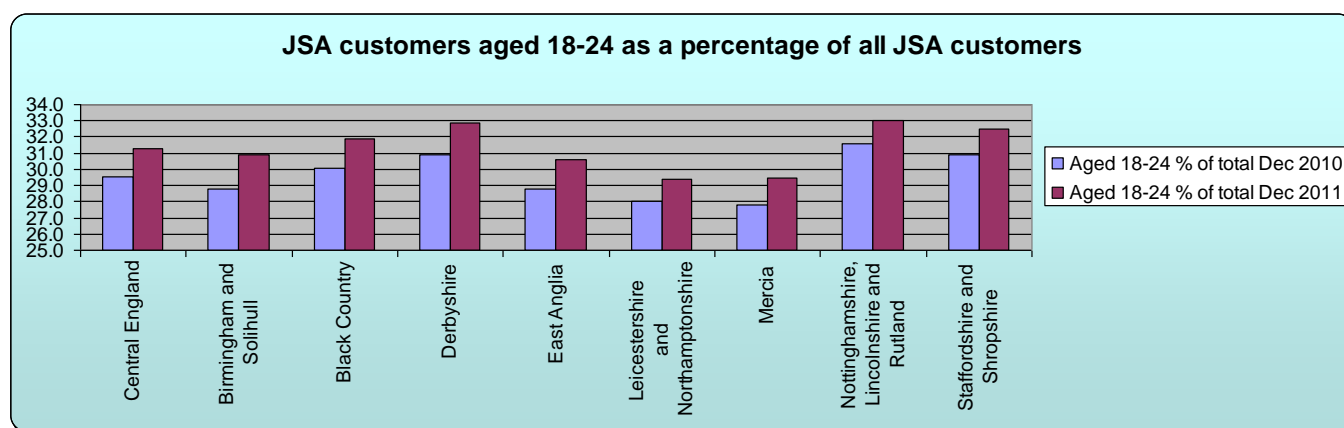
### Youth Unemployment in Central England Group

The number of young people aged 18-24 claiming JSA fell for the third consecutive month to 98,875. The trend is still high and the total has risen by 17% over the past year. At District level the increases over the year range from 9.5% in Mercia to 20.5% in Derbyshire.

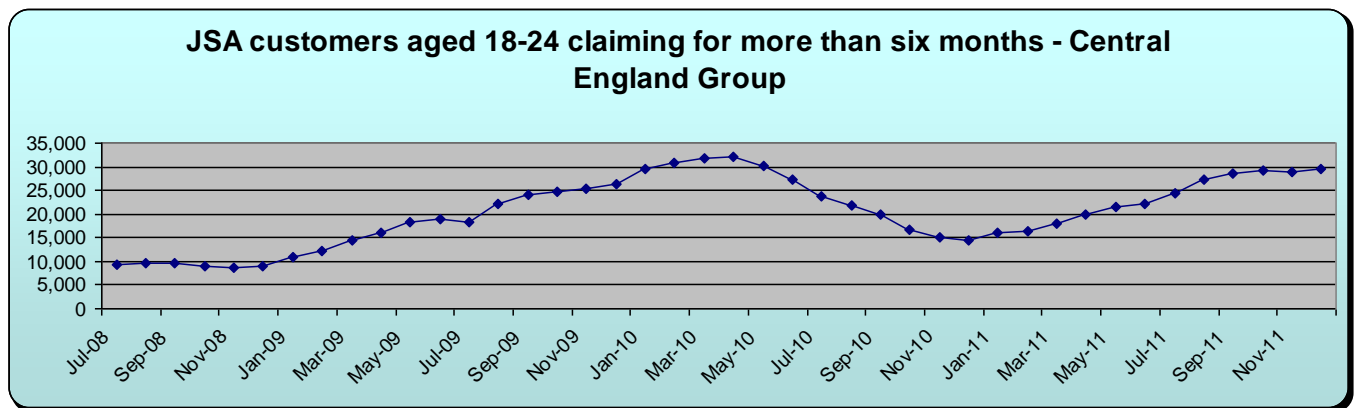
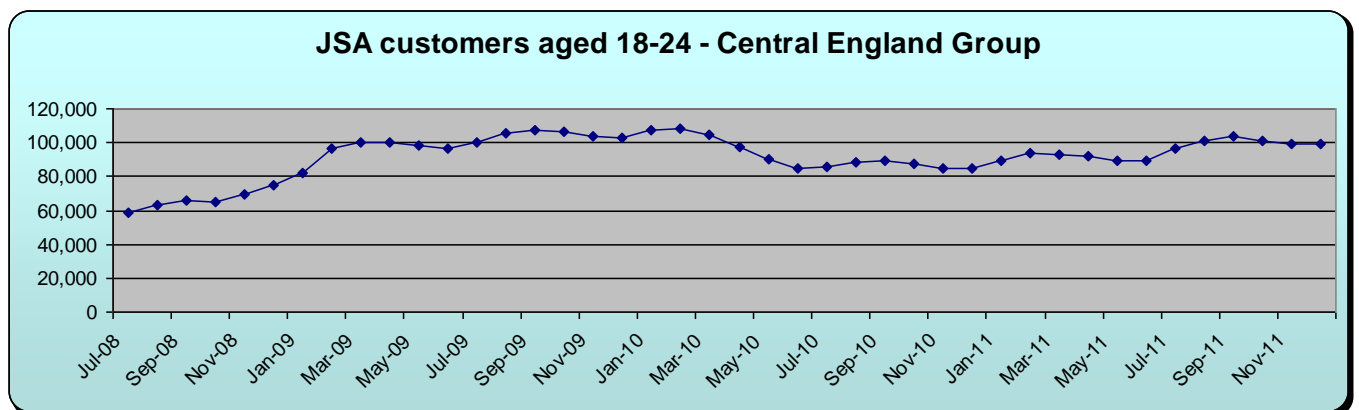
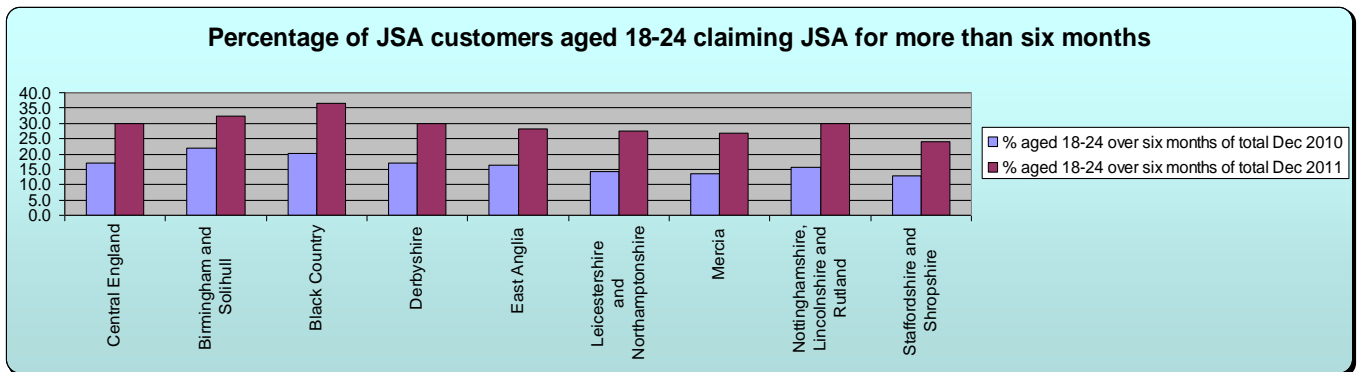
The trend is worse for young people claiming for more than 6 months. The figure has more than doubled over the past year although the position is stabilising.

Area	All 18-24		18-24 claiming 6 months +		Percentage Change	
	December 2010	December 2011	December 2010	December 2011	All 18-24	18-24 6 months +
Birmingham and Solihull	14,460	17,215	3,145	5,585	19.1%	77.5%
Black Country	12,670	14,555	2,565	5,320	14.9%	107.3%
Derbyshire	6,580	7,925	1,125	2,370	20.5%	110.3%
East Anglia	11,665	13,855	1,900	3,895	18.8%	105.1%
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	9,160	10,580	1,295	2,890	15.5%	123.4%
Mercia	8,525	9,335	1,150	2,515	9.5%	118.2%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	12,590	15,020	1,965	4,500	19.3%	129.1%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	9,175	10,395	1,190	2,490	13.3%	109.4%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>84,820</b>	<b>98,875</b>	<b>14,340</b>	<b>29,565</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>106.2%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>398,390</b>	<b>465,880</b>	<b>61,575</b>	<b>129,065</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>109.6%</b>

Overall, the 18-24 customer group forms just over 31% of all JSA customers, slightly up on a year ago but this proportion has not changed significantly throughout the recession.



Around 30% of customers aged 18-24 have been claiming for more than six months, compared to 17% a year ago. There are some variations to this at District level, in particular in the Black Country where the proportion rises to over 36%.



Around 5,500 young people aged 18-24 make new claims to Jobseeker’s Allowance each week in the Central England Group (on average over the past three months). At the same time, around 5,650 left the register each week. Over the past three months, around 82% of young people leaving the register have been unemployed for less than six months.

### 1.6 Incapacity benefits and lone parents

The latest figures available (May 2011) show that there are 495,920 customers receiving incapacity benefits in the Central England Group (including Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits). There has been little change in the totals in recent years, and current levels are virtually unchanged across the Group when compared to three years ago.

<b>District</b>	<b>Incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) May 2008</b>	<b>Incapacity Benefits (ESA/IB) May 2011</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Birmingham and Solihull	58,840	59,370	0.9%
Black Country	55,320	54,490	-1.5%
Derbyshire	43,590	43,380	-0.5%
East Anglia	76,150	78,050	2.5%
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	53,830	55,500	3.1%
Mercia	54,390	54,420	0.1%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	80,180	78,730	-1.8%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	66,940	65,090	-2.8%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>489,240</b>	<b>489,030</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

At country/unitary local authority level, Stoke-on-Trent has the highest proportion of working age people receiving incapacity benefits (ESA and IB) by a considerable margin at 11.2%. The Central England Group average is 6.2%.

*County/unitary Local Authorities with highest proportions of working age people claiming out-of-work incapacity benefits:*

Stoke-on-Trent	17,370	11.2%
Sandwell	15,890	8.6%
Wolverhampton	13,090	8.6%
Walsall	12,900	8.2%
Birmingham	52,870	7.9%
Leicester	16,190	7.8%
Nottingham	17,090	7.7%
Derby	11,600	7.2%
Telford and Wrekin	7,480	7.1%
Coventry	14,420	6.9%

The table below lists the Top 10 medical conditions of people receiving Employment and Support Allowance, and what proportion they make of the total:

<b>Medical Condition</b>	<b>ESA volumes</b>	<b>% of all claimants</b>
Mental and behavioural disorders	47,020	37.9%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	19,230	15.5%
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	15,380	12.4%
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	11,750	9.5%
Diseases of the nervous system	5,790	4.7%
Diseases of the circulatory system	5,700	4.6%
Neoplasms	4,970	4.0%
Diseases of the respiratory system	2,680	2.2%
Diseases of the digestive system	2,260	1.8%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	1,850	1.5%

The next table provides the same data for people receiving Incapacity Benefit/SDA:

Medical Condition	IB/SDA volumes	% of all claimants
Mental and behavioural disorders	156,840	42.1%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	68,420	18.4%
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	40,610	10.9%
Diseases of the nervous system	28,130	7.6%
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	17,280	4.6%
Diseases of the circulatory system	17,250	4.6%
Diseases of the respiratory system	7,160	1.9%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	5,400	1.4%
Diseases of the digestive system	5,190	1.4%
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	4,940	1.3%

The number of lone parents claiming Income Support has fallen more significantly, from 139,320 in May 2008 compared to 117,140 in May 2011, a fall of 15.9%.

