

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 151 March 2021

Notes on Claimant Count (Experimental Statistics) from ONS:

These Claimant Count Experimental Statistics relate to 11 March 2021. Enhancements to Universal Credit as part of the UK government's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) mean that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Consequently changes in the Claimant Count will not be wholly because of changes in the number of people who are unemployed. We are not able to identify to what extent people who are employed or unemployed have affected the numbers.

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The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people who are unemployed and claiming benefits. From 1996 until the recent introduction of Universal Credit, this was based on the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. However, since its introduction some unemployment benefit claimants will be claiming Universal Credit instead. **To reflect this change, the Claimant Count has been expanded to include people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and who are searching for work.**

Gloucestershire is in the process of transitioning to full Universal Credit. This means a broader span of claimants will be required to look for work than previously under Jobseekers Allowance. As more people are brought within the coverage of Universal Credit, the Claimant Count is set to rise noticeably over time. This will happen irrespective of how the economy performs and is a feature of the design of Universal Credit which brings additional groups of people into 'Searching for Work' conditionality (and therefore the Claimant Count), to help encourage and support these claimants into work.

For more information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).

INTRODUCTION

The Unemployment Bulletin provides a monthly update on unemployment data for Gloucestershire, the South West region and the United Kingdom. It is produced by the Data & Analysis Team in the County Council's Planning, Performance and Change function. The data are sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis (www.nomis.co.uk). All data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not precisely add to the sum of the number of people claiming JSA, and the number of people claiming Universal Credit required to seek work, due to independent rounding.

PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 4.6% in March 2021. The South West rate remained at 5.1% and the UK rate increased to 6.5%. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.5% lower than the South West average of 5.1%, and 1.9% lower than the UK average of 6.5%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in March 2021 decreased by 10 people. The amount of people claiming in March 2021 was 0.1% lower than the number in February 2021. This compares to a 0.4% increase in the South West and a 0.5% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

Data & Analysis Team
Planning, Performance and Change
Gloucestershire County Council
March 2021

DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

Claimant count: Total number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in March 2021

Claimant count change on previous month: How much larger/smaller March's claimant count is compared to February expressed as a %

Claimant rate: The % of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in March 2021

Highest claiming ward: The ward with the highest claim count in that district and the rate

CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	3,725
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.1%
Claimant rate:	5.1%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Oakley (8.6%); Hesters Way (8.6%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	4,860
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.5%
Claimant rate:	6.0%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Barton and Tredworth (12.1%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,910
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.8%
Claimant rate:	3.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (7.0%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	2,715
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.2%
Claimant rate:	3.8%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Slade (8.2%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	2,395
Claimant count change on previous month:	-2.7%
Claimant rate:	4.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Lydney East (8.7%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,205
Claimant count change on previous month:	0.0%
Claimant rate:	3.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Brockworth East (6.3%)

PART 2: UK, SW AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE INDICATORS

The unemployment situation in Gloucestershire compared to the South West and the UK.

Claimant Rate

Figure 1: Claimant Rate for Gloucestershire, the South West and UK over the past year

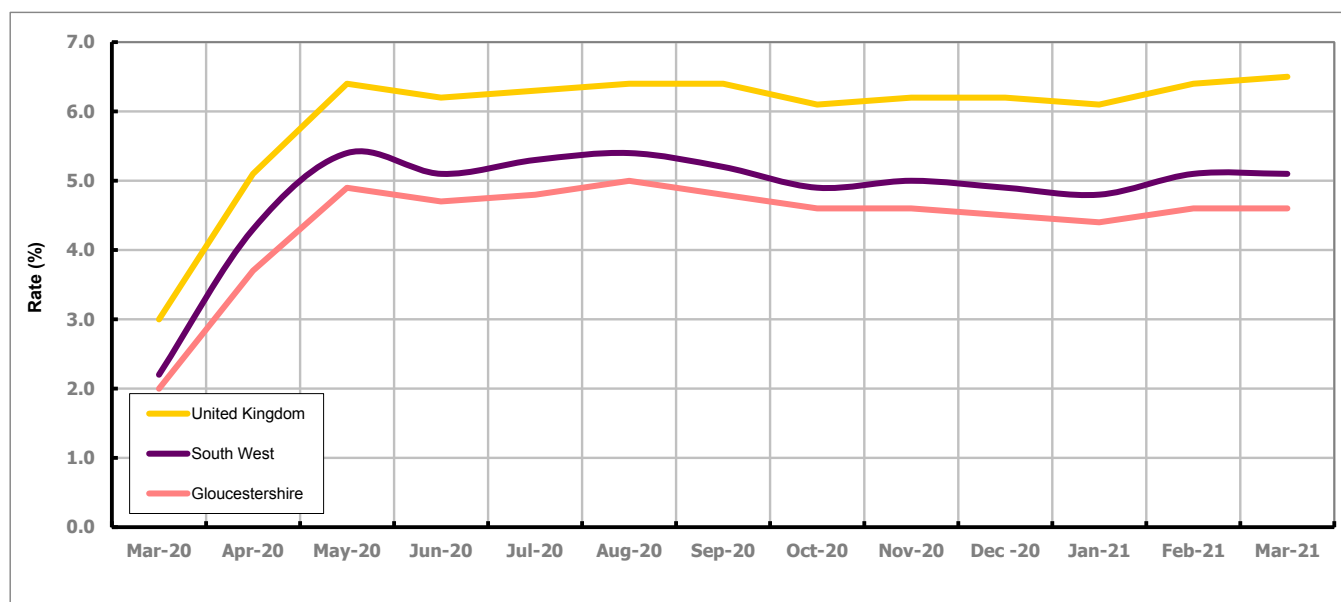


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 4.6% in March 2021. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since December 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 when it was the same. Over the last year it has been approximately 1.5% lower than the UK average.

Claimant Count

Table 1: Analysis of UK, South West and Gloucestershire Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in March 2021	% change on February 2021	Consecutive months increasing
UK	2,692,940	0.5%	1
South West	172,260	0.4%	1
Gloucestershire	17,745	-0.1%	0

Table 1 shows that in March 2021, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 0.1% lower than the number in February 2021.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - March 2021

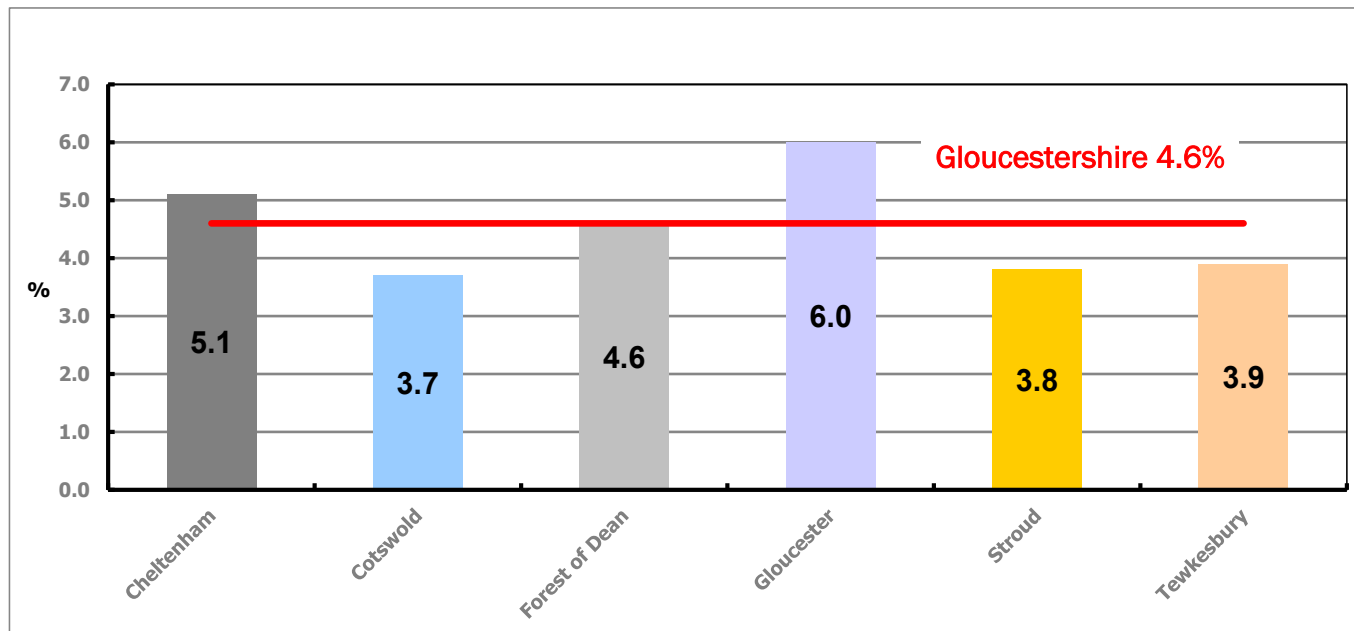


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for March 2021 in Gloucestershire. Between February 2021 and March 2021 the rate increased in Gloucester, declined in the Forest of Dean and remained the same in all other districts.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Mar 21 Number	Mar 21 Rate	Feb 21 Number	Feb 21 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	17,745	4.6	17,755	4.6	-10	-0.1%	0.0
Cheltenham	3,725	5.1	3,720	5.1	5	0.1%	0.0
Cotswold	1,910	3.7	1,925	3.7	-15	-0.8%	0.0
Forest of Dean	2,330	4.6	2,395	4.7	-65	-2.7%	-0.1
Gloucester	4,860	6.0	4,790	5.9	70	1.5%	0.1
Stroud	2,715	3.8	2,720	3.8	-5	-0.2%	0.0
Tewkesbury	2,205	3.9	2,205	3.9	0	0.0%	0.0

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in March 2021 compared to February 2021. Cheltenham and Gloucester saw an increase in the number of claimants, Tewkesbury saw no change and Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Stroud saw a decrease in the number of claimants.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Mar 21 Number	Mar 21 Rate	Feb 21 Number	Feb 21 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	10,410	5.5	10,465	5.5	-55	-0.5%	0.0
Cheltenham	2,235	6.1	2,255	6.1	-20	-0.9%	0.0
Cotswold	1,045	4.1	1,055	4.2	-10	-0.9%	-0.1
Forest of Dean	1,340	5.3	1,380	5.5	-40	-2.9%	-0.2
Gloucester	3,005	7.4	2,990	7.3	15	0.5%	0.1
Stroud	1,510	4.2	1,535	4.3	-25	-1.6%	-0.1
Tewkesbury	1,280	4.6	1,255	4.6	25	2.0%	0.0

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in March 2021 compared to February 2021. Gloucester and Tewkesbury saw an increase in the number of male claimants while all other districts saw a decrease in the number of male claimants.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Mar 21 Number	Mar 21 Rate	Feb 21 Number	Feb 21 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	7,335	3.8	7,290	3.8	45	0.6%	0.0
Cheltenham	1,490	4.1	1,470	4.1	20	1.4%	0.0
Cotswold	870	3.3	875	3.3	-5	-0.6%	0.0
Forest of Dean	990	3.8	1,015	3.9	-25	-2.5%	-0.1
Gloucester	1,855	4.6	1,800	4.4	55	3.1%	0.2
Stroud	1,205	3.4	1,185	3.3	20	1.7%	0.1
Tewkesbury	925	3.2	950	3.3	-25	-2.6%	-0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in March 2021 compared to February 2021. Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud saw an increase in the number of female claimants, while Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury saw a decrease in the number of female claimants.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

This section covers the six districts and a comparison of their constituent wards.

4.1 Cheltenham Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 3: Cheltenham Borough claimant rate over the last year

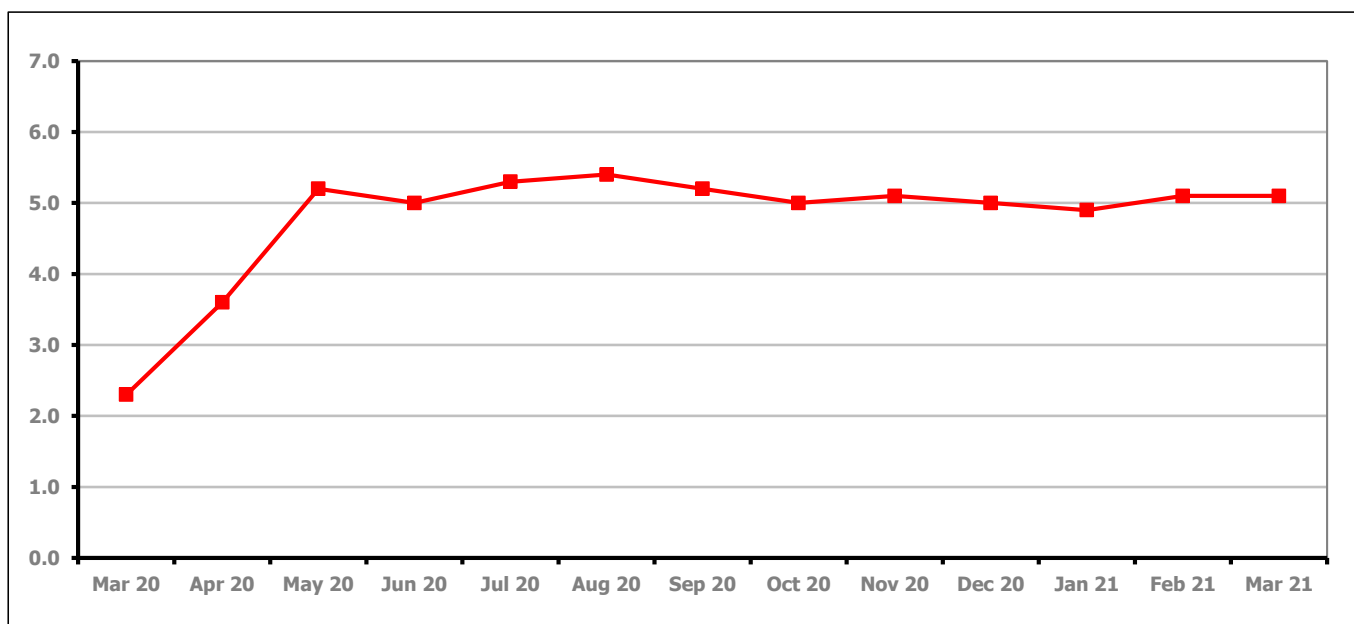


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham remained at 5.1% in March 2021

Figure 4: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - March 2021

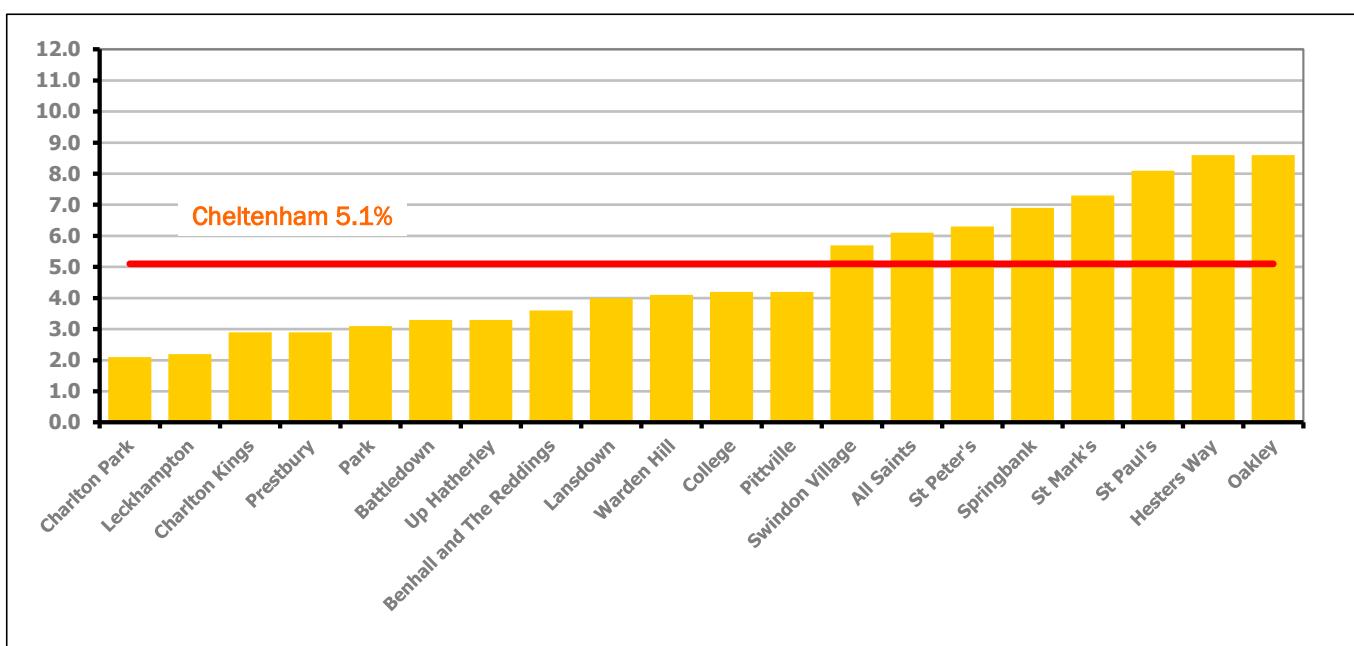


Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 5.1%. Eight wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - March 2021

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	2.1	4
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	2.2	6
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	2.9	21
Cheltenham	Prestbury	2.9	21
Cheltenham	Park	3.1	30
Cheltenham	Battledown	3.3	45
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	3.3	45
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	3.6	60
Cheltenham	Lansdown	4.0	77
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	4.1	82
Cheltenham	College	4.2	86
Cheltenham	Pittville	4.2	86
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	5.7	115
Cheltenham	All Saints	6.1	119
Cheltenham	St Peter's	6.3	120
Cheltenham	Springbank	6.9	123
Cheltenham	St Mark's	7.3	126
Cheltenham	St Paul's	8.1	130
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	8.6	133
Cheltenham	Oakley	8.6	133

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 146 = "worst"

Table 5 shows overall claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year

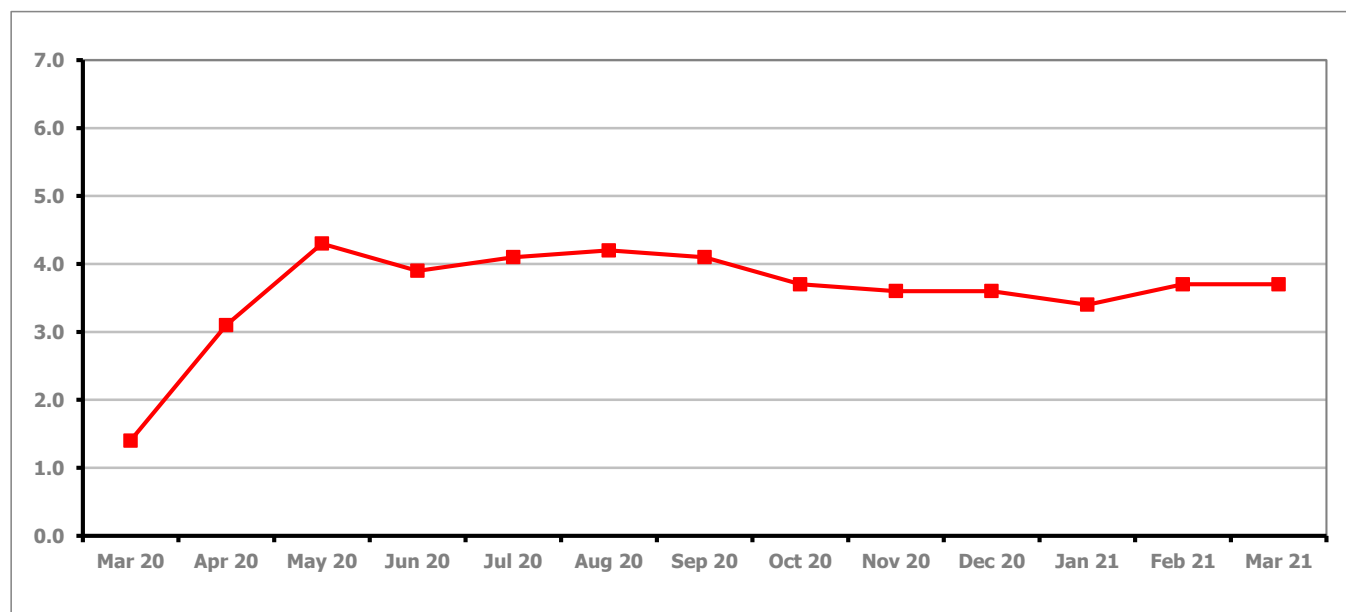


Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District remained at 3.7% in March 2021.

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards - March 2021

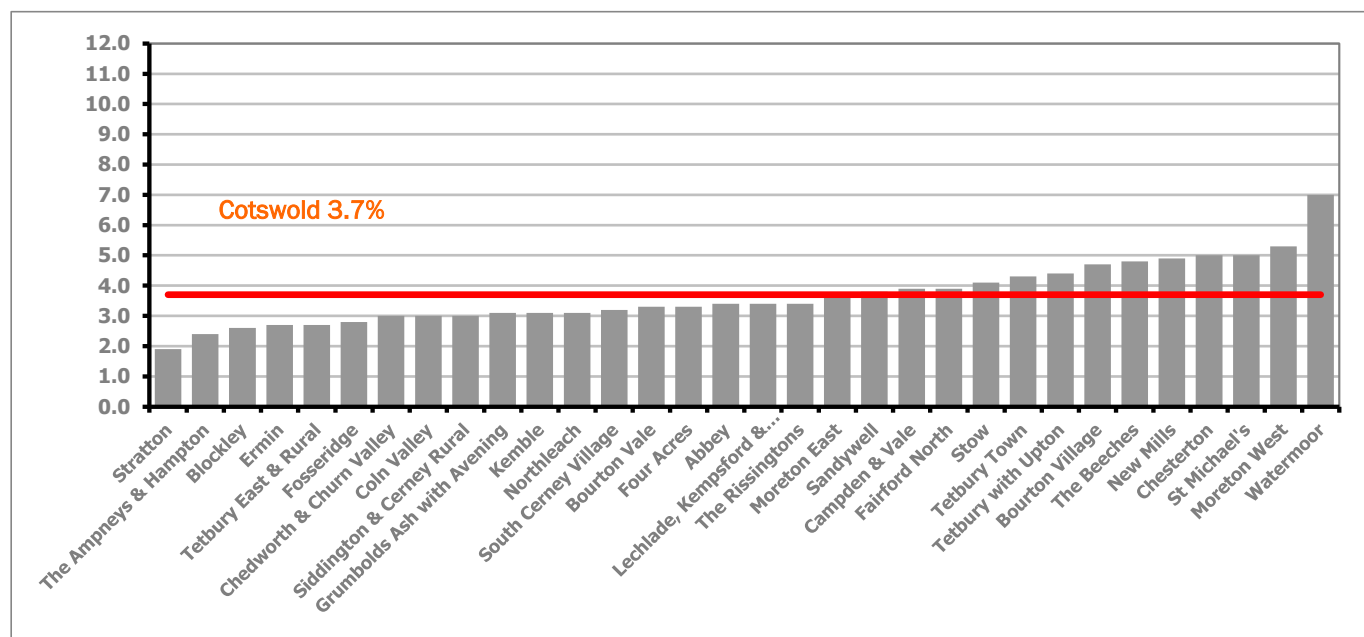


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 3.7%. Thirteen wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - March 2021

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswolds	Stratton	1.9	2
Cotswolds	The Ampneys & Hampton	2.4	9
Cotswolds	Blockley	2.6	14
Cotswolds	Ermin	2.7	16
Cotswolds	Tetbury East & Rural	2.7	16
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	2.8	19
Cotswolds	Chedworth & Churn Valley	3	23
Cotswolds	Coln Valley	3	23
Cotswolds	Siddington & Cerney Rural	3	23
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	3.1	30
Cotswolds	Kemble	3.1	30
Cotswolds	Northleach	3.1	30
Cotswolds	South Cerney Village	3.2	39
Cotswolds	Bourton Vale	3.3	45
Cotswolds	Four Acres	3.3	45
Cotswolds	Abbey	3.4	50
Cotswolds	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	3.4	50
Cotswolds	The Rissingtons	3.4	50
Cotswolds	Moreton East	3.7	65
Cotswolds	Sandywell	3.8	68
Cotswolds	Campden & Vale	3.9	72
Cotswolds	Fairford North	3.9	72
Cotswolds	Stow	4.1	82
Cotswolds	Tetbury Town	4.3	92
Cotswolds	Tetbury with Upton	4.4	95
Cotswolds	Bourton Village	4.7	100
Cotswolds	The Beeches	4.8	101
Cotswolds	New Mills	4.9	103
Cotswolds	Chesterton	5.0	104
Cotswolds	St Michael's	5.0	104
Cotswolds	Moreton West	5.3	109
Cotswolds	Watermoor	7.0	124

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 146 = "worst"

Table 6 shows overall claimant rates for Cotswold District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.3 Forest of Dean District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 7: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year

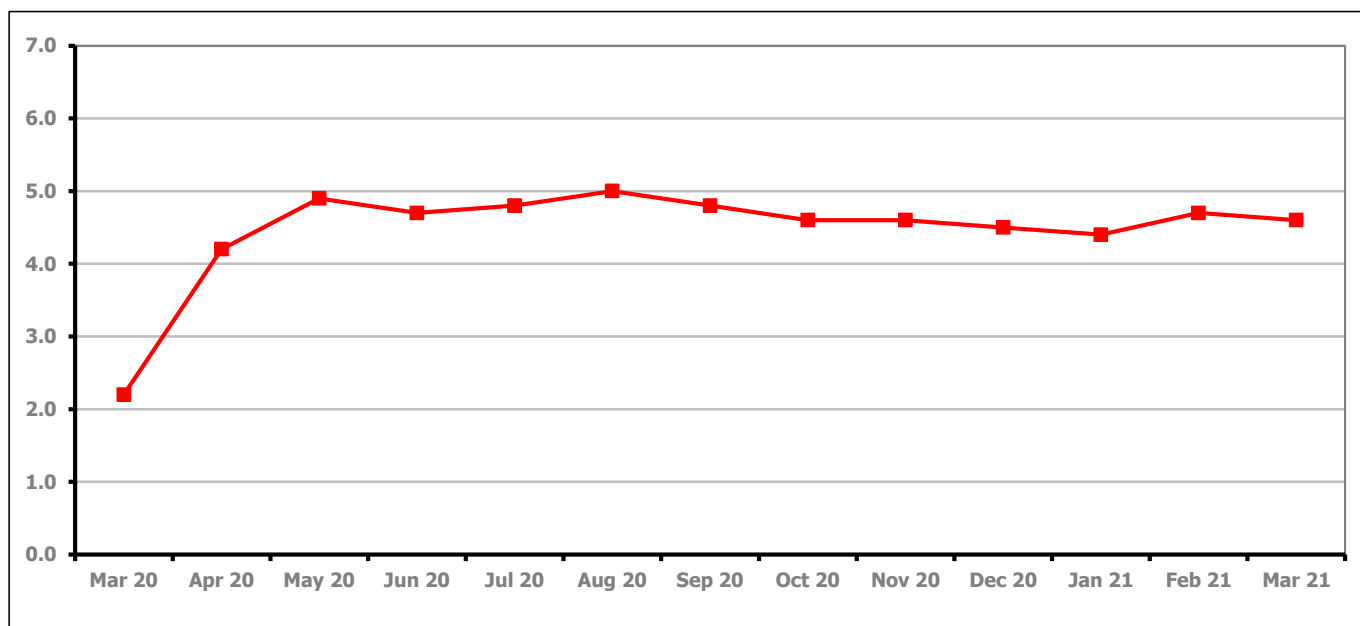


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean decreased to 4.6% in March 2021.

Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards - March 2021

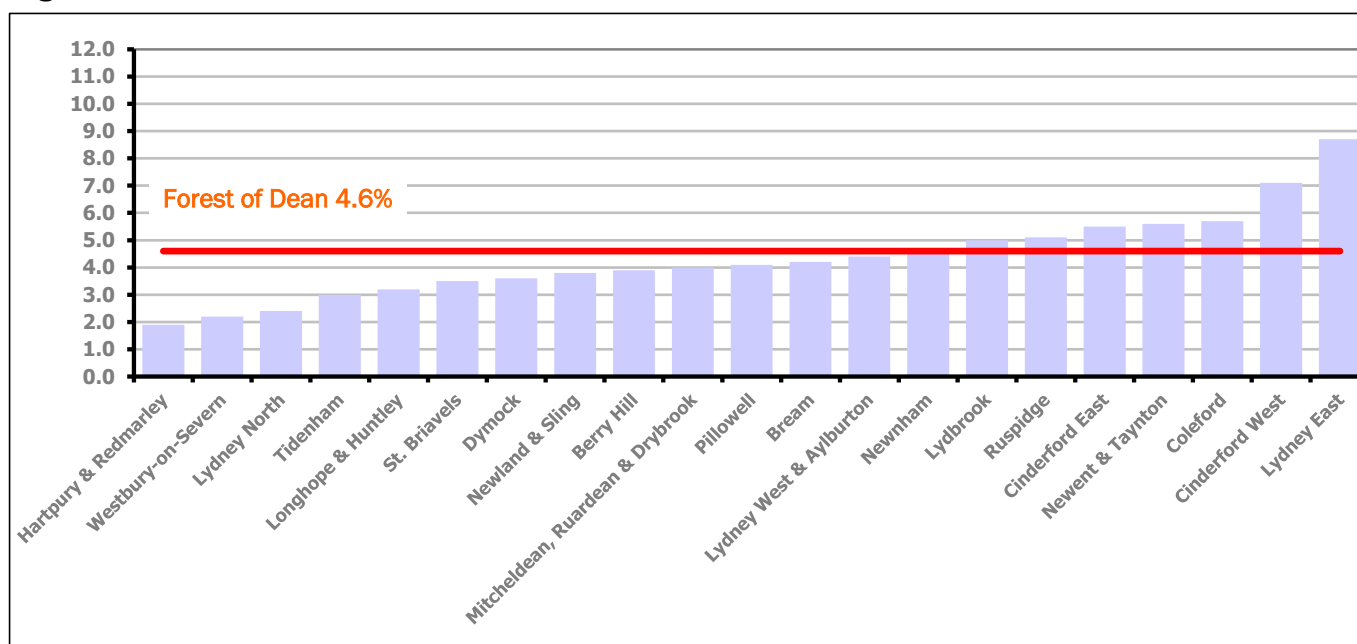


Figure 8 shows the claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 4.6%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.3 Forest of Dean District continued...***Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - March 2021*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.9	2
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	2.2	6
Forest	Lydney North	2.4	9
Forest	Tidenham	3.0	23
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	3.2	39
Forest	St. Briavels	3.5	56
Forest	Dymock	3.6	60
Forest	Newland & Sling	3.8	68
Forest	Berry Hill	3.9	72
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	4.0	77
Forest	Pillowell	4.1	82
Forest	Bream	4.2	86
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	4.4	95
Forest	Newnham	4.5	97
Forest	Lydbrook	5.0	104
Forest	Ruspidge	5.1	107
Forest	Cinderford East	5.5	110
Forest	Newent & Taynton	5.6	112
Forest	Coleford	5.7	115
Forest	Cinderford West	7.1	125
Forest	Lydney East	8.7	135

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 146 = "worst"

Table 7 shows overall claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

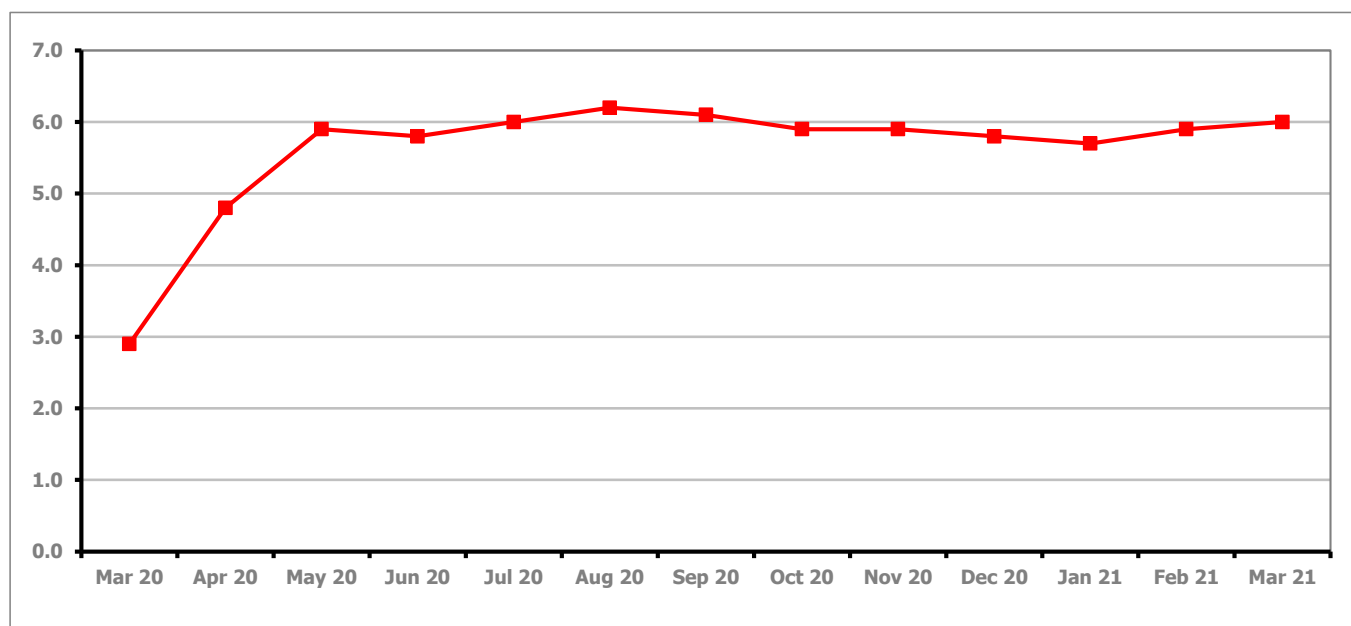
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City increased to 6.0% in March 2021.

