



Leicester & Leicestershire  
Enterprise Partnership

# LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 15 – 18 December 2020

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## 1. Economic Roundup

A summary of some of the key government announcements since the last update together with a round-up of recently published research reports and insights from a range of organisations.

### Government Announcements

In November it was announced that small businesses in England will receive £2.2 billion from the Government to help them through the current period of national restrictions. Businesses will benefit from 2 grant schemes. These are:

The [Local Restrictions Support Grants](#), for businesses which have had to close or have been severely impacted by local restrictions (hospitality, leisure and non-essential retail sectors).

The [Additional Restrictions Grant](#), provided by councils on a discretionary basis to businesses which have been severely impacted by restrictions.

Spending Review - The Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak presented his '[Spending Review 2020](#)' to Parliament on Wednesday 25 November 2020.

The spending review commits billions of pounds to provide the continued support for businesses through the pandemic and stimulate an economic recovery through science, R&D and innovation investment and green technologies. Also published was the [National Infrastructure Strategy](#) which sets out plans for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

## Research and Reports

[The UK Labour Market in a Post-Brexit World](#) - this briefing note from the Resolution Foundation considers a number of ways in which the labour market could change as the UK moves to a new immigration rules in January 2021. It looks at the impact on those industries which have depended on migrant labour in recent years and where particular pinch points might occur and ways in which they could be overcome.

ONS published [The impact of the coronavirus so far: the industries that struggled or recovered](#) showing a mixed picture even within sectors, for example although tourism has been badly hit, camping has bucked the trend and fared better than other types of accommodation.

## 2. Claimant Count

In November 2020 the claimant rate in the LLEP area was 5.2%. This translates to 34,940 people.

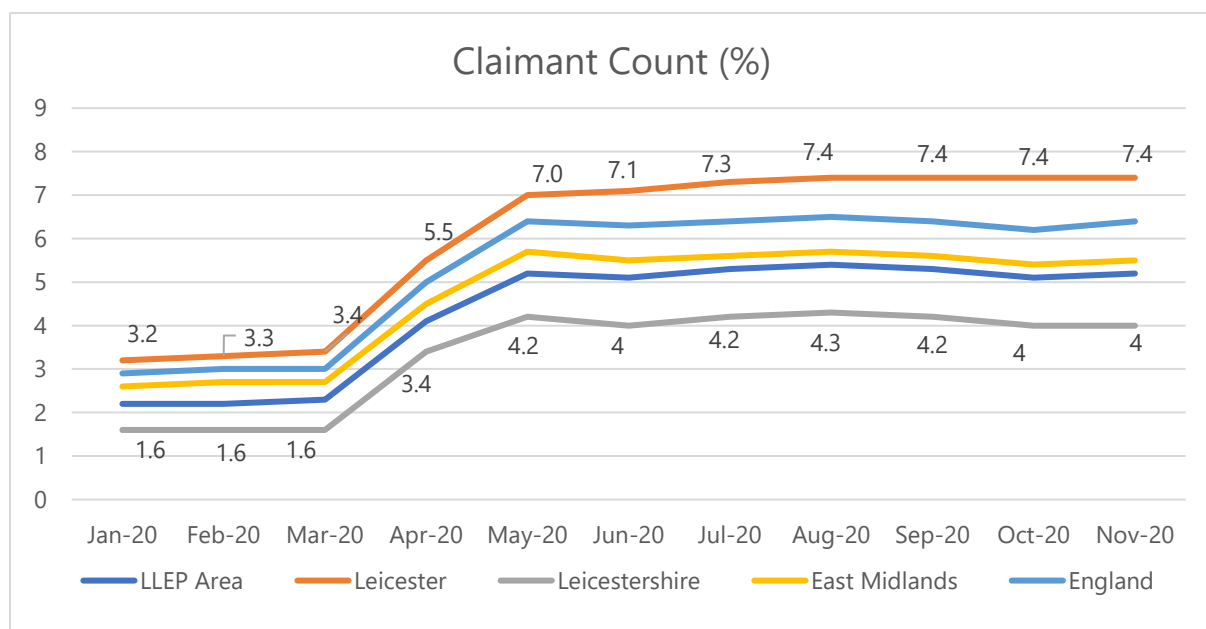


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) January - November 2020  
Source: ONS

In March 2020 the claimant rate for the LLEP area was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March and November 2020, the claimant rate has increased by 2.9 percentage points. This is an additional 19,795 claimants or a percentage increase of 130.7%.

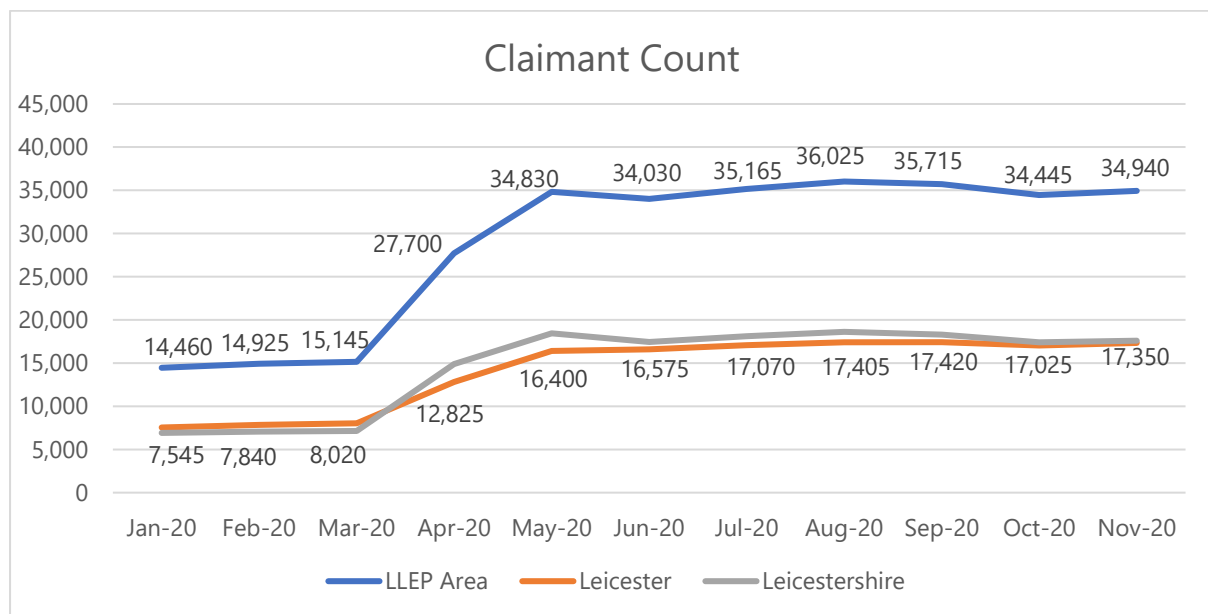


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count January - November 2020  
Source: ONS

Although small, from August to November in the LLEP area there was a fall in the number of claimants from 36,025 to 34,940. It is not certain whether this will continue. There have been falls in both Leicester and Leicestershire.

The pandemic has impacted all age groups. November figures demonstrate that there is on average a larger share of 18-24-year olds (6.2%) who are claimants than 25-49 year olds (5.8%) and 50+ year olds (4.2%).

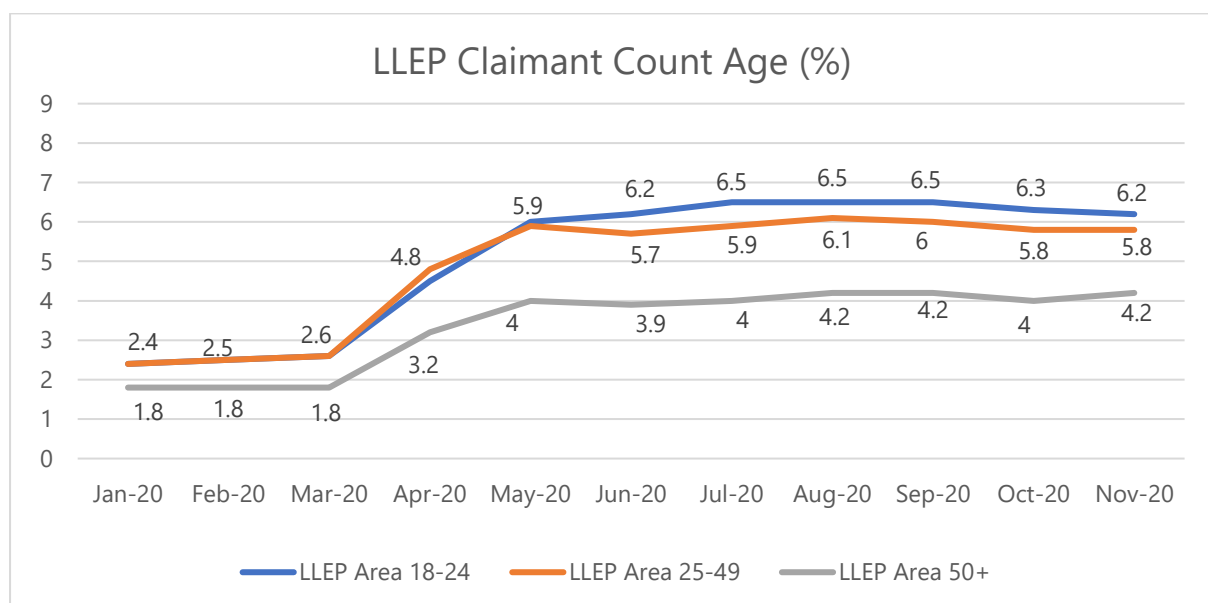


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) January - November 2020  
Source: ONS

Male claimants numbered 20,150 (6%) and 14,745 (4.4%) were female. Both male and female claimant rates saw a slight rise in November. These rises were seen in the 25 to 49 and 50 plus age groups.

