

Britain unemployment drops in May-July period

LONDON, Sept. 12 (Xinhua) -- The number of unemployed people in Britain fell by 7,000 to 2.59 million in the quarter to July compared with the previous three months to April, official data showed on Wednesday.

Britain's unemployment rate stood at 8.1 percent, down 0.1 percentage points from the previous quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

The number of people in employment increased by 236,000 to reach 29.56 million from May to July, with employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 reaching 71.2 percent, up 0.5 on the quarter.

The number of temporary workers that could not find a permanent job fell from 36 percent in July 2010 to 40 percent in July 2012, according to the ONS.

Meanwhile, the number of people working part-time because they could not find a full-time job has reached a new peak, increasing from 1.1 million to 1.42 million in the two years to July 2012.

The ONS said the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance last month fell by 15,000 to 1.57 million, the largest monthly fall since June 2010.

Gerwyn Davies, labour market adviser at the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, said "The continued increase in private sector employment is a tribute to the UK's flexible labour market but masks some underlying trends that are gradually transforming the employment picture."

"The latest ONS statistics highlight the gradual re-engineering of the UK labour market during the past two years," he added.

The latest figures showed public sector employment fell for the eleventh quarter in a row, by 235,000 to 5.7 million.

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