

Email from George Eaton, New Statesman, 30 July 2012

Hi, I would like to make a complaint regarding the government's use of statistics on private sector employment.

David Cameron told the House of Commons on 11 July that "It was under this government that we got 800,000 more private sector jobs".

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120711/debtext/120711-0001.htm>

Last week, George Osborne claimed that "we've seen the benefits already of our pro-business approach. Unemployment has been falling, where in other countries like the US it has risen. Over 800,000 new jobs in the private sector have been created."

<http://www.metro.co.uk/olympics/906613-george-osborne-london-2012-has-opened-britain-for-business>

The Treasury also tweeted:

"...We're dealing with our debts at home & the debt crisis abroad. We've cut the deficit by 25% & businesses have created 800,000 new jobs."

<https://twitter.com/hmtreasury/status/228047574345596928>

Yet the most recent figures from the ONS show that 529,000 private sector jobs have been created since the election.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pse/public-sector-employment/q1-2012/stb-pse-2012q1.html>

The 800,000 figure refers to data from March 2010 onwards (i.e. before the current government took office), since when 843,000 new jobs have been created.

I would be grateful if the UK Statistics Authority could write to David Cameron and George Osborne correcting this error and encouraging them to use accurate figures in the future.

Kind regards, George

George Eaton
Editor of The Stagers