Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire

MONITORING THE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Week beginning 13 July 2020 **Edition 15**

SUMMARY

To date (17 July 2020), Cambridge has registered 325 cases of Covid-19, and South Cambridgeshire 354 cases. Cambridgeshire County has registered 2,230 cases of Covid-19, against the 292,552 cases nationally. If we were to calculate this on a per capita basis (using total estimated resident population in 2018), on 17 July 2020, Cambridge has had 25.8 cases per 10,000 residents, South Cambridgeshire 22.5, and Cambridgeshire 34.2, compared to 44.0 for the UK.

A quick economic recovery now looks unlikely in the UK due to marginal economic growth in May. The latest official estimates reveal that UK economy experienced 1.8% growth in May. Many analysts and commentators were hoping for a more rapid bounce back from the 20.3% contraction in GDP in April. Retail, manufacturing and construction grew strongly between April and May, but services sector growth was small.

The Office for Budget Responsibility has suggested that, in its central scenario, by 2025, UK economic output would still not have recovered to the pre-covid trend, with significant business closures and jobs losses. If there is a slower recovery, the OBR predicts even higher levels of unemployment and significant economic restructuring.

European and US economies show signs of stabilisation and recovery, although with deeper recessions than previously thought. In a new set of forecasts, the EC warned that GDP will decline by 8.7% in 2020, down from a previous forecast of -7.7%. It has also reduced its forecast for 2021, from 6.3% growth in output to just 6.1%. The US economy shows signs of stabilisation, although new weekly unemployment claims continued to be above one-million for the 17th week in a row.

The UK has lost 650,000 jobs between March and May 2020. The number of UK payroll employees fell by 650,000 in June compared with March, a 2.3 per cent fall, according to the latest ONS analysis of HMRC data. The number of paid employees has fallen month-on-month since January 2020. Labour market conditions have weakened the most for those aged 65+ (who have withdrawn from the labour market due to Covid-19 risks) and those aged 18-24 (job loss and unemployment). Employment has also fallen among self-employed and part-time workers.

While the number of people on payroll fell in June, the number of people claiming unemployment benefits also fell slightly. There was a sharp increase in the number of claimants between March and May, with the claimant count rate rising from 3.0% to 6.4%. This fell slightly to 6.3% in June. In June 2020, there were 3,460 claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit ('searching for work' conditionality) in Cambridge and 3,155 claimants in South Cambridgeshire. The claimant count rates (the number of claimants as a percentage of working age people) in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire were 3.9% and 3.3% respectively in June, well below the UK rate (6.3%).

For those that remain employed, there has been a huge rise in numbers of people employed but temporarily away from paid work while average weekly hours worked have dropped to a record-low. The number of people employed but temporarily away from work increased sharply, from 2,280 in 2020 Q1 week 12 (the week before lockdown measures were announced) to 8,760 in 2020 Q2 week 4. This has since decreased week-on-week to 6,340 in 2020 Q2 week 9 (the last week of May). Average weekly hours worked by employed people also fell by 5.2 hours to 26.6 hours in March to May 2020 – the lowest on record.

Pay has fallen for those remaining in work. Average weekly earnings fell month-on-month between January (£546) and April (£529). Average weekly pay in April was 3.1% lower than in January. Average weekly pay increased slightly in May, by 0.1% (to £530). Of those whose job is on hold, the majority are receiving pay. In 2020 Q2 week 9 (the last week of May), 36.7% were receiving full pay and 56.0% were receiving partial pay, while 7.3% were receiving no pay.

Employers' hiring intentions have dropped to a record low and unemployment could reach 15% if there is a second wave of infections and lockdown. In April to June 2020, employers registered just 333,000 vacancies – 58.1% lower than the previous quarter: the lowest number of vacancies on record and the sharpest quarterly fall in vacancies since the series began in 2001. The number of unemployed people in Britain could soar to almost 15% of the working population if the country experiences a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Up to the end of June, 15,400 employees in Cambridge City, and 18,700 employees in South Cambridgeshire were furloughed on the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme – representing 23% and 24% of eligible employees respectively. This rate of furloughing is below the UK average of 31%. 69% of eligible individuals in Cambridge City, and 72% in South Cambridgeshire claimed on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme up to the end of June, compared to 75% for the UK as a whole.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

V-shaped recovery now unlikely as latest estimates reveal that UK economy experienced 1.8% growth in May. Many analysts and commentators were hoping for a more rapid bounce back from the 20.3% contraction in GDP in April. For example, Reuters had forecast 5.5% UK growth for May. The chances of a quick return to normal economic activities and rates of growth are now very slim. The largest positive contributor to May's GDP increase was the wholesale, retail and repair of motor vehicles sub-sector, in particular the retail industry which grew 12.0% as a result of strong growth in non-food stores and a record proportion of online sales. Manufacturing grew by 8.4%, and Construction grew by 8.2 per cent. Despite the monthly increases, construction output was still 39 per cent below February's level, while manufacturing production was 22 per cent smaller. The services sector grew by 0.9% in May.

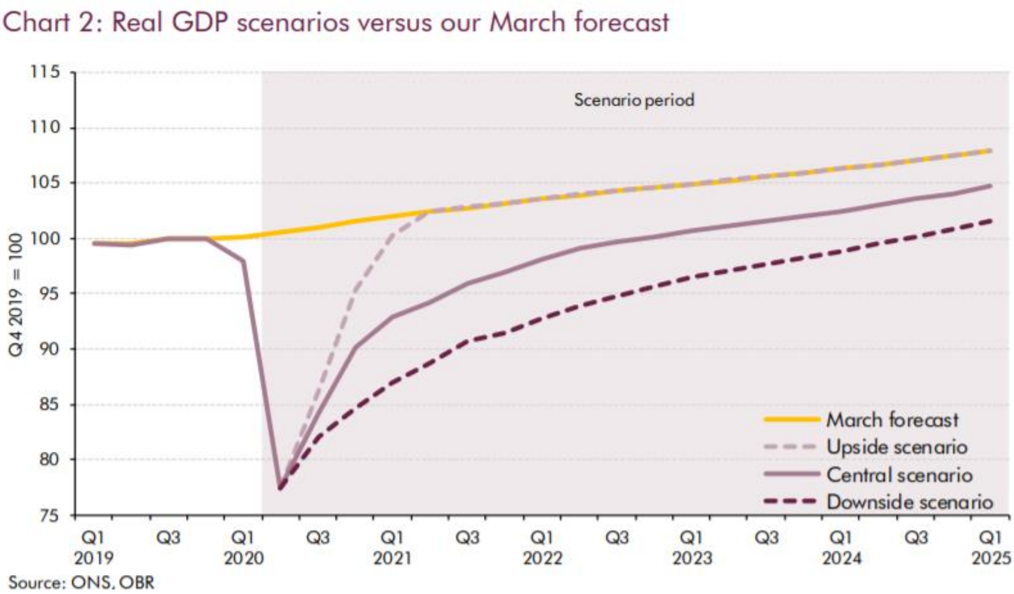
In its central scenario, the Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that by 2025 GDP will still be 3 per cent lower than its March forecast, made before Covid-19 lockdown. In the OBR's 1) upside scenario, economic output rebounds relatively quickly to reach its pre-virus peak by the first quarter of 2021, and there is no enduring economic scarring. This scenario was estimated before the May GDP updated, also published on 14 July which suggests that the 'upside scenario' is unlikely. In its 2) central scenario, output recovers more slowly, to reach the same levels as its pre-virus peak by the end of 2022 – but with real GDP continuing to lag 3% behind the pre-Covid forecast made in March into 2025. Cumulative business investment is 6 per cent lower than in the March forecast over five years, with high rates of unemployment and business failures. In the OBR's 3) downside scenario, output recovers even more slowly, returning to its pre-virus peak only in the third quarter of 2024. This results in a more significant loss of business investment, more firm failures and persistently high unemployment as the economy undergoes significant restructuring. Real GDP is 6 per cent lower in the first quarter of 2025 than in our March forecast. What the OBR analysis demonstrates is that the economic outcomes and consequences of Covid-19 remain very uncertain, but that they are likely to be serious.

The pace of decline in Britain's service sector has levelled off as shops reopen - but the economy still remains very subdued. The UK Service sector PMI has risen to 47.1 in June, better than May's low of 29.0. However, this continues to signal a contraction (as the PMI is below 50), with many firms reporting that that conditions are very tough. One-third of companies reported that activity contracted in June, an improvement on the 54% in May and 79% in April. However, barely one-quarter reported that business activity had picked up. Services companies reported that new orders kept falling, although at a slower rate, leading to more job cuts – suggesting that unemployment is going to keep rising.

Investment uncertainties facing UK laid bare as Ineos considers shelving UK manufacturing plans. In a possible blow to UK manufacturing, chemicals firm Ineos is now considering building its new off-road vehicle in France. Ineos had previously indicated it was planning to make the Grenadier 4x4 in Bridgend, Wales, creating 500 jobs. Now, though, it is considering shifting manufacturing to France, where Daimler is selling a factory.

As a sign of weakened demand and commercial activity, sales of new light commercial vehicles in the UK in June 2020 were 24.8% below June 2019 sales. This is an improvement on May, when registrations fell by 74.1% year-on-year. Total van sales in 2020 are down 44% compared to 2019, with just 108,876 new vans being bought. That's 87,500 less than a year ago, broadly matching the slump in car sales. New car sales fell by 34.9% in June 2020 compared with 2019, as car dealers began to reopen showrooms following the coronavirus shut-down. With 145,000 new car sales in June 2020, the demand for electric vehicles and hybrids is growing.

FIGURE 1: UPDATED OBR SCENARIO FORECASTS, 14 JULY 2020



The European Commission has slashed its economic forecasts, warning that eurozone will suffer an even deeper recession than previously thought. In a new set of forecasts, the EC warned that GDP will decline by 8.7% in 2020, down from a previous forecast of -7.7%. It has also reduced its forecast for 2021, from 6.3% growth in output to just 6.1%. The Commission also warns of 'exceptionally high' downside risks, due to the dangers that some companies collapse, driving unemployment higher.

US Economy shows signs of stabilisation as PMI readings improve. The US Institute of Supply Management's monthly healthcheck shows that US services companies returned to growth in June. Purchasing managers across the country reported that new business improved, helping to boost activity – which lifted the ISM's service sector PMI index up to 57.1 for June, up from May's 45.4. This is the best reading since the crisis began in February, and back over the 50-point mark showing expansion. Another PMI survey company, IHS Market reported less optimistic news – that the US Services PMI for June was 47.9. The latest report on unemployment claims (16 July) shows that 1,300,000 Americans filed new claims for unemployment support last week – the latest in 17 straight weeks in which initial claims are above one-million. Continuing claims of those remaining in unemployment are at 17.4 million.

IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

In the latest ONS coronavirus business survey (15 to 28 June 2020), 85% had been trading for more than the last two weeks, while 4% had started trading again within the last two weeks after a pause in trading. Of businesses continuing to trade, 58% reported a decrease in turnover out of normal range, while 12% reported that turnover had increased. Of businesses who had not stopped trading and who had implemented one or more safety measure, 73% reported having increased operating costs. Of businesses who had not stopped trading, 47% reported having no or less than six months cash reserves, while 33% reported having more than six months cash reserves.

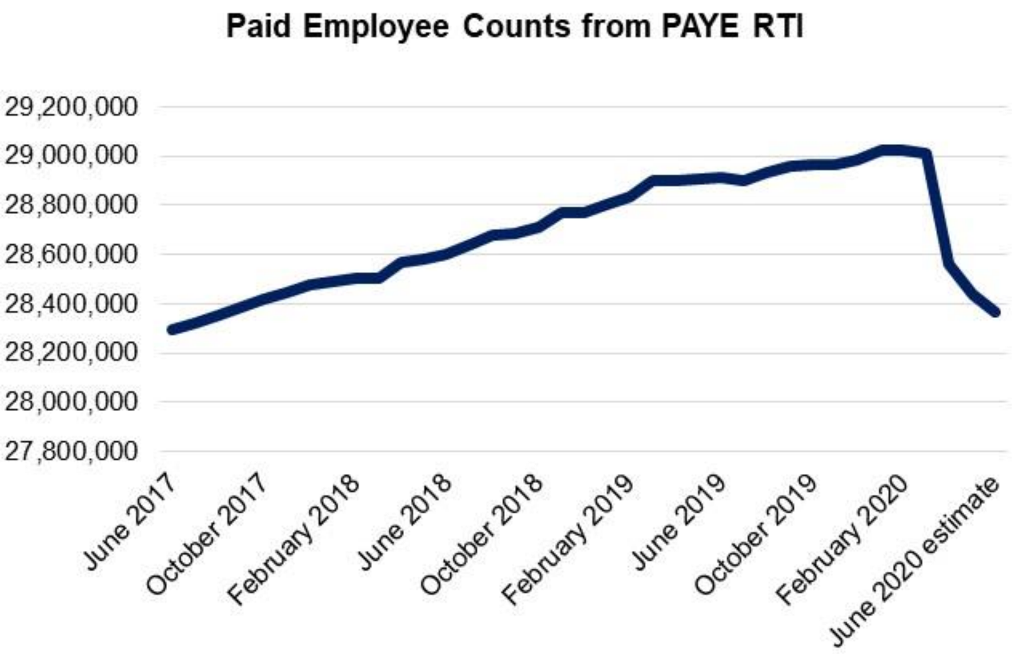
IMPACT ON THE WORKFORCE AND LABOUR MARKET

Employment

The latest headline labour market statistics (16 July) shows that despite shedding 650,000 jobs since lockdown there has been a slight weakening of the UK labour market in March to May 2020. The UK employment rate dropped slightly with a corresponding rise in economic inactivity. The latest headline Labour Force Survey estimates are based on interviews that took place from the start of March to the end of May 2020. With the UK being in lockdown for just over two-thirds of this period, the headline statistics now show some weakening in the UK labour market. Most notably, they indicate that the UK employment rate dropped slightly, with a corresponding rise in economic inactivity (people out of work and not seeking work). The unemployment rate fell slightly during the quarter.

The number of UK payroll employees fell by 650,000 in June compared with March, a 2.3 per cent fall, according to the latest ONS analysis of HMRC data. The number of paid employees has fallen month-on-month since January 2020. The latest estimate shows that the number of paid employees fell by 2.3% (or 662,400) between January and June 2020, to the lowest level since August 2017. The rate of decline in employment had slowed in June compared with May. This loss of jobs has yet to translate into data and trends on other aspects of the labour market, such as unemployment and inactivity.

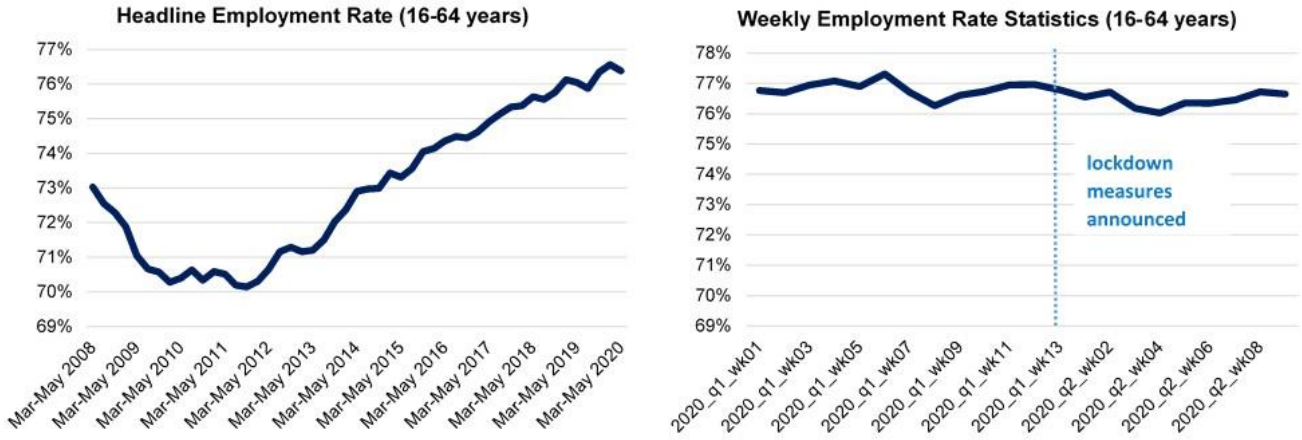
FIGURE 2: PAYROLL ESTIMATES OF EMPLOYMENT



Source: Office for National Statistics.

The employment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points on the previous quarter. However, weekly estimates suggest that the employment rate has been increasing slightly since its low in late-April. In March to May 2020, the working-age **employment rate** fell from a record high to 76.4% (down 0.2pp on the previous quarter but up 0.4pp on the same period last year). The experimental weekly estimates suggest that the UK's employment rate fell 1.0 percentage points from the week before lockdown (77.0% 2020 Q1 week 12) to the week commencing 20th April (76.0% 2020 Q2 week 4). However, it has since been on a slight upward trend, rising to 76.6% by the last week of May (2020 Q2 week 9).

FIGURE 3: HEADLINE EMPLOYMENT RATE, AND WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT RATE STATISTICS, UK



Source: Office for National Statistics

Up to the end of June, 15,400 employees in Cambridge City, and 18,700 employees in South Cambridgeshire were furloughed on the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme – representing 23% and 24% of eligible employees respectively. This rate of furloughing is below the UK average of 31%. 69% of eligible individuals in Cambridge City, and 72% in South Cambridgeshire claimed on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme up to the end of June, compared to 75% for the UK as a whole.

FIGURE 4: LATEST CRJS AND SEISS ASSISTANCE FIGURES TO 30 JUNE

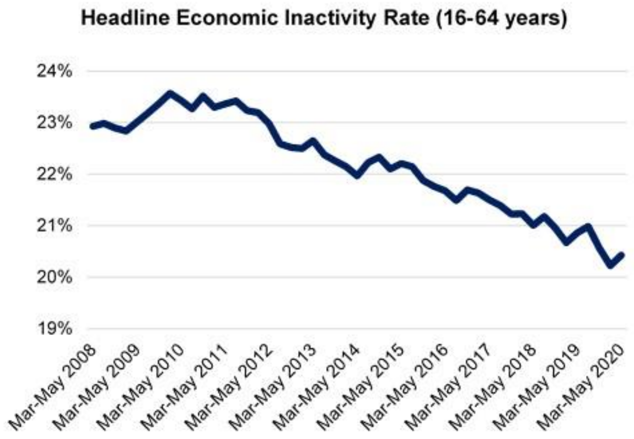
	Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme to 30 June 2020		Self-Employment Income Support Scheme to 30 June 2020				
	Total	Take up rate as % of eligible employments	Eligible individuals	Claims	Value of claims	Average value of claim per individual	% take up of total eligible
Cambridge	15,400	23%	5,000	3,400	10,300,000	3,000	69%
East Cambridgeshire	11,200	27%	5,000	3,600	12,000,000	3,300	73%
Fenland	11,900	25%	5,400	4,000	12,300,000	3,100	74%
Huntingdonshire	23,800	27%	8,200	6,000	19,200,000	3,200	73%
Peterborough UA	26,300	25%	9,700	6,900	18,700,000	2,700	72%
South Cambridgeshire	18,700	24%	8,100	5,700	18,700,000	3,300	71%
Cambridgeshire	81,000	25%	31,600	22,700	72,400,000	3,200	72%
UK	9,373,900	31%	3,399,000	2,553,000	7,416,000,000	2,900	75%

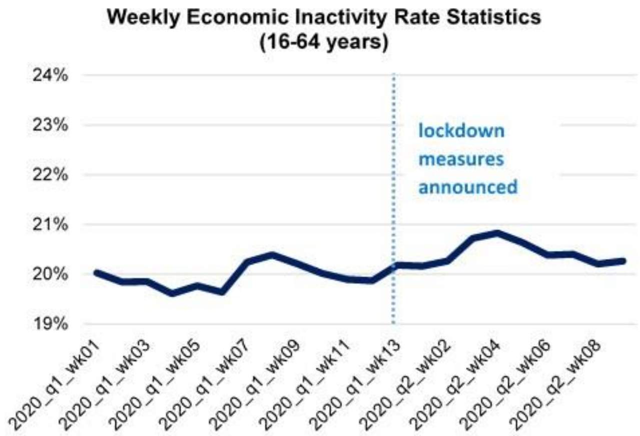
Source: HMRC

Economic participation

The economic inactivity rate rose by 0.2 percentage points on the previous quarter. However, weekly estimates suggest that the economic inactivity rate has been falling since its high in late-April. In March to May 2020, the working-age **economic inactivity rate** rose from a record low to 20.2% (up 0.2pp on the previous quarter but down 0.5pp on the same period last year). The experimental weekly estimates suggest that the UK's economic inactivity rate rose 1.0 percentage points from the week before lockdown (19.9% 2020 Q1 week 12) to the week commencing 20th April (20.8% 2020 Q2 week 4). However, it has since been on a slight downward trend, falling to 20.3% by the last week of May (2020 Q2 week 9).

FIGURE 5: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY RATE STATISTICS, UK

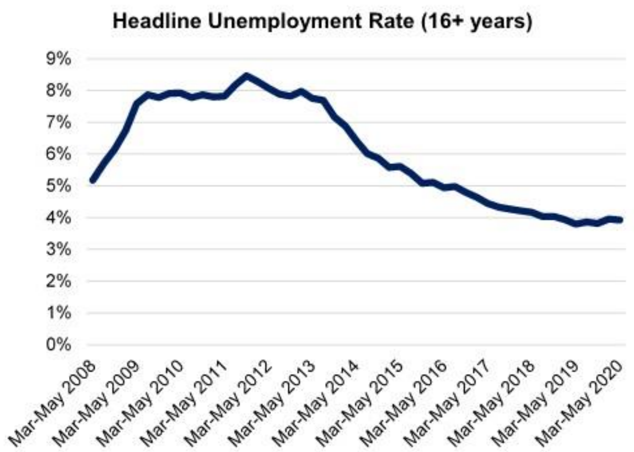


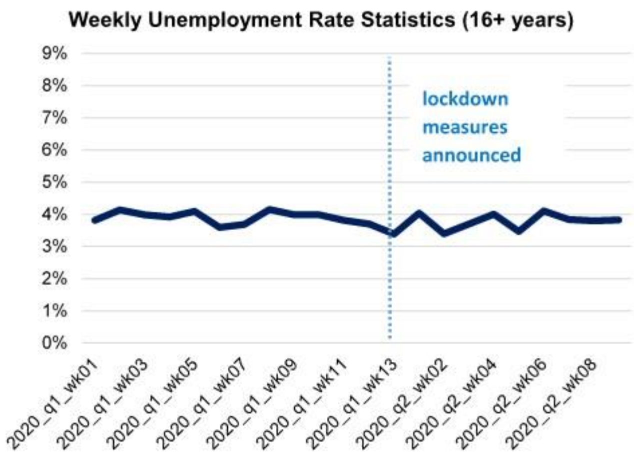


Source: Office for National Statistics

The unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points on the previous quarter. In March to May 2020, the **unemployment rate** fell to 3.9% (down 0.1pp on the previous quarter but up 0.1pp on the same period last year). The experimental weekly estimates show a lot of volatility in the unemployment rate over the lockdown period but the latest weekly data suggest that it remained stable over the last three weeks at 3.8% (the second to fourth weeks of May), down from a high of 4.1% in the first full week of May.

FIGURE 6: UNEMPLOYMENT (ILO) RATE, UK





Source: Office for National Statistics

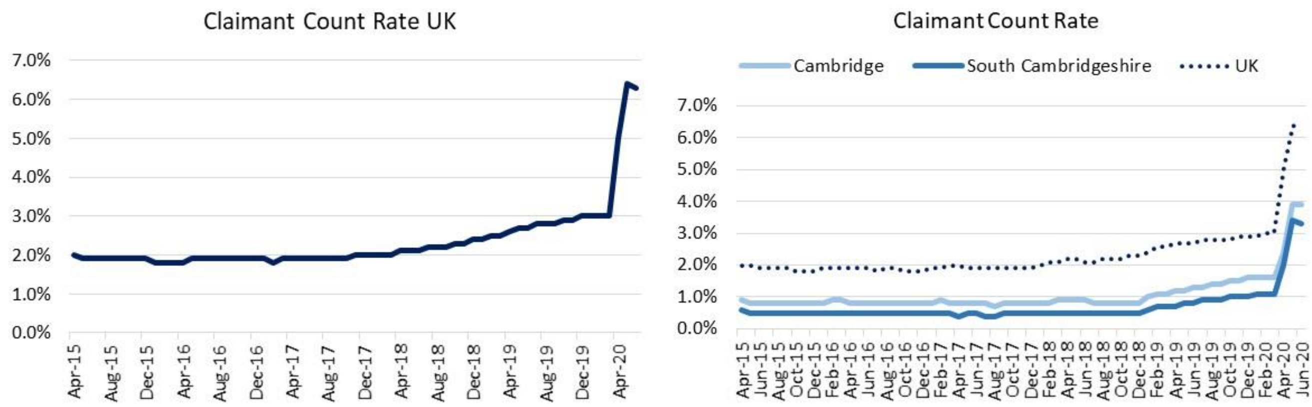
Labour market conditions have weakened significantly for those aged 65+, with 18-24 year olds experiencing the largest rise in unemployment. The largest drop in employment during March to May occurred among those aged 65+. This occurred alongside a large increase in economic inactivity, i.e. people not in work and not seeking work, likely due to the recommendation for over-70s to self-isolate. The highest rise in unemployment was experienced by those aged 18-24 years, with a corresponding fall in employment, highlighting that young people who have lost their jobs have been seeking new work. There was a large fall in unemployment among 50-64 year olds, matched by a large rise in inactivity, suggesting that those who were seeking work suspended their job search during lockdown

Employment has also fallen among self-employed and part-time workers. In March to May, employment continued to rise for employees working full-time (+177,000 on the previous quarter). However, employment fell for part-time employees (-79,900) and self-employed people working full-time (-133,100) and part-time (-45,200).

While the number of people on payroll fell in June, the number of people claiming unemployment benefits also fell slightly. The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work. The measure also now includes people in work but with low income and/or low hours, that make them eligible for unemployment-related benefit support. The claimant count has been increasing steadily over the past few years following the roll-out of Universal Credit, which requires a broader span of people to look for work than was the case for legacy benefits. There was a sharp increase in the number of claimants between March and May, with the claimant count rate rising from 3.0% to 6.4%. This fell slightly to 6.3% in June. However, the number of claimants in June, at 2.6 million, was 131.7% higher than the same time last year. The fall in the claimant count in June was largely driven by a fall in the number of claimants aged 25-49 years, while the number of claimants aged 18-24 years continued to increase.

In June 2020, there were 3,460 claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit ('searching for work' conditionality) in Cambridge and 3,155 claimants in South Cambridgeshire. The claimant count rates (the number of claimants as a percentage of working age people) in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire were 3.9% and 3.3% respectively in June, well below the UK rate (6.3%). South Cambridgeshire's claimant count rate was the fifth lowest of all 379 UK local authority areas. Between May and June 2020, the claimant count rate in Cambridge remained the same while the claimant count rate in South Cambridgeshire fell by 0.1pp (the same as the UK average). Compared to June 2019, the claimant count rate in Cambridge was up 2.6pp while the claimant count rate in South Cambridgeshire was up 2.5pp – both lower than the average annual increase across the UK (+3.6pp). However, the number of claimants increased by 208.9%, from 1,425 claimants to 3,460 in Cambridge between June 2019 and June 2020. Over this time period, claimants increased by 301.9% in South Cambridgeshire – from 1,035 in June 2019 to 3,155 in June 2020.

FIGURE 7: CLAIMANT COUNT RATES



Source: Office for National Statistics

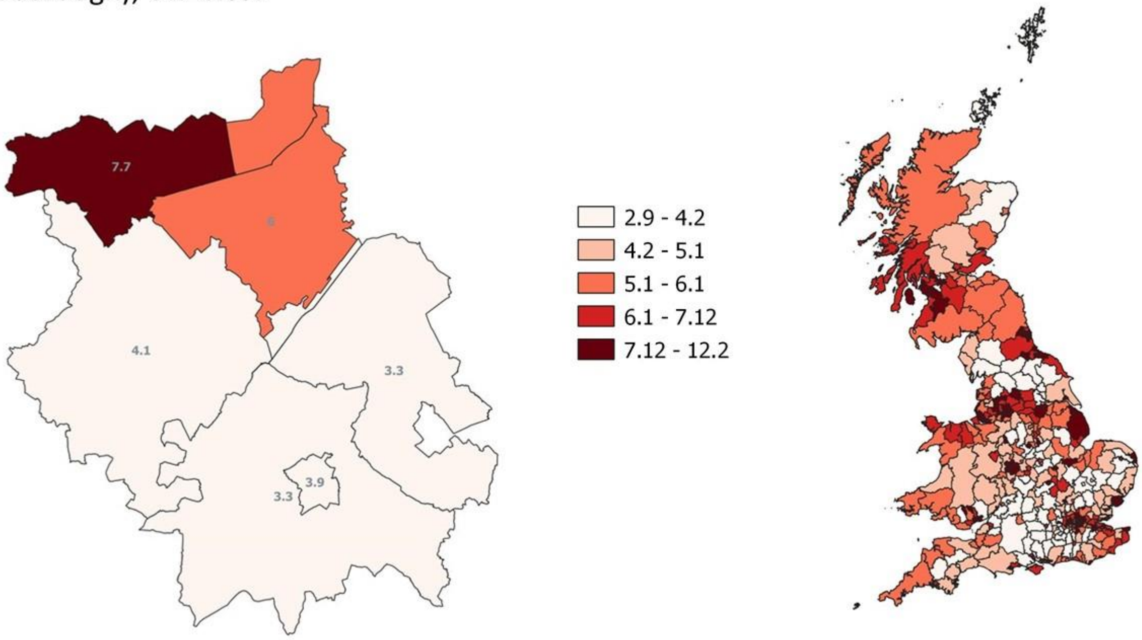
FIGURE 8: CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

	Total claimants				Claimant rate (as % of population aged 16-64)				% Increase since March 2020	% year-on-year increase (Jun-20 to May-20)
	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20		
Cambridge	1,425	2,145	3,450	3,460	1.6	2.4	3.9	3.9	142.8	208.9
South Cambridge-shire	1,035	1,915	3,235	3,155	1.1	2.0	3.4	3.3	204.8	301.9
Cambridge-shire	6,505	11,035	16,980	16,485	2.1	4.1	4.5	4.4	153.4	223.2
United Kingdom	1,268,620	2,113,560	2,661,340	2,625,475	3.0	5.1	6.4	6.3	107.0	131.2

Source: Office for National Statistics

FIGURE 9: CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

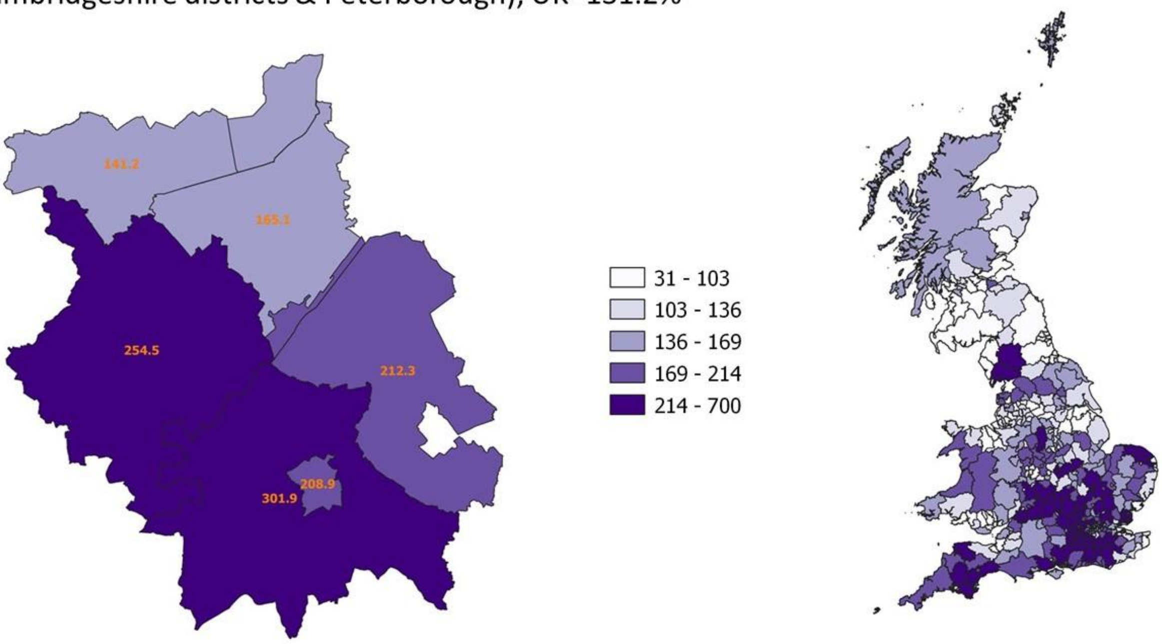
Claimant unemployment rate (Cambridgeshire districts & Peterborough), UK=6.3%



Source: Office for National Statistics; Map Boundaries subject to Crown Copyright, 2019.

FIGURE 10: YEAR-ON-YEAR % INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS FROM MAY 2019 TO MAY 2020

Change over 12 months in total claimants May 2019 to May 2020 (Cambridgeshire districts & Peterborough), UK=131.2%

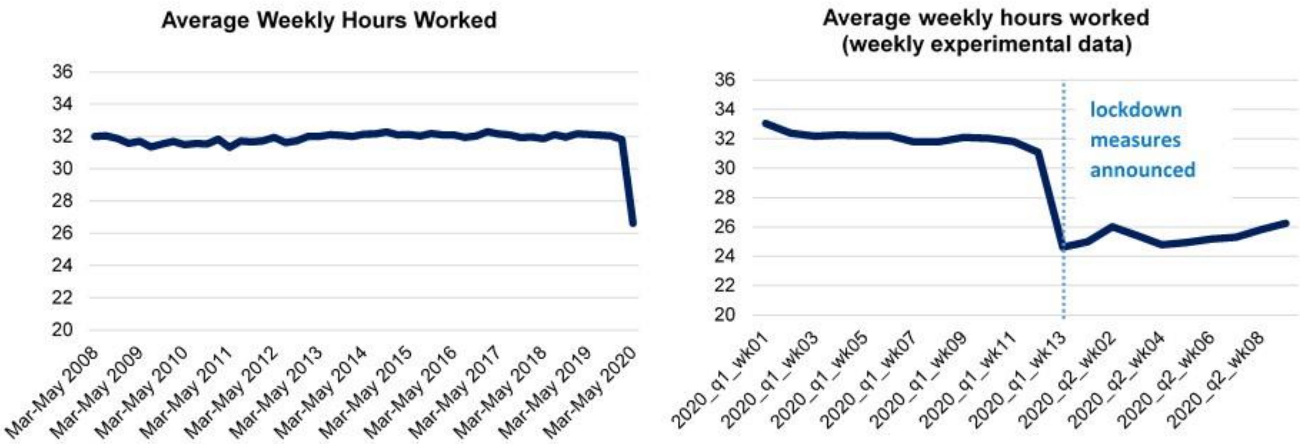


Source: Office for National Statistics; Map Boundaries subject to Crown Copyright, 2019.

Working hours and pay

For those that remain employed, there has been a huge rise in numbers of people employed but temporarily away from paid work while average weekly hours worked have dropped to a record-low. The number of people employed but temporarily away from work increased sharply, from 2,280 in 2020 Q1 week 12 (the week before lockdown measures were announced) to 8,760 in 2020 Q2 week 4. This has since decreased week-on-week to 6,340 in 2020 Q2 week 9 (the last week of May). Average weekly hours worked by employed people also fell by 5.2 hours to 26.6 hours in March to May 2020 – the lowest on record. However, weekly statistics suggest that weekly hours worked increased slightly over the five weeks to 2020 Q2 week 9.

FIGURE 11: WEEKLY WORKING HOURS



Source: Office for National Statistics

Pay has fallen for those remaining in work. Average weekly earnings fell month-on-month between January (£546) and April (£529). Average weekly pay in April was 3.1% lower than in January. Average weekly pay increased slightly in May, by 0.1% (to £530). Of those whose job is on hold, the majority are receiving pay. In 2020 Q2 week 9 (the last week of May), 36.7% were receiving full pay and 56.0% were receiving partial pay, while 7.3% were receiving no pay.

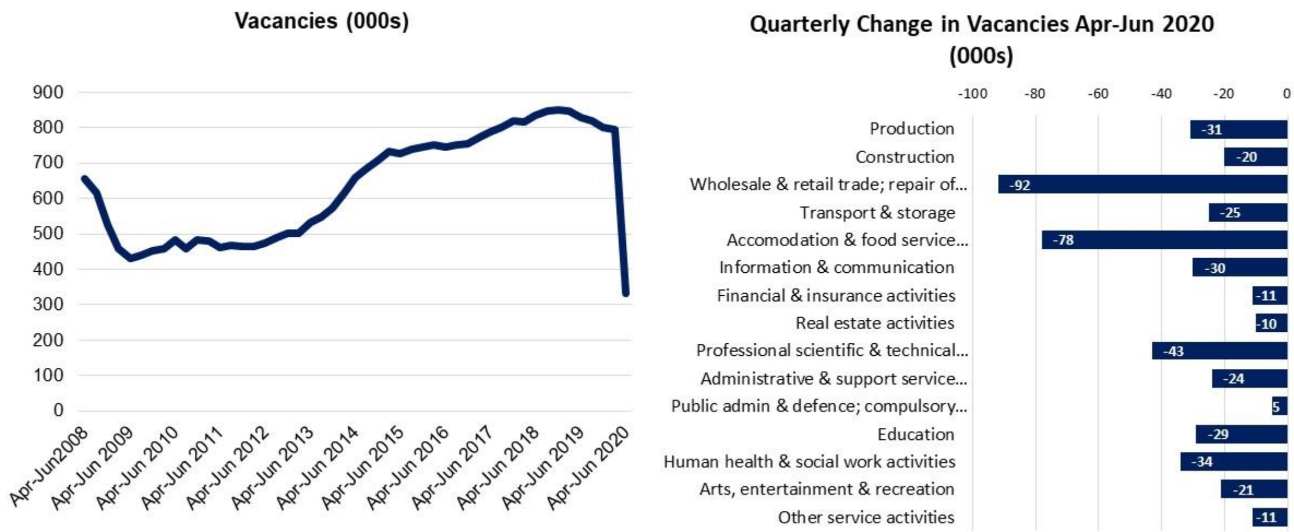
FIGURE 12: AVERAGE WEEKLY PAY, UK

Source: Office for National Statistics

Outlook for the labour market

Employers' hiring intentions have dropped to a record low. In April to June 2020, employers registered just 333,000 vacancies – 58.1% lower than the previous quarter: the lowest number of vacancies on record and the sharpest quarterly fall in vacancies since the series began in 2001. By comparison, the largest quarterly drop in vacancies during the 2008/09 recession was 14.8% (in October to December 2008). The industries experiencing the largest quarterly fall in vacancies were in the main lockdown sectors: Wholesale & retail trade (-92,000) and Accommodation & food service activities (-78,000).

