

National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing February 2012

This briefing paper provides a statistical overview of unemployment trends.

Information is included on Assembly constituencies, Wales and UK nations and regions.

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Enquiry no: 12/0502

National Assembly for Wales

Unemployment Briefing
February 2012

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Paper number: 12/006

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Unemployment Briefing: February 2012

Introduction

Unemployment statistics are published each month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This paper is released shortly after the ONS data and aims to provide a brief summary of the latest unemployment situation in Wales and the UK.

Section 1 contains headline figures and analysis. Additional information is provided in sections 2 to 6.

As well as information relating to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and claimant count measures. This paper also includes unofficial residence-based claimant count rates for Assembly Constituencies. These are an alternative measure to those published by the ONS. Due to a slight change in methodology, the unofficial claimant count rates in this briefing are not comparable with those contained in issues previous to August 2010. Further information is available in the Technical Annex.

1: Headlines

ILO unemployment ¹

- In October to December 2011, the ILO unemployment rate in Wales was 9.0 per cent. This has risen from 8.4 per cent in October to December 2010. *Figure 2.1;*
- In October to December 2011, the number of ILO unemployed in Wales was 134,000. This has decreased by 3,000 since the previous quarter and increased by 12,000 since the previous year;
- The male ILO rate was 10.7 per cent, compared to 7.2 per cent for females. *Figure 2.1;*
- The ILO rate in Wales was the highest of the four UK nations. *Table 3.1;*
- Wales had the sixth highest ILO rate of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 4.1;* and
- In July 2010 to June 2011, 49,200 people aged 16-24 were ILO unemployed; the ILO rate for 16-24 year olds was 22.9 per cent. *Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1*

Claimant count ²

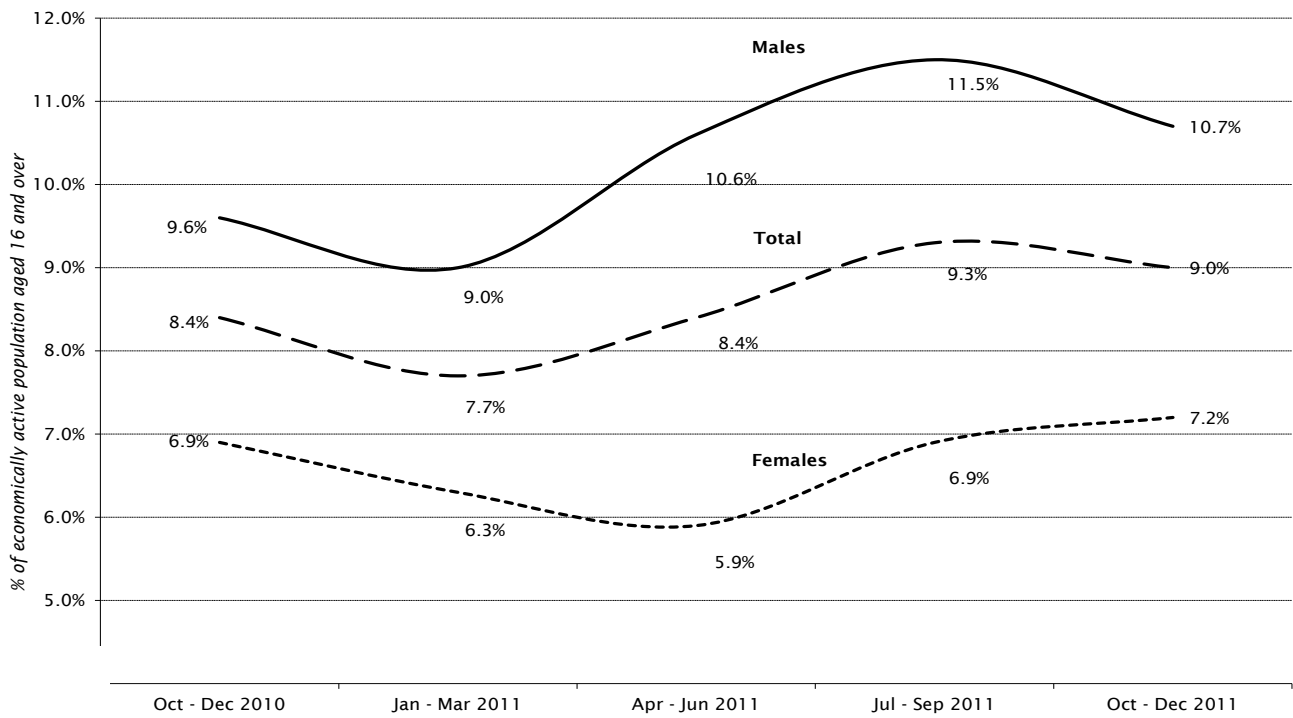
- In January 2012, the total claimant count rate in Wales was 5.6 per cent. This compares to 5.0 per cent in January 2011. *Figure 2.2;*
- The claimant count total in Wales has increased by 1,300 since the previous month and increased by 8,200 since the previous January;
- At 7.0 per cent, Northern Ireland had the highest claimant count rate out of the UK nations. Wales had the second highest rate. *Table 3.2;*
- In January 2012, Wales' claimant count rate was ranked sixth highest out of the twelve UK nations and regions. *Figure 4.2;*
- The claimant count for the 18-24 age group has increased by 2,040 since the previous month and increased by 3,555 since the previous January. *Table 5.2;* and
- The Assembly Constituencies with the highest claimant count rates in January 2012 (based on unofficial estimates) were Blaenau Gwent (12.3 per cent) and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (12.1 per cent). The lowest claimant count rate estimates were in Montgomeryshire (3.2 per cent) and Ceredigion (3.3 per cent). *Table 6.2.*

¹ The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. It includes those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks. It is derived from a household survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics each quarter and is the primary measure of unemployment.

² The **claimant count** measures only those people who are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. It is lower than the ILO definition, because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim benefits, or choose not to do so. Rates for Assembly Constituencies are unofficial estimates produced by the Research Service (see the Technical Annex).

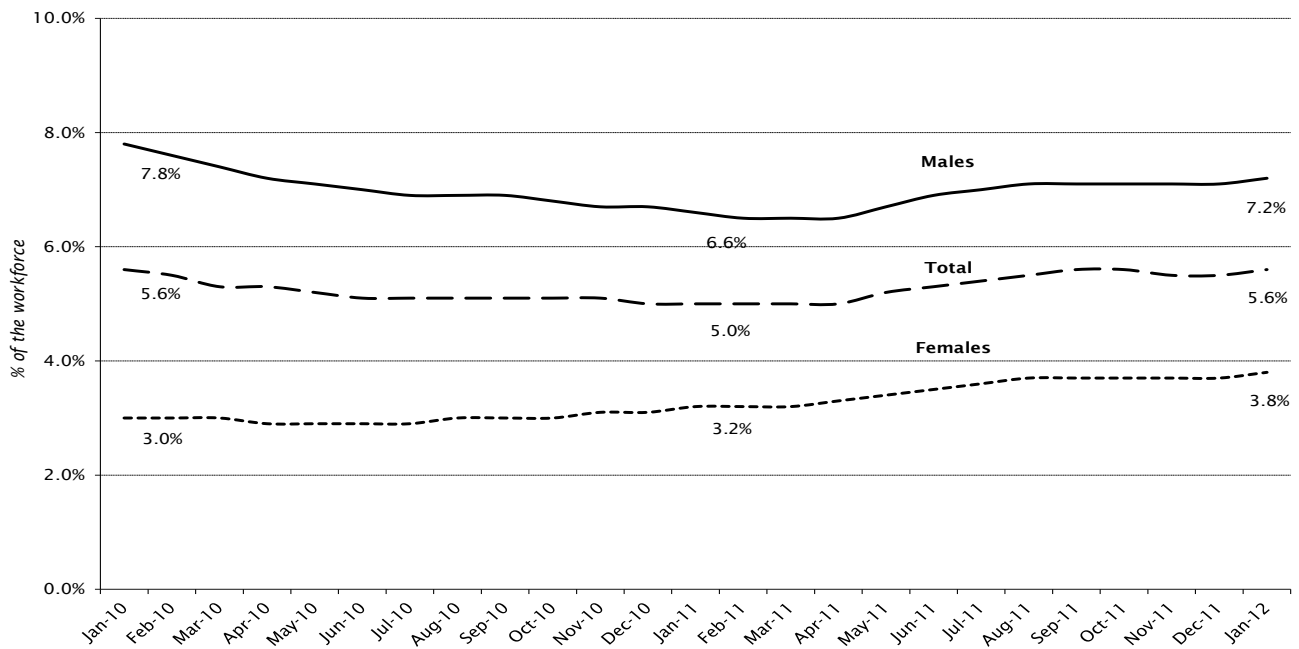
2: Unemployment statistics for Wales ³

Figure 2.1: ILO unemployment rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2.2: Claimant count rates



Source: Office for National Statistics

³ See Technical Annex for definitions of unemployment data used in this paper.

3: Unemployment statistics for UK nations

Table 3.1: ILO unemployment rates

| October to December | Wales | England | Scotland | Northern Ireland | UK |
|---------------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------------|-----|
| 2011 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 7.2 | 8.4 |
| 2010 | 8.4 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.9 |
| 2009 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 6.0 | 7.8 |