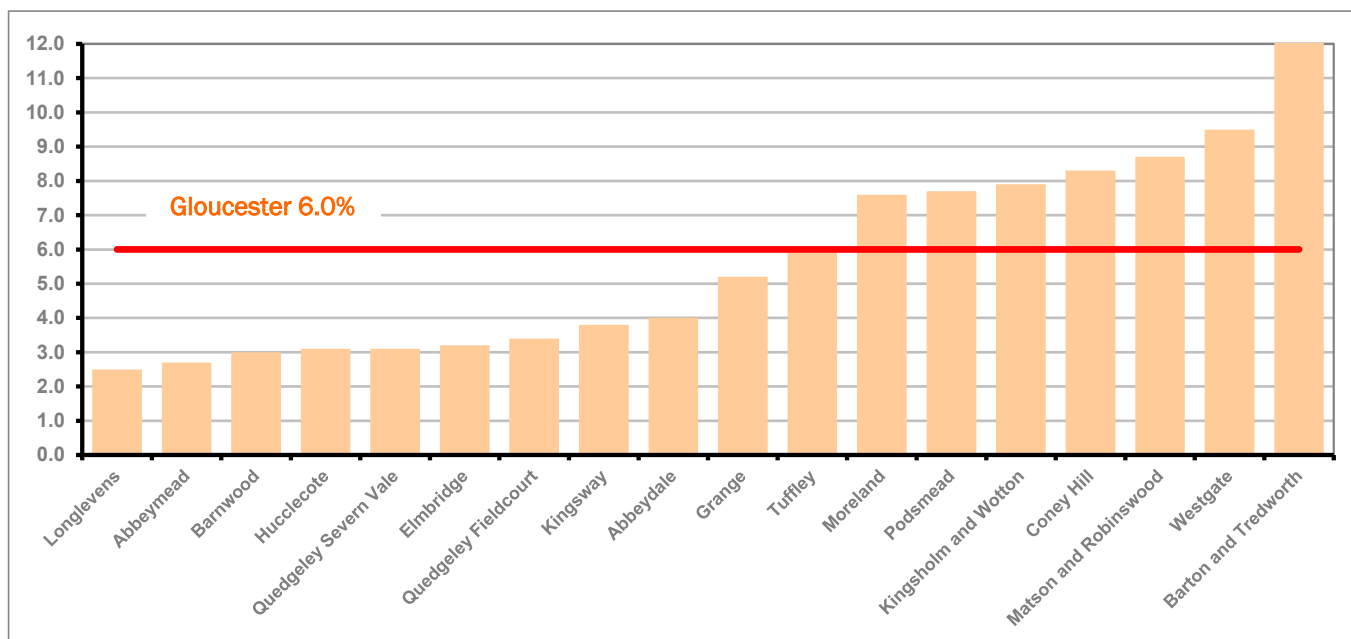
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - March 2021

Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 6.0%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City continued...***Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - March 2021*

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	2.5	13
Gloucester	Abbeymead	2.7	16
Gloucester	Barnwood	3.0	23
Gloucester	Hucclecote	3.1	30
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	3.1	30
Gloucester	Elmbridge	3.2	39
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	3.4	50
Gloucester	Kingsway	3.8	68
Gloucester	Abbeydale	4.0	77
Gloucester	Grange	5.2	108
Gloucester	Tuffley	5.9	118
Gloucester	Moreland	7.6	127
Gloucester	Podsmead	7.7	128
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	7.9	129
Gloucester	Coney Hill	8.3	132
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	8.7	135
Gloucester	Westgate	9.5	137
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	12.1	138

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 146 = "worst"

Table 8 shows overall claimant rates for Gloucester City wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year

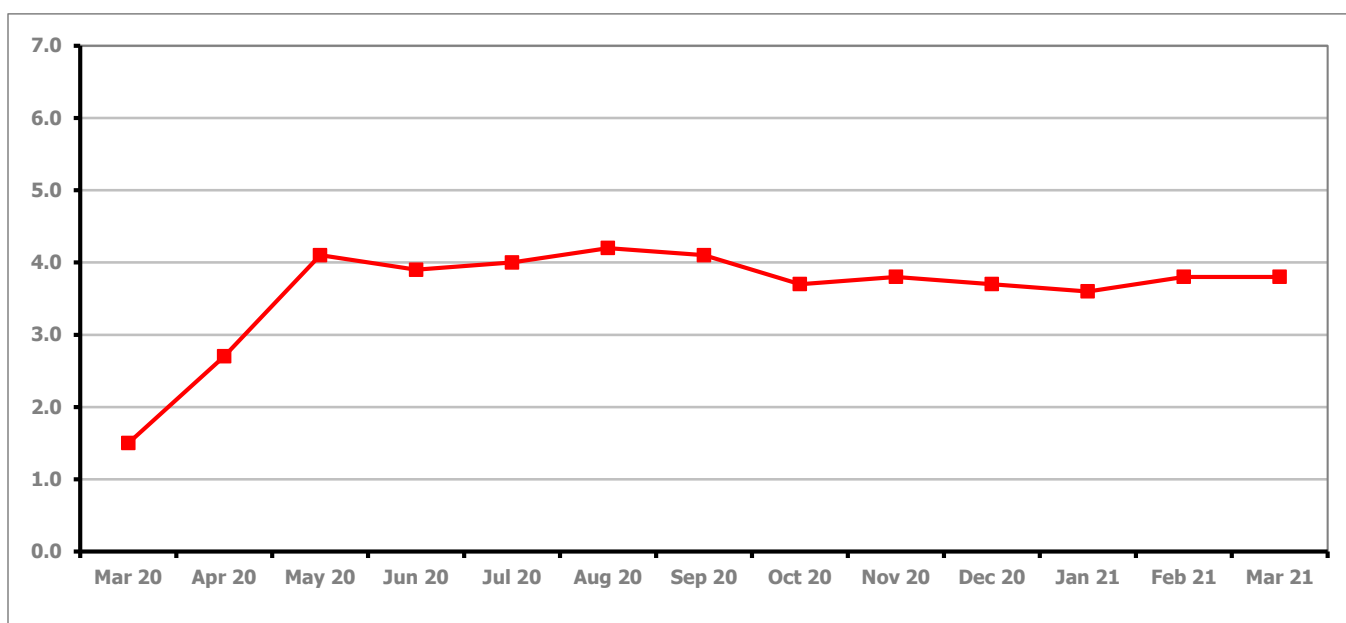


Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud remained at 3.8% in March 2021.

Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - March 2021

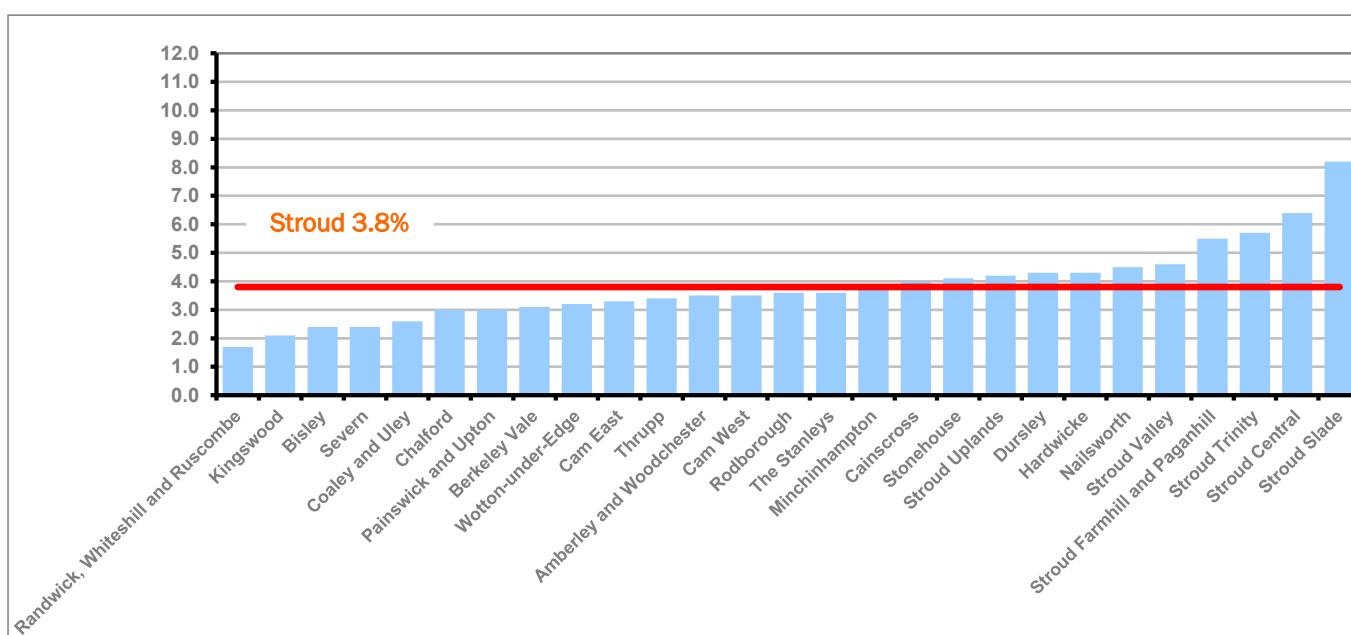


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 3.8%. Eleven wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - March 2021

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.7	1
Stroud	Kingswood	2.1	4
Stroud	Bisley	2.4	9
Stroud	Severn	2.4	9
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	2.6	14
Stroud	Chalford	3.0	23
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	3.0	23
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	3.1	30
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	3.2	39
Stroud	Cam East	3.3	45
Stroud	Thrupp	3.4	50
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	3.5	56
Stroud	Cam West	3.5	56
Stroud	Rodborough	3.6	60
Stroud	The Stanleys	3.6	60
Stroud	Minchinhampton	3.7	65
Stroud	Cainscross	4.0	77
Stroud	Stonehouse	4.1	82
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	4.2	86
Stroud	Dursley	4.3	92
Stroud	Hardwicke	4.3	92
Stroud	Nailsworth	4.5	97
Stroud	Stroud Valley	4.6	99
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	5.5	110
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	5.7	115
Stroud	Stroud Central	6.4	122
Stroud	Stroud Slade	8.2	131

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

* 1 = "best" and 146 = "worst"

Table 9 shows overall claimant rates for Stroud District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year

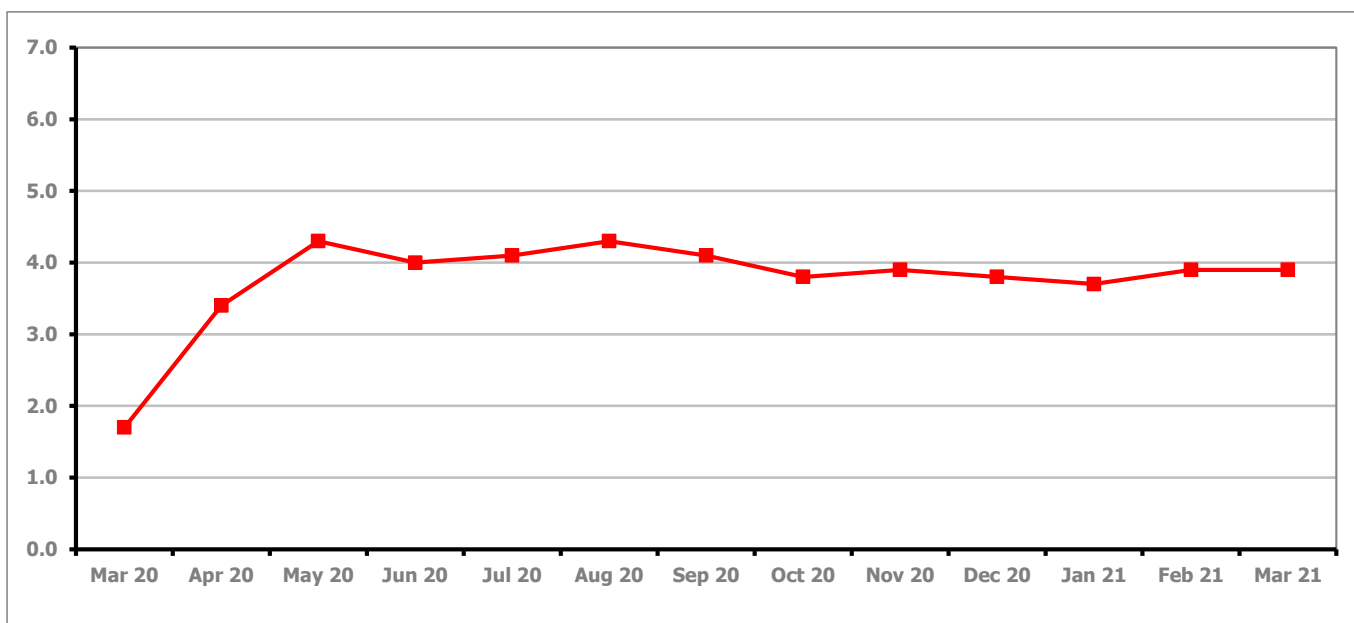


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough remained at 3.9% in March 2021.

Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - March 2021

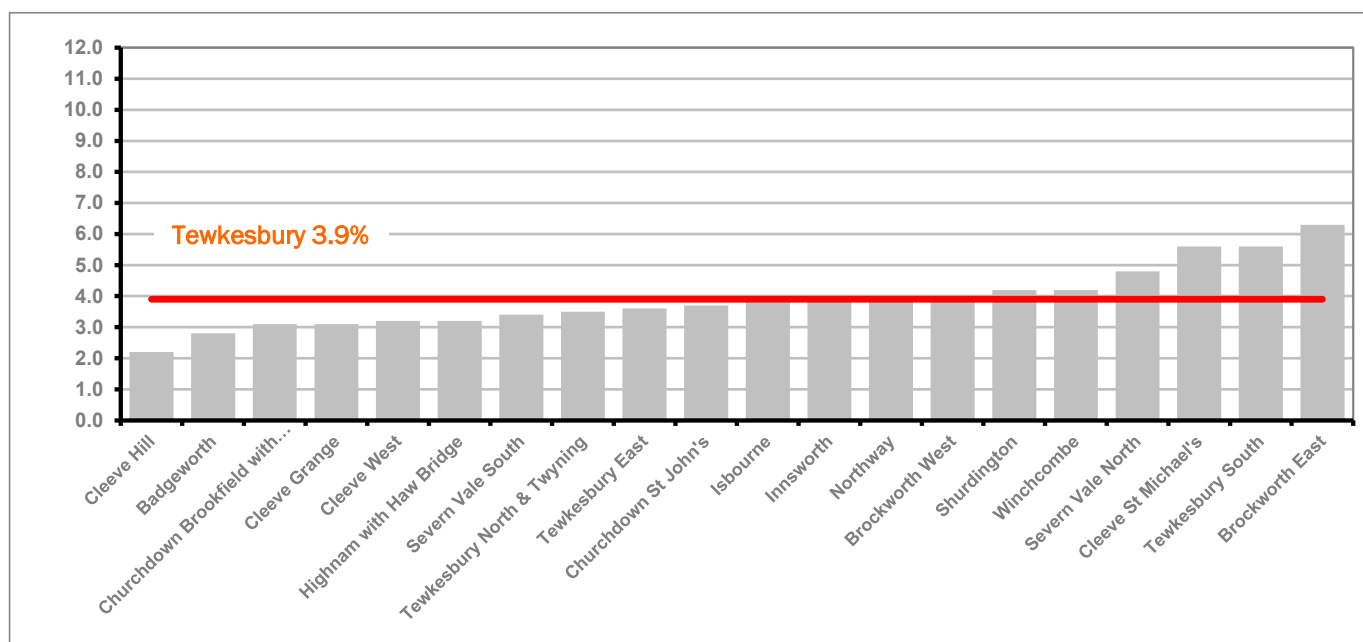


Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 3.9%. Seven wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury Borough continued...

Table 10: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough level - March 2021

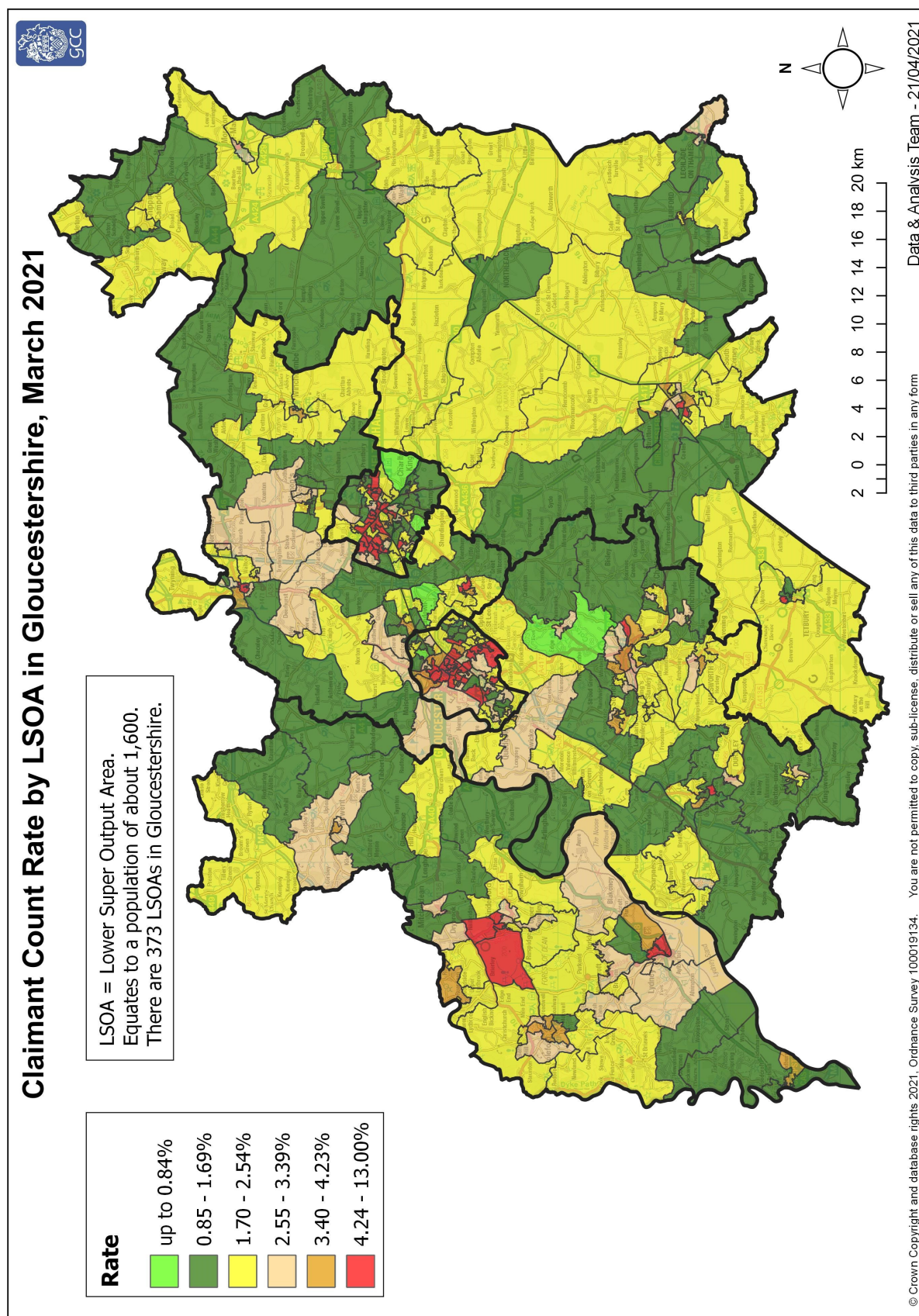
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	2.2	6
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.8	19
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	3.1	30
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	3.1	30
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	3.2	39
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	3.2	39
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	3.4	50
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twyning	3.5	56
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	3.6	60
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	3.7	65
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	3.8	68
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	3.9	72
Tewkesbury	Northway	3.9	72
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	4.0	77
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	4.2	86
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	4.2	86
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	4.8	101
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	5.6	112
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	5.6	112
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	6.3	120

	lowest 10% of county
	first quartile of county
	second quartile of county
	third quartile of county
	fourth quartile of county
	highest 10% of county

