Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership

LLEP Business and Economic Intelligence Update

Issue 23 – 24 August 2021

Contents

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

Government strategy to regenerate high streets – The government's long-term plan to support the evolution and regeneration of high streets has been launched.

Councils in England will be given the power to transform towns, taking over derelict buildings through compulsory purchase orders so they can be converted into new homes if property owners stall on regeneration plans. Councils will also be encouraged to use existing powers to convert empty offices into housing, empty shops will be transformed into entertainment venues or new businesses without the need for planning permission.

New hospitality strategy to help pubs, bars and restaurants build back better from the pandemic - A new strategy to ensure England's pubs, bars, restaurants, and other hospitality venues can thrive long-term has been launched.

To support the reopening of the industry the strategy sets out measures including highlighting opportunities in the hospitality industry to jobseekers through the DWP's dedicated work coaches and helping the sector address current recruitment challenges.

New £375 million scheme to drive investment in innovative firms of the future opens for applications **-** Under the UK- wide Future Fund Breakthrough Scheme the government will commit £375 million of funding to fast-growing firms looking to raise at least £30 million of investment.

The scheme will span across industries including life sciences, quantum computing and clean technology and accelerate the deployment of breakthrough innovations that could solve some of society's greatest challenges – from developing life-saving new medicines to technologies that support the UK's transition to net zero. It is part of the government's investment in research and development to help build a future economy and create skilled jobs.

New £53 million funding for UK manufacturers to boost competitiveness through digital tech – Five brand new digital manufacturing research centres and projects to help supply chains become more productive are among recipients of £53 million of new government funding to drive the development of the latest digital manufacturing technologies.

The funding has been awarded though the national Made Smarter Programme, a collaboration between UK government and industry designed to support the development and increase use of these emerging technologies. Adoption of the latest data-driven innovations, such as the use of AI and blockchain in supply chains, or advanced robotics and smart machines in manufacturing, will help manufacturers to increase productivity and become more sustainable.

UK Space industry to benefit from new £1.5 million fund for pioneering space tech - The funding call from the UK Space Agency's Space Exploration programme, invites the space sector to bid for up to £500,000 to boost technology that will support and advance robotic and human exploration of Low Earth Orbit, the Moon, and Mars.

£1.5 million invested for CBR robotics and AI research - Dstl is exploring the potential for cutting-edge autonomous robotic solutions to detect life threatening chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) hazards.

Business growth scheme open to next group of space entrepreneurs - A pioneering programme to help firms find their place in space has given a total of 31 businesses a

£900,000 boost and created new jobs - and the search is now on to find the next group of entrepreneurs.

Twenty businesses will be supported on the next phase of the Leo Programme, a free six-month accelerator run by the UK Space Agency and powered by Entrepreneurial Spark, where they will get access to tailored, specialist online and in-person support from space industry and business growth experts.

The government seeks views on the National Skills Fund - The National Skills Fund will help adults gain skills and improve their job prospects. It will also support the immediate economic recovery and future skills-needs by boosting the supply of skills that employers need.

The consultation also requests views on meeting critical skills needs.

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.

Coronavirus and its impact on UK hospitality: January 2020 to June 2021 - Analysis of the hospitality sector during coronavirus (COVID-19) with a focus on the most recent easing of restrictions in spring 2021. Includes details of how the sector has performed and the future of employment in hospitality.

Research and development (R&D) pipeline - This report sets out the UK position on R&D personnel in 2020 and considers what changes in demand and supply of R&D skills may arise from recent world events and UK policy responses.

Statistical Digest of Rural England - The Statistical Digest of Rural Statistics is a collection of statistics on a range of social and economic subject areas. The statistics are split by rural and urban areas, allowing for comparisons between the different rural and urban area classifications. The Digest includes high level statistics which present an overall picture for England. However, there is likely to be variation in individual towns, villages, and hamlets

Retail sales, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)- A national estimate of retail sales in volume and value terms. Data is for June sales figures and is provided as a whole and by sector (food, non-food, automotive fuels, on-line etc.).

The impacts of EU exit and coronavirus (COVID-19) on UK trade in services: July 2021 - An analysis of UK trade in services in the context of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the end of the EU transition period on 31 December 2020.

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics: 29 July 2021](#) - Time series and statistics as at 30 June 2021 on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, with analysis by scheme size, sector, geography, age, gender, and flexible furlough.

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)](#)- The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and other events on UK businesses and the economy. Based on responses from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience.

[UK manufacturers' sales by product: 2020 results](#) - Estimates for UK manufacturers' sales by product (ProdCom) for 2020, including 2019 final sales data.

[Coronavirus and the impact on output in the UK economy: June 2021](#) - Analysis of growth for the production, services, and construction industries in the UK economy between February 2020 to June 2021, highlighting the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 12 August 2021](#) - Early experimental data and analysis on economic activity and social change in the UK. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and experimental methods.

2. Claimant Count

In July 2021 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 4.5%. This translates to 29,990 claimants. In June the figure was 4.5% (30,255). At a national level the claimant rate in England was 5.5%. 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 6.9% and Leicestershire 3.2%. This is a difference of 3.7 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.4 percentage points higher than the England average (5.5%).

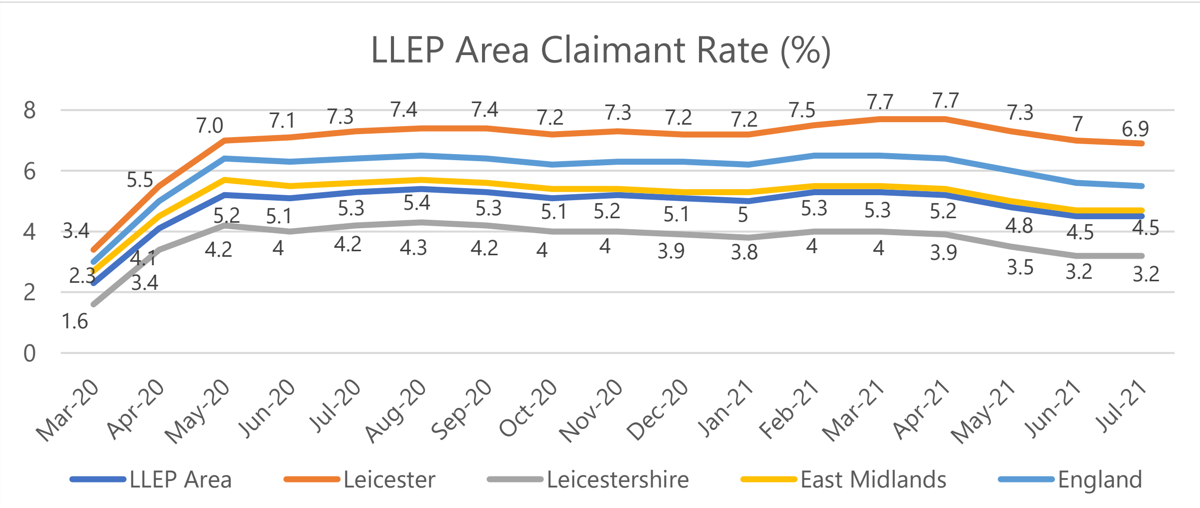

Figure 1 LLEP Area Claimant Rate (%) March 20 – July 2021
Source: ONS

Of the 29,990 claimants over half (53.8% or 16,125) were based in Leicester.

In March 2020 the claimant rate was 2.3% (or 15,145). Between March 2020 and the end of July 2021 the claimant rate increased by 2.2 percentage points to 4.5% (29,990). This translates to an additional 14,845 claimants or a percentage increase of 98%.

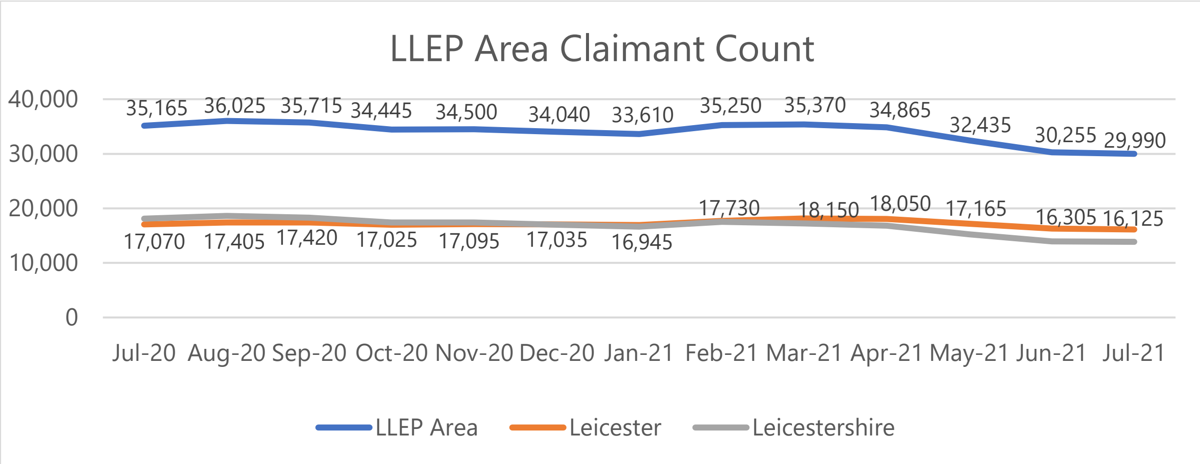

Figure 2 LLEP Area Claimant Count July 2020 - July 2021
Source: ONS

In the Leicester and Leicestershire area over the period March to August 2020 the number of claimants grew from 15,145 to 36,025. This was a rise of 20,880 claimants or 138%. When comparing the figures for August 2020 and July 2021 against those for March 2020 the difference has fallen from 20,880 to 14,845. This is a significant fall in claimants (6,035). Since March of this year the number of claimants has fallen by 5,380.

Despite recent falls (March onwards) since the initial rises in claimants last year, the claimant rate had been relatively static. The initial shock and uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus continues and 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.

Figure 10 later in the report demonstrates the claimant rate over the period January 2019 to July 2021, the number of unique job postings and business closures (for the same period) and the total number of eligible staff that have been furloughed (July 2020 to June 2021).

The pandemic has affected all age groups. Figures for July 2021 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 18-24 years olds (5.1%) who were claimants than 25-49 years olds (5%) and claimants that were 50 and over (3.6%). Nationally the claimant rates were significantly higher for 18-24 years olds (7.3%), 25-49 years olds (6.1%) and those who are 50 and over (4.3%).

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

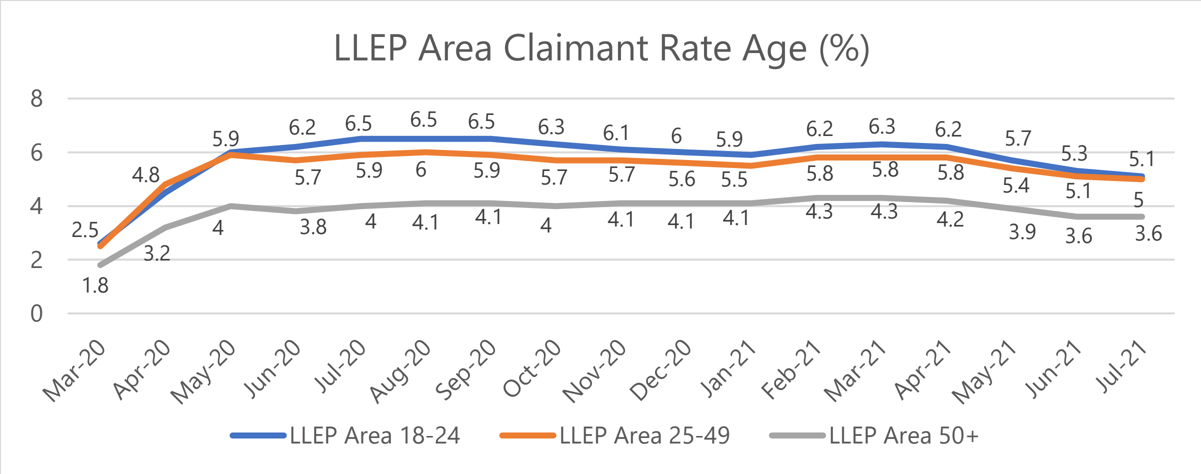

Figure 3 LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Age (%) March 2020 – July 2021
Source: ONS

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

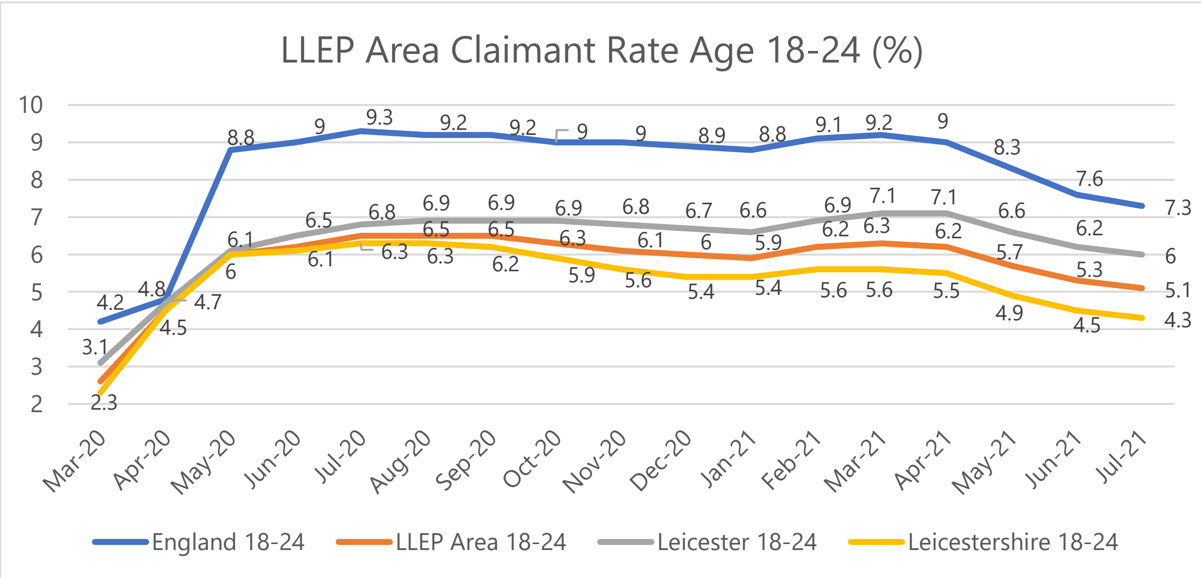

Figure 4 LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Claimants Aged 18-24 (%) March 2020 – July 2021
Source: ONS

Seventeen thousand three hundred and ninety-five (58%) claimants were male and 12,595 (42%) were female.

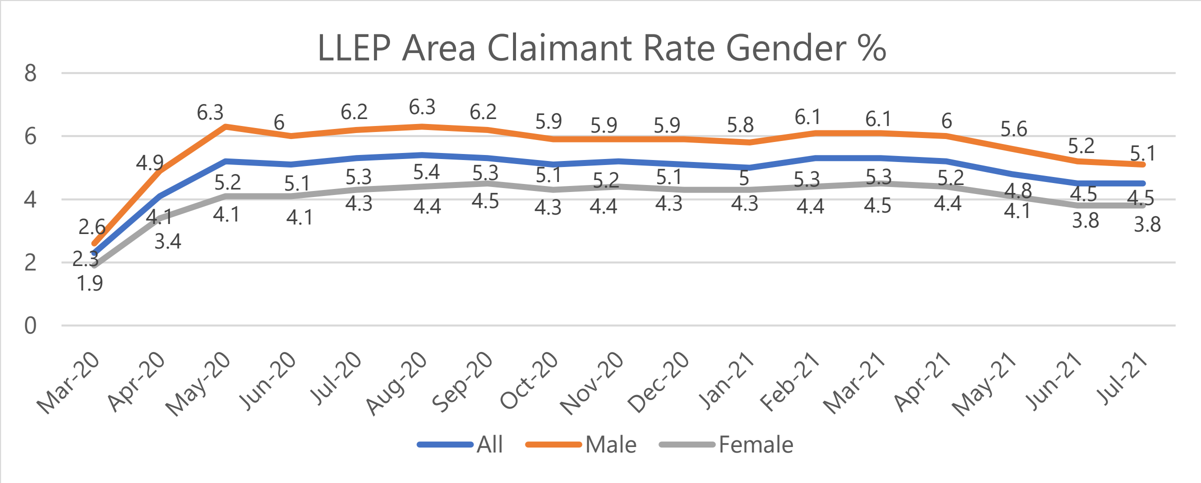

Figure 5 LLEP Area Claimant Rate by Gender (%) March 2020 - July 2021
Source: ONS

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

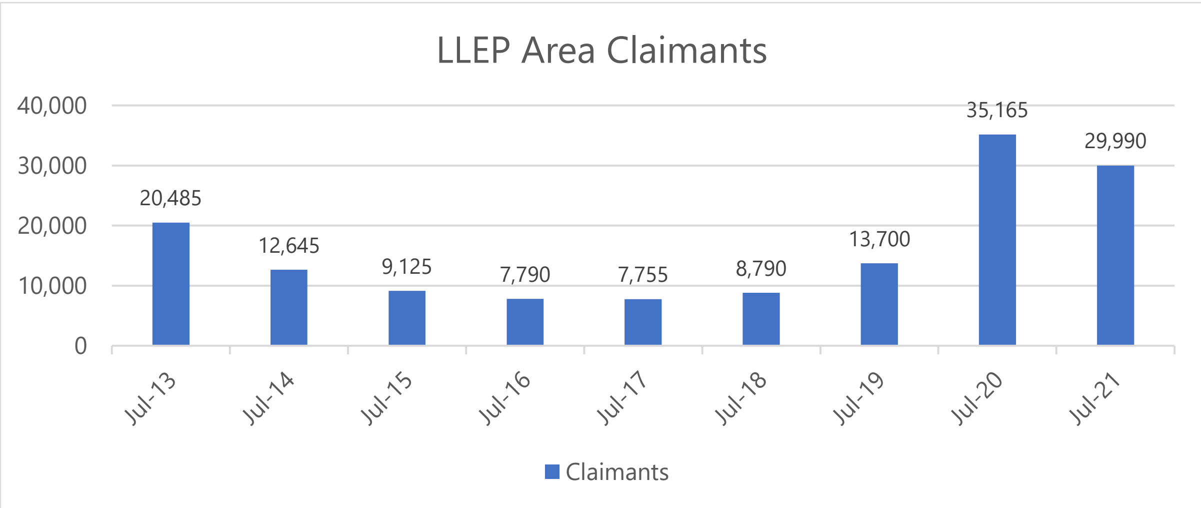

Figure 6 LLEP Area Claimant Count July 2013 – July 2021
Source: ONS

The figure below demonstrates claimant rates at a district level.

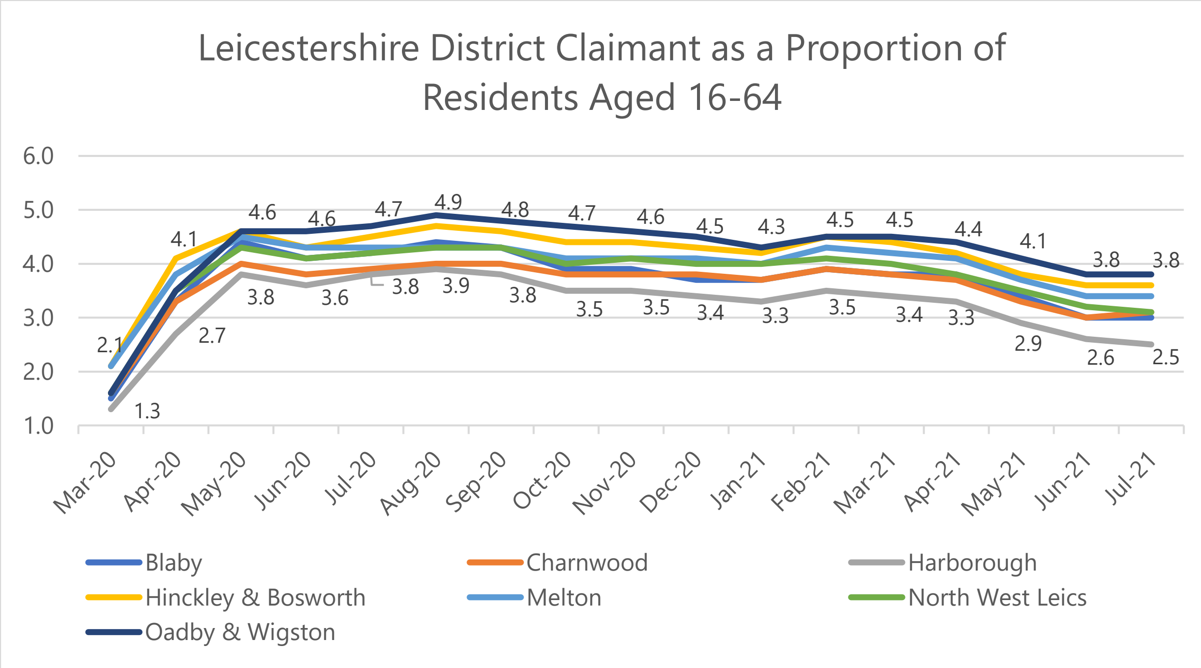

Figure 7 District Claimant Share of Working Age Residents March 2020 – July 2021
Source: ONS

Note: It must be noted that July 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. At 34,012 those searching, planning, or preparing for work in July 2021 have become smaller over the last month (June to July) whereas 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 nearly tripling during the period. In March 2020 the figure was 10,997 and in July 2021 it was 18,409.

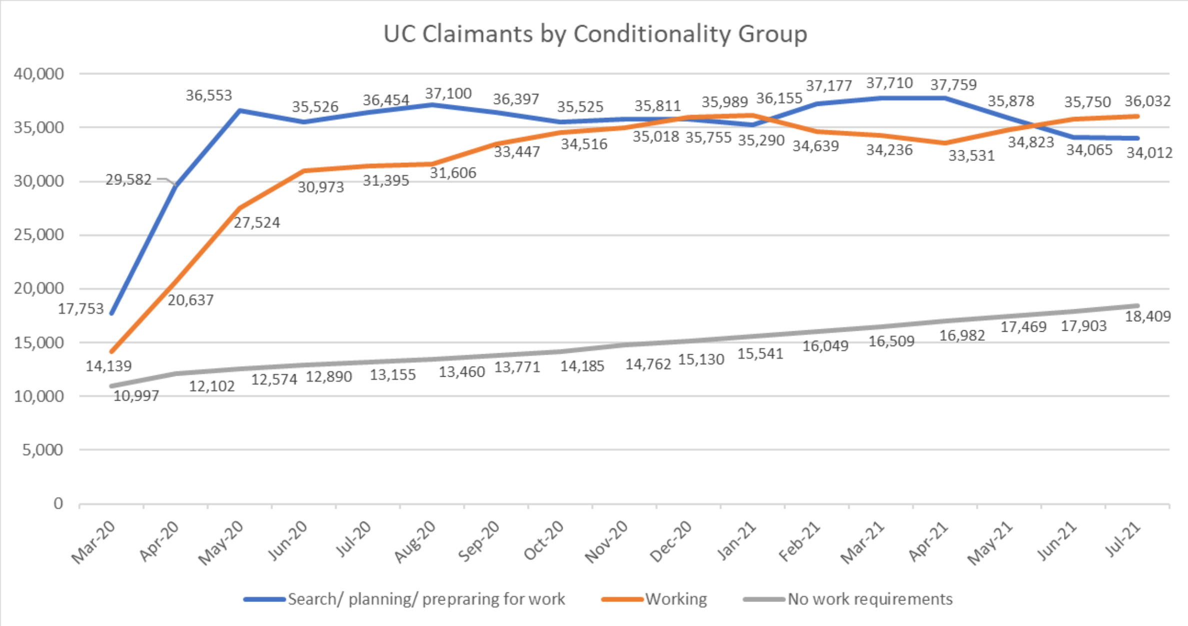

Figure 8 LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – July 2021
Source: DWP via Stat-Xplore

	Mar-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21
Search/ planning/ preparing for work	17,753	35,526	36,454	35,290	37,177	37,710	37,759	35,878	34,065	34,012
Working	14,139	30,973	31,395	36,155	34,639	34,236	33,531	34,823	35,750	36,032
No work requirements	10,997	12,890	13,155	15,541	16,049	16,509	16,982	17,469	17,903	18,409

Table 1: *LLEP Area Universal Credit Claimant Count by Conditionality Group March 2020 – July 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 June 2021. Data is available for areas contained within the Leicester and Leicestershire geography and can be compared with the England average.

Figures for June 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	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20
Blaby	17%	13%	9%	8%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%	11%	8%	6%
Charnwood	17%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	14%	11%	8%	6%
England	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	13%	15%	15%	15%	11%	8%	7%
Harborough	17%	13%	10%	8%	13%	13%	15%	15%	14%	11%	8%	7%
Hinckley & Bosworth	16%	12%	9%	7%	11%	12%	14%	14%	13%	10%	8%	6%
Leicester	17%	12%	9%	7%	13%	14%	15%	15%	15%	12%	9%	8%
Melton	16%	12%	9%	7%	12%	12%	15%	15%	13%	11%	8%	6%
NW Leicestershire	16%	11%	8%	7%	11%	10%	13%	13%	12%	9%	7%	5%
Oadby & Wigston	18%	13%	10%	8%	12%	13%	15%	15%	14%	12%	9%	8%

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

Figure 9 and Table 3 demonstrate the total employments on furlough as of the 30/06/2021.

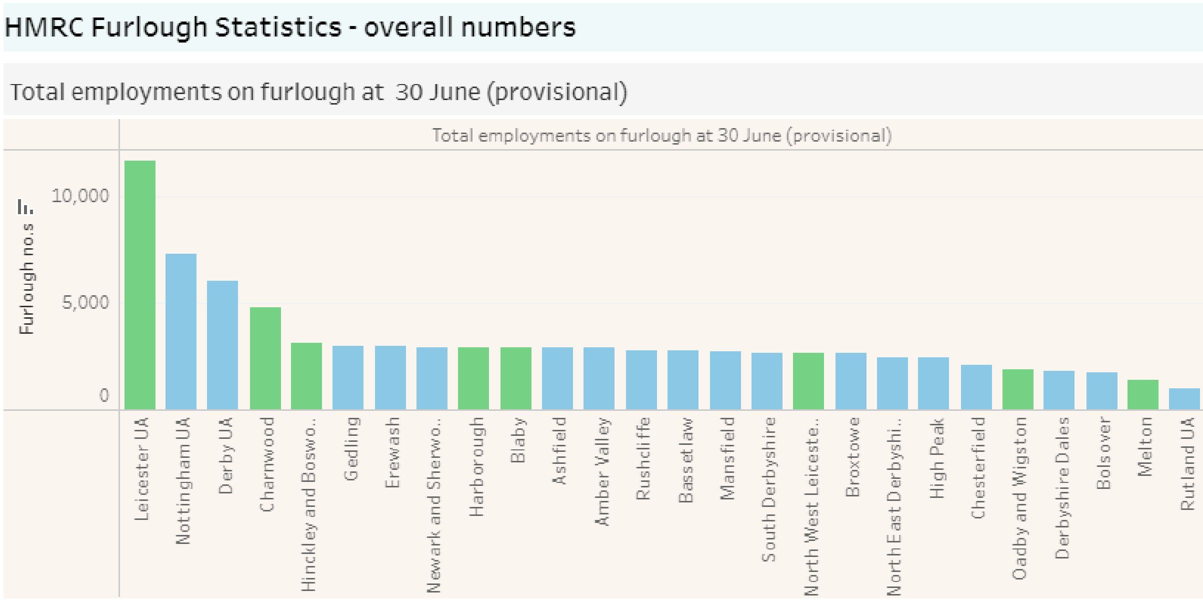

Figure 9 Total Employments Furloughed at 30 June 2021
Source: HMRC

Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Leicester	Melton	NW Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston
2,900	4,800	2,900	3,100	11,600	1,400	2,600	1,900

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

For more detail including East Midlands comparators see the **Furloughed Staff Dashboard** on the LSR Portal.

5. Relationships

Figure 10 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 2019 onwards. It also demonstrates how the relationship between these has changed.

Traditionally there have been significantly more job postings than claimants. This was the case until March 2020 when the effects of the Coronavirus began to impact 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 period there was a significant fall in the number of unique job postings. From March the number of job postings fell below the number of claimants and this was the case until October of 2020.

As a result of the pandemic the government introduced measures such as the as the Job Retention Scheme to lessen the impact on business and the workforce. This led to fewer than expected business closures and the claimant count levelling off. Some argue that this has been a means of putting off the inevitable and that there will be further closures and rises in claimants when measures end.

From October to March with a few exceptions the number of unique job postings was in line with the number of claimants. This change in the relationship between claimants and postings has had a direct impact on moving people into work, during this period, there were more than twice the claimants than there were in March 2020 wishing to access those opportunities presented through unique job postings.

There has been good news and that is that the number of claimants since April 2021 has fallen below the number of job postings. Latest figures (July) demonstrate that this continues to be the case. There also continues to be growth in the number of unique postings. Latest figures show that there were 10,651 more job postings than claimants (figures to be revised). The rise in unique job postings may be partly because of those skills shortages in the workforce.

There is however still uncertainty in relation to the impact of the closure of the governments Job Retention Scheme.

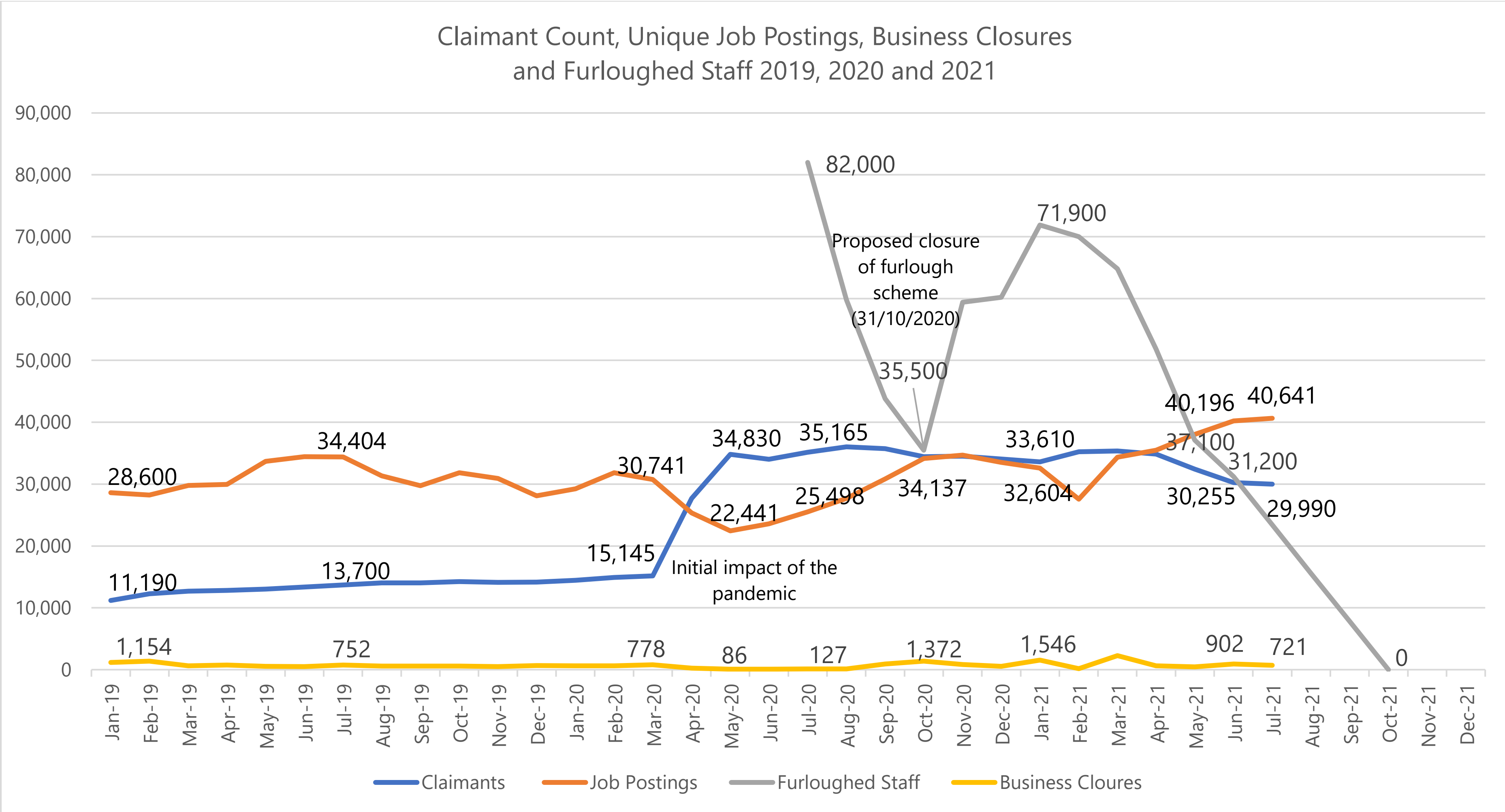

Figure 10: Monthly Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings, Business Closures and Total Number of Eligible Staff Furloughed January 2019 Onwards
Source: ONS Claimant Count, EMSI Unique job Postings, BVD Fame Business Closures and HMRC Job Retention Scheme

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

Figure 11 builds upon Figure 10 by concentrating on the year 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 10 Figure 11 diarises key dates in the withdrawal of funding (Job Retention scheme) and demonstrates the size of those reductions.

Up until the end of June the scheme ensured that the staff of eligible businesses 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 the scheme ends.

The withdrawal of the Job Retention Scheme translates to a 20% funding reduction by the government over a three-month period (July to September). This will be followed by an automatic reduction of 60%, when the scheme ends. For some businesses this may be a cliff edge and may result in business closure, staff being laid off and claimant numbers rising. It must also be noted that the Self Employment Income Support Scheme will also close at the end of September.

Figures for July demonstrate that the reduction of the government's contribution to the furlough scheme to 70% has thus far had no visible effects. The number of job postings continues to rise, the number of claimants fell, and the number of business failures has fallen when compared to last month's figure. However, the rise in the number of unique job postings and the fall in claimants appears to have slowed when comparing figures for June and July.

Trying to understand how the economy will perform past the summer will be difficult. The restarting of the economy will mean different things to different businesses. 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.

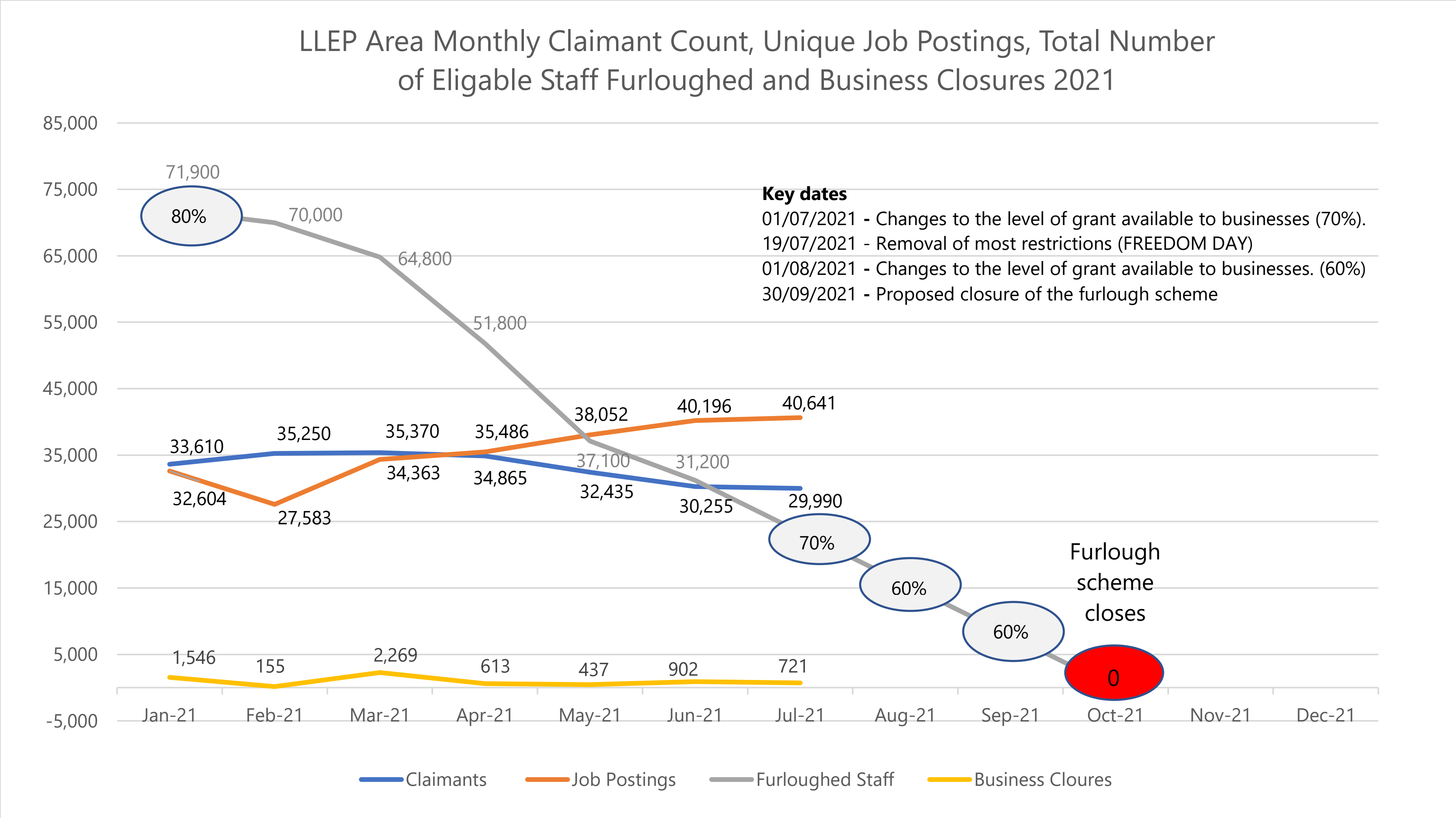

Figure 11: Monthly Claimant Count, Unique Job Postings, Business Closures and Total Number of Eligible Staff Furloughed January 2021 Onwards
Source: ONS Claimant Count, EMSI Unique job Postings, BVD Fame Business Closures and HMRC Job Retention Scheme

Note: Latest figures for the Job Retention Scheme relate to June 2021. Later figures are calculated based on the June 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 06/06/2021.

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 to 06/06/21	7,400	2,900	4,200	2,600	2,900	1,300	2,500	1,400
Total potentially eligible population	11,600	5,100	7,600	5,100	5,500	2,700	4,600	2,300
Total take-up rate	64%	57%	55%	51%	54%	47%	53%	60%

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 July 2021. These are compared with March 2020, July 2020, and June 2021. Standard Occupation Codes are at a two-digit level.

The unique job posting figure for July 2021 is higher than July 2020 by 15,151 (40,641 compared to 25,490). This is a rise of 59.4%

Over the last month the number of job postings grew from 40,196 to 40,641. This is a rise of 445 postings or 1.1%.

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 8 saw falls in job postings. The largest fall was for Teaching and Educational Professionals. This fell by 202 unique job postings (or 15.4%).

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

These same occupation areas were also those that had the largest number of unique job postings. Other occupation areas where there were large concentrations of job postings were:

- Corporate Managers and Directors
- Health Professionals
- Business, Media, and Public Service Professionals
- Caring Personal Service Occupations
- Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives

2 Digit SOC	Occupation	Mar 2020 Unique Postings	July 2020 Unique Postings	June 2021 Unique Postings	July 2021 Unique Postings	Annual Growth	Annual Growth %	Monthly Growth Jun to Jul 2021	Monthly % Growth Jun to Jul 2021	Cumulative Growth from Mar 2020	Cumulative Growth % from Mar 2020
11	Corporate Managers and Directors	1,561	1,389	2,150	2,191	802	57.7	41	1.9	630	40.4
12	Other Managers and Proprietors	527	507	661	697	190	37.5	36	5.4	170	32.3
21	Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	2,693	2,110	3,486	3,386	1,276	60.5	(100)	-2.9	693	25.7
22	Health Professionals	1,787	1,717	2,042	2,052	335	19.5	10	0.5	265	14.8
23	Teaching and Educational Professionals	1,334	1,172	1,314	1,112	(60)	-5.1	(202)	-15.4	(222)	(16.6)
24	Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	1,732	1,505	2,121	2,144	639	42.5	23	1.1	412	23.8
31	Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	1,385	1,139	1,869	1,896	757	66.5	27	1.4	511	36.9
32	Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	372	362	466	508	146	40.3	42	9.0	136	36.6
33	Protective Service Occupations	29	18	44	46	28	155.6	2	4.5	17	58.6
34	Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	412	292	424	412	120	41.1	(12)	-2.8	0	0.0
35	Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	4,601	3,439	5,402	5,486	2,047	59.5	84	1.6	885	19.2
41	Administrative Occupations	2,933	2,084	3,740	3,897	1,813	87.0	157	4.2	964	32.9
42	Secretarial and Related Occupations	429	305	429	466	161	52.8	37	8.6	37	8.6
51	Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	34	36	65	46	10	27.8	(19)	-29.2	12	35.3
52	Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	1,959	1,642	2,994	3,127	1,485	90.4	133	4.4	1,168	59.6
53	Skilled Construction and Building Trades	502	476	818	842	366	76.9	24	2.9	340	67.7
54	Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	638	393	747	748	355	90.3	1	0.1	110	17.2
61	Caring Personal Service Occupations	2,053	1,877	2,560	2,586	709	37.8	26	1.0	533	26.0
62	Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	187	139	236	233	94	67.6	(3)	-1.3	46	24.6
71	Sales Occupations	665	447	757	788	341	76.3	31	4.1	123	18.5
72	Customer Service Occupations	668	508	823	854	346	68.1	31	3.8	186	27.8
81	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	449	406	838	791	385	94.8	(47)	-5.6	342	76.2
82	Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	1,587	1,404	2,345	2,303	899	64.0	(42)	-1.8	716	45.1
91	Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	279	276	589	565	289	104.7	(24)	-4.1	286	102.5
92	Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1,929	1,847	3,276	3,465	1,618	87.6	189	5.8	1,536	79.6
Total		30,745	25,490	40,196	40,641	15,151	59.4	445	1.1	9,896	32.2

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 July 2020. Figures for all the areas identified are higher this year (July) than last year.

Area	Jul-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21
Blaby	1,027	1,727	1,355	1,751	1,707	1,719	1,763	1,781
Charnwood	3,951	5,446	4,695	5,628	5,563	6,266	6,543	6,916
Harborough	1,890	2,209	1,828	2,409	2,435	2,648	2,874	3,263
Hinckley & Bosworth	2,138	2,880	2,574	3,450	3,856	4,185	4,330	3,961
Leicester	12,076	14,357	12,061	14,393	14,939	15,772	16,179	16,431
Leicestershire	13,422	18,247	15,522	19,970	20,547	22,280	24,017	24,210
Melton	976	1,112	950	1,173	1,286	1,379	1,455	1,536
North West Leicestershire	3,017	4,216	3,599	4,884	5,101	5,187	5,997	5,977
Oadby & Wigston	423	657	520	674	599	896	1,055	776
Total	25,498	32,604	27,583	34,363	35,486	38,052	40,196	40,641

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

Figure 12 provides and understanding of job postings for the Leicester and Leicestershire area from March 2020.

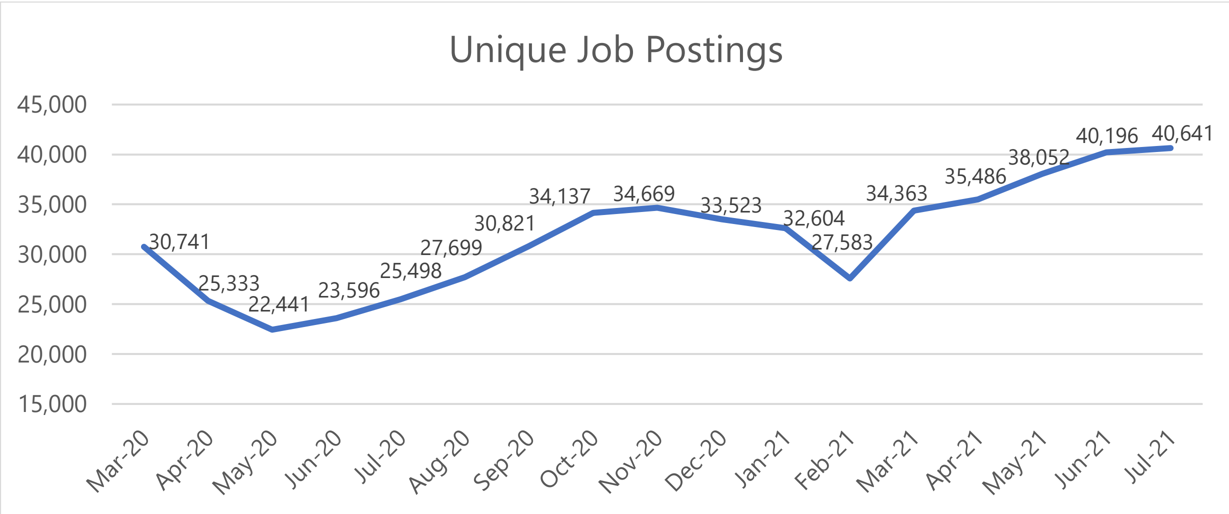

Figure 12 LLEP Area Unique Job Postings March 2020 to July 2021
Source: EMSI

Despite unique job postings being higher in July 2021 than pre pandemic figures in the Leicester and Leicestershire area, Figure 13 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.

