We present an at-a-glance overview of the key issues in Britain today. In this issue our focus is on Employment. All statistics are from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

**Unemployment duration**

For September to November 2012: 1.18 million people had been unemployed for up to six months, up 8,000 from June to August; 434,000 people had been unemployed for over two years, down 10,000 from June to August. Unemployment by duration for September to November 2012

> Over twelve months (36%)
> Up to six months (47%)
> Over six and up to twelve months (17%)

**“Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance?”** Edgar Bergen

**71%**

**23%**

**1.5%**

The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 71.4%, up 0.1% on June to August 2012 and up 1.1% on a year earlier.

The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 22.5%, unchanged on June to August 2012 but down 0.7% on a year earlier.

Total pay (including bonuses) rose by 1.5% in June to August 2012 compared with September to November 2011 pay.

There were 552,000 more people (age 16+) in employment in Sept-Nov 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. This is the largest annual increase since 1989.

In April 2012 median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were £506, up 1.5% from £498 in 2011. Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were highest in London, at £653, and lowest in Wales, at £453.

The gender pay gap (difference between men’s and women’s median hourly pay) for full-time employees fell to 9.6% in April 2012 from 10.5% in 2011.

**Earnings by occupation**

Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were highest for Managers and Senior Officials, at £738 (46% higher than the median for all employees), and lowest for Sales and Customer Service occupations, at £323 (36% lower than the median for all employees). Median full-time gross weekly earnings by major occupation group, UK, April 2012, £ per week.

- Managers, directors and senior officials
- Professional occupations
- Associate professional and technical occupations
- Administrative and secretarial occupations
- Skilled trades occupations
- Caring, leisure and other service occupations
- Sales and customer service occupations
- Process, plant and machine operatives
- Elementary occupations

> "Measure not the work until the day's out and the labor done" Elizabeth Barrett Browning
**Employment status**

Between September to November 2007 and September to November 2012, the number of people in full-time employment fell by 341,000, the number of people in part-time employment increased by 660,000, and the number of unemployed people increased by 854,000.

**Young people in employment**

For September to November 2012 there were 3.72 million 16- to 24-year-olds in employment, up 12,000 from June to August. There were 957,000 unemployed, up 1,000 over the same period.

**UK labour productivity**

On an output per hour basis, UK labour productivity fell by 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2012. Market sector productivity fell by 0.6 per cent on this basis, to its lowest level since 2005.

**Public sector employment**

The number of people employed in the public sector was 5.75 million in September 2012, down 24,000 from June 2012.

“A professional is one who does his best work when he feels the least like working” — Frank Lloyd Wright

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**Notes:**

- Data on employment status, young people, and UK labour productivity are from official sources.
- Public sector employment data reflects changes in employment by industry for September 2012, seasonally adjusted (thousands of people).