



Youth unemployment hits 1 million



Photograph: Alamy

Youth unemployment has risen above 1 million – with more than a fifth of 16 to 24-year-olds unemployed.

Youth unemployment has broken through the 1 million mark to a record high and the UK's wider unemployment rate has climbed to a 15-year high.

The government sought to blame the deterioration in the jobs market on pressures from the euro zone debt crisis but came under attack for ignoring problems at home.

Fears that young people are bearing the brunt of Britain's economic slowdown were underscored by official figures showing there were 1.02 million unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds between July and September. One in five young people are now out of work.

"Today's ugly labour market data will raise concerns that the UK economic recovery is fading away, and that a long-term impact will be felt among the nation's youth," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit.

The wider national picture was also one of a deteriorating jobs market.

The Office for National Statistics said that there were a total of 2.62 million unemployed people in the quarter, the highest total since 1994. That left the unemployment rate at a bigger-than-expected 8.3%, the highest since 1996. The number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance last month increased by 5,300 to 1.6 million, the ONS said.

Employment minister Chris Grayling said the eurozone's troubles were behind the rise. "These figures are bad news. They are I'm afraid the consequence of what we're seeing in the eurozone," he said.

"If you go back four months, unemployment was falling, youth unemployment was lower than 900,000. We've seen a big slowdown in the economy I think as a result of the crisis elsewhere."

Grayling pledged help for young people in particular, with schemes such as the government's work programme and work experience scheme "which is getting a significant number of young people off benefits and into work".

But for now, the unemployment rate for 16 to 24-year-olds stands at more than double the rate for the wider population, at 21.9%.

The youth unemployment level and rate were the highest since comparable records began in 1992. But the ONS added that earlier data, calculated on a slightly different basis, indicated that the level of youth unemployment was higher in the mid-1980s. It also noted that the total figure includes 286

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WorldMAC Youth

This section designs programmes that facilitate the educational and life skills development of children from five to ten years of age, and young people between the ages of eleven and twenty-five. Through the utilization of knowledge and skills associated with the martial arts, combined with the expertise and professionalism of qualified youth workers, opportunities are provided for these two age groups to engage and participate in world-class learning experiences. These include programmes to develop interpersonal and communication skills, and those that promote street and environmental awareness, community safety, health, education, sport and the martial arts. In addition, international youth exchanges to encourage inter-cultural learning are arranged in order that partnerships involving all nationalities and sustainable relationships can be formed. The youth of all countries is encouraged to take part in these exciting and challenging projects, which for some will be a once in a lifetime opportunity, and for others the start of a long and exciting journey of international discovery, adventure and growth. Youth activities are organized regularly throughout the United Kingdom and many countries overseas.



Hull Kung Fu from the East Riding of Yorkshire, a registered group of the World Martial Arts Council, was one of 130 winners of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for groups of volunteers who work in their local community for the benefit of others. This prestigious UK National Honour recognises outstanding voluntary contributions and sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged to be of the highest standard.

Hull Kung Fu has received the Award for developing the needs of children and young people in Hull and East Yorkshire including self-defence, confidence building and career development. Those receiving this year's Award were selected from 413 groups nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community.

Hull Kung Fu received a certificate signed by The Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative the Lord Lieutenant in East Yorkshire at a special ceremony.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Award Committee Chair, former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said, "Volunteer groups make such an important contribution to their communities, often without praise for the incredible job they do. In these difficult times their efforts are even more valuable. It's a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of Hull Kung Fu with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and give official recognition for the benefits they bring to others' lives."



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The World Martial Arts Council is working in partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh award programmes to provide opportunities for adult volunteers involved in the martial arts to become voluntary workers in their clubs delivering this prestigious award. The programmes are for young people between 14 and 24 years of age, and when successfully completed lead to Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. There are four sections at both Bronze and Silver levels and five at Gold level. With assistance from Duke of Edinburgh award leaders participants select and set objectives in each of the following sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition, and at Gold level the fifth section is Residential.

The World Martial Arts Council is initially working with the Duke of Edinburgh awards in the Yorkshire and Humber Region to offer affiliated club leaders and workers the chance to undergo training in order to gain an understanding of the Duke of Edinburgh award programmes, and to encourage the delivery of them to martial arts groups. The benefits of this training are that leaders gain an understanding of the programmes, help young people between the ages of 14 and 24 years to gain their Duke of Edinburgh awards, provide a greater range of opportunities for activities within clubs, and support the world's leading youth achievement charity, which has been in operation for over fifty years.

1. Be over 18 years of age
2. Hold a current enhanced CRB
3. Be involved in a martial arts club in the Yorkshire and Humber Region

For candidates who require accommodation and work within the York area for the duration of their course, arrangements are available through our employment and letting agencies.

Please ask at your Validation Interview or ..

Telephone: +44(0)7754 764321

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