

# Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 9 April 2009

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## 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 Economic section of the County Council Chief Executive's Support Unit Research Team. The data is sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis ([www.nomis.co.uk](http://www.nomis.co.uk)).

The claimant count measures the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefit (currently Job Seeker's allowance). The claimant rate is the number of claimants as a proportion of the working age population.

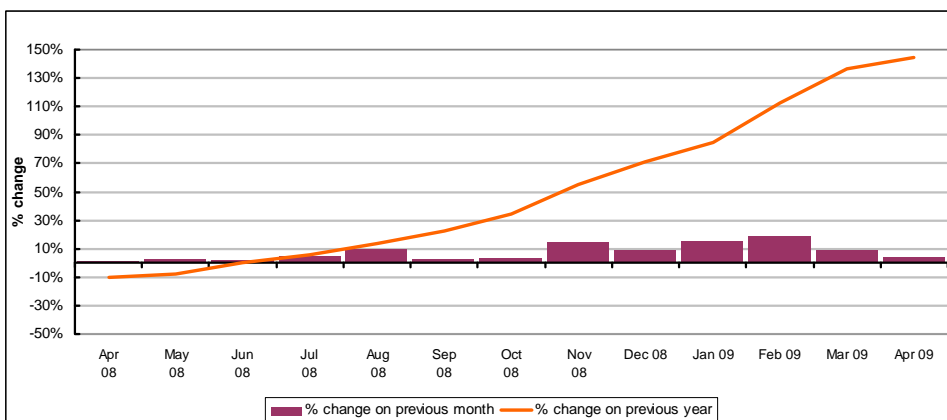
## PART 1: SUMMARY

**The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 3.6% in April 2009.** This was an increase of 0.1% on the March 2009 figure. The rate has been continually increasing since July 2008. The UK rate has increased by 0.1% between March and April 2009 with the South West rate remaining the same at 3.1%. Gloucestershire's rate remains above the South West average of 3.1%, but 0.5% lower than the UK average of 4.1%.

**The claimant count in Gloucestershire in April 2009 rose by 474 people.** The amount of people claiming in April 2009 was 3.9% higher than the number in March 2009 compared to a 1.4% increase in the South West and 2.2% for the UK.

**The claimant count in Gloucestershire has been increasing since July 2008,** it was 144% higher in April 2009 than at the same point in the previous year as shown in the graph below.

Gloucestershire claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

Produced by:

**The Research Team** (Economics)  
Chief Executive Support Unit  
Gloucestershire County Council  
May 2009

## DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

**Claim count:** Total number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in April 2009

**Compared to last month:** How much larger/smaller April's claim count is compared to March, expressed as a %

**Claimant rate:** The % of working population claiming Job Seekers Allowance in April 2009

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

### CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claim count:	2,860
Compared to last month:	+3.6%
Claimant rate:	4.1%
Highest claiming ward	Hesters Way (8.7%)

### GLOUCESTER CITY

Claim count:	3,441
Compared to last month:	+5.1%
Claimant rate:	4.8%
Highest claiming ward	Westgate (8.4%)

### COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,094
Compared to last month:	+5.6%
Claimant rate:	2.2%
Highest claiming ward	Cirencester Watermoor (5.1%)

### STROUD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,952
Compared to last month:	+1.9%
Claimant rate:	3.0%
Highest claiming ward	Central (6.9%)

### FOREST OF DEAN

Claim count:	1,861
Compared to last month:	+0.9%
Claimant rate:	3.8%
Highest claiming ward	Lydney East (6.2%)

### TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claim count:	1,486
Compared to last month:	+7.1%
Claimant rate:	3.2%
Highest claiming ward	Tewkesbury Priors Park (6.7%)

## YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

As at the end of April 2009 there were 688 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire and this figure translates into an adjusted (\*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.4%

## 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

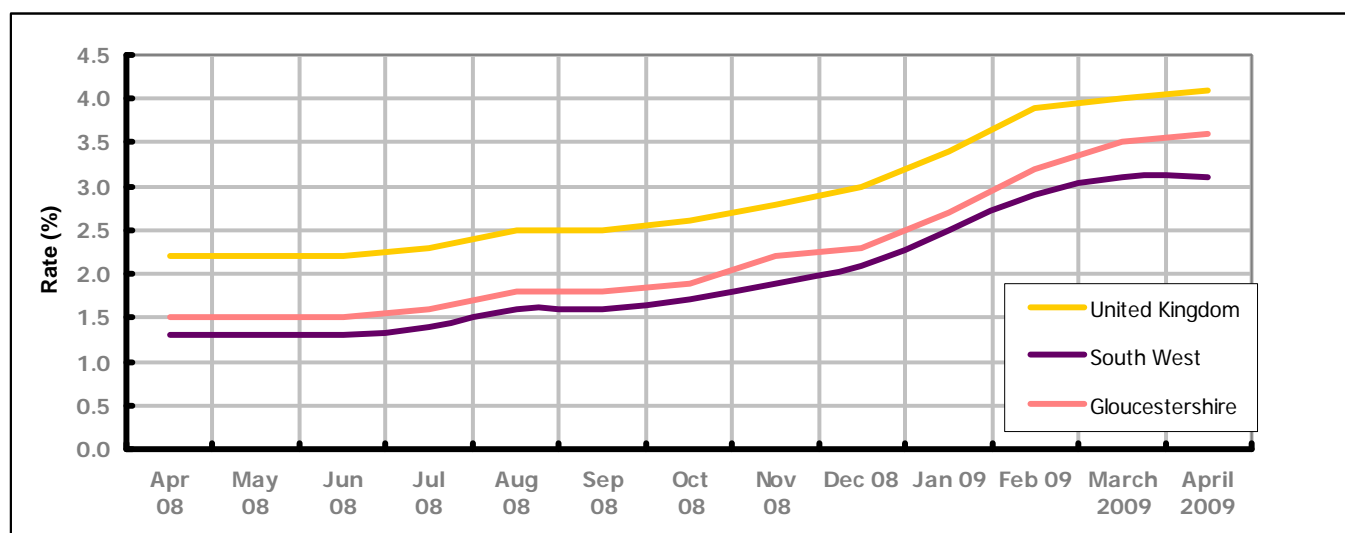


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 3.6% in April 2009. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.5% against the UK average during the same period. April 2009 represented a 0.1% increase on March 2009.

### Claimant Count

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

Area	Claimant Count in April 2009	% change on March 2009	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,557,616	+2.2%	+6.7%	12
South West	97,376	+1.4%	+8.6%	12
Gloucestershire	12,694	+3.9%	+9.0%	13

Table 1 shows that in April 2009, the numbers of claimants in Gloucestershire was 3.9% higher than the numbers in March 2009. This is 1.7% higher than the UK figure and 2.5% higher than the South West.

The average growth in claimants in Gloucestershire for the six months to April 2009 was 9.0%. This is 2.3% higher than the UK average and 0.4% higher than the South West region.

## PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

### Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - April 2009

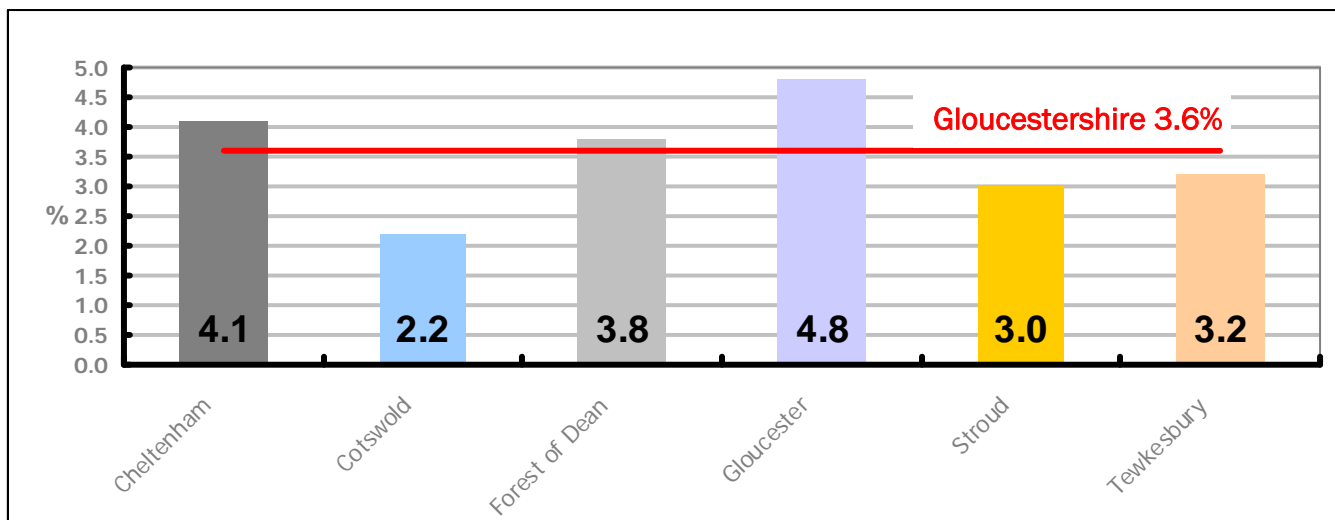


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for April 2009 in Gloucestershire. Every district in Gloucestershire experienced an increase in the claimant rate between March 2009 and April 2009.

Figure 3: Total claimants over the past year across Gloucestershire Districts

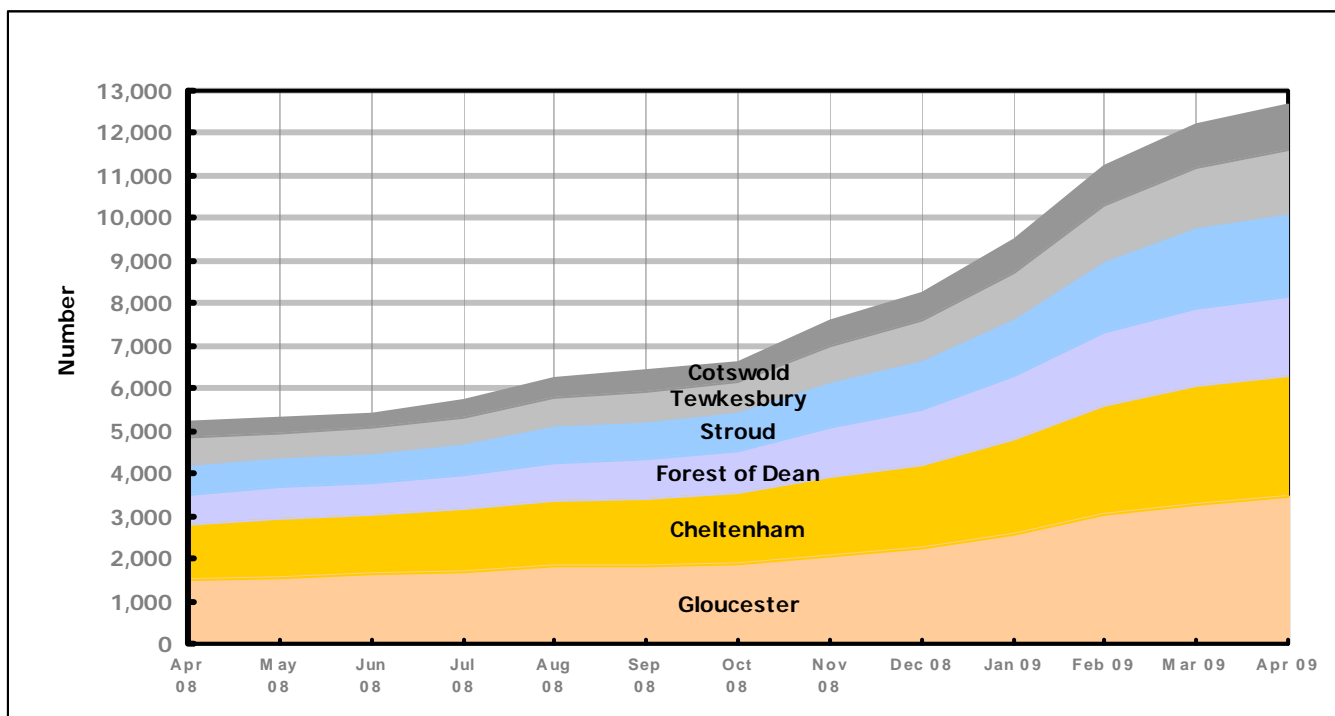


Figure 3 shows the overall claimant count for Gloucestershire over the past year. It demonstrates the gap that is widening across all the districts as the UK economy continues in recession. The widest gaps unsurprisingly reflect the urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	April 09 Number	April 09 Rate	March 09 Number	March 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	12,694	3.6	12,220	3.5	474	3.9%	0.1
Cheltenham	2,860	4.1	2,761	3.9	99	3.6%	0.2
Cotswold	1,094	2.2	1,036	2.1	58	5.6%	0.1
Forest of Dean	1,861	3.8	1,844	3.8	17	0.9%	0.0
Gloucester	3,441	4.8	3,275	4.6	166	5.1%	0.2
Stroud	1,952	3.0	1,916	2.9	36	1.9%	0.1
Tewkesbury	1,486	3.2	1,388	2.9	98	7.1%	0.3

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in April 2009 compared to March 2009. The April 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Tewkesbury District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	April 09 Number	April 09 Rate	March 09 Number	March 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	9,435	5.1	9,149	5.0	286	3.1%	0.1
Cheltenham	2,165	5.9	2,100	5.7	65	3.1%	0.2
Cotswold	819	3.2	772	3.0	47	6.1%	0.2
Forest of Dean	1,332	5.2	1,323	5.1	9	0.7%	0.1
Gloucester	2,601	7.0	2,517	6.8	84	3.3%	0.2
Stroud	1,442	4.2	1,420	4.1	22	1.5%	0.1
Tewkesbury	1,076	4.4	1,017	4.1	59	5.8%	0.3

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in April 2009 compared to March 2009. The April 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Cotswold District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	April 09 Number	April 09 Rate	March 09 Number	March 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	3,259	2.0	3,071	1.8	188	6.1%	0.2
Cheltenham	695	2.1	661	2.0	34	5.1%	0.1
Cotswold	275	1.2	264	1.1	11	4.2%	0.1
Forest of Dean	529	2.3	521	2.3	8	1.5%	0.0
Gloucester	840	2.5	758	2.2	82	10.8%	0.3
Stroud	510	1.6	496	1.6	14	2.8%	0.0
Tewkesbury	410	1.8	371	1.7	39	10.5%	0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in April 2009 compared to March 2009. The April 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Gloucester District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month.

## 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 4: Cheltenham Borough claimant rate over the last year

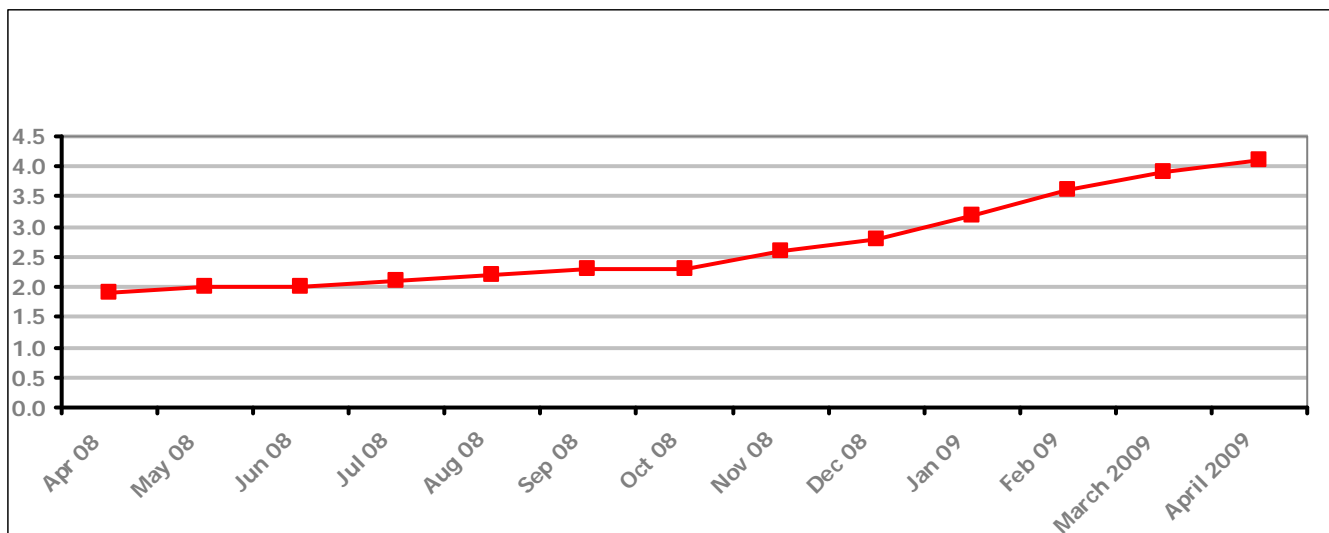


Figure 4 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham was at its highest for over a year at 4.1%. The rate has been climbing for twelve consecutive months.

Figure 5: Cheltenham Borough claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

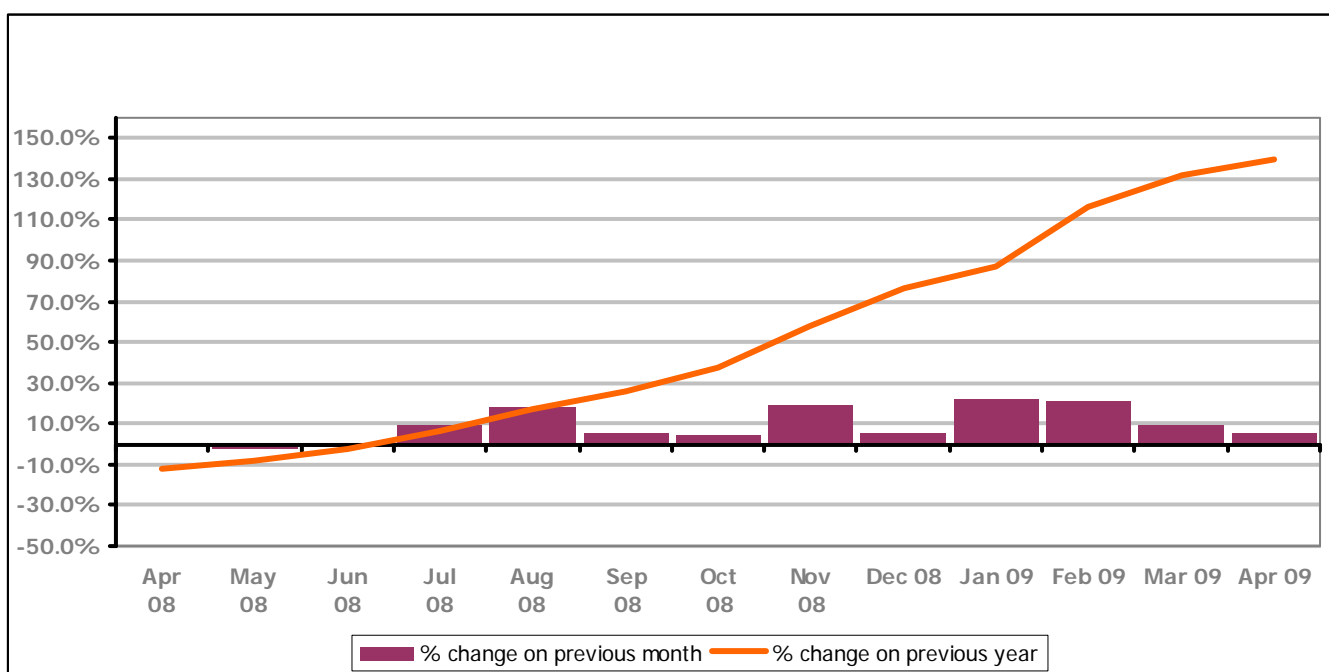


Figure 5 shows the claimant count continually increasing each month since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month in the previous year since July 2008.

## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

## 4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - April 2009

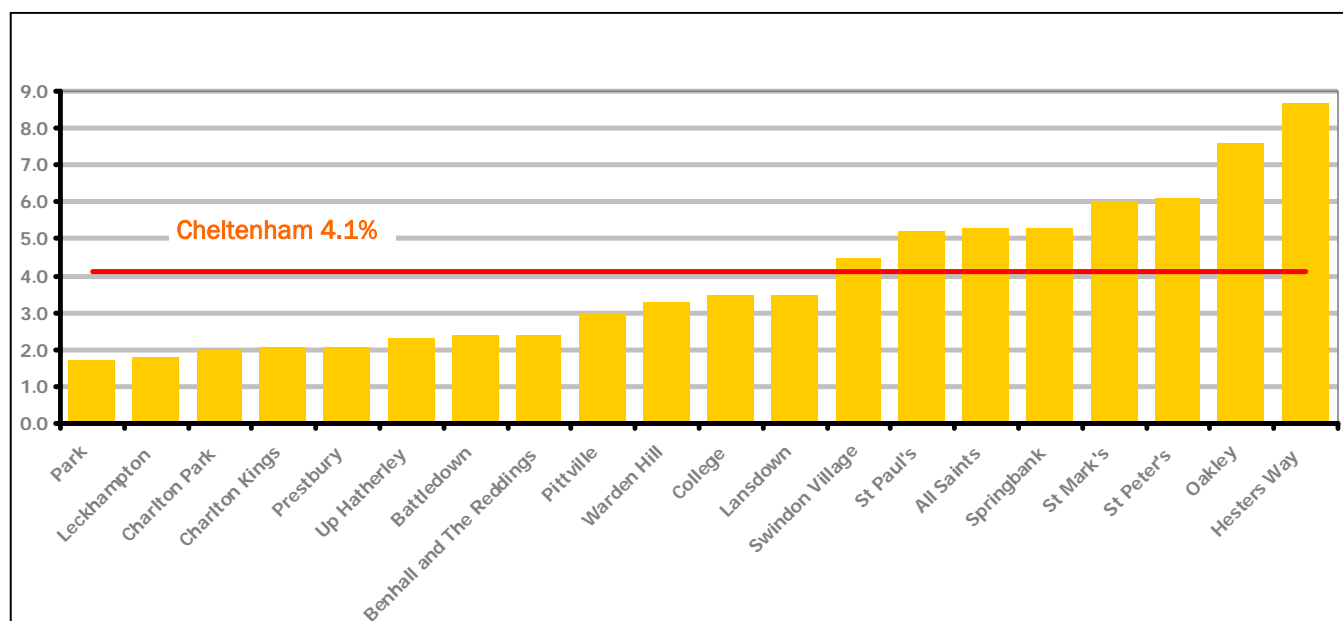
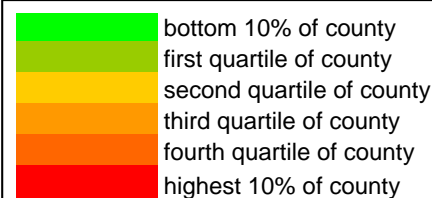


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with eight wards above the average of 4.1%.

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - April 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Park	1.7	13
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.8	20
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	2.0	26
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	2.1	32
Cheltenham	Prestbury	2.1	32
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	2.3	47
Cheltenham	Battledown	2.4	52
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	2.4	52
Cheltenham	Pittville	3.0	80
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	3.3	88
Cheltenham	College	3.5	94
Cheltenham	Lansdown	3.5	94
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	4.5	113
Cheltenham	St Paul's	5.2	123
Cheltenham	All Saints	5.3	124
Cheltenham	Springbank	5.3	124
Cheltenham	St Mark's	6.0	129
Cheltenham	St Peter's	6.1	130
Cheltenham	Oakley	7.6	139
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	8.7	142



\* 1 = "best" and 142 = "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 7: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year

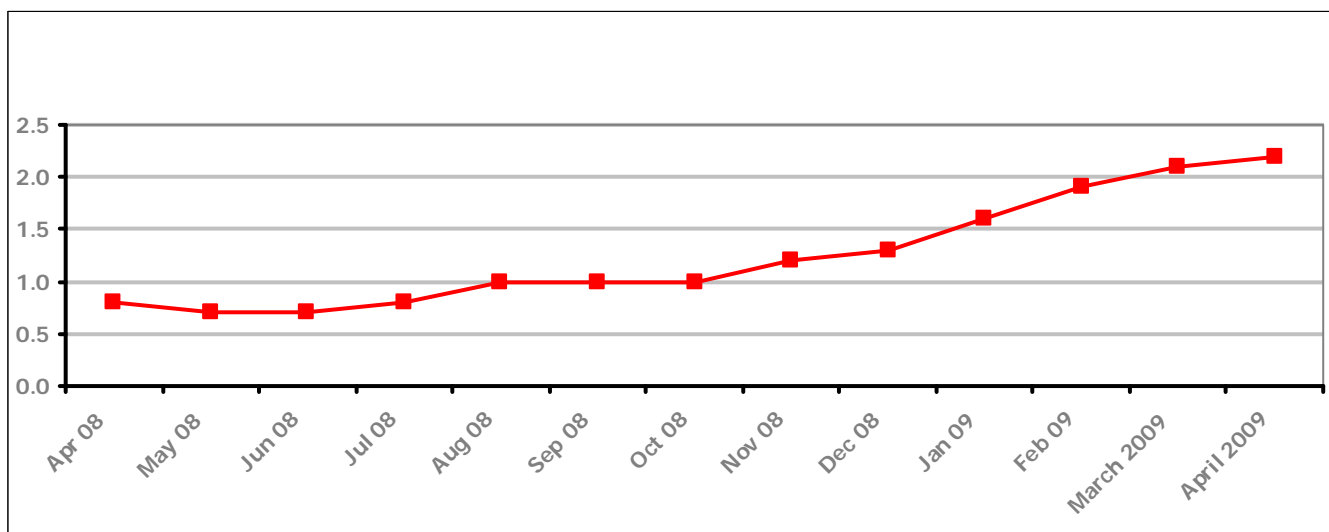


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District was at its highest for over a year at 2.2%. The rate has been increasing since June 2008.

Figure 8: Cotswold District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

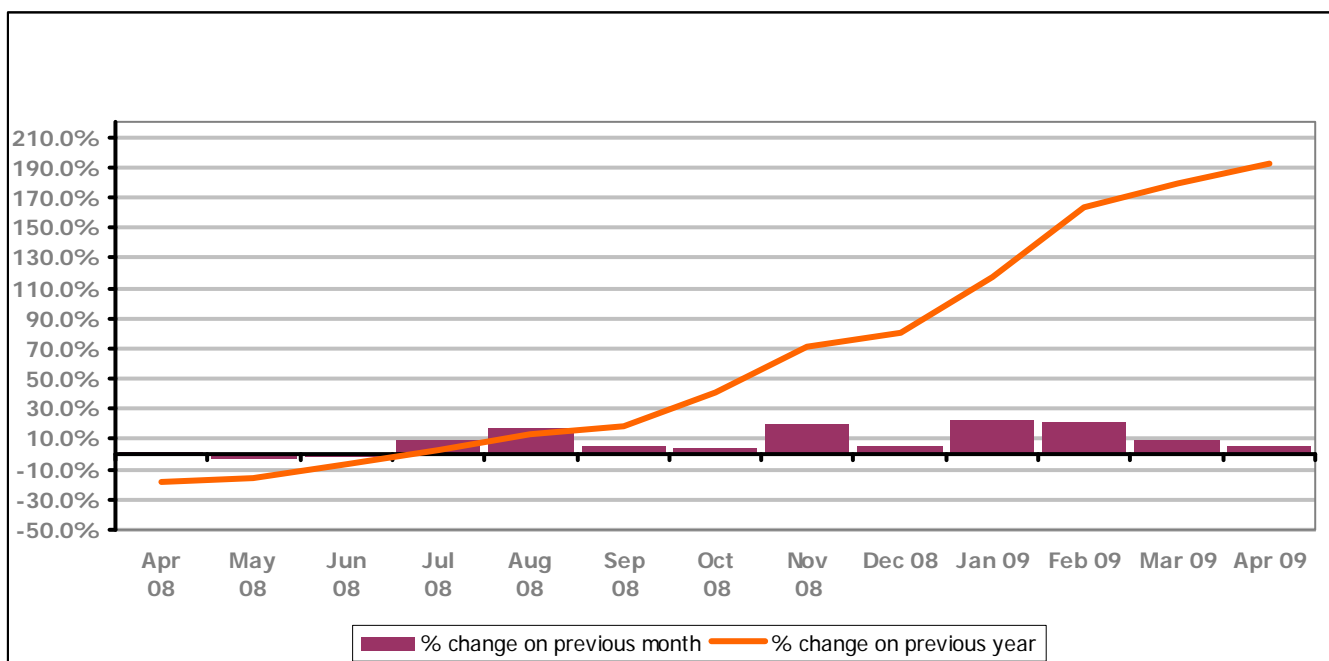


Figure 8 shows the claimant count increasing since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts are higher compared to the same month the previous year since July 2008. For example, in April 2009, the claimant count was over 192% higher than it was in April 2008.



## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

## 4.2 Cotswold District continued...

Figure 9: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards - April 2009

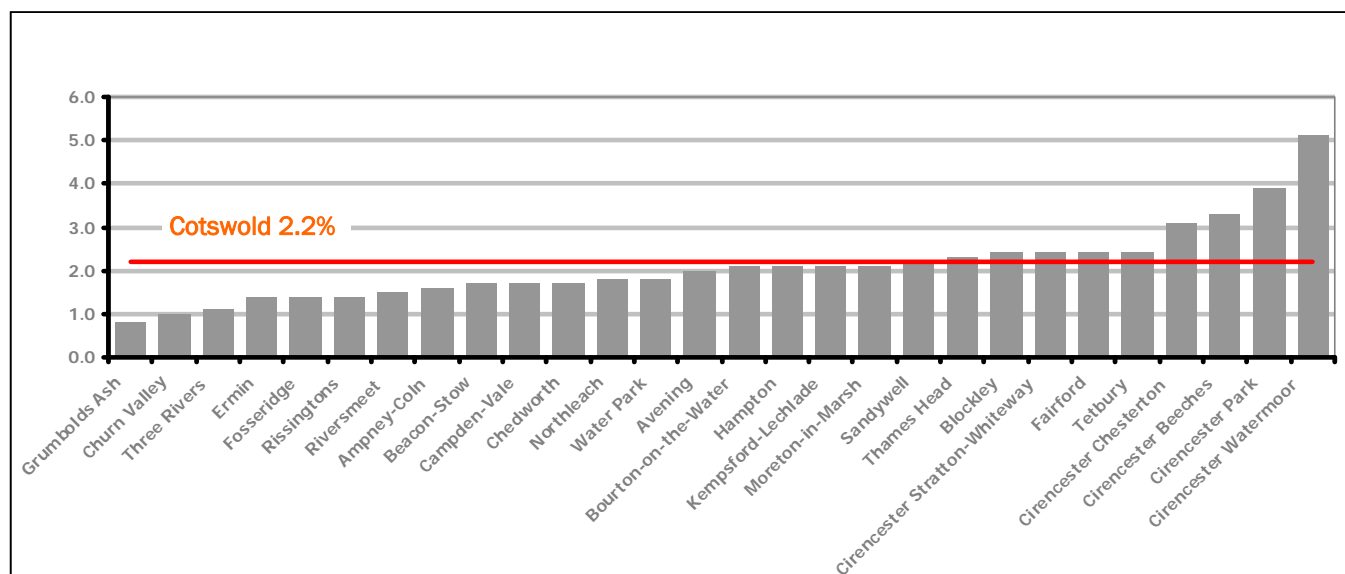
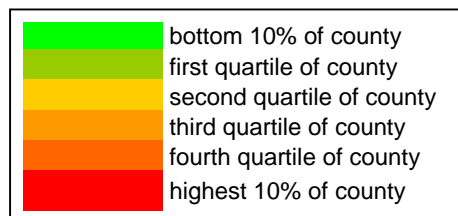


Figure 9 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Nine wards lie above the District average of 2.2%.

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - April 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	0.8	1
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	1.0	2
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	1.1	5
Cotswolds	Ermin	1.4	6
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.4	6
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	1.4	6
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	1.5	10
Cotswolds	Ampney-Coln	1.6	12
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	1.7	13
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	1.7	13
Cotswolds	Chedworth	1.7	13
Cotswolds	Northleach	1.8	20
Cotswolds	Water Park	1.8	20
Cotswolds	Avening	2.0	26
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	2.1	32
Cotswolds	Hampton	2.1	32
Cotswolds	Kempsford-Lechlade	2.1	32
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	2.1	32
Cotswolds	Sandywell	2.2	43
Cotswolds	Thames Head	2.3	47
Cotswolds	Blockley	2.4	52
Cotswolds	Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway	2.4	52
Cotswolds	Fairford	2.4	52
Cotswolds	Tetbury	2.4	52
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	3.1	85
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	3.3	88
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	3.9	103
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	5.1	122



\* 1 = "best" and 142 = "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 10: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year

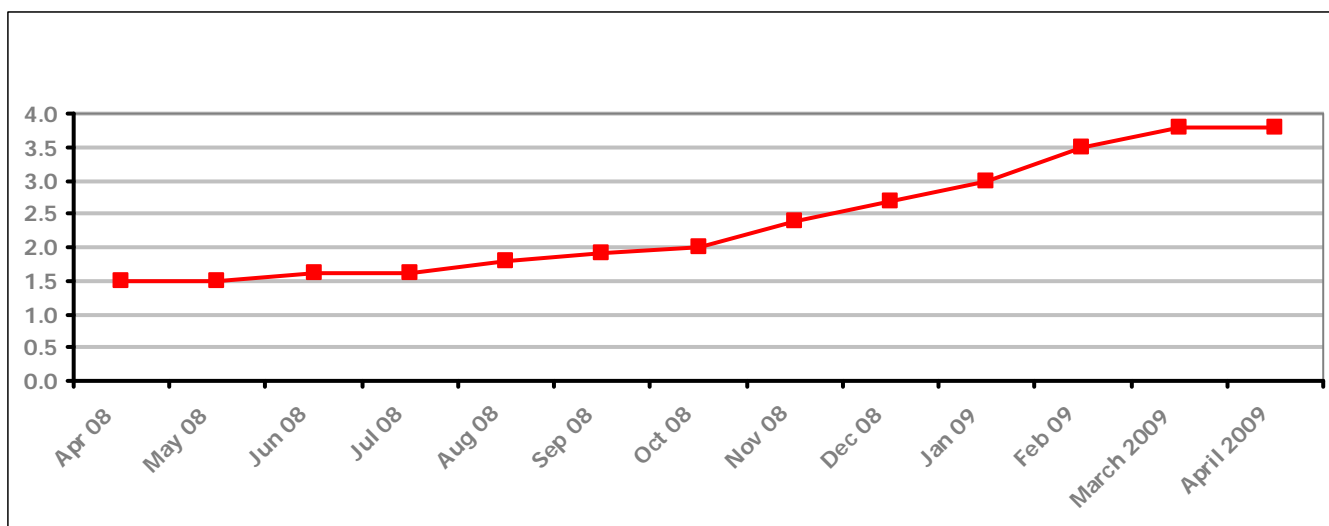


Figure 10 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean was at its highest for over a year at 3.8%. The rate has been increasing since July 2008.

Figure 11: Forest of Dean District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

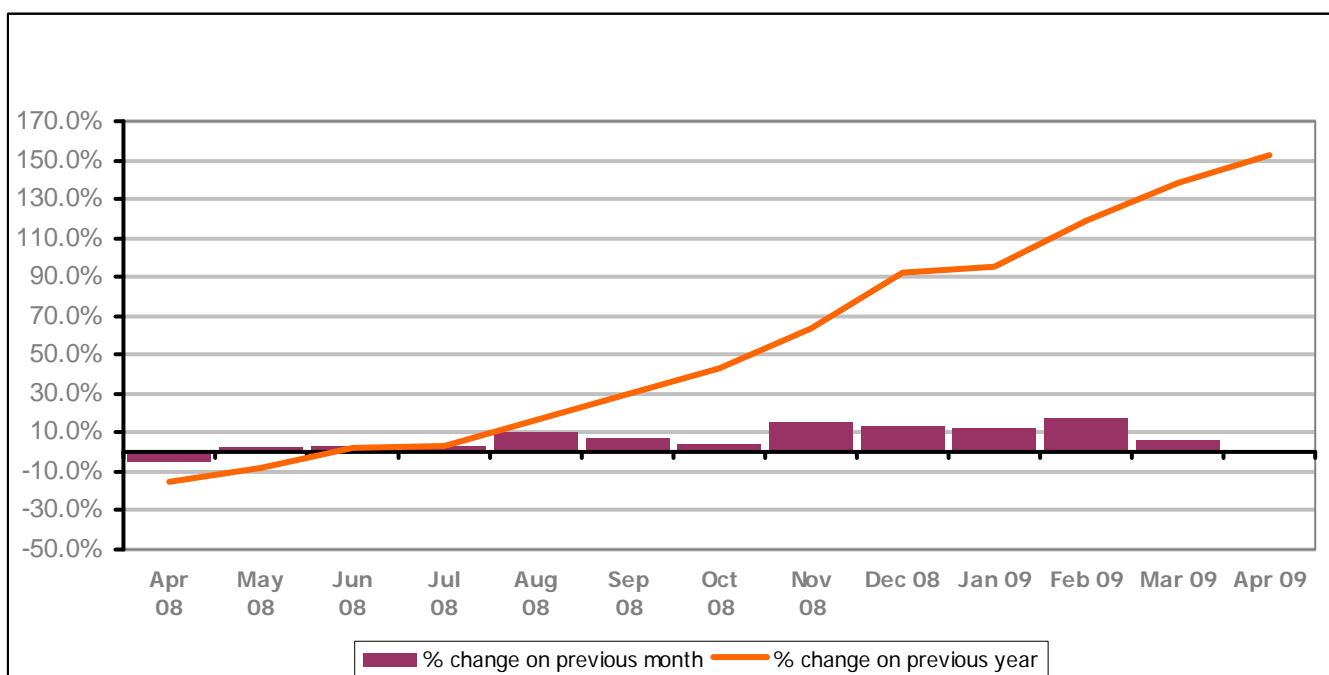


Figure 11 shows the claimant count has increased since May 2008, and that claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008. The number of claimants in April 2009 exceeded that of April 2008 by around 152%.

## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

## 4.3 Forest of Dean District continued...

Figure 12: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards - April 2009

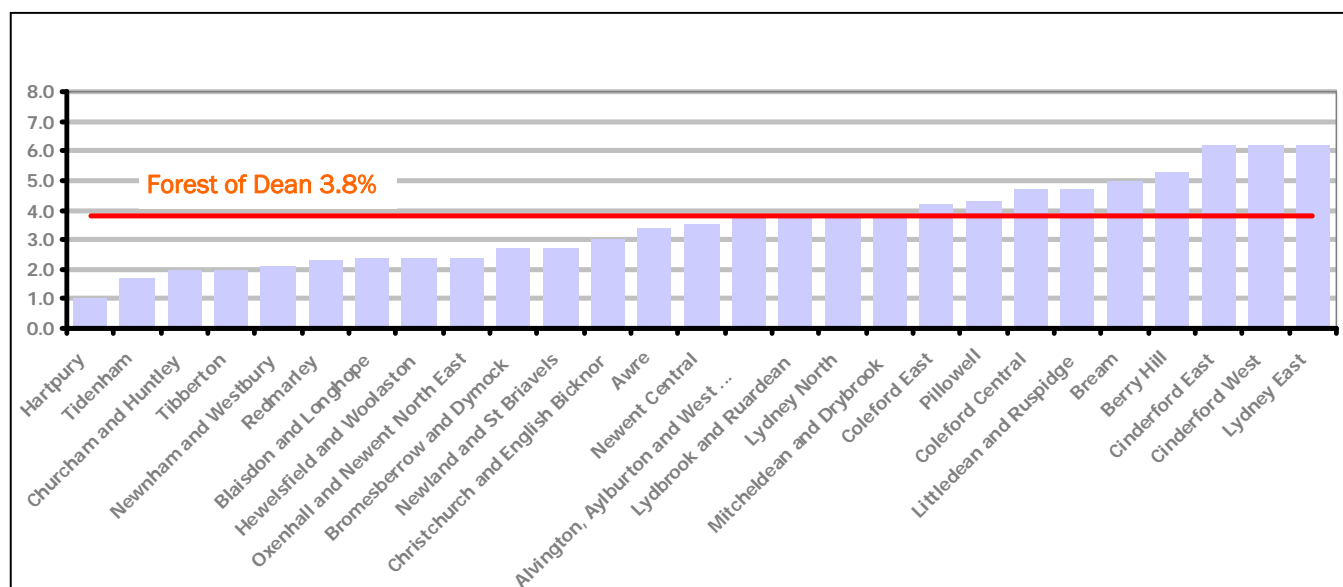


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Thirteen wards are above the District average of 3.8%.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - April 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury	1.0	2
Forest	Tidenham	1.7	13
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	2.0	26
Forest	Tibberton	2.0	26
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	2.1	32
Forest	Redmarley	2.3	47
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	2.4	52
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	2.4	52
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent North East	2.4	52
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	2.7	71
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	2.7	71
Forest	Christchurch and English Bicknor	3.0	80
Forest	Awre	3.4	91
Forest	Newent Central	3.5	94
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney	3.8	99
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	3.8	99
Forest	Lydney North	3.8	99
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	3.8	99
Forest	Coleford East	4.2	108
Forest	Pillowell	4.3	110
Forest	Coleford Central	4.7	117
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	4.7	117
Forest	Bream	5.0	120
Forest	Berry Hill	5.3	124
Forest	Cinderford East	6.2	131
Forest	Cinderford West	6.2	131
Forest	Lydney East	6.2	131

bottom 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 142 = "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 13: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year

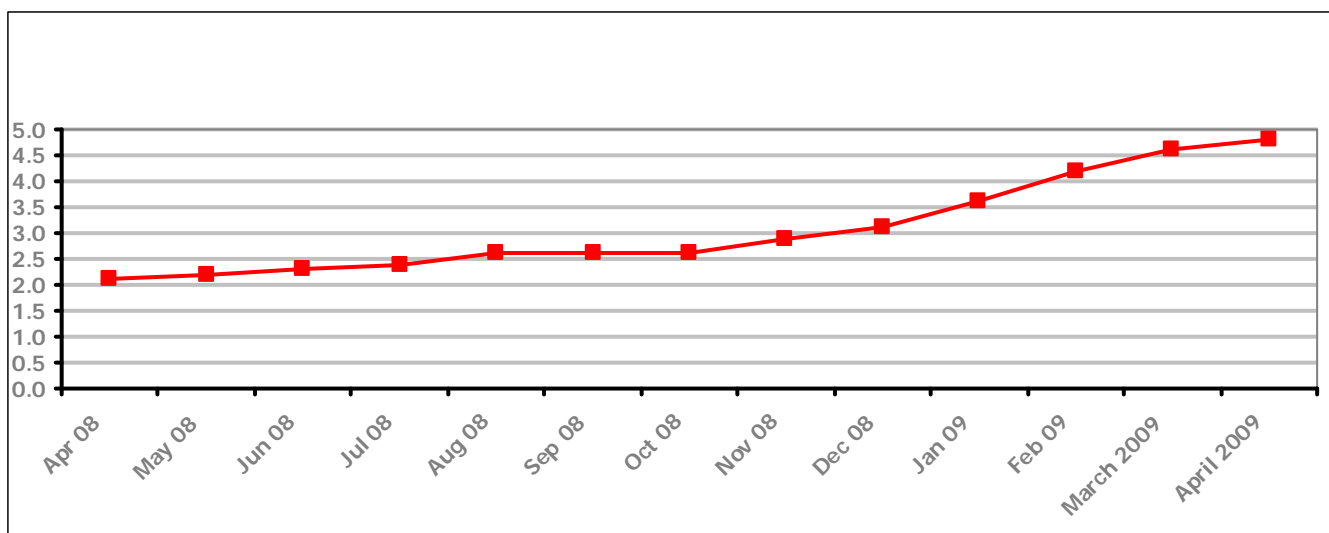


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City was at the highest point for over a year at 4.8%. The rate has been increasing since May 2008.

Figure 14: Gloucester City claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

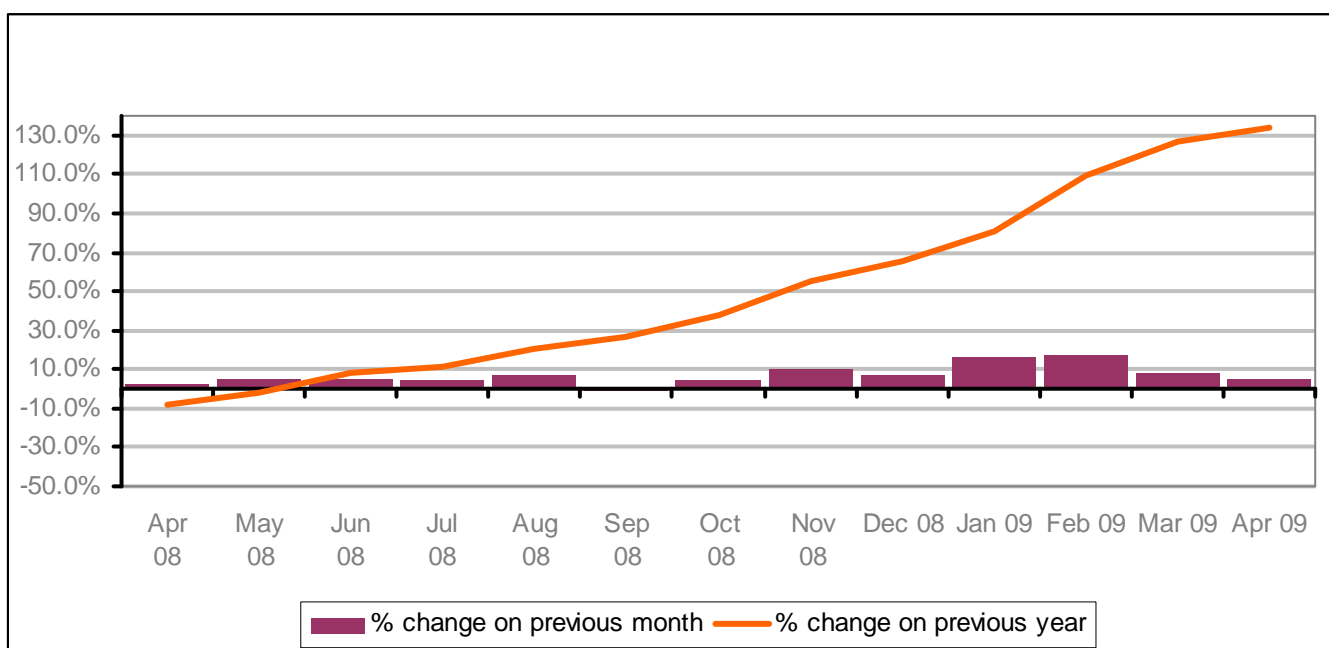


Figure 14 shows the monthly claimant count increased since October 2008. Claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month on the previous year since June 2008. The number of claimants in April 2009 exceeded that of April 2008 by around 133%.

## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

## 4.4 Gloucester City continued...

Figure 15: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - April 2009

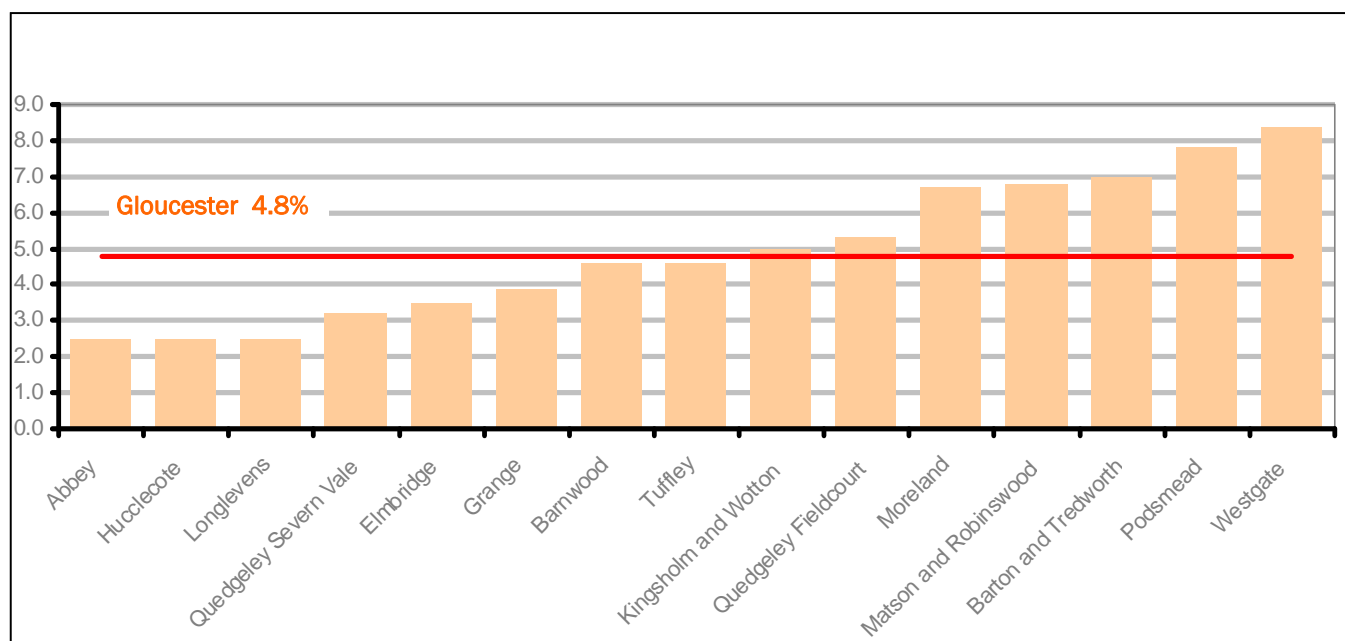


Figure 15 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City. Seven wards are above the City average of 4.8%.

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - April 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Abbey	2.5	64
Gloucester	Hucclecote	2.5	64
Gloucester	Longlevens	2.5	64
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	3.2	87
Gloucester	Elmbridge	3.5	94
Gloucester	Grange	3.9	103
Gloucester	Barnwood	4.6	115
Gloucester	Tuffley	4.6	115
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	5.0	120
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	5.3	124
Gloucester	Moreland	6.7	134
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	6.8	136
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.0	138
Gloucester	Podsmead	7.8	140
Gloucester	Westgate	8.4	141

bottom 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 142 = "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 16: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year

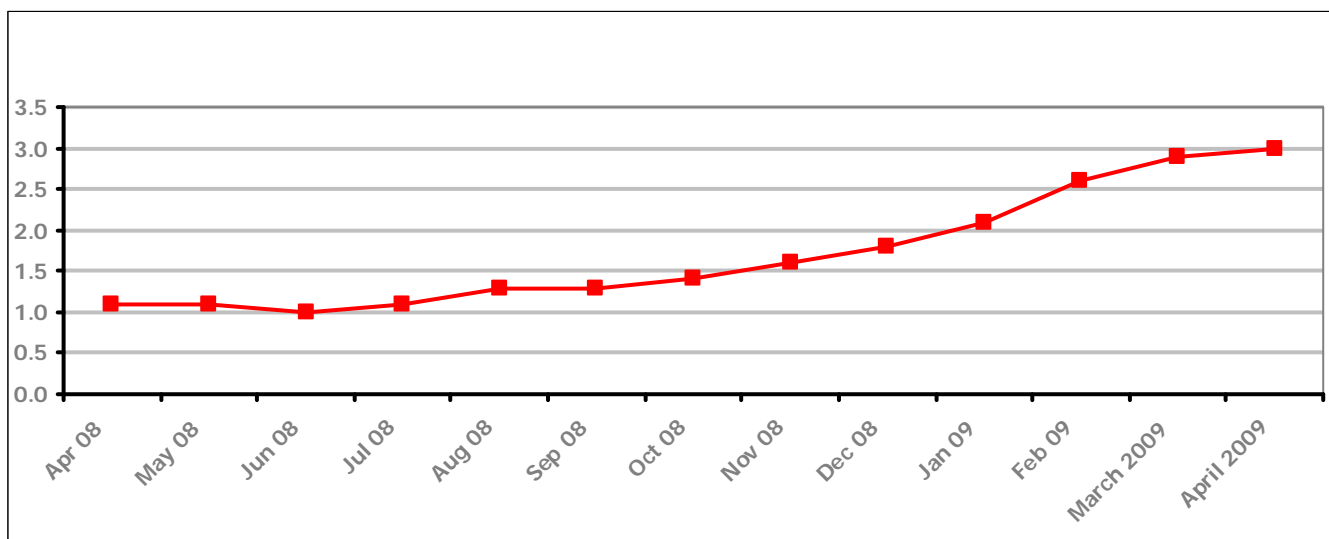


Figure 16 shows the claimant rate for Stroud District was at 3.0%, the highest it has been for over two years.

Figure 17: Stroud District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

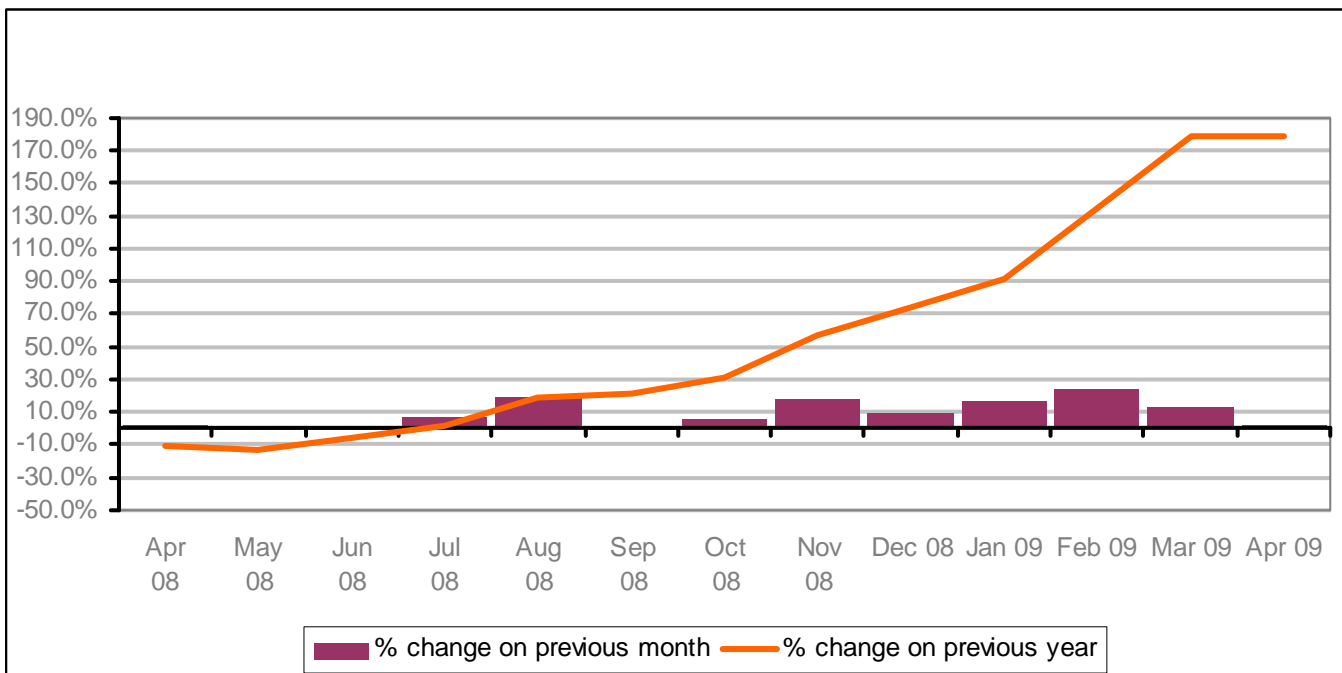


Figure 17 shows that when compared to the same month in the previous year, the claimant count has been increasing since July 2008. The April 2009 figure was 179% higher than it was in April 2008.

## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

## 4.5 Stroud District continued...

Figure 18: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - April 2009

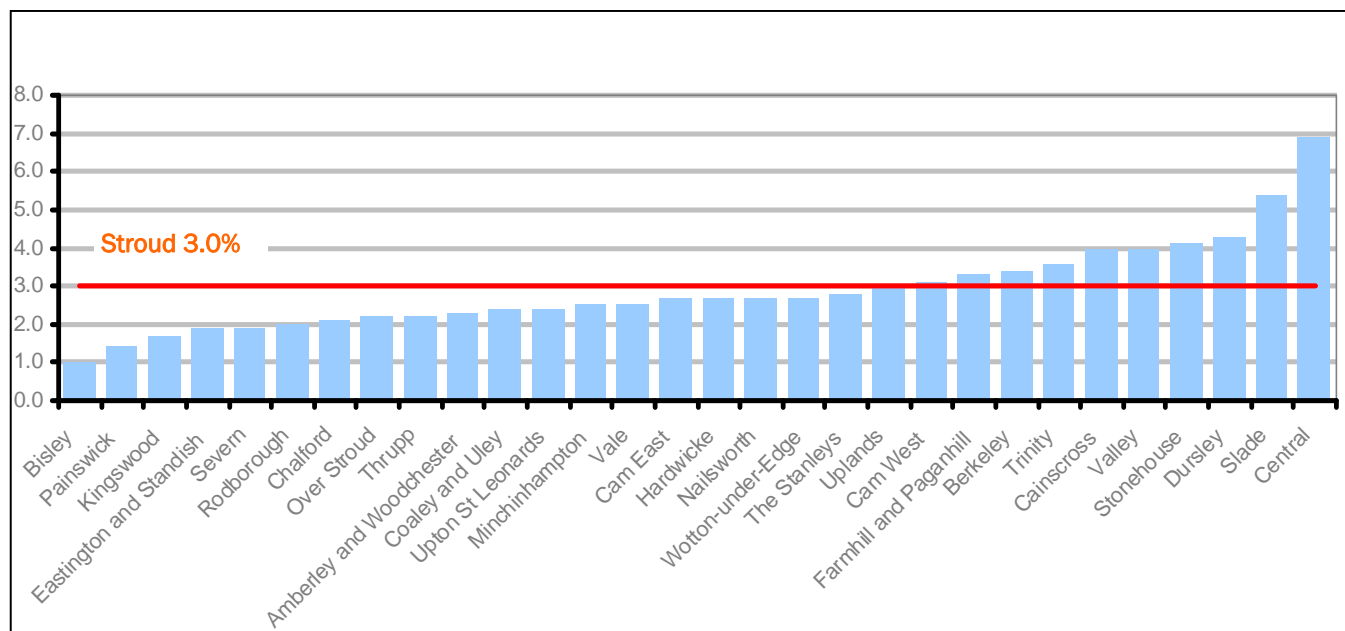
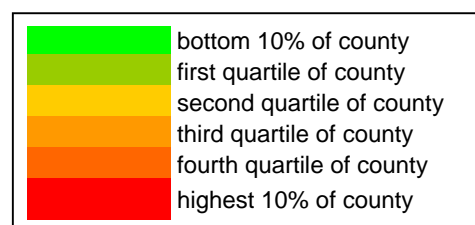


Figure 18 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and eleven of the wards are above the District average of 3.0%.

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - April 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Bisley	1.0	2
Stroud	Painswick	1.4	6
Stroud	Kingswood	1.7	13
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	1.9	24
Stroud	Severn	1.9	24
Stroud	Rodborough	2.0	26
Stroud	Chalford	2.1	32
Stroud	Over Stroud	2.2	43
Stroud	Thrupp	2.2	43
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	2.3	47
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	2.4	52
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	2.4	52
Stroud	Minchinhampton	2.5	64
Stroud	Vale	2.5	64
Stroud	Cam East	2.7	71
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.7	71
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.7	71
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	2.7	71
Stroud	The Stanleys	2.8	78
Stroud	Uplands	3.0	80
Stroud	Cam West	3.1	85
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	3.3	88
Stroud	Berkeley	3.4	91
Stroud	Trinity	3.6	98
Stroud	Cainscross	4.0	105
Stroud	Valley	4.0	105
Stroud	Stonehouse	4.1	107
Stroud	Dursley	4.3	110
Stroud	Slade	5.4	128
Stroud	Central	6.9	137



\* 1 = "best" and 142 = "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 District

## Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 19: Tewkesbury District claimant rate over the last year

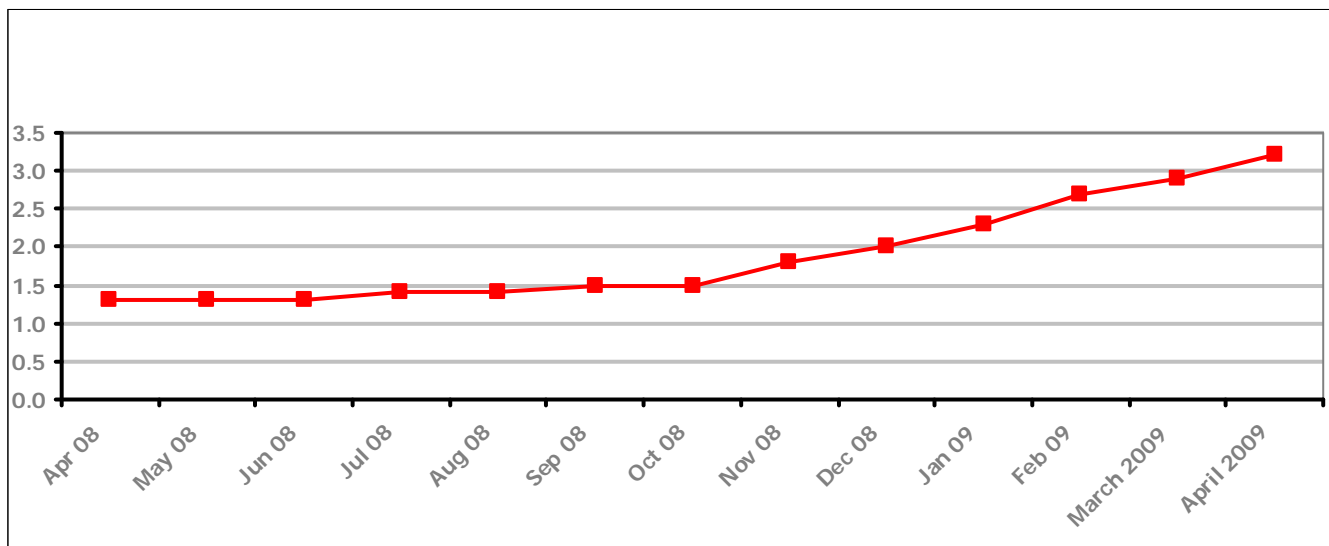


Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury District was at 3.2%, the highest it has been for over a year.

Figure 20: Tewkesbury District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

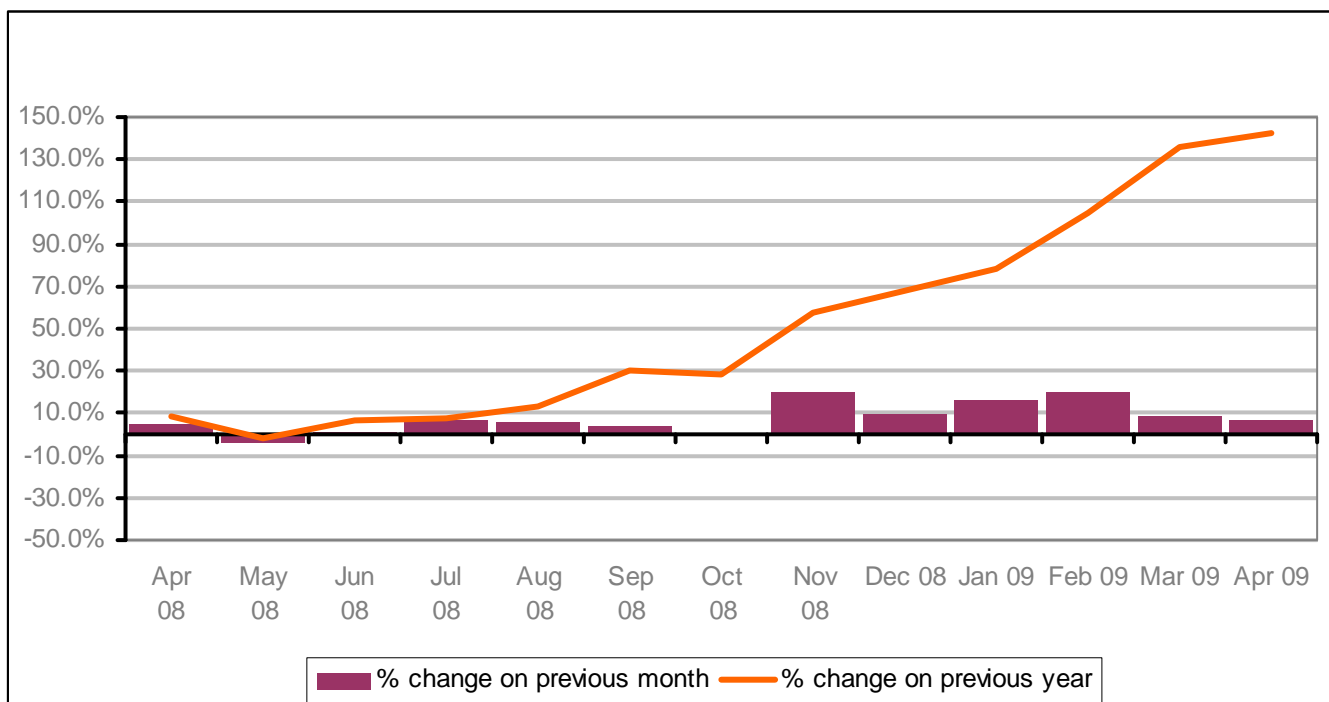


Figure 20 shows that claimant count has on the whole been increasing since June 2008. The rate in April 2009 figure was 142% higher than it was in April 2008.



## PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

## 4.6 Tewkesbury District continued...

Figure 21: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury District wards - April 2009

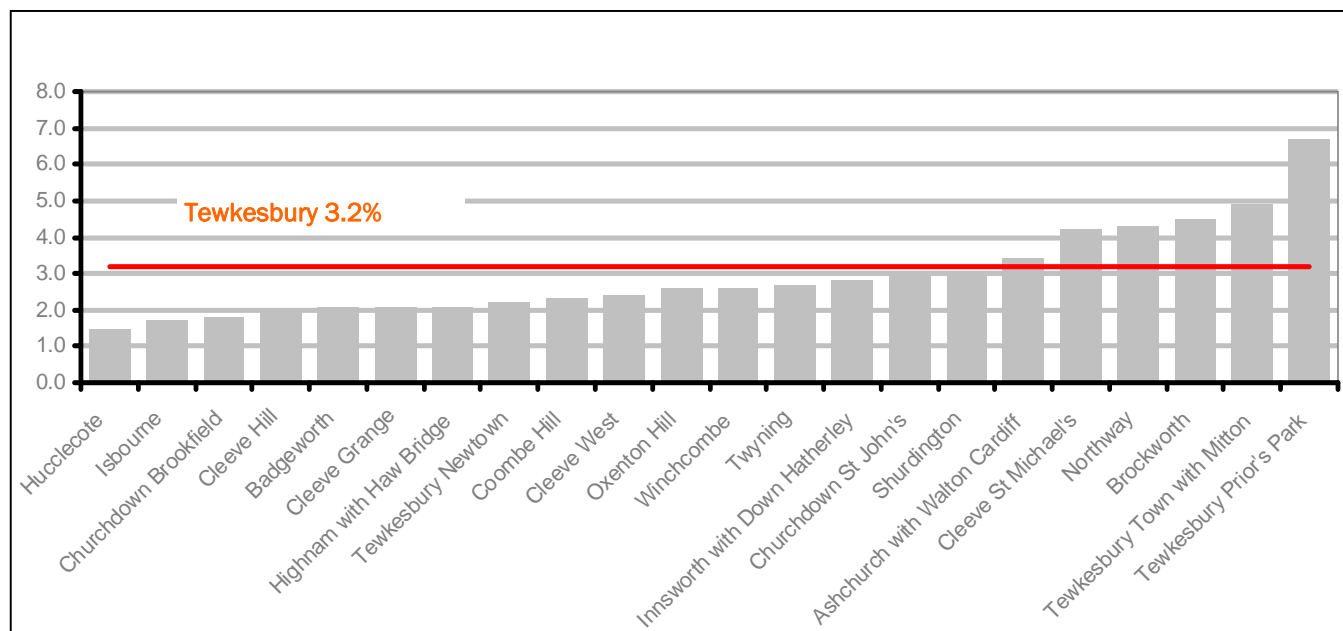
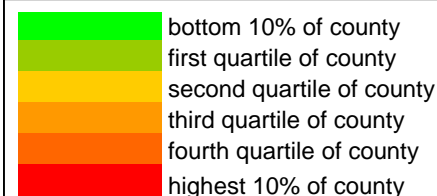


Figure 21 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and seven of the wards are above the District average of 3.2%.

Table 10: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury District level - April 2009

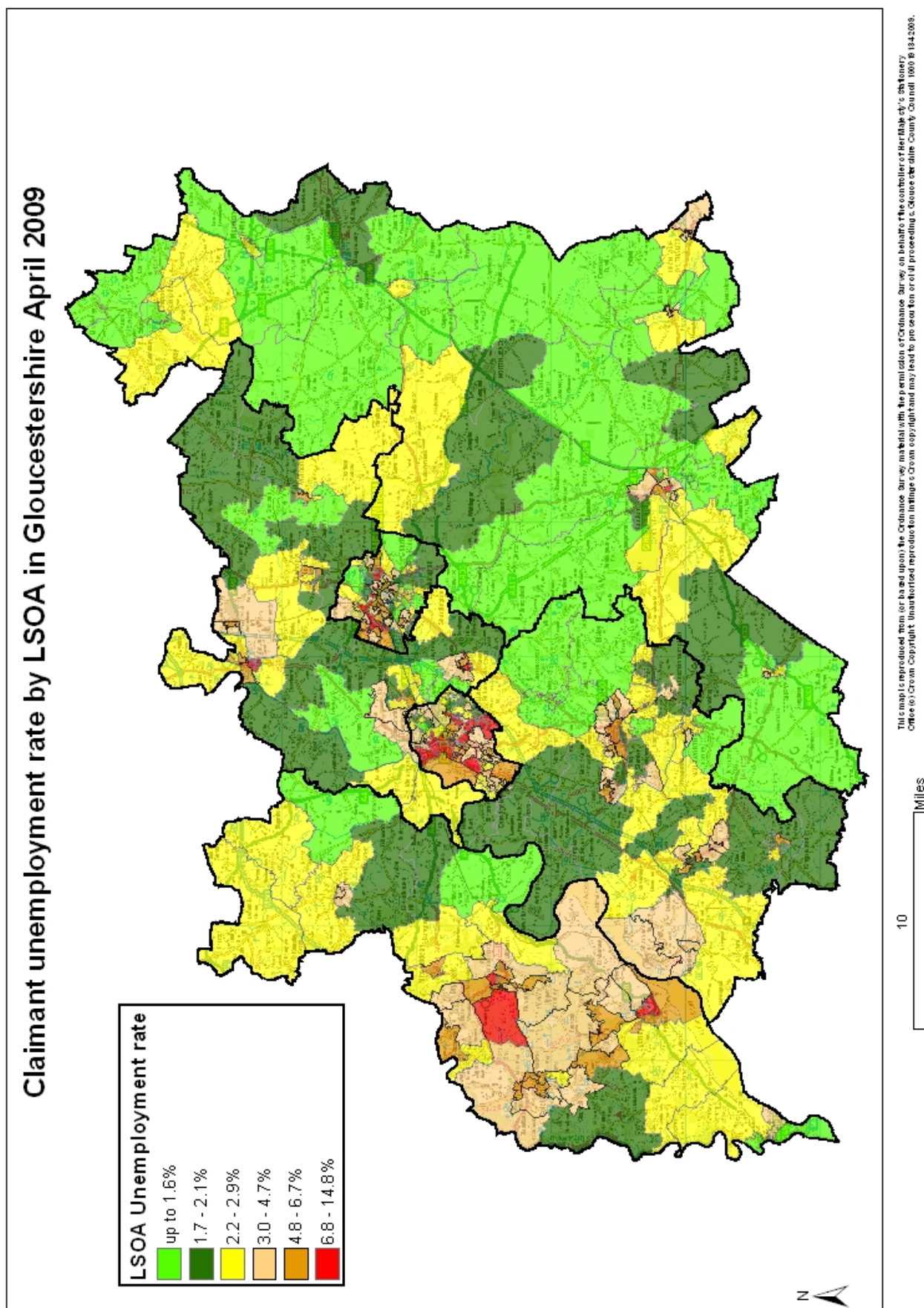
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	1.5	10
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	1.7	13
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	1.8	20
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	2.0	26
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.1	32
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.1	32
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.1	32
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	2.2	43
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	2.3	47
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	2.4	52
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	2.6	69
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.6	69
Tewkesbury	Twynning	2.7	71
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	2.8	78
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	3.0	80
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.0	80
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff	3.4	91
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	4.2	108
Tewkesbury	Northway	4.3	110
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	4.5	113
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	4.9	119
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	6.7	134



\* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

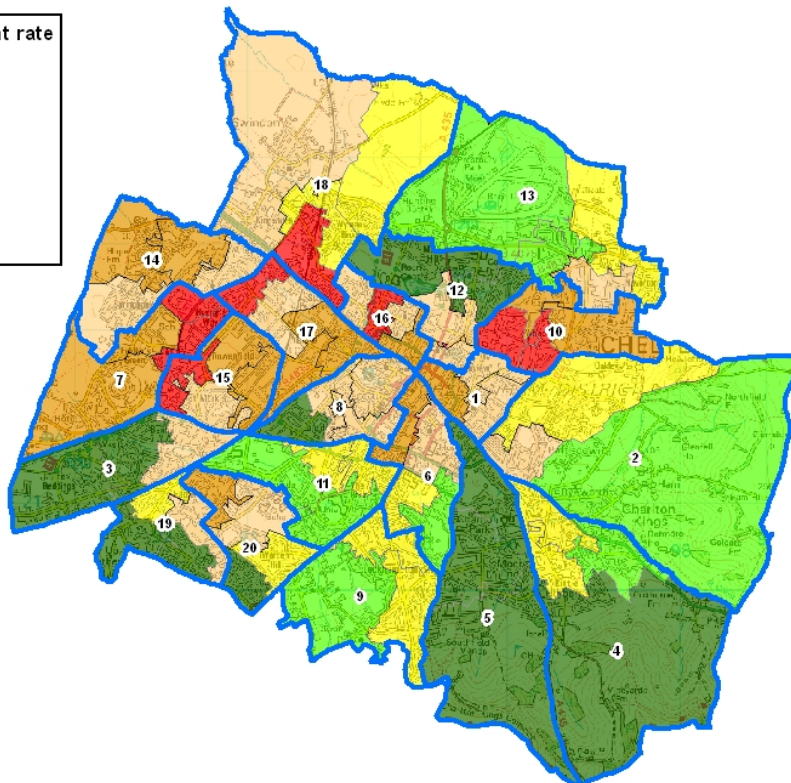
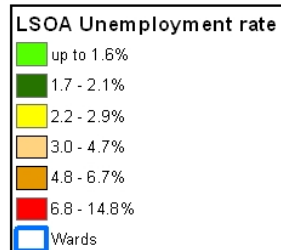
Table 10 shows overall claimant rates for Tewkesbury District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

## PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



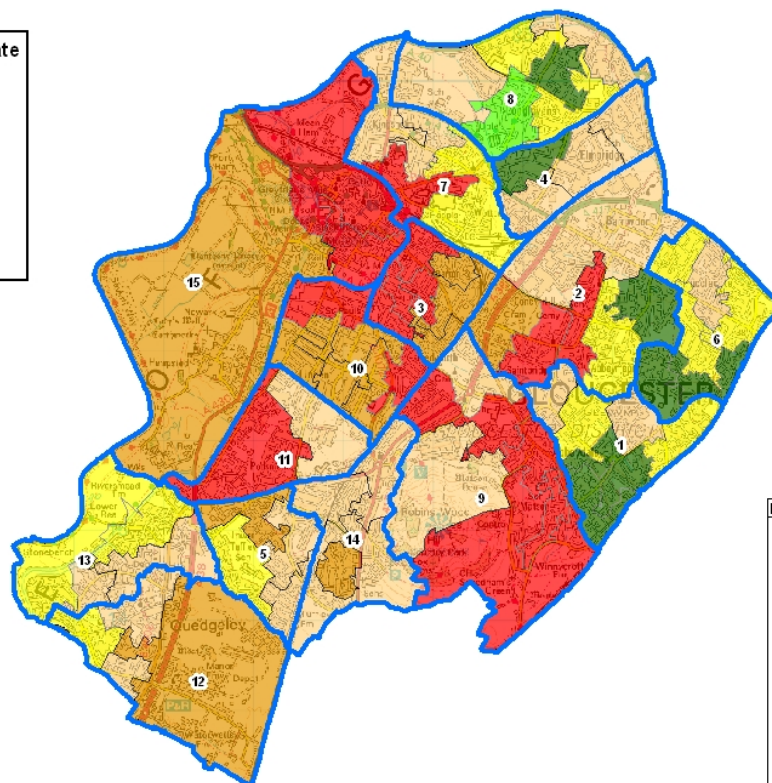
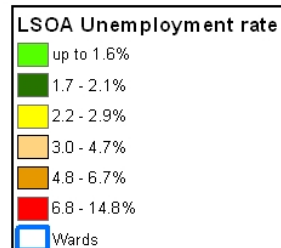
## PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Claimant unemployment rate by LSOA in Cheltenham April 2009



ID	WARD
1	All Saints
2	Battledown
3	Benhall and The Reddings
4	Charlton Kings
5	Charlton Park
6	College
7	Hesters Way
8	Lansdown
9	Leckhampton
10	Oakley
11	Park
12	Pittville
13	Prestbury
14	Springbank
15	St Mark's
16	St Paul's
17	St Peter's
18	Swindon Village
19	Up Hatherley
20	Warden Hill

Claimant unemployment rate by LSOA in Gloucester April 2009



ID	WARD
1	Abbey
2	Barnwood
3	Barton and Tredworth
4	Elmbridge
5	Grange
6	Hucclecote
7	Kingsholm and Wotton
8	Longlevens
9	Matson and Robinswood
10	Moreland
11	Podsmead
12	Quedgeley Fieldcourt
13	Quedgeley Severn Vale
14	Tuffley
15	Westgate



## PART 6: YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

Connexions Gloucestershire is required to report performance with the 16-18 age range against nationally defined criteria for counting the NEET group. 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.

### SUMMARY

As at the end of April 2009 there were 688 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire and this figure translates into an adjusted (\*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.4%. We are pleased to be reporting that during April the rate of increase of NEET joiners has slowed and in four of the six districts, the NEET population has decreased slightly since March. Gloucester City does show an increase in its NEET population, up from 3.7% in March.

#### Total NEET Group by District Area 30 April 2009

	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	Total
NEET Group	164	55	87	188	114	80	688(*)
% NEET of total 16-18 cohort	6.9%	2.4%	3.4%	3.9%	4.1%	4.2%	4.4%(*)

### NEET prevention

A key aspect of the work undertaken by the Youth Support Service in Gloucestershire is activities and intervention to support NEET prevention. Services are working closely together to both identify young people deemed to be 'at risk' of becoming NEET and to develop strategies to re-engage this group into positive outcomes.

### September Guarantee

The September Guarantee is a national initiative which supports NEET prevention by aiming to ensure that all school leavers are *guaranteed* an offer of Post 16 education or training. Given the current economic climate, key stakeholders (including the LA, Connexions and the LSC) are seeking to ensure that our positive performance during 2008 (which saw 94% of school leavers obtain an offer) is replicated and improved.

If you would like to receive any further information on Gloucestershire's NEET strategy then please contact [Andrew.Webster@prospects.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Webster@prospects.co.uk) or telephone 01452 426900

(\*) Adjustment includes a proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose outcomes are not-known to Connexions Gloucestershire