



One in Five UK Adults Unemployed

Description

Recent statistics indicate that over one-fifth of working-age adults in the UK are neither employed nor actively searching for jobs. This economic inactivity rate stood at 21.5% in the three months leading up to January, reflecting a decrease from both the preceding quarter and the same period last year, thus suggesting a relatively low rate compared to trends observed since 2009.

These figures have drawn attention, especially as the government unveils plans to stimulate economic growth. The announcement of potential cuts to sickness and disability benefits has sparked considerable debate. Critics, including Labour representatives and various charities, argue that such cuts could exacerbate poverty among disabled individuals.

Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall acknowledged the challenges ahead, stating that the latest figures highlight the difficulties in increasing employment levels across Britain. Meanwhile, the Office for National Statistics cautioned that recent job figures should be interpreted with care due to low response rates to their employment surveys.

Despite these concerns, there was positive news about wage growth, which has continued to outpace inflation, with pay excluding bonuses rising by 5.9% year-on-year, particularly in sectors like retail and hospitality.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Inactivity** /,ɪn'æk.tɪ.vɪ.ti/ (noun): The state of being inactive or not engaged in work or employment.
2. **Stimulate** /'stɪm.jʊ.leɪt/ (verb): To encourage or provoke an activity or response.
3. **Exacerbate** /ɪg'zæ.s.ə.beɪt/ (verb): To make a problem bad situation or negative feeling worse.
4. **Cautioned** /'kɔː.jənd/ (verb): To warn someone about a possible danger or problem.
5. **Interpreted** /ɪn'tɜː.pri.tɪd/ (verb): To explain the meaning of information or actions.
6. **Outpace** /,aʊt'peɪs/ (verb): To move faster than someone or something; to surpass.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What was the economic inactivity rate among working-age adults in the UK in the three months leading up to January?
 - Option: 15%
 - Option: 21.5%
 - Option: 30%
 - Option: 40%

2. What do critics fear about potential cuts to sickness and disability benefits as per the content?
 - Option: They fear it will reduce government spending.
 - Option: They fear it will increase poverty among disabled individuals.
 - Option: They fear it will boost economic growth.
 - Option: They fear it will improve healthcare services.

3. Who acknowledged the challenges in increasing employment levels across Britain?
 - Option: Prime Minister Boris Johnson
 - Option: Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak
 - Option: Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall
 - Option: Labour Party Leader Keir Starmer

4. What was the year-on-year wage growth rate mentioned in the content?
 - Option: 2.3%
 - Option: 5.9%
 - Option: 8.2%
 - Option: 10.5%

5. In which sectors did pay excluding bonuses rise by 5.9% year-on-year?
 - Option: Technology and Engineering
 - Option: Retail and Hospitality
 - Option: Healthcare and Education
 - Option: Finance and Accounting

6. What did the Office for National Statistics caution about recent job figures?
 - Option: The figures were inaccurate.
 - Option: The figures were too high.
 - Option: The figures were not consistent with past data.
 - Option: The figures should be interpreted carefully due to low response rates to their surveys.



True-False

7. The economic inactivity rate decreased from the same period last year.
8. Critics support potential cuts to sickness and disability benefits.
9. Recent wage growth was below the inflation rate.
10. The announcement of potential cuts to sickness and disability benefits was not controversial.
11. Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall highlighted positive news about job figures.
12. The economic inactivity rate increased in the three months leading up to January.

Gap-Fill

13. The economic inactivity rate stood at _____ in the three months leading up to January.
14. Wage growth, excluding bonuses, rose by _____ year-on-year according to the content.
15. Potential cuts to sickness and disability benefits sparked considerable _____.
16. Recent job figures should be interpreted with care due to low _____ rates to their employment surveys.
17. Critics suggest that cuts to sickness and disability benefits could exacerbate poverty among disabled _____.
18. Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall acknowledged the challenges in increasing employment levels across _____.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 21.5% 2. They fear it will increase poverty among disabled individuals. 3. Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall 4. 5.9% 5. Retail and Hospitality 6. The figures should be interpreted carefully due to low response rates to their surveys.

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 21.5% 14. 5.9% 15. debate 16. response 17. individuals 18. Britain

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the opposite of activity?

- Option: Stimulate
- Option: Exacerbate
- Option: Acknowledge
- Option: Cautioned

2. What are taxes on imports and exports called?

- Option: Whimsical
- Option: Reliant
- Option: Lamented
- Option: Tariffs

3. What is to allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of something?

- Option: Procrastination
- Option: Consequently
- Option: Indulge
- Option: Nurture

4. What is a synonym for thrive or prosper?

- Option: Enhance
- Option: Inevitably
- Option: Perspectives
- Option: Flourish

5. What is the mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together?

- Option: Allure
- Option: Camaraderie
- Option: Adrenaline



Option: Misconception

6. What is the feeling of responsibility or remorse for some offense?

Option: Guilt

Option: Alleviate

Option: Emotional

Option: Engrossed

7. What is a view or opinion that is incorrect because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding?

Option: Engrossed

Option: Misconception

Option: Guilt

Option: Alleviate

8. What is the act of supporting a cause or idea?

Option: Lamented

Option: Stymied

Option: Advocating

Option: Procrastination

9. What is to improve or increase the quality value or attractiveness of something?

Option: Nurture

Option: Enhance

Option: Inevitably

Option: Perspectives

10. What means to encourage or arouse interest or enthusiasm?

Option: Outpace

Option: Stimulate

Option: Lamented

Option: Cautious

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The technology sector continues to evolve rapidly with innovations that often _____
older technologies.

12. The doctor _____ the patient about the potential side effects of the medication.

13. Parents play a crucial role in the _____ of their children providing love care and



guidance.

14. The heavy rain caused flooding and _____ many roads were closed.

15. Traveling to different countries can broaden your _____ and help you understand diverse cultures.

16. As technology advances some jobs will be replaced by automation; this change is _____.

17. Extreme sports like skydiving can provide an adrenaline rush for those seeking _____ activities.

18. The team _____ their defeat but vowed to train harder for the next match.

19. _____ can lead to missed opportunities and increased stress as tasks pile up.

20. Taking a walk in nature can help to _____ stress and clear the mind.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Children are often on their parents for support and guidance.
22. The artist's paintings were known for their and playful themes.
23. Regular exercise can help combat the negative effects of and sedentary lifestyles.
24. Using harsh chemicals can skin conditions like eczema.
25. The scientist's groundbreaking research was by the scientific community.
26. The team was by the challenging puzzle unable to solve it.
27. The lavish resort's spa had an that attracted visitors from around the world.
28. The sudden migration of birds was a natural that fascinated scientists.
29. The movie's ending was so touching that it left many viewers in a highly state.



30. The gripping novel had readers completely unable to put the book down.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Stimulate 2. Tariffs 3. Indulge 4. Flourish 5. Camaraderie 6. Guilt 7. Misconception
8. Advocating 9. Enhance 10. Stimulate

Gap-Fill: 11. Outpace 12. Cautioned 13. Nurture 14. Consequently 15. Perspectives 16. Inevitably 17.
Adrenaline 18. Lamented 19. Procrastination 20. Alleviate

Matching sentence: 1. Reliant 2. Whimsical 3. Inactivity 4. Exacerbate 5. Acknowledged 6. Stymied 7. Allure
8. Phenomenon 9. Emotional 10. Engrossed

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

Date Created

2025/03/21

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM