

LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 12 – 23 September 2020

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1. Claimant Count

From March to April there was a steep rise in the number of claimants in Leicester and Leicestershire as the claimant count rose from 15,145 (2.3%) to 34,830 (5.3%).

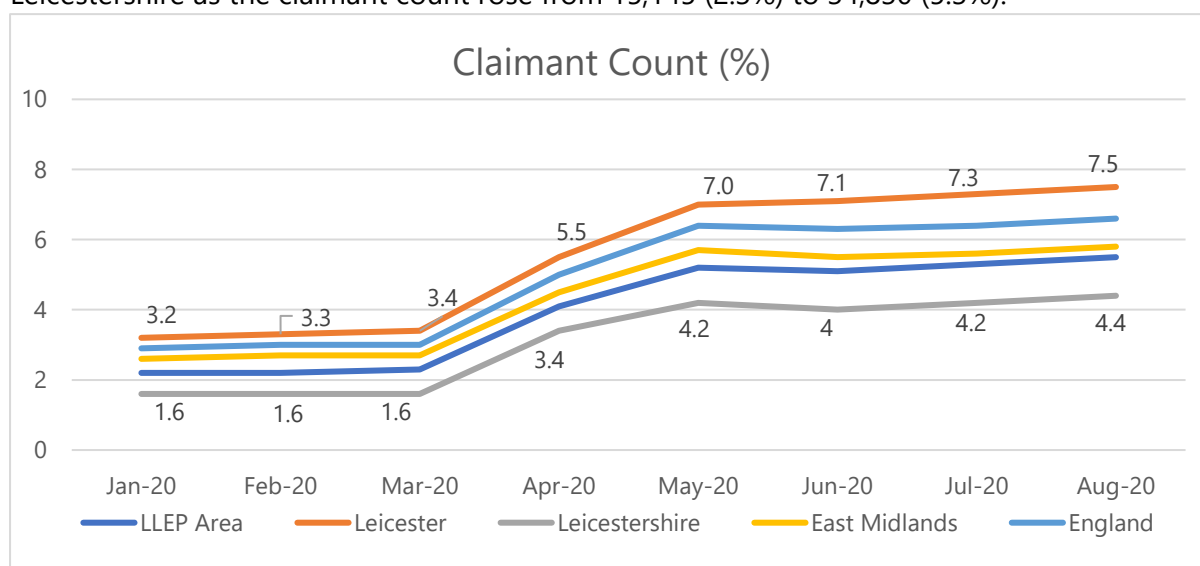


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) January 2020 - August 2020

Source: ONS

Whilst we have not seen the same steep rise in claimants over the period from May to August, there have been further increases marking a continued downturn.

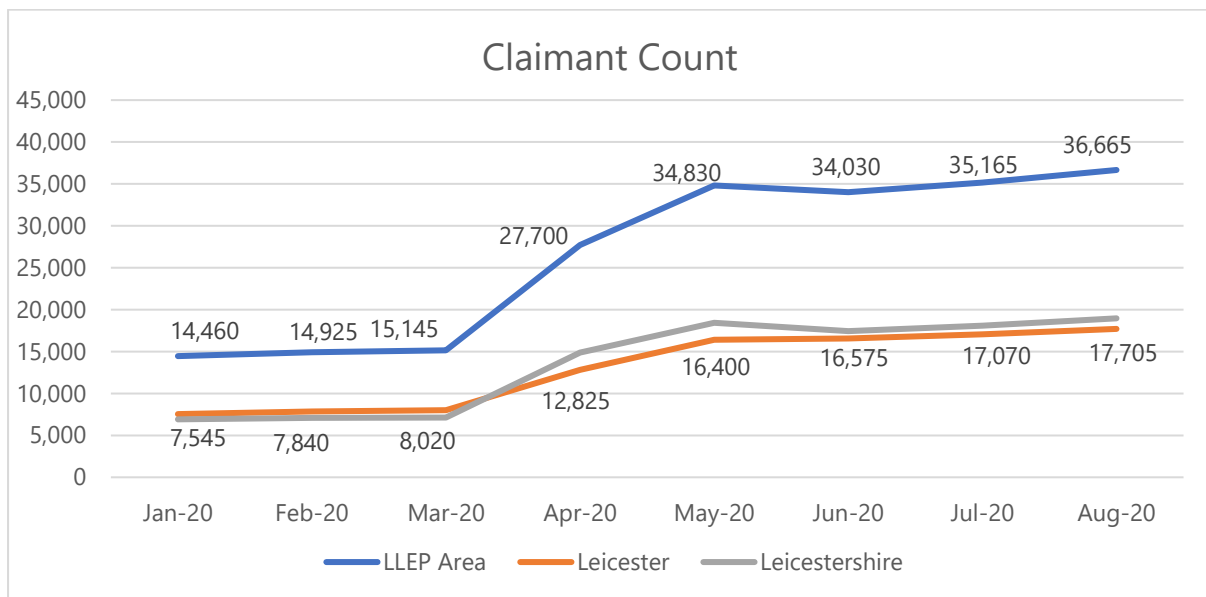


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count January 2020 - August 2020
Source: ONS

The number of claimants in August rose to 36,655 (5.5%). This is a rise 1,500 or 4.3% from the previous month (35,165 or 5.3%). Since March the number of claimants has risen by 21,520 or 142%.

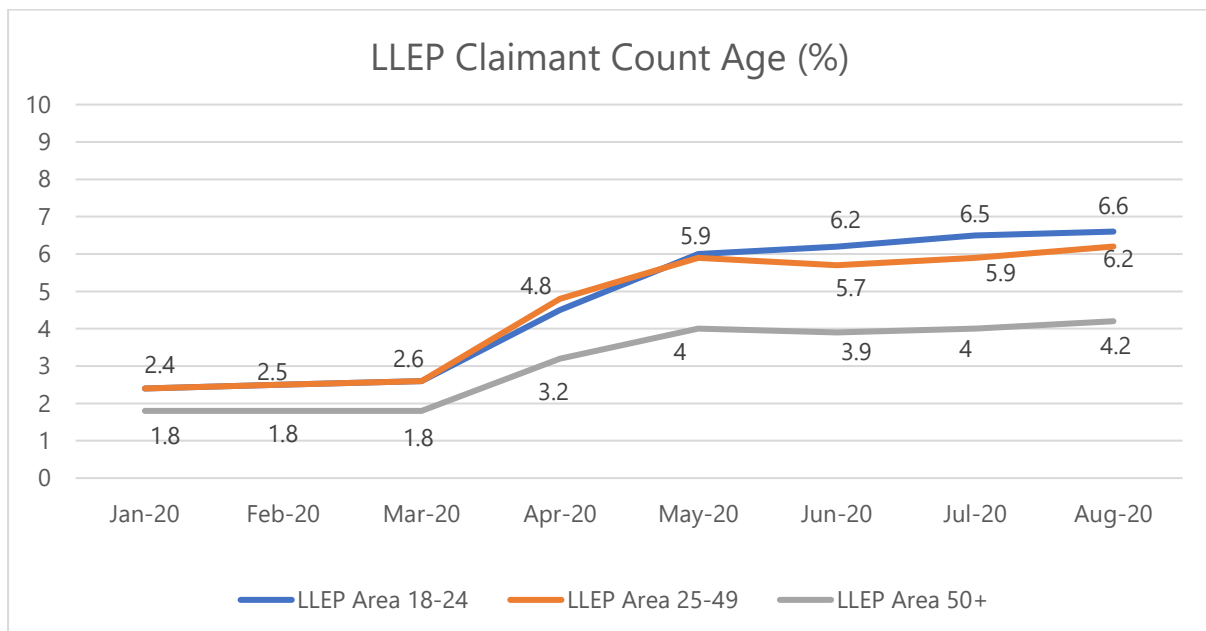


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) January 2020 - August 2020
Source: ONS

Twenty-point two percent (7,395) of claimants were 18-24, 56.9% (20,835) 25-49 and 22.9% (8,380) 50+.

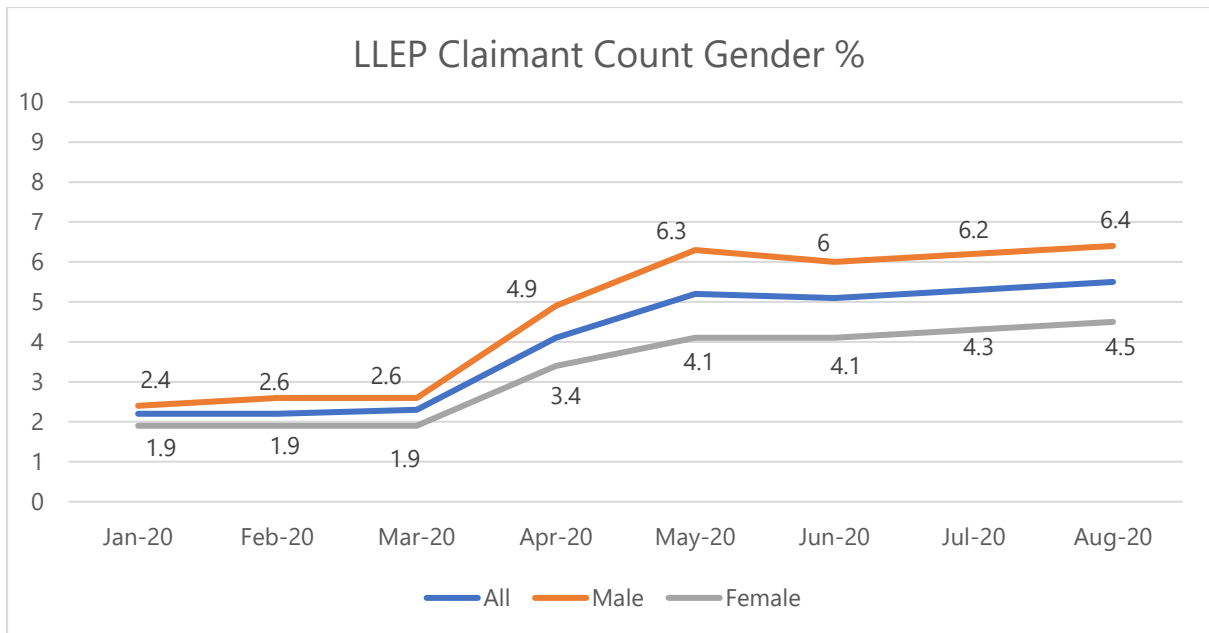


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) January 2020 - August 2020
Source: ONS

In terms of gender, 21,585 were male (6.4%) and 15,085 (4.5%) were female.

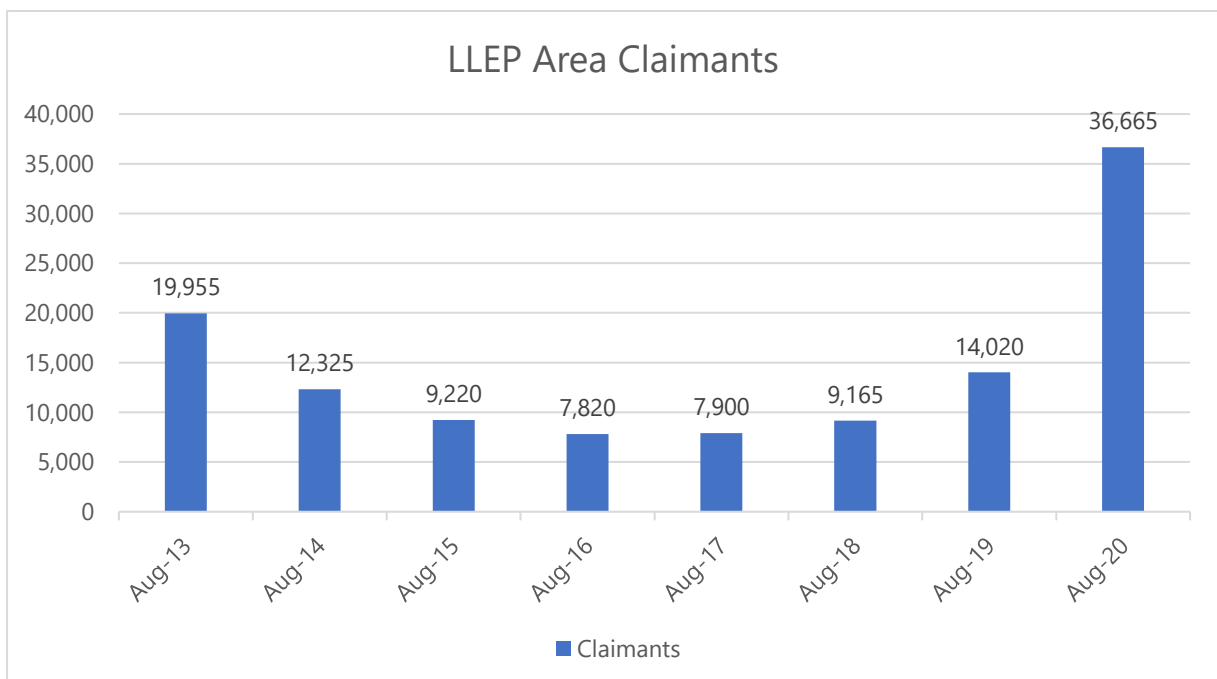


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count August 2013-2020
Source: ONS

