

This information is issued by:

**Business Intelligence, Luton Borough Council**

You can contact us in the following ways: [Edward.holmes@luton.gov.uk](mailto:Edward.holmes@luton.gov.uk)

By telephone: **+44 1582 54 7093**

Visit our information observatory: [Information Observatory](#)

Visit our Council website: [www.luton.gov.uk](http://www.luton.gov.uk)

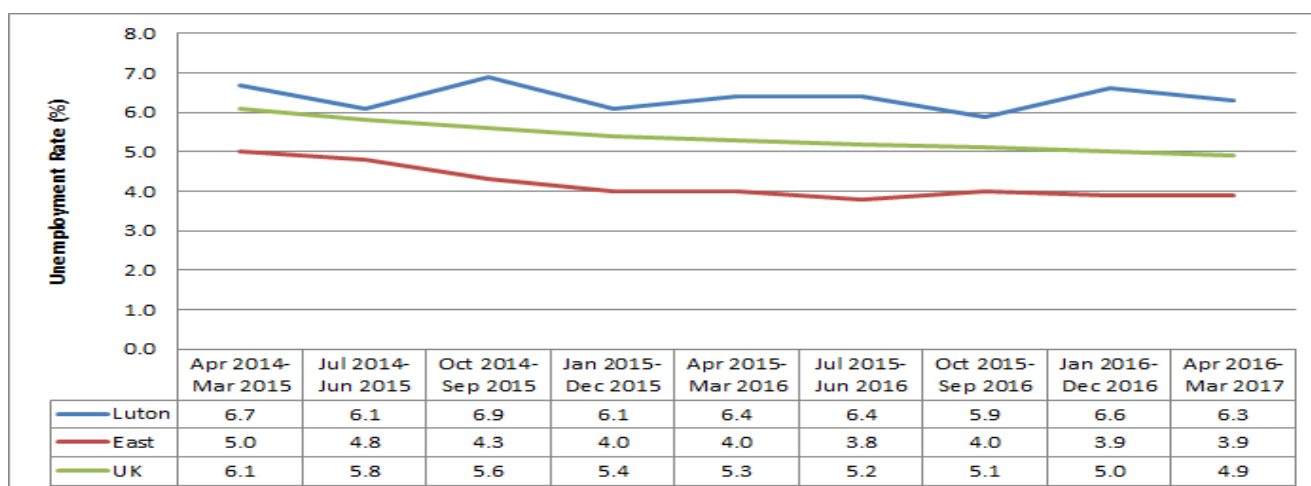
# Luton Labour Market Headlines

- Unemployment fell in Luton in January to March 2017 from 6.6 per cent to 6.3 per cent. The figure is higher than the national rate of 4.9 per cent.
- The number of economically inactive people in Luton has been stable but still higher than the national rate, 27.2 per cent compared with 22.2 per cent.
- The number of benefit claimants fell slightly from 2,685 to 2,635 between June and July 2017. The claimant count rate is 1.9 per cent which is the same as the national rate.
- The highest proportion of claimants are in Northwell and South wards with the fewest claimants in Barnfield and Bramingham.
- The number of people in Luton with degree level qualifications has been rising but is still lower than the national rate.
- The proportion of people in Luton without any qualification is higher than the national rate, 14.3 per cent compared with 8.3 per cent.

## Unemployment

The unemployment rate measured from the annual population survey is a broader measure from a survey question. The claimant count is an administrative measure of the number of people claiming unemployment benefit.

**Chart 1: Quarterly Unemployment in Luton, East & UK, 2014-2017**

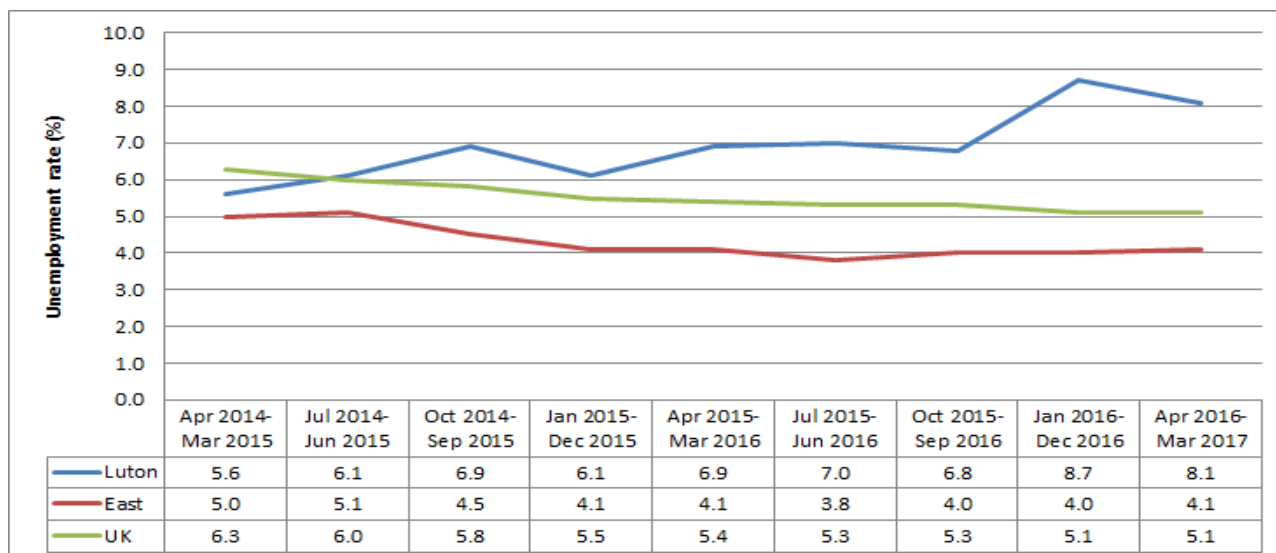


% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Luton’s unemployment rate has generally been falling with the national and regional trend. The above graph shows the total unemployment rate in Luton compared to the Eastern Region and the UK. The unemployment rate is higher than the regional and national rates, 6.3 per cent in comparison to 3.9 and 4.9 per cent respectively.

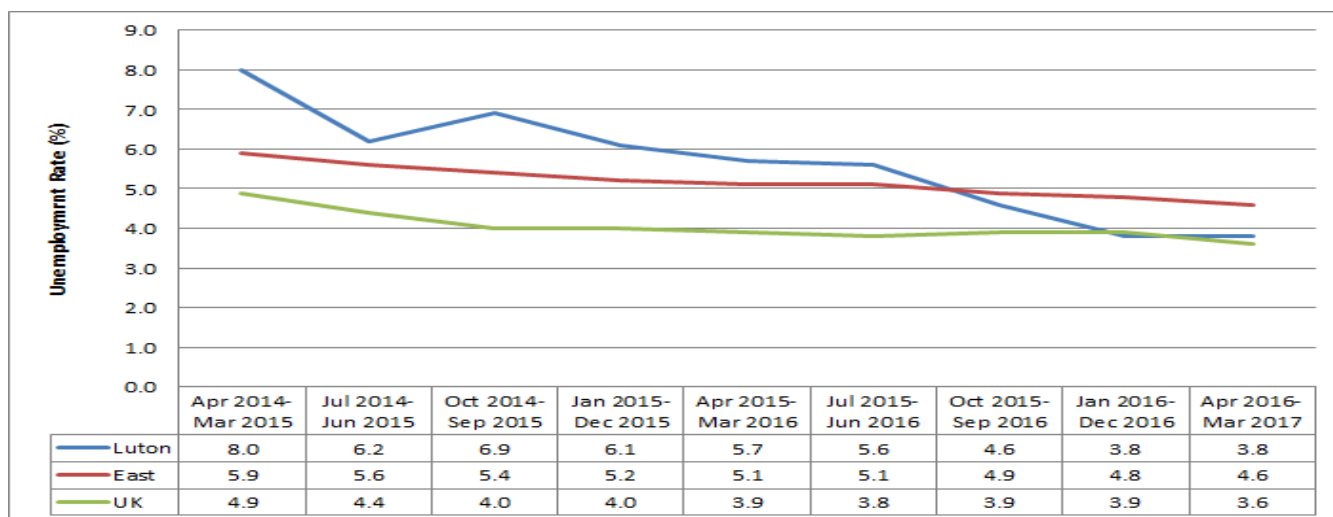
**Chart 2: Male Quarterly Unemployment in Luton, East & UK, 2014-2017**



% rate of working age population  
 Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The above graph shows the total male unemployment in Luton compared to the Eastern Region and the UK. The total proportion of male unemployment in Luton fell in the first quarter of 2017 from 8.7 per cent to 8.1 per cent. Luton’s total male unemployment rate (8.1 per cent) is significantly higher than the East (4.1 per cent) and the UK (5.1 per cent).

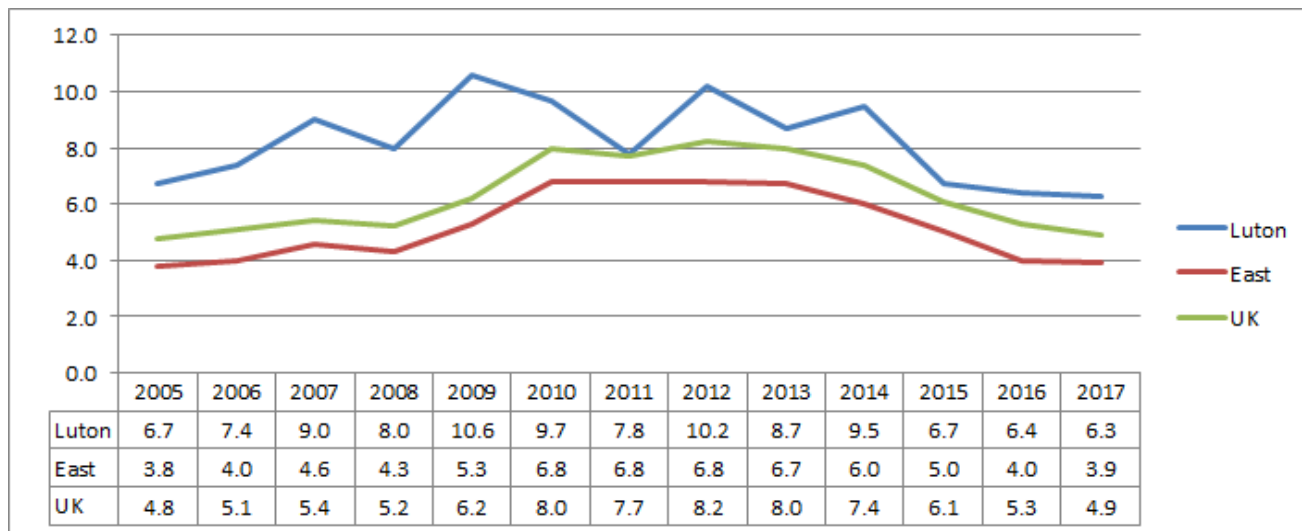
**Chart 3: Female Quarterly Unemployment in Luton, East & UK, 2014-2017**



% rate of working age population  
 Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Chart 3 shows the female unemployment rate in Luton compared to the Eastern Region and the UK. The female unemployment rate in Luton has been falling over the past two years and is lower (3.8 per cent) than both the UK (4.6 per cent) and the East (3.6 per cent).

**Chart 4: Long Term Unemployment Rates, Luton, East & UK, 2005-2017**



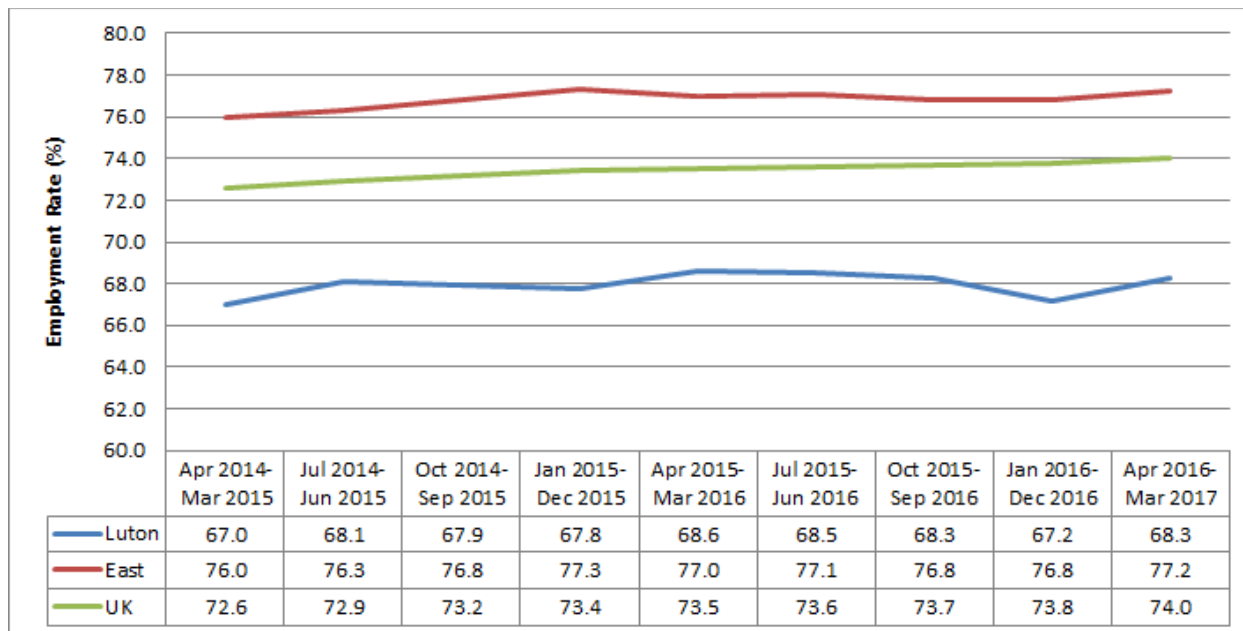
% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Luton's unemployment rate has generally been higher than the national and regional rates.

## Employment Rate

**Chart 5: Total Employment Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**

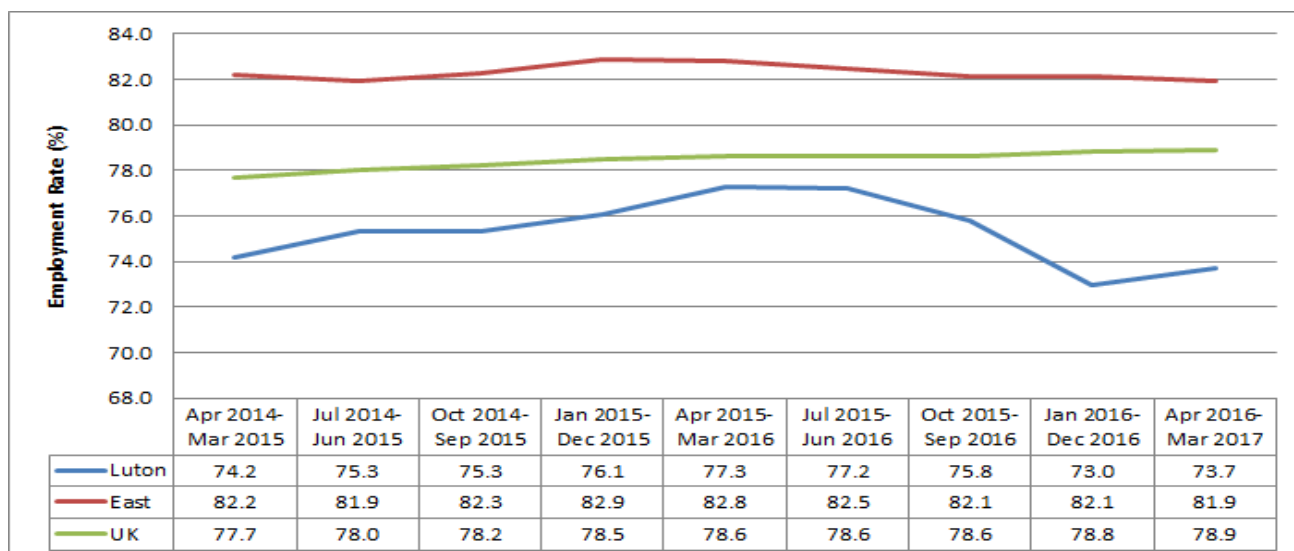


% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The employment rate i.e. the proportion of those economically active and in work is lower in Luton (68.3 per cent) than the regional (77.2 per cent) and national figures (74.0 per cent).

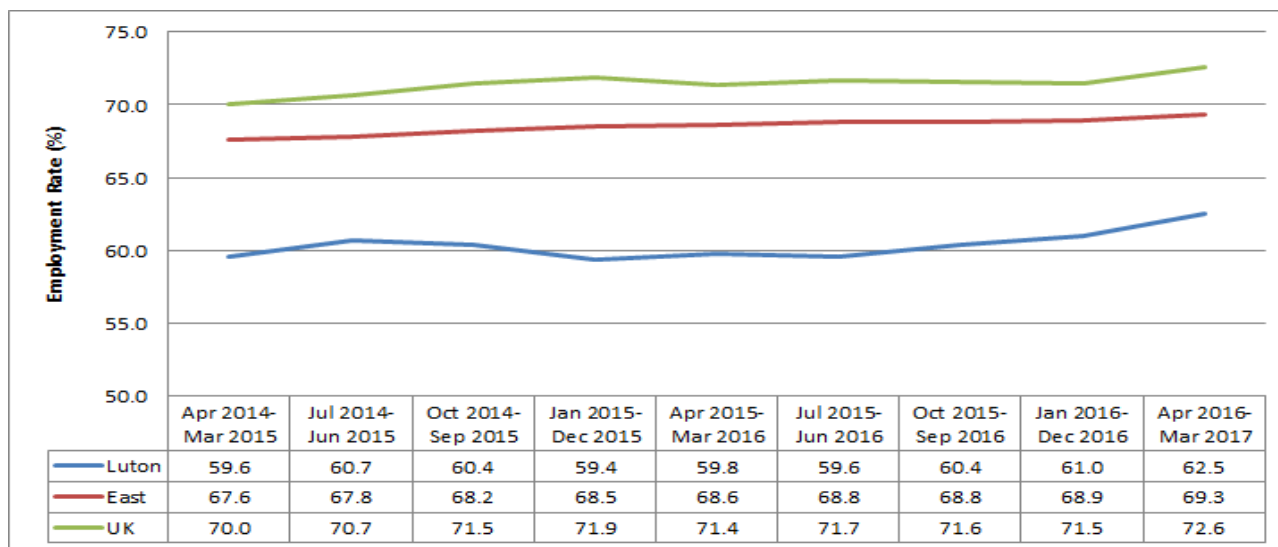
**Chart 6: Male Employment Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**



% rate of working age population  
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The male employment rate in Luton (73.7 per cent) is lower than the regional (81.9 per cent) and national (78.9 per cent) figures.

**Chart 7: Female Employment Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**

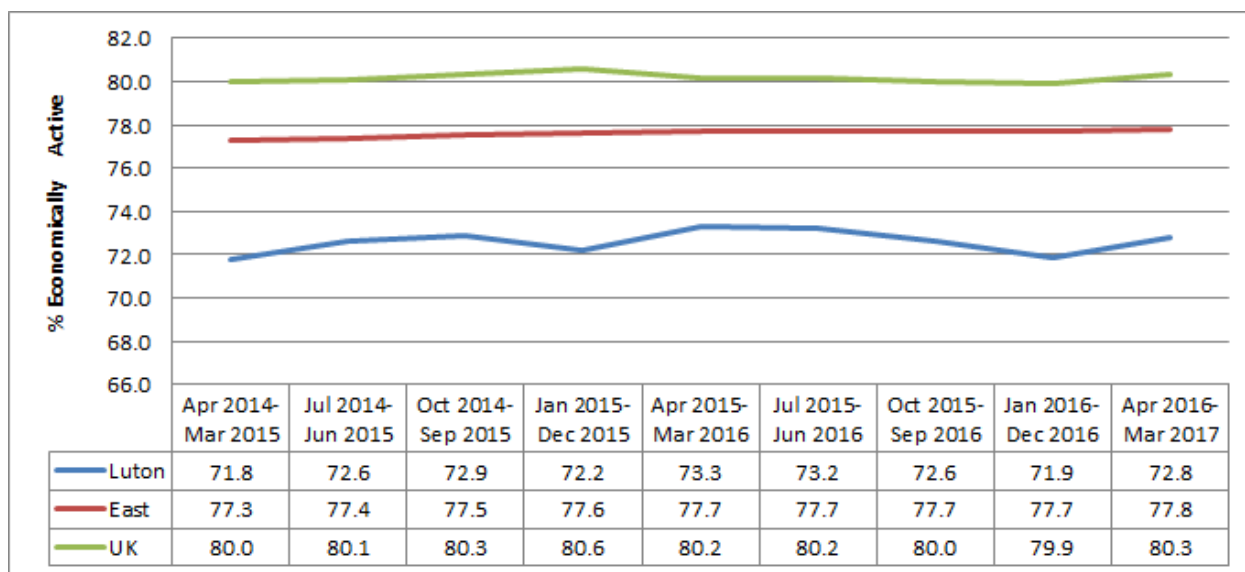


% rate of working age population  
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The female employment rate in Luton (62.5 per cent) is lower than the regional (69.3 per cent) and national (72.6 per cent) figures.

# Economic Activity Rate

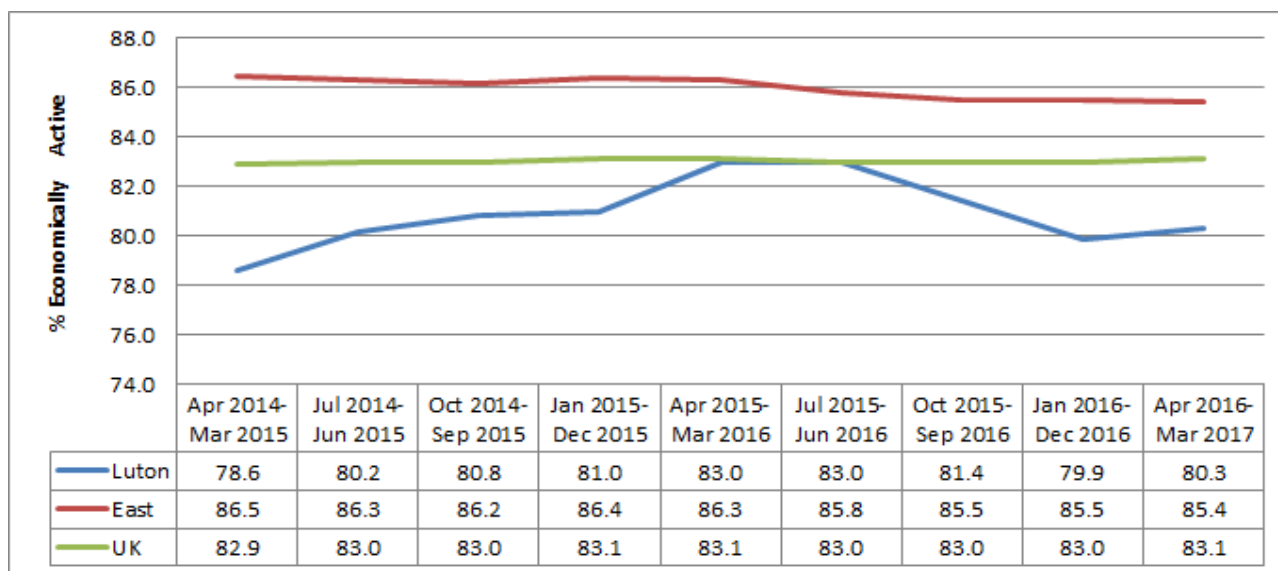
**Chart 8: Total Economic Activity Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**



% rate of working age population  
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The percentage of the working age population who are economically active i.e. either in employment or actively seeking work in Luton (72.8 per cent) is lower than the regional (77.8 per cent) and national rate (80.3 per cent).

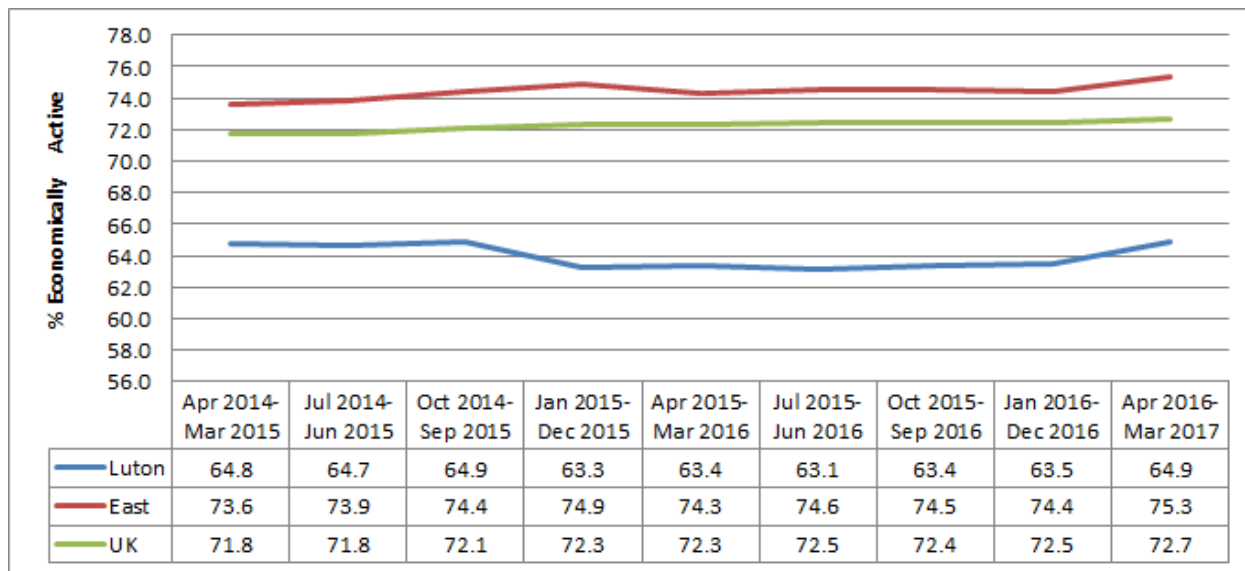
**Chart 9: Male Economic Activity Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**



% rate of working age population  
Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The male economic activity rate for Luton (80.3 per cent) is lower than the regional (85.4 per cent) and national (83.1 per cent) rates.

**Chart 10: Female Economic Activity Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**



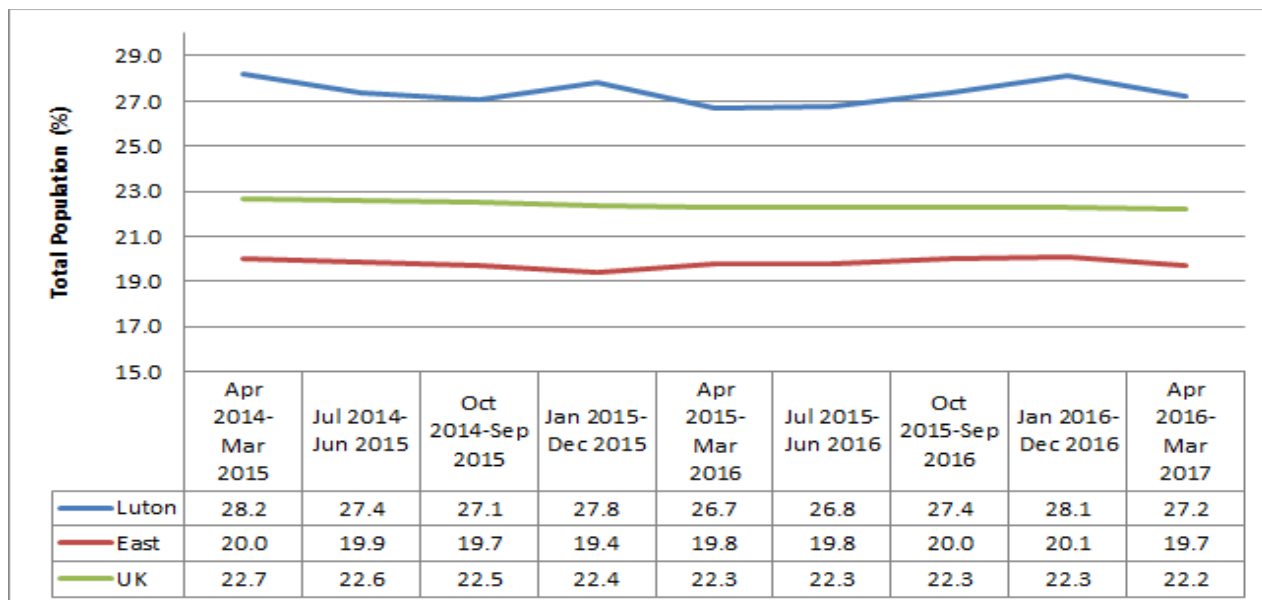
% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The female economic activity rate for Luton (64.9 per cent) is lower than the regional (75.3 per cent) and national (72.7 per cent) rates.

## Economic Inactivity Rate

**Chart 11: Total Economic Inactivity Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**

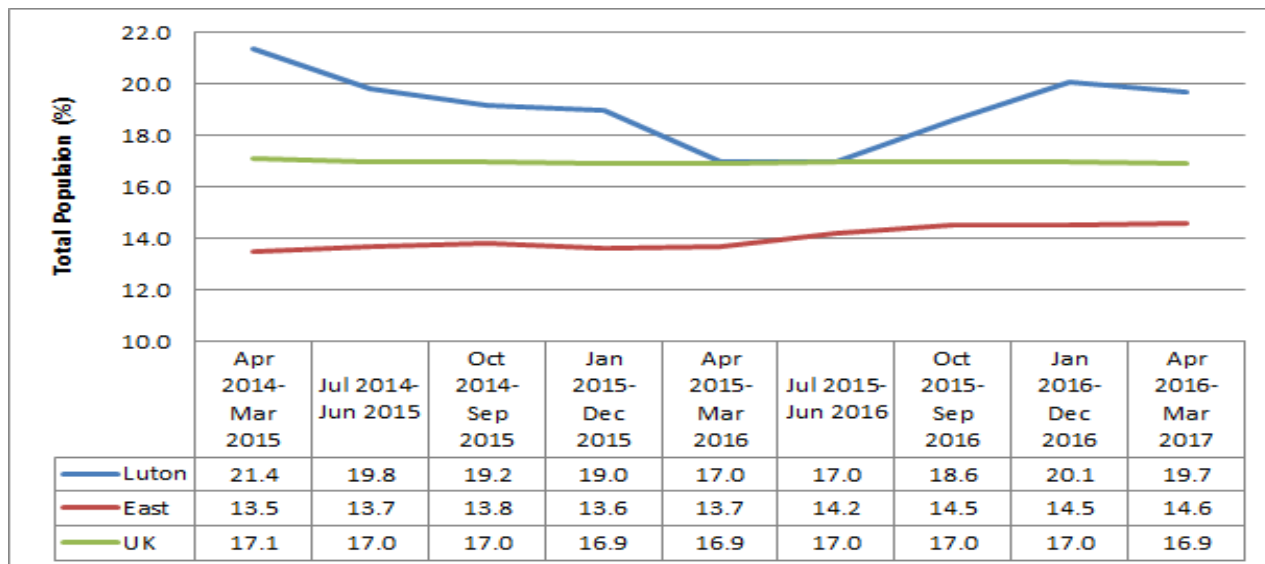


% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The percentage of the working age population who are economically inactive i.e. not actively seeking work in Luton (27.2 per cent) is higher than the regional (19.7 per cent) and national rate (22.2 per cent).

**Chart 12: Male Economic Inactivity Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**

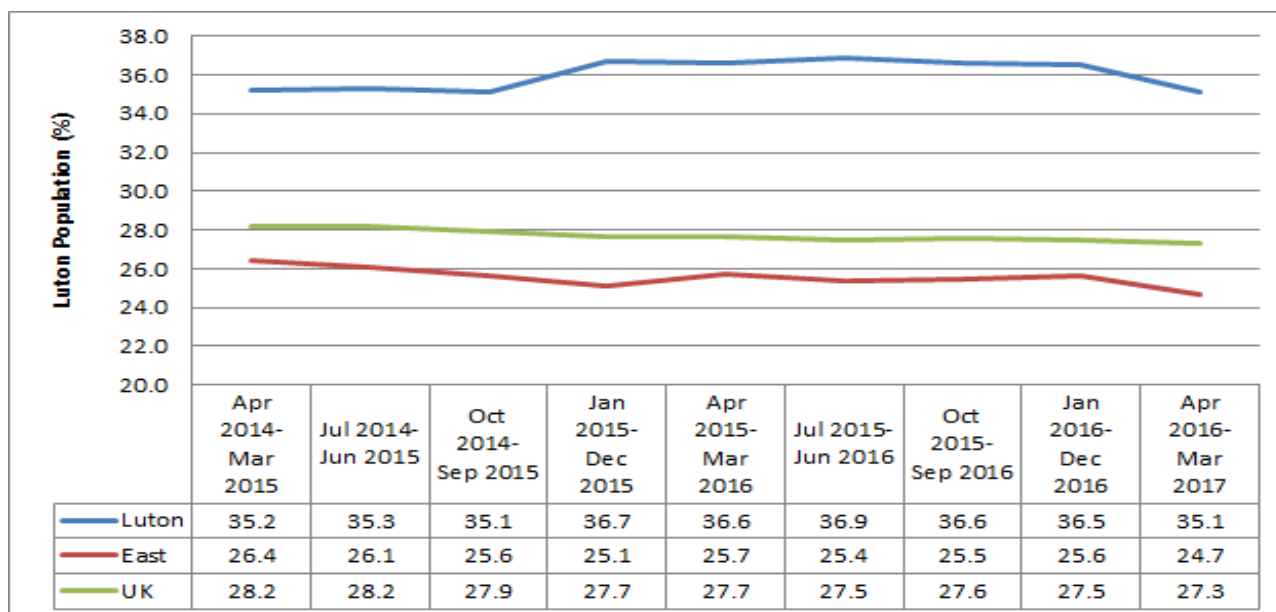


% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The male economic inactivity rate for Luton (19.7 per cent) is higher than the regional (14.6 per cent) and national (16.9 per cent) rates.

**Chart 13: Female Economic Inactivity Rate Luton, East and UK, 2014-2017**



% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The female economic inactivity rate for Luton (35.1 per cent) is higher than the regional (24.7 per cent) and national (27.3 per cent) rates.



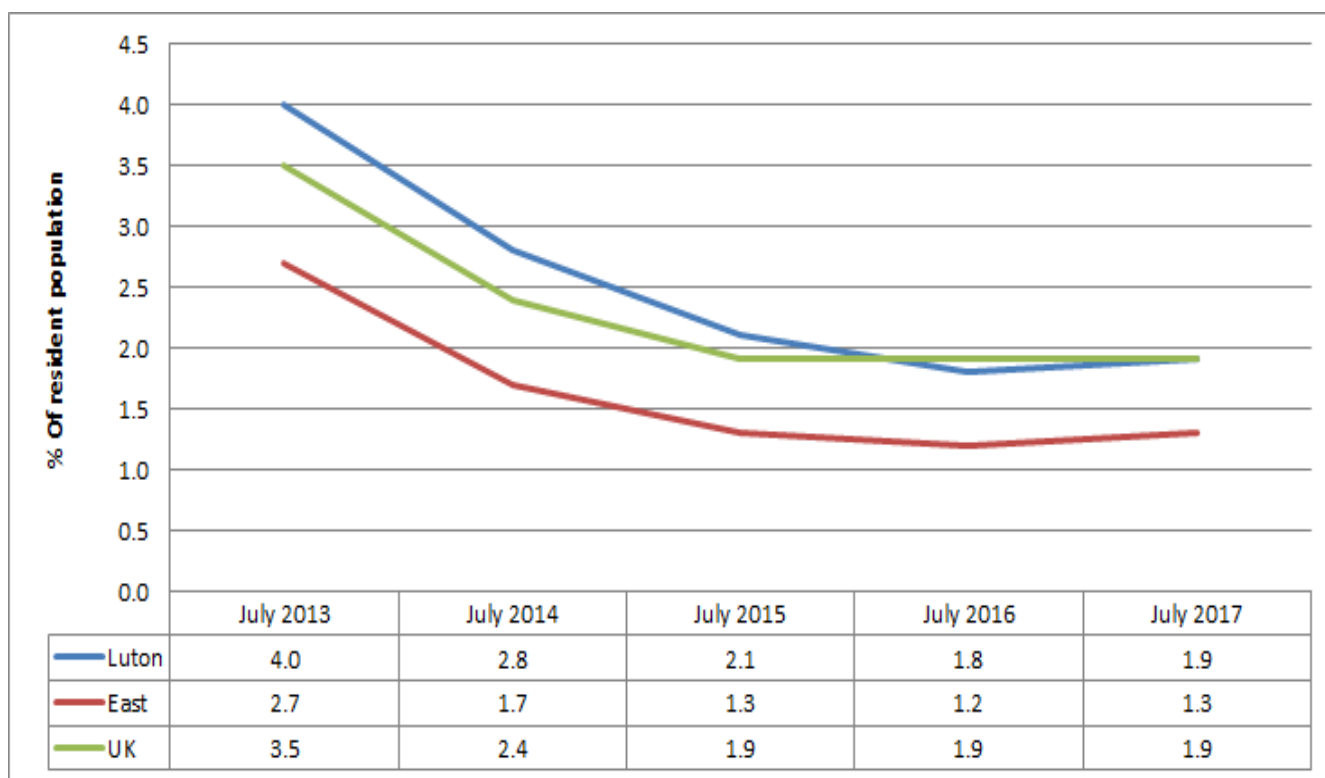
There are several reasons for Luton’s economic inactivity rate such as:

- Students who are in full time education was 29 per cent in 2017Q1 in comparison the national figure is 26 per cent.
- People who are economically inactive due looking after family or home for was 37 per cent, the national figure is 25 per cent.
- The amount of people who are economically inactive due to being long-term sick was 19 per cent in 2017 Q1, the national figure was 22 per cent.

The percentage of people who are economically inactive who do not want a job in Luton was measured at 88 per cent for 2017 Q1, in comparison the national figure is 76 per cent.

## Benefit Claimants

**Chart 14: Unemployment Claimant Count Rate Luton, East & UK, 2013-2017**



% rate of working age population

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS

The above graph shows the total proportion of the working age population who are benefit claimants. The total proportion of claimants in Luton has increased slightly from 1.8 per cent to 1.9 per cent between July 2016 and July 2017. Luton’s claimant count rate is higher than the East (1.3 per cent) and is the same as the national rate.

**Table 1: Luton's Total Benefit Claimants by Ward, July 2017**

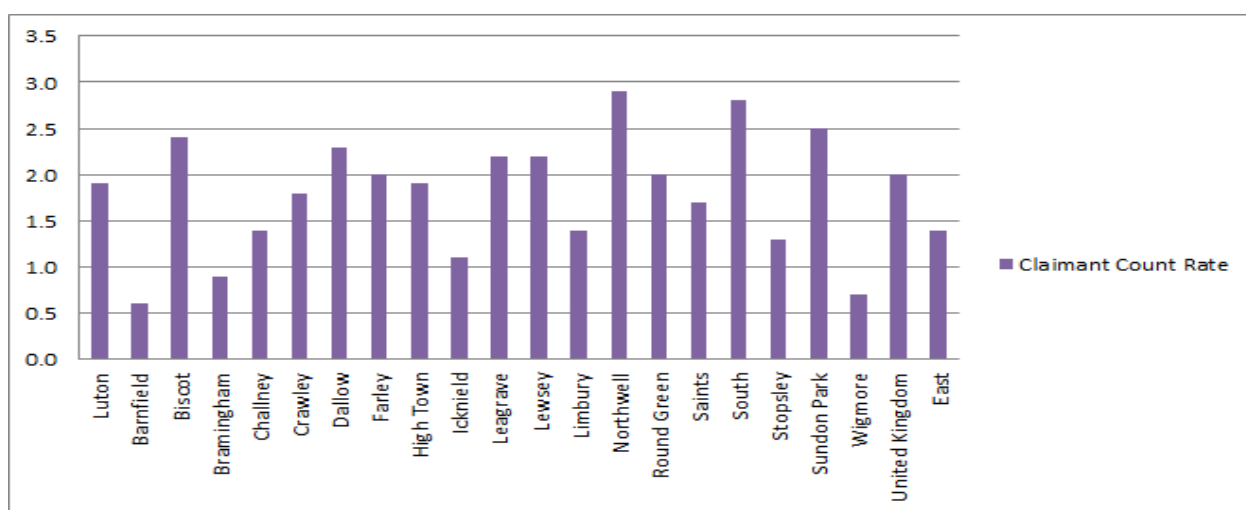
Area	Total	% Total	Male	% Male	Female	% Female
Luton	2,635	1.9	1,605	2.3	1,030	1.5
Barnfield	30	0.6	15	0.6	15	0.7
Biscot	255	2.4	160	2.8	95	1.9
Bramingham	40	0.9	20	0.9	20	0.9
Challney	125	1.4	75	1.7	50	1.1
Crawley	90	1.8	55	2.3	35	1.4
Dallow	250	2.3	165	2.7	85	1.7
Farley	170	2.0	100	2.3	75	1.7
High Town	145	1.9	85	2.0	60	1.7
Icknield	50	1.1	35	1.6	15	0.7
Leagrave	170	2.2	95	2.5	80	2.0
Lewsey	175	2.2	115	3.0	60	1.4
Limbury	70	1.4	40	1.6	35	1.3
Northwell	150	2.9	75	3.2	75	2.7
Round Green	160	2.0	90	2.4	65	1.7
Saints	160	1.7	100	2.1	60	1.3
South	350	2.8	240	3.7	105	1.9
Stopsley	60	1.3	35	1.6	25	1.0
Sundon Park	125	2.5	75	3.0	55	2.1
Wigmore	55	0.7	25	0.7	25	0.7

