

There could be more than 10 million unemployed people i...

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According to Rishi Sunak in his [announcement on furloughed employees](#) today there are about 7.5 million jobs at almost 1m companies in the scheme now. Many of these people are really unemployed now: we have no idea if they will return to work. Many will not, I am sorry to say.

We do not have real-time unemployment data in the UK.

And we have no idea how many of the 5 million unemployed people in the country will be applying for support yet. I will be amazed if it is less than 2 million.

We know that there have been 1.5 million [excess universal credit claims](#).

There were more than a million unemployed when this began.

Add it all up, and allow for UC claimants being a double count (I am being generous there) and we get to more than 10 million unemployed people in the UK - roughly one in three employees.

That's looking very grim indeed.

No wonder furlough cannot end.