



LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 31 – 30 April 2022

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1. Economic Roundup

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

Announcements/ Press Releases/ News Stories

[Local Skills Improvement Plan trailblazers and Strategic Development Fund pilots](#) - The Leicestershire LSIP was led by the East Midlands Chamber, one of eight employer representative bodies testing an employer-led approach to skills planning- 19/04/2022.
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus](#) - This Prospectus provides information to local authorities and other partners across the United Kingdom on the aims of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – 13/04/2022.

[Government unveils investment for energy technologies of the future](#) - £375 million package of support for innovative energy technologies that will power British homes and businesses for decades to come - 08/04/2022.

[Government announces budget for largest ever R&D budget](#) - The £39.8 billion R&D budget for 2022-2025 will help deliver the government's Innovation Strategy and drive forward ambitions as a science superpower – 14/03/2022.

Research

[Labour Market Profiles](#) – The latest edition of the Labour Market Profiles can be accessed via the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership website. Profiles are available at Local Enterprise Partnership, local and district authority geographies and contain a variety of data including claimant rates – 30/04/2022.

2. Claimant Count

In March 2022 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 3.5%. This translates to 23,855 claimants. In February the figure was 3.6% (24,070). At a national level the claimant rate in England was 4.3%. This is 0.8 of 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 5.6% and Leicestershire 2.4%. This is a difference of 3.2 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.3 percentage points higher than the England average (4.3%).

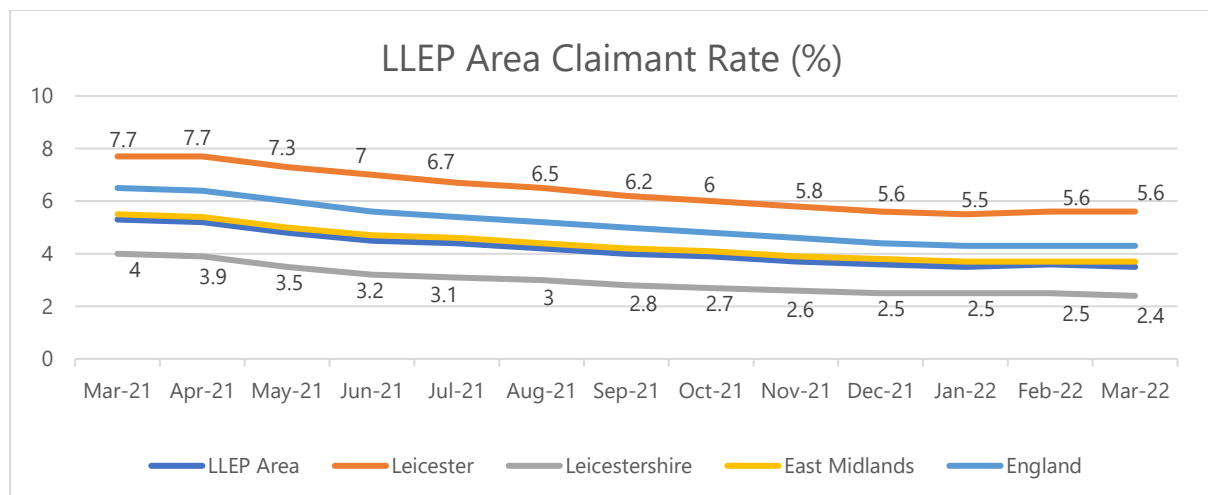


Figure 1: LLEP Area Claimant Rate (%) March 21 – March 2022
Source: ONS

Figure 2 below provides a timeseries for the Leicester and Leicestershire area and compares this with regional and national figures.

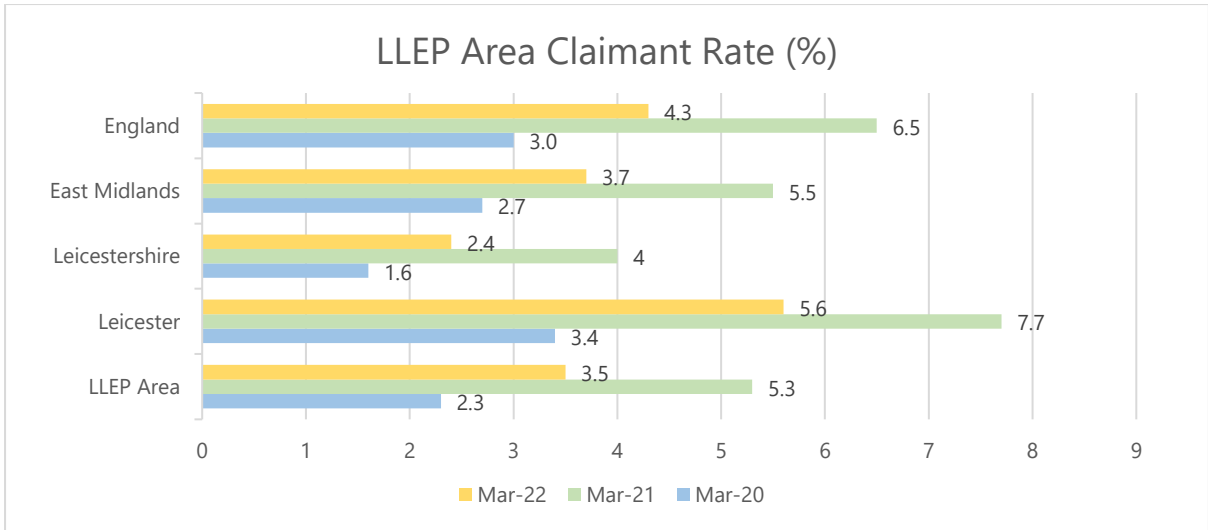


Figure 2: LLEP Area Claimant Rate (%) March 2020 – March 2022
Source: ONS

Of the 23,855 claimants over half (54.9% or 13,109) were based in Leicester (10,750 (45.1%) in Leicestershire).

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of March 2022 the claimant rate increased by 1.2 percentage points to 3.5% (23,855). This translates to an additional 8,710 claimants or a percentage increase of 57.5%.

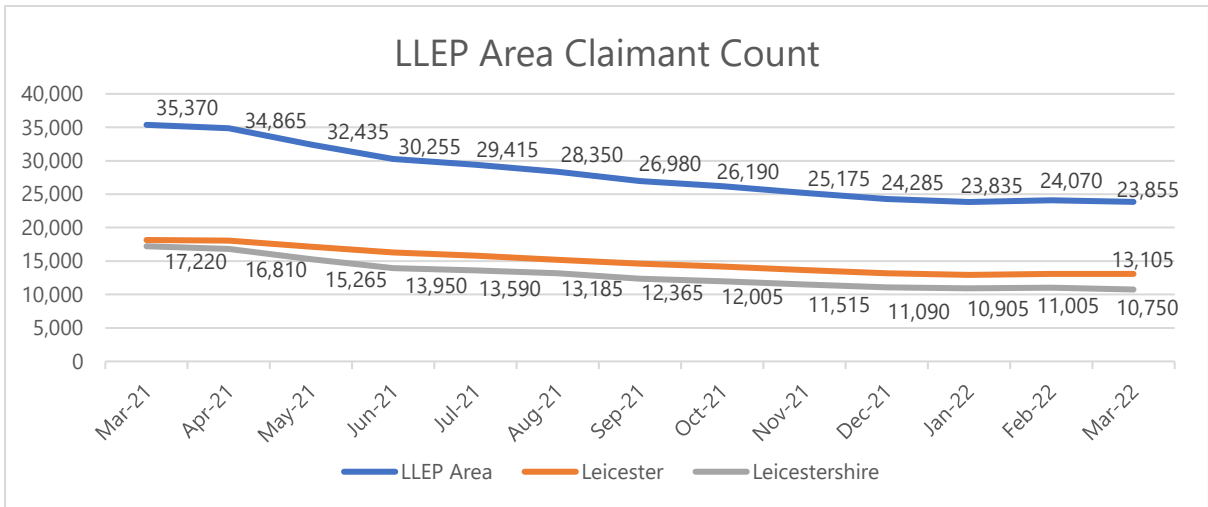


Figure 3: LLEP Area Claimant Count March 2021 – March 2022
Source: ONS

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period March to August 2020 the number of claimants grew from 15,145 to 36,025 (it's peak locally). This was a rise of 20,880 claimants or 138%. When comparing the figures for August 2020 and March 2022 against those for March 2020 the difference has fallen from 20,880 to 8,710. Since March 2021 the number of claimants has fallen by 12,170.

Despite a small rise in the number of claimants in February the numbers of claimants since March 2021 continues to fall. Staffing and skills shortages remain as issues.

Figure 12 later in the report demonstrates the claimant rate over the period January 2021 to March 2022, the number of unique job postings (for the same period).

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

Figures 4 and 5 below project claimant numbers forward to the end of March 2023. Projections are based on figures for the last 3, 5 and 8 months and an average of these. These help to identify the direction of travel in relation to claimant numbers. The average figure for March 2023 is 19,894 or 3%. The average projection when compared to previous projections demonstrates a slowing in the fall of claimants.

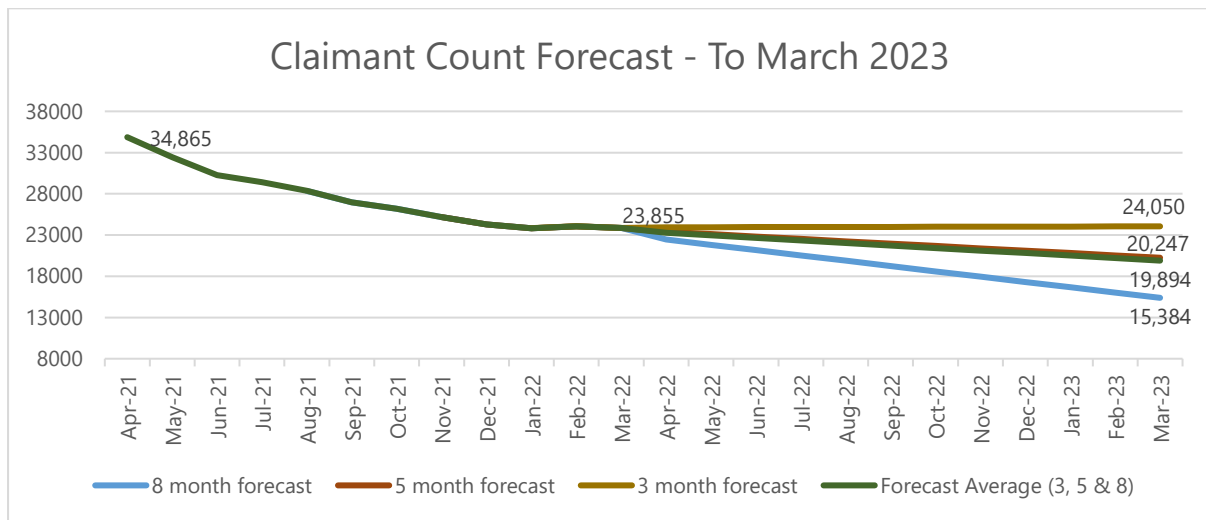


Figure 4: LLEP Area Claimant Forecast, 3, 5, 8 month and Forecast Average to March 2023.
Source Data: ONS

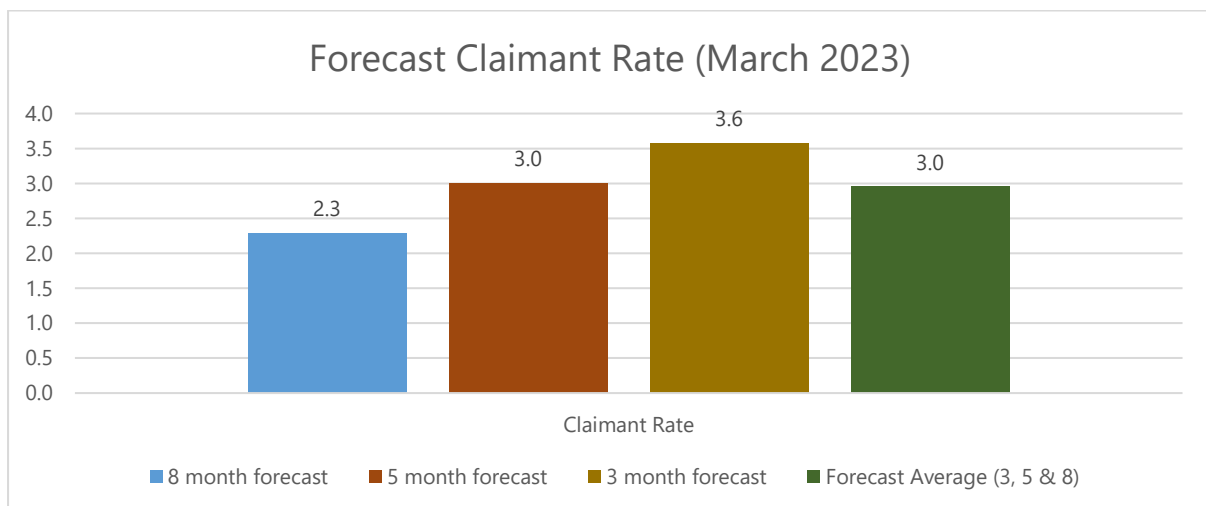


Figure 5: LLEP Area Claimant Rate Forecast, 3, 5, 8 and Forecast Average, March 2023.
Source Data: ONS

Note: It must be noted that these forecasts are linear, but the reality is that claimant numbers are governed by a variety of events both foreseen and unforeseen, as such forecast data should be treated with caution.

The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for March 2022 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 25-49 years olds (4.1%) who were claimants than 18-24 years olds (3.6%) and claimants that were 50 and over (2.9%). Nationally the claimant rates were higher for 18-24 years olds (5%), 25-49 years olds (4.9%) and those who are 50 and over (3.9%).

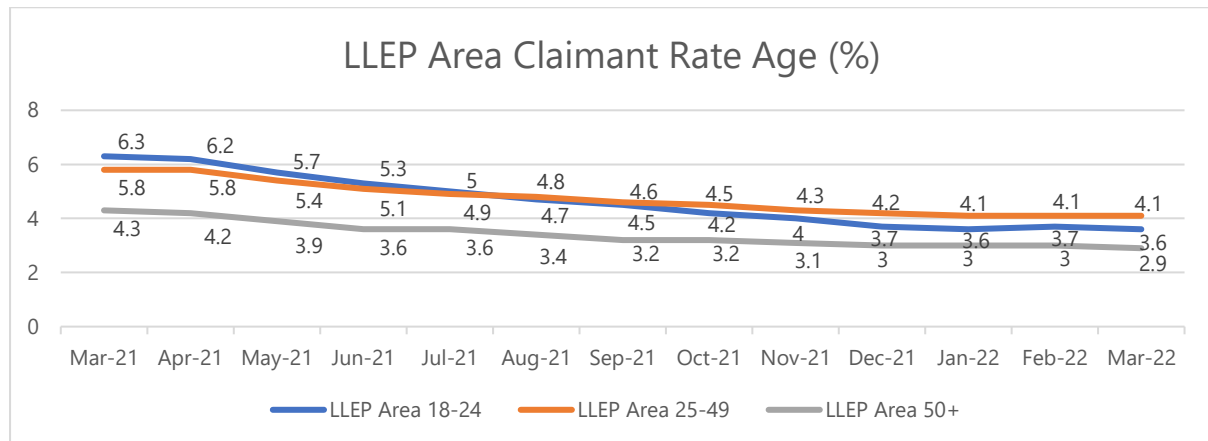


Figure 6: LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Age (%) March 2021– March 2022
Source: ONS

Figure 7 below demonstrates the claimant rate for 18-24 years olds for the Leicester and Leicestershire area and its component parts.

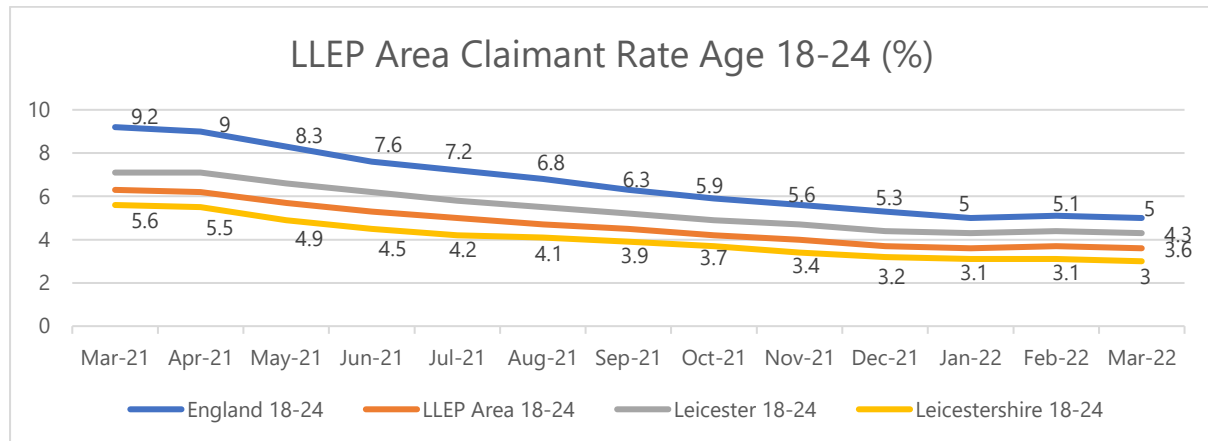


Figure 7: LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Claimants Aged 18-24 (%) March 2021 – March 2022
Source: ONS

Thirteen thousand three hundred and ninety-five (56%) claimants were male and 10,460 (44%) were female.

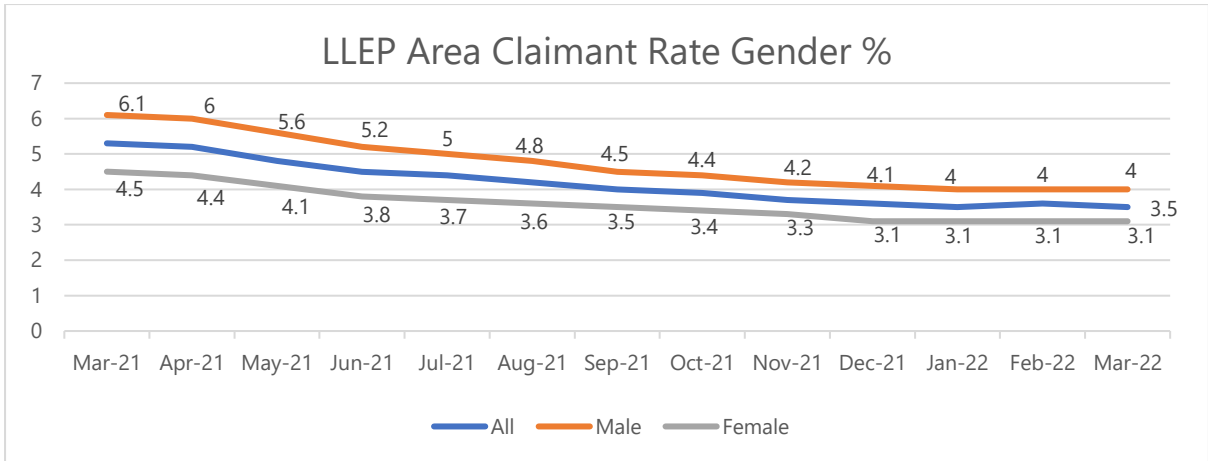


Figure 8: LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Gender (%) March 21 – March 2022
Source: ONS

The figure below demonstrates the number of claimants in the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period March 2014 to March 2022.

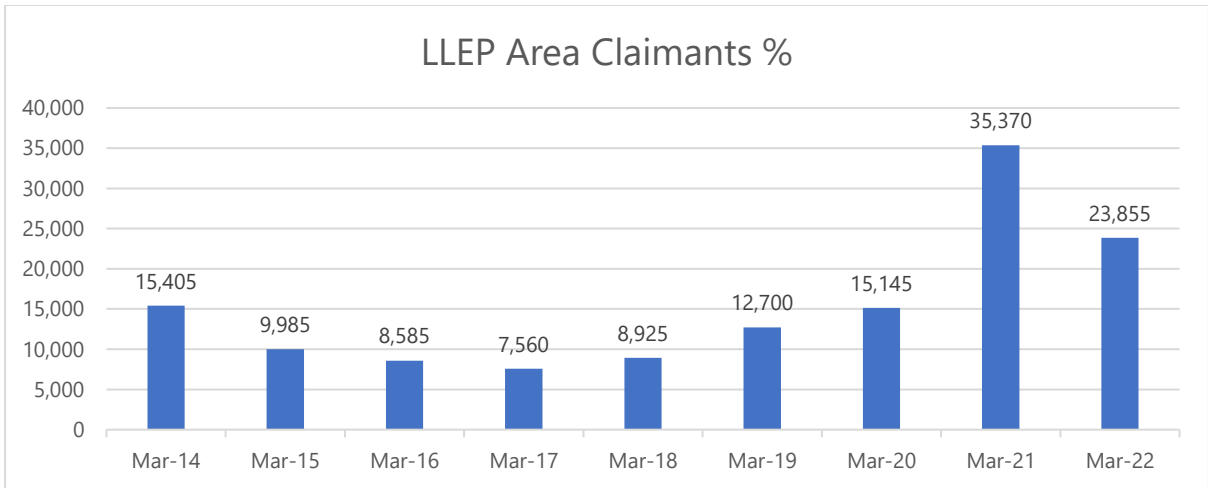


Figure 9: LLEP Area Claimant Count March 2014 – March 2022
Source: ONS

The figure below demonstrates claimant rates at a district level.

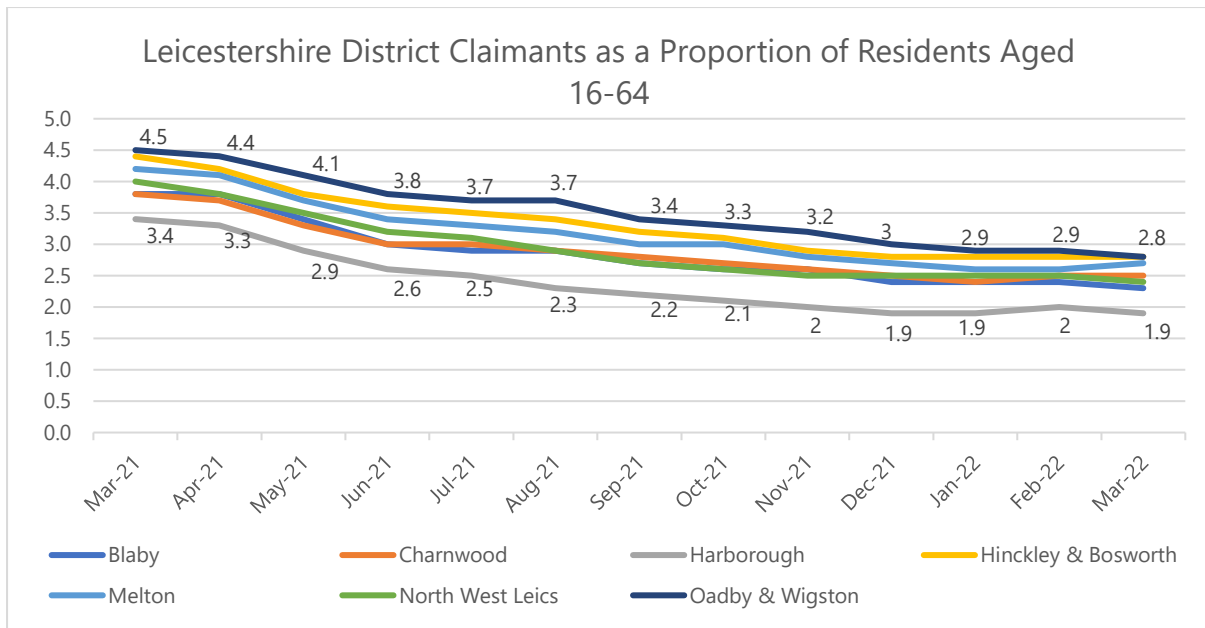


Figure 10: District Claimant Share of Working Age Residents March 2021 – March 2022
Source: ONS

Note: It must be noted that figures will be revised by the Office for National Statistics. It is likely, as with previous months that numbers will be lower than those reported initially.

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 claimants are either in the working conditionality group or the searching/planning/preparing for work group. However there continues to be growth in those with no work requirements.

When compared to March 2020 all three groups have seen significant growth in numbers.

Over the last month (February to March) the numbers searching, planning, or preparing for work has fallen to 28,506 (from 28,632). However, the numbers who are working has risen (33,935 to 34,287).

From March 2021 those searching, planning, or preparing for work has fallen by 9,204. Over the same period those with no work requirements grew by 4,939 (16,509 to 21,448).

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 March 2022 it was 21,448.

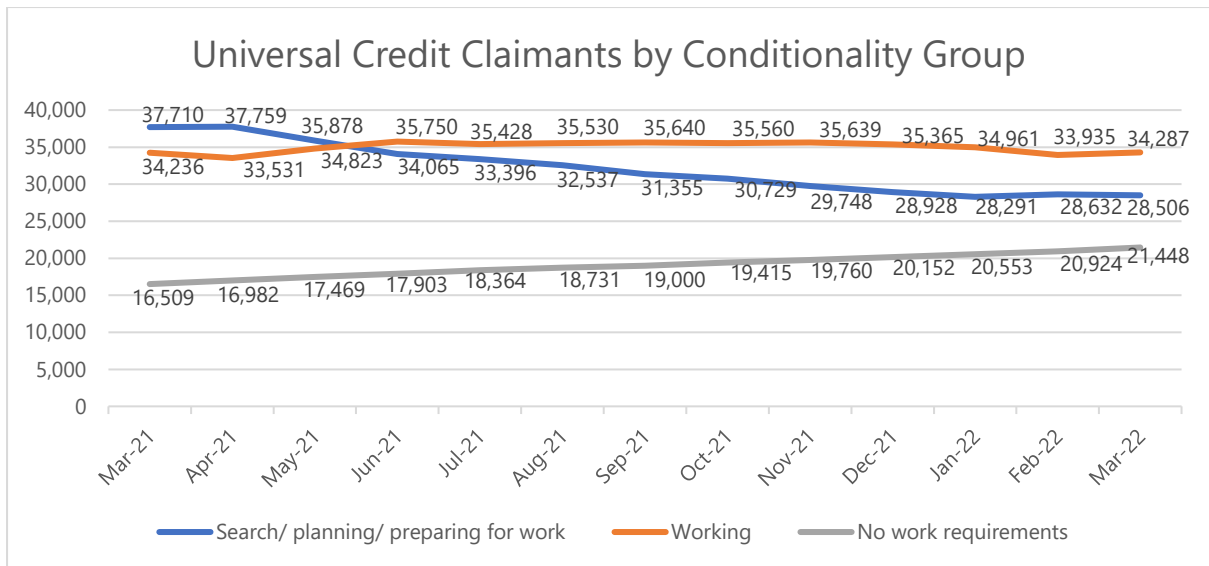


Figure 11: LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2021 – March 2022
 Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

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

4. Relationships

The figure below demonstrates the relationship between the claimant count, unique job postings and the Furlough scheme and its closure. Data is for the period 2021 and 2022 for the Leicester and Leicestershire area. In many ways this provides an understanding of the opening of the local economy.

At the time of the closure of the Furlough scheme the 20,300 people still accessing it locally either returned to work, started new jobs elsewhere, left the workplace or became benefit claimants. Despite this the claimant rate fell from 4% in September to 3.5% (March 22).

The suggestion was that with the withdrawal of government support for business the numbers of claimants would rise has failed to materialise. Claimant figures for 2022 however suggest that things may be slowing down.

The numbers of unique postings have had a positive impact on the numbers of claimants, it also reflects the skills and staff shortfalls that are being experienced across many areas of the economy. Skills and staff shortfalls reflect a few things including and depending on the industry, continued underinvestment in people and skills, BREXIT, an aging workforce, and people accessing opportunities that are in other industries.

Note: It must be noted that March figures are subject to change and there are likely to be adjustments to those areas identified.

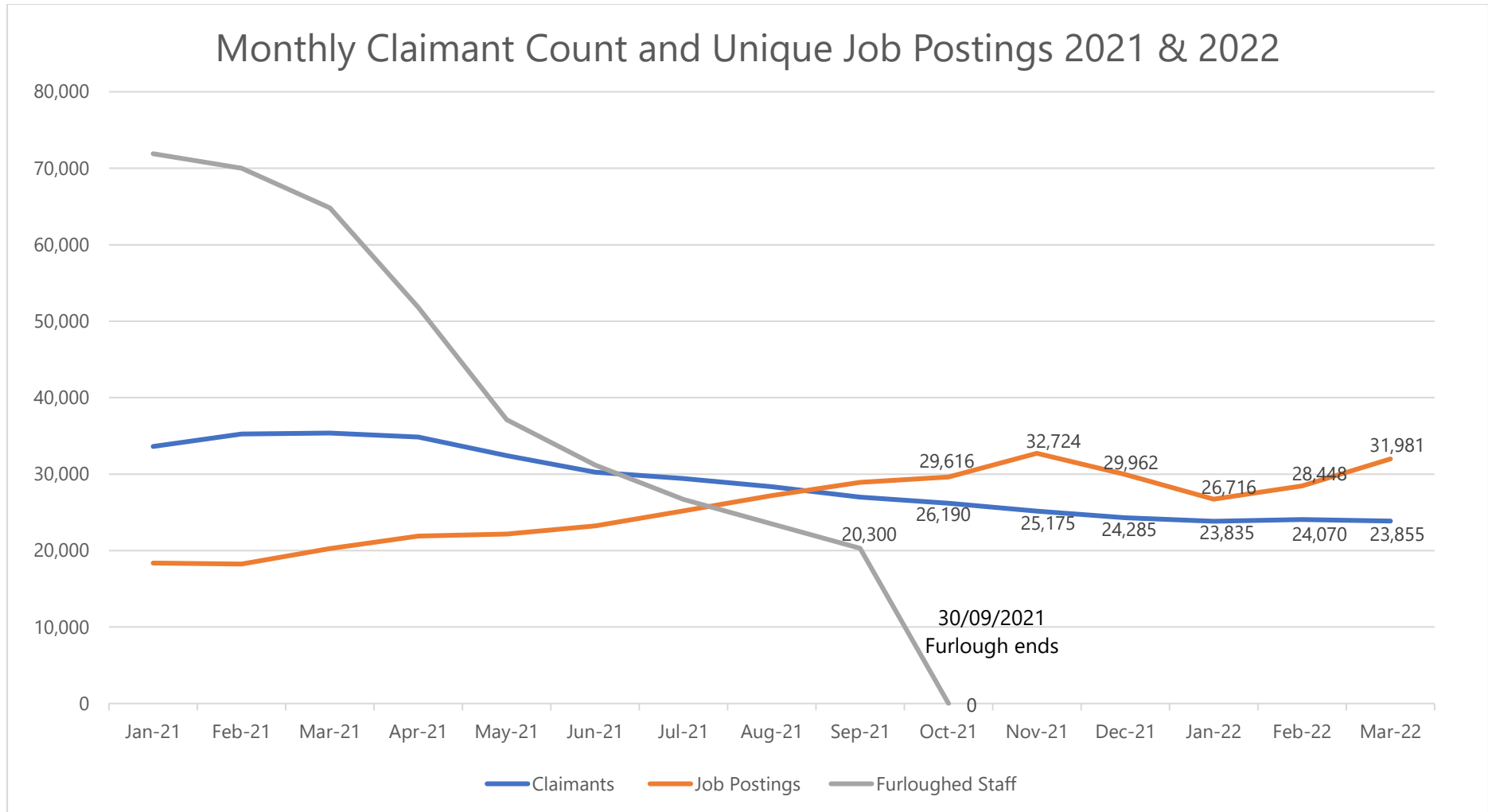


Figure 12: Monthly Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings and Total Number of Eligible Staff Furloughed January 2021 Onwards

Source: ONS Claimant Count, EMSI Unique Job Postings and HMRC Job Retention Scheme

5. Job Postings

Unique 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 (Emsi now remove jobs from the Analyst platform after 61 days).

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 1 demonstrates unique job postings by occupation for March 2022. These are compared with March 2020, March 2021, and February 2022. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

The number of unique job postings for March 2022 is higher than March 2021 by 11,706 (31,981 compared to 20,275). This is a rise of 57.7%.

Over the last month the number of job postings grew from 28,448 to 31,981. This is a rise of 3,533 or 12.4%.

In terms of numbers, over the last year there have been rises in job postings in all but two of the occupation areas. Only Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades, and Skilled Construction and Building Trades saw falls.

In the last 12 months the occupation areas that saw the largest growth in job postings numbers were:

- Elementary Administration and Service Occupations,
- Administration Occupations
- Business and Public Service Associate Professionals
- Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals

In the last month there have been rises in all the occupation areas.

As a means of further understanding how the local jobs market is changing, Table 2 demonstrates the year-to-date unique job postings figures for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and compares these.

Across the job market the number of unique job postings (YTD) has increased from 29,127 in 2019 to 51,219 in 2022. This is growth of 22,092 or 75.8%. All occupations areas have seen growth except Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives.

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	Mar 2021 Unique Postings	Feb 2022 Unique Postings	Mar 2022 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Feb to Mar 2022	Monthly Growth % Feb to Mar 2022	Dif Mar 2020 Mar 2022	% Dif Mar 2020 Mar 2023
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,259	1,163	1,617	1,951	788	67.8	334	20.7	692	55.0
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	451	480	588	679	199	41.5	91	15.5	228	50.6
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,093	2,055	2,598	2,911	856	41.7	313	12.0	818	39.1
22	Health Professionals	972	1,024	1,396	1,519	495	48.3	123	8.8	547	56.3
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,242	832	1,293	1,326	494	59.4	33	2.6	84	6.8
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,451	1,527	1,727	1,980	453	29.7	253	14.6	529	36.5
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,209	1,119	1,846	2,108	989	88.4	262	14.2	899	74.4
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	243	310	455	474	164	52.9	19	4.2	231	95.1
33	Protective Service Occupations	58	51	148	150	99	194.1	2	1.4	92	158.6
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	299	259	361	389	130	50.2	28	7.8	90	30.1
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	1,697	1,657	2,248	2,647	990	59.7	399	17.7	950	56.0
41	Administrative Occupations	1,663	1,585	2,272	2,602	1,017	64.2	330	14.5	939	56.5
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	327	287	439	478	191	66.6	39	8.9	151	46.2
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	22	53	47	48	(5)	-9.4	1	2.1	26	118.2
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	783	886	1,300	1,493	607	68.5	193	14.8	710	90.7
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	261	387	349	369	(18)	-4.7	20	5.7	108	41.4
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	381	209	525	571	362	173.2	46	8.8	190	49.9
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	1,314	1,550	2,106	2,236	686	44.3	130	6.2	922	70.2
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	165	142	260	312	170	119.7	52	20.0	147	89.1
71	Sales Occupations	1,244	1,063	1,509	1,738	675	63.5	229	15.2	494	39.7
72	Customer Service Occupations	575	609	1,011	1,117	508	83.4	106	10.5	542	94.3
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	308	387	604	704	317	81.9	100	16.6	396	128.6
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,093	1,191	1,029	1,268	77	6.5	239	23.2	175	16.0
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	168	250	390	464	214	85.6	74	19.0	296	176.2
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	933	1,084	2,245	2,351	1,267	116.9	106	4.7	1,418	152.0
Total		20,346	20,275	28,448	31,981	11,706	57.7	3,533	12.4	11,635	57.2

Table 1: LLEP area Job Postings by Standard Occupation Codes
Source: EMSI

SOC	Occupation	Unique Postings YTD 2019	% Share	Unique Postings YTD 2020	% Share	Unique Postings YTD 2021	% Share	Unique Postings YTD 2022	% Share	Growth 2019 - 2022	Growth %	Growth % Share
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,622	5.6	2,201	6.2	1,902	5.9	3,025	5.9	1,403	86.5	6.4
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	690	2.4	743	2.1	718	2.2	1,104	2.2	414	60.0	1.9
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,538	8.7	3,723	10.6	3,125	9.6	4,697	9.2	2,159	85.1	9.8
22	Health Professionals	1,413	4.9	1,539	4.4	1,776	5.5	2,502	4.9	1,089	77.1	4.9
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,354	4.6	1,941	5.5	1,376	4.2	2,413	4.7	1,059	78.2	4.8
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,682	5.8	2,498	7.1	2,387	7.4	3,132	6.1	1,450	86.2	6.6
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,575	5.4	2,146	6.1	1,798	5.6	3,256	6.4	1,681	106.7	7.6
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	391	1.3	446	1.3	476	1.5	799	1.6	408	104.3	1.8
33	Protective Service Occupations	64	0.2	109	0.3	110	0.3	259	0.5	195	304.7	0.9
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	457	1.6	516	1.5	442	1.4	614	1.2	157	34.4	0.7
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	2,213	7.6	3,011	8.5	2,487	7.7	4,129	8.1	1,916	86.6	8.7
41	Administrative Occupations	2,314	7.9	2,885	8.2	2,536	7.8	4,169	8.1	1,855	80.2	8.4
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	454	1.6	598	1.7	406	1.3	818	1.6	364	80.2	1.6
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	35	0.1	38	0.1	64	0.2	71	0.1	36	102.9	0.2
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,234	4.2	1,507	4.3	1,357	4.2	2,157	4.2	923	74.8	4.2
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	325	1.1	439	1.2	568	1.8	587	1.1	262	80.6	1.2
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	586	2.0	657	1.9	339	1.0	903	1.8	317	54.1	1.4
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	1,594	5.5	2,142	6.1	2,497	7.7	3,831	7.5	2,237	140.3	10.1
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	282	1.0	272	0.8	239	0.7	486	0.9	204	72.3	0.9
71	Sales Occupations	1,771	6.1	2,117	6.0	1,648	5.1	2,696	5.3	925	52.2	4.2
72	Customer Service Occupations	1,072	3.7	1,047	3.0	975	3.0	1,750	3.4	678	63.2	3.1
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	521	1.8	557	1.6	642	2.0	1,059	2.1	538	103.3	2.4
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	2,306	7.9	1,862	5.3	2,006	6.2	1,959	3.8	(347)	-15.0	-1.6
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	449	1.5	284	0.8	398	1.2	668	1.3	219	48.8	1.0
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,992	6.8	1,721	4.9	1,924	5.9	3,962	7.7	1,970	98.9	8.9
	Total Across All Occupations	29,127	100.0	35,235	100.0	32,384	100.0	51,219	100.0	22,092	75.8	100.0

Table 2: LLEP area Job Postings Comparator by Standard Occupation Codes

Source: EMSI

Table 3 demonstrates job posting numbers by district area for March 2021 onwards. Figures for all the areas identified are higher this year (March) than last year.

Area	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
Blaby	410	426	416	415	431	461	481	510	559	492	369	373	437
Charnwood	2,356	2,530	2,720	3,018	3,394	3,715	3,950	4,009	4,382	3,797	3,396	3,803	4,527
Harborough	1,232	1,289	1,247	1,368	1,616	1,819	1,936	1,951	2,249	2,010	1,871	2,035	2,339
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,260	1,419	1,470	1,505	1,593	1,652	1,738	1,841	1,936	1,786	1,546	1,806	2,085
Leicester	11,795	12,551	12,569	12,990	13,825	14,896	15,823	16,409	18,511	17,258	15,457	15,864	17,009
Leicestershire	8,480	9,361	9,607	10,235	11,374	12,313	13,104	13,207	14,213	12,704	11,259	12,584	14,972
Melton	602	675	676	749	829	884	968	938	964	810	783	904	1,120
NW Leics	2,359	2,746	2,814	2,901	3,199	3,453	3,620	3,512	3,615	3,365	2,895	3,227	3,953
Oadby & Wigston	261	276	264	279	312	329	411	446	508	444	399	436	511
Total	20,275	21,912	22,176	23,225	25,199	27,209	28,927	29,616	32,724	29,962	26,716	28,448	31,981

Table 3: Unique Job Postings by Local & District Authority
Source: EMSI

Figure 13 provides an understanding of monthly job postings for the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

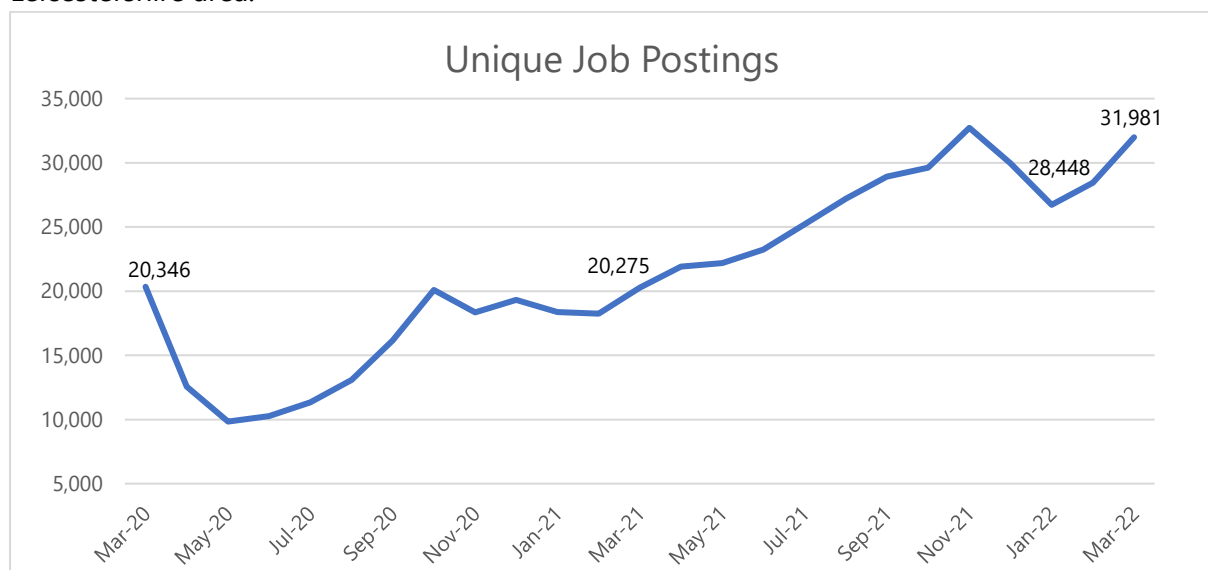


Figure 13: LLEP Area Unique Job Postings March 2020 to March 2022
Source: EMSI

Figure 14 shows job posting data for Leicester and Leicestershire.

