

Unemployment (Claimants of Jobseekers Allowance)

General details	A 100% count of claimants of Jobseekers Allowance (plus a small number of claimants of National Insurance Credits)
Area output	Currently 2003 wards and postcode sectors are the smallest available output areas.
Time period	Monthly data (released on the second Wednesday of each month) available from NOMIS, annual figures from ONS Neighbourhood Statistics website
Source	Office for National Statistics
Provider	NOMIS (Graham Lindsay Kirklees MC, EDS)
Comments	Available from the introduction of Jobseekers Allowance in October 1996.

1 Introduction

1.1 Unemployment is measured in a number of ways. Some of these rely on surveys which ask people whether they are looking for work. The most widely quoted figures refer to the number of people claiming unemployment benefits (chiefly Jobseekers Allowance - JSA).

1.2 The claimant count consists of all people claiming JSA and / or National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. They must declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which their claim is made.

1.3 Whilst, it is acknowledged that it underestimates the "real" level of unemployment, the claimant count has the benefits of being regularly updated, having 100% coverage, and collected by a consistent method (at least from 1996).

2 National and Regional Figures.

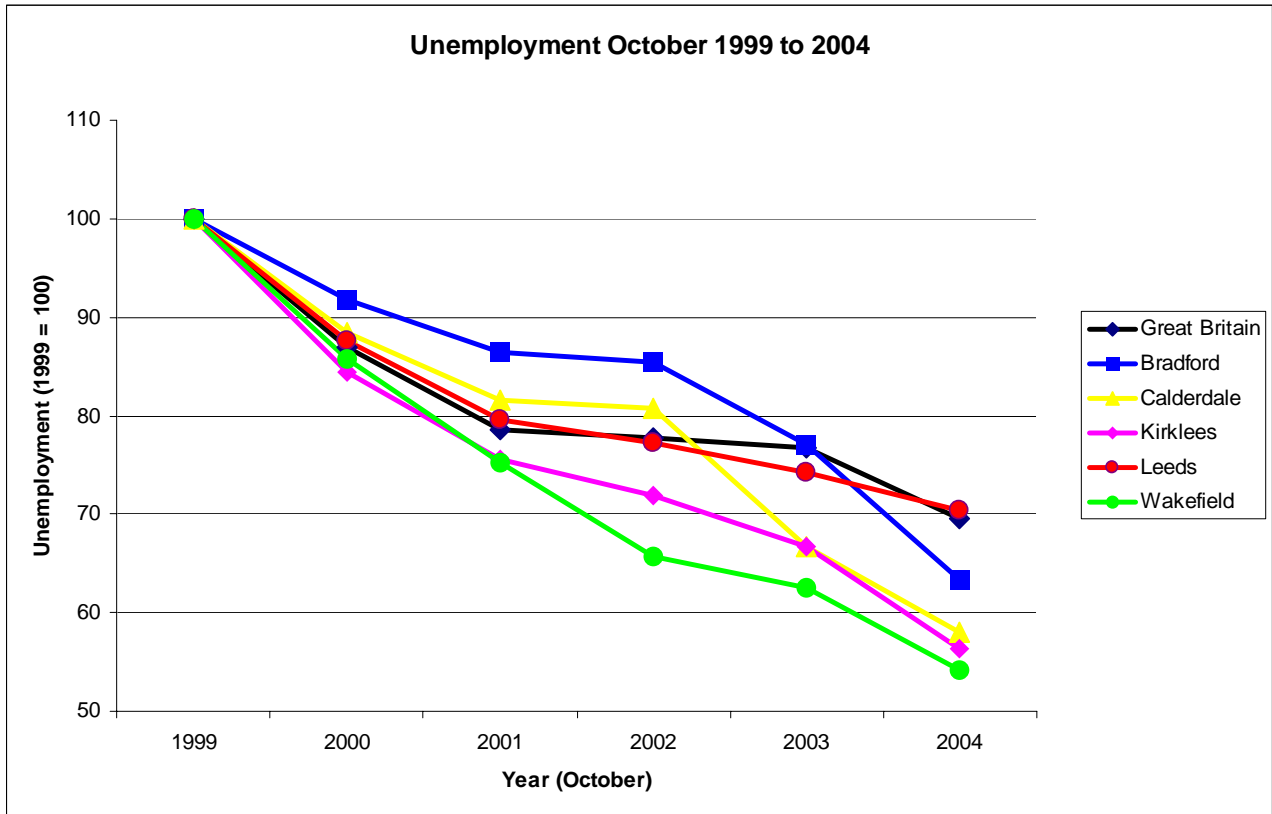
2.1 Unemployment, as measured by claimants of Jobseekers Allowance, has declined consistently from a peak of about 3 million in 1992, to less than 800,000 in 2004. Table 1 shows that there have been significant falls in claimants since 1999 both nationally and in the five districts of West Yorkshire.

Table 1: Claimant Unemployment October 1999 to 2004

	Oct-99	Oct-00	Oct-01	Oct-02	Oct-03	Oct-04
Great Britain	1,107,945	962,965	870,530	861,895	850,205	769,750
Bradford	12,170	11,160	10,525	10,395	9,380	7,715
Calderdale	3,900	3,450	3,180	3,150	2,605	2,260
Kirklees	7,735	6,525	5,850	5,560	5,155	4,355
Leeds	15,385	13,475	12,245	11,885	11,415	10,840
Wakefield	6,300	5,400	4,740	4,145	3,935	3,410

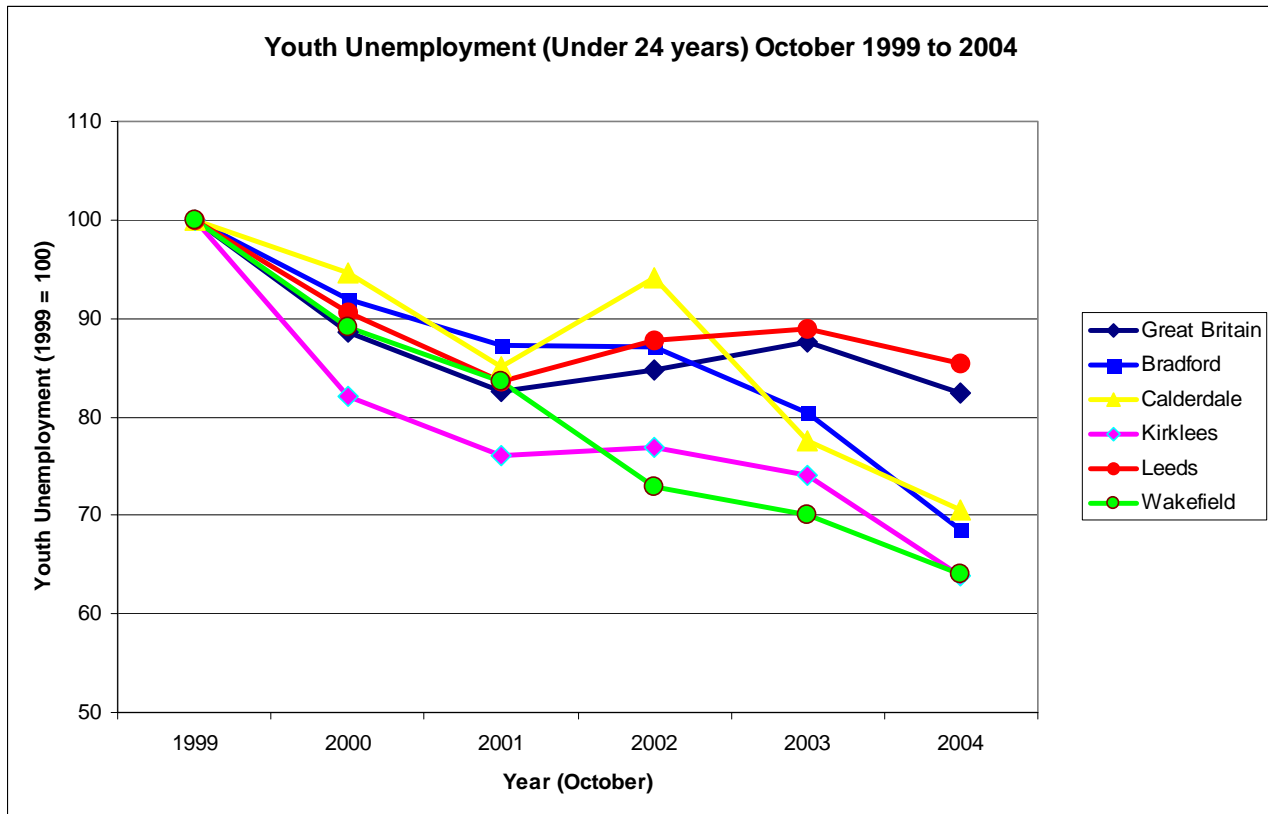
2.2 Figure 1 shows the decline in claimant unemployment using 1999 as a base year, standardised to 100. The greatest reductions were in Wakefield and Kirklees, which in October 2004 had fewer than 4,500 residents claiming unemployment benefits.

Figure 1: Claimant unemployment 1999 to 2004



2.3 Youth unemployment (Jobseekers Allowance claimants under the age of 24) has also declined but at a slower rate than overall unemployment. Young people represent about 31% of the total of unemployment benefit claimants, a proportion which has grown slightly over the last 5 years.

Figure 2: Youth claimant unemployment 1999 to 2004



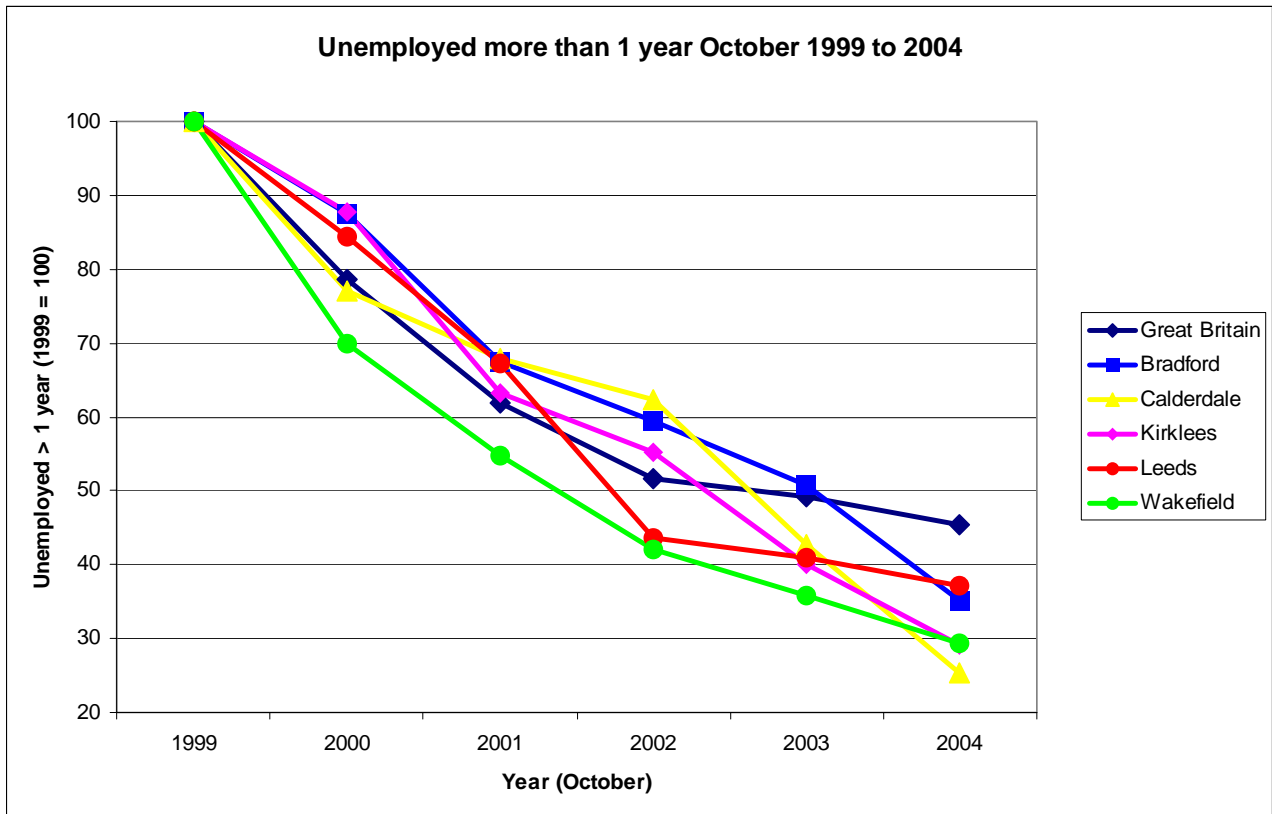
2.4 Many unemployed people claim unemployment benefits for a relatively short period. For example in December 2002, whilst 227,900 people started to claim unemployment benefit, 228,500 people stopped. Table 2 shows the number of unemployed people who were claiming benefit for over one year.

Table 2: Long-term claimant unemployed (claiming for more than 1 year)

	Oct-99	Oct-00	Oct-01	Oct-02	Oct-03	Oct-04
Great Britain	267,425	210,230	165,310	138,040	131,305	121,215
Bradford	2,950	2,585	1,990	1,755	1,495	1,035
Calderdale	890	685	605	555	380	225
Kirklees	1,385	1,215	875	765	555	405
Leeds	3,670	3,100	2,470	1,600	1,500	1,360
Wakefield	1,260	880	690	530	450	370

2.5 The decline in the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants has been large both in absolute numbers - all five districts in West Yorkshire have seen falls of between 20 and 30% in the period from 1999 and 2004 - and as a proportion of the total number of claimants. The impact of the New Deal programme is a significant explanatory factor.

Figure 3: Long-term claimant unemployment 1999 to 2004



2.6 In Kirklees, long-term unemployment benefits claimants represent only 9.3% of the total unemployed, down from 17.9% in 1999. This decline in long-term unemployment has been more marked in the West Yorkshire districts than in the country as a whole, probably because originally the problem was more severe.

3 Kirklees Analysis

3.1 As with the national figures, unemployment benefit claimant numbers in the wards of Kirklees have fallen dramatically since 1999, in some cases by over 50%. The inner urban areas of Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley continue to have the highest levels of unemployment, whilst the rural wards of South Kirklees tend to have the lowest. Mirfield and Lindley wards, which are a relatively affluent mix of rural and urban, also have very low numbers of unemployment claimants.

Table 3: Claimant unemployment by Kirklees 2003 wards

	Oct-99	Oct-00	Oct-01	Oct-02	Oct-03	Oct-04
Deighton	547	446	454	418	368	305
Paddock	533	424	388	366	367	310
Newsome	529	442	435	378	319	265
Birkby	496	417	420	383	344	275
Crosland Moor	489	414	419	393	377	310
Batley East	418	305	259	267	251	205
Dewsbury West	416	360	328	272	262	235
Batley West	401	343	308	262	299	255
Thornhill	394	359	271	267	231	210
Dewsbury East	361	354	283	267	260	220
Dalton	341	276	277	269	257	220
Golcar	339	301	307	270	223	180
Almondbury	279	228	238	220	176	180
Spennings	252	199	176	164	156	130
Birstall and Birkenshaw	237	206	166	154	141	125
Colne Valley West	229	197	190	171	143	125
Heckmondwike	220	209	182	153	142	115
Holme Valley South	214	171	54	165	158	140
Cleckheaton	211	184	140	153	141	105
Holme Valley North	206	167	58	143	143	95
Lindley	188	156	182	163	150	125
Denby Dale	179	138	136	120	110	85
Kirkburton	169	119	123	141	107	60
Mirfield	152	127	96	108	89	80
Kirklees	7,800	6,542	5,890	5,667	5,214	4,355

