

# UK unemployment falls again in three months

There were some green shoots on the jobs front in the recession-mired UK as employment rose to the highest level in over four years

The number of Britons claiming unemployment benefit unexpectedly fell by 15,000, the largest amount since June 2010. But the question is — can it last? The government's Office for National Statistics said the London Olympics may have been a factor in creating jobs in August and analysts pointed out most of the rise in the number of people with jobs comes from self-employed and part-time workers rather than full-time employment. The opinion of economists was mixed on whether the latest numbers indicated that the UK economy may be slowly moving out of recession.

"With Eurozone break-up fears fading and the US set to unveil further stimulus, the hope is that we will start to see more optimism in the corporate sector on economic prospects, which can lead to a further strengthening of the UK's jobs market," ING economist James Knightley said.

"Delving below the surface reveals a less impressive picture," Capital Economics economist Samuel Tombs said. "Most of the rise in employment was driven by growing self- and part-time, rather than full-time employment," he added.

The number of people with-



UK unemployment level falls due to London Olympics-2012 tourist flow

out a job on the wider ILO measure ticked down by 7,000 in the three months through to July to 2.592 million compared to the February-April period.

However, the number was higher than the 2.56 million unemployed reported for the April through June period. The jobless rate stood at 8.1 percent.

David Freeman from the ONS said women were driving the recent fall in unemployment, "The decrease in unemployment over the last three months, it's all down to women. We've actually seen a small increase in the number of men unemployed."

The shadow work and pensions secretary, Liam Byrne, said

the government idea of getting young people who had worked at the Olympics to attend jobs fairs was not enough. "A simple, fair tax on bankers' bonuses could create a fund of several billion pounds, and we could use half of that to kick start the construction industry... to get over 100,000 young people back to work."

## Apple iPhone 5 unveiled with taller screen and 4G

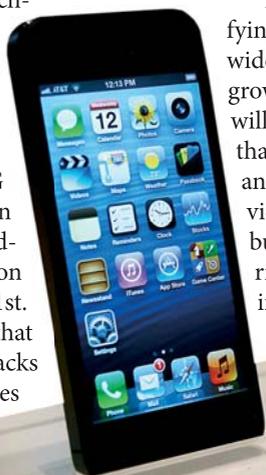
Apple has unveiled a taller, 4G-enabled iPhone at an event in San Francisco

The device's new size allows it to display an extra row of app icons on its home screen. The firm said it was 18 percent thinner and 20 percent lighter than the iPhone 4S. However, it does not feature an NFC (near field communication) chip to allow it to make touchless payments. Apple said the handset would work on Everything Everywhere's (EE) 4G LTE network in the UK. The handset would ship on September 21st. Despite the fact that the iPhone 5 lacks several features

found on its rivals, one analyst at the presentation thought it would prove popular. The latest iPhone's performance will prove critical to Apple's fortunes.

Recently, the firm was worth \$637.85bn based on its share price. That was the highest such valuation to date if you do not adjust Microsoft's 1998 figure for inflation.

However, competition is intensifying. While Apple's margins may be wider, Samsung's handset sales are growing at a faster pace. The figures will have been skewed by the fact that Samsung offers more models and the Galaxy S3 was a newer device than the equivalent iPhone, but one industry watcher said the rivalry could intensify over coming months.



New apple iPhone 5



A customer enters the closing down Sears store

## Sears store in Vancouver shutting its doors

Sears is closing its flagship Pacific Centre store in downtown Vancouver, along with locations in Calgary and Ottawa

Sears Canada is selling back the leases to the landlord, Cadillac Fairview, for \$170 million. The doors will close at all three locations by October 31st. Other Sears stores around Metro Vancouver are not affected. In a statement, Sears says it had not planned to close the stores, but 'the transaction for these three specific locations provides an attractive financial benefit for the company, which will allow the retailer to drive growth in other areas and refresh

other stores. The closures come as Sears works to revamp its struggling Canadian operations. Last month, the company announced plans to cut about 400 jobs across the country as it closes in-store cafes. About 70 employees were laid off in Sears Canada's head office last year. Sears Canada shares jumped nearly five per cent on the Toronto stock market after the announcement.

Urban planner Michael Geller has ideas for new tenants for the building. One option satisfies fashion lovers. "Many of us would love to see Nordstrom in Vancouver. This would be a great space for Nordstrom if they have any appetite to move here," he suggests.

## German court backs Eurozone's ESM bailout fund

Germany's top court has rejected calls to block the permanent Eurozone rescue fund — the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) — and the European fiscal treaty

Leader Angela Merkel called it 'a good day', while markets rallied in relief. But the Constitutional Court imposed conditions including a cap on Germany's contribution, which it said could only be overruled by the German Parliament. Critics had argued that the ESM commits Germany to potentially unlimited funding of debt-ridden Eurozone states.

Some 37,000 people had signed a petition to the court asking it to block the ESM, and make it subject to a referendum. Since Germany is due to contribute 27 percent of the fund, it cannot proceed without German ratification. But, after weeks of deliberation, the court's Chief Justice Andreas Voßkuhle said it 'rejected the injunctions', since there was a 'high probability' that the ESM did not violate the Constitution.

However, he said ratification of the treaty could only be allowed under certain conditions. He continued, "No rule of the treaty must be interpreted in a way which would result in higher payment obligations by Germany, without the consent of the German representative."

When added to the money already committed to the existing temporary fund, Germany is liable for about 190bn Euros.

## Curiosity Mars rover to 'drive, drive, drive'

The Mars Curiosity rover has all but completed its commissioning phase and is ready to begin its detailed investigation of the Red Planet

US Space Agency engineers say they have one final day of testing on Curiosity's robotic arm to complete before handing the rover over to the scientists.

Curiosity is heading towards a place on the crater floor dubbed Glenelg — a location some 400m from the rover's August landing site and where satellite images have identified a junction between three types of geological terrain.

On the way, the rover will stop at a rock where it can fully use some of the tools on the end of the robotic arm. These will include the 'hand lens' known as Mahli and the X-ray spectrometer known as APXS, which is able to determine the chemical elements that are present in a rock. The science will ramp up as Curiosity uses its mast camera system to image the passage of Mars' two moons across the face of Sun.

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