



Leicester & Leicestershire  
Enterprise Partnership

# LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 17 – 1 March 2021

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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

- **The social care sector is to receive £269 million.** The funding includes £120 million to help local authorities boost staffing levels and £149 million in grants to support increased testing in care homes.
- **The Kickstart Scheme has created over 120,000 jobs** for 16-24 year olds. The Government urges more employers to get involved.

- **Bounce Back Loans repayment delay.** Businesses that took out Government-backed Bounce Back Loans to get through the pandemic will now have greater flexibility to repay loans. Pay as You Grow will be available to over 1.4 million businesses that collectively took out nearly £45 billion through the loan scheme.
- **The Prime Minister sets out roadmap to ease lockdown.** Government publishes four-step roadmap to ease restrictions across England and provide a route back to a more normal way of life. PM is clear that the decision on each stage will be based on data not dates, and government will move cautiously to keep infection rates under control

## 2. Research and Reports

### Coronavirus grant funding: local authority payments to small and medium businesses

A [summary](#) of the volume and value of Business Grants disbursed to date by Local Authorities has been published. Data relates to grant schemes providing support to business through the national coronavirus restrictions.

### Work after lockdown

[Work After Lockdown](#) is a major research project funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), as part of UK Research & Innovation's rapid response to Covid-19. The research examines how enforced working from home in the UK is changing how people want to work in the future and how organisations respond.

## 3. Claimant Count

In January 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 5%. This translates to 33,800. In December the figure was 5.1% (34,040). At a national level the claimant rate in England was 6.3%. This is 1.3 percentage points higher than the local figure.

The picture was very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 7.2% and Leicestershire 3.9%. Of the 33,800 claimants over half (50.4% or 17,035) were based in Leicester.

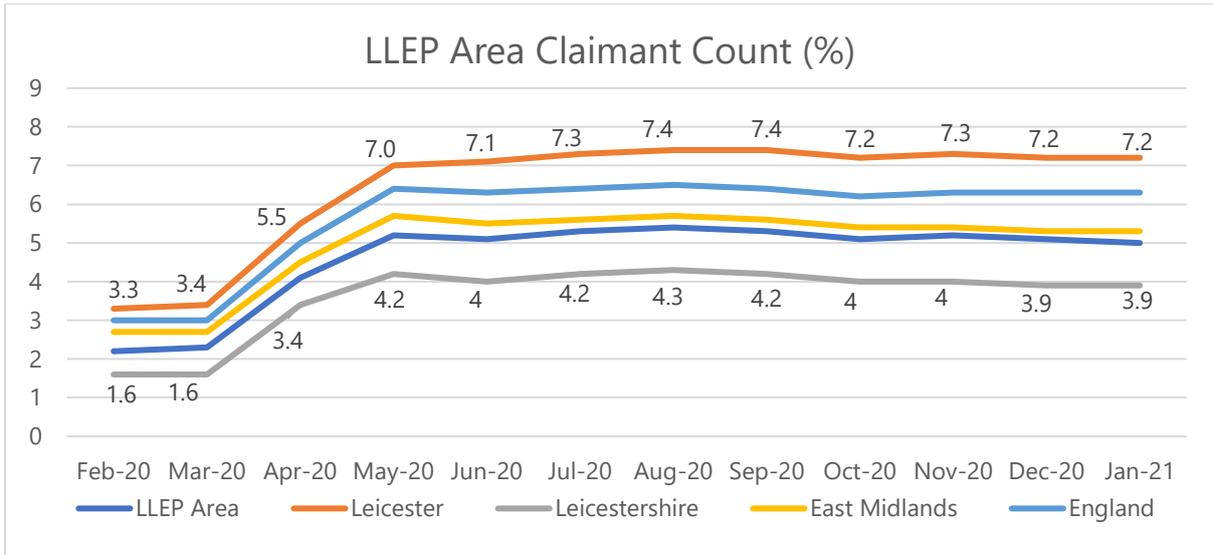


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) February 20 – January 2021  
Source: ONS

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of January 2021 the claimant rate has increased by 2.7 percentage points to 5% (33,800). This translates to an additional 18,895 claimants or a percentage increase of 125%.

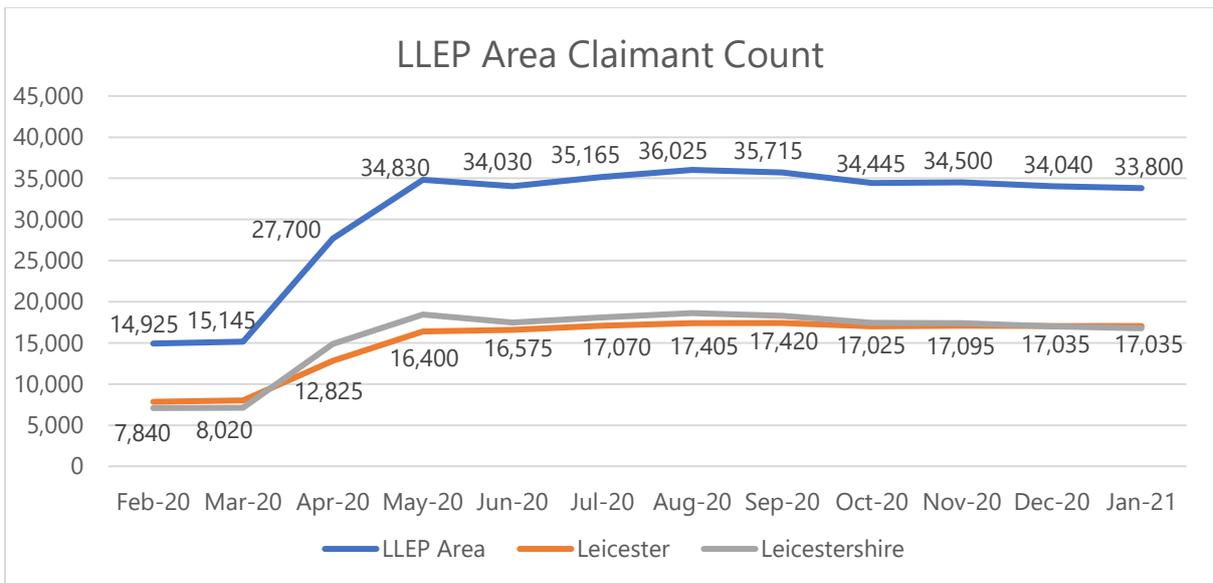


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count February 2020 - January 2021  
Source: ONS

Over the period of March to August 2020 the number of claimants rose from 15,145 to 36,025. This was a rise of 20,880 claimants. The majority of this was experienced over the period March to May 2020. From August there has been a slow and continued fall in the number of claimants. Since August there are 2,225 fewer claimants. The rise and fall in claimants reflect the initial shock of the pandemic and the uncertainty that has followed.

Despite the Government’s announcement of a road map out of the pandemic there is still uncertainty and businesses continue to call for the extension of systems such as the Furlough Scheme.

The pandemic has affected all age groups. January figures demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 18-24 years olds (5.9%) who were claimants than 25-49 years olds (5.6%) and 50+ year olds (4.2%). From March 2020 the number of claimants who were 18-24 grew by 3.3 percentage points, those who were 24-49 by 3 percentage points and those who were 50+ by 2.4 percentage points. Nationally the claimant rates in all three age groups were significantly higher. For 18-24 years olds it was 8.8%, for 25-49 years olds 6.8% and 4.9% for those who were 50 and over.

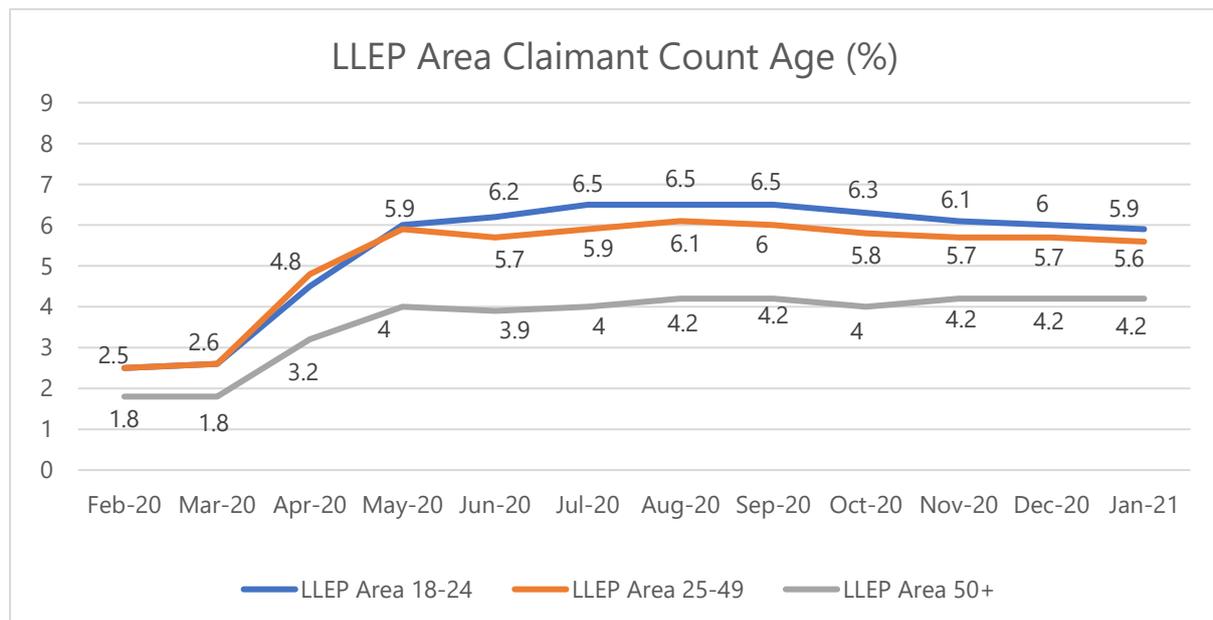


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) February 2020 – January 2021  
Source: ONS

Males accounted for 19,500 (5.8%) of claimants and 14,300 (4.3%) were female. Both male and female claimant rates saw a slight fall in the number of claimants from December to January. Fifty eight percent of claimants are male and 42% female.

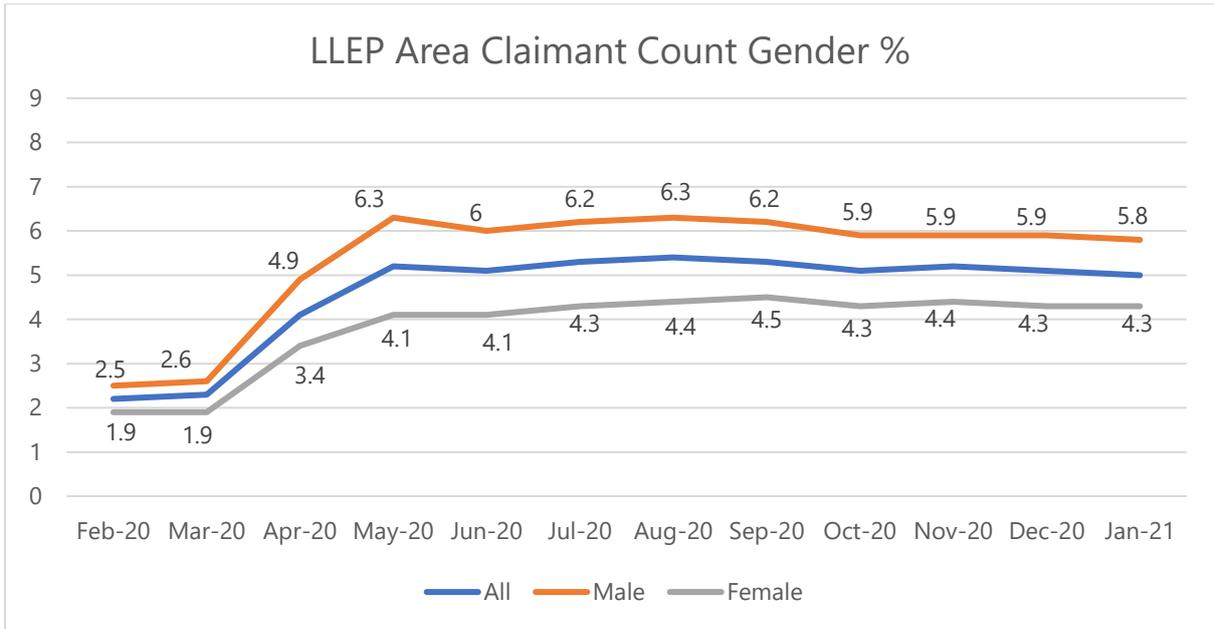


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) February 2020 - January 2021  
Source: ONS

Between January 2020 and January 2021, the number of claimants increased by 19,340, from 14,460 to 33,800.

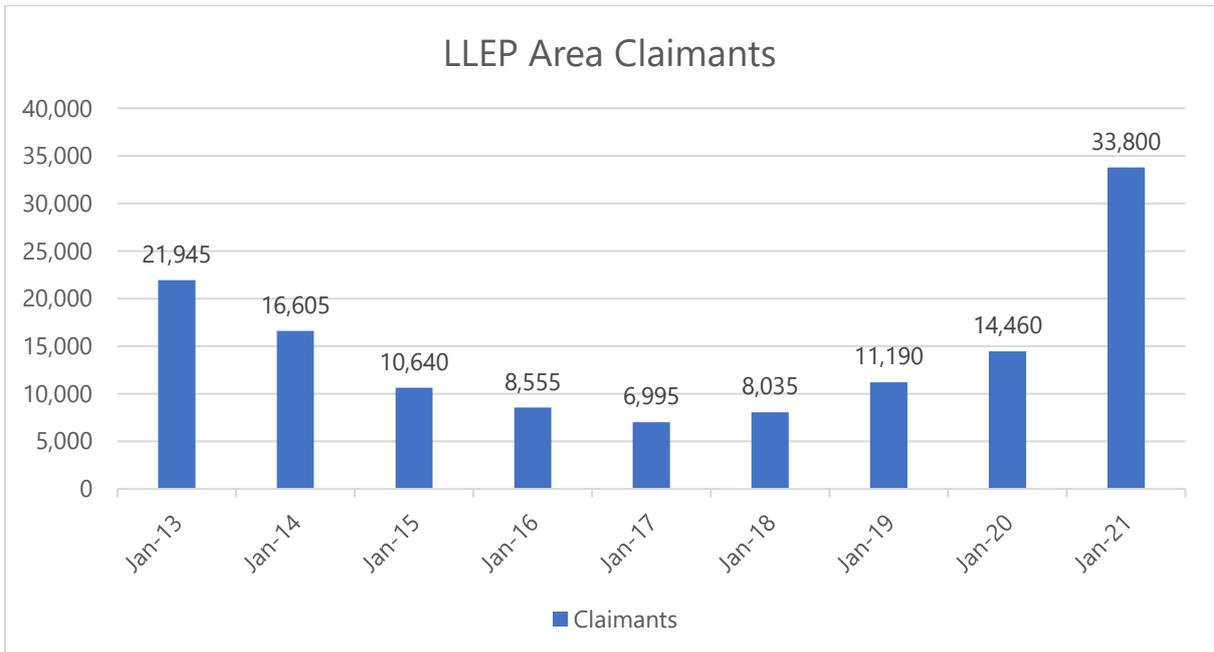


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count January 2013 -2021  
Source: ONS

All district areas over the period December to January saw falls in claimants.

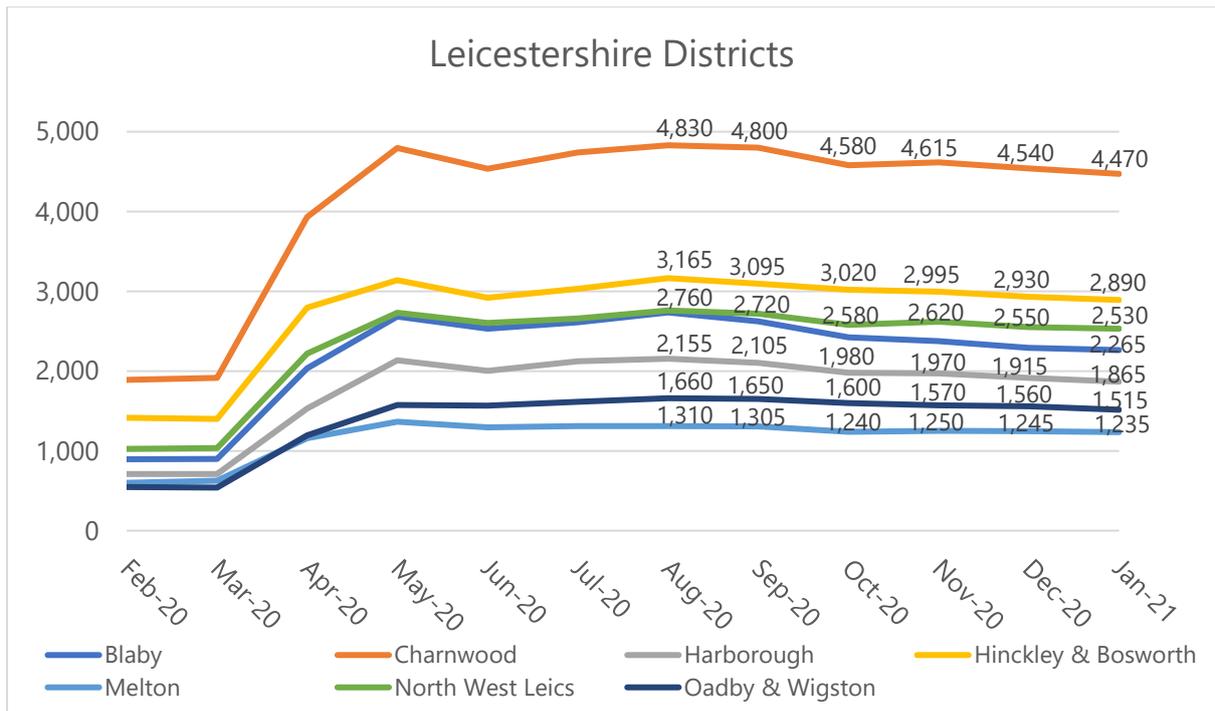


Figure 6 LLEP Area District Claimant Count February 2020 – January 2021  
Source: ONS

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

#### 4. 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 eligible employments furloughed for the months July 2020 to January 2021. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire area and can be compared with an England average.

Figures for January demonstrate that local take-up is in line with or below the England average. Data also demonstrates that since July the number of furloughed employees fell but rose again in November when the Furlough scheme was extended.

Area	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Blaby	17%	13%	9%	8%	12%	12%	14%
Charnwood	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%
England	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	13%	15%
Harborough	17%	13%	10%	8%	13%	12%	15%
Hinckley & Bosworth	16%	12%	9%	7%	11%	11%	14%
Leicester	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	13%	15%
Melton	16%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	14%
NW Leicestershire	16%	11%	8%	7%	11%	10%	13%
Oadby & Wigston	18%	13%	10%	8%	12%	13%	15%

Table 1. Uptake of Job Retention Scheme, % of Employments in the LLEP Area

Source: HMRC

Figure 7 and Table 2 demonstrates the total employments furloughed as of the 31/01/2021.



Figure 7 Total Employments Furloughed at January 31 2021

Source: HMRC

Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Leicester	Melton	NW Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston
6,900	11,800	6,500	7,200	23,500	3,400	6,400	3,800

Table 2. Total Employments Furloughed at 31 January 2021

Source: HMRC

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

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

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

Table 3 provides an understanding of the total number of claims made to 31/12/2020, 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
<b>Total no. of claims made to 31/12/20</b>	7,300	2,900	4,100	2,500	3,000	1,300	2,500	1,400
<b>Total potentially eligible population</b>	11,500	5,000	7,400	5,000	5,400	2,700	4,500	2,300
<b>Total take-up rate</b>	0.63	0.58	0.55	0.5	0.55	0.46	0.54	0.61
<b>Total value of claims made to 31/12/20 (£)</b>	17,700,000	8,900,000	11,900,000	7,400,000	8,700,000	3,700,000	7,100,000	3,900,000

*Table 3. 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.

## 6. Job Postings

EMSI job posting data is drawn from a range of sources and provide timely data on how the trend in the number of live job adverts is changing in the Leicester and Leicestershire 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 4 demonstrate job postings by occupation for January 2021. These are compared with postings from January 2020, March 2020 and December 2020. Standard Occupation Codes are at a 2-digit level.

Job postings figures for January 2021 exceed those for March 2020 by 1,844 (32,588 compared to 30,744).

From January 2020 to January 2021 the number of job postings grew by 3,329 from 29,259 to 32,588.

Over the last month the number of job postings fell from 33,523 to 32,588. This is a fall of 935 postings or 2.8%.

In terms of numbers over the last year there have been falls in job postings in 5 of the 25 occupation areas. Occupation areas that have seen falls are culture, media, and sports occupations, secretarial and related occupations, textiles, printing and other skilled trades, sales occupations, and customer service occupations.

Those occupation areas that have seen the largest growth in job postings over the last year are corporate managers and directors (294), science, engineering and technology associate professionals (372), health professionals (293), caring personal service occupations (315) and elementary administrative and service occupations (339).

Occupation	Jan 2020 Unique Postings	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Dec 2020 Unique Postings	Jan 2021 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Dec to Jan	Monthly Growth % Dec to Jan	Cumulative Growth from Mar	Cumulative Growth % from Mar
Corporate Managers and Directors	1,452	1,561	1,823	1,746	294	20.2	(77)	-4.2	185	12
Other Managers and Proprietors	453	527	559	555	102	22.5	(4)	-0.7	28	5
Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,486	2,693	2,783	2,858	372	15.0	75	2.7	165	6
Health Professionals	1,690	1,787	2,084	1,983	293	17.3	(101)	-4.8	196	11
Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,154	1,334	1,366	1,387	233	20.2	21	1.5	53	4
Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,685	1,732	1,921	1,905	220	13.1	(16)	-0.8	173	10
Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,318	1,385	1,545	1,565	247	18.7	20	1.3	180	13
Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	355	372	461	470	115	32.4	9	2.0	98	26
Protective Service Occupations	18	29	45	44	26	144.4	(1)	-2.2	15	52
Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	357	412	330	332	(25)	-7.0	2	0.6	(80)	(19)
Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,223	4,600	4,507	4,453	230	5.4	(54)	-1.2	(147)	(3)
Administrative Occupations	2,877	2,933	3,013	2,947	70	2.4	(66)	-2.2	14	0
Secretarial and Related Occupations	419	429	356	345	(74)	-17.7	(11)	-3.1	(84)	(20)
Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	22	34	38	48	26	118.2	10	26.3	14	41
Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	2,003	1,959	2,215	2,279	276	13.8	64	2.9	320	16
Skilled Construction and Building Trades	397	502	629	679	282	71.0	50	7.9	177	35
Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	565	638	364	361	(204)	-36.1	(3)	-0.8	(277)	(43)
Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,074	2,053	2,524	2,389	315	15.2	(135)	-5.3	336	16
Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	177	187	195	177	0	0.0	(18)	-9.2	(10)	(5)
Sales Occupations	602	665	652	525	(77)	-12.8	(127)	-19.5	(140)	(21)
Customer Service Occupations	665	668	655	617	(48)	-7.2	(38)	-5.8	(51)	(8)
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	413	449	554	545	132	32.0	(9)	-1.6	96	21
Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,640	1,587	1,899	1,739	99	6.0	(160)	-8.4	152	10
Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	306	279	424	400	94	30.7	(24)	-5.7	121	43
Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,908	1,929	2,581	2,239	331	17.3	(342)	-13.3	310	16
	29,259	30,744	33,523	32,588	3,329	11.4	(935)	-2.8	1,844	6

Table 4 LLEP area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes

Source: EMSI

Table 5 demonstrates job posting numbers by district area in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Area	Jan-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21
Blaby	891	833	695	640	799	1,027	1,286	1,469	1,703	1,742	1,757	1,726
Charnwood	4,031	4,276	3,608	3,361	3,811	3,951	4,317	4,850	5,558	5,773	5,638	5,441
Harborough	2,032	2,206	1,865	1,598	1,592	1,890	2,114	2,487	2,756	2,561	2,308	2,207
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,899	1,858	1,700	1,615	1,889	2,138	2,465	2,728	3,115	3,211	2,997	2,880
Leicester	15,932	16,860	13,474	11,699	11,538	12,079	12,395	13,553	14,792	14,917	14,759	14,353
Melton	1,168	1,281	999	888	916	976	1,050	1,199	1,309	1,288	1,115	1,112
North West Leicestershire	2,828	2,934	2,572	2,243	2,661	3,017	3,523	3,984	4,286	4,504	4,318	4,212
Oadby & Wigston	478	496	423	400	393	423	552	554	621	677	631	657
Total	29,259	30,744	25,336	22,444	23,599	25,501	27,702	30,824	34,140	34,673	33,523	32,588

Table 5 Unique Job Postings by Local & District Authority  
Source: EMSI

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

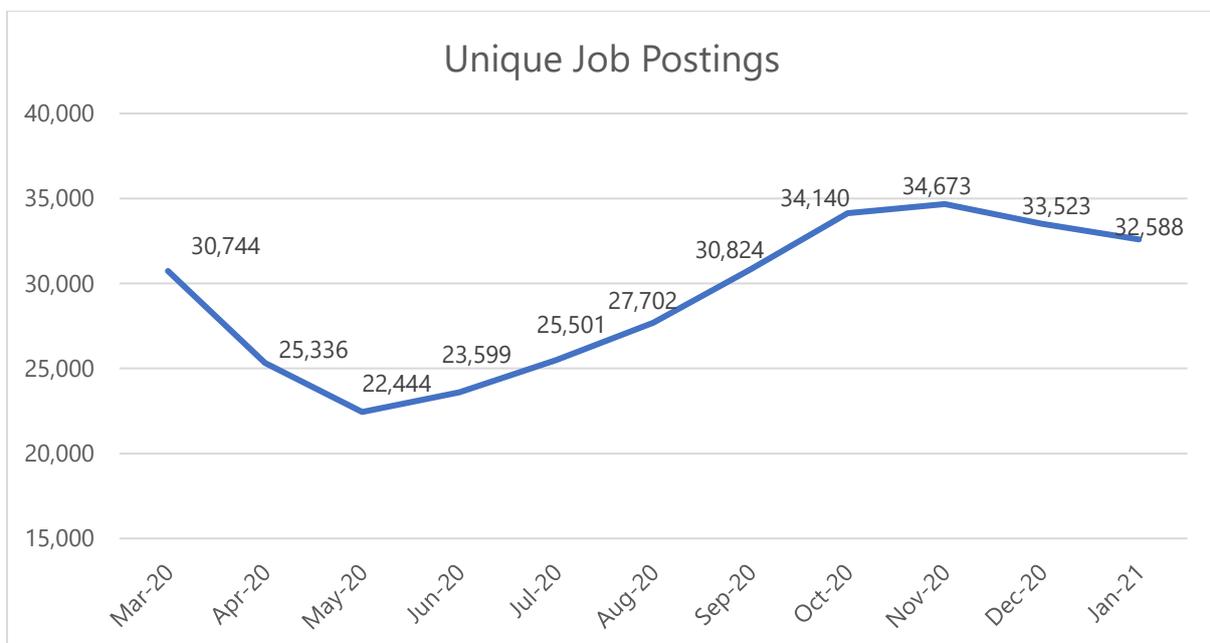


Figure 8 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings  
Source: EMSI

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

## 7. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 6,617 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019/20 the number was higher (6,736). This is a difference of 119 business closures.

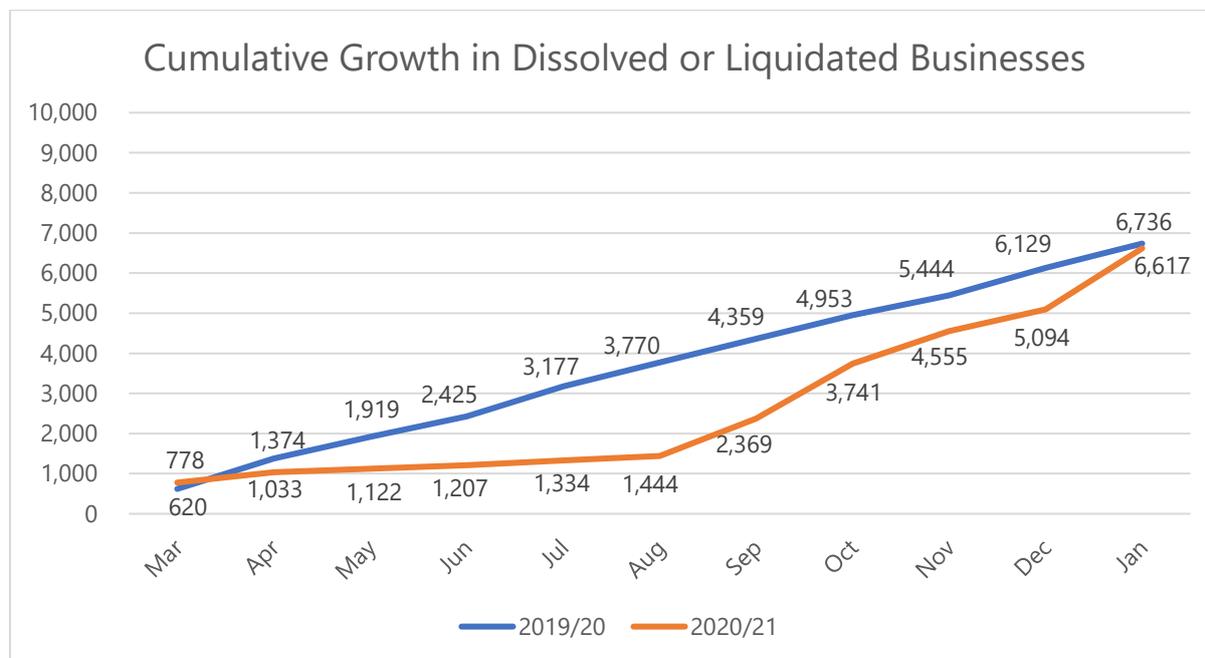


Figure 9 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2020 there were 778 closures. In August the number had fallen to just 110. The fall in business closures can be attributed to those measures brought in by Government during lockdown.

Figures for September and October demonstrated steep rises in the number of businesses failing. The rise in business failures reflected the proposed closure of measures that were brought in by the Government. However, these same measures were extended at the start of November. Business failures went from a high of 1,372 in October to 814 in November. In December there was a further fall to 539. The latest figure (January 2021) demonstrates a sharp increase to 1,532. This is significantly higher than those figures delivered for the same period in 2019 and 2020.

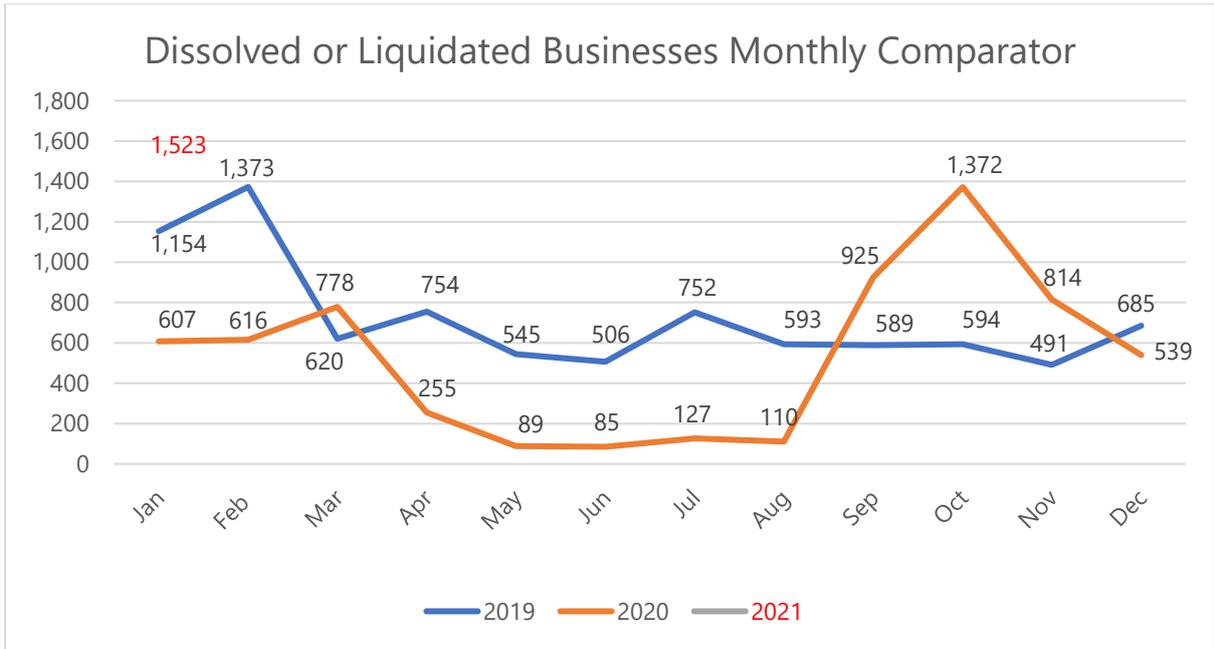


Figure 10 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 11,357 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019 10,084 businesses were incorporated. This is a difference of 1,273.

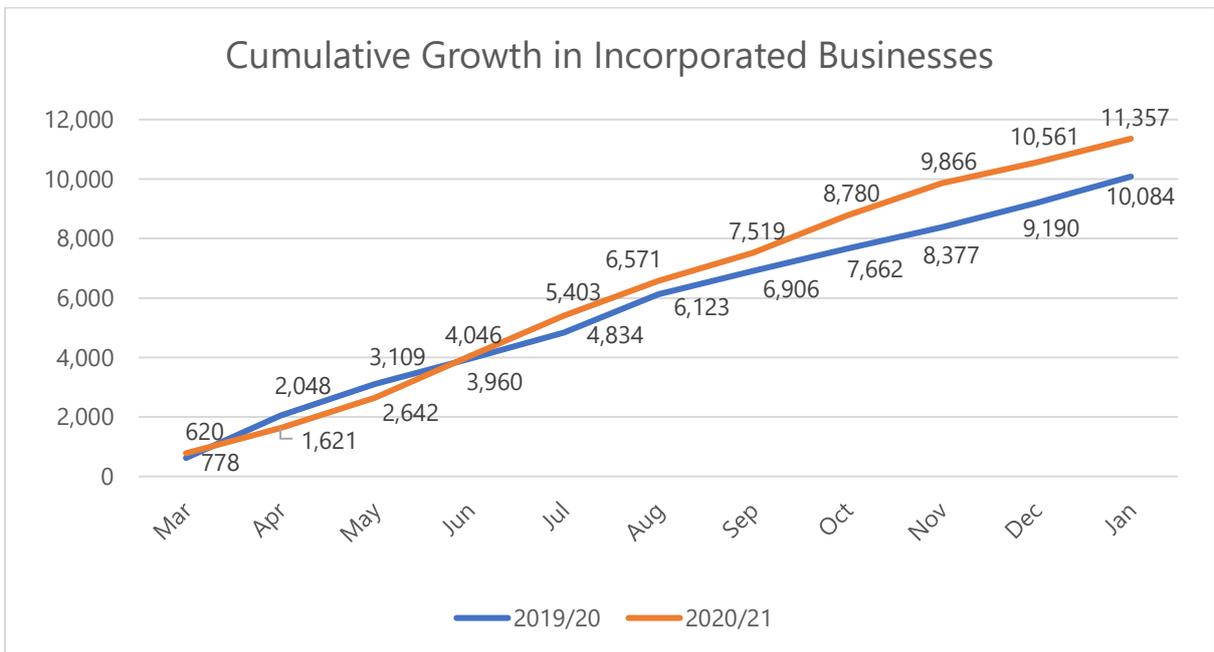


Figure 11 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

In October of 2020 1,261 businesses were incorporated, in November 1,086 were incorporated. The number of incorporations fell significantly in December to 695. the latest figure (January 2021) is 796.

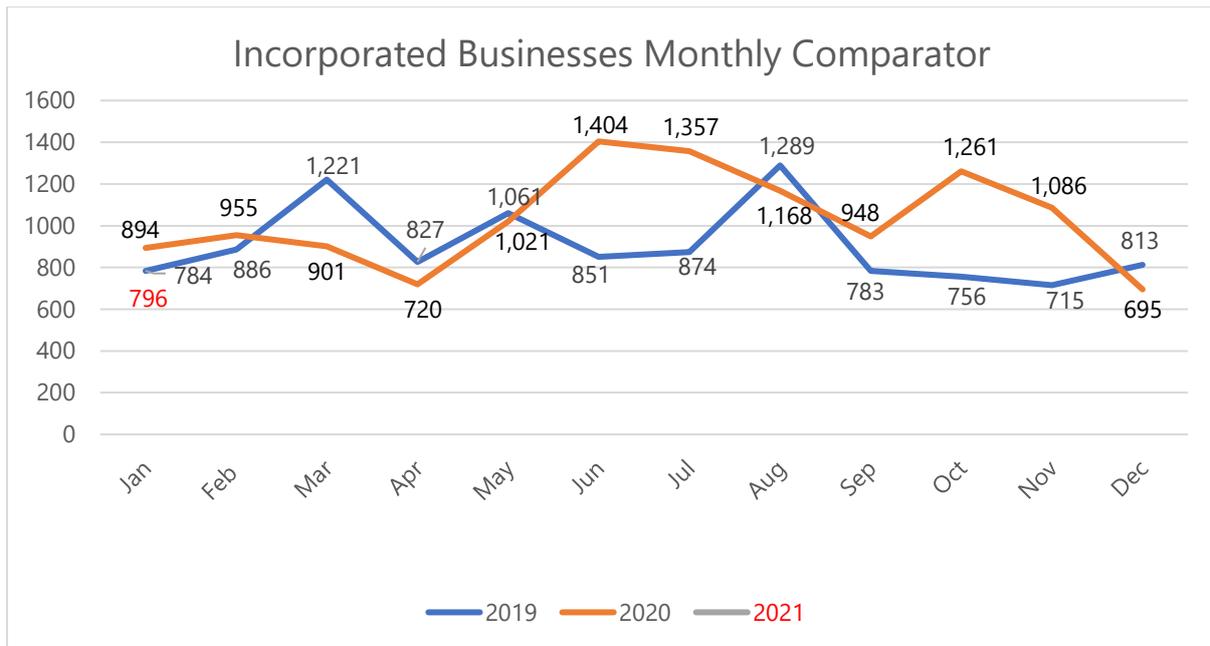


Figure 12 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Table 6 demonstrates those sectors where there have been the highest shares of business failures (22 in total). For these same sectors the table also demonstrates the number of incorporations. Data contained in Table 6 is for January 2021. The table accounts for 89% of dissolved businesses and 80% of incorporated businesses. Table 6 helps provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are reacting to it.

Of the 22 sectors highlighted only 5 have more incorporations than dissolutions.

Activity (prim. UK SIC 2007)	Dissolved	%	Incorporated	%
Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	453	29.7	17	2.2
Employment activities	201	13.2	3	0.4
Other personal service activities	119	7.8	23	2.9
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	71	4.7	20	2.5
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	64	4.2	121	15.3
Land transport and transport via pipelines	53	3.5	22	2.8
Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	47	3.1	24	3.0
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	46	3.0	39	4.9
Food and beverage service activities	46	3.0	47	6.0
Specialised construction activities	37	2.4	36	4.6
Construction of buildings	27	1.8	25	3.2
Real estate activities	26	1.7	96	12.2
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	22	1.4	21	2.7
Education	21	1.4	14	1.8

Other professional, scientific and technical activities	19	1.2	18	2.3
Human health activities	19	1.2	24	3.0
Services to buildings and landscape activities	17	1.1	16	2.0
Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	14	0.9	29	3.7
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	14	0.9	10	1.3
Manufacture of textiles	13	0.9	7	0.9
Legal and accounting activities	13	0.9	9	1.1
Manufacture of wearing apparel	11	0.7	10	1.3
Industries with more than 10 dissolutions	1,353	89	631	80
All	1,523	100.0	789	100.0

Table 6 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector January 2021

Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 03/02/2021 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Low figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

## 8. 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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