From July to August there was a rise in the number of claimants in the City (635). There was also a rise in the County (870). Forty five percent of claimants were in Leicester and the rest (55%) in Leicestershire.

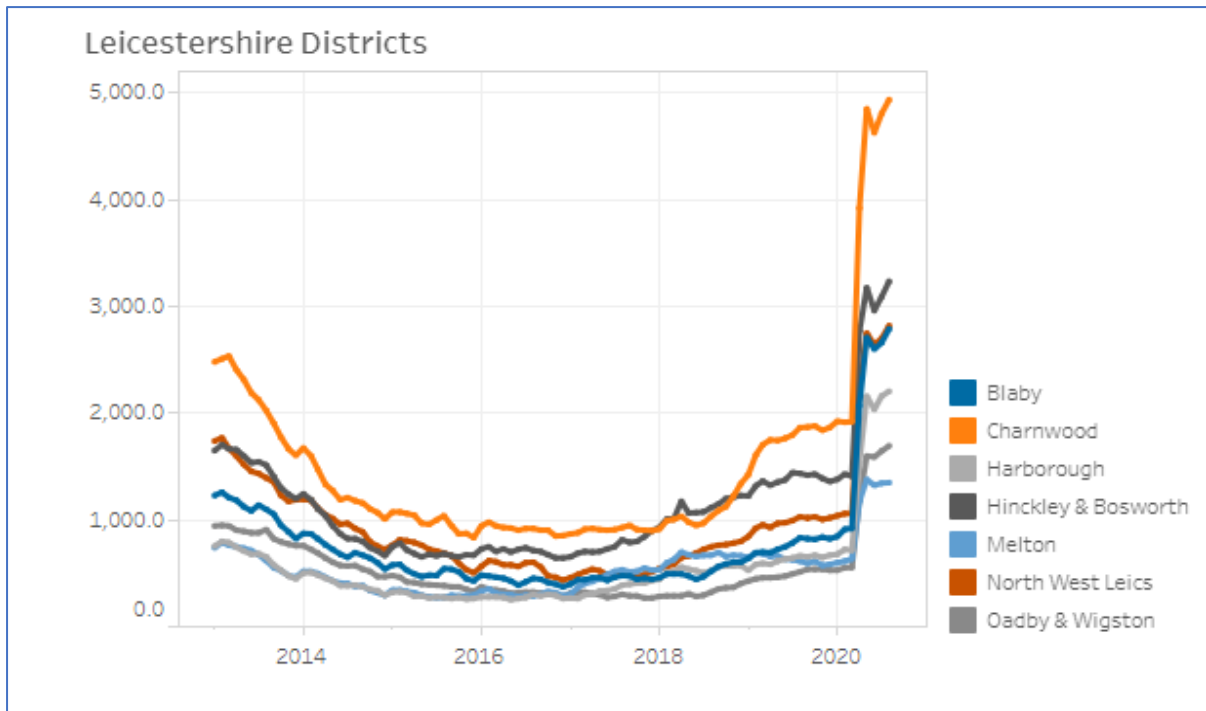


Figure 6 Leicestershire JSA & UC Claimant Count by District (January 2013 – August 2020)
Source: ONS

At a district level, Charnwood has seen the greatest increase in claimant numbers over this period. All Leicestershire districts had an increase in the number of claimants over the period July to August.

For more detailed data on Jobs Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit claimant count data by district, visit the [Unemployment Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

2. Furloughed Employees

At 31 July 2020 a cumulative total of 162,200 employments had been furloughed in Leicester and Leicestershire, a cumulative increase of 9,200 on the previous month equating to 34.2% of all employees in Leicester and Leicestershire. Leicester City has seen an additional 3,600 furloughed staff since 31st May.

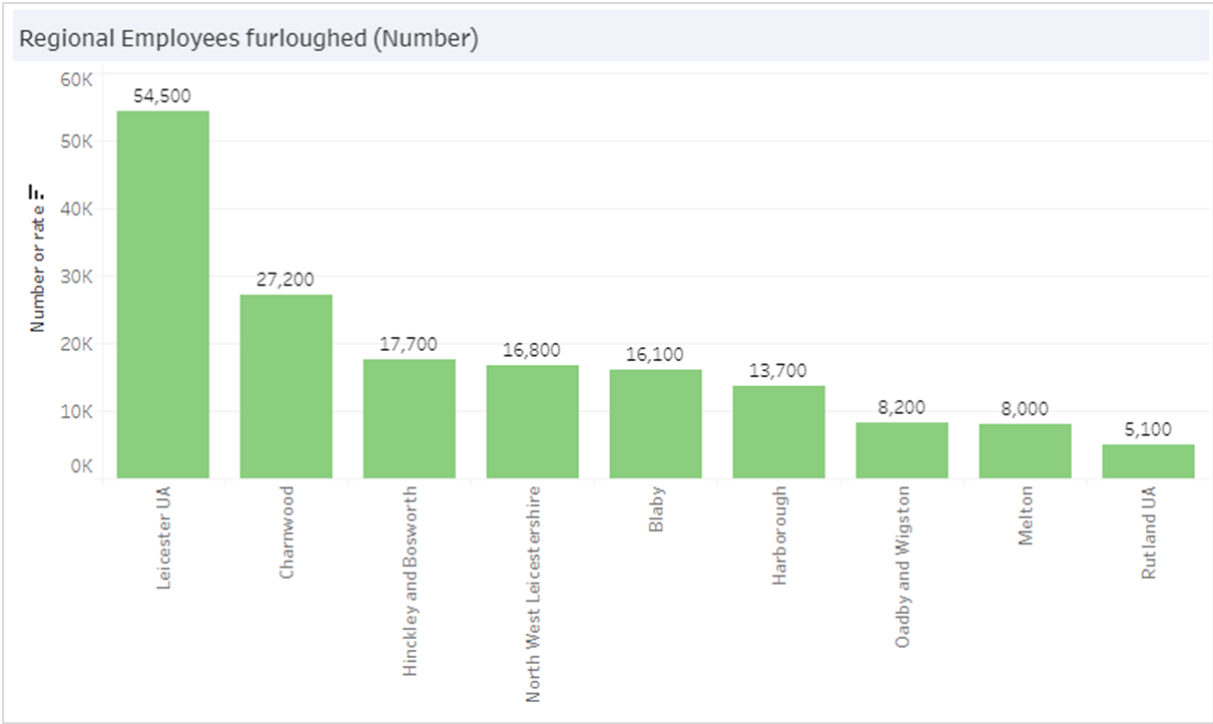


Figure 7 Furloughed Employments at 31 July 2020
 Source: HMRC

Using figures gained from the Office for National Statistics Business Register and Employment Survey 2018, Figure 8 below demonstrates furloughed staff as a share of employees in the LLEP, local and district authority areas. The area with the highest share of furloughed staff is Oadby and Wigston (43.2%) and the lowest Blaby (26.4%)

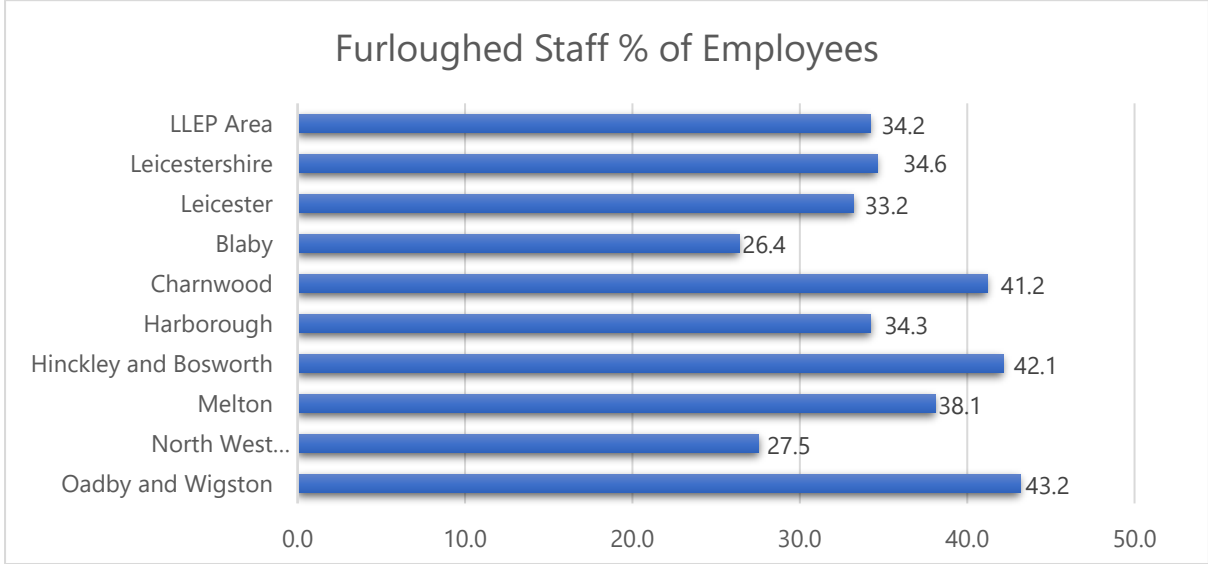


Figure 8 Furloughed Employments at 31 July 2020 as a Share of Employment.
 Source: HMRC and ONS Business Register and Employment Survey 2018

Figure 9 provides an estimate of the number of employees furloughed in the LLEP area by sector. This applies UK figures to local sector data gained from the Office for National Statistics Business Register and Employment Survey.

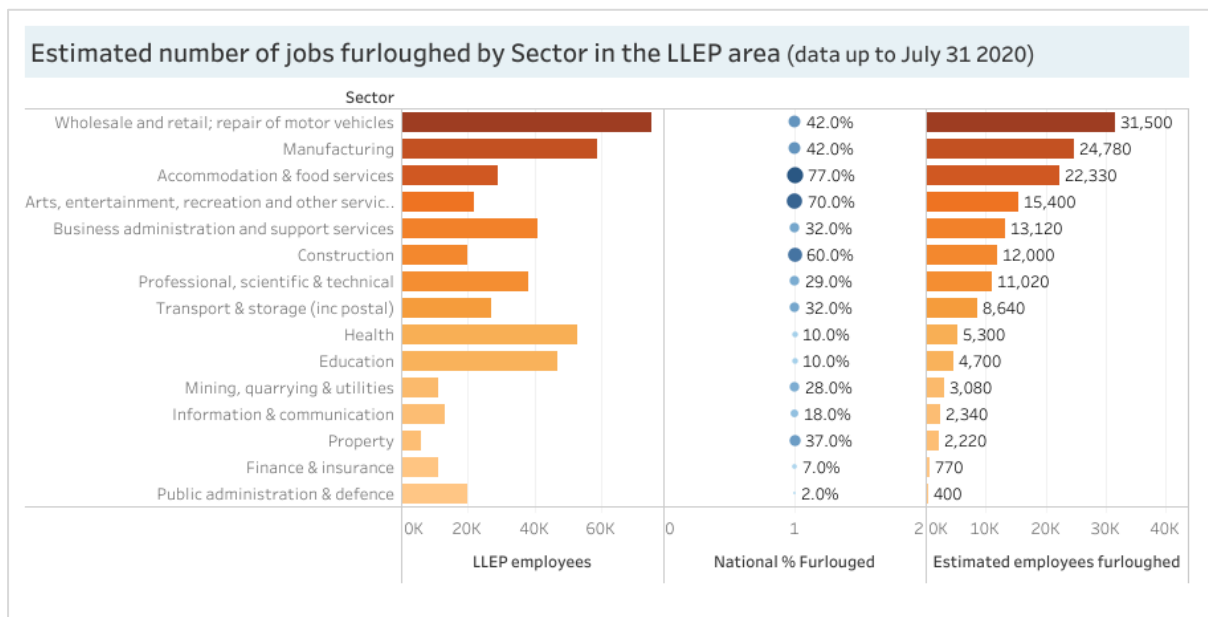


Figure 9. Furloughed Employee Sector Based Estimates at 31 July 2020
Source: HMRC

In terms of numbers wholesale and retail, repair of motor vehicles, manufacturing and accommodation and food services have the largest numbers of employees that are furloughed. In terms of share of employee's accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment, recreation and other services and construction rank the highest.

