

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

Jon Trickett MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30 June 2022

Dear Mr Trickett,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Questions asking what estimate is available for the number of workers on zero-hour contracts in the UK (**26701**); and the number of workers on zero-hour contracts in (a) Yorkshire and the Humber and (b) the Wakefield district (**26702**).

Estimates of the number of people in employment on a zero-hours contract are available from the *Labour Force Survey (LFS)*¹, which is a survey of people resident in households. The LFS asks people in employment if their main job has any flexible working arrangements and, if so, to choose from a list of employment patterns which best describes their situation. Zero-hours contract is one of the options listed. This is defined as where a person is not contracted to work a set number of hours, and is only paid for the number of hours that they actually work.

The latest LFS estimate, for the three-month period January to March 2022, of the number of people aged 16 and over in the UK on zero-hours contracts was 1,018,000 (3.1% of all those in employment in the UK)². The equivalent estimate for Yorkshire and The Humber was 79,000 (3.1% of all those in employment in that region). Unfortunately, we do not produce zero-hour contract estimates from the LFS at district level due to the small sample size.

Zero-hour contract estimates for other regions of the UK are published as part of the labour market release, in dataset EMP17³, which can be found on the Office of National Statistics website. Please note that, when LFS responses were reweighted in 2021, there was a small error in the implementation; the impact on LFS estimates is mostly below 0.1%. In the next release of EMP17 in August 2022, the estimates will be reweighted for periods from January to March 2020 using updated HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI) data, and the error will be corrected.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Ian Diamond

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/labourforcesurvey>

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/emp17peopleinemploymentonzerohourscontracts>. This dataset also contains the estimates for Yorkshire and The Humber.

³<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/emp17peopleinemploymentonzerohourscontracts>.