

# LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 21 – 22 June 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

[Business Secretary names top business brains set to boost Help to Grow: Management scheme](#) - The scheme which is 90% government-funded will be launched at the end of June. It will help small, enterprising businesses to seize the opportunity to grow. This is important for the government's Plan for Jobs, promoting opportunity and boosting employment as the country recovers from the pandemic.

The Help to Grow Management scheme is a new executive training programme delivered by the UK's leading business schools. This 12-week course will combine a practical curriculum with 1:1 mentoring from a business expert, peer-learning sessions to give businesses the opportunity to learn from one another, and an alumni network.

By the end of the programme participants will develop a tailored business growth plan to lead their business to its full potential.

Applications have opened for the first business schools. Businesses can also [register their interest in the scheme](#). Courses will begin from the end of June.

[£166 million cash injection for green technology and 60,000 UK jobs](#) - The green technology required to help the UK meet its world-leading climate change targets has been given a £166.5 million cash injection. This will drive forward developments in critical technology needed for a green industrial revolution including carbon capture, greenhouse gas removal and hydrogen

[One point three million employees move off furlough in March and April](#) - Furlough numbers have fallen to their lowest level this year as the number of people relying on the scheme fell to 3.4 million.

- 1.3 million fewer employees accessed the furlough scheme in March and April
- the furlough scheme will remain in place until the end of September to ensure jobs are protected as businesses get back on their feet

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 11.5 million employees and 1.3 million employers have now been supported by the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

New figures also show that 2.8 million individuals benefitted from the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme which has provided over £24 billion in support.

[Thirty towns to share £725 million to help communities build back better](#) - Funding announced for 30 towns (including Loughborough) in England to boost their local economies, create jobs and help them recover from the pandemic.

New Towns Deals will help them to grow their local economies, while creating new opportunities to reshape the look and feel of their areas.

The deals will help breathe new life into neglected areas or unused buildings by creating vibrant spaces for businesses, community events or much needed new homes.

- Investment will boost local economies, create jobs and new homes, and improve skills
- It will also help transform public spaces, deliver green transport links and revamp cultural and tourist attractions

[Government extends business support measures](#) - The Government has extended temporary insolvency measures providing further support to businesses during the pandemic.

Regulations will be made that will mean those restriction on statutory demands and winding up petitions will remain for a further three months until the 30/09/2021 to protect companies from creditor enforcement action where their debts relate to the pandemic.

## Research Reports

None

## Claimant Count

In May 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 4.9%. This translates to 33,070 claimants. In April the figure was 5.2% (34,835). At a national level the claimant rate was 6.1%. This is 1.2 percentage points higher than the local figure.

The picture is very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 7.4% and Leicestershire 3.6%. This is a difference of 3.8 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.3 percentage points higher than the England average (6.1%).

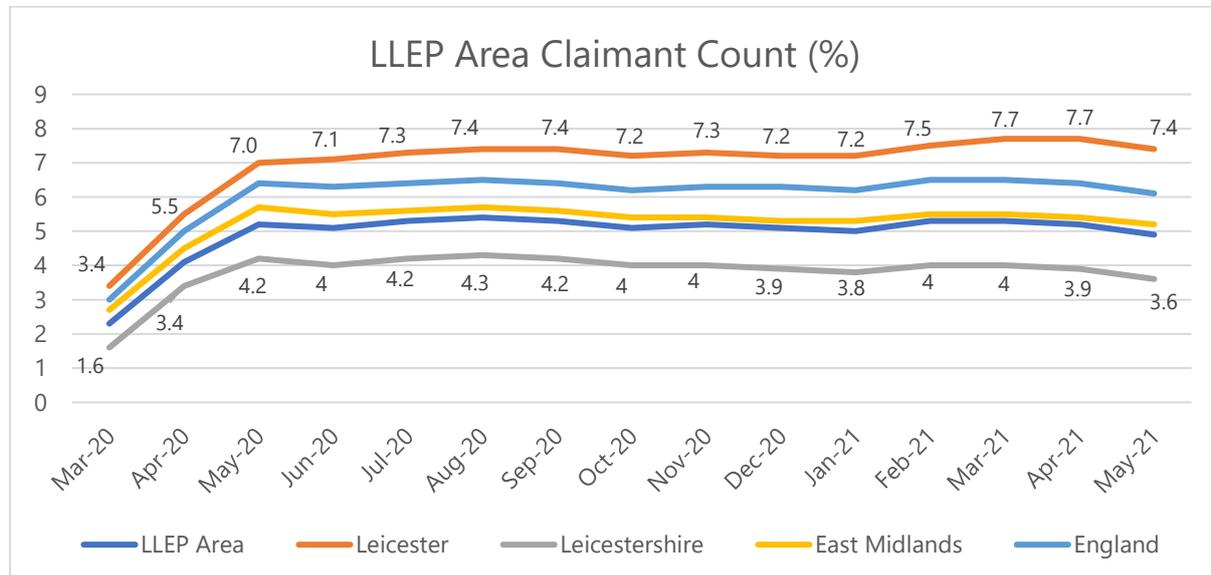


Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Count (%) March 20 – May 2021

Source: ONS

Of the 33,070 claimants over half (52.8% or 17,475) were based in Leicester.

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of May 2021 the claimant rate increased by 2.6 percentage points to 4.9% (33,070). This translates to an additional 17,925 claimants or a percentage increase of 118%.

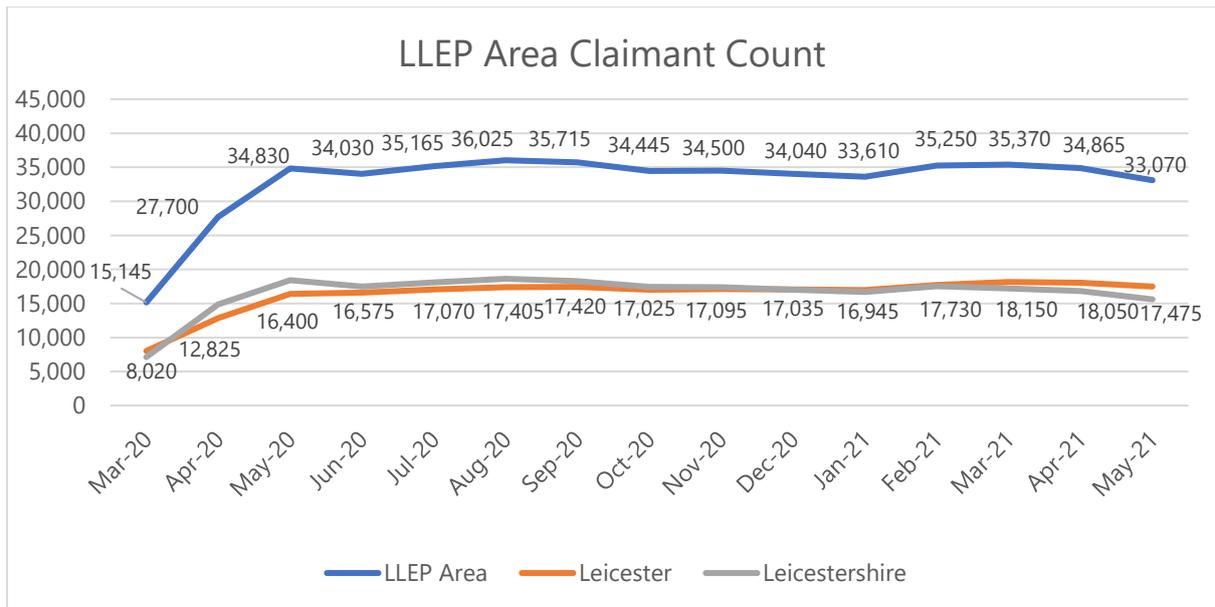


Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count March 2020 - May 2021  
Source: ONS

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period 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 January to March 2021 there was growth in the number of claimants, April and May however have seen falls in the number of claimants.

Since the initial rises in claimants last year the claimant rate has been relatively static with little movement. The initial shock caused by the Corona virus continues and the uncertainty that it brought remains a feature of local and national economies. Initial figures for May 2021 (which will be revised) show a significant drop in claimants (1,795 claimants or 0.3 percentage points).

The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for May 2021 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 18-24 years olds (5.7%) who were claimants than 25-49 years olds (5.5%) and claimants that were 50 and over (4%).

From March 2020 the number of claimants who were 18-24 grew by 3.1 percentage points, those who were 24-49 by 2.9 percentage points and those who were 50+ by 2.3 percentage points. Nationally the claimant rates were significantly higher for 18-24 years olds (8.4%), 25-49 years olds (6.7%) and those who are 50 and over (4.8%).

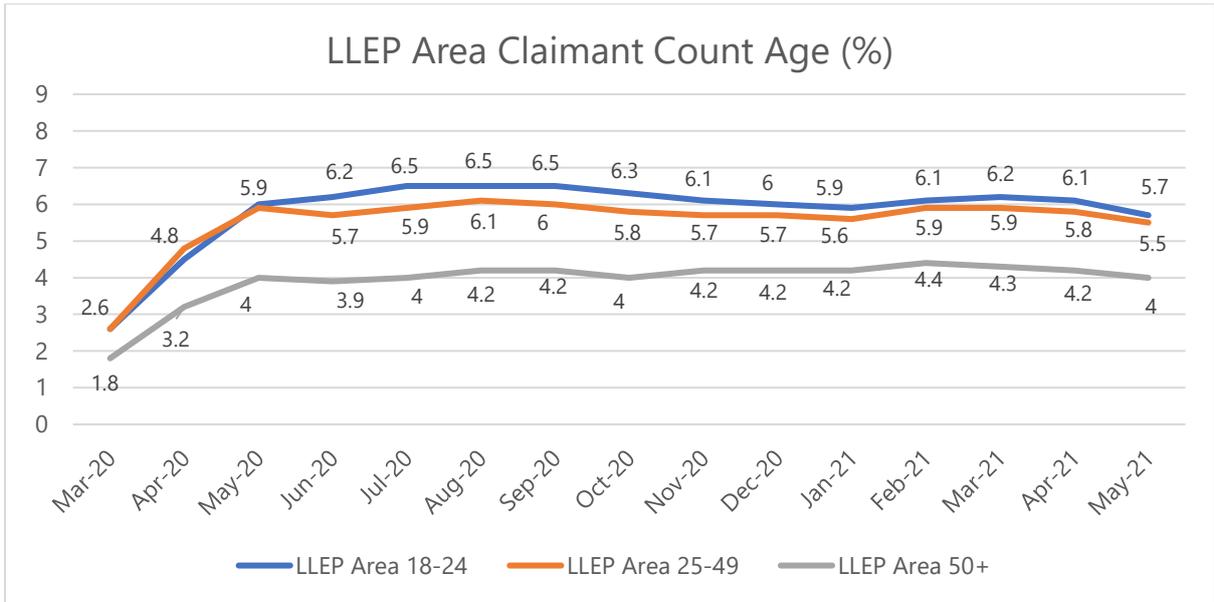


Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Age (%) March 2020 – May 2021  
Source: ONS

Figure 4 demonstrates the claimant rate for 18-24 years olds for the Leicester and Leicestershire area and its component parts.

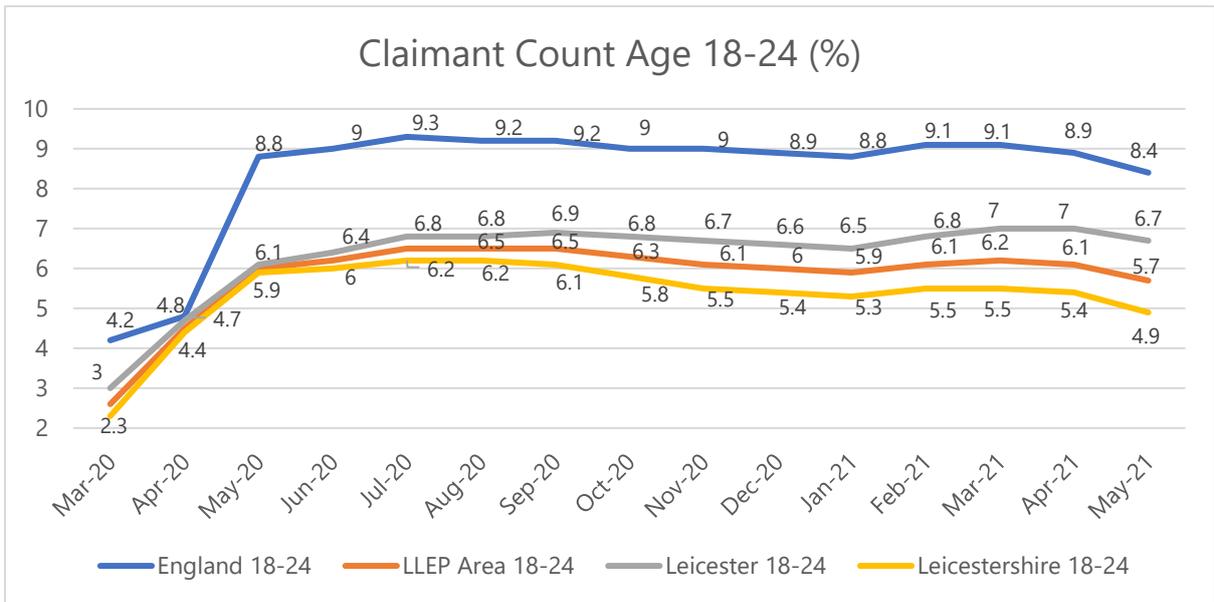


Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Claimants Aged 18-24 (%) March 2020 – May 2021  
Source: ONS

Nineteen thousand two hundred (58%) claimants were male and 13,870 (42%) were female.

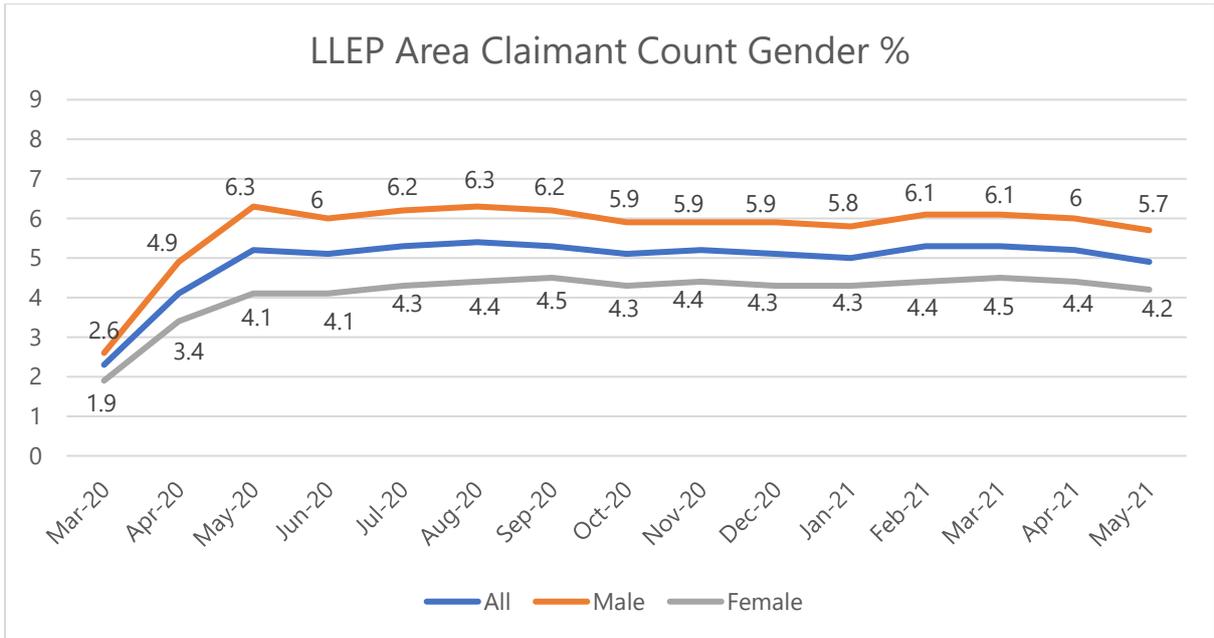


Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Count by Gender (%) March 2020 - May 2021  
Source: ONS

Figure 6 demonstrates the number of claimants in the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period May 2013 to May 2021.

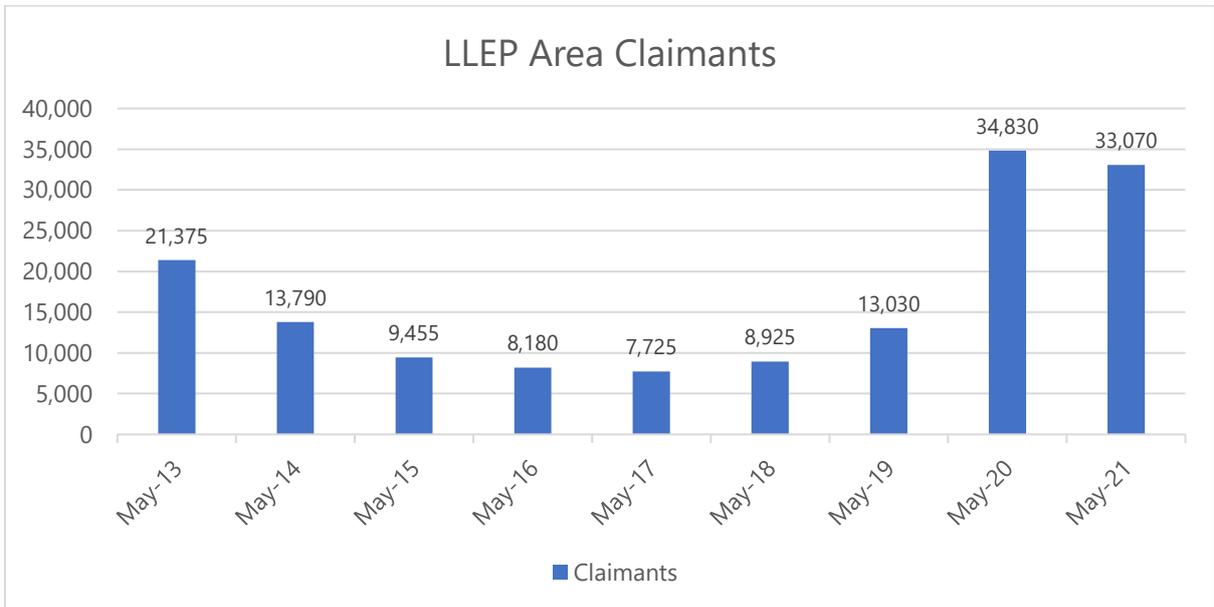


Figure 6 LLEP Area Claimant Count April 2013 – May 2021  
Source: ONS

Figure 7 demonstrates the number of claimants at a district level.

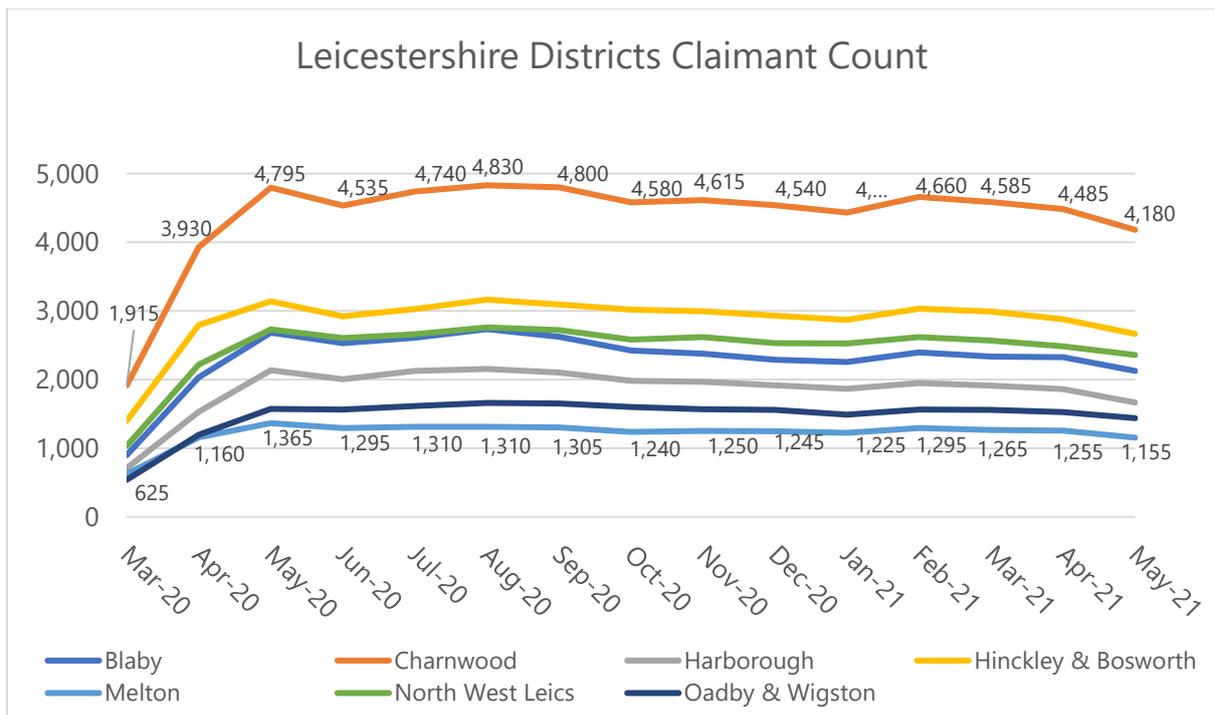


Figure 7 LLEP Area District Claimant Count March 2020 – May 2021  
Source: ONS

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

## 2. 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. At 36,567 those searching, planning, or preparing for work in May 2021 have become smaller over the last month (April to May). Those working has gone up.

Since March 2020 there has been a steady rise in the number of people who are not seeking work/ have no work requirements with numbers more than doubling during the period. In March 2020 the figure was 10,997 and in May 2021 it was 17,506. This may a direct result of those accessing the furlough scheme.

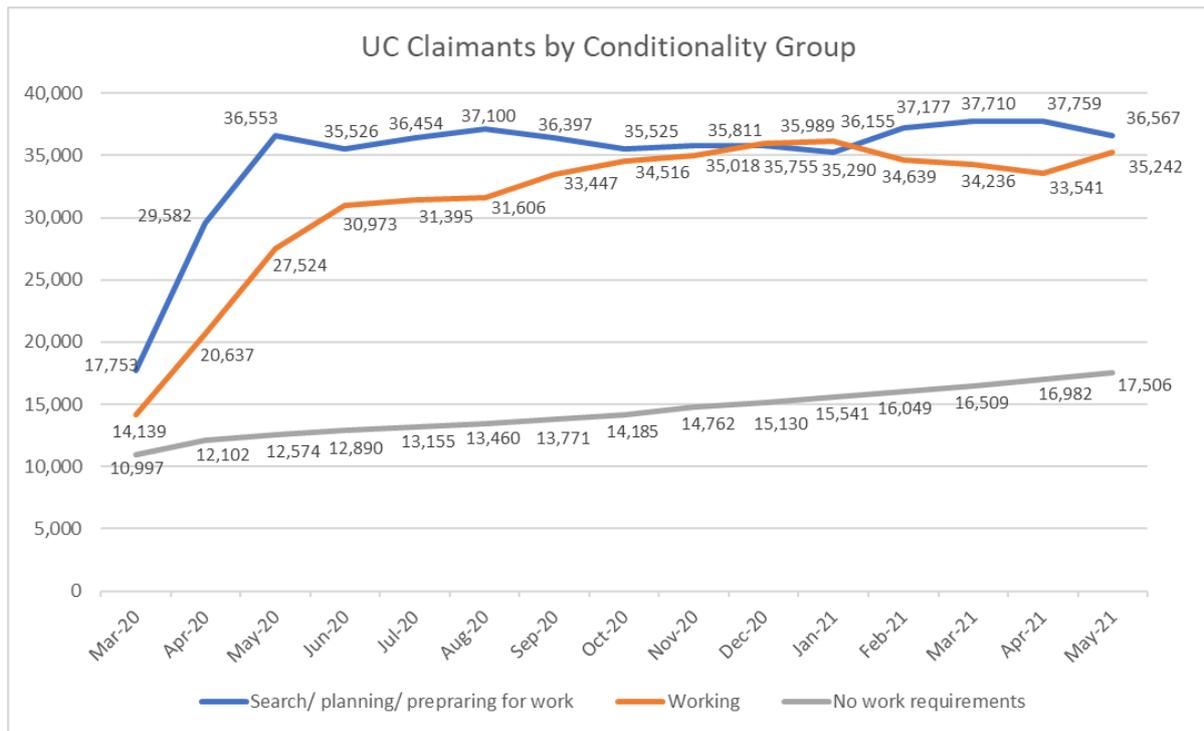


Figure 8 LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – May 2021  
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Search/ planning/ preparing for work	17,753	29,582	36,553	35,290	37,177	37,710	37,759	36,567
Working	14,139	20,637	27,524	36,155	34,639	34,236	33,541	35,242
No work requirements	10,997	12,102	12,574	15,541	16,049	16,509	16,982	17,506

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

### 3. 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 April 2021. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire area and can be compared with an England average.

Figures for April demonstrate that other than Leicester (which is in line with the average), local take-up is below average. In North West Leicestershire it was 9%.

The latest figures show a fall in the take up of the scheme in all the areas identified.

The government is set to continue to keep paying 80 percent of furloughed workers' wages until September 2021.

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

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

Figure 9 and Table 3 demonstrate the total employments on furlough as of the 30/04/2021.

### HMRC Furlough Statistics - overall numbers

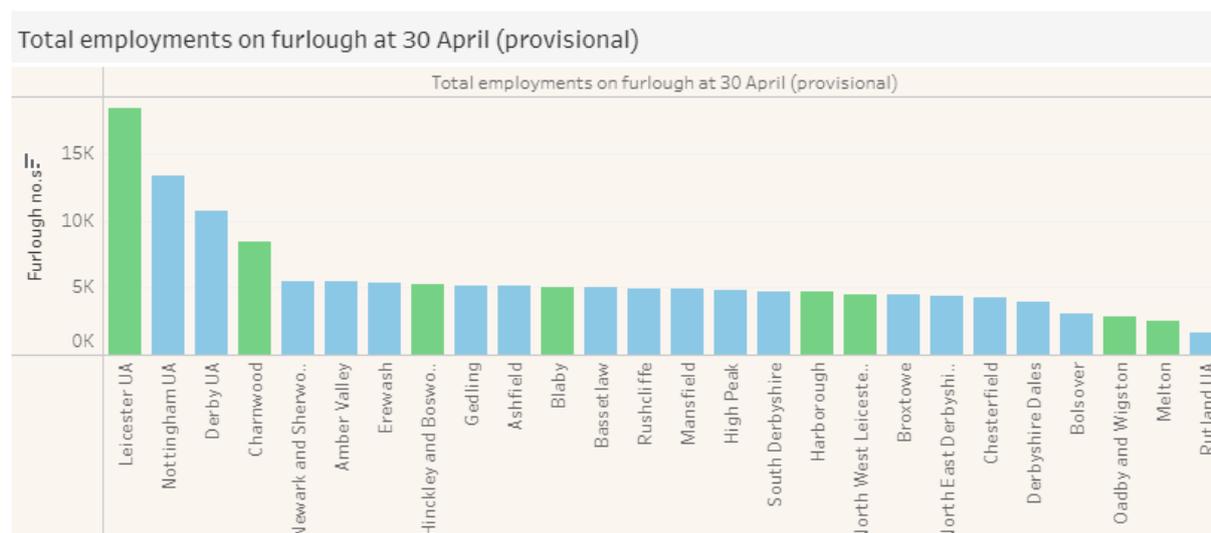


Figure 9 Total Employments Furloughed at 3) April 2021  
Source: HMRC

Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Leicester	Melton	NW Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston
5,000	8,500	4,700	5,300	18,400	2,500	4,500	2,900

Table 3. Total Employments Furloughed at 30 April 2021  
Source: HMRC

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

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

HMRC have published data on the numbers claiming support through the Self Employment Income Support Scheme.

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	6,400	2,500	3,600	2,200	2,600	1,100	2,100	1,200
Total potentially eligible population	11,600	5,100	7,500	5,000	5,400	2,700	4,600	2,300
Total take-up rate	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5

Table 4. 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.

## 5. 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 May 2021. These are compared with March 2020, May 2020 and April 2021. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

The unique Job posting figure for May 2021 is higher than May 2020 by 15,606 (38,050 compared to 22,444). This is a rise of 69.5%.

Over the last month the number of job postings grew from 35,486 to 38,050. This is a rise of 2,564 postings or 7.2%%.

In terms of numbers, over the last year there have been rises in job postings in all the occupation areas.

In the last month of the 25 occupation areas 2 saw falls in the number of job postings (Health Professionals and Business, Media and Public Service 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
- Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives,
- Elementary Administration and Service Occupations,

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	May 2020 Unique Postings	Apr 2021 Unique Postings	May 2021 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Growth Apr to May 2021	% Growth Apr to May 2021	Cumulative Growth from Mar 2020	Cumulative Growth % from Mar 2020
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,561	1,170	2,042	2,048	878	75.0	6	0.3	487	31.2
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	527	467	581	599	132	28.3	18	3.1	72	13.7
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,693	1,980	3,292	3,487	1,507	76.1	195	5.9	794	29.5
22	Health Professionals	1,787	1,664	1,982	1,923	259	15.6	(59)	-3.0	136	7.6
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,334	1,396	1,239	1,455	59	4.2	216	17.4	121	9.1
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,732	1,271	2,150	2,119	848	66.7	(31)	-1.4	387	22.3
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,385	987	1,666	1,785	798	80.9	119	7.1	400	28.9
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	372	305	366	446	141	46.2	80	21.9	74	19.9
33	Protective Service Occupations	29	7	51	58	51	728.6	7	13.7	29	100.0
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	412	280	344	410	130	46.4	66	19.2	(2)	(0.5)
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,601	2,952	4,955	5,158	2,206	74.7	203	4.1	557	12.1
41	Administrative Occupations	2,933	1,803	3,122	3,509	1,706	94.6	387	12.4	576	19.6
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	429	273	311	389	116	42.5	78	25.1	(40)	(9.3)
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	34	28	45	54	26	92.9	9	20.0	20	58.8
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,959	1,445	2,659	2,801	1,356	93.8	142	5.3	842	43.0
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	502	304	832	887	583	191.8	55	6.6	385	76.7
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	638	374	485	607	233	62.3	122	25.2	(31)	(4.9)
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,053	1,932	2,183	2,351	419	21.7	168	7.7	298	14.5
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	187	136	172	205	69	50.7	33	19.2	18	9.6
71	Sales Occupations	665	377	588	690	313	83.0	102	17.3	25	3.8
72	Customer Service Occupations	668	471	636	748	277	58.8	112	17.6	80	12.0
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	449	293	683	763	470	160.4	80	11.7	314	69.9
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,587	871	2,031	2,172	1,301	149.4	141	6.9	585	36.9
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	279	181	499	532	351	193.9	33	6.6	253	90.7
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,929	1,477	2,572	2,854	1,377	93.2	282	11.0	925	48.0
Total		30,745	22,444	35,486	38,050	15,606	69.5	2,564	7.2	7,305	23.8

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

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

Area	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Blaby	640	799	1,027	1,286	1,469	1,703	1,742	1,757	1,727	1,355	1,751	1,707	1,719
Charnwood	3,361	3,811	3,951	4,317	4,850	5,558	5,773	5,639	5,446	4,695	5,628	5,563	6,266
Harborough	1,598	1,592	1,890	2,114	2,487	2,756	2,561	2,308	2,209	1,828	2,409	2,435	2,648
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,615	1,889	2,138	2,465	2,728	3,115	3,211	2,997	2,880	2,574	3,450	3,856	4,186
Leicester	11,696	11,535	12,076	12,392	13,550	14,789	14,913	14,757	14,357	12,061	14,393	14,939	15,772
Leicestershire	10,745	12,061	13,422	15,307	17,271	19,348	19,756	18,766	18,247	15,522	19,970	20,547	22,278
Melton	888	916	976	1,050	1,199	1,309	1,288	1,115	1,112	950	1,173	1,286	1,379
North West Leicestershire	2,243	2,661	3,017	3,523	3,984	4,286	4,504	4,319	4,216	3,599	4,884	5,101	5,184
Oadby & Wigston	400	393	423	552	554	621	677	631	657	520	674	599	896
Total	22,441	23,596	25,498	27,699	30,821	34,137	34,669	33,523	32,604	27,583	34,363	35,486	38,050

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

Figure 10 provides an understanding of job postings for the Leicester and Leicestershire area from March 2020.

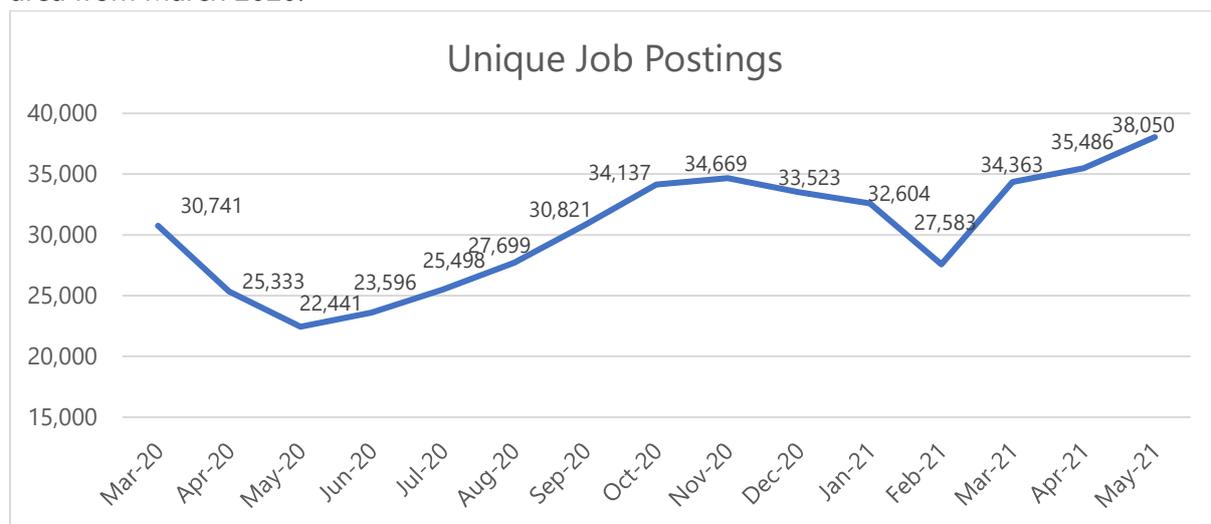


Figure 10 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings  
Source: EMSI

Figure 11 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. This demonstrates that Leicester has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

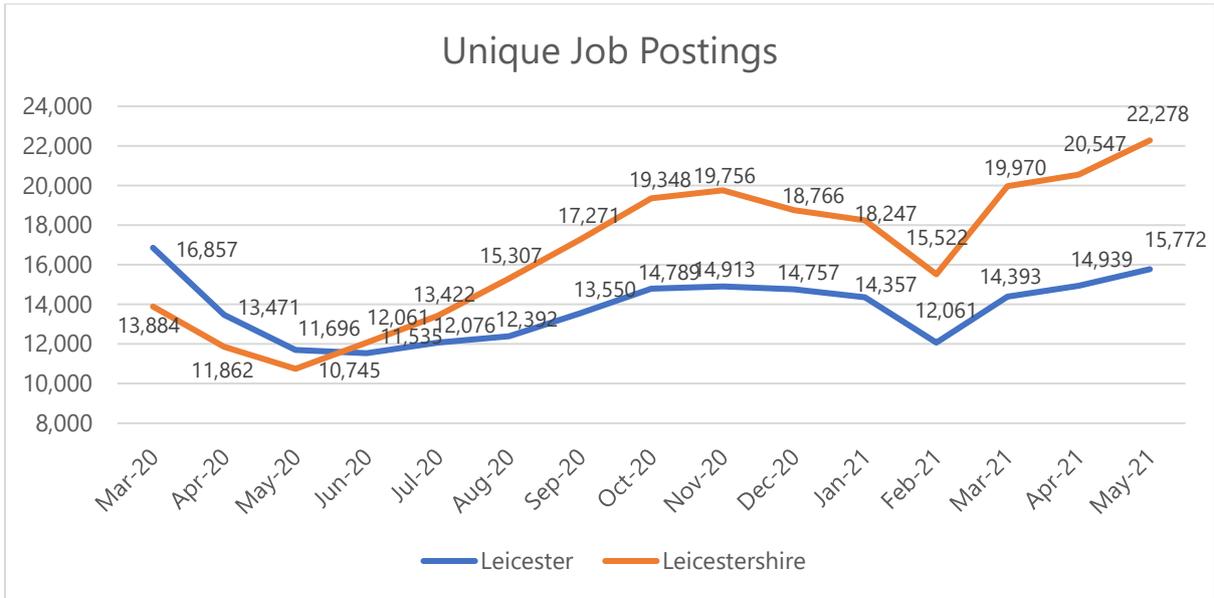


Figure 11 Leicester and Leicestershire Unique Job Postings  
Source: EMSI

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

## 6. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 10,103 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019/20 the number was 8,464. This is a difference of 1,639 business closures.

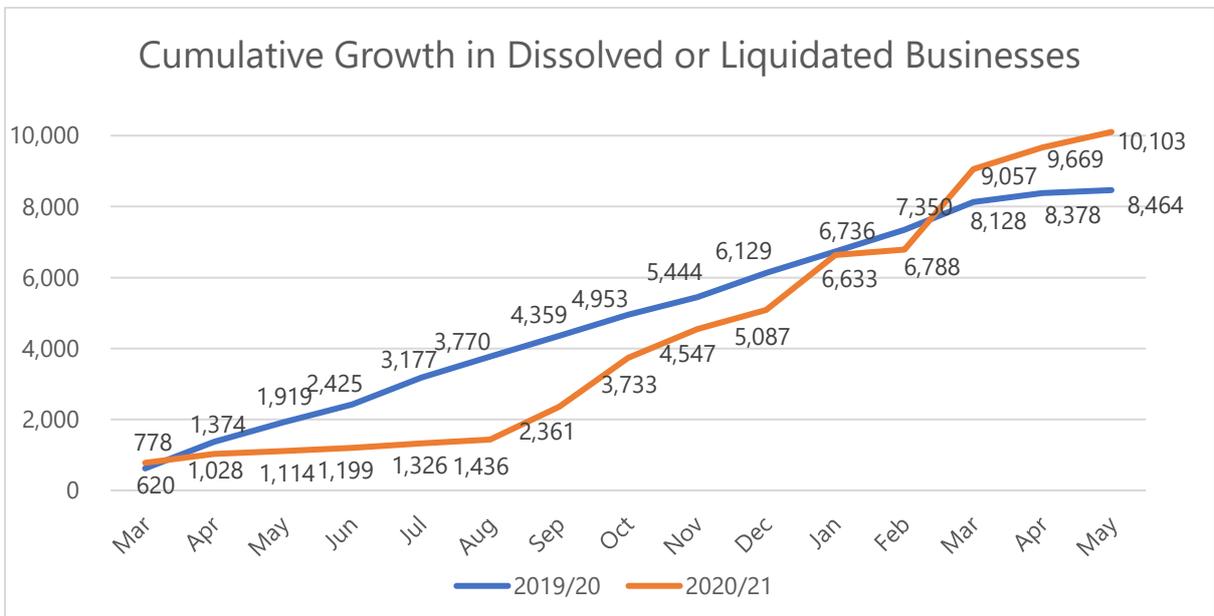


Figure 12 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

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 businesses failures. The rise in business failures reflected the proposed closure of measures that were brought in by the Government. However, these same measures were extended. Business failures went from a high of 1,372 in October to 814 in November. In December there was a further fall to 540. After a sharp increase in January (1,546) there was a steep fall in February (to 155). In March there was a significant rise to 2,251. The latest figure is 434. This along with the figure for April (610) mark falls in the number of business closures.

In 2021 there have been nearly 5,016 solved businesses. For the same period in 2020 the figure was nearly 2,335 and 2019 4,446.

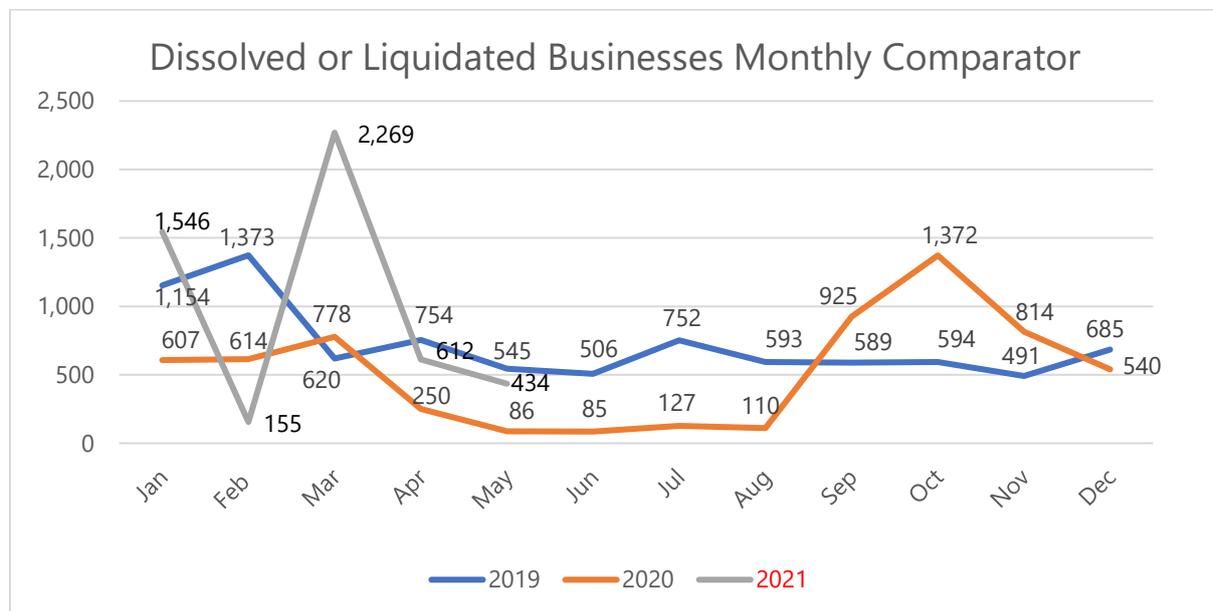


Figure 13 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 14,760 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019/20 13,668 businesses were incorporated. This is a difference of 1,072.

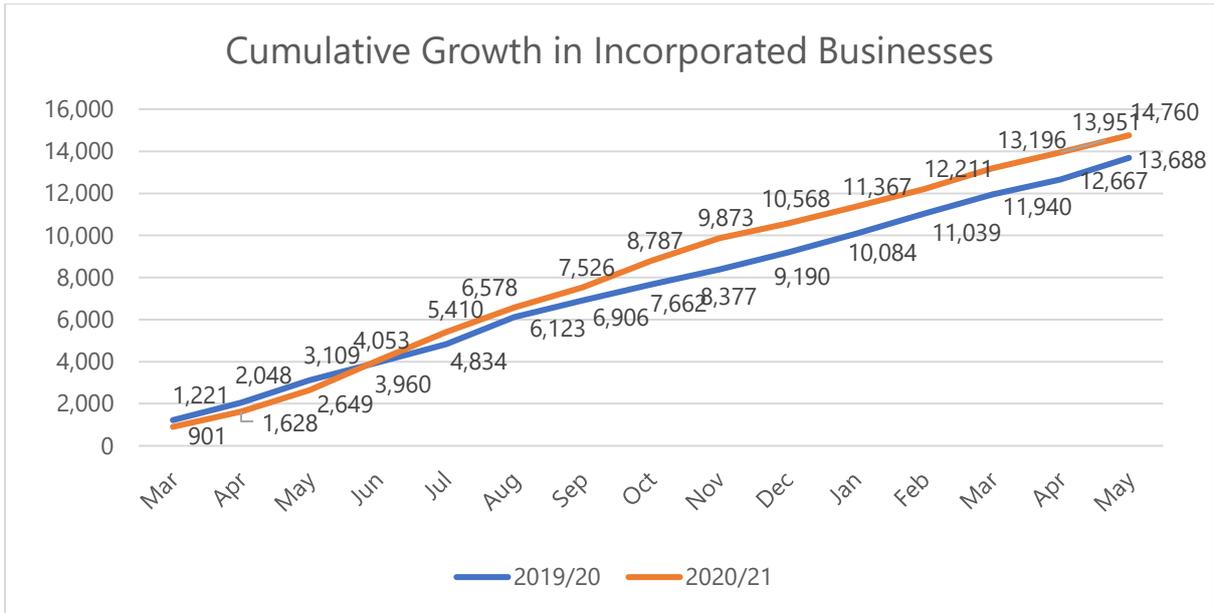


Figure 14 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

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 figures have remained static. The latest figure (May 2021) is 809. This is below the figure for the same period in 2020 and 2019.

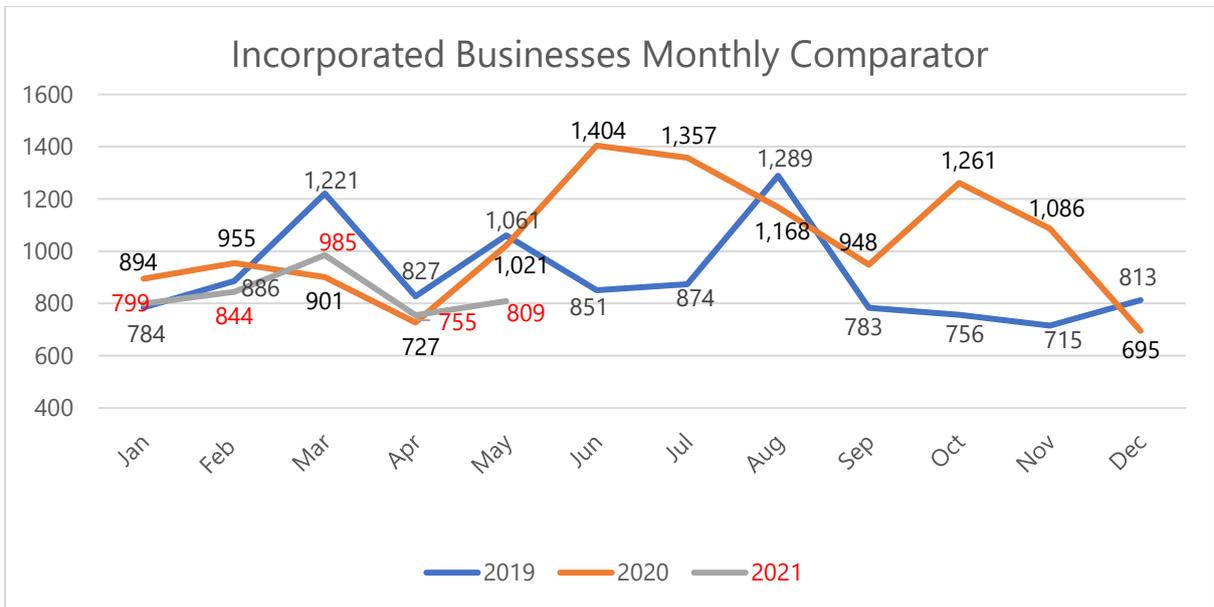


Figure 15 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator  
Source: BVD Fame

Table 7 demonstrates those sectors where there have been more than 10 business failures. For these same sectors the table also demonstrates the number of incorporations. Data contained in Table 7 is for May 2021. The data also helps to provide an understanding of the impact of the pandemic on business and how different sectors are reacting to it.

	Dissolved	%	Incorporated	%
47 : Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110	13.6	35	8.1
68 : Real estate activities	91	11.2	14	3.2
56 : Food and beverage service activities	70	8.7	14	3.2
43 : Specialised construction activities	48	5.9	24	5.5
46 : Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	37	4.6	23	5.3
41 : Construction of buildings	35	4.3	11	2.5
49 : Land transport and transport via pipelines	34	4.2	16	3.7
86 : Human health activities	29	3.6	10	2.3
96 : Other personal service activities	25	3.1	18	4.1
64 : Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	21	2.6	4	0.9
85 : Education	21	2.6	5	1.2
70 : Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	20	2.5	28	6.5
62 : Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	18	2.2	54	12.4
74 : Other professional, scientific and technical activities	17	2.1	17	3.9
82 : Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	17	2.1	30	6.9
45 : Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16	2.0	6	1.4
81 : Services to buildings and landscape activities	13	1.6	2	0.5
87 : Residential care activities	12	1.5	4	0.9
93 : Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	11	1.4	6	1.4

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

Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 17/06/2021 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

### 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.

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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.*