For more detail including East Midlands comparators see the [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

3. Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

HMRC have published data on numbers claiming the Self Employment Income Support Scheme up to 31 July 2020. For more detail including East Midlands comparators see the [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal. An average of 76% of all those eligible for SEISS in Leicester and Leicestershire have taken up the support.

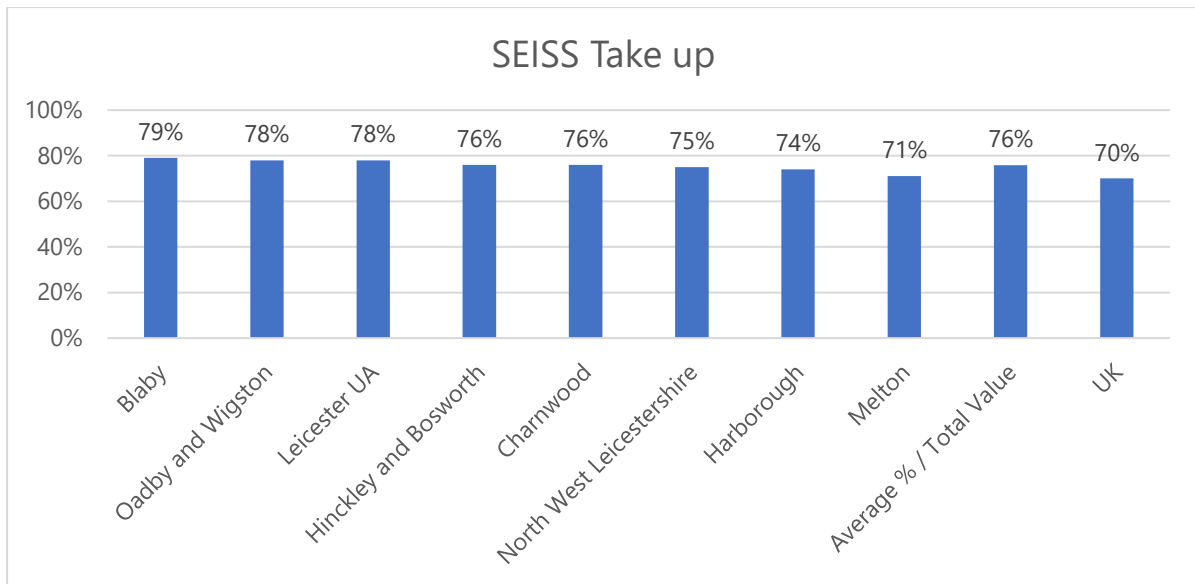


Figure 10 SEISS Uptake in LLEP Area
Source: HMRC

4. Job Postings

EMSI job posting data is drawn from a range of sources and provides timely data on how the trend in the number of live job adverts is changing in the LLEP area by occupations and geography.

However, the number of job adverts being posted is not a direct measure of labour force demand. Job adverts may not be removed from online job vacancy boards immediately once a position is filled so the data may not fully reflect companies who have halted active recruitment.

The data is compiled from multiple job vacancy boards and adverts may still be considered “live” if the posting is still live on any board, even when it has already been removed from an alternative source.

The scope of online job adverts does not fully capture the region’s economic activity because of differing advertising methods, for example, casual work may be advertised by word-of-mouth.

Figure 11 demonstrate job postings by occupation for August 2020. These are compared with August 2019, March 2020 and July 2020. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

From August 2019 to 2020 the number of job postings fell by 2,543 from 25,464 to 22,921. This is a fall of 10%.

Over the last year there have been falls in all but 9 of the occupation codes. Only Other Managers and Proprietors, Health Professionals, Health and Social Care Associate Professionals, Protective Service Occupations, Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades, Skilled Construction and Building Trades, Caring Personal Service Occupations, Transport and

Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives and Elementary Administration and Service Occupations.

The largest falls were in Customer Service Occupations (41.5%), Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades (36.9%), Secretarial and Related Occupation (36.7%), Administrative Occupations (34%) and Sales occupations (31.8%).

In terms of numbers the largest falls were in Administrative Occupations (897), Business and Public Service Associate Professionals (636), Skilled Metal, Electrical and electronic Trades (418) and Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professional (364).

Between March and August 2020 job postings fell by 2,925 from 25,846 to 22,921. This is a fall of 11.3%. Only 9 sectors have seen positive growth since March.

For the third month in a row there has been positive growth in the number of job postings. When figures for July and August 2020 are compared it is demonstrated that there has been growth in job postings of 2,224 (from 20,697 to 22,921). This is growth of 10.7%.

Over the last month all but 4 occupation areas saw positive growth.

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Aug 2019 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Jul 2020 Unique Postings	Aug 2020 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Jul to Aug	Monthly Growth % Jul to Aug	Cumulative Growth from Mar	Cumulative Growth % from Mar
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,205	1,309	1,141	1,190	(15)	-1.2	49	4.3	(119)	-9.1
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	401	466	450	459	58	14.5	9	2.0	(7)	-1.5
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,123	2,168	1,582	1,759	(364)	-17.1	177	11.2	(409)	-18.9
22	Health Professionals	1,452	1,632	1,563	1,669	217	14.9	106	6.8	37	2.3
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	901	1,164	1,004	896	(5)	-0.6	(108)	-10.8	(268)	-23.0
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,398	1,507	1,297	1,339	(59)	-4.2	42	3.2	(168)	-11.1
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,195	1,131	893	943	(252)	-21.1	50	5.6	(188)	-16.6
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	272	359	350	380	108	39.7	30	8.6	21	5.8
33	Protective Service Occupations	12	27	17	22	10	83.3	5	29.4	(5)	-18.5
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	260	380	251	237	(23)	-8.8	(14)	-5.6	(143)	-37.6
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	3,433	3,770	2,631	2,797	(636)	-18.5	166	6.3	(973)	-25.8
41	Administrative Occupations	2,636	2,426	1,589	1,739	(897)	-34.0	150	9.4	(687)	-28.3
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	349	352	231	221	(128)	-36.7	(10)	-4.3	(131)	-37.2
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	12	33	36	35	23	191.7	(1)	-2.8	2	6.1
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,724	1,522	1,211	1,306	(418)	-24.2	95	7.8	(216)	-14.2
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	366	442	417	476	110	30.1	59	14.1	34	7.7
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	536	530	287	338	(198)	-36.9	51	17.8	(192)	-36.2
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	1,821	1,829	1,659	1,879	58	3.2	220	13.3	50	2.7
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	172	166	118	138	(34)	-19.8	20	16.9	(28)	-16.9
71	Sales Occupations	522	521	303	356	(166)	-31.8	53	17.5	(165)	-31.7
72	Customer Service Occupations	597	482	327	349	(248)	-41.5	22	6.7	(133)	-27.6
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	428	382	341	400	(28)	-6.5	59	17.3	18	4.7
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,493	1,348	1,170	1,714	221	14.8	544	46.5	366	27.2
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	387	246	245	322	(65)	-16.8	77	31.4	76	30.9
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,769	1,654	1,584	1,957	188	10.6	373	23.5	303	18.3
Total		25,464	25,846	20,697	22,921	(2,543)	-10.0	2,224	10.7	(2,925)	-11.3

Figure 11 LLEP Area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes
Source: EMSI

Figures 12 and 13 demonstrate that job posting numbers in Leicestershire are starting to rise in some areas to similar levels in for the same period last year. However, the number of job postings in Leicester fell from 16,189 to 9,577.

Local Authority	Aug 2019 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Apr 2020 Unique Postings	May 2020 Unique Postings	Jun 2020 Unique Postings	Jul 2020 Unique Postings	Aug 2020 Unique Postings
Blaby	821	773	655	597	744	972	972
Charnwood	3,529	3,613	2,961	2,711	3,161	3,299	3,667
Harborough	1,861	1,757	1,429	1,159	1,152	1,449	1,677
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,595	1,419	1,261	1,180	1,454	1,700	2,027
Leicester	13,984	14,306	10,985	9,214	9,052	9,577	9,920
Melton	924	1087	809	703	728	786	858
North West Leicestershire	2,416	2,434	2,094	1,762	2,176	2,519	3,030
Oadby & Wigston	331	454	383	359	352	381	512
TOTAL	25,461	25,843	20,577	17,685	18,819	20,683	22,663

Figure 12 Job Postings by Local & District Authority
Source: EMSI

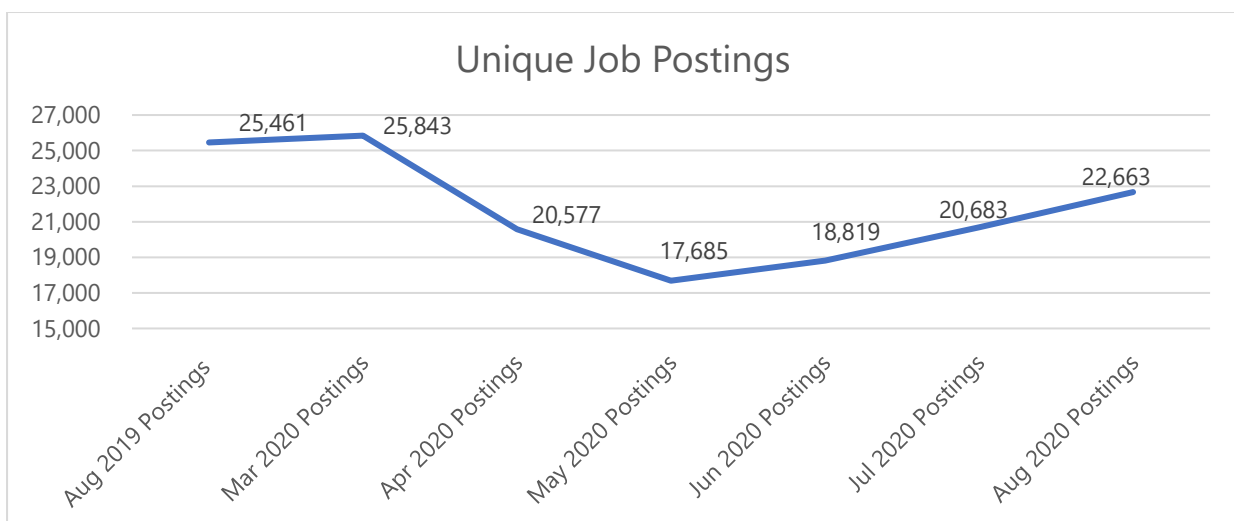


Figure 13 LLEP Area Job Postings
Source: EMSI

More detailed breakdowns of job postings by district are available from brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk.

5. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the beginning of March 1,387 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019 the number was significantly higher. Between March and August 2019, the figure was 3,818, this is a difference of 2,431 business closures.