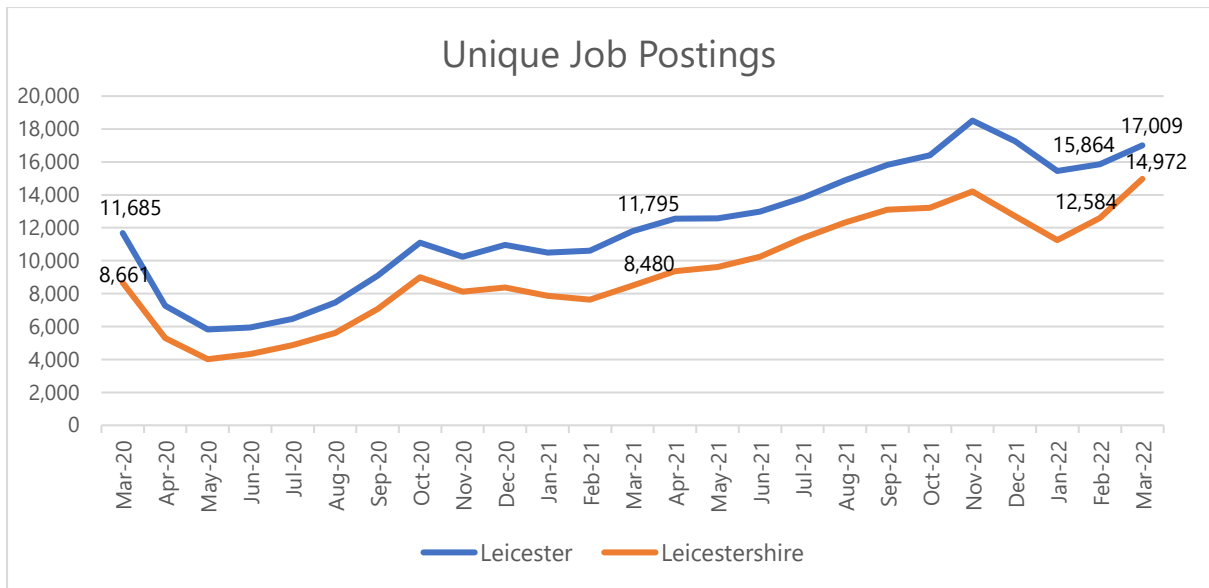


Figure 14: Leicester and Leicestershire Unique Job Postings March 2020 to March 2022
Source: EMSI

More detailed breakdowns of job postings by district are available from brendan.brockway@llep.org.uk.

6. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 19,553 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

Figure 15 demonstrates the cumulative growth in business closures for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

In 2022 (to the end of March 2022) there were 3,401 solved businesses. For the same period in 2019 the figure was 3,122, in 2020 1,889 and 2021 3,930.

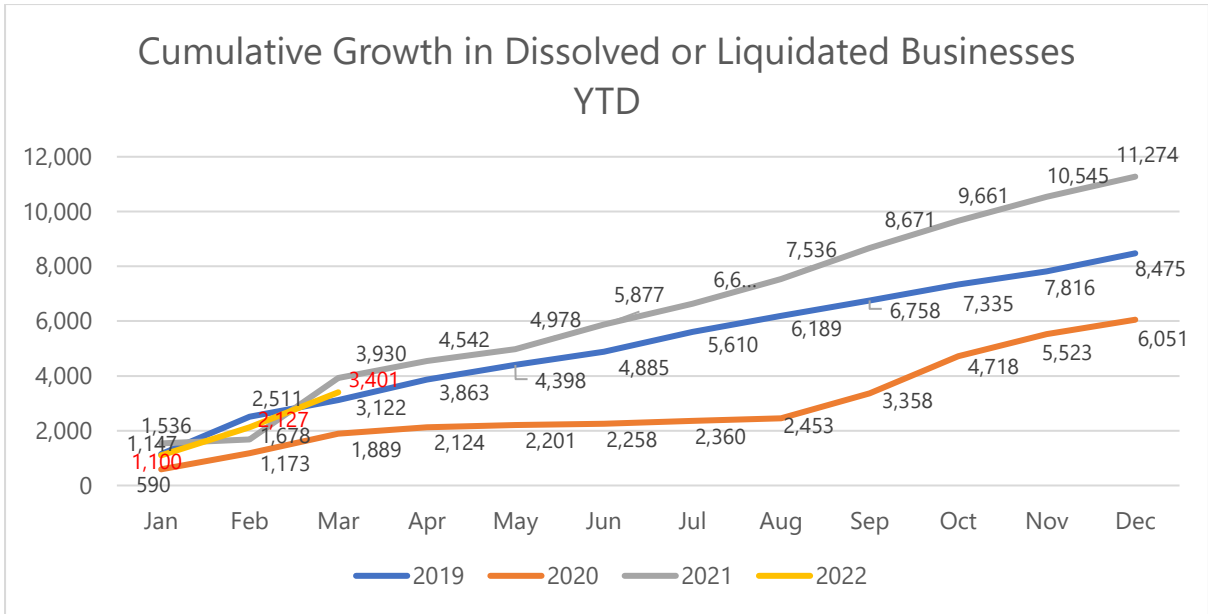


Figure 15: LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses 2019, 20, 21 and 22.
Source: BVD Fame

In March 2022 the number of businesses that ceased trading was 1,274. The figure for March 2019 was 611, 2020 716 and 2021 2,252.

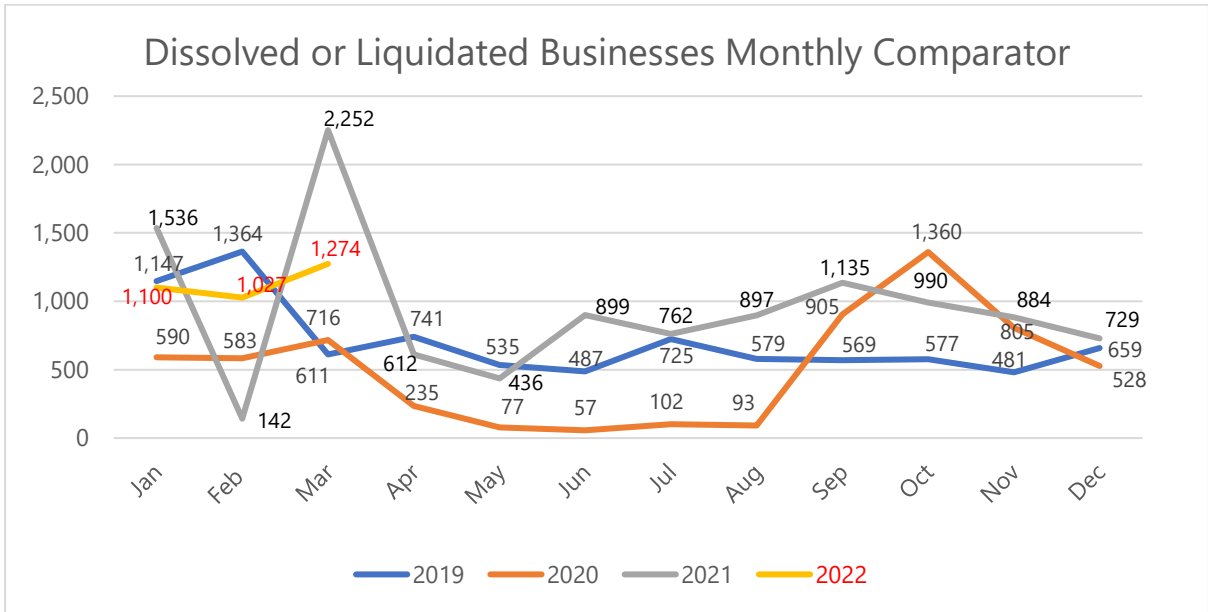


Figure 16: LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 23,068 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area.

Figure 17 demonstrates the cumulative growth for the years 2019, 20, 21 and 22.

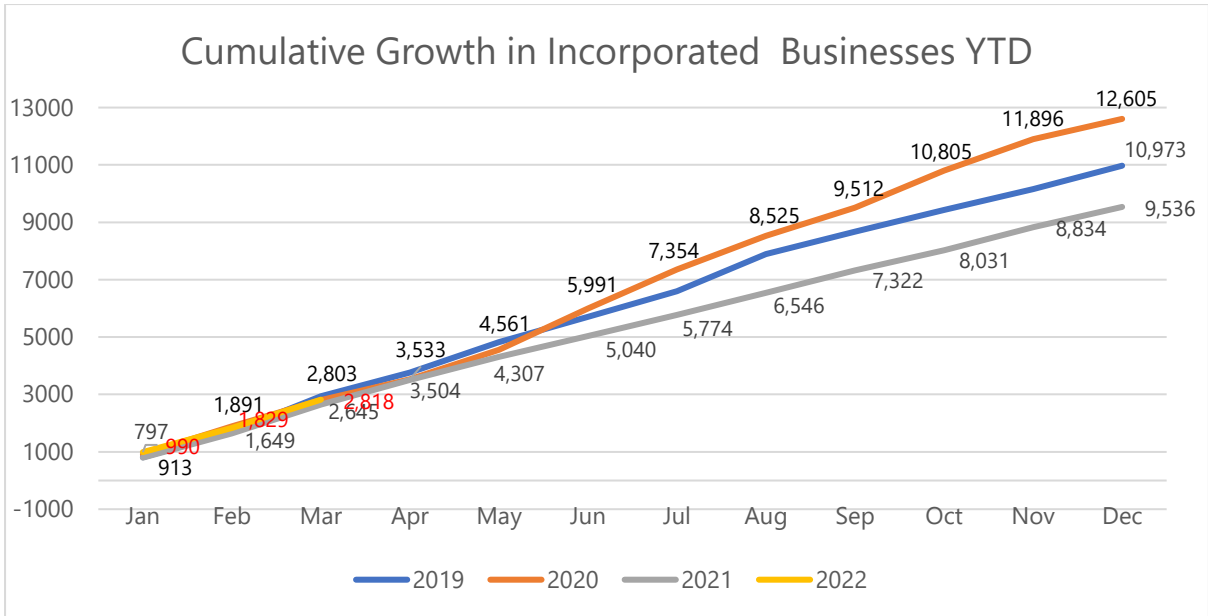


Figure 17: LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses 2019, 20, 21 and 22.

Source: BVD Fame

In March 2022 the number of businesses that were incorporated was 989. The figure for March 2019 was 1,239, 2020 912 and 2021 996.

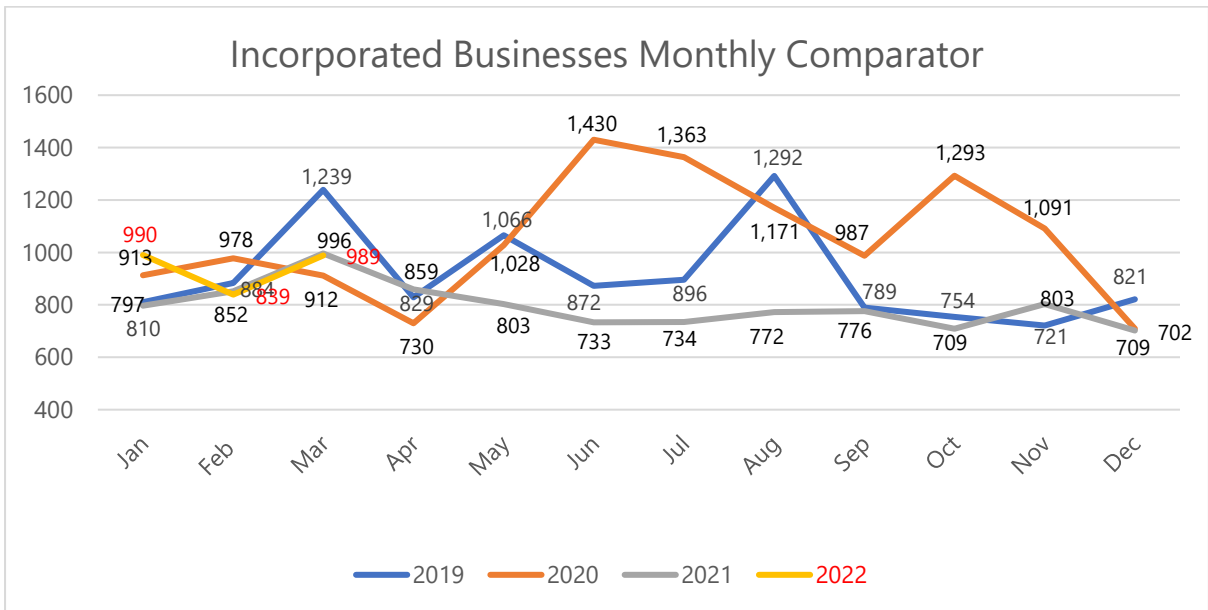


Figure 18: LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator

Source: BVD Fame

When comparing closures with incorporations in 2022 (YTD) there were 3,401 closures and 2,818 incorporations. This is a difference of 583.

Table 4 demonstrates those sectors where there have been 25 or more business failures and 25 or more incorporations for the year to date (2022). Table 4 also helps provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are

reacting to it. It shows how different parts of the local business community are expanding and contracting and where business is bouncing back as the economy reopens.

Activity (prim. UK SIC 2007)	Dissolved	%	Incorporated	%
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	955	28.1	126	4.5
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	224	6.6	333	11.8
Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	183	5.4	64	2.3
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	160	4.7	74	2.6
Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	150	4.4	86	3.1
Food and beverage service activities	146	4.3	213	7.6
Specialised construction activities	118	3.5	147	5.2
Real estate activities	112	3.3	272	9.7
Land transport and transport via pipelines	111	3.3	126	4.5
Other personal service activities	111	3.3	107	3.8
Construction of buildings	81	2.4	102	3.6
Human health activities	61	1.8	122	4.3
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	59	1.7	48	1.7
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	54	1.6	90	3.2
Warehousing and support activities for transportation	49	1.4	38	1.3
Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	41	1.2	84	3.0
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	40	1.2	8	0.3
Education	39	1.1	52	1.8
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	39	1.1	35	1.2
Services to buildings and landscape activities	37	1.1	129	4.6
Employment activities	32	0.9	34	1.2
Legal and accounting activities	31	0.9	28	1.0
Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	31	0.9	23	0.8
Manufacture of textiles	31	0.9	13	0.5
Advertising and market research	21	0.6	29	1.0
Residential care activities	18	0.5	43	1.5
All	3,401	100.0	2,818	100.0

Table 4 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector Year to Date 2022

Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 12/04/2022 and they may be subject to some adjustment. Figures may also reflect delays in notification and processing of data returns to Companies House.

7. Useful Links

GOV.UK

[GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) is a United Kingdom public sector information website, created by the Government Digital Service to provide a single point of access to HM Government services and data/information.

Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

The Local Enterprise Partnership works in partnership across the midlands. Information

relating to its work can be accessed by going to the [Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership website](#).

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.

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.

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.

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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.