

# Labour market status by ethnicity

March 2012

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# Background

This data is taken from the Labour Force Survey, which is released quarterly.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market which can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.

More details on the LFS can be found at the following link.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/surveys/respondents/household/labour-force-survey/index.html>

There are three different labour market statuses:

**Employed:** These are people who have done paid work (as an employee or self-employed), those who had a job that they were temporarily away from, those on government-supported training and employment programmes, and those doing unpaid family work. Employed people are classed as economically active.

**Unemployed:** These are people who are jobless, have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; or they are out of work, have found a job, and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks. Unemployed people are classed as economically active. This definition of unemployment is the one laid down by the International Labour Organisation, and is used in regular published UK statistics.

**Economically Inactive:** These are people without a job who have not actively sought work in the last four weeks and/or are not available to start work in the next two weeks. Someone in full-time education will normally be classified as economically inactive if they are not in paid work; but if they are looking for and are available for work then they will be classified unemployed.

Employment rates and Economic inactivity rates are calculated as a proportion of the population overall.

Unemployment rates are calculated as the proportion of people that are unemployed out of the economically active population (this is employed people + unemployed people). There can be quite large differences between the unemployment rate and the proportion of people that are unemployed. For instance, the unemployment rate for young white people is 20% and it is 31% among young ethnic minorities. However, the proportions of these groups that are unemployed are 13% and 14% respectively. The example that shows the biggest difference between these two measures is for young black people; while their unemployment rate is 44%, the proportion that are unemployed is 22%

# Methodology

The data is a four-quarter average of quarters 1 to 4 of 2011 from the Labour Force Survey.

The data has not been seasonally adjusted.

All data is for Great Britain only.

The data has been broken down by ethnic group, as reported by survey respondents.

From 2011, the questions used to identify a person's ethnic group in the Labour Force Survey were updated in line with the Census. This resulted in a discontinuity in the number of people reporting that they belonged to an ethnic minority group, and the published 2011 data is still being investigated by the Office for National Statistics and the Department for Work and Pensions. Therefore the results presented here should be interpreted with caution.

Link to 2011 census questions:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/the-2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/2011-census-questions---england.pdf>

## Results

Overall numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

The **16-24** results show the labour market statuses of people aged 16-24 (inclusive) broken down by ethnic group.

The **16-64 – All** results show the labour market statuses of people aged 16-64 (inclusive) broken down by ethnic group.

The **16-64 – Males** results show the labour market statuses of males aged 16-64 (inclusive) broken down by ethnic group.

The **16-64 – Females** results show the labour market statuses of females aged 16-64 (inclusive) broken down by ethnic group.

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**March 2012**