

# Freedom of Information request 833/2013

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## Information request

*IDS was just now on Sky News claiming there are 500,000 jobs available in this country and 82% of people searching for work were able to find full-time work. Can you tell me his sources for both those figures please?*

## DWP response

The number of unfilled vacancies in the economy is published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of their published monthly Labour Market publication. This is based on a regular survey of employers and the most recent data can be seen here

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/february-2013/table-vacs02.xls>

This table also shows which industries those vacancies occur in. There were 487 thousand vacancies in the latest quarter (Nov-Jan 2013). This is a snapshot of the vacancies open at a particular point in time. There is a great deal of turnover in the labour market as most existing vacancies are filled quickly and replaced by new opportunities that are coming up all the time.

Information on full time and part time work is published by ONS and available in the following table:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/february-2013/table-emp01.xls>

Column 22 in that spreadsheet records the proportion of part-time workers who wanted a full-time job - 17.5% in the latest data (Oct-Dec 2012). This means over 80% had been able to find the type of work they wanted: either they did not want a full-time job, or chose to work part-time because they were studying or had a disability. The reasons for part-time work are recorded in columns 23, 24 and 25.