

employment



Traditional claimant count rates were replaced in January 2003 with claimant count proportions.

The traditional claimant count rates expressed the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of a corresponding mid year estimate of the number of jobs in the area plus the number of claimants.

The new proportions express the number of claimants as a percentage of the estimated number of working age residents in the area and are therefore just resident based. Working age is defined as those aged 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men.

The claimant count proportion for Hertfordshire was 1.4% in August 2003 - no change since September 2002. The figure comprised a total of 9,245 people claiming - 6,443 males (70%) and 2,802 females (30%).

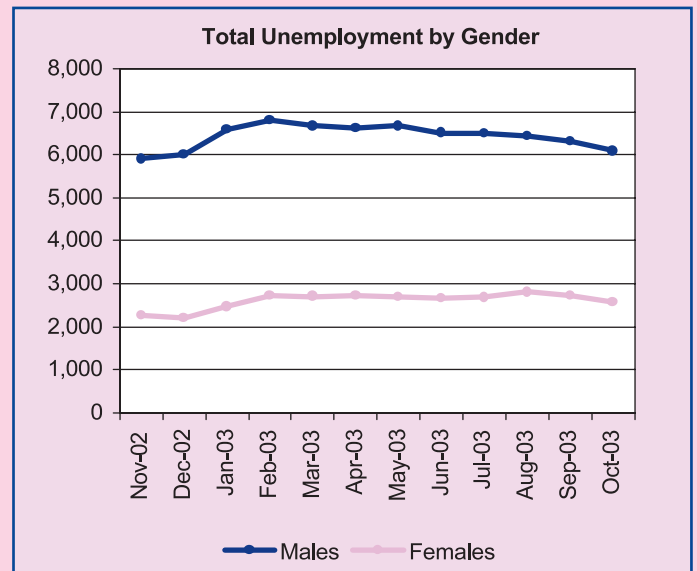
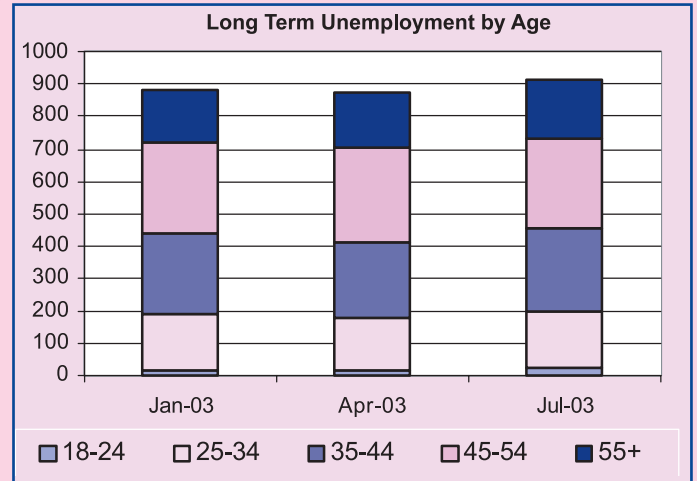
The rate has fluctuated marginally over the last year to a low of 1.3% in the autumn and to a high of 1.5% in the winter and spring, which is probably accountable to seasonal shifts (changes in employment levels due to school/university holidays, festive season, January sales, etc.)

The Hertfordshire Claimant Count Proportion is consistently below the Great Britain and East of England figures. GB proportion in August 2003 was 2.6% (911,331) and the East of England rate was 1.8% (58,344). The trends in terms of highs and lows both nationally and regionally are similar to Hertfordshire.

Indicator UN1 - Long Term Unemployment (more than 1 year) by Age/Gender

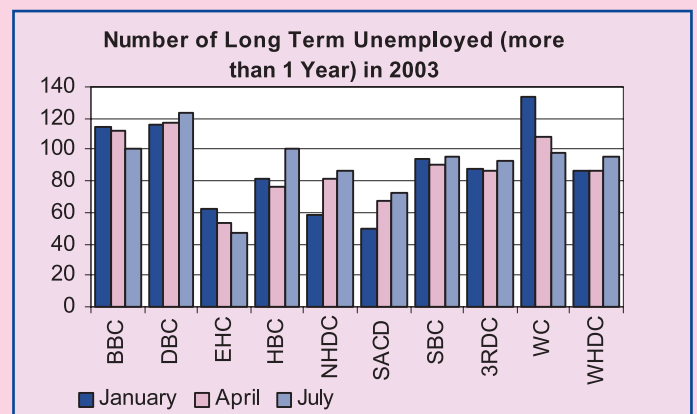
Unemployment figures for Hertfordshire are shown in two ways. Long term unemployment is shown for each age range and total monthly claimant count is split into male and female data.

Perhaps the most significant trend is the recent increase in claimant count in the 35-44 age range.



Indicator UN2- Long Term Unemployment (more than 1 year)

There has been a slight increase in long term unemployed over the last nine months in Hertfordshire. The claimant count figure now stands at 913 with the highest proportion in the 45-54 age band.

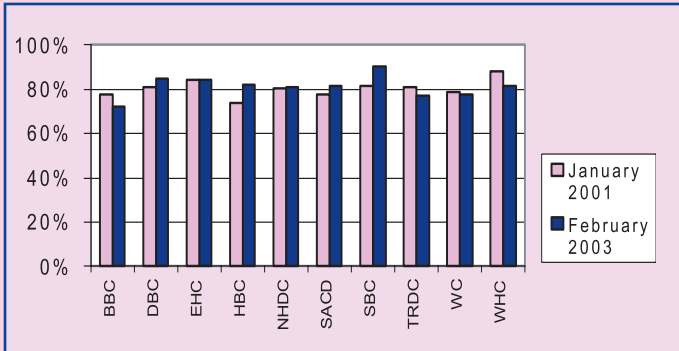


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The highest figure for long-term unemployment in July 2003 is found in Dacorum.

Indicator QoL1: Proportion of people of working age in employment



Indicator QoL2: The proportion of unemployed people claiming benefits who have been out of work for more than a year

	Total Unemployed	% of all claimants who have been out of work for more than a year
Jan 03	883	9.7
Apr 03	877	9.4
Jul 03	913	9.9
Oct 03	930	10.7

Indicator QoL 3: The proportion of young people (18-24 year olds) in full-time education or employment

	BBC	DBC	EHC	HBC	NHDC	SACD	SBC	TRDC	WC	WHDC
January 2001 18-24 yr olds in FT education or employment January 2001	Unknown	9,505	8,157	7,520	7,714	7,531	Unknown	8,099	Unknown	Unknown
Proportion (%) of all 18-24 yr olds in FT education or employment	Unknown	88.30%	87.40%	4%	91.50%	83.20%	Unknown	86.10%	Unknown	Unknown

These figure are based on the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001, which will next be updated in April 2004.



Indicator QoL5: The percentage increase or decrease in the number of local jobs

There was a 2.9% decrease in the number of jobs in the county, falling from 503,700 in 2001, to 489,100 in 2002.

This reduction in the number of local jobs is partly due to the global economic slow down, which the rest of the country is experiencing.

Hertfordshire s geographical location ensures it is home to a wide range of blue chip businesses, a number of which have been recently restructured leading to the loss of jobs in the financial, pharmaceutical and telecommunications industries.