Source: Office for National Statistics/ Stats Wales

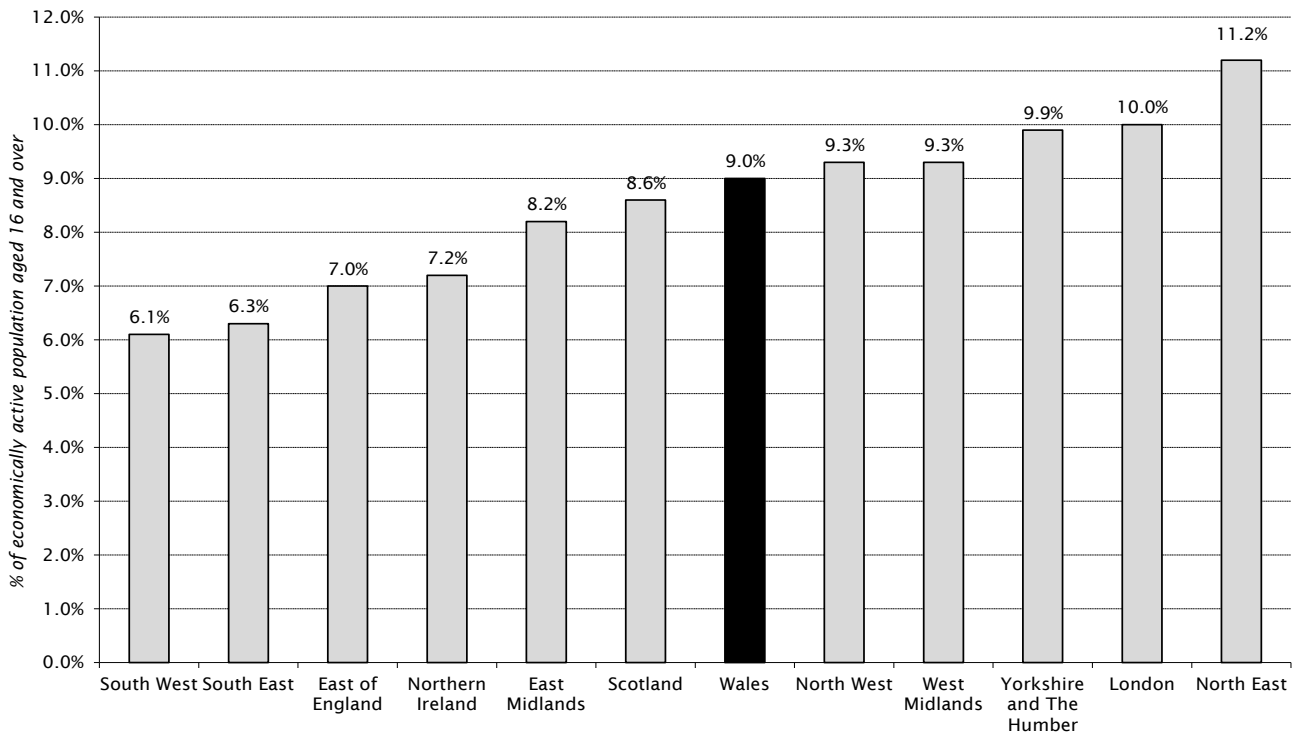
Table 3.2: Claimant count rates

| January | Wales | England | Scotland | Northern Ireland | UK |
|---------|-------|---------|----------|---------------------|-----|
| 2012 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 7.0 | 5.0 |
| 2011 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 6.6 | 4.5 |
| 2010 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 5.0 |

Source: Office for National Statistics/ Stats Wales

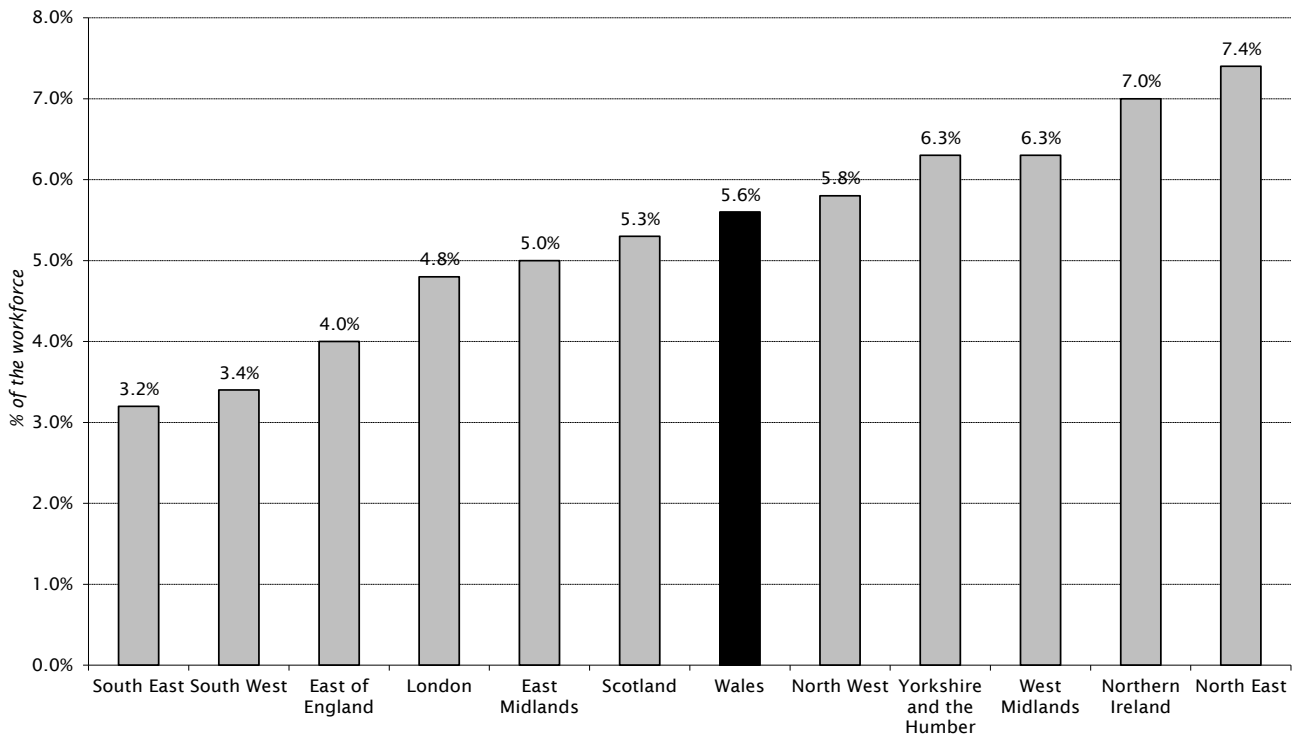
4: Unemployment statistics for UK nations and regions

Figure 4.1: ILO unemployment rates (October to December 2011)



Source: Office for National Statistics

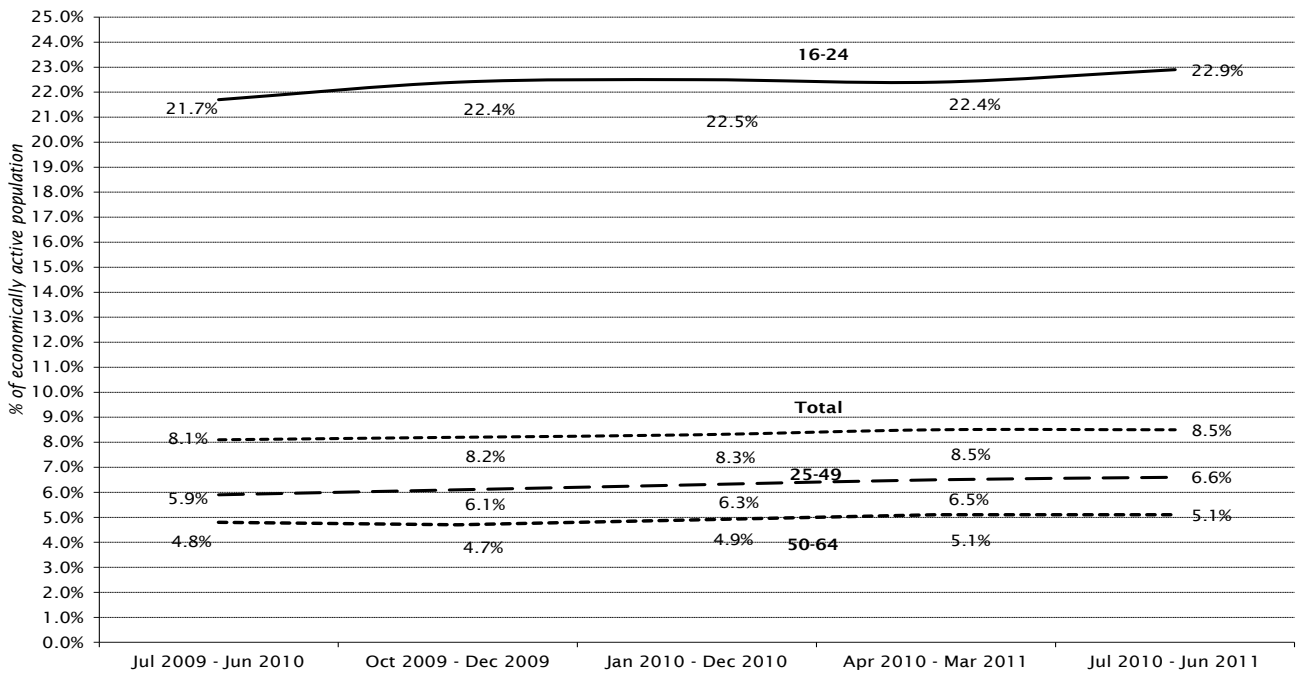
Figure 4.2: Claimant count rates (January 2012)



Source: Office for National Statistics

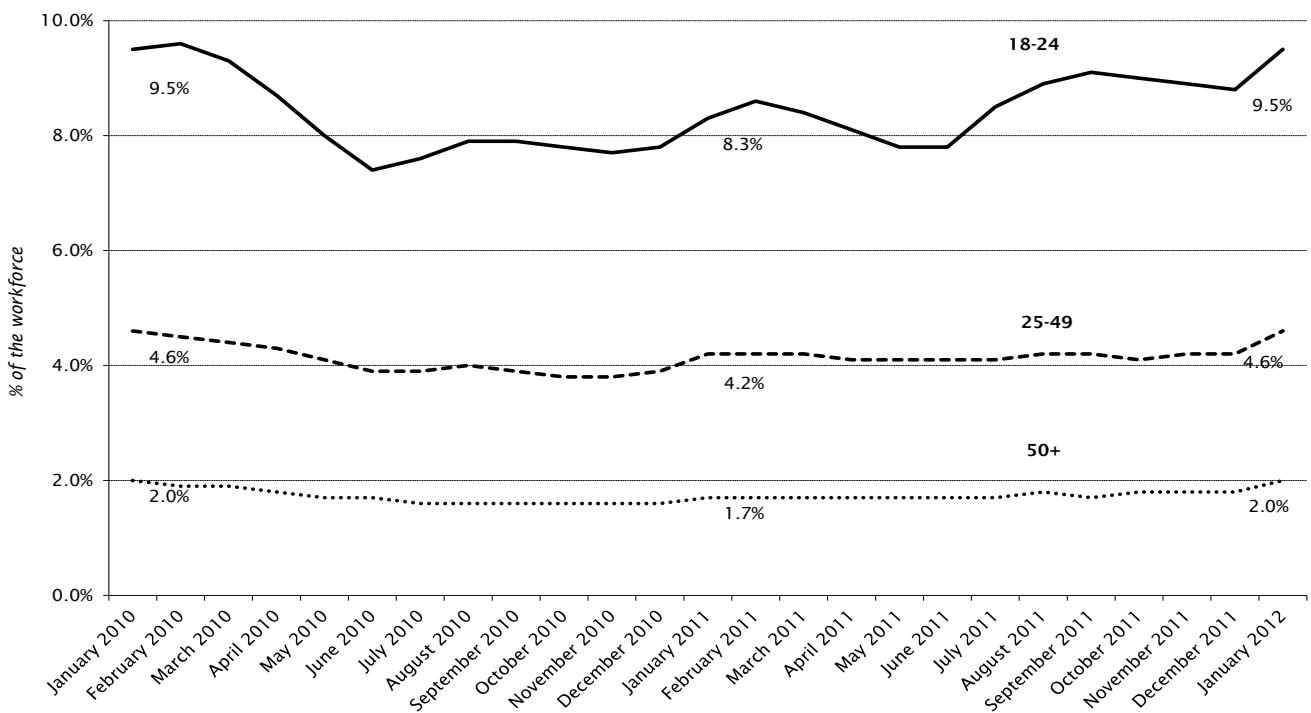
5. Unemployment by age group

Figure 5.1: ILO unemployment rates by age group (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 5.2: Claimant count rate by age group (not seasonally adjusted)⁴



Source: Office for National Statistics

⁴ Claimant count rates by age group are calculated by the Office for National Statistics as a rate of the population, and do not take into account the proportion of people who are economically inactive.

Table 5.1: ILO unemployment level by age group

| | <i>not seasonally adjusted</i> | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | 16-24 | 25-49 | 50-64 | 16 and over |
| Jul 2009 - Jun 2010 | 50,100 | 46,500 | 17,100 | 114,200 |
| Oct 2009 - Dec 2009 | 50,600 | 47,900 | 16,900 | 115,800 |
| Jan 2010 - Dec 2010 | 50,000 | 49,600 | 17,700 | 117,900 |
| Apr 2010 - Mar 2011 | 49,200 | 51,200 | 18,500 | 119,600 |
| Jul 2010 - Jun 2011 | 49,200 | 52,700 | 18,600 | 121,100 |

Source: Office for National Statistics

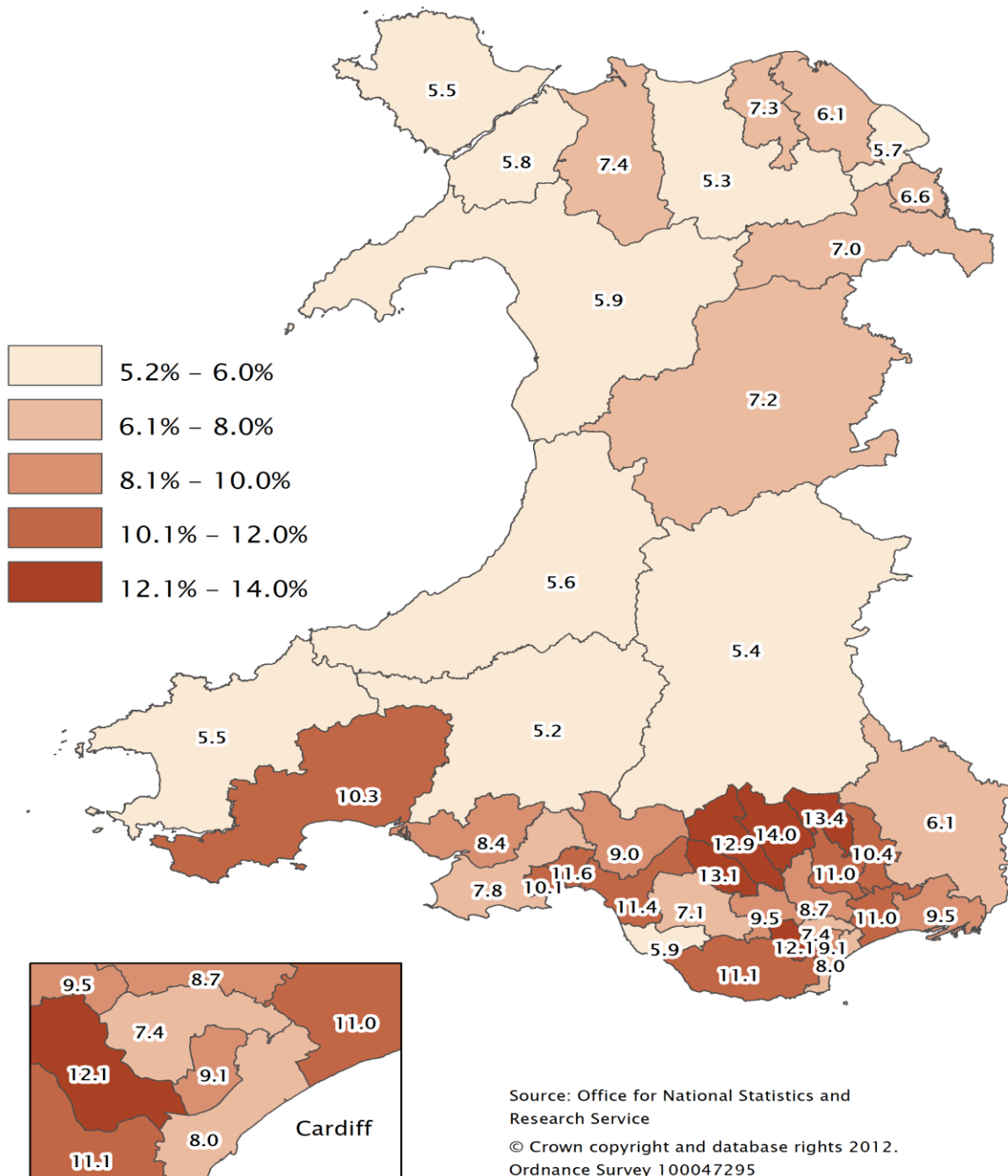
Table 5.2: Claimant count level by age group

| | <i>Not seasonally adjusted</i> | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| | 18-24 | 25-49 | 50+ |
| January 2010 | 28,210 | 42,920 | 11,460 |
| February 2010 | 28,695 | 42,500 | 11,250 |
| March 2010 | 27,610 | 41,060 | 10,795 |
| April 2010 | 25,925 | 40,175 | 10,680 |
| May 2010 | 23,850 | 38,275 | 10,085 |
| June 2010 | 22,115 | 36,835 | 9,695 |
| July 2010 | 22,725 | 36,790 | 9,420 |
| August 2010 | 23,560 | 37,240 | 9,420 |
| September 2010 | 23,640 | 36,440 | 9,190 |
| October 2010 | 23,130 | 35,515 | 9,200 |
| November 2010 | 22,975 | 36,185 | 9,330 |
| December 2010 | 23,150 | 37,165 | 9,530 |
| January 2011 | 24,645 | 40,000 | 10,190 |
| February 2011 | 25,685 | 40,050 | 10,185 |
| March 2011 | 25,185 | 39,275 | 10,045 |
| April 2011 | 24,090 | 38,760 | 9,970 |
| May 2011 | 23,335 | 38,505 | 9,850 |
| June 2011 | 23,185 | 38,215 | 9,925 |
| July 2011 | 25,335 | 39,055 | 10,080 |
| August 2011 | 26,645 | 39,640 | 10,220 |
| September 2011 | 27,170 | 39,340 | 10,115 |
| October 2011 | 26,880 | 39,105 | 10,220 |
| November 2011 | 26,415 | 39,180 | 10,400 |
| December 2011 | 26,160 | 39,635 | 10,650 |
| January 2012 | 28,200 | 43,140 | 11,550 |

Source: Office for National Statistics

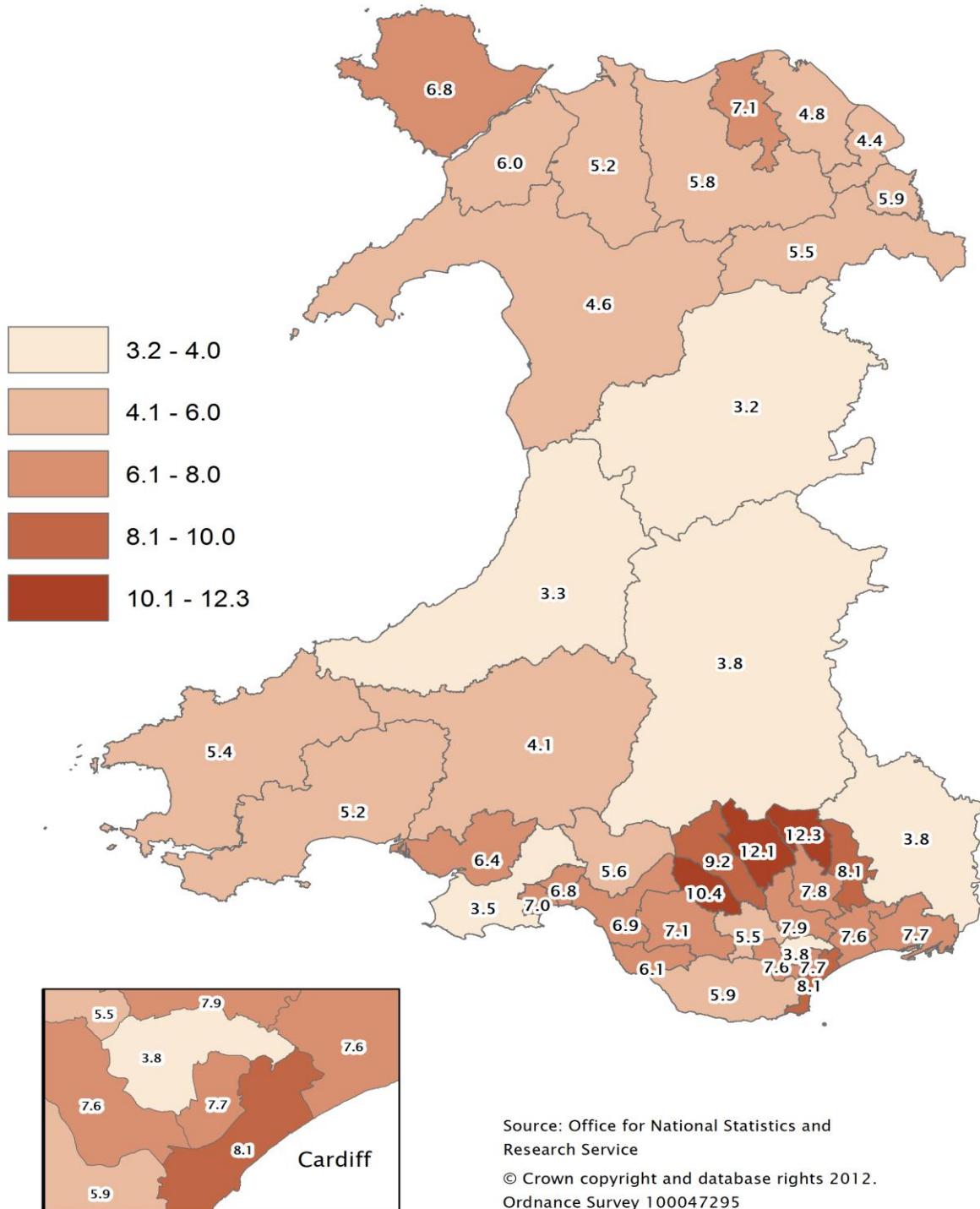
6: Unemployment statistics for Assembly constituencies

Map 6.1: ILO unemployment rates by Assembly constituency (July 2010 to June 2011)⁵



⁵ Latest available data (not seasonally adjusted). The rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over.

Map 6.2: Unofficial claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, January 2012 ⁶



⁶ Source: Research Service. Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a **percentage** of the economically active population aged between 16 and 64. See technical annex for details.

Table 6.1 Claimant count by Assembly Constituency, January 2012

not seasonally adjusted

| Constituency | Men | Women | People |
|---|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Aberavon | 1,216 | 553 | 1,769 |
| Aberconwy | 902 | 348 | 1,250 |
| Alyn and Deeside | 1,147 | 610 | 1,757 |
| Arfon | 1,127 | 396 | 1,523 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 2,311 | 1,105 | 3,416 |
| Brecon and Radnorshire | 779 | 373 | 1,152 |
| Bridgend | 1,432 | 630 | 2,062 |
| Caerphilly | 1,965 | 917 | 2,882 |
| Cardiff Central | 2,120 | 749 | 2,869 |
| Cardiff North | 1,127 | 457 | 1,584 |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | 2,630 | 1,105 | 3,735 |
| Cardiff West | 2,171 | 876 | 3,047 |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | 807 | 391 | 1,198 |
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | 1,168 | 473 | 1,641 |
| Ceredigion | 758 | 319 | 1,077 |
| Clwyd South | 1,220 | 576 | 1,796 |
| Clwyd West | 1,273 | 504 | 1,777 |
| Cynon Valley | 1,705 | 812 | 2,517 |
| Delyn | 1,028 | 563 | 1,591 |
| Dwyfor Meirionnydd | 807 | 351 | 1,158 |
| Gower | 819 | 376 | 1,195 |
| Islwyn | 1,678 | 768 | 2,446 |
| Llanelli | 1,431 | 592 | 2,023 |
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | 2,339 | 1,011 | 3,350 |
| Monmouth | 909 | 458 | 1,367 |
| Montgomeryshire | 661 | 306 | 967 |
| Neath | 1,184 | 499 | 1,683 |
| Newport East | 1,807 | 809 | 2,616 |
| Newport West | 1,999 | 861 | 2,860 |
| Ogmore | 1,617 | 670 | 2,287 |
| Pontypridd | 1,424 | 601 | 2,025 |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | 1,162 | 517 | 1,679 |
| Rhondda | 1,961 | 794 | 2,755 |
| Swansea East | 1,611 | 699 | 2,310 |
| Swansea West | 1,566 | 562 | 2,128 |
| Torfaen | 2,020 | 868 | 2,888 |
| Vale of Clwyd | 1,582 | 647 | 2,229 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 1,908 | 736 | 2,644 |
| Wrexham | 1,350 | 582 | 1,932 |
| Ynys Mon | 1,366 | 580 | 1,946 |

Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 6.2: Unofficial residence-based claimant count rates by Assembly Constituency, January 2012 (a)

not seasonally adjusted

| Constituency | Men | Women | People |
|---|------|-------|--------|
| Aberavon | 8.5 | 4.9 | 6.9 |
| Aberconwy | 7.0 | 3.2 | 5.2 |
| Alyn and Deeside | 5.3 | 3.4 | 4.4 |
| Arfon | 8.2 | 3.4 | 6.0 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 15.2 | 8.8 | 12.3 |
| Brecon and Radnorshire | 4.7 | 2.7 | 3.8 |
| Bridgend | 7.7 | 4.1 | 6.1 |
| Caerphilly | 9.9 | 5.5 | 7.9 |
| Cardiff Central | 10.4 | 4.4 | 7.7 |
| Cardiff North | 5.0 | 2.3 | 3.8 |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | 10.6 | 5.2 | 8.1 |
| Cardiff West | 10.1 | 4.7 | 7.6 |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | 5.1 | 2.9 | 4.1 |
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | 6.8 | 3.2 | 5.2 |
| Ceredigion | 4.3 | 2.2 | 3.3 |
| Clwyd South | 6.7 | 3.9 | 5.5 |
| Clwyd West | 7.7 | 3.6 | 5.8 |
| Cynon Valley | 11.4 | 6.5 | 9.2 |
| Delyn | 5.6 | 3.8 | 4.8 |
| Dwyfor Meirionnydd | 5.8 | 3.2 | 4.6 |
| Gower | 4.5 | 2.4 | 3.5 |
| Islwyn | 9.7 | 5.5 | 7.8 |
| Llanelli | 8.3 | 4.1 | 6.4 |
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | 15.3 | 8.1 | 12.1 |
| Monmouth | 4.6 | 2.8 | 3.8 |
| Montgomeryshire | 4.0 | 2.3 | 3.2 |
| Neath | 7.1 | 3.7 | 5.6 |
| Newport East | 9.6 | 5.3 | 7.7 |
| Newport West | 9.8 | 5.0 | 7.6 |
| Ogmore | 9.0 | 4.7 | 7.1 |
| Pontypridd | 7.2 | 3.6 | 5.5 |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | 6.8 | 3.7 | 5.4 |
| Rhondda | 13.2 | 6.8 | 10.4 |
| Swansea East | 8.7 | 4.5 | 6.8 |
| Swansea West | 9.3 | 4.1 | 7.0 |
| Torfaen | 10.4 | 5.4 | 8.1 |
| Vale of Clwyd | 9.4 | 4.4 | 7.1 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 7.9 | 3.5 | 5.9 |
| Wrexham | 7.5 | 3.9 | 5.9 |
| Ynys Mon | 8.6 | 4.5 | 6.8 |

Source: Research Service

(a) Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 to 64. See technical annex for details.

Technical Annex: Definitions of unemployment data

ILO unemployment

Definition: ILO (International Labour Organisation) unemployment is the number of those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks.

Methodology used for calculating rates: ILO rates are calculated as a percentage of the population aged 16 and over who are economically active. Economically active people are those who are either in work or are unemployed under the ILO definition.

Source: The number of ILO unemployed is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a sample survey of around 60,000 UK households carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS states that quarter on quarter changes at regional level are particularly subject to sampling variability and **should be interpreted in the context of changes over several quarters rather than in isolation**. The figures have also been adjusted by ONS to take account of seasonal factors.

Availability by age group and geographical area: The sample based nature of the LFS means that data for different age groups and areas within Wales (such as Assembly Constituencies and local authorities) is not available on a rolling three-monthly basis. Data for age groups, Assembly Constituencies and local authorities is only available on a rolling twelve-monthly basis, updated once a quarter.

Usage: ILO unemployment is now the headline unemployment indicator for the UK. It is a more encompassing measure of unemployment than the claimant count and enables international comparison of rates. The definition is used by most other countries, as well as Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Claimant Count

Definition: The claimant count measures the number of people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance.

Methodology used for calculating rates: Two methods have been used in this paper;

1. Workplace based rates. These rates have been calculated as the number of claimants resident in each area as a percentage of workforce jobs plus the claimant count. This approach is used for all figures and tables apart from those containing figures for Assembly Constituencies; and
2. Unofficial claimant count rates. The UK Parliamentary Constituencies introduced for the 2010 general election are the **same** as Assembly Constituencies. Claimant count **proportions for constituencies** are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS claimant count proportions use the population aged 16 to 64 as a denominator and so take no account of differences between areas in the proportion that are economically active.

Claimant count **rates for Assembly Constituencies** have been calculated by the Research Service, expressing the number of claimants as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 to 64 who are resident in the constituency. This produces an alternative measure of unemployment to those published by the ONS. The proportion of economically active residents in each constituency is derived from the 2001 Census of Population and then applied to the 2008 resident population estimates of the number aged 16-64, as produced by the ONS.

This is a change from the methodology used from May to July 2010, when the number of claimants was expressed as a percentage of the economically active residents **of working age** derived from the 2001 Census of Population and the 2008 population estimates. Prior to May 2010, the number of claimants was expressed as a percentage of economically active residents aged 16 and over, derived exclusively from the 2001 Census of Population. These changes are in line with new methodologies adopted by the House of Commons Library.

Source: The claimant count comes from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus. It is always lower than the ILO measure of unemployment because some unemployed people are either not entitled to claim Jobseekers allowance, or choose not to do so. The figures have also been adjusted by ONS to take account of seasonal factors (apart from those shown in Maps 5.1 and 5.2, and Tables 5.1 and 5.2).

Availability by age group and geographical area: Claimant count statistics are available on a monthly basis by age group, and also across a broad range of smaller administrative areas, including Assembly Constituencies, local authorities and wards.

Usage: Although it only provides a partial picture, the greater coverage and timeliness of the claimant count is useful to maintain a picture of the labour market at a local level.