

# Freedom of Information request 2800/2011

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## Information request

You asked, specifically, what is the percentage of people in the working age who have experienced a period of unemployment of one month or more since September 2008. You also suggested that DWP count the total number of individuals who have claimed Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) since September 2008, each claimant being counted only once, and use that figure to derive a percentage of the total work population.

## DWP response

Firstly, to clarify, the unemployment figure of 2.5 million mentioned in your FOI request is the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is a different measure of unemployment from the JSA Claimant Count - 1.49m in UK (1.44m in GB) in May 2011<sup>1</sup>.

As you have suggested, we have calculated the number of individuals, who are 16-64 years old in May 2011, who have claimed JSA for more than one month since Sept 2008 to May 2011, in GB, as 4.96 million individuals<sup>2</sup>.

In principle it is possible to divide the number of individuals who have claimed JSA over a certain period by the current 16-64 year old population to generate your requested statistic.

16-64 year old populations by quarter are published by ONS as part of the monthly Labour Markets Statistics release: for example, in table 1 of the LMS Bulletin <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/september-2011/index.html>

Time series are available here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/september-2011/lms-time-series-dataset.html>

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<sup>1</sup> NOMIS - <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp>.

<sup>2</sup> Source: DWP National Benefits Database. Please note that the figure supplied is derived from unpublished information and has not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standard. The figure should therefore be treated with caution.

However, we have not proceeded with this calculation, because it is questionable whether an appropriate and clear statistic can be developed which divides a cumulative number of individuals over a certain period of time by a number from a snapshot in time.