FIGURE 13: JOB VACANCIES IN THE UK

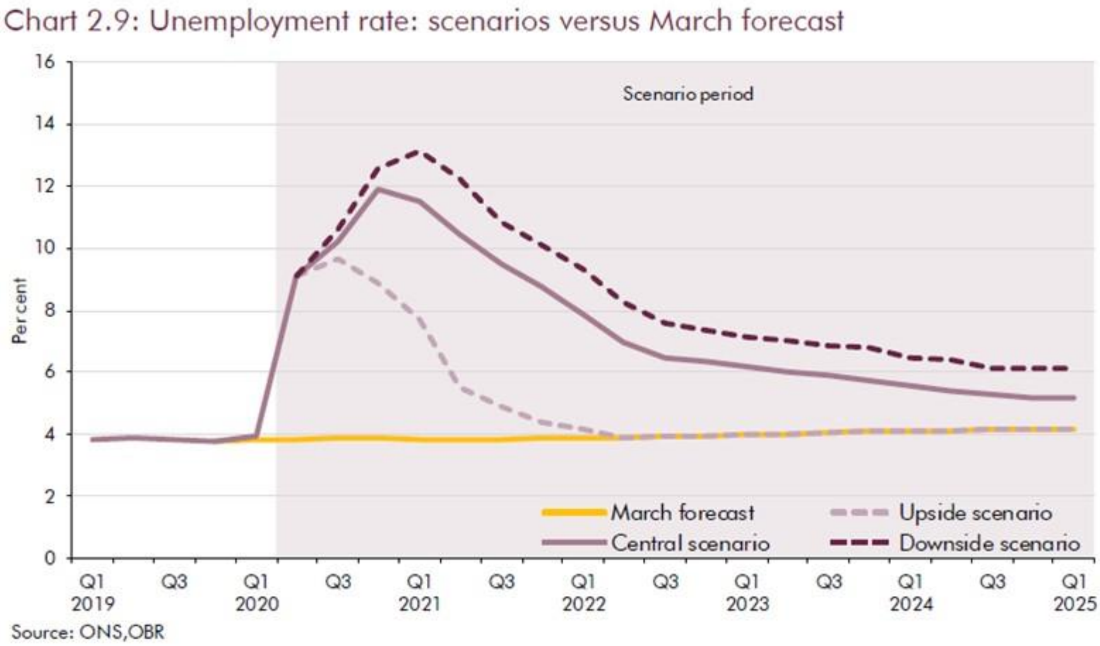


Source: Office for National Statistics

The number of unemployed people in Britain could soar to almost 15% of the working population if the country experiences a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A rise in the unemployment rate to 14.8% would take the UK to a higher level than France, Germany and Italy, but lower than Spain. If a second wave of Covid-19 can be avoided, the UK's unemployment rate is likely to rise to 11.7% by the end of the year, the highest level since 1984 when it peaked at 11.9%. The current UK unemployment rate is 3.9%. This prediction follows the OECD's prediction in its June economic forecast, that the UK economy will suffer the worst damage from the Covid-19 crisis of any country in the developed world. At the time, the OECD said UK unemployment would peak at 9% because the country was more exposed than most to the global slowdown in trade that followed the lockdowns imposed by most governments. In the UK, new online job postings for middle-skill occupations contracted twice as much between February and April 2020 as for low-skill occupations, and 40% more than for high-skill occupations. The OECD also predict further labour market polarisation – as new online job postings for middle-skill occupations contracted twice as much between February and April 2020 as for low-skill occupations, and 40% more than for high-skill occupations. There are significant risks that a generation of young people are denied employment or retraining, restricting their ability to gain a sustainable, skilled job.

In the OBR's latest scenarios for the UK economy, there is the risk of a serious unemployment crisis if the economy doesn't recover fast from the Covid-19 shock. Under the Office for Budget Responsibility's recent central scenario (14 July), the jobless rate peaks at nearly 12% at the end of this year - up from below 4% at the start of 2020. Unemployment rates this high have not been witnessed since the 1980s recession. Although the OBR sees unemployment falling in 2021, it is still above pre-crisis levels in 2025, showing a slow recovery. The OBR's downside scenario is much worse - with unemployment peaking at 13.2% in early 2021.

FIGURE 14: LATEST (14 JULY) OBR SCENARIOS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES



Over the week to 5th July 2020, vacancies there were 110,000 new vacancies notified according to the latest analysis of Adzuna job vacancies, from the Institute for Employment Studies. This is a modest increase compared to the previous week, when fewer than 90 thousand new vacancies were advertised. This low figure suggests that the easing of lockdown has not yet led to any significant rebound in hiring. New vacancy notifications are 70 per cent lower than for the equivalent week last year, and 50 per cent lower than in the week before the crisis began. Vacancy levels remain lower by more than 450 thousand posts than before the crisis began, and there are 650 thousand fewer vacancies than at the same time last year. Public service jobs in Healthcare, Social Work and Teaching have significantly increased as a share of all vacancies, while IT has held up its share of vacancies, despite falling vacancy numbers overall. The most recent week's vacancy data show that the fragile recovery seen in vacancy data a few weeks ago seems to have fizzled out, even as lockdown measures have been eased. This likely reflects both the continuing high uncertainty among employers and the significant spare capacity that many employers will have with employees starting to return to work from the Job Retention Scheme.

FIGURE 15: TOTAL NUMBER OF VACANCIES (ADZUNA) BY WEEK

Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of Adzuna Vacancy Data.

COMPANY NEWS

The Cambridge Index slipped 522.3 points or 2.3% to close at 21920.1, as nine of the top ten Index heavyweights posted weekly losses to their share prices. Barclays Capital retained its "Equal Weight" rating on Johnson Matthey, up 1.1%, with a target price of 2450p. UBS maintained its "Sell" rating on the stock with a target price of 1900p. Davy Research reiterated its "Neutral" rating on DS Smith, down 7%, with a target price of 300p. Abcam, down 1%, announced that it has entered into a partnership with Cancer Research UK for the development and commercialisation of novel custom antibodies to support the acceleration of cancer research. JP Morgan Cazenove reiterated its "Neutral" rating on the stock with a target price of 1400p. SDI Group, up 3.1%, announced that it will release its final results for the year ended 30 April 2020 on 21 July 2020.

Bango reports record revenue growth. Bango recorded revenue growth of more than 50% to £4.8M (vs 1H 2019 Payments revenue of £3.18M) on its six month trading results. The Bango Platform generated cash in 1H 2020. Cash on 30 June 2020 was £4.2M. This accounts for NHN deal related and associated internal costs and the Audiens earnout payment (from January 2020) totaling approximately £1.8M. During 1H 2020 Bango signed a three-year platform deal with a leading global telecoms provider, worth at least £1.5M, with opportunities for further revenue growth. Bango also announced the launch of a payment option for Softbank customers in Amazon.co.jp. Bango now powers carrier billing for Amazon.co.jp across Japan's three largest operators: SoftBank, NTT Docomo and KDDI, reaching over 100 million consumers.

Deloitte Life Sciences Catalyst launches in Cambridge. Deloitte has launched the Life Sciences Catalyst in Cambridge, a collaborative platform enabling organisations in the biotech, medtech, pharmaceutical and technology sectors, as well as prospective investors, to come together to tackle the biggest challenges facing their industries. The Life Sciences Catalyst will facilitate connections between people, businesses and investors to support companies with their growth, regardless of their evolutionary stage. It has a physical presence in the heart of the city and will enable companies to access an online database of white papers, participate in a virtual events programme, attend business surgeries and access Deloitte's Biotech-in–a-Box suite of solutions.

Marshall signs exclusive partnership with QinetiQ for C-130 armour. Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group (Marshall ADG) signed an exclusive agreement with QinetiQ to market, sell and install the latest generation of lightweight armour (LAST Armor® LWA) for the C-130 Hercules. The new armour is half the weight and offers air crew the same threat protection as the previous LAST Armor. It also saves fuel, reduces the impact on the aircraft's centre of gravity and allows the C-130-30 variant its full cargo carrying capacity.