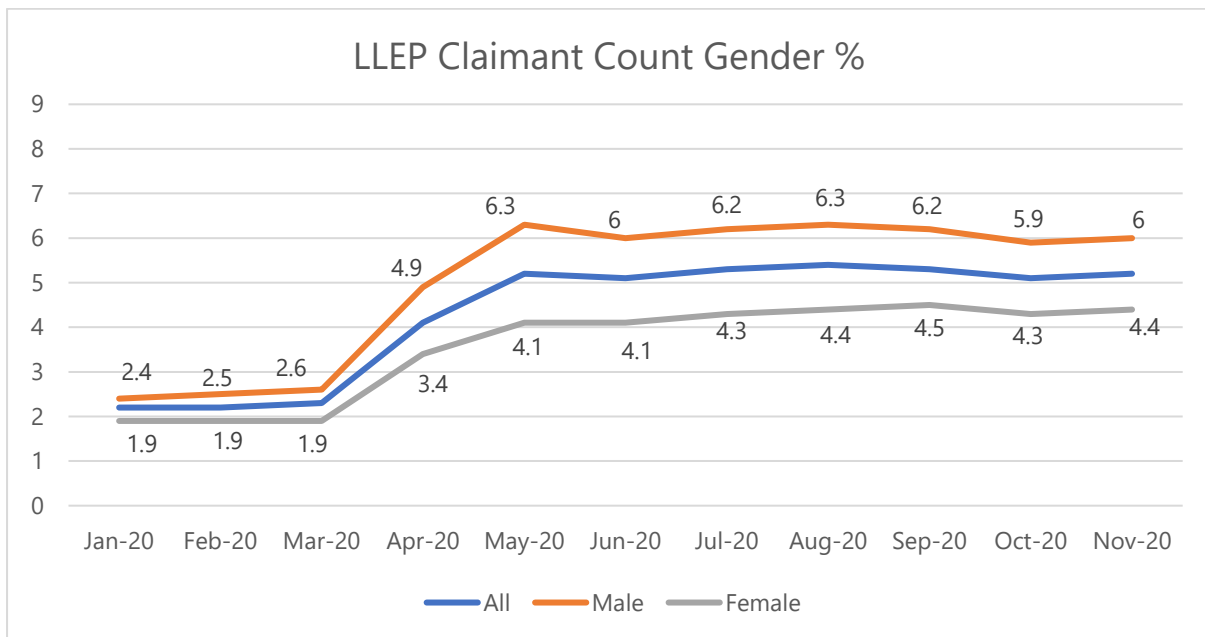


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) January - November 2020  
Source: ONS

Figure 5 below demonstrates the number of claimants for November 2011 to 2020. Between November 2019 and 20 the number of claimants increased by 20,840.

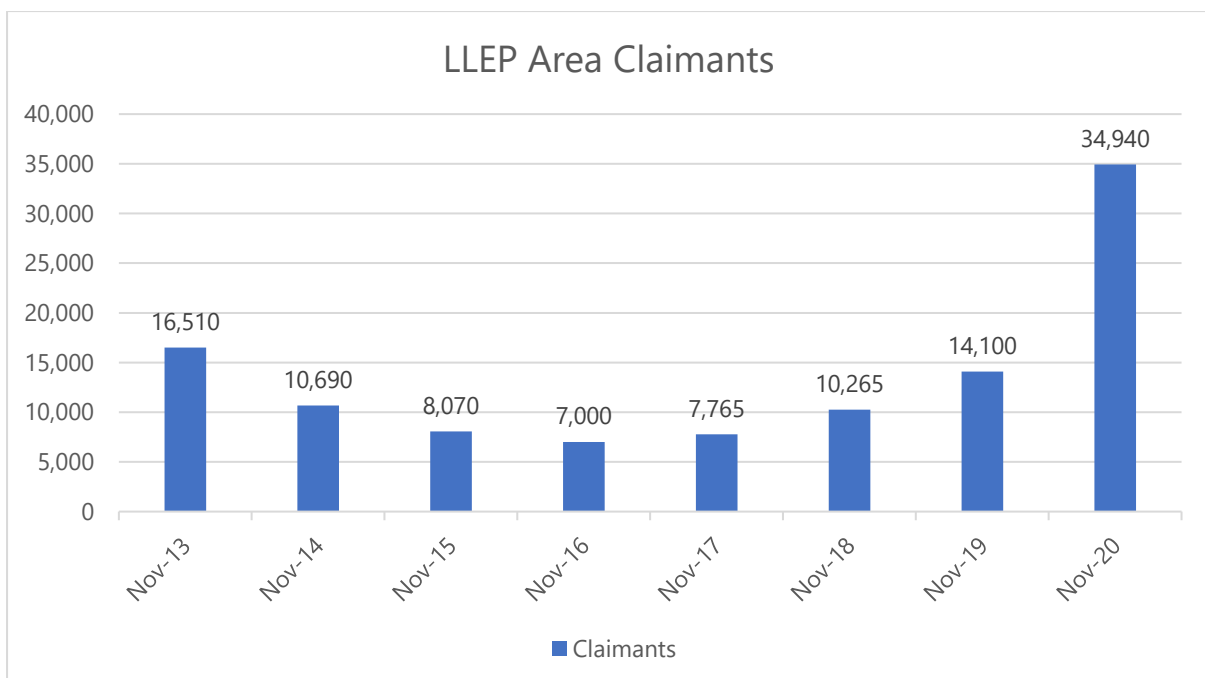


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count November 2013 -2020  
Source: ONS

Four of the 7 district areas in the County saw slight rises in the number of claimants between October and November. Only Blaby and Oadby and Wigston saw falls over this period.

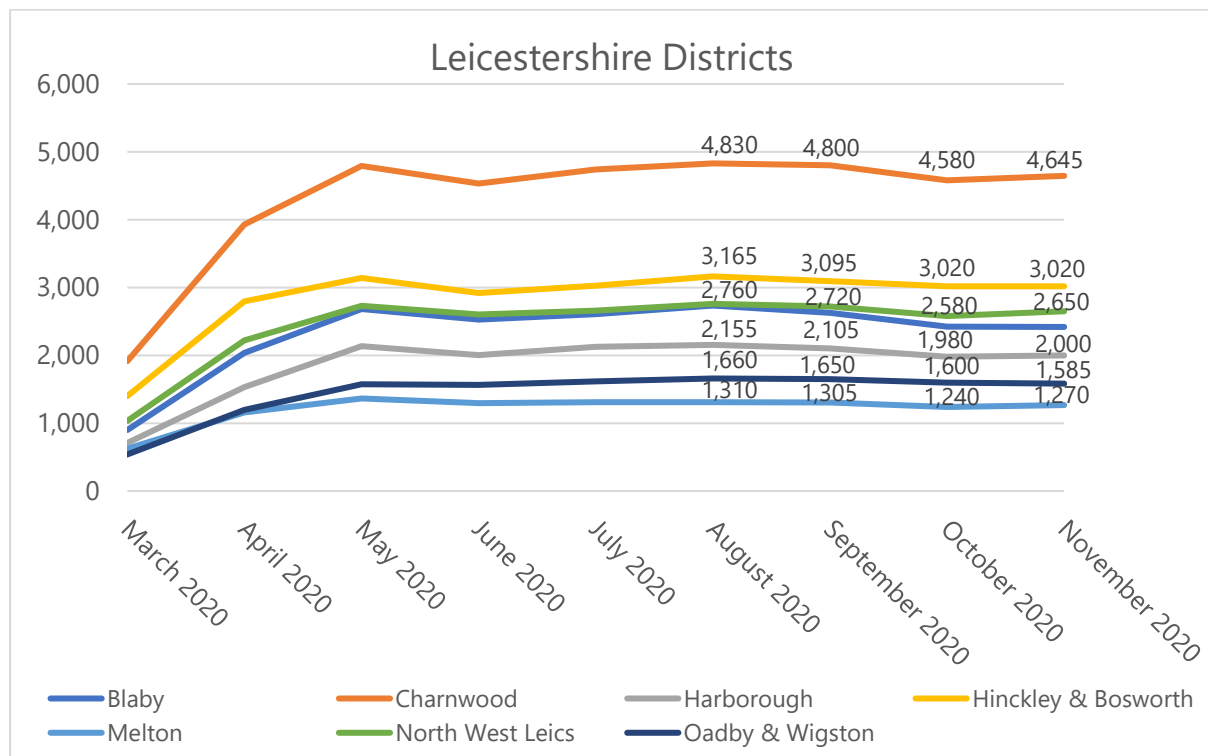


Figure 6 LLEP Area District Claimant Count January - November 2020  
Source: ONS

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

### 3. Furloughed Employees

The information below is provided by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and are statistics that relate to the Governments Job Retention Scheme.

Table 1 provides an understanding of the take up of the scheme by showing the percentage of employees furloughed for the months June to September. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire area and can be compared with an England average.

Figures for September demonstrate that local take-up is in line with the England average. Data also demonstrates that since June the number of furloughed employees has fallen significantly. It also shows that in June in some areas locally figures were higher than average. In September this was not the case.

Area	June	July	August	September
Blaby	31%	33%	11%	8%
Charnwood	32%	33%	11%	8%
England	30%	32%	10%	8%
Harborough	30%	32%	11%	9%
Hinckley & Bosworth	31%	33%	11%	8%
Leicester	31%	34%	11%	8%
Melton	32%	33%	10%	8%
NW Leics	33%	34%	10%	7%
Oadby & Wigston	30%	32%	12%	9%

Table 1. Uptake of Job Retention Scheme, % of Employees in the LLEP Area  
Source: HMRC

Figure 7 demonstrates the total employments furloughed as of the 30/09/2020 and includes all claims received to 31/10/2020. Data is only provided for areas contained within Leicester and Leicestershire.

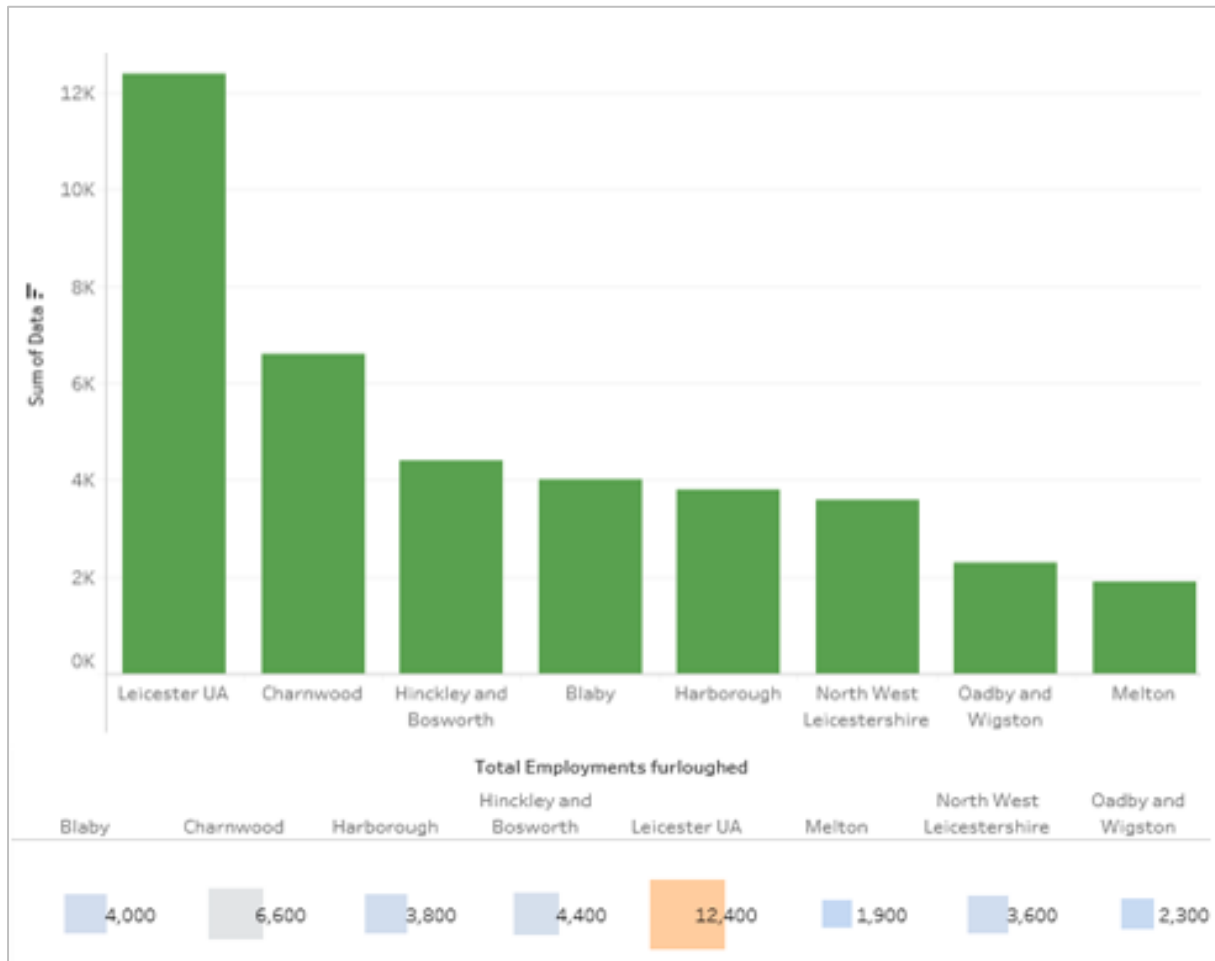


Figure 7 Total Employments Furloughed  
Source: HMRC

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

## 4. Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

HMRC have published data on the numbers claiming the Self Employment Income Support Scheme up to 31 October 2020.

Table 2 provides an understanding of the total number of claims made to 31/10/2020, the take up rate, the total value of claims and the total eligible population.

	Leicester	Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Melton	NW Leics.	Oadby & Wigston
Total no. of claims made to 31/10/20	8,500	3,600	5,100	3,200	3,600	1,600	3,000	1,700
Total potentially eligible population	11,700	5,000	7,400	5,000	5,400	2,700	4,500	2,300
Total take-up rate	0.7300	0.7200	0.6800	0.6600	0.6700	0.6000	0.6600	0.7300
Total value of claims made to 31/10/20 (£)	18,300,000	10,000,000	13,300,000	8,600,000	9,700,000	4,400,000	7,800,000	4,200,000

Table 2. SEISS Uptake in LLEP Area  
Source: HMRC

For more detail in relation to the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) see the [Furloughed Staff Dashboard](#) on the LSR Portal.

## 5. 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 occupation 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.

Table 3 demonstrates unique job postings by occupation for November 2020. These are compared with November 2019, March 2020 and October 2020. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

Job postings figures for November exceed those for March by 3,943 (30,051 compared to 26,108).

From November 2019 to November 2020 the number of job postings grew by 3,766 from 26,285 to 30,051.

Over the last month the number of job postings grew from 29,526 to 30,051. This is an extra 525 postings.

In terms of numbers over the last year there have been falls in job postings in only 4 of the 25 occupation areas. Occupation areas that have seen falls are secretarial and related occupations, sales occupations, customer service occupations and textiles, printing and other skilled trades.

In terms of numbers those 2 occupation areas that have seen the largest growth in job postings over the last year are elementary administrative and service occupations and business and public service associate professionals.

The occupation area that had the largest number of job postings in November was business and public service associate professionals (3,878).



2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Nov 2019 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Oct 2020 Unique Postings	Nov 2020 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Oct to Nov	Monthly Growth % Oct to Nov	Cumulative Growth from Mar	Cumulative Growth % from Mar
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,192	1,321	1,549	1,575	383	32.1	26	1.7	254	19.2
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	436	471	561	562	126	28.9	1	0.2	91	19.3
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	1,864	2,190	2,225	2,229	365	19.6	4	0.2	39	1.8
22	Health Professionals	1,562	1,637	1,937	1,932	370	23.7	(5)	-0.3	295	18.0
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,017	1,169	1,095	1,134	117	11.5	39	3.6	(35)	-3.0
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,592	1,538	1,694	1,750	158	9.9	56	3.3	212	13.8
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,133	1,147	1,268	1,354	221	19.5	86	6.8	207	18.0
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	348	358	468	443	95	27.3	(25)	-5.3	85	23.7
33	Protective Service Occupations	19	27	29	31	12	63.2	2	6.9	4	14.8
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	306	377	257	315	9	2.9	58	22.6	(62)	-16.4
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	3,248	3,808	3,676	3,878	630	19.4	202	5.5	70	1.8
41	Administrative Occupations	2,512	2,440	2,293	2,558	46	1.8	265	11.6	118	4.8
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	307	357	307	291	(16)	-5.2	(16)	-5.2	(66)	-18.5
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	12	32	48	50	38	316.7	2	4.2	18	56.3
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,592	1,531	1,717	1,888	296	18.6	171	10.0	357	23.3
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	431	445	615	637	206	47.8	22	3.6	192	43.1
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	566	537	332	296	(270)	-47.7	(36)	-10.8	(241)	-44.9
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,038	1,842	2,355	2,387	349	17.1	32	1.4	545	29.6
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	160	166	177	182	22	13.8	5	2.8	16	9.6
71	Sales Occupations	552	530	526	550	(2)	-0.4	24	4.6	20	3.8
72	Customer Service Occupations	585	490	449	445	(140)	-23.9	(4)	-0.9	(45)	-9.2
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	378	384	516	508	130	34.4	(8)	-1.6	124	32.3
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,872	1,382	2,182	1,991	119	6.4	(191)	-8.8	609	44.1
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	343	244	437	434	91	26.5	(3)	-0.7	190	77.9
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	2,220	1,685	2,813	2,631	411	18.5	(182)	-6.5	946	56.1
Total		26,285	26,108	29,526	30,051	3,766	14.3	525	1.8	3,943	15.1

Table 3 LLEP area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes

Source: EMSI

Table 4 demonstrates that job posting numbers in Leicestershire districts in November exceed those posted in November 2019. In some case's this is significant. However, the number of job postings in Leicester is lower.

Local Authority	Nov 19	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20
Blaby	864	783	645	590	749	977	1,236	1,419	1,653	1,692
Charnwood	3,878	3,659	2,990	2,741	3,191	3,329	3,697	4,235	4,946	5,157
Harborough	1,873	1,789	1,450	1,182	1,174	1,470	1,695	2,073	2,342	2,148
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,692	1,433	1,269	1,185	1,457	1,703	2,031	2,297	2,685	2,783
Leicester	13,807	14,430	11,059	9,282	9,110	9,641	9,972	11,124	12,376	12,491
Leicestershire	12,478	11,678	9,655	8,536	9,844	11,194	13,084	15,067	17,150	17,560
Melton	1,053	1,089	809	700	725	784	858	1,009	1,119	1,099
North West Leics	2,649	2,465	2,105	1,774	2,191	2,544	3,051	3,516	3,819	4,038
Oadby & Wigston	469	460	387	364	357	387	516	518	586	643
Total	26,285	26,108	20,714	17,818	18,954	20,835	23,056	26,191	29,526	30,051

Table 4 Unique Job Postings by Local & District Authority  
Source: EMSI

Figure 8 provides a graphical representation of job postings for the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

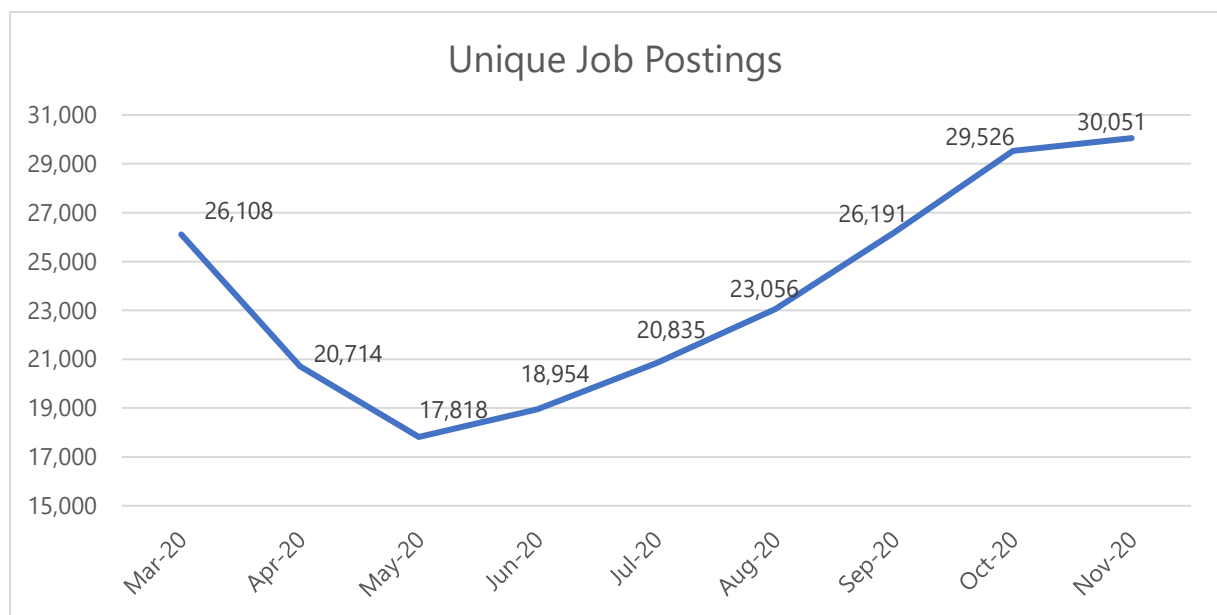


Figure 8 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings  
Source: EMSI

More detailed breakdowns of job postings by district are available from [brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk](mailto:brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk).

## 6. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the first of March 4,503 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019 the number was higher (5,448). This is a difference of 945 business closures.

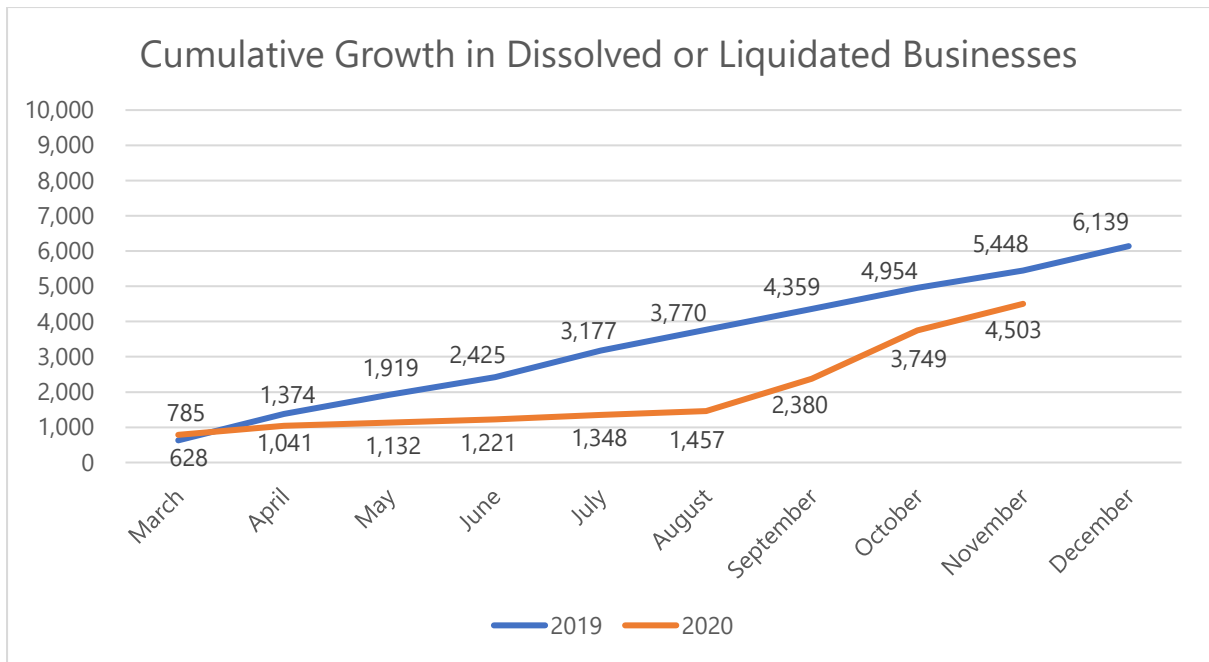


Figure 9 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses 2019 and 2020 comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2020 there were 785 closures. By August the number had fallen to just 109. The fall in business closures can be attributed to those measures brought in by the Government during lockdown. These have aided businesses by providing support that would not normally have been available.

Figures for September and October demonstrated a change and there were steep rises in the number of businesses failing as a result of the pandemic. The rise in business failures reflected the proposed closure of measures brought in by the Government to lessen the economic impact of the pandemic at the end of October. However, these same measures were extended to March (and now April). This has had a calming effect and business failures went from a high of 1,369 in October to 754 in November.

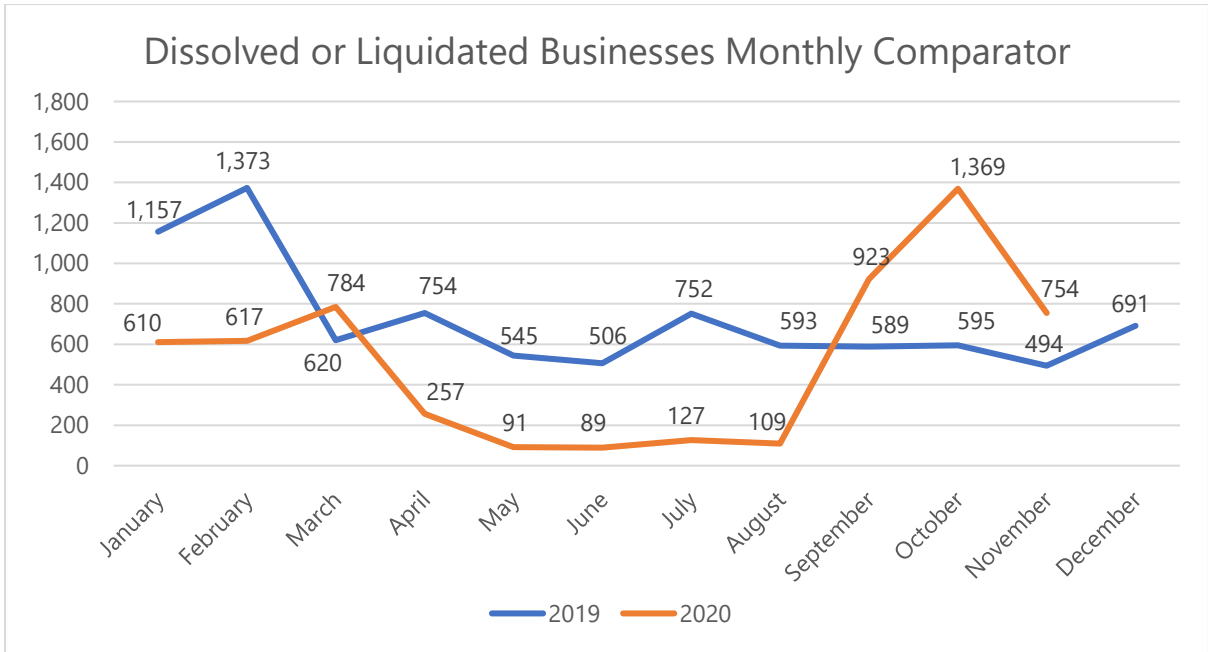


Figure 10 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March nearly 9,867 businesses have been incorporated within Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019 8,378 businesses were incorporated.

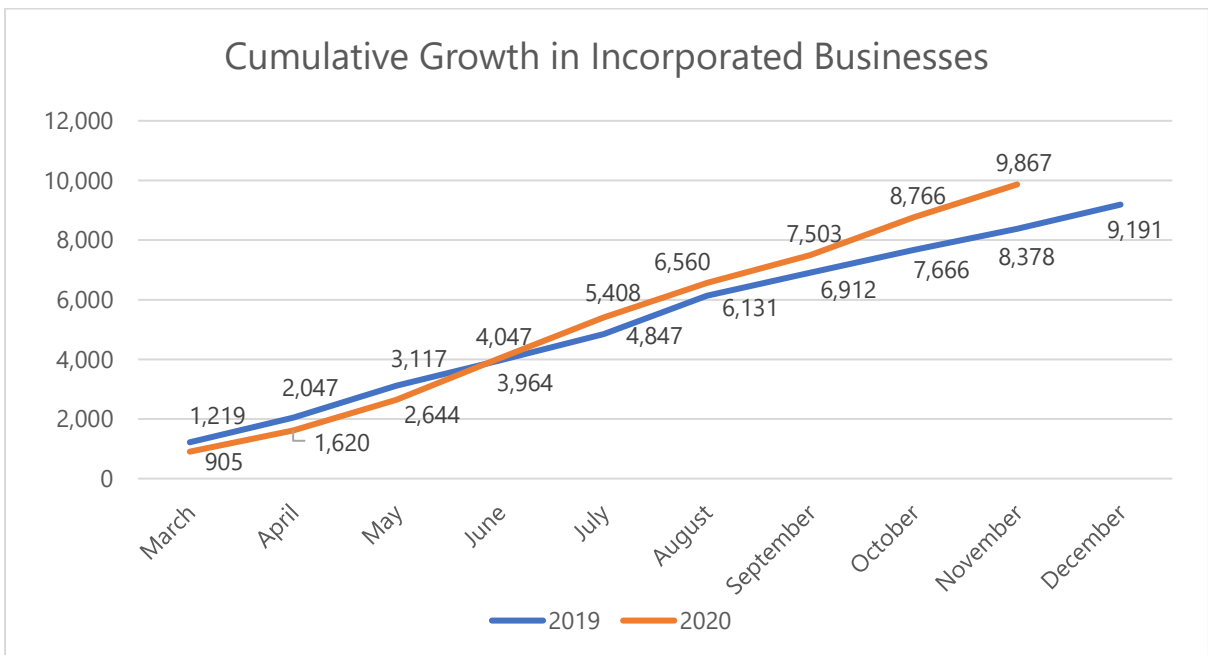


Figure 11 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses 2019 and 2020 comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

In October of this year 1,263 businesses were incorporated, in November 1,101 were incorporated. The November 2020 figure is higher than the 712 reported for November 2019.

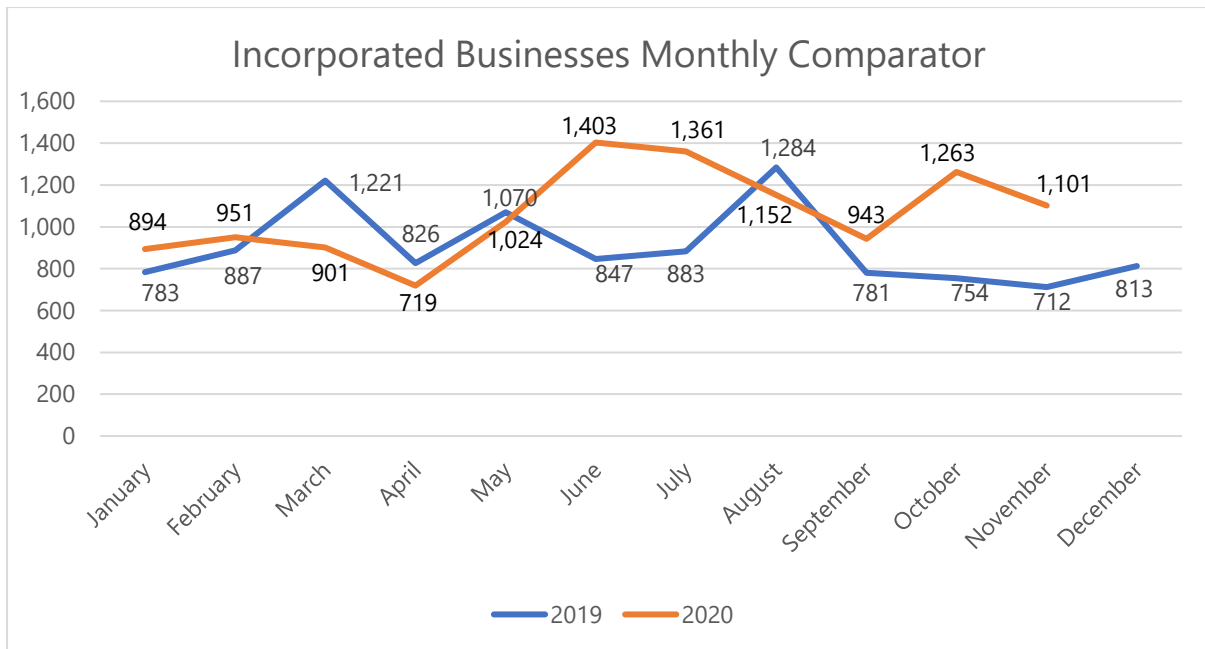


Figure 12 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses 2019 and 2020 Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Table 5 demonstrates those sectors where there have been the highest shares of business failures for the month of November 2020. For these same sectors the table also demonstrates the number of incorporations.

Table 5 provides an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are responding to it. In some cases those sectors with the highest number of business failures have had a larger number of incorporations. Whilst this looks positive it is possible that measures that have been brought by the Government have held off business closures and not all closures may be directly related to the pandemic.

**It must be noted that in the case of the 'wholesale trade except of motor vehicles and motorcycles', in November there were 278 incorporations. This is over 25% of all incorporations. When we look closer a large share of these are export agents involved in the sale of goods. Their incorporation may be as a result of legislation brought in by the Government as a response to the UK's new trading relationship with Europe.**

As we have seen in September and October there were rises in the number of business failures, this is also likely as we approach April 2021 and the furlough scheme ends.

Industry	Dissolved Businesses	%	Incorporated Businesses	%
Other personal service activities	118	15.6	34	3.1
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	61	8.1	20	1.8
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	58	7.7	110	10.0
Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	56	7.4	13	1.2
Food and beverage service activities	50	6.6	62	5.6
Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	37	4.9	32	2.9
Land transport and transport via pipelines	35	4.6	49	4.5
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	33	4.4	278	25.2
Specialised construction activities	29	3.8	29	2.6
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	22	2.9	23	2.1
Human health activities	22	2.9	36	3.3
Real estate activities	21	2.8	78	7.1
Construction of buildings	20	2.7	23	2.1
Manufacture of textiles	13	1.7	3	0.3
Manufacture of wearing apparel	12	1.6	8	0.7
Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	11	1.5	31	2.8
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	11	1.5	18	1.6
Employment activities	11	1.5	6	0.5
Legal and accounting activities	10	1.3	12	1.1
Services to buildings and landscape activities	9	1.2	17	1.5
Warehousing and support activities for transportation	8	1.1	15	1.4
Other manufacturing	6	0.8	5	0.5
Education	6	0.8	15	1.4
Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	6	0.8	12	1.1
Civil engineering	5	0.7	3	0.3
Postal and courier activities	5	0.7	6	0.5
Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities	4	0.5	8	0.7
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	4	0.5	12	1.1
Advertising and market research	4	0.5	6	0.5
Rental and leasing activities	4	0.5	4	0.4
Social work activities without accommodation	4	0.5	4	0.4
Creative, arts and entertainment activities	4	0.5	3	0.3
Total	699	92.7	975	88.6
All	754	100.0	1,101	100.0

Table 5 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector November 2020

Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 1/12/2020 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Low figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

## 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:**

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*Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this report, Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership cannot be held responsible for any errors or omission relating to the data contained within the report.*