

Public affairs with a difference...

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 Welfare, Work, Economy, poverty, jobs
 

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### The £10,000 cost of having a baby

The Daily Telegraph

A study of 2,000 mothers found that on average, a woman's salary is £9,419 lower after giving birth, while some took on jobs which paid £20,000 less.

A third of those surveyed said the pay cut had a negative effect on their life while one in seven said it had led to repercussions on their marriage.

Just 16 per cent of mothers felt passionate about their jobs, while four in 10 said they worked because it fitted around their family and helped bring in extra money.

The Association of Accounting Technicians, which carried out the research, said although mothers needed to have flexible roles in order to manage their family, they were in a good position to retrain and "learn new skills".

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### Britain is reverting to the middle ages when it comes to welfare

The Daily Telegraph

The winner of the Man Booker, Hilary Mantel has said that Britain is "going back to the Middle Ages" in its treatment of the poor. As chief minister to Henry VIII in 1536, Cromwell tried to pass a Poor Law which would provide financial aid to those unable to work.

Reflecting on the parallels with modern Britain, Mantel said: "With that act, if it had gone through, you see the very first glimmering of the welfare state — the idea that to be poor is not ordained by God, it's not a vice, it's not a flaw, you may simply be a casualty of the economic system and the state may have some responsibility to help create work for you.

"We have reached a period where we are going back to the Middle Ages; where poverty is once again being viewed as a moral failing or a weakness, and relief by the state is a privilege and not a right. I find this terrifying."

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### Private sector puts record numbers in work

The Daily Telegraph

According to the Office for National Statistics, employment increased by 212,000 to 29.6m in the three months to August — the highest level since records began in March 1971.

As those in work rose, the unemployment rate fell from 8.1pc to 7.9pc, its lowest since the three months to May last year and far below the 8.7pc official forecast for 2012. Unemployment numbers dropped by 50,000 to 2.53m.

Mark Hoban, employment minister, said: "It's a real landmark to see more people in work than ever before. Despite the tough

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economic times, the private sector continues to create jobs and our welfare reforms are encouraging people to return to work." There was a ray of light for the young, as youth unemployment fell by 62,000 to 957,000, the lowest figure in over a year.

### Head scratching over improved job figures

The Daily Telegraph

STRONG employment figures have once again left economists scratching their heads. How can employment be growing so strongly when GDP figures remain so weak?

Clearly companies, particularly smaller ones, are not just hoarding labour but taking more on rather than spending money to invest in capital projects.

Taking on labour is easier to fund and less risky in that it can be shed quickly if things turn sour again.

Another reason could be that the official GDP data are understating economic recovery, thus giving a misleading outcome to productivity levels. However, the data could also be overstating the employment figures, which are calculated from surveys that have a 60pc response rate compared with 80pc a decade ago. The results also have a wide margin of error.

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In Scotland

### Rise in joblessness and lower output spell economic gloom

The Times

Scotland has been hit with a double dose of gloomy economic news, with data showing both unemployment increasing and GDP falling in recent months. The two sets of key figures show that the country is underperforming the rest of the UK, with the economy contracting more sharply and the jobless total rising .

According to the Scottish government's figures, GDP fell by 0.4 per cent in the second quarter of this year, after dropping by 0.2 per cent in the previous quarter. UK GDP fell by 0.3 per cent in the second quarter. Over the past year, Scotland's economy has grown by 0.1 per cent compared with 0.7 per cent for the UK. Meanwhile, the Office for National Statistics showed that unemployment in Scotland increased to 222,000 — a rise of 7,000 over the quarter from June to August and 10,000 more than the same time last year. Across the UK as a whole the number out of work fell by 50,000 to 2.53 million, the lowest figure since the spring.

It means Scotland's unemployment rate is 8.2 per cent, up from 7.9 per cent in the previous quarter, while the UK unemployment rate is 7.9 per cent, down by 0.2 per cent.

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England

### Number of Britons in work hits record high

The Times

The number of people aged 16 and over in employment rose by 212,000 between June and August to almost 30 million, according to [figures from the Office for National Statistics](#). This is the highest level since 1971 when records began.

But despite the rise there were concerns that the labour market is being propped up by a part-time workforce, with employment of this kind accounting for 59 per cent of the increase.

The ONS said that while the number of people in full-time employment was up 88,000 in the three months to August at 21.46 million, the number in part-time employment was 125,000 higher at 8.13 million.

The number of people working part-time because they could not find full-time work was up 15,000 at 1.4 million and one new job in three created in the latest quarter was a “mini-job” providing fewer than 15 hours’ paid work a week. More than half provided fewer than 30 hours, it said.

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**yes**Minister