

Mark Prisk MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

January 2015

Dear Mr Prisk,

On behalf of the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many self-employed people there are in (a) Hertfordshire, (b) England and (c) the UK. (219087)

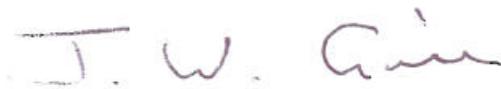
ONS compiles labour market statistics for areas smaller than the UK from the Annual Population Survey (APS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Figures for the UK have also been supplied from this source, for consistency.

Table 1 shows the number of people who were self-employed in the requested geographies, according to survey responses from the APS, for the 12 month period ending September 2014, the latest period available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a certain level of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates of the levels is included with the table.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Grice
Chief Economic Advisor
Office for National Statistics

Table 1: Number1 of people who were self-employed, 12 months ending September 2014

		thousands
Hertfordshire	96	**
England	3,832	*
UK	4,445	*

Source: Annual Population Survey

1. Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

KEY	Coefficient	Statistical Robustness
*	$0 \leq CV < 5$	Estimates are considered precise.
**	$5 \leq CV < 10$	Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
***	$10 \leq CV < 20$	Estimates are considered acceptable.
****	$CV \geq 20$	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes