How to measure unemployment

Claimant Count: Includes people who are eligible to claim the Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA).

The data is seasonally adjusted to take into account predictable seasonal changes in the demand for labour.

Labour Force Survey: Includes people who are without any kind of job but who have looked for work in the past month and are able to start work immediately.

The Labour Force Survey uses the internationally agreed definition of unemployment and therefore allows more accurate cross-country comparisons of unemployment levels.

Definition:

The unemployed are those people able, available and willing to work at the going wage but cannot find a job despite an active search for work.

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