District	Lone parents May 2008	Lone parents May 2011	% Change
Birmingham and Solihull	23,770	19,270	-18.9%
Black Country	18,670	15,370	-17.7%
Derbyshire	10,220	8,510	-16.7%
East Anglia	20,040	17,120	-14.6%
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	16,640	14,290	-14.1%
Mercia	15,580	12,980	-16.7%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	19,610	16,880	-13.9%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	14,780	12,710	-14.0%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>139,320</b>	<b>117,140</b>	<b>-15.9%</b>

## 1.7 Skills

Data on the qualification levels of the working age population is now available for the year to December 2010. This shows that people in the Central England Group have generally lower levels of qualifications than the national average:

No other Jobcentre Plus Group has a higher proportion of working age people with no qualifications.

District	% qualifications to NVQ level 4	% qualifications to NVQ level 3	% qualifications to NVQ level 2	% qualifications to NVQ level 1	% no qualifications
Birmingham and Solihull	26.3%	44.8%	59.5%	73.7%	17.9%
Black Country	19.1%	38.5%	57.2%	72.7%	18.6%
Derbyshire	29.2%	50.9%	67.1%	80.7%	13.6%
East Anglia	28.9%	48.5%	65.3%	80.7%	10.8%
Mercia	29.8%	49.2%	65.9%	79.7%	13.2%
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	26.3%	48.3%	65.3%	77.6%	14.0%

Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	26.8%	48.3%	65.8%	79.6%	11.4%
Staffordshire and Shropshire	26.7%	46.9%	65.1%	80.4%	12.4%
<b>Central England</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>78.5%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>50.9%</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>80.1%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>

## 1.8 Redundancies

### Potential redundancies notified by employers in December 2011

- This data should be treated as an indicator of redundancies that are due to occur where employers have announced at least 20 job losses at a single site (via HR1 notifications).
- It does not include redundancies of less than 20 or where employers have not made a formal announcement.
- The number of actual job losses may be less as a result of employers taking action to mitigate the impact of job losses.

District	All employers notifying redundancies	Public sector employers notifying redundancies	All potential job losses	Public sector potential job losses
Birmingham & Solihull	6	2	1,565	1,288
The Black Country	7	1	276	33
Derbyshire	2	0	79	0
East Anglia	5	2	156	158
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	3	0	82	0
Mercia	6	0	451	0
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	5	0	157	0
Staffordshire & Shropshire	7	0	526	0
Central England	27	2	2,516	1,156

## Section 2

### 2.1 Vacancies Notified

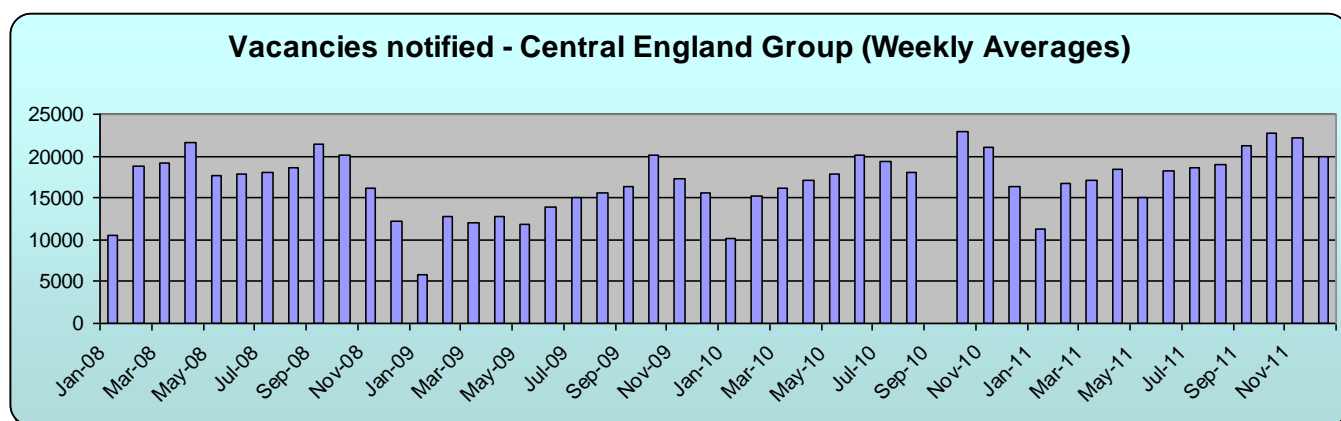
There were 282,644 vacancies notified to the Group during the last three months (October to December 2011). This compares well with the corresponding period 12 months ago when notified vacancies were 6.9% lower.

This encouraging trend is continuing – compared to the previous quarter (July to September 2011) notified vacancies have risen by 11.7%. Over the quarter at District level, the strongest growth was seen in Mercia (up 20.2%) and Leicestershire & Northamptonshire (up 19.2%). In contrast, vacancies in the Black Country rose by just 2.5%.

The table below shows the number of vacancies received in the past quarter, compared to a similar period last year and the previous quarter.

District	Vacancies received Oct - Dec 2010	Vacancies received July – Sept 2011	Vacancies received Oct - Dec 2011	% change last year	% change last quarter
Birmingham and Solihull	31,917	28,189	31,750	-0.5%	12.6%
Black Country	22,005	24,203	24,816	12.8%	2.5%
Derbyshire	20,077	18,172	19,463	-3.1%	7.1%
East Anglia	42,702	42,738	46,602	9.1%	9.0%
Leicestershire & Northamptonshire	40,075	35,563	42,637	6.4%	19.9%
Mercia	38,746	33,920	40,758	5.2%	20.2%
Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland	34,539	34,141	37,611	8.9%	10.2%
Staffordshire & Shropshire	34,362	36,174	39,007	13.5%	7.8%
<b>Central England Group</b>	<b>264,423</b>	<b>253,100</b>	<b>282,644</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>

The chart below illustrates the average weekly vacancies that have been received by Jobcentre Plus in the Central England Group. Vacancy volumes have remained relatively buoyant in recent months.



When comparing the last three months (October to December 2011) to the previous quarter (July to September 2011), most sectors saw an upturn in vacancies notified to us. The largest proportional increase was in 'other services', where vacancies rose by 56%. Banking, finance & insurance also saw a significant upturn of 29%.

In contrast, vacancies declined in energy & water (down 23%), construction (down 15%) and manufacturing (down 10%).

Comparing the last three months with the corresponding period last year, a mixed picture emerges. Vacancies in other services rose by 26% and in banking, finance & insurance by 17%. Energy & water sector vacancies fell by 61% and transport and communications fell by 32%. Construction vacancies rose by 9% over the year.

## Vacancies Notified by Industry – Central England Group

Industry	3 months October to December 2010	3 months July to September 2011	3 months October to December 2011	% change quarter	% change year
Agriculture and fishing	674	1,086	712	-34%	6%
Energy and water	2,341	1,181	912	-23%	-61%
Manufacturing	7,699	7,123	6,446	-10%	-16%
Construction	6,358	8,099	6,905	-15%	9%
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	36,499	29,484	31,128	6%	-15%
Transport and communications	9,404	5,363	6,338	18%	-32%
Banking, finance and insurance*	8,391	7,615	9,851	29%	17%
Public administration, education & health	34,212	26,428	30,461	15%	-11%
Other services	10,461	8,459	13,178	12%	19%
Recruitment agencies*	148,384	158,232	176,663	29%	17%

\*See notes (2) at end of document for clarification about recruitment agency vacancies.

There are also some variations in the District figures over the past 12 months:

- In Birmingham & Solihull, energy & water vacancies rose by 40% and other services rose by 80%, however distribution, hotels & restaurants fell by 56% and manufacturing fell by 31%;
- In the Black Country, construction vacancies rose by 40% and other services vacancies rose by 26%;
- In Derbyshire, manufacturing rose by 13%, construction rose by 27%, but transport & communications fell by 52%;
- In East Anglia, banking, finance and insurance vacancies rose by 86%, but construction vacancies fell by 8%;
- In Leicestershire & Northamptonshire, distribution, hotels & restaurants rose by 15% but manufacturing fell by 33%, construction fell by 14% and other services fell by 34%;
- In Mercia, construction vacancies rose by 23% but banking, finance & insurance fell by 24%;
- In Nottingham, Lincolnshire & Rutland, construction vacancies rose by 32%, other services rose by 85% and banking, finance & insurance rose by 76%;
- In Staffordshire & Shropshire, public administration, education & health rose by 21%, but transport & communications fell by 3% and manufacturing fell by 31%.

## 2.2 Jobs Sought and Vacancies Notified by Occupation

Over the past 3 months jobseekers in the Central England Group have registered for work in the following top 15 occupational areas. The volume of vacancies notified over the same period is included for comparison purposes.

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Jobseeker volumes</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Jobseekers</b>	<b>Vacancies notified</b>	<b>Percentage of vacancies Notified</b>
Sales and retail assistants	35,435	19.4%	9,825	3.5%
Other goods handling and storage occupations	17,895	9.8%	20,105	7.1%
General office assistants/clerks	11,935	6.5%	3,906	1.4%
Labourers in process and plant operations	5,305	2.9%	1,811	0.6%
Van drivers	5,175	2.8%	6,216	2.2%
Care assistants and home carers	4,550	2.5%	30,241	10.7%
Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers	4,365	2.4%	4,595	1.6%
Cleaners, domestics	4,050	2.2%	4,050	2.2%
Bar staff	3,765	2.1%	2,719	1.0%
Labourers in building and woodworking trades	3,295	1.8%	3,654	1.3%
Customer care occupations	3,175	1.7%	3,825	1.4%
Kitchen and catering assistants	3,150	1.7%	3,518	1.2%
Labourers in other construction trades	2,585	1.4%	2,712	1.0%
Fork-lift truck drivers	2,100	1.1%	6,485	2.3%
Retail cashiers and checkout operators	2,090	1.1%	549	0.2%

The top 15 occupational areas in which vacancies have been notified are as follows:

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Vacancies notified</b>
Care assistants and home carers	30,241
Heavy goods vehicle drivers	28,987
Other goods handling and storage occupations	20,105
Sales representatives	16,357
Postal workers, mail sorters, messengers, couriers	10,894
Sales and retail assistants	9,825
Cleaners, domestics	9,344
Sales related occupations	7,589
Fork-lift truck drivers	6,485
Van drivers	6,216
Telephone salespersons	5,274
Packers, bottlers, canners, fillers	4,595
Security guards and related occupations	3,961
General office assistants/clerks	3,906
Customer care occupations	3,825

## Appendix One: Additional notes

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\*1. ILO unemployment is different to the JSA claimant count as it is defined as people who are:

- Without a job, want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks or:
- Out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

Some unemployed on the ILO measure either chose not to claim their benefits or are not entitled to them. Examples include partners of people in full time work and students. This measure of unemployment is more commonly reported in the media. ILO Youth unemployment rates are notably higher than claimant count rates for 18-24 year-olds partly because of the high volumes of students, who may consider themselves available for and looking for work, but cannot claim JSA.

\*2. The 'banking, finance and insurance' sector contains a sub-set tagged as 'other business activity'. This sub-set is where Jobcentre Plus allocates all vacancies notified by recruitment agencies. This occurs regardless of the sector to which the vacancy actually relates. Data for the banking, finance and insurance sector are therefore artificially inflated. The figures here have been amended to remove the 'other business activity' data from the total banking, finance and insurance figures. This should give more representative data for the sector. Recruitment agency data (SIC K, 74) is shown separately to give an indication of the contribution of these businesses.