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BLAENAU GWENT TOPS THE WELSH LEAGUE WITH 17.4 UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS CHASING EACH JOB VACANCY

The number one political priority has to be securing a reduction in unemployment by creating jobs, by stimulating demand in the economy, not by cutting wages and shedding jobs says GMB

In second half of 2011 there were 17.4 unemployed workers chasing each live unfilled job vacancy in Blaenau Gwent a new GMB analysis shows. Blaenau Gwent was top of the Wales league with the highest ratio of claimants to unfilled job vacancies. In Blaenau Gwent during this period there was a monthly average of 3,178 unemployed claimants chasing a monthly average of 183 live unfilled job vacancies. Next in the league in terms of number of claimants for each unfilled vacancy were Merthyr Tydfil 12.7; Rhondda, Cynon, Taff 10.7 and Caerphilly 9.7. Below are the figures for the 22 areas in Wales for this period.

The figures show that in Wales there were a total of 76,289 unemployed claimants chasing a total of 13,738 unfilled job vacancies. That means that there were 5.6 unemployed workers chasing each unfilled job vacancy across the region as a whole.

The figures show that in Great Britain there were a total of 1,504,172 unemployed claimants chasing a total of 289,839 unfilled job vacancies. That means that there were 5.2 unemployed workers chasing each unfilled job vacancy across the country as a whole.

The number of unemployed claimants chasing each unfilled vacancy by region in Great Britain is as follows in descending order: Scotland 7.8; North East 7.8; London 7.7; Yorkshire and Humber 6.3, Wales 5.6; North West; 5.5 West Midlands 4.8; East Midlands 4.0 Eastern England 3.9; South East 3.5 and South West region 3.4.

All these figures are from a new GMB analysis of the live unfilled vacancies and total claimants. The figures were for the period between July and December 2011 and show the monthly average for both over 6 months. The full table with all 204 areas in Great Britain is set out as a pdf at the foot of the national release on this subject on the GMB website (www.gmb.org.uk).

Live unfilled vacancies and total claimants in the 22 areas in Wales, July-December 2011 (monthly average over the 6 months)

	live unfilled vacancies	total claimants	ratio
Great Britain	289,839	1,504,172	5.2
Wales	13,738	76,289	5.6
Local council areas			
1 Blaenau Gwent	183	3,178	17.4
2 Merthyr Tydfil	179	2,280	12.7

3	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	653	7,000	10.7
4	Caerphilly	586	5,693	9.7
5	The Vale of Glamorgan	333	3,008	9.0
6	Anglesey	194	1,735	8.9
7	Denbighshire	312	2,230	7.1
8	Pembrokeshire	331	2,321	7.0
9	Torfaen	414	2,783	6.7
10	Conwy	442	2,551	5.8
11	Bridgend	619	3,495	5.6
12	Wrexham	630	3,328	5.3
13	Cardiff	2,073	10,382	5.0
14	Newport	993	4,775	4.8
15	Powys	402	1,920	4.8
16	Gwynedd	454	2,162	4.8
17	Carmarthenshire	800	3,526	4.4
18	Ceredigion	237	953	4.0
19	Flintshire	798	3,195	4.0
20	Swansea	1,589	5,320	3.3
21	Neath Port Talbot	1,061	3,260	3.1
22	Monmouthshire	458	1,195	2.6

Allan Garley Regional Secretary for Wales said **“The rise in unemployment since the recovery stalled was made in Downing Street.**

The truth is that jobs are haemorrhaging in the public and private sectors and no one in Parliament seems to know what to do to stop this.

There are parts of the Wales like Neath Port Talbot and Blaenau Gwent in such despair that more than a quarter of households with people of working age have no one in work. The prospects for these are bleak since the number of unemployed workers chasing each vacancy across the region is even higher than shown. Across the UK there are 1.2 million unemployed who are not claimants.

The number one political priority has to be securing a reduction in unemployment by creating jobs, by stimulating demand in the economy, not by cutting wages and shedding jobs.”

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Notes to editors

1) Source: ONS July – December 2011. Vacancy figures are those notified to Jobcentre Plus by employers. Live unfilled vacancies are those that a jobseeker can apply for, i.e. vacancies that have not yet been filled or suspended.

2) The vacancy and claimant count data is available down to district level. Journalists who require data at district level should contact the GMB press office.