**BBC Sounds - Understand: the economy**

[BBC Radio 4 - Understand, The Economy, The Economy: 7. Jobs and Unemployment](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0df7j3k)

**7: Jobs and unemployment**

What happens when lots of people lose their jobs? Why might wages be low even though everyone who wants a job, has one? What do we mean by employment and unemployment and what does 'economic inactivity' mean? What is productivity and how does it relate to you and your job? Tim Harford explains, and Cambridge University Economic Historian Victoria Bateman tells the story of what happened when unemployment in the Northeast of England reached 70%.

Define unemployment.

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What is meant by the term economic inactivity? Why has this risen in recent years?

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Why hasn’t low unemployment and higher wages led to better economic conditions in the UK?

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What role does productivity have in deciding the wage rate?

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What economic conditions led to the 1936 Jarrow Hunger March?

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What is the link between manufacturing and productivity?

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Why is productivity in the UK comparatively low? How can the UK improve productivity?

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Keep abreast of UK and global unemployment here:

[United Kingdom Unemployment Rate - August 2023 Data - 1971-2022 Historical (tradingeconomics.com)](https://tradingeconomics.com/united-kingdom/unemployment-rate)