

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 673,600. These made up 63.1% of the whole population. In England the figure was 62.3%.
* In England 79.1% of the working age population were economically active. In the Leicester and Leicestershire area the figure was 79.1%. In Leicestershire the figure was 81.4% and the City 75%. In the City only 67.6% of the female working age population were economically active (only 64.1% were in employment). The figure for England was 75.3%.
* Unemployment for the reporting quarter April 2020 – March 2021 was 5.7% (31,100). In England the figure was 4.9%. Unemployment in the City was higher than average (6.8%). The figure for Leicestershire was 3.1%. Unemployment in the City and County has risen over the last reporting quarter.
* Over the period April 2019 - March 2020 to April 2020 - March 2021 there was a rise in unemployment. Unemployment grew from 3.4% (18,800) to 5.7% (31,100). This is growth of 12,300.
* Unemployment in the Leicester and Leicestershire area fell from a highpoint of 9.2% (45,900) for the period January 2013 - December 2013, to the current figure of 5.7%. This is a fall of 3.5 percentage points (14,800). The latest figures demonstrate a rise over the last reporting quarter (from 22,800).
* In the County unemployment rose over the period April 2019 - March 2019 to April 2020 – March 2021. Unemployment went from 3.1% (11,500) to 5.3% (19,00). This is a rise of 7,500.
* At a City level unemployment rose from 4.6% (8,400) for April 2019 - March 2020 to 6.8% (12,300) for April 2020 - March 2021. Over the last reporting quarter there has been a rise in unemployment of 1,100.
* Over the same period male unemployment in the Leicester and Leicestershire area grew from 3.4% (10,000) to 7.6% (22,100). Male unemployment over the last reporting quarter rose by 8,900.
* Female unemployment over the period grew from 3.4% (8,800) to 3.6% (8,900).

*Claimants*

* In March 2020 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 2.3% (15,145). In August 2021 the claimant rate was 4.3% (28,985). This is an increase of 13,840 claimants or 2 percentage points. A large proportion of this was over the period March to May 2020.
* From March 21 to August 2021 there has been a fall of 6,385 claimants (from 35,370).
* At a national level the claimant rate in England in August 2021 was 5.3%. 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 6.6% 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%).
* Of the 28,985 claimants 16,610 (57%) were male and 12,380 were female (43%).
* The claimant rate in March 2020 for males was 2.6% and females 1.9%. In August 2021 the figures were 4.9% for males and 3.7% for females.
* 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 rate was 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%).

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.

For further information contact the report author brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk.