

## **What can be done to reduce unemployment to fewer than 1 million?**

There are a variety of ways in which the government in association with companies, could reduce unemployment to under 1 million. Whether this be tax incentives, training from the government to do particular jobs. There are ways in which it can be done, but the fact still remains it cannot fall that much below 1 million because there are a certain number of people who cannot be employed.

One option could be to train the unemployed people to do jobs that other people either don't want to or cannot do. This would be increasing the labour pool but in a productive way in that the government could specially train certain people for certain jobs. This has positive and negative effects on the unemployment numbers. In the short term it provides people with jobs and gets them employed, but after they have completed that job they are back to being unemployed. They would only have one skill and there would be no more demand for that skill. Also this way of doing things puts a big drain on the economy in the way that it costs a lot to train the people repeatedly.

Another way in which the government could get people to work is by giving them incentives to work. By this I mean something like tax incentives, so if people go out and get jobs their tax bill is cut in half, just little things like this could make people want to work. This could however lead to social issues. People with good high paid jobs who have to pay 40% tax would understandably get a little annoyed if people got huge tax reductions, just to work. This would, I believe create an unstable society, which could potentially be worse than 1 million unemployed men and women.

One way of reducing unemployment is to create a period of economic growth, in which companies are looking to expand and hire more people. This is almost impossible to create though. I do not think there is any one thing the government can do to create a period of economic growth without sacrificing something, so I believe this is not really an option.

Yet another way to reduce unemployment could be to adopt the American system. This involves the government employing people for the sake of it because it is better economically for them to pay them than it is for the people to remain unemployed. A workable variation on this would be to train people to do jobs. If you take a group of people and train them to be teachers, then there is a positive effect on society. If you take a group of people and train them to do a job few other people want to do, it benefits the economy. The government could train people to do jobs that are in demand or just need doing.

The government can use a number of policies to help as well. Things like reducing interest rates, cutting tax and attracting foreign investment could all contribute to make people want to work but also in the case of foreign investment create jobs for people. If the government can make foreign countries have a higher demand for British goods, it could reduce unemployment to under 1 million and also benefit the economy by effectively bringing more money into the country.

There are a number of things that can be done to reduce unemployment to under 1 million but there is only so far you can go. The fact remains that there is a section of the British population that cannot be employed.

Alex Smethers

