

IMPORTANT NOTE

The figures in this analysis are calculated from responses to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As part of the survey the LFS asks people in employment if their job has flexible working and if so to choose from a list of employment patterns those which best describe their situation. Only those people who select "zero hours contract" as an option will be included in this analysis. The number of people who are shown as on a zero hours contract will therefore be affected by whether people know they are on a zero hours contract and will be affected by how aware they are of the concept. The increased coverage of zero hours in the latter half of 2013 may have affected the response to this question but this effect cannot be estimated from the available data. There was no change to the questions used between 2012 and 2013. ONS will be publishing more analysis of this information alongside the results of the business survey of zero hours contracts in April.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. These are indicated by the guide to quality in the table below.

For the 2013 figure, it is estimated that the true figure is likely to lie between 522,000 and 645,000. This is in addition to the likely reporting error as mentioned in the paragraph above.

Further information on how these estimates were derived is available here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/articles-and-reports/zero-hours-contracts.pdf>

Level and rate of people on zero-hours contracts^{1,2} October to December, each year

	UK, not seasonally adjusted	
	In employment on a zero hour contract (thousands)	Percent of people in employment on a zero hour contract
2000	225	0.81
2001	176	0.63
2002	156	0.55
2003	124	0.44
2004	108	0.38
2005	119	0.41
2006	147	0.50
2007	165	0.56
2008	143	0.49
2009	190	0.65
2010	168	0.57
2011	189	0.65
2012	250	0.84
2013	583	1.93 **

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey

¹ Zero-hours contract - is 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.

² Series adjusted for pre-2006 change from seasonal to calendar quarters and for missing cases that cannot be brought forward

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 of Variation (CV) (%)	Statistical Robustness
*	0 ≤ CV < 5	Estimates are considered precise.
**	5 ≤ CV < 10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
***	10 ≤ CV < 20	Estimates are considered acceptable.
****	CV ≥ 20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes