

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 7 February 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).

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.

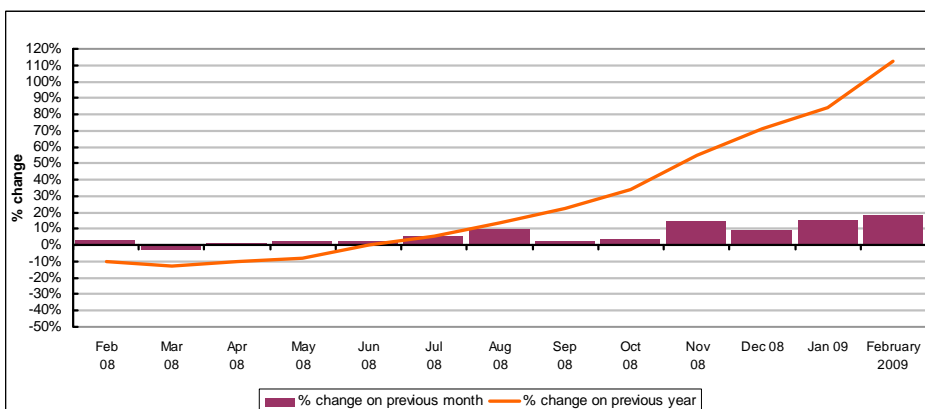
PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 3.2% in February 2009. This was an increase of 0.5% on the January 2009 figure. The rate has been continually increasing since July 2008. The UK rate has increased by 0.5% between January and February 2009 with the South West rate increasing by 0.4. Gloucestershire's rate remains slightly above the South West average of 2.9%, but 0.7% lower than the UK average of 3.9%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in February 2009 rose by 1,743 people. The amount of people claiming in February 2009 was 18% higher than the number in January 2009 equalling a 19% increase in the South West and 14% for the UK.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire has been increasing since July 2008, it was 113% higher in February 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



Produced by:

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

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DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

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

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

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

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

CHELTEMHAM BOROUGH

Claim count:	2,559
Compared to last month:	+15%
Claimant rate:	3.6%
Highest claiming ward	Hesters Way (7.4%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claim count:	3,024
Compared to last month:	+17.3%
Claimant rate:	4.2%
Highest claiming ward	Westgate (7.8%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claim count:	951
Compared to last month:	+21.5%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward	Cirencester Watermoor (4.4%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,697
Compared to last month:	+24%
Claimant rate:	2.6%
Highest claiming ward	Central (5.2%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claim count:	1,729
Compared to last month:	+17.4%
Claimant rate:	3.5%
Highest claiming ward	Lydney East (6.3%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claim count:	1,281
Compared to last month:	+19.8%
Claimant rate:	2.7%
Highest claiming ward	Tewkesbury Priors Park (6.2%)

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

At the end of February 2009 there were 659 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.0% which shows an increase of 0.3% from last month. Analysis of numbers of NEET joiners in recent months reflects a 30-40% increase compared to the same period in 2008.

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

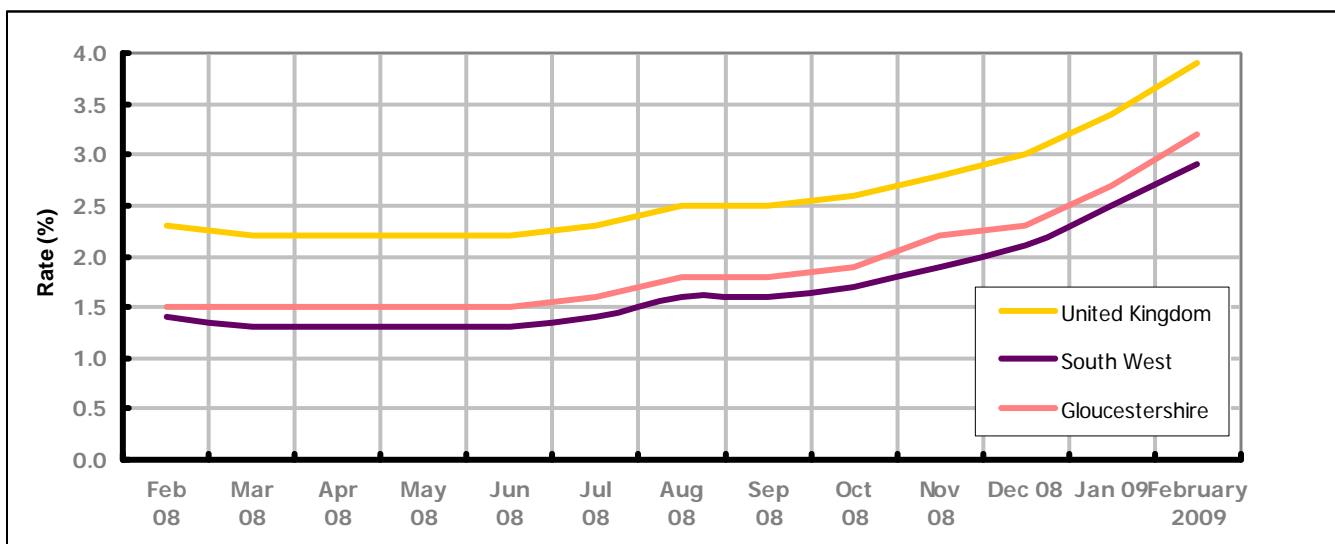


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 3.2% in February 2009. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.7% against the UK average during the same period. February 2009 represented a 0.5% increase on January 2009.

Claimant Count

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

Area	Claimant Count in February 2009	% change on January 2009	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,459,840	+13.8%	+7.5%	10
South West	91,539	+19.2%	+10.9%	10
Gloucestershire	11,241	+18.4%	+9.8%	11

Table 1 shows that in February 2009, the numbers of claimants in Gloucestershire was 18.4% higher than the numbers in January 2009. This is 4.4% higher than the UK figure and 0.8% lower than the South West.

The average growth in claimants in Gloucestershire for the six months to February 2009 was 9.8%. This is 2.3% higher than the UK average and 1.1% lower than the South West region.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

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

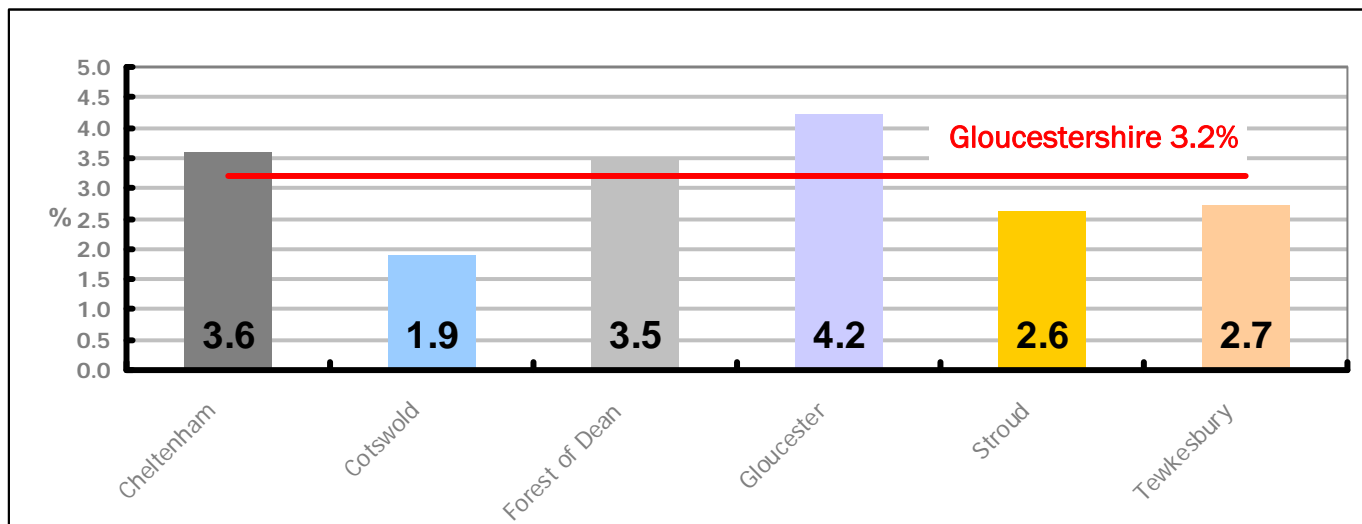


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for February 2009 in Gloucestershire. Every district in Gloucestershire experienced an increase in the claimant rate between January 2009 and February 2009.

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

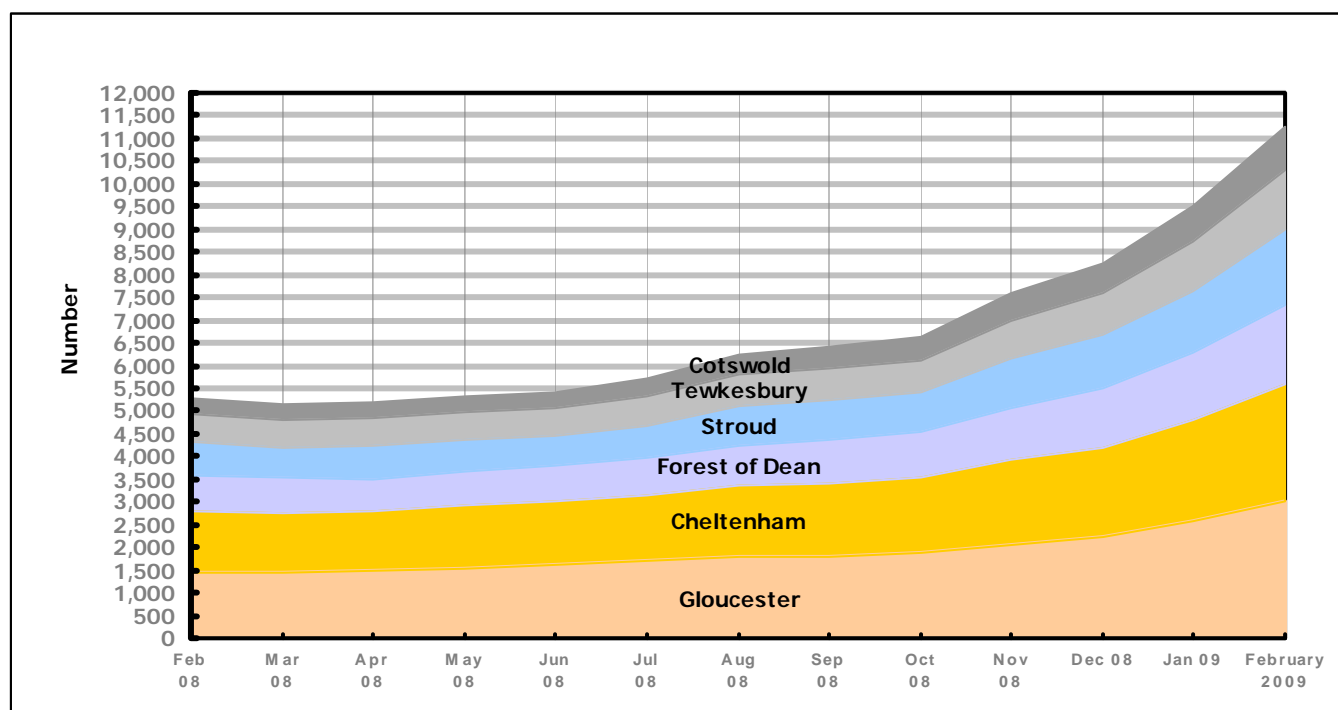


Figure 3 shows the overall claimant count for Gloucestershire over the past year. It demonstrates the gap that is widening across all the districts as the UK economy continues in recession. The widest gaps unsurprisingly reflect the urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in February 2009	% Change on January 2009	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
Cheltenham	2,559	15.0	8.1%	11
Cotswold	951	21.5	11.8%	8
Forest of Dean	1,729	17.4	10.5%	9
Gloucester	3,024	17.3	9.0%	5
Stroud	1,697	24.0	11.9%	5
Tewkesbury	1,281	19.8	10.6%	4
Gloucestershire	11,241	18.4	9.8%	11

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in February 2009 compared to January 2009. The February 2009 increase was experienced across all six districts. Stroud District showed the greatest percentage increase from the previous month and the highest average percentage increase over the last six months.

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

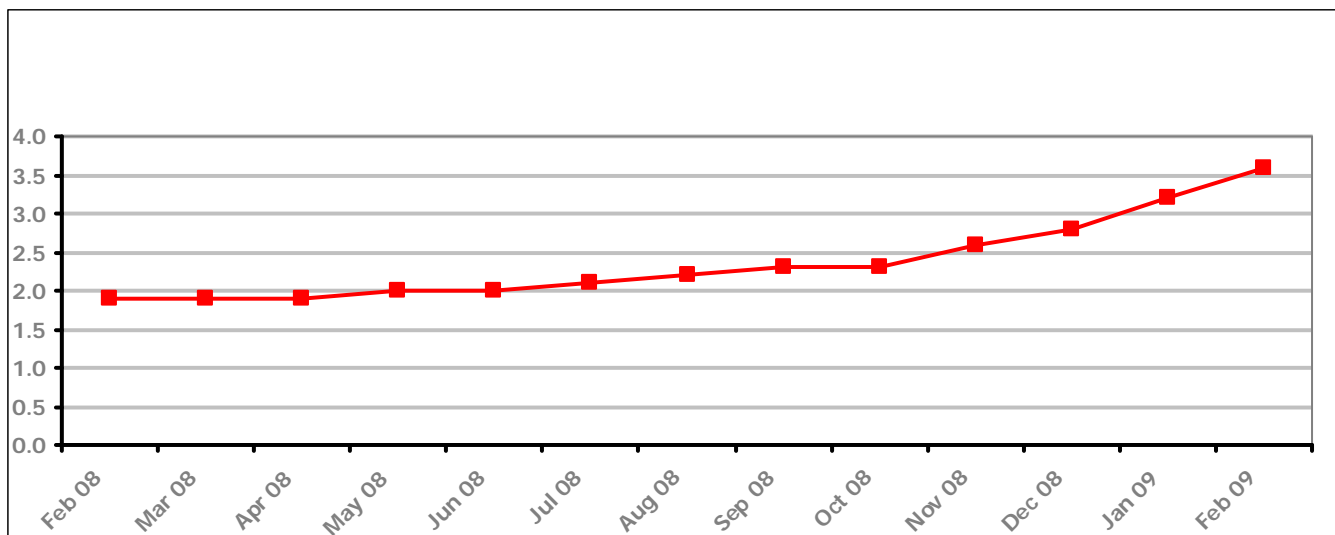


Figure 4 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham was at its highest for over a year at 3.6%. The rate has been climbing for ten consecutive months.