3.2 The number of people aged less than 24 years claiming unemployment benefits, has also fallen sharply in all Kirklees wards. Crosland Moor and Deighton wards have the highest numbers, Mirfield and Kirkburton the lowest.

Table 3: Youth claimant unemployment by Kirklees 2003 wards

	Oct-99	Oct-00	Oct-01	Oct-02	Oct-03	Oct-04
Almondbury	65	55	55	55	40	55
Batley East	145	95	90	80	110	75
Batley West	110	95	110	100	105	90
Birkby	155	120	105	125	105	90
Birstall and Birkenshaw	55	55	45	50	40	30
Cleckheaton	35	35	25	30	25	20
Colne Valley West	60	45	40	50	30	20
Crosland Moor	145	120	130	140	125	120
Dalton	85	55	65	65	80	80
Deighton	150	125	135	140	130	115
Denby Dale	35	35	35	25	20	15
Dewsbury East	90	85	75	70	65	65
Dewsbury West	125	90	115	75	90	95
Golcar	70	70	65	60	55	45
Heckmondwike	75	70	65	45	50	40
Holme Valley North	45	45	10	35	30	25
Holme Valley South	55	30	10	30	25	25
Kirkburton	40	30	25	30	25	15
Lindley	35	35	35	40	30	25
Mirfield	45	40	20	30	20	20
Newsome	160	120	120	105	105	70
Paddock	145	115	110	105	120	95
Spen	60	50	35	45	40	40
Thornhill	130	115	80	95	95	80
Kirklees	2,115	1,735	1,610	1,625	1,565	1,350

3.3 A further measure of long-term unemployment - the number of people claiming unemployment benefit for more than a year - has fallen dramatically in recent years and few wards now have more than 25 individual claimants.

Table 4: Long-term claimant unemployment by Kirklees 2003 wards

	Oct-99	Oct-00	Oct-01	Oct-02	Oct-03	Oct-04
Almondbury	55	55	35	50	35	25
Batley East	45	40	25	25	15	15
Batley West	65	50	25	25	20	5
Birkby	95	85	75	60	35	25
Birstall and Birkenshaw	45	30	20	15	15	10
Cleckheaton	35	30	20	10	15	10
Colne Valley West	45	35	35	20	10	10
Crosland Moor	85	80	65	65	30	35
Dalton	60	60	45	35	35	20
Deighton	120	105	75	60	50	30
Denby Dale	30	30	10	10	10	5
Dewsbury East	65	70	55	25	30	10
Dewsbury West	75	65	50	30	20	10
Golcar	70	65	60	50	35	20
Heckmondwike	25	20	20	15	5	10
Holme Valley North	45	30	10	20	15	10
Holme Valley South	30	30	10	25	25	20
Kirkburton	30	20	10	20	10	5
Lindley	40	35	25	30	20	15
Mirfield	15	15	5	5	5	5
Newsome	85	100	80	80	35	40
Paddock	120	85	60	55	50	40
Spen	30	25	20	20	10	10
Thornhill	70	50	40	25	20	10
Kirklees	1,385	1,215	875	765	555	405

4 Links and further information

Department for Work and Pensions

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

5 Indicator archive

Date of the original document	February 2005
Author	Steve Jones: KMC CDU
Details of consultation	Graham Lindsay, February 2005
Document update date	
Update author	
Details of update consultation	