



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

19th March 2019

Dear Colleague

Record high employment continues.

New figures published by the Office for National Statistics show:

- There are 32.71 million people in work - **a new record high.**
- The employment rate is 76.1 per cent - **this has never been higher since comparable records began in 1971.**
- Wages are growing at their fastest pace in ten years.
- The **number of women in work increased by 144,000** to reach a new record high of 15.4 million. This is the largest increase in the number of employed women for five years.
- The number of people in employment has increased by more than 3.6 million since 2010.
- The unemployment rate (3.9 per cent) **has fallen below 4 per cent for the first time since 1975.**
- Unemployment fell by 35,000 between November and January.
- The unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent is well below the EU average of 6.5 per cent.
- The BAME employment rate is at a record high of 66.2 per cent.
- 3.9 million disabled people are employed, up 930,000 in the last 5 years. There are a near-record 854,000 job vacancies in the economy.

These employment figures are crucial to our economic health.

And behind every employment number is a person and a family whose self-esteem, mental wellbeing, economic freedom and life chances are all vastly improved by being in the work place.

We are helping people into work by reforming welfare so work always pays, while backing businesses to create more, better paying jobs across the whole country through our modern Industrial Strategy.

I know all colleagues will join me in welcoming yet more terrific economic news this month.

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS