

Sources: Office for National Statistics (ONS). Annual Population Survey (ONS). ONS – Claimant Count.

**Overview**

*Unemployment*

* The working age population of the Leicester and Leicestershire area in 2020 was 669,600. These made up 63.1% of the whole population. In England the figure was 62.3%.
* In England 79.5% of the working age population were economically active. In the Leicester and Leicestershire area the figure was 80.6%. In Leicestershire the figure was 82.8% and the City 76.8%. In the City only 69.2% of the female working age population were economically active (only 65.6% were in employment). The figure for England was 75.7%.
* Unemployment for the reporting quarter January 2020 – December 2020 was 4.1% (22,300). In England the figure was 4.6%. Unemployment in the City was higher than average (5.9%). The figure for Leicestershire was 3.1%. Unemployment in the City and County has risen over the last reporting quarter.
* Over the period January 2019 to December 2019 – January 2020 to December 2020 there was a rise in unemployment. Unemployment grew from 3.9% (21,600) to 4.1% (22,300). This is growth of 700.
* Unemployment in the Leicester and Leicestershire area fell from a highpoint of 9.2% (45,900) for the period January 2013 to December 2013, to the current figure of 4.1%. This is a fall of 5.1 percentage points (23,600). The latest figures demonstrate a rise over the last reporting quarter (from 18,000).
* In the County unemployment fell over the period January 2019 to December 2019 – January 2020 to December 2020. Unemployment fell from 3.4% (12,700) to 3.1% (11,400). This is a fall of 1,300.
* At a City level unemployment rose from 4.8% (8,700) for January 2019 to December 2019 to 5.9% (11,000) for January 2020 to December 2020. Over the last reporting quarter there has been a rise in unemployment of 1,400.
* Over the same period male unemployment in the Leicester and Leicestershire area grew from 3.7% (10,900) to 4.3% (12,700). Male unemployment over the last reporting quarter rose by 1,800.
* Female unemployment over the period fell from 4.1% (10,700) to 3.8% (9,600). This is a fall of 1,100

*Claimants*

* In March 2020 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 2.3% (15,145). In July 2021 the claimant rate was 4.5% (29,990). This is an increase of 14,845 claimants or 2.2 percentage points. A large proportion of this was over the period March to May 2020. From June 2020 to April 21 claimant numbers were static.
* From March 21 to July 2021 there has been a fall of 5,380 claimants (from 35,370).
* At a national level the claimant rate in England in July 2021 was 5.5%. This is one percentage point higher than the local figure. The picture is very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 6.9% and Leicestershire 3.2%. This is a difference of 3.7 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.4 percentage points higher than the England average (5.5%).
* Of the 29,990 claimants 17,395 (58%) were male and 12,595 were female (42%).
* The claimant rate in March 2020 for males was 2.6% and females 1.9%. In July 2021 the figures were 5.1% for males and 3.8% for females.
* The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for July 2021 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 18-24 years olds (5.1%) who were claimants than 25-49 years olds (5%) and claimants that were 50 and over (3.6%). Nationally the claimant rates were higher for 18-24 years olds (7.3%), 25-49 years olds (6.1%) and those who are 50 and over (4.3%). Locally the gap between the age groups has narrowed significantly.

Note: Model based estimates delivered through NOMIS are different to other estimates. This explains the discrepancies between some data. For an explanation contact NOMIS on 0191 334 2680.

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