

Text of email from Professor David Blanchflower – 23 October 2013

From: David G. Blanchflower
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:05 AM
To: authority.enquiries@statistics.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: complaint

I would like to formally register a complaint that the Prime Minister David Cameron at today's PMQs and last week also made the false claim that employment was up by 1 million since the coalition took office. He has provided no source. Other ministers including Esther McEvoy have made similar false claims

This is demonstrably untrue assuming we use ONS data. Here is my evidence.

1. If we use the single month data, that I know are not National Statistics, but are used to obtain the three month rolling averages the actual number is +643k (Aug 13= 29699 minus May 10 29057=

Here are the monthly numbers

Feb-10	28,820
Mar-10	28,804
Apr-10	28,909
May-10	29,057
Jun-10	28,969
Jul-10	29,337
Aug-10	29,061

Feb-13	29,693
Mar-13	29,828
Apr-13	29,740
May-13	29,591
Jun-13	30,007
Jul-13	29,903
Aug-13	29,699

2) Then we could use the 3 month averages
So we get the following three month rolling averages

Feb-Apr 2010	28,842
Mar-May 2010	28,930
Apr-Jun 2010	28,975
May-Jul 2010	29,118

Feb-Apr 2013	29,756
Mar-May 2013	29,714
Apr-Jun 2013	29,777
May-Jul 2013	29,836
Jun-Aug 2013	29,869

It seems appropriate to take the start of the coalition to be either Apr-Jun 2013 - relating to May - which gives +895k

Or May-July 2013 which includes only the months after the coalition took office which gives 752k

The reason the starting date matters is because of the fast job creation occurring in the spring of 2010 under Labour

It seems singularly inappropriate to claim 1m as this assumes the starting point is February-April

Please look into this
David Blanchflower

Professor of Economics, Dartmouth & Stirling, Bloomberg and the Independent