



# LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 24 – 24 September 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 and insights from a range of organisations.

### Government Announcements/ Press Releases/ News Stories

[£600,000 to ignite regional space growth](#) - The UK Space Agency is inviting local development bodies to bid for funding of up to £100,000 to help put space at the heart of local economies.

[Up to £375,000 available for space science projects](#) - Companies and research organisations are invited to apply for funding to develop technologies that could support the next generation of space science missions.

[£9 million fund for authorities to tackle air pollution](#) - New round of Air Quality Grants for local authorities opens to benefit communities and reduce the impact of polluted air on people's health.

[Government launches public consultation to make outdoor measures for high streets permanent](#) - Proposed planning reforms to support hospitality businesses, markets, and historic visitor attractions, so that outdoor space can be used more easily.

[Next generation of UK science leaders backed with £113 million to bring innovations to market](#) - Nearly 100 cutting edge projects will tackle major global issues, ranging from climate change to chronic disease.

## Research

[Centre for Cities High Street Recovery Tracker](#) - As the Coronavirus pandemic varies across the country, Centre for Cities tracks the recovery of high streets in Britain's cities and large towns. The tracker shows how quickly high streets in the UK are returning to their previous levels of activity and the drivers behind it.

[Store Openings and Closures - H1 2021 - PwC UK](#) - Store closures slow as government measures and pent-up post-lockdown demand provide some protection for retailers and leisure operators.

[Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, UK: August 21](#) - Experimental monthly estimates of pay rolled employees and their pay from HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) data. Includes a flash estimate of pay rolled employment and median pay for the most recent month, by geographical regions (NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3), industrial sector (SIC2007) and age bands.

[Small Business Survey 2020: businesses with no employees](#) - Findings of the Small Business Survey 2020 on the performance of businesses with no employees.

[Small Business Survey 2020: businesses with employees](#) - Findings of the Small Business Survey 2020 on the performance of businesses with employees.

[Retail sales, Great Britain: July 2021](#) - A first estimate of retail sales in volume and value terms, seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted.

[Living longer: impact of working from home on older workers](#) - Explores the implications of the pandemic driven change in working arrangements on the timing of older workers' exit from the labour market.

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#) - Experimental data from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience.

[Apprenticeships and traineeships: August 2021](#) - Monthly apprenticeship starts to June 2021, and official statistics covering the apprenticeship service and find an apprenticeship.

## 2. Claimant Count

In August 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 4.3%. This translates to 28,895 claimants. In July the figure was 4.4% (29,415). At a national level the claimant rate in England was 5.3%. This is a percentage point higher than the local figure.

The picture is very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 6.6% and Leicestershire 3.1%. This is a difference of 3.5 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.3 percentage points higher than the England average (5.3%).

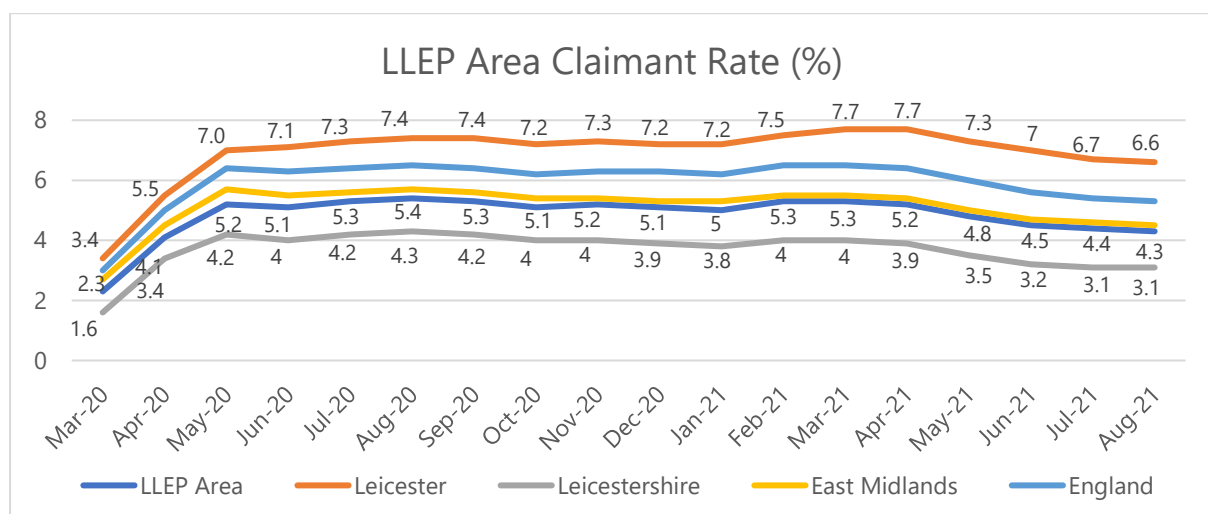


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Rate (%) March 20 – August 2021  
Source: Data: ONS

Of the 28,895 claimants over half (53.7% or 15,555) reside in Leicester.

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of August 2021 the claimant rate increased by 2 percentage points to 4.3% (28,895). This translates to an additional 13,480 claimants or a percentage increase of 98%.

In August of 2020 the number of claimants in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was at its highest point.

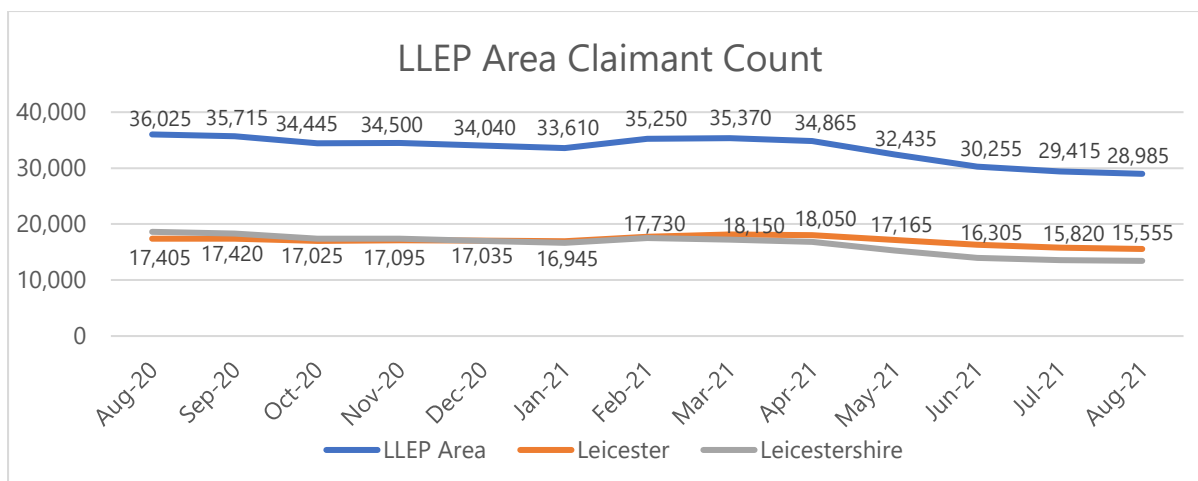


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count August 2020 - August 2021  
Source Data: ONS

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period March to August 2020 the number of claimants grew from 15,145 to 36,025. This was a rise of 20,880 claimants or 138%. When comparing the figures for August 2020 and August 2021 against those for March 2020, the difference has fallen from 20,880 to 13,480. This is a significant fall in claimants (7,040). Since March of this year the number of claimants has fallen by 6,385.

Despite recent falls (March 2021 onwards) the initial shock and uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus remains a feature of local and national economies. It is still unknown how the closure of the Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) at the end of September, the reopening of the economy and reported skills/staff shortages will impact on claimant rates.

Figures 12 and 13 later in the report demonstrates the claimant rate over the period January 2019 to August 2021, the number of unique job postings (for the same period) and the total number of eligible staff that have been furloughed (July 2020 to July 2021).

It must be noted that August claimant figures are to be revised by the Office for National Statistics and it is likely that number as with previous months will be lower than those reported.

Figures 3 and 4 below project claimant numbers forward to the end of August 2022. Projections are based on the last 3, 5 and 8 months and an average of the three. These help to identify the direction of travel in relation to the number of claimants. What they don't do is consider the withdrawal of the Job Retention Scheme and SEISS. The average figure for August 2022 is 16,560 or 2.5%. In March 2020 there were 15,145 claimants (2.3%). This demonstrates that in a year (based on current figures) claimant numbers should be approaching pre-pandemic levels.

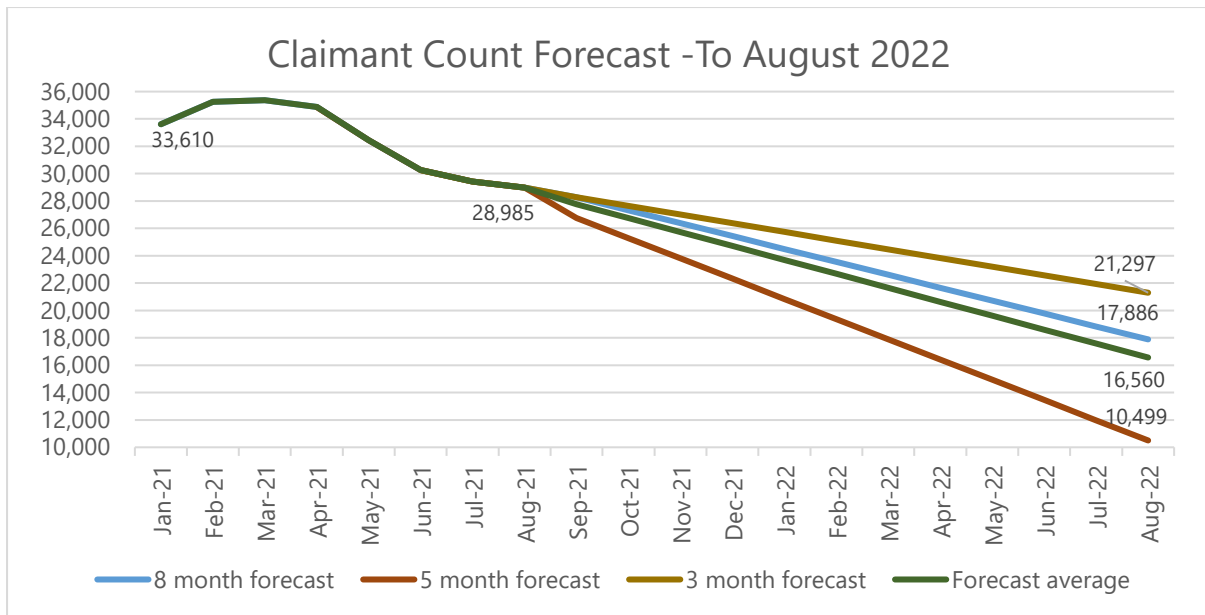


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Forecast, 3, 5, 8 and Forecast Average to August 2022.  
Source Data: ONS

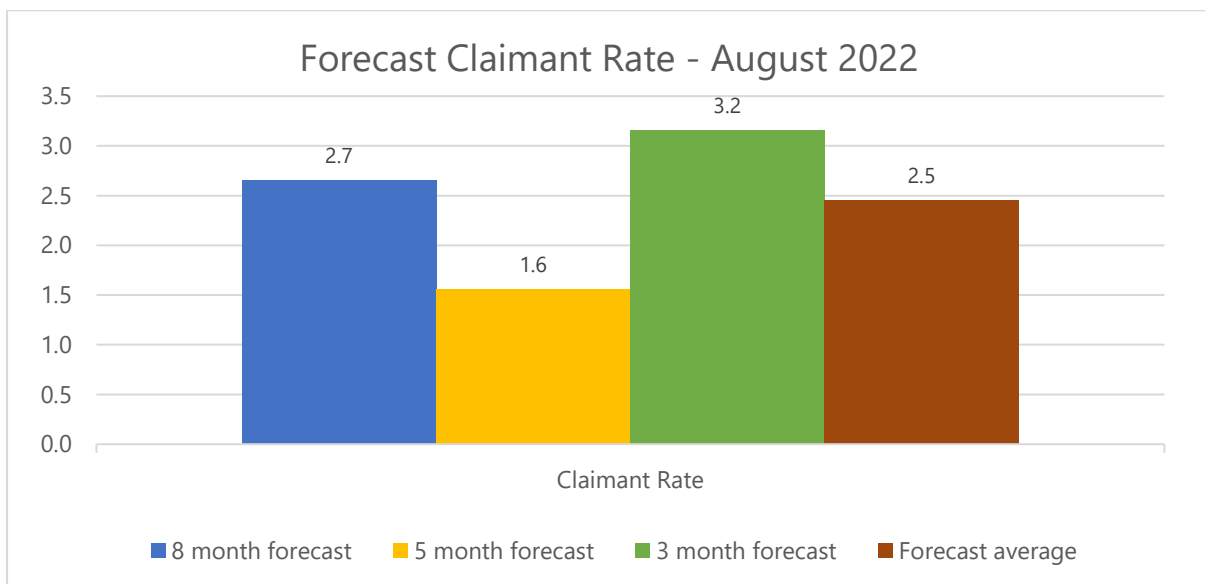


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Rate Forecast, 3, 5, 8 and Forecast Average, August 2022.  
Source Data: ONS

The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for August 2021 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 25-49 years olds (4.9%) who were claimants than 18-24 years olds (4.8%) and claimants that were 50 and over (3.5%). In previous months the claimant rate had been higher in the 18-24 age group. Nationally the claimant rates were significantly higher for 18-24 years olds (6.9%), for 25-49 years olds (5.9%) and those who are 50 and over (4.2%).

Although the claimant rates are similar for those who are 18-24 and those that are 25-49, the 25-49 age group has a significantly larger number of claimants.

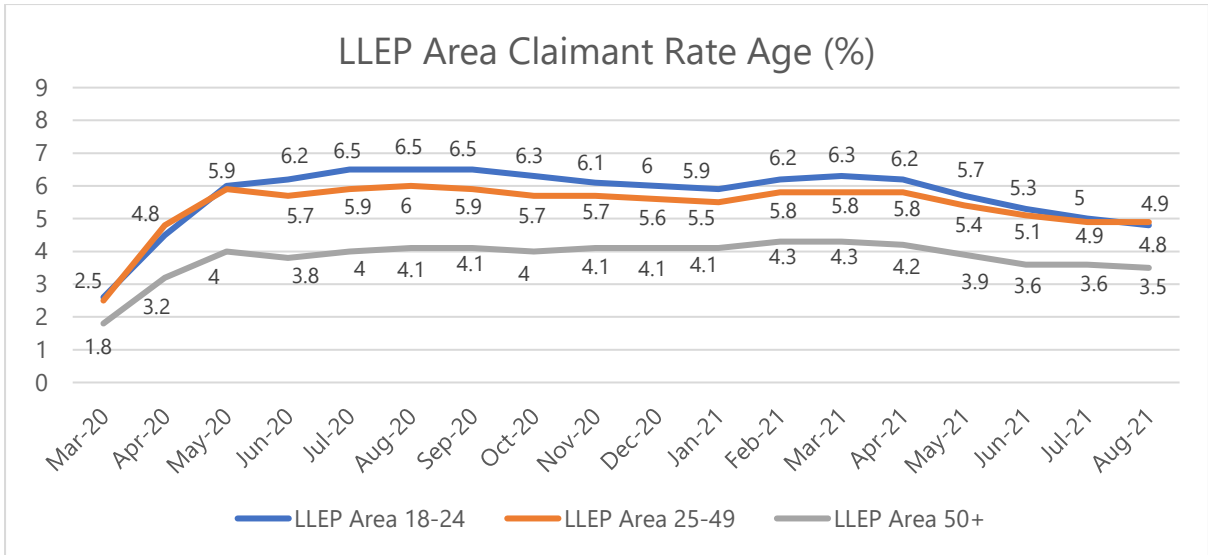


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Age (%) March 2020 – August 2021  
Source Data: ONS

Figure 6 below demonstrates the claimant rate for 18-24 years olds for the Leicester and Leicestershire area and its component parts compared to the average.

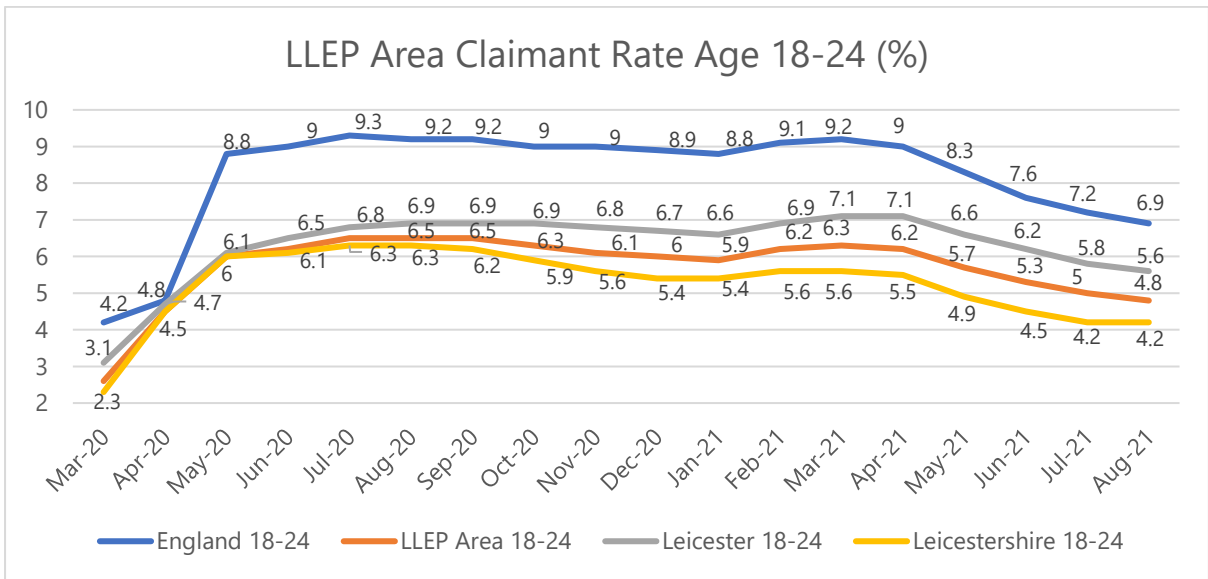


Figure 6 LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Claimants Aged 18-24 (%) March 2020 – August 2021  
Source: ONS

Sixteen thousand six hundred and ten (57%) claimants were male and 12,380 (43%) were female.

Figure 7 demonstrates the claimant rate for males and females since March 2020.

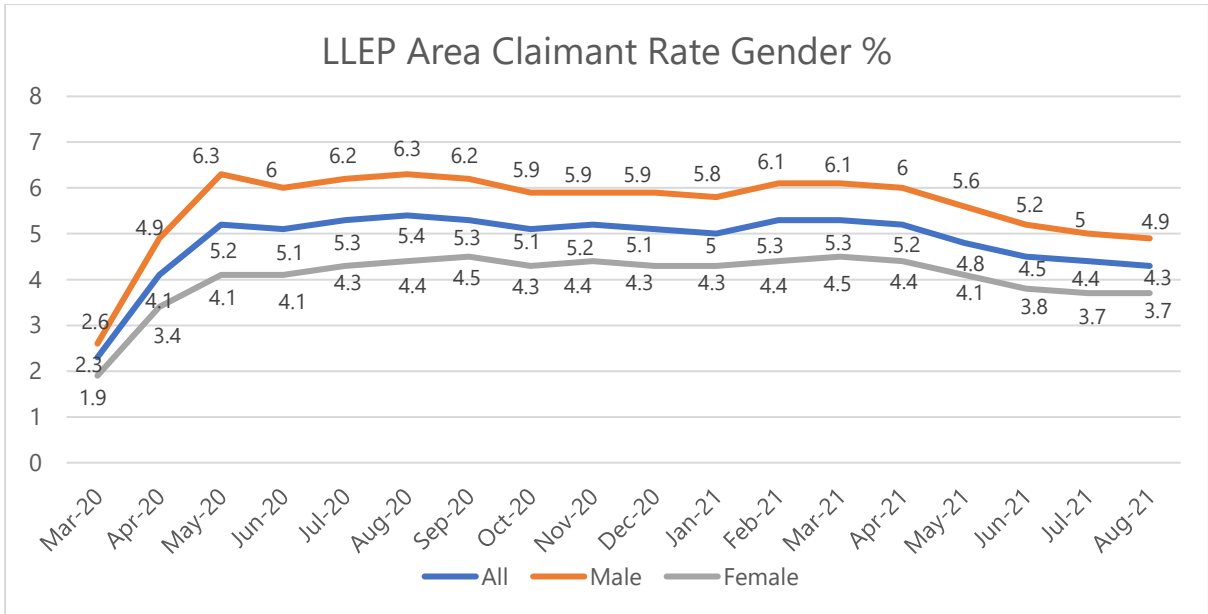


Figure 7 LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Gender (%) March 2020 - August 2021  
Source: ONS

The figure below demonstrates the number of claimants in the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period August 2013 to August 2021.

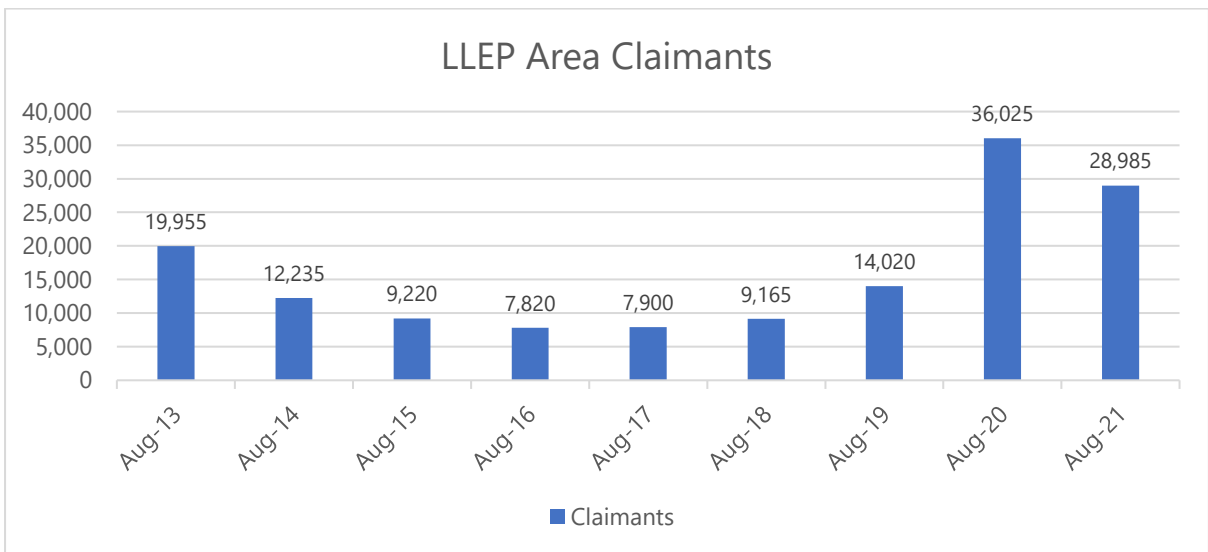


Figure 8 LLEP Area Claimant Count August 2013 – August 2021  
Source: ONS

The figure below demonstrates claimant rates at a district level from March 2020 to August 2021.

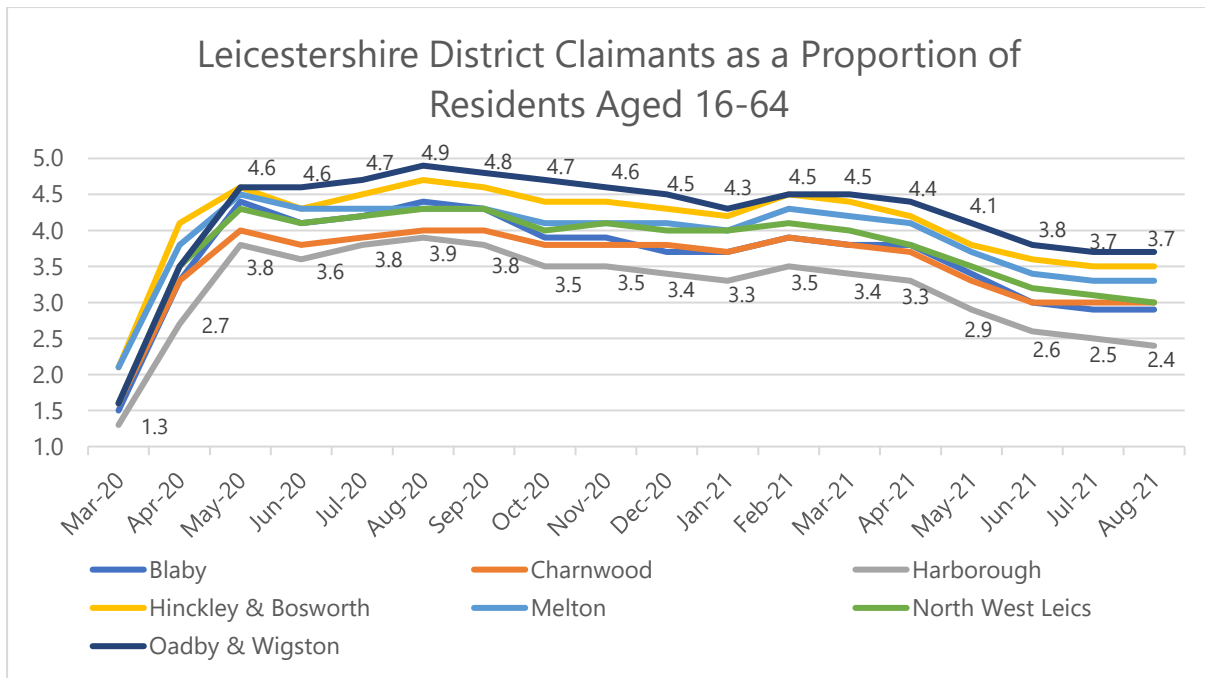


Figure 9 District Claimant Share of Working Age Residents March 2020 – August 2021  
Source: ONS

Note: It must be noted that August figures will be revised by the Office for National Statistics and it is likely that number will be lower than reported initially.

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

### 3. Universal Credit Claimants

Universal Credit claimants are placed in a conditionality group based on their circumstances and work capability and this determines what is expected of them during their claim.

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area most of the claimants are in either the working conditionality group or the searching/planning/preparing for work group.

When compared to March figures for 2020, all three groups have seen growth in numbers.

Over the last reporting month (July to August) at 33,025 the numbers searching, planning, or preparing for work has become slightly smaller.

From January 2021 those searching, planning, or preparing for work has fallen by 2,085, those working by 205. Those with no work requirements grew by 3,201.

Since March 2020 there has been a steady but significant rise in the number of people who are not seeking work/ have no work requirements with numbers nearly doubling during the period. In March 2020 the figure was 10,997 and in August 2021 it was 18,742.



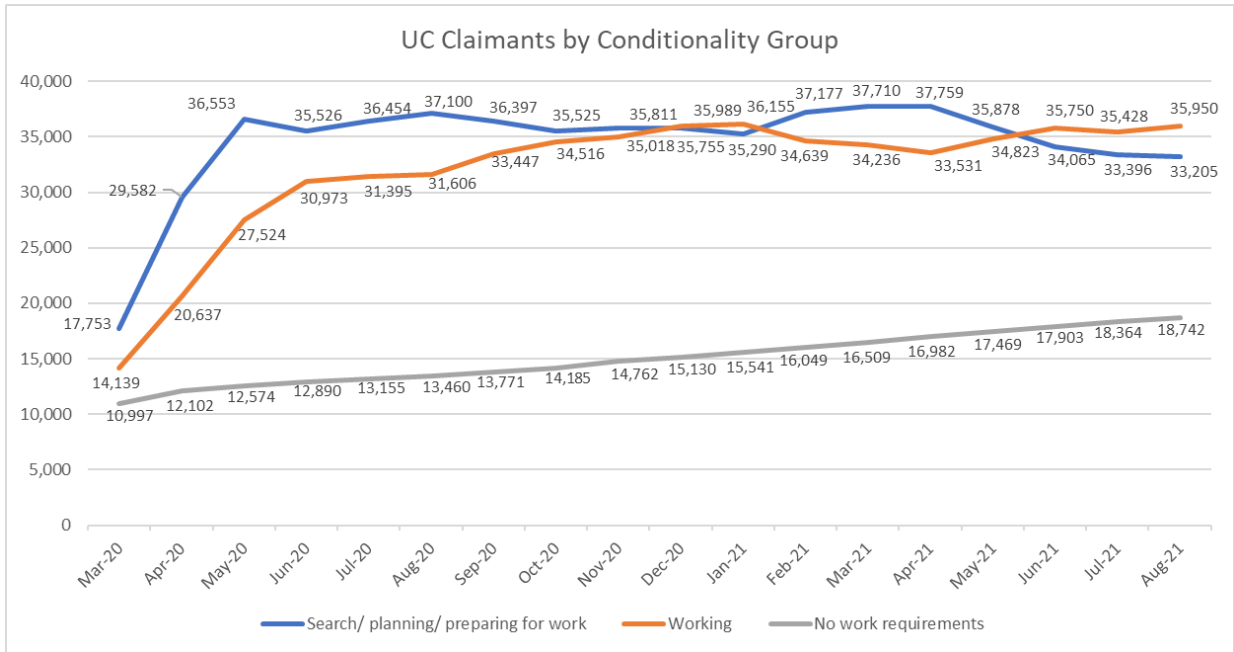


Figure 10 LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – August 2021  
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

	Mar-20	Aug-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
Search/ planning/ preparing for work	17,753	37,100	35,290	37,177	37,710	37,759	35,878	34,065	33,396	33,205
Working	14,139	31,606	36,155	34,639	34,236	33,531	34,823	35,750	35,428	35,950
No work requirements	10,997	12,574	15,541	16,049	16,509	16,982	17,469	17,903	18,364	18,742

Table 1: LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – August 2021  
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

## 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 2 provides an understanding of the take up of the scheme by showing the percentage of eligible employments furloughed for the months July 2020 to July 2021. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire geography and can be compared with the England average.

Figures for July demonstrate that other than Leicester and Oadby and Wigston, local take-up is below or in-line with the average. The latest figures show falls in the take up of the scheme in all the areas identified.

The government is set to continue contributing to furloughed worker's wages until the end of September 2021 when the scheme ends.

Area	July 20	August 20	September 20	October 20	November 20	December 20	January 21	February 21	March 21	April 21	May 21	June 21	July 21
Blaby	17%	13%	9%	8%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%	11%	8%	6%	5%
Charnwood	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	14%	11%	8%	6%	5%
England	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	13%	15%	15%	15%	11%	8%	7%	6%
Harborough	17%	13%	10%	8%	13%	13%	15%	15%	14%	11%	8%	7%	6%
Hinckley & Bosworth	16%	12%	9%	7%	11%	12%	14%	14%	13%	10%	8%	6%	5%
Leicester	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	14%	15%	15%	15%	12%	9%	8%	7%
Melton	16%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%	11%	8%	6%	5%
NW Leicestershire	16%	11%	8%	7%	11%	10%	13%	13%	12%	9%	7%	5%	5%
Oadby & Wigston	18%	13%	10%	8%	12%	13%	15%	15%	14%	12%	9%	8%	7%

Table 2. Uptake of Job Retention Scheme, % of Employments in the LLEP Area July 2020 – July 2021  
Source: HMRC

Figure 11 and Table 3 demonstrate the total employments on furlough as of the 31/07/2021.

### HMRC Furlough Statistics - overall numbers

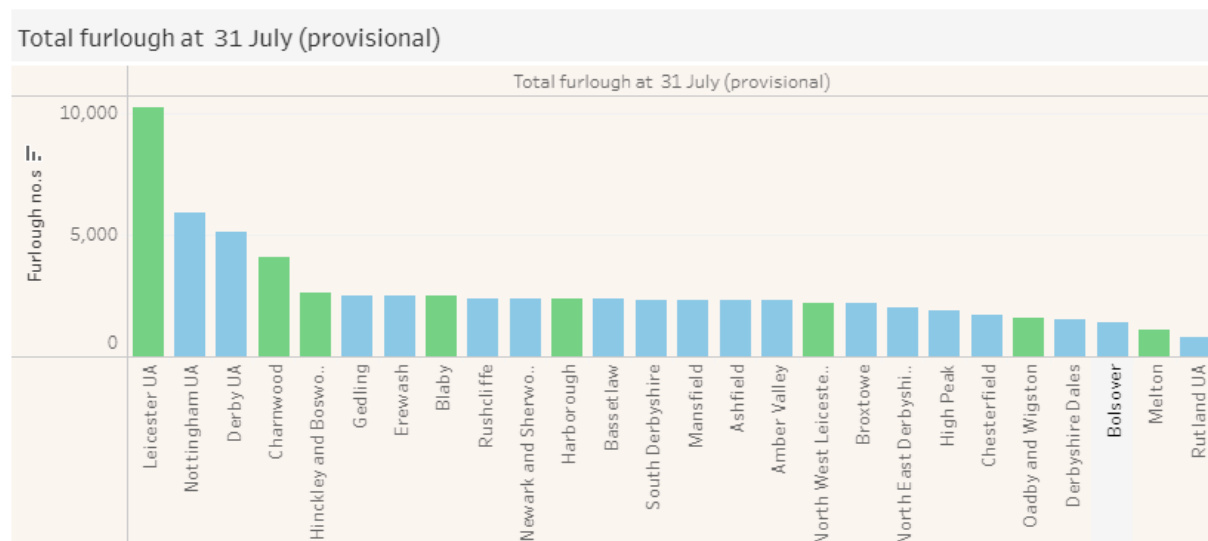


Figure 11 Total Employments Furloughed at 31 July 2021  
Source: HMRC

Figures for July demonstrate that there were 26,700 employments on furlough. In June there were 31,200.

Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Leicester	Melton	NW Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston
2,500	4,100	2,400	2,600	10,200	1,100	2,200	1,600

Table 3. Total Employments Furloughed at 31 July 2021  
Source: HMRC

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

## 5. Relationships

Figure 12 demonstrates the relationship between the claimant count, unique job postings, business closures for the period January 2019 onwards in the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

The relationship between unique job postings and the number of claimants has traditionally been one where there are significantly more job postings than claimants. This was the case until March 2020 when the effects of the Coronavirus began to impact society and the economy. This resulted in the number of claimants locally more than doubling over a two-month period (15,145 (March) to 34,830 (May 2020)). Over this same period there was a large fall in the number of unique job postings. From March the relationship between unique job postings and the number of claimants changed with the number of job postings falling below the number of claimants. This was the case until October of 2020.

Because of the force of the pandemic the government introduced measures to lessen the impact on business and the workforce. The outcome of measures such as the Job Retention Scheme resulted in fewer than expected businesses closing and the claimant count for some time remaining static. Some think that this has been a means of putting off the inevitable and there will be further businesses closures and a rise in claimants.

From October 2020 to April 2021 other than the figures for February, the number of unique job postings in the Leicester and Leicestershire area were in line with the number of claimants.

The change in the relationship between claimants and job postings has had a direct impact on opportunity as there are now nearly twice the claimants wishing to access those opportunities presented through job postings.

Since April 2021 the number of claimants has fallen below the number of job postings. Latest figures (August 2021) demonstrate that this continues to be the case despite there being a fall in the number of job postings over the last reporting month (40,652 to 38,871).

There continues to be considerable uncertainty in relation to the impact of the closure of the governments Job Retention Scheme and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). Up until the end of June this year the scheme ensured that the staff of those businesses that were eligible, received 80% of their wages. This was paid for by the government. On the 01/07/2021 this was reduced to 70% and businesses contributed the other 10%. On the 01/08/2021 there was a further reduction to 60% and employers were asked to contribute 20%. The government contribution of 60% will remain until the end of September when both schemes end.

# Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings, Business Closures and Furloughed Staff 2019, 2020 and 2021

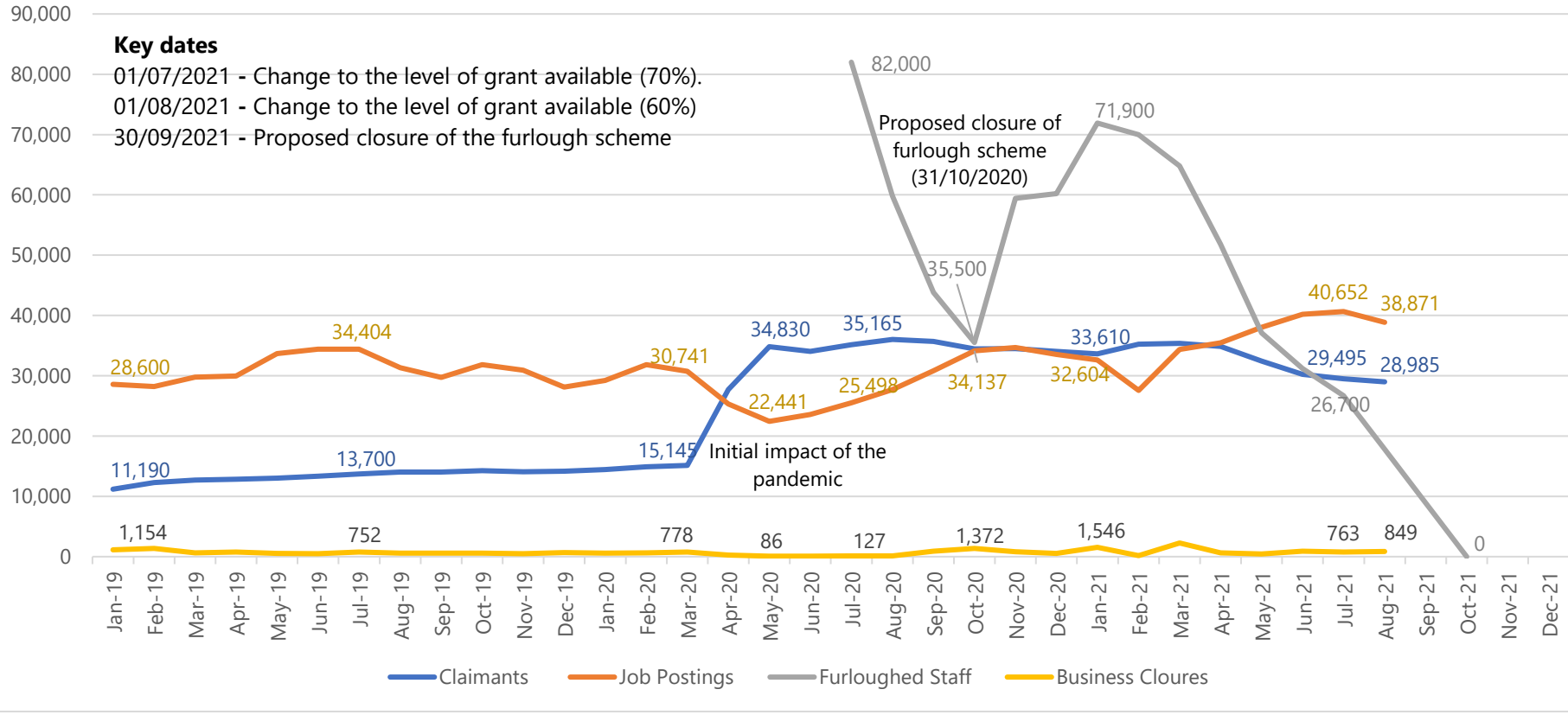


Figure 12: Monthly Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings, Business Closures and Total Number of Eligible Staff Furloughed January 2019 Onwards  
 Source: ONS Claimant Count, EMSI Unique job Postings, BVD Fame Business Closures and HMRC Job Retention Scheme

Note: Latest figures for the Job Retention Scheme relate to July 2021. Later figures are calculated based on the July figure and the closure of the scheme at the end of September.

Figure 13 builds upon Figure 12 by concentrating on 2021. In many ways this provides an understanding of the opening of the economy. Again, this presents data for, and demonstrates the relationship between the claimant count, the number of unique job postings, business closures and the numbers of eligible staff furloughed for the period January 2021 onwards.

Unlike Figure 12 Figure 13 diarises key dates in the withdrawal of funding (Job Retention scheme) and demonstrates the size of those reductions.

Over a three month period there will be a 20% reduction in the contribution made by the government but when the Job Retention Scheme ends there will be an automatic reduction of 60%, for some businesses this may be a cliff edge and may result in business closure and a rise in the number of claimants. This year has marked the reopening of the economy the reduction and the closure of schemes is part of that process, unfortunately this means many different things to different businesses.

The reduction in July and August of the governments contribution to the furlough scheme has thus far had no visible impact on the claimant rate which continues to fall. The number of job postings has however fallen over the last month and there has been a slight upward fluctuation in the number of business failures.

Trying to understand how the economy will perform past the summer will be difficult. Many industries/sectors have been late to reopen or have not been operating at full capacity due to measures brought in by the government such as social distancing.

### Monthly Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings, Total Number of Eligible Staff Furloughed and Business Closures 2021

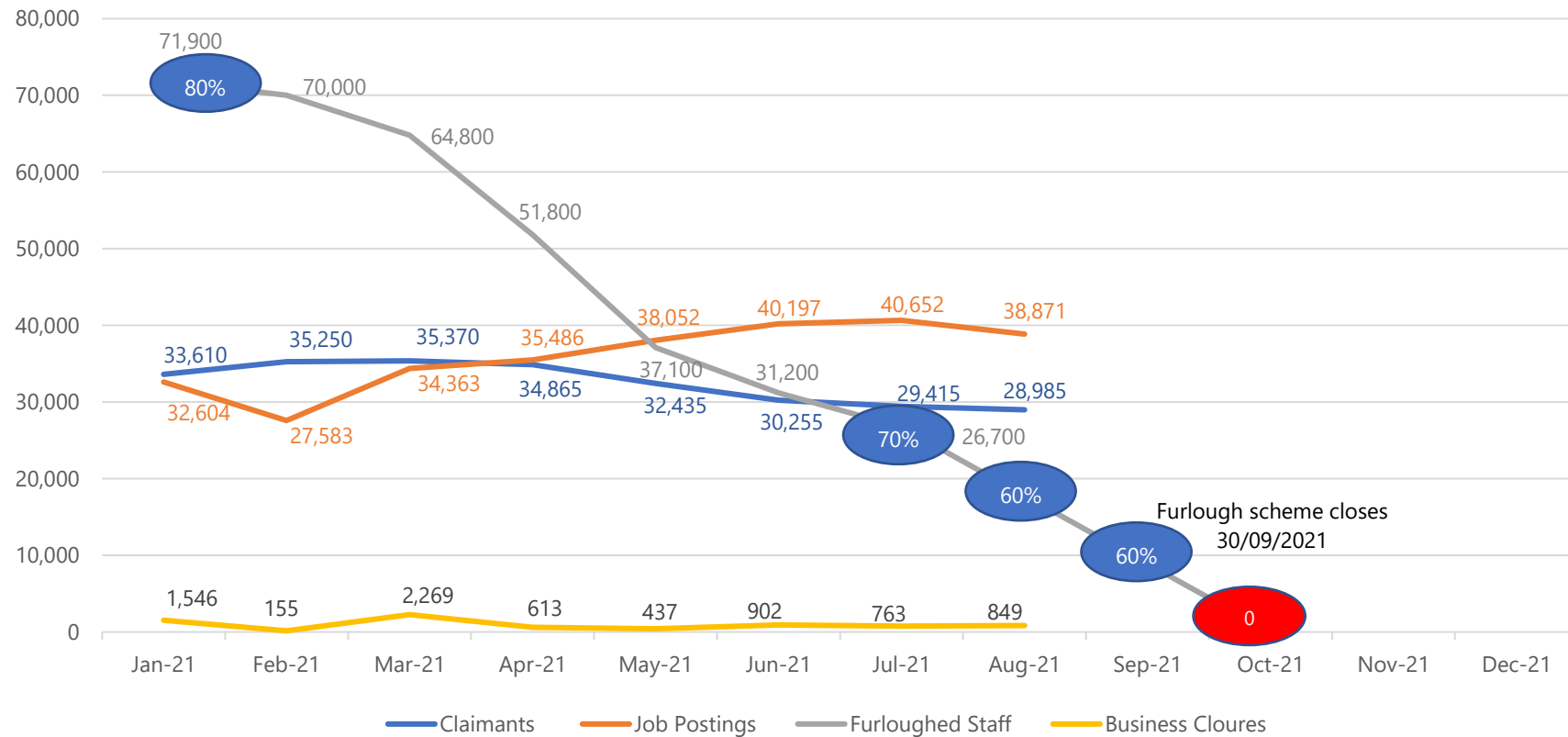


Figure 13: Monthly Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings, Business Closures and Total Number of Eligible Staff Furloughed January 2021 Onwards  
 Source: ONS Claimant Count, EMSI Unique job Postings, BVD Fame Business Closures and HMRC Job Retention Scheme

Note: Latest figures for the Job Retention Scheme relate to July 2021. Later figures are calculated based on the July figure and the closure of the scheme at the end of September.

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

HMRC have published data on the numbers claiming support through the Self Employment Income Support Scheme up to 15/08/2021.

Table 4 provides an understanding of the take up rate of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

	Leicester	Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Melton	NW Leics.	Oadby & Wigston
Total no. of claims made	2,900	1,100	1,600	900	1,100	400	900	500
Total potentially eligible population	11,400	5,100	7,500	5,000	5,400	2,700	4,600	2,300
Total take-up rate	26%	21%	21%	18%	21%	16%	20%	22%

Table 4. SEISS Uptake in LLEP Area

Source: HMRC

It must be noted that the Self Employment Income Support Scheme will close at the end of September.

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

## 7. 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 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 5 demonstrates unique job postings by occupation for August 2021. These are compared with March 2020, August 2020 and July 2021. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

The unique job posting figure for August 2021 is higher than August 2020 by 11,191 (38,871 compared to 27,680). This is a rise of 40.4%

Over the last month the number of job postings fell from 40,652 to 38,871. This is a fall of 1,781 postings or 4.4%.

In terms of numbers, over the last year there have been rises in job postings in all the occupation areas except for Teaching and Educational Professionals.

In the last month, of the 25 occupation areas all but 6 saw falls in job postings. The largest falls were in:

- Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades
- Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals
- Business and Public Service Associate Professionals
- Administrative Occupations
- Teaching and Educational Professionals

Over the last year the occupation areas that saw the largest growth in the number of unique job postings were:

- Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals
- Business and Public Service Associate Professionals
- Administrative Occupations
- Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades
- Elementary Administration and Service Occupations

As well as Caring Personal Service Organisations these same occupation areas also had the largest number of unique job postings.



2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Aug 2020 Unique Postings	Jul 2021 Unique Postings	Aug 2021 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Jul to Aug 2021	Monthly % Growth Jul to Aug 2021	Cumulative Growth from Mar 2020	Cumulative Growth % from Mar 2020
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,561	1,437	2,193	2,076	639	44.5	(117)	-5.3	515	33.0
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	527	516	696	671	155	30.0	(25)	-3.6	144	27.3
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,693	2,273	3,386	3,092	819	36.0	(294)	-8.7	399	14.8
22	Health Professionals	1,787	1,822	2,054	1,994	172	9.4	(60)	-2.9	207	11.6
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,334	1,064	1,112	983	(81)	-7.6	(129)	-11.6	(351)	(26.3)
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,732	1,548	2,143	2,029	481	31.1	(114)	-5.3	297	17.1
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,385	1,183	1,895	1,813	630	53.3	(82)	-4.3	428	30.9
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	372	393	508	495	102	26.0	(13)	-2.6	123	33.1
33	Protective Service Occupations	29	23	46	40	17	73.9	(6)	-13.0	11	37.9
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	412	277	412	354	77	27.8	(58)	-14.1	(58)	(14.1)
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,601	3,604	5,488	5,293	1,689	46.9	(195)	-3.6	692	15.0
41	Administrative Occupations	2,934	2,227	3,900	3,753	1,526	68.5	(147)	-3.8	819	27.9
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	429	295	466	474	179	60.7	8	1.7	45	10.5
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	34	35	46	46	11	31.4	0	0.0	12	35.3
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,959	1,735	3,128	2,766	1,031	59.4	(362)	-11.6	807	41.2
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	502	535	844	790	255	47.7	(54)	-6.4	288	57.4
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	638	444	748	776	332	74.8	28	3.7	138	21.6
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,053	2,096	2,587	2,484	388	18.5	(103)	-4.0	431	21.0
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	187	159	233	251	92	57.9	18	7.7	64	34.2
71	Sales Occupations	665	501	788	810	309	61.7	22	2.8	145	21.8
72	Customer Service Occupations	668	530	854	829	299	56.4	(25)	-2.9	161	24.1
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	449	465	791	704	239	51.4	(87)	-11.0	255	56.8
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,587	1,947	2,303	2,200	253	13.0	(103)	-4.5	613	38.6
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	279	353	565	553	200	56.7	(12)	-2.1	274	98.2
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,929	2,218	3,466	3,595	1,377	62.1	129	3.7	1,666	86.4
Total		30,746	27,680	40,652	38,871	11,191	40.4	(1,781)	-4.4	8,125	26.4

Table 5 LLEP area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes  
Source: EMSI

Table 6 demonstrates job posting numbers by district area for this year and August 2020. Figures for all the areas identified are higher this year (August) than last year.

Area	Aug-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
Blaby	1,281	1,720	1,343	1,740	1,707	1,719	1,763	1,782	1,742
Charnwood	4,316	5,444	4,693	5,626	5,563	6,264	6,543	6,917	6,905
Harborough	2,113	2,209	1,827	2,409	2,435	2,648	2,874	3,264	3,268
Hinckley & Bosworth	2,464	2,877	2,570	3,446	3,855	4,185	4,330	3,962	3,268
Leicester	12,385	14,358	12,059	14,389	14,940	15,773	16,180	16,433	16,211
Leicestershire	15,295	18,233	15,500	19,948	20,548	22,279	24,017	24,219	22,660
Melton	1,049	1,112	950	1,173	1,286	1,379	1,455	1,536	1,538
North West Leicestershire	3,520	4,215	3,598	4,882	5,103	5,188	5,997	5,982	5,168
Oadby & Wigston	552	656	519	672	599	896	1,055	776	771
Total	27,680	32,591	27,559	34,337	35,488	38,052	40,197	40,652	38,871

Table 6 Unique Job Postings by Local & District Authority  
Source: EMSI

Figure 14 provides and understanding of job postings for the Leicester and Leicestershire area from March 2020.

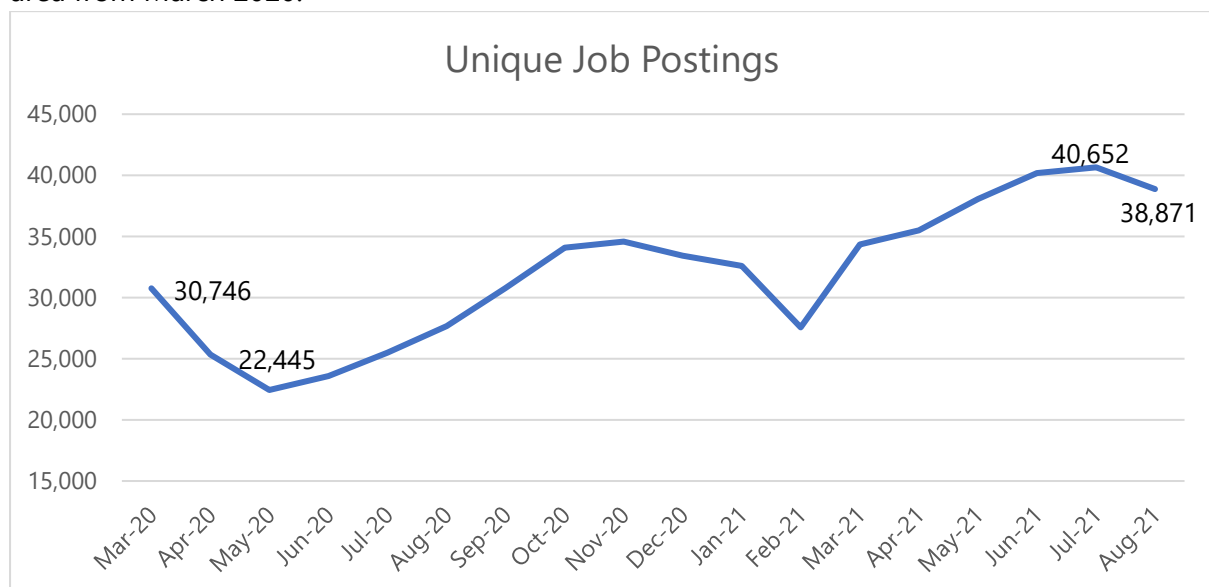


Figure 14 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings March 2020 to August 2021  
Source: EMSI

Despite unique job postings being higher in August 2021 than pre pandemic figures in the Leicester and Leicestershire area, Figure 15 shows that job posting data in the Leicester and Leicestershire areas presents two different pictures. In Leicestershire from August of 2020 there have been more unique job postings than the last figure supplied prior to the pandemic (March 2020). In Leicester this is not the case and figures have continually failed to exceed the figure delivered for March 2020.

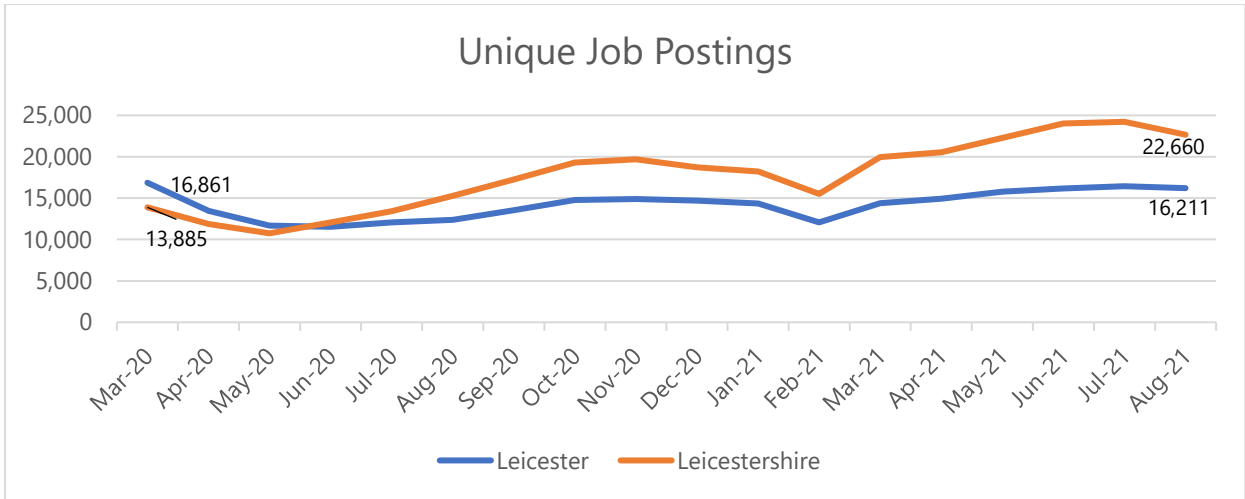


Figure 15 Leicester and Leicestershire Unique Job Postings March 2020 to July 2021  
Source: EMSI

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

## 8. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 12,619 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019/20 the number was 8,766. This is a difference of 3,853 business closures.

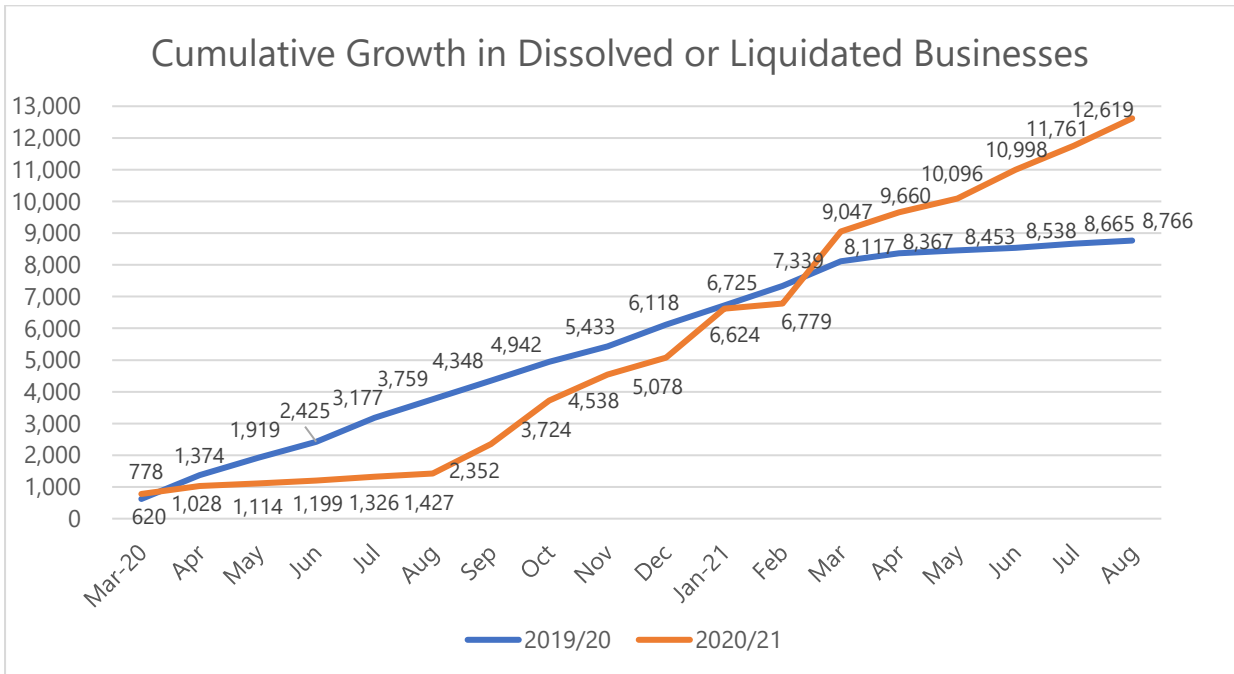


Figure 16 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Comparator March 2020 – August 2021  
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2020 there were 778 closures. Due to those measures introduced by the government during lockdown the number had fallen to just 101 in August of the same year.

Figures for September and October 2020 demonstrated steep rises in business failures. The rise in business failures reflected the proposed closure of measures that were brought in by the government. However, measures were extended beyond October and as a result failure went from a high of 1,372 in October to 540 in December. Again, in early 2021 with the planned closure and phasing out of government measures, there were sharp increases. The job retention scheme was extended further and figures for April and May demonstrated falls in closures. In June there was a further rise and July a fall. The figure for August 2021 is 858. In August 2020 the figure was 101 and 2019 582

In 2021 (to the end of August 2021) there have been 7,541 solved businesses. For the same period in 2020 the figure was 2,648 and 2019 6,286. To date closures in 2021 are higher than in 2019 and 2020.

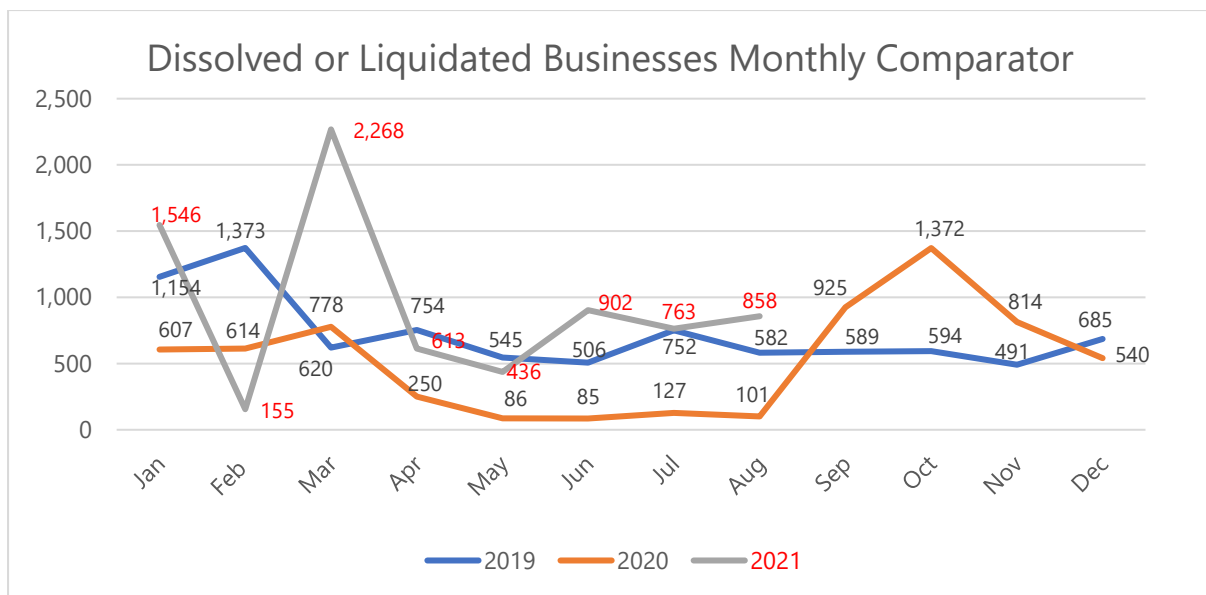


Figure 17 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 16,962 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019/20, 17,644 businesses were incorporated. This is a difference of 682.

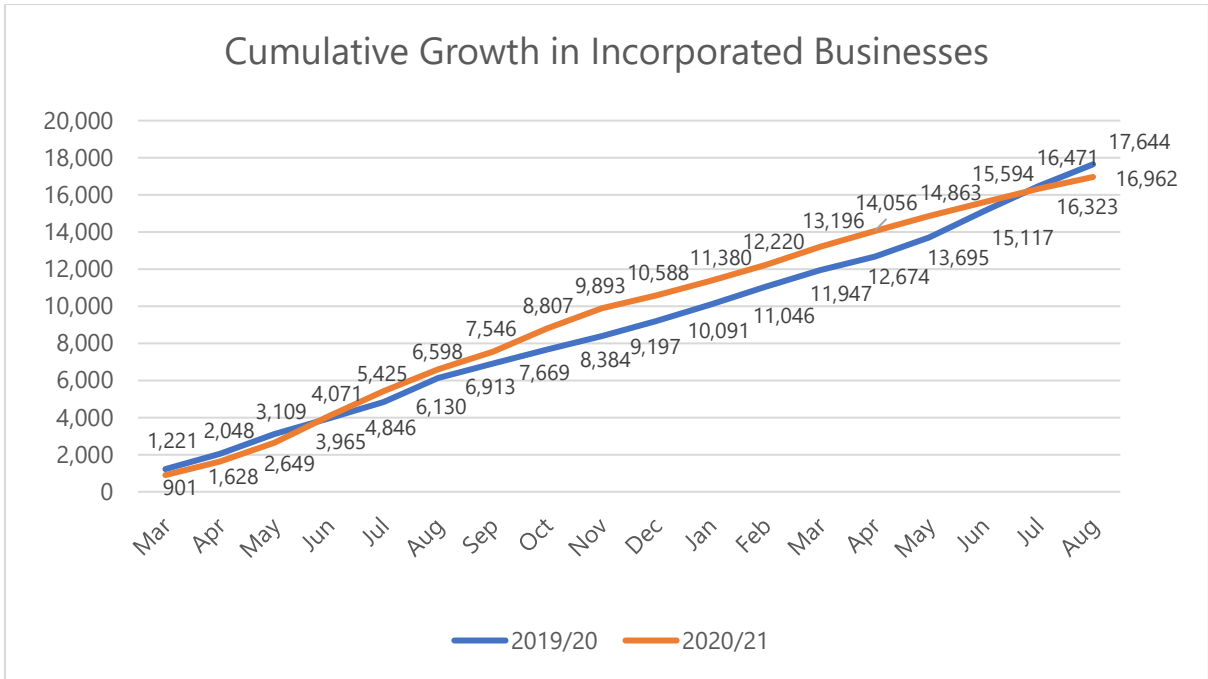


Figure 18 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

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. From January 2021 to March there were small rises in incorporations but from March 2021 there has been a gradual decline in numbers. The latest figure (August 2021) is 639 incorporations. As with figures for May and June and July this is below the figure for the same period in 2019 and 2020.

When comparing closures with incorporations in 2021 there were 7,541 closures and 6,374 incorporations. This is a difference of 1,167.

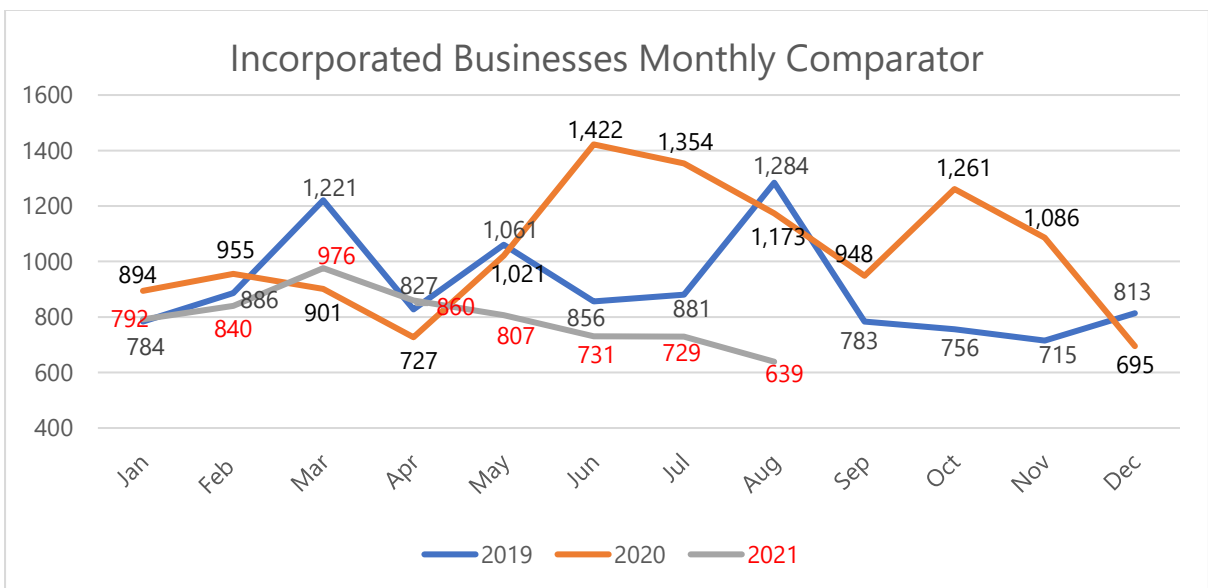


Figure 19 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Table 7 demonstrates those sectors where there have been 5 or more business failures. For these same sectors the table also demonstrates the number of incorporations. Data is for August 2021. Table 7 also helps provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are reacting to it.

	Dissolved	%	Incorporated	%	Difference
46 : Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	87	10.2	28	4.6	-59
82 : Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	81	9.5	11	1.8	-70
52 : Warehousing and support activities for transportation	76	9.0	2	0.3	-74
18 : Printing and reproduction of recorded media	74	8.7	1	0.2	-73
47 : Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	54	6.4	72	11.8	18
70 : Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	51	6.0	15	2.5	-36
49 : Land transport and transport via pipelines	39	4.6	57	9.4	18
56 : Food and beverage service activities	39	4.6	45	7.4	6
62 : Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	31	3.7	18	3.0	-13
43 : Specialised construction activities	27	3.2	31	5.1	4
41 : Construction of buildings	24	2.8	24	3.9	0
96 : Other personal service activities	23	2.7	27	4.4	4
68 : Real estate activities	16	1.9	56	9.2	40
74 : Other professional, scientific and technical activities	16	1.9	19	3.1	3
86 : Human health activities	16	1.9	36	5.9	20
33 : Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	13	1.5	4	0.7	-9
85 : Education	12	1.4	12	2.0	0
45 : Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	11	1.3	16	2.6	5
71 : Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	11	1.3	7	1.1	-4
64 : Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	9	1.1	22	3.6	13
81 : Services to buildings and landscape activities	9	1.1	13	2.1	4
93 : Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	9	1.1	8	1.3	-1
13 : Manufacture of textiles	8	0.9	1	0.2	-7
14 : Manufacture of wearing apparel	8	0.9	5	0.8	-3
80 : Security and investigation activities	7	0.8	6	1.0	-1
42 : Civil engineering	6	0.7	3	0.5	-3
32 : Other manufacturing	5	0.6	3	0.5	-2
63 : Information service activities	5	0.6	3	0.5	-2
73 : Advertising and market research	5	0.6	2	0.3	-3
90 : Creative, arts and entertainment activities	5	0.6	9	1.5	4
n.a.	22	2.6	10	1.6	-12
All	849	100.0	639	100.0	-240

Table 7 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector August 2021

Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 03/09/2021 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

## 9. 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 monthly regional impact *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.

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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.*