% rate of working age population

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS

Northwell has the highest rate of claimants at 2.9 per cent. South (2.8 per cent) has the next highest claimant rate. Barnfield and Bramingham have the lowest rate of claimants at 0.6 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively.

**Chart 15: Proportion of Benefit Claimants in Luton and its Wards, July 2017**

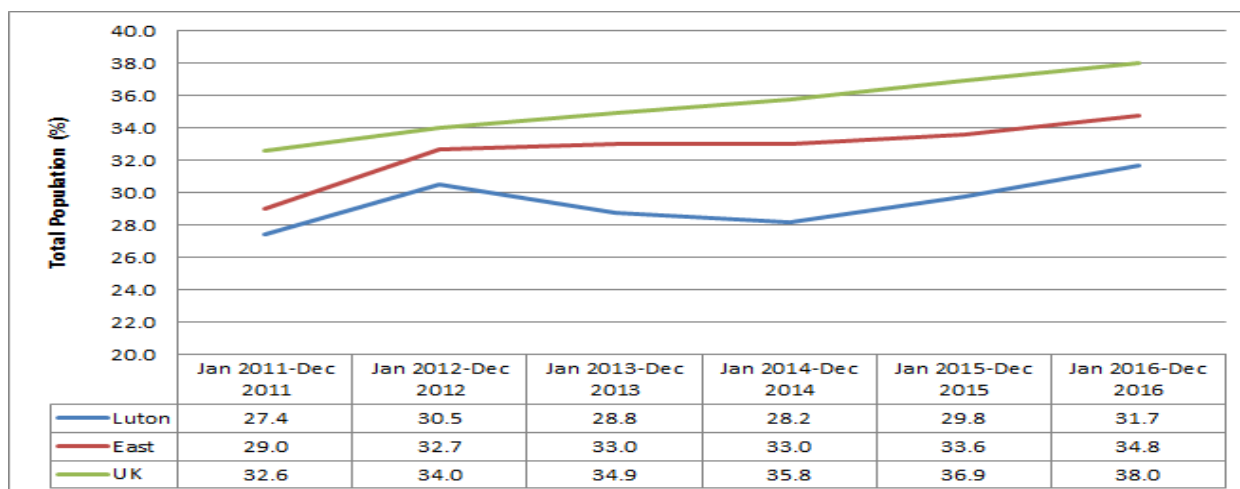


% rate of working age population

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS

# Qualifications

**Chart 16: Percentage of Working Age Population With NVQ Level 4 qualifications Luton, East & UK, 2011-2016**

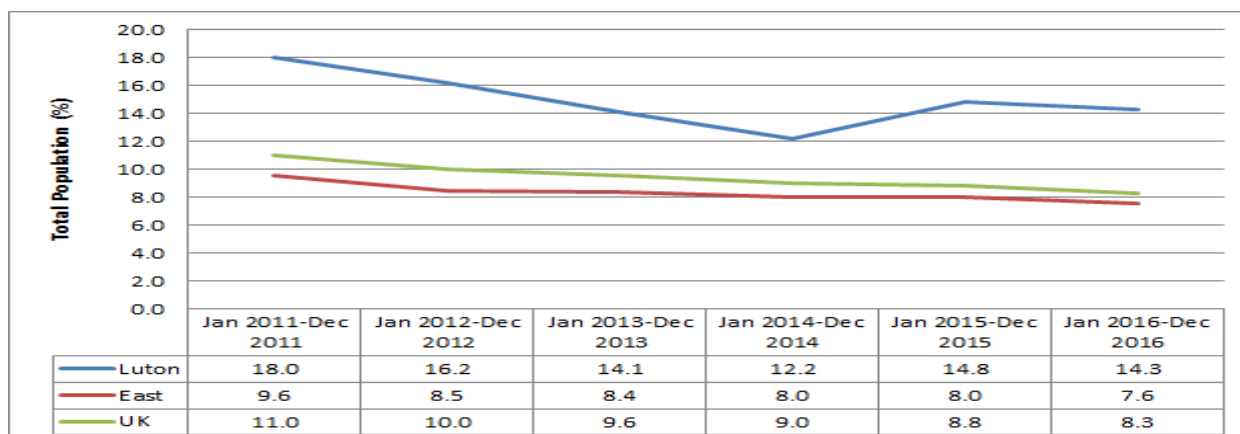


% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The above graph shows that the proportion of people in Luton with NVQ level 4 (degree level) qualifications has increased from 29.8 per cent to 31.7% from 2015-2016. The proportion of people in Luton with degree level education is lower than the national and regional rates.

**Chart 17: Percentage of Working Age Population Without Qualifications Luton, East & UK 2011-2016**



% rate of working age population

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

The proportion of the working age population in Luton without qualification is 14.3 per cent which is higher than the regional (7.6 per cent) and national figures (8.3 per cent).

Labour market data can be found on the NOMIS website: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

For further information on this topic, contact the Business Intelligence Team at: [Research.Intelligence@luton.gov.uk](mailto:Research.Intelligence@luton.gov.uk)