

Press release: UK sees record employment as unemployment falls below 4 per cent

The UK's record jobs market continued into 2019 with 473,000 more people in work in January compared to a year ago, while the UK's employment rate reached an all-time high of 76.1%.

New figures show that wages continued to outstrip inflation for 12 months in a row.

Minister of State for Employment Alok Sharma welcomed the figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which also showed unemployment falling below 4% for the first time since the mid-1970's.

Companies are driving the growth, with private sector employment up by 3.8 million since 2010. The figures also revealed a higher rate of women in work than ever before.

Minister of State for Employment Alok Sharma said:

Today's employment figures are further evidence of the strong economy the Chancellor detailed in last week's spring statement, showing how our pro-business policies are delivering record employment.

2019 has continued to be a record breaker, with the employment rate topping 76% for the first time, record female employment and unemployment falling below 4% for the first time in 44 years.

Our jobs market remains resilient as we see more people than ever before benefitting from earning a wage. By backing the government's Brexit deal and giving certainty to business, MPs have the chance to safeguard this jobs track record.

The government is helping even more people benefit from a well-paid job by:

- backing businesses to create good jobs with our modern Industrial Strategy, while ensuring they play by the rules, so we are closing tax loopholes, strengthening workers' rights, and tightening the rules big businesses must follow
- investing in the infrastructure, training and apprenticeships we need for our future, with public investment at the highest sustained level in

40 years

- introducing Universal Credit which is helping people move into work faster and stay in it longer, while recent Budget measures mean 2.4 million families will keep up to an extra £630 per year of what they earn
- helping people stay in work longer with our [Fuller Working Lives strategy](#), which supports employers to recruit, re-train and retain older workers
- tackling inequalities in employment highlighted by the [Race Disparity Audit](#), through targeted support in 20 areas around the country and £90 million announced by the Prime Minister to help young people.

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