

Sources: Office for National Statistics (ONS). Annual Population Survey (ONS). ONS – Claimant Count.

**Overview**

*Unemployment*

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

*Claimants*

* In March 2020 the claimant rate in the Leicester and Leicestershire area was 2.3% (15,145). In August 2021 the claimant rate was 4.3% (28,985). This is an increase of 13,840 claimants or 2 percentage points. A large proportion of this was over the period March to May 2020.
* From March 21 to August 2021 there has been a fall of 6,385 claimants (from 35,370).
* At a national level the claimant rate in England in August 2021 was 5.3%. This is one percentage point higher than the local figure. The picture is very different in the city and county with Leicester having a claimant rate of 6.6% and Leicestershire 3.1%. This is a difference of 3.5 percentage points. Leicester's claimant rate is 1.3 percentage points higher than the England average (5.3%).
* Of the 28,985 claimants 16,610 (57%) were male and 12,380 were female (43%).
* The claimant rate in March 2020 for males was 2.6% and females 1.9%. In August 2021 the figures were 4.9% for males and 3.7% for females.
* The pandemic has affected all age groups.  Figures for August 2021 demonstrate that there were on average a larger share of 25-49 years olds (4.9%) who were claimants than 18-24 years olds (4.8%) and claimants that were 50 and over (3.5%).   In previous months the claimant rate had been higher in the 18-24 age group.  Nationally the claimant rate was significantly higher for 18-24 years olds (6.9%), for 25-49 years olds (5.9%) and those who are 50 and over (4.2%).

Note: Model based estimates delivered through NOMIS are different to other estimates. This explains the discrepancies between some data. For an explanation contact NOMIS on 0191 334 2680.

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