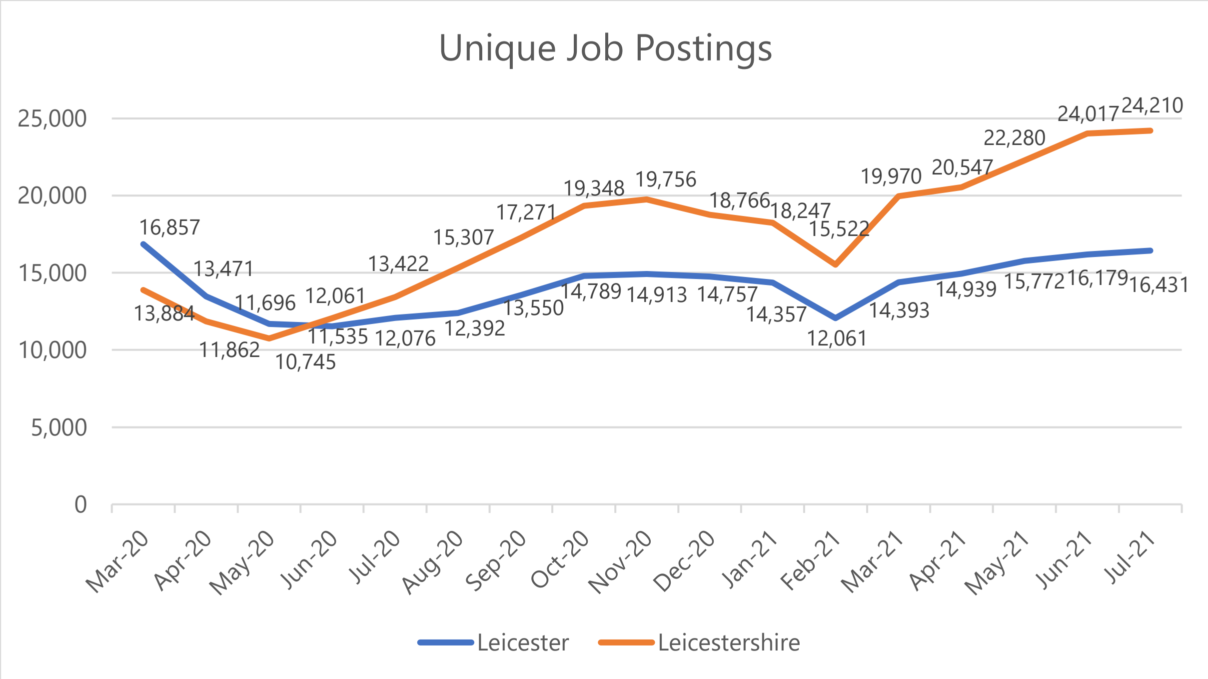

Figure13 Leicester and Leicestershire Unique Job Postings March 2020 to July 2021
Source: EMSI

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

8. Business Closures and Incorporations

Since the start of March 2020, 11,730 businesses have ceased trading in the Leicester and Leicestershire area. For the same period in 2019/20 the number was 8,676. This is a difference of 3,054 business closures.

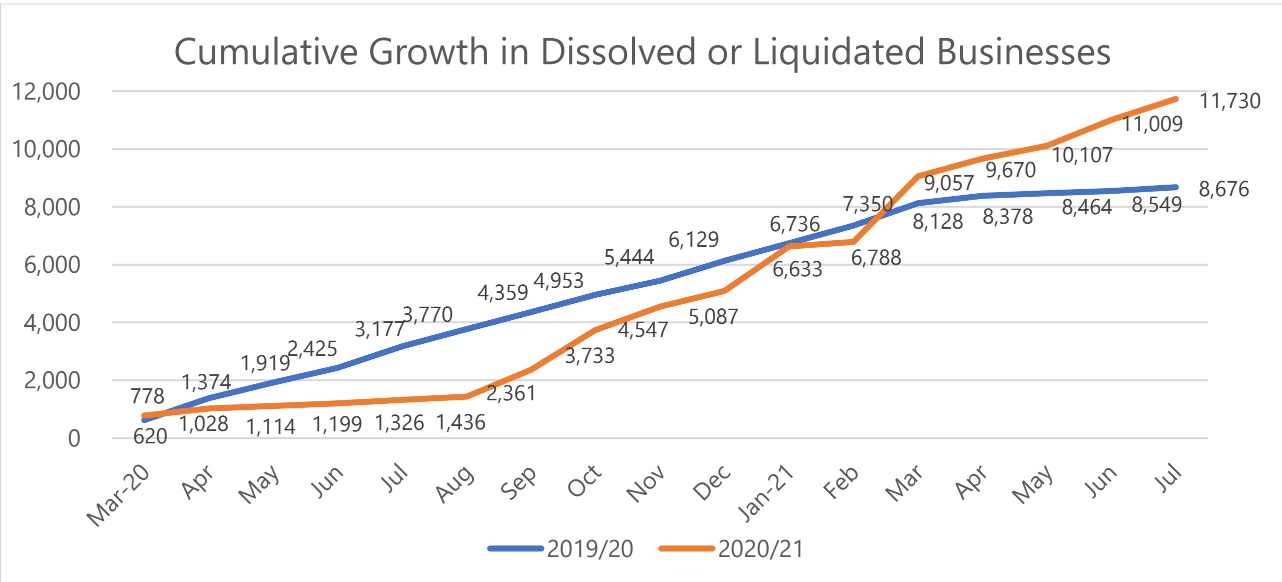

Figure 14 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated Businesses Comparator March 2020 – July 2021
Source: BVD Fame

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 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, 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 (figures may have been carried over from February). Figures for April and May demonstrated falls in closures. In June there was a further rise. The figure for July is 721. In July 2020 the figure was 127 and 2019 752.

In 2021 (to the end of July 2021) there have been 6,643 solved businesses. For the same period in 2020 the figure was 2,547 and 2019 5,704. To date closures in 2021 are higher than in 2019 and 2020.

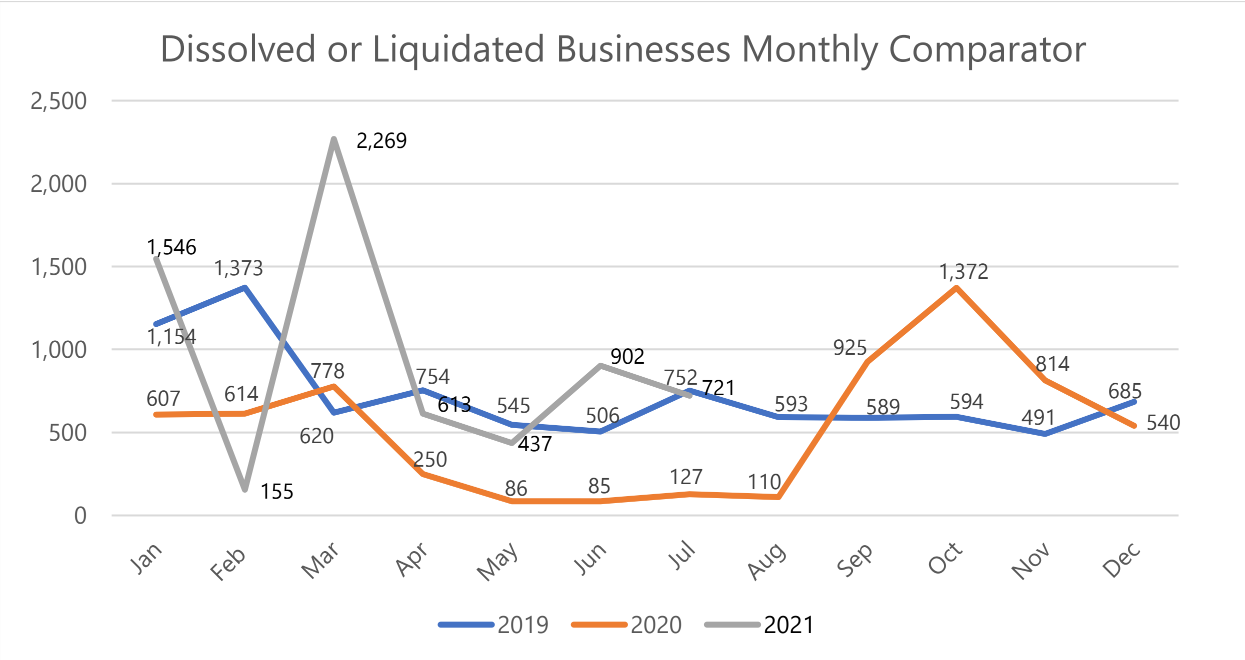

Figure 15 LLEP Areas Dissolved and Liquidated Businesses Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

Since the beginning of March 2020 16,053 businesses have been incorporated within the Leicester and Leicestershire area. Over the same period in 2019/20, 16,472 businesses were incorporated. This is a difference of 419.

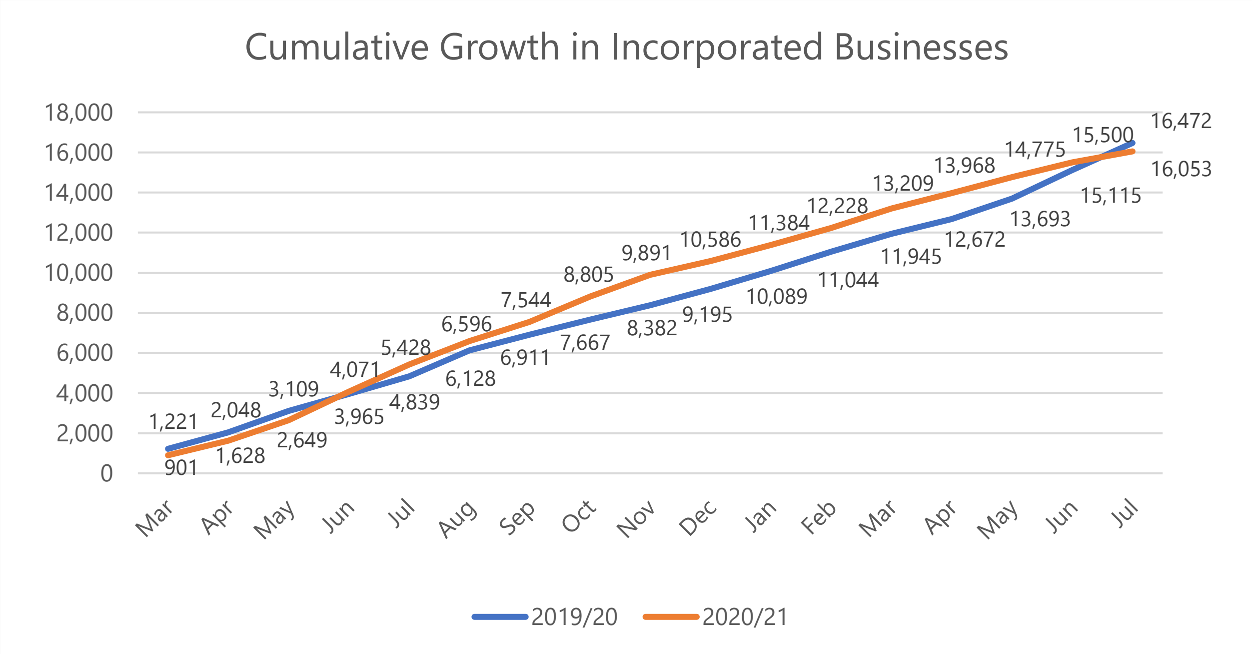

Figure 16 LLEP Area Cumulative Growth in Incorporated Businesses Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

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 remained static. The latest figure however (July 2021) of 553 marks a noticeable fall in incorporations. As with figures for May and June this is below the figure for the same period in 2020 and 2019.

When comparing closures with incorporations in 2021 there were 6,643 closures and 5,467 incorporations. This is a difference of 1,173. In June the difference reported was 1,043.

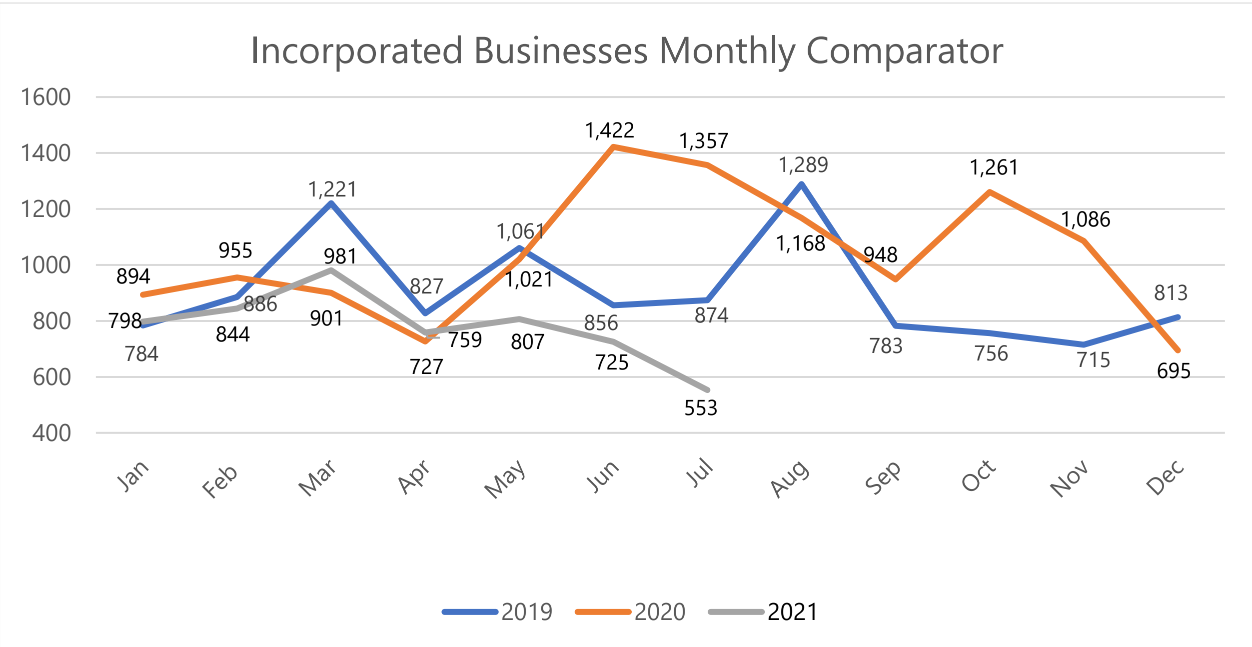

Figure 17 LLEP Area Incorporated Businesses Monthly Comparator
Source: BVD Fame

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 contained in Table 7 is for July 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	%	Difference
82 : Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	55	7.6	8	1.4	-47
47 : Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	47	6.5	68	11.6	21
62 : Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	46	6.4	16	2.7	-30
49 : Land transport and transport via pipelines	42	5.8	28	4.8	-14
52 : Warehousing and support activities for transportation	38	5.3	4	0.7	-34
46 : Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	35	4.9	17	2.9	-18
70 : Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	34	4.7	17	2.9	-17
96 : Other personal service activities	34	4.7	22	3.7	-12
43 : Specialised construction activities	28	3.9	27	4.6	-1
41 : Construction of buildings	27	3.7	25	4.3	-2
45 : Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	27	3.7	8	1.4	-19
56 : Food and beverage service activities	27	3.7	49	8.3	22
78 : Employment activities	26	3.6	7	1.2	-19
68 : Real estate activities	24	3.3	74	12.6	50
85 : Education	16	2.2	12	2.0	-4
86 : Human health activities	14	1.9	24	4.1	10
74 : Other professional, scientific and technical activities	13	1.8	9	1.5	-4
18 : Printing and reproduction of recorded media	12	1.7	0	0.0	-12
71 : Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	11	1.5	12	2.0	1
93 : Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	11	1.5	10	1.7	-1
66 : Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	9	1.2	4	0.7	-5
69 : Legal and accounting activities	9	1.2	2	0.3	-7
87 : Residential care activities	8	1.1	6	1.0	-2
90 : Creative, arts and entertainment activities	8	1.1	4	0.7	-4
14 : Manufacture of wearing apparel	7	1.0	2	0.3	-5
64 : Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	7	1.0	21	3.6	14
33 : Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	6	0.8	2	0.3	-4
63 : Information service activities	6	0.8	1	0.2	-5
80 : Security and investigation activities	5	0.7	4	0.7	-1
81 : Services to buildings and landscape activities	5	0.7	15	2.6	10
n.a.	33	4.6	13	2.2	-20
All	721	100	588	100	-133

Table 7 LLEP Area Dissolved or Liquidated and Incorporated Businesses by Sector July 2021
Source: BVD Fame

Note: Latest figures were gained on the 03/08/2021 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 m*onitor*, 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.