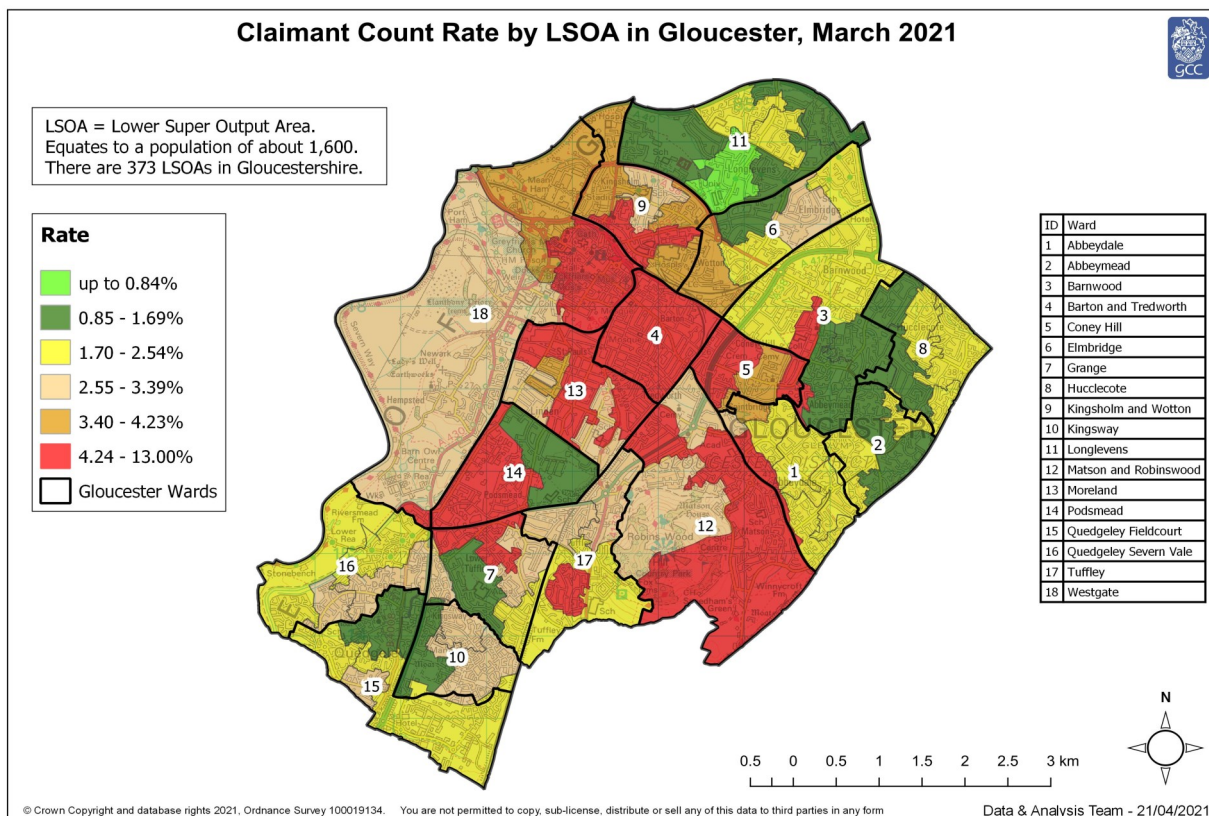
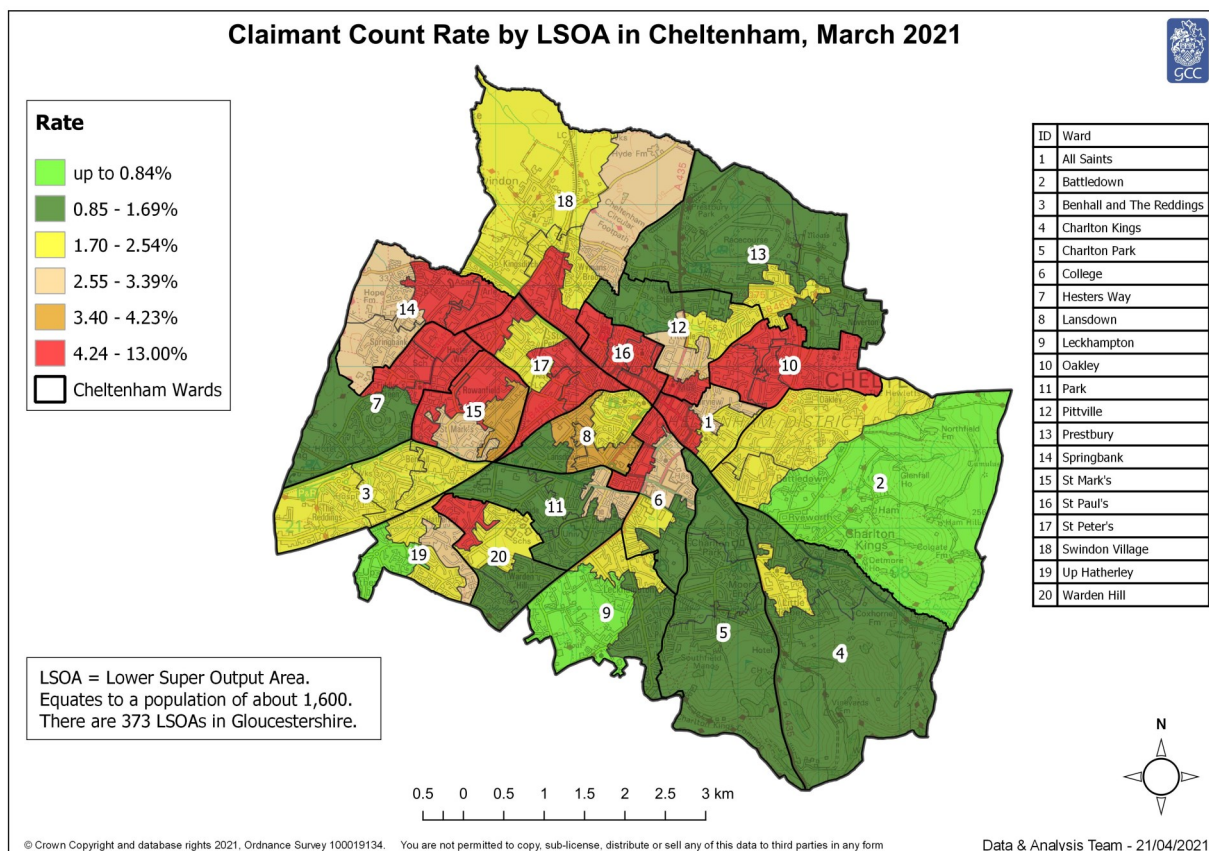
* 1 = "best" and 146 = "worst"

Table 10 shows overall claimant rates for Tewkesbury Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



PART 6: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT(18-24 year olds)

Youth Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 15: Claimant Count for Gloucestershire over the past year

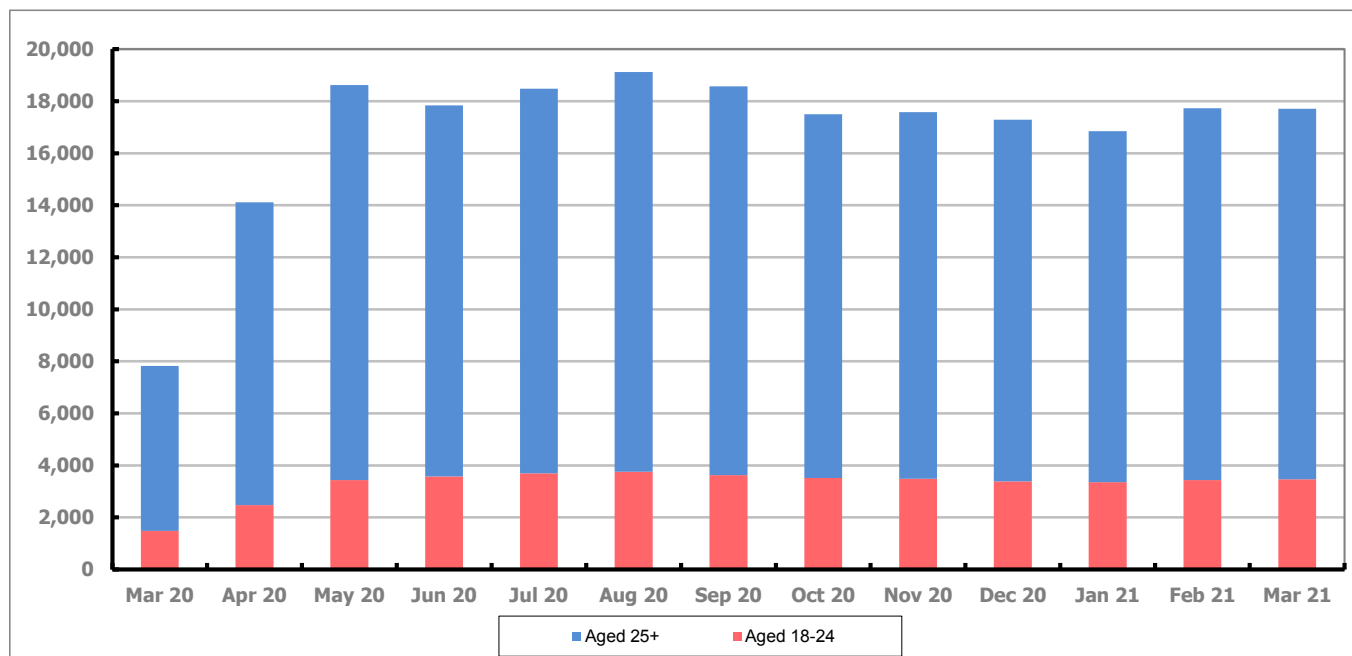


Figure 15 shows that in March 2021, 3,460 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 19.5% of total working age claimants.

PART 7: YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Data provided by Gloucestershire Youth Support Team on the situation of young people (16-18) in Gloucestershire who are not in education, employment or formal training.

Gloucestershire Youth Support Team is required to report performance on the Academic Year 12 and 13 (16/17 age) against nationally defined criteria for counting the NEET group to the Department for Education (DfE) on a monthly basis. The NEET group includes young people actively seeking education, employment or training as well as those young people who are either not yet ready or who are unable to access these opportunities because of their personal circumstances. The figures quoted below include young people in both of these categories.

March 2021

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	52	2198	2.37%
Cotswold	34	1729	1.97%
Forest	45	1702	2.64%
Gloucester	108	2921	3.70%
Stroud	47	2648	1.77%
Tewkesbury	38	1973	1.93%
Total	324	13171	2.46%

Monthly Change	-20	35	- 0.16%
Previous Month	344	13136	2.62%

The academic year 12-13 group contains a proportion of young people who turn 18 in the academic year but were 17 on the 31st August the previous academic year so are entitled to learning through RPA (raising participation age).

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	66	2658	2.48%
Cotswold	45	2102	2.14%
Forest	61	2052	2.97%
Gloucester	139	3574	3.89%
Stroud	63	3168	1.99%
Tewkesbury	52	2353	2.21%
Total	426	15907	2.68%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	2.81%
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Monthly Change	-38	-511	- 0.15%
Previous Month	464	16418	2.83%

Please note all figures quoted above are subject to change before the submission date to the DfE which usually happens in the second or third week of the month for the previous month.

If you would like to receive any further information on Gloucestershire's NEET strategy, then please contact Lynne.Speak@Prospects.co.uk or telephone 07900 391182.

(*) Adjustment includes a proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose outcomes are not-known to Gloucestershire Youth Support Team.