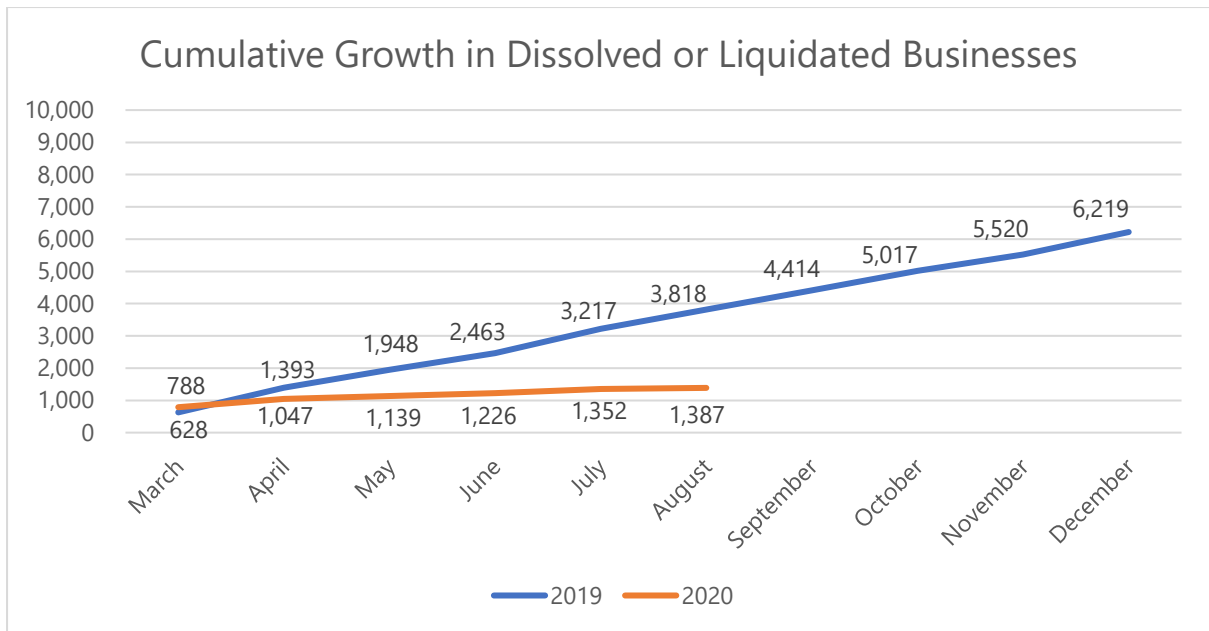


Figure 14 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2020 there were 788 business closures. By August the number had fallen to just 35. In August of the previous year it was 601.

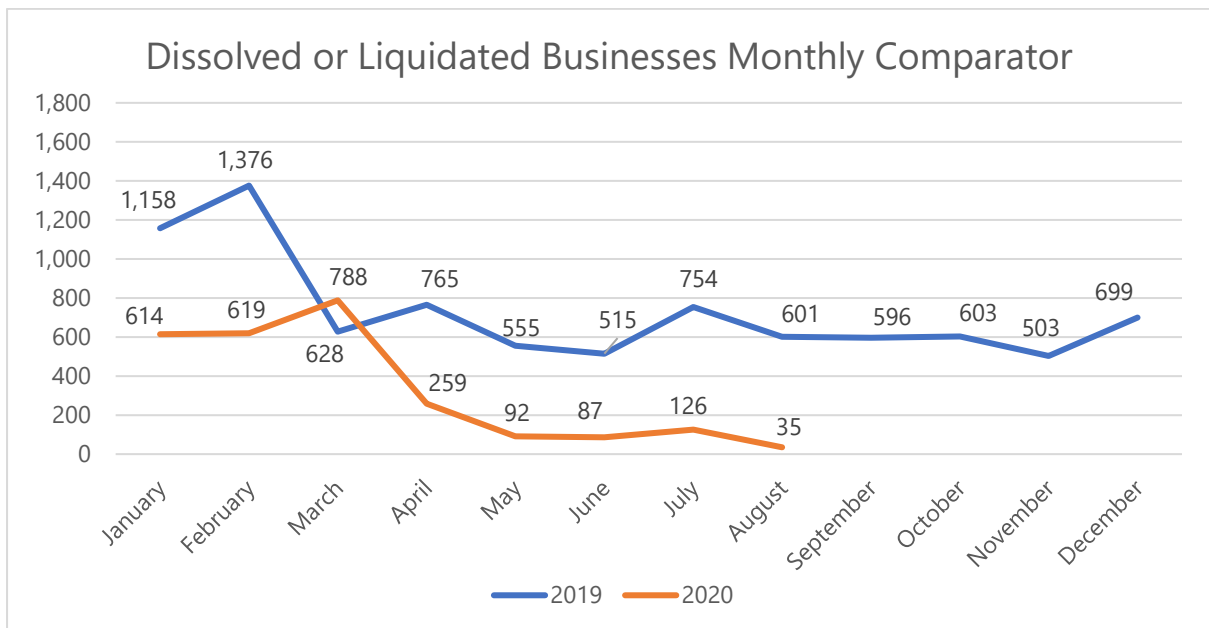


Figure 15 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

The fall in business closures may be attributed to those measures brought in by the Government during lockdown providing additional support in terms of funds and time which may not normally be accessible to businesses that are in difficulty. However, as measures such as the Furlough Scheme and Small Business Discretionary Funding are phased out it is likely the number of closures will rise.

Since the beginning of March nearly 6,200 businesses were incorporated within Leicester and Leicestershire.

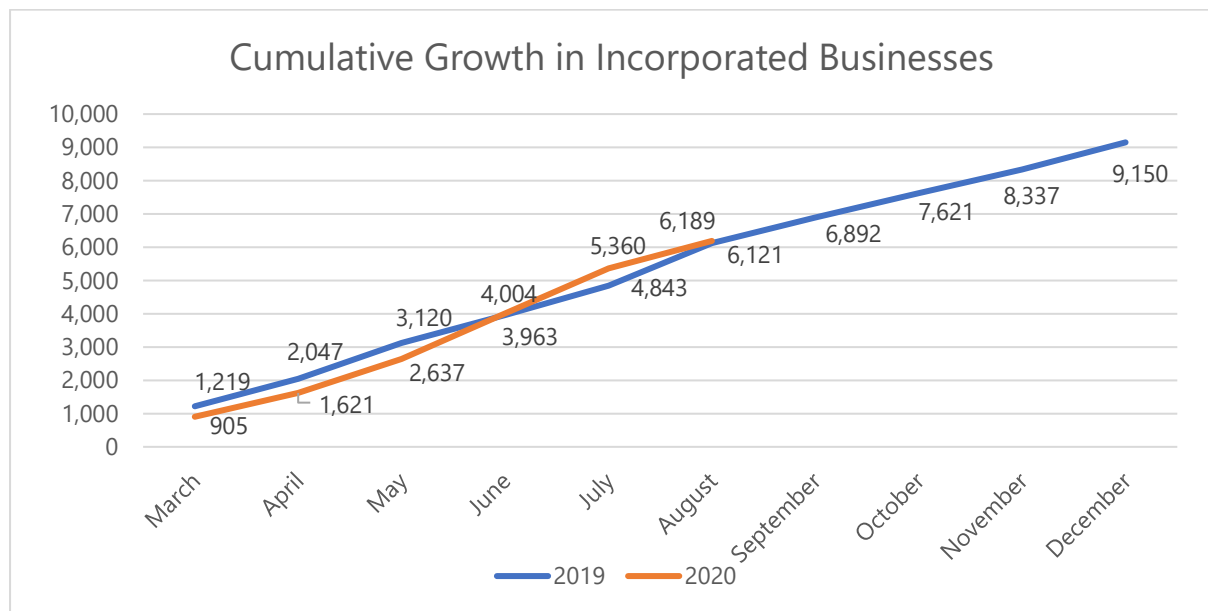


Figure 16 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

When comparing data for 2019 it is demonstrated that the number of businesses that have been incorporated is higher but in line with the previous year's figures (6,121). In July 2020 the cumulative figure was 5,360 and in the previous year 4,843. When comparing the cumulative figures for 2019 and 20 there doesn't seem to be any significant difference between the two.

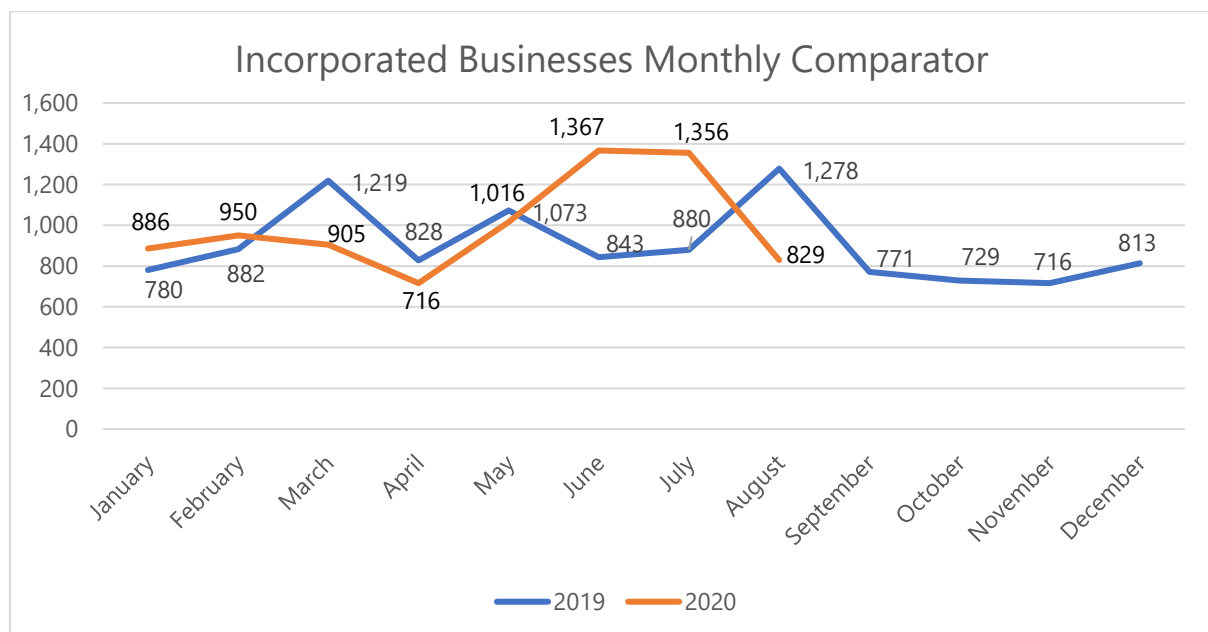


Figure 17 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

When comparing the monthly numbers of incorporated businesses, the only noticeable effects are the rise in incorporations between April and June and the fall in incorporations between July and August. In April there were 716 incorporations and in June 1,367. This may reflect the economy reopening. The number of incorporations however in August when compared to the previous year is substantially lower (829 versus 1,278).

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 1/09/2020 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Low figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

6. Economic Intelligence Update

As the COVID-19 crisis develops, research and insights are emerging from a range of organisations and links and summaries of relevant publications are listed below. It should be noted that we do not yet have a complete picture of the impact of COVID-19 and therefore much of what is emerging is predictive and should be interpreted with caution until such time as robust quantifiable data becomes available.

Apprenticeship Statistics

On 27th August the ESFA published the latest national apprenticeships and traineeships data. Data at a local level is not yet available, but nationally there has been a significant decrease in apprenticeship take-up, with latest figures showing the number of apprenticeship starts reported to date for June was 12,400; in June 2019, the number reported at the same point was 20,900.

There has also been a similar decline in apprenticeship vacancies over this period, although numbers look to be improving. Apprenticeship adverts were all lower in the first four full months for which data are available since the coronavirus restrictions were implemented on 23 March, compared to the same months in 2019. In April, there were 890 adverts (compared to 8,400 in 2019), in May there were 1,160 (compared to 9,830) followed by 2,380 in June and 4,780 in July (compared to 9,180 and 9,920 respectively).

Academic Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
2019/20	10,490	9,760	9,900	8,470	5,600	8,840	13,660	7,940	2,120	1,850	4,030	9,570
2018/19	14,060	12,050	14,260	12,650	7,110	12,190	13,030	13,100	10,900	13,030	12,100	12,240

Figure 18 : Apprenticeship vacancies reported on the FAA website in 2019/20, and the corresponding 2018/19 figures, by month.

Source: ESFA

Comparative data is not available at a LEP or sub-regional level, the national report is available [here](#).

Government launches productivity institute

A new institute in Manchester will boost ground-breaking research to explore how to increase productivity, boost wages and support the economic recovery across the UK backed by a £37 million government investment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-productivity-institute-part-of-37m-investment-to-boost-uk-wage-growth-and-living-standards>

7. Useful Links

LSR Online

Leicestershire County Council is working in partnership with the LLEP to provide a single online portal for local economic data across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The [LSR Portal](#) holds data across a wide range of economic indicators (in addition to other measures including health and wellbeing), the majority of which are available at district level.

Midlands Engine Economic Observatory

The [Midlands Engine Economic Observatory](#) is an analytical function of the Midlands Engine, providing comprehensive and contemporary data, analysis and intelligence on the whole Midlands economy including a fortnightly publication, *Monitor*, reporting on the impact of Covid-19 on the region's economy.

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

The ONS produces comprehensive data and analysis on coronavirus ([COVID-19 in the UK](#)) and its effect on the economy and society.

NOMIS

[Nomis](#) is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics, ONS, to give free access to the most detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics from official sources.

For further information contact:

Brendan Brockway
LLEP Economic Intelligence Officer
0116 454 2913
brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk

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