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

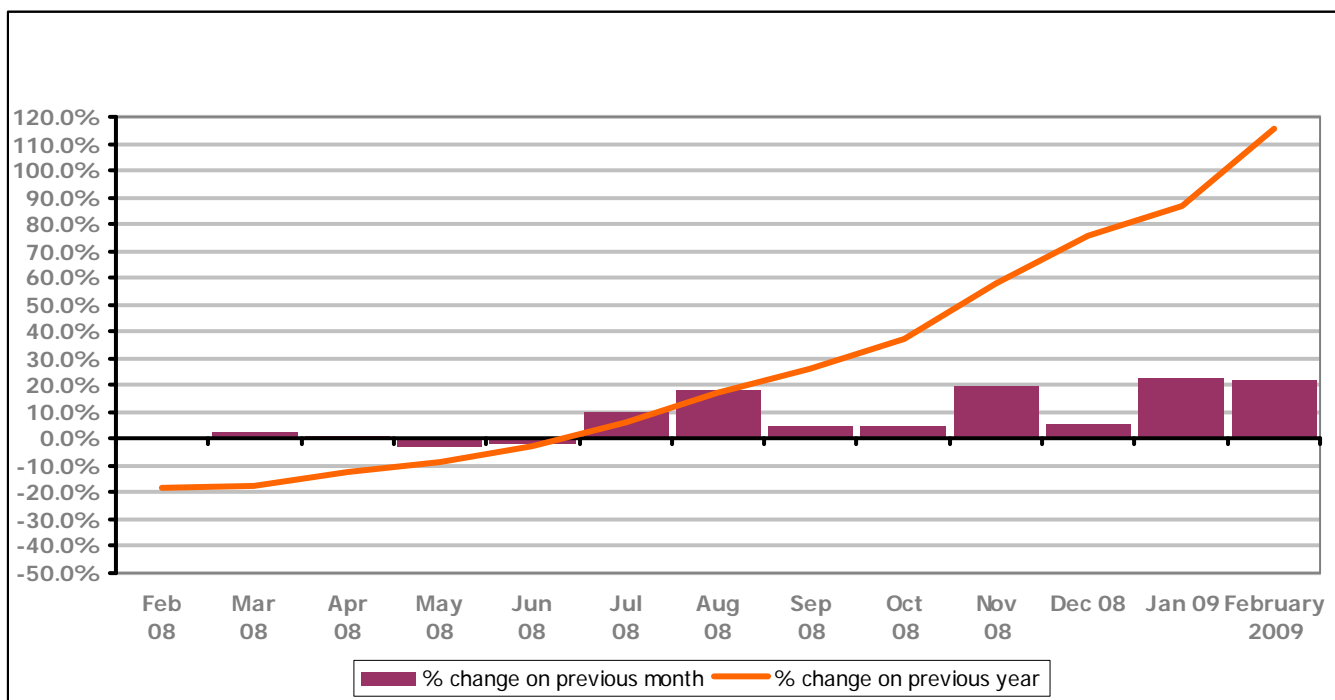


Figure 5 shows the claimant count continually increasing each month since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month in the previous year since July 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

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

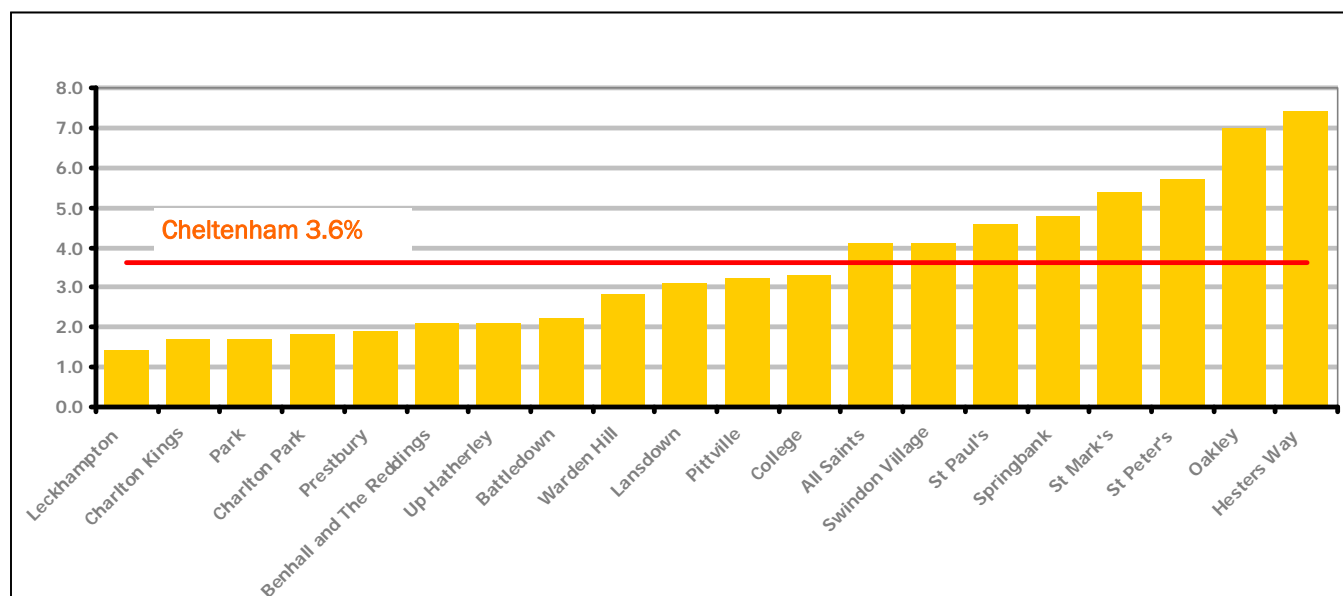


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with eight wards above the average of 3.6%.

Table 3: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - February 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.4	13
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.7	24
Cheltenham	Park	1.7	24
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.8	30
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.9	40
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	2.1	56
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	2.1	56
Cheltenham	Battledown	2.2	65
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.8	86
Cheltenham	Lansdown	3.1	90
Cheltenham	Pittville	3.2	93
Cheltenham	College	3.3	97
Cheltenham	All Saints	4.1	113
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	4.1	113
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.6	124
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.8	127
Cheltenham	St Mark's	5.4	130
Cheltenham	St Peter's	5.7	131
Cheltenham	Oakley	7.0	140
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	7.4	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 3 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

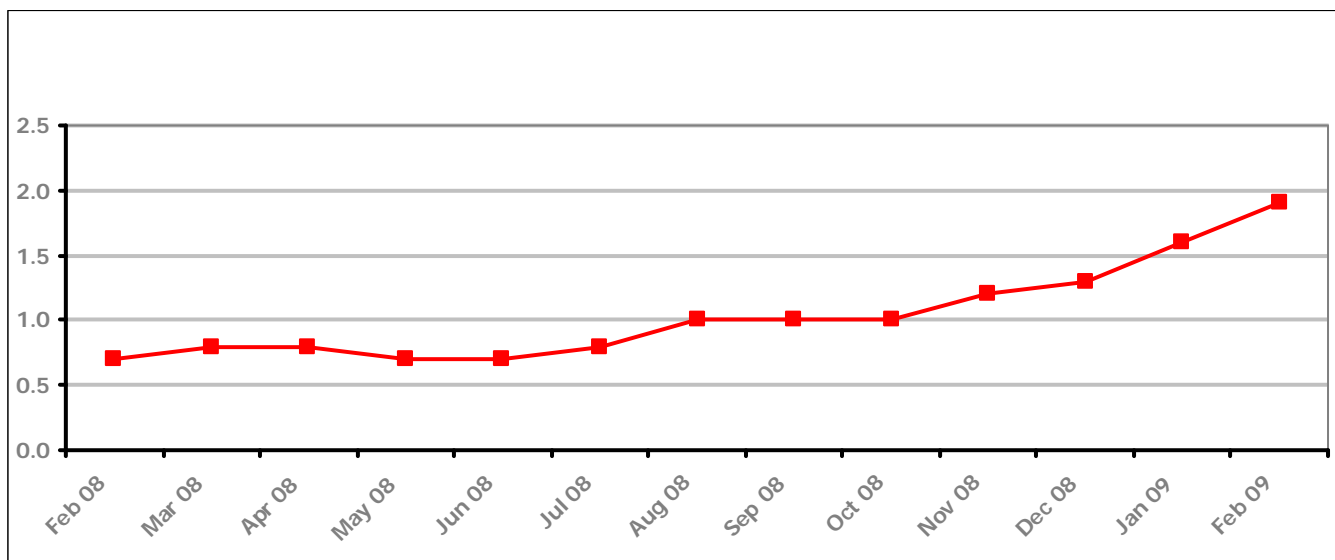


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District was at its highest for over a year at 1.9%. The rate has been increasing since June 2008.

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

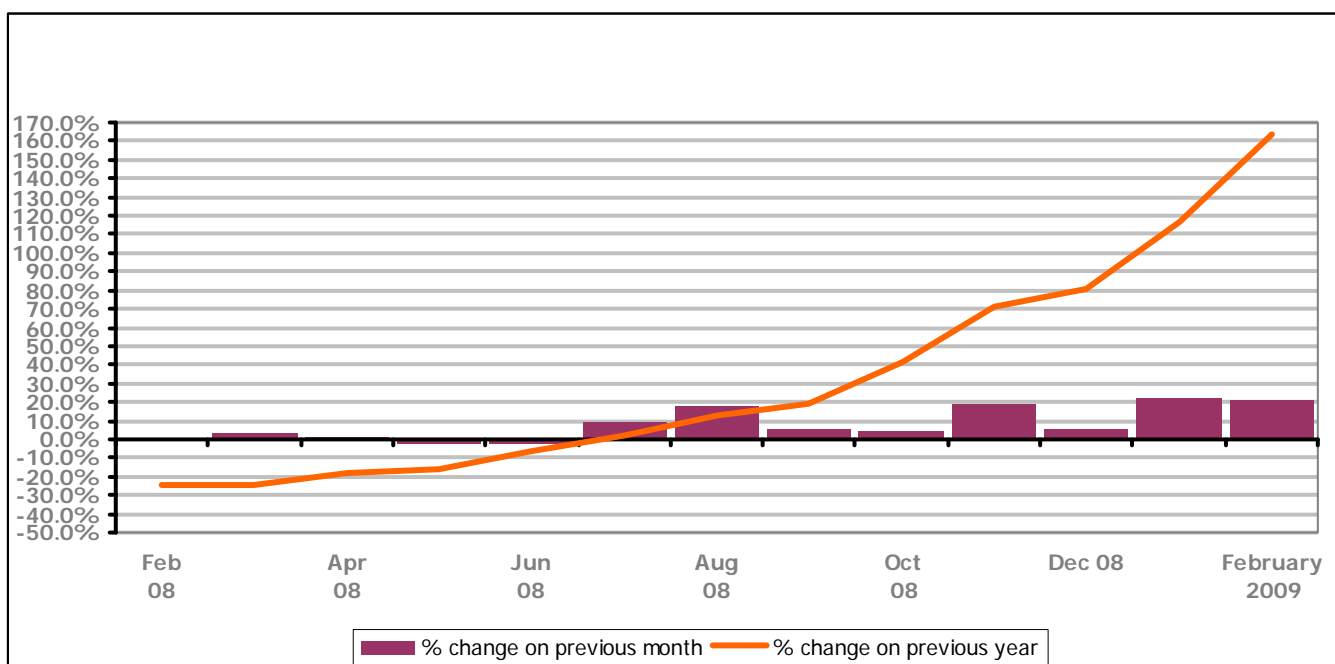


Figure 8 shows the claimant count increasing since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts are higher compared to the same month the previous year since July 2008. For example, in February 2009, the claimant count was over 163% higher than it was in February 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

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

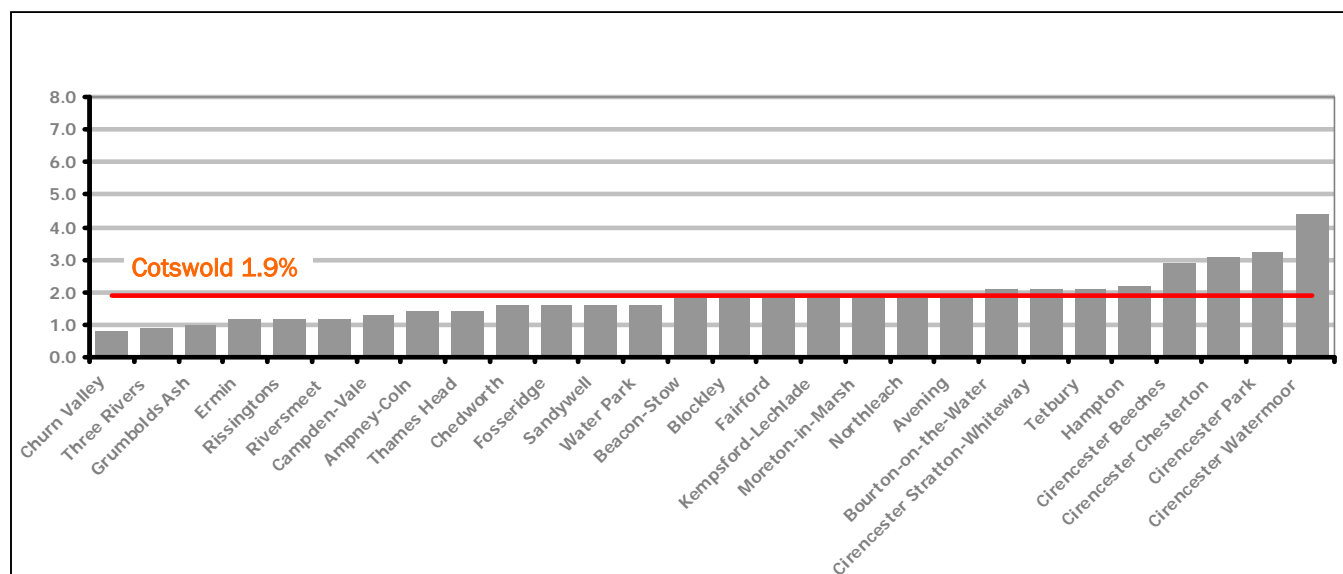


Figure 9 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Eight wards lie above the District average of 1.9%.

Table 4: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - February 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	0.8	1
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	0.9	3
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	1.0	4
Cotswolds	Ermin	1.2	5
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	1.2	5
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	1.2	5
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	1.3	10
Cotswolds	Ampney-Coln	1.4	13
Cotswolds	Thames Head	1.4	13
Cotswolds	Chedworth	1.6	17
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.6	17
Cotswolds	Sandywell	1.6	17
Cotswolds	Water Park	1.6	17
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	1.8	30
Cotswolds	Blockley	1.8	30
Cotswolds	Fairford	1.8	30
Cotswolds	Kempsford-Lechlade	1.8	30
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	1.8	30
Cotswolds	Northleach	1.8	30
Cotswolds	Avening	1.9	40
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	2.1	56
Cotswolds	Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway	2.1	56
Cotswolds	Tetbury	2.1	56
Cotswolds	Hampton	2.2	65
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	2.9	87
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	3.1	90
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	3.2	93
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	4.4	121

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 4 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

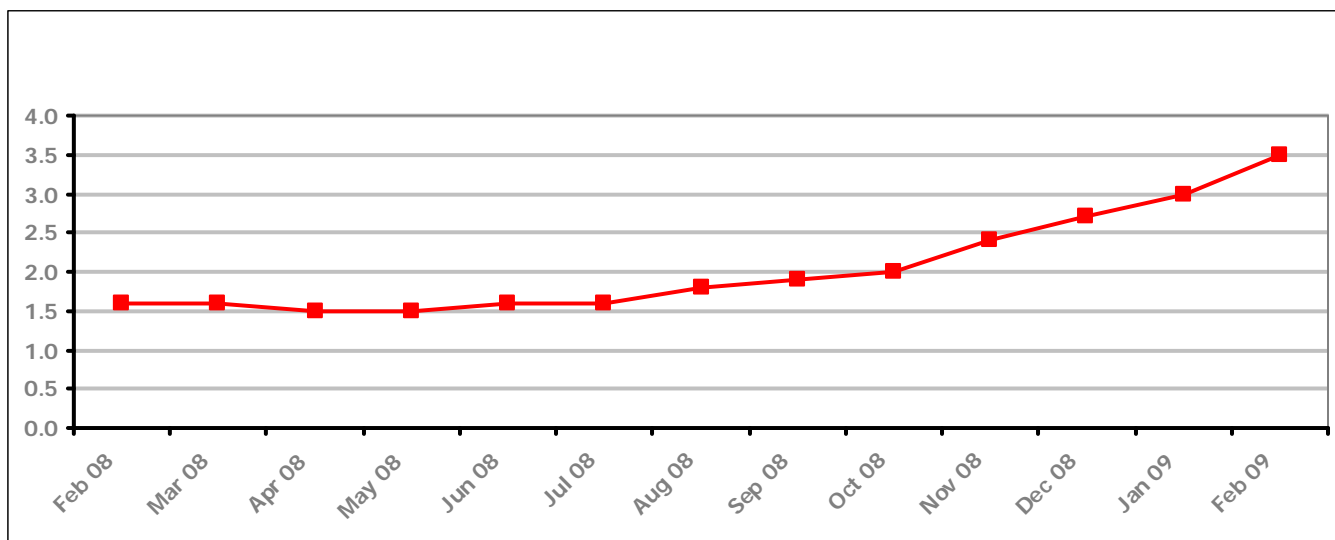


Figure 10 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean was at its highest for over a year at 3.5%. The rate has been increasing since July 2008.

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

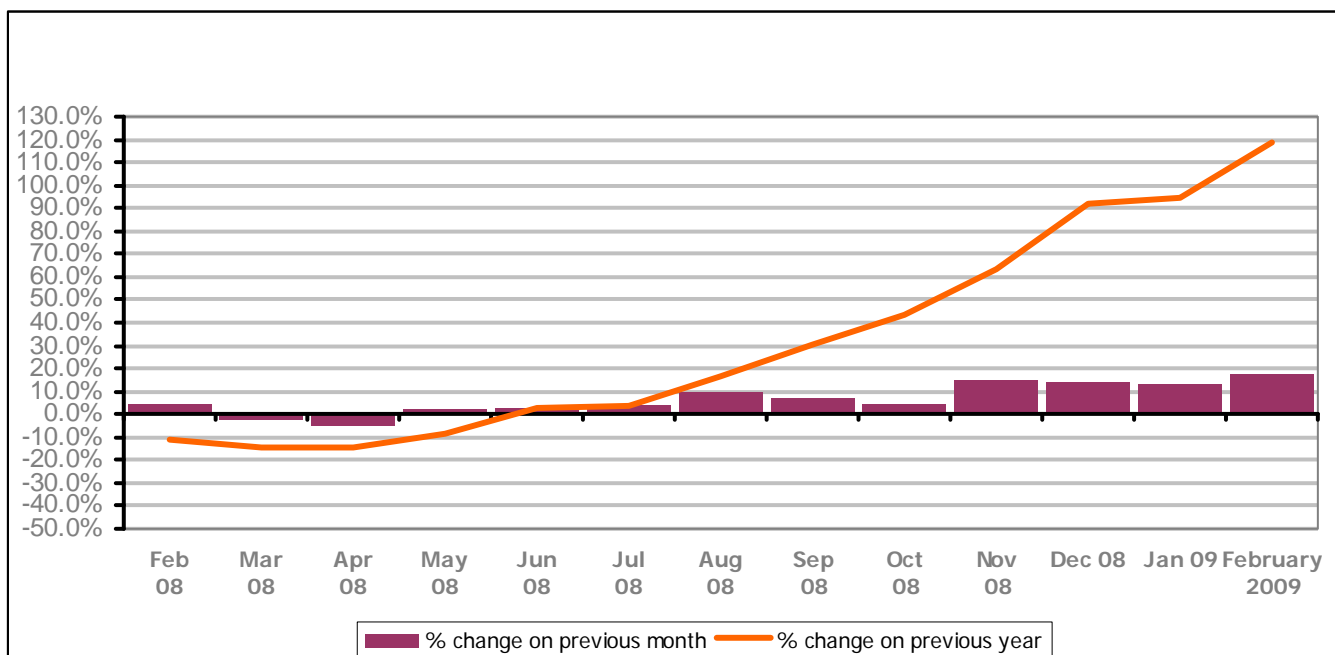


Figure 11 shows the claimant count has increased since May 2008, and that claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008. The number of claimants in February 2009 exceeded that of February 2008 by around 119%.

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 - February 2009

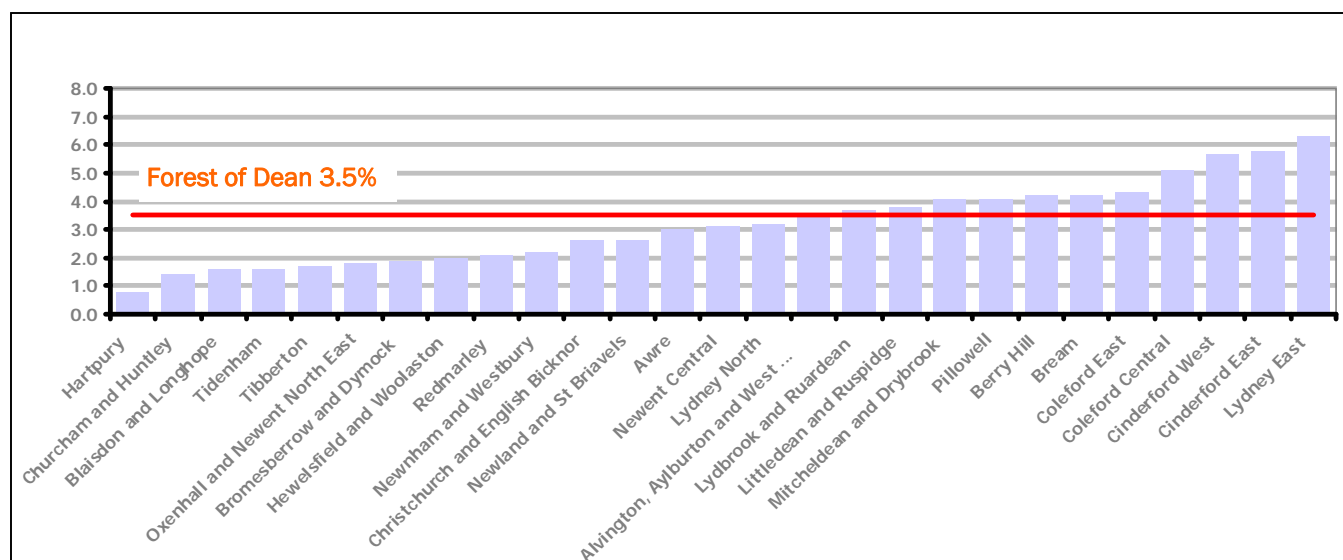


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Eleven wards are above the District average of 3.5%.

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - February 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury	0.8	1
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	1.4	13
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	1.6	17
Forest	Tidenham	1.6	17
Forest	Tibberton	1.7	24
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent North East	1.8	30
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	1.9	40
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	2.0	51
Forest	Redmarley	2.1	56
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	2.2	65
Forest	Christchurch and English Bicknor	2.6	80
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	2.6	80
Forest	Awre	3.0	88
Forest	Newent Central	3.1	90
Forest	Lydney North	3.2	93
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney	3.5	101
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	3.7	106
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	3.8	110
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	4.1	113
Forest	Pillowell	4.1	113
Forest	Berry Hill	4.2	118
Forest	Bream	4.2	118
Forest	Coleford East	4.3	120
Forest	Coleford Central	5.1	128
Forest	Cinderford West	5.7	131
Forest	Cinderford East	5.8	133
Forest	Lydney East	6.3	136

	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 5 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

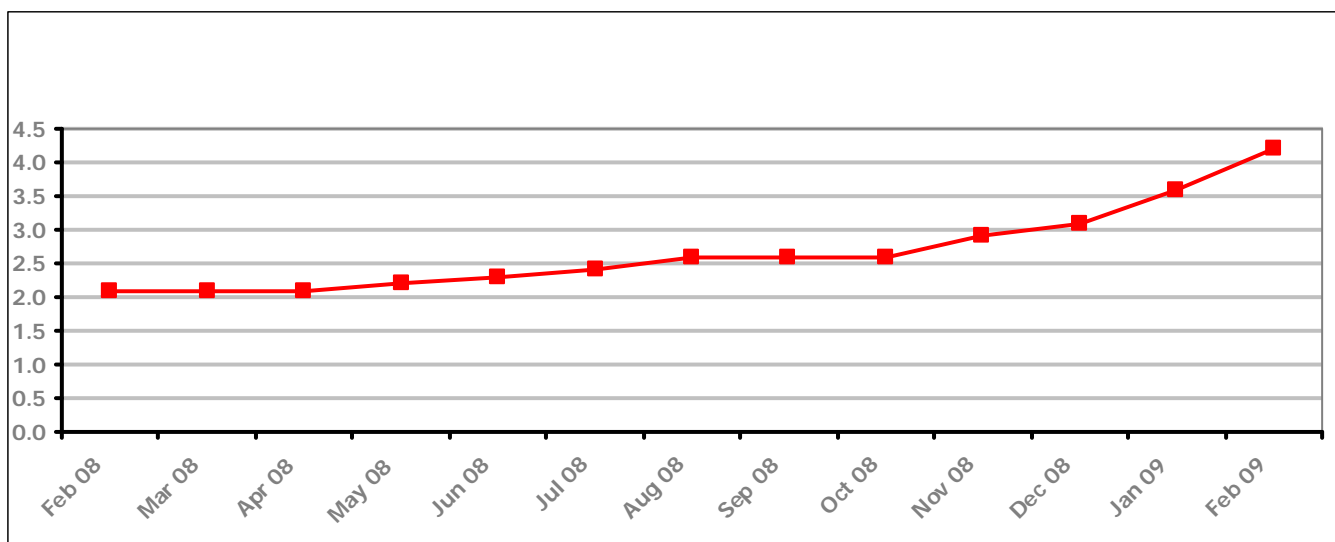


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City was at the highest point for over a year at 4.2%. The rate has been increasing since May 2008.

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

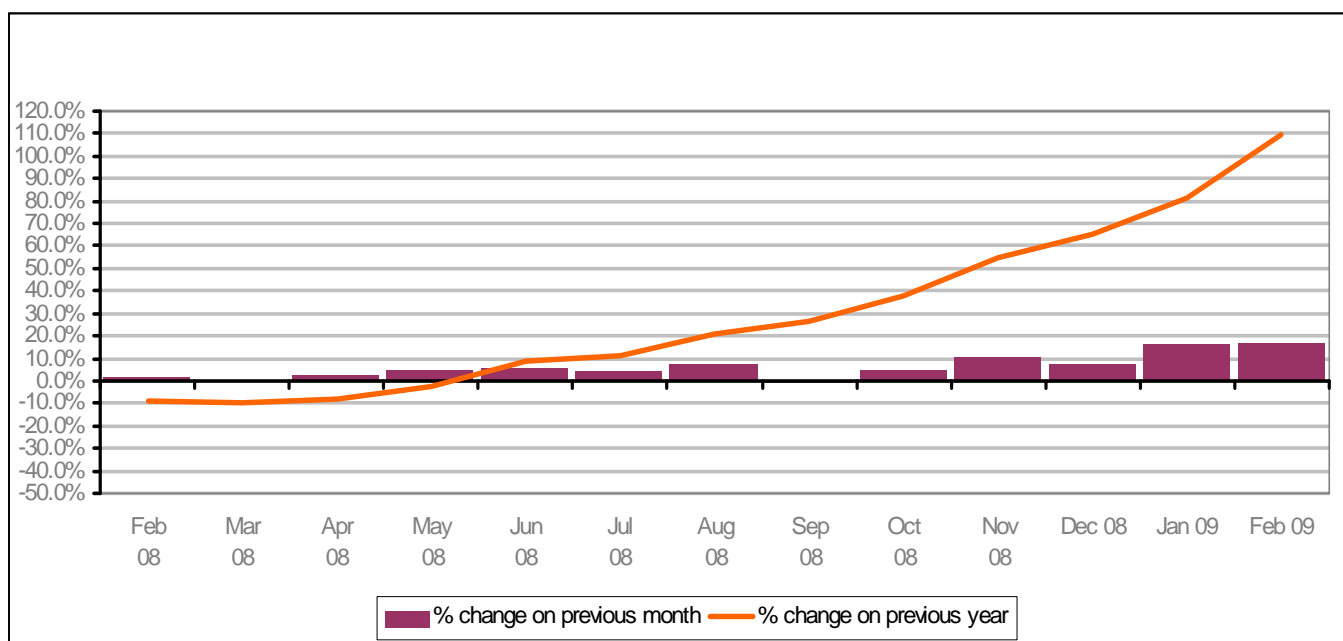


Figure 14 shows the monthly claimant count increased since December 2008. Claimant counts have increased every month compared to the same month on the previous year since June 2008. The number of claimants in February 2009 exceeded that of February 2008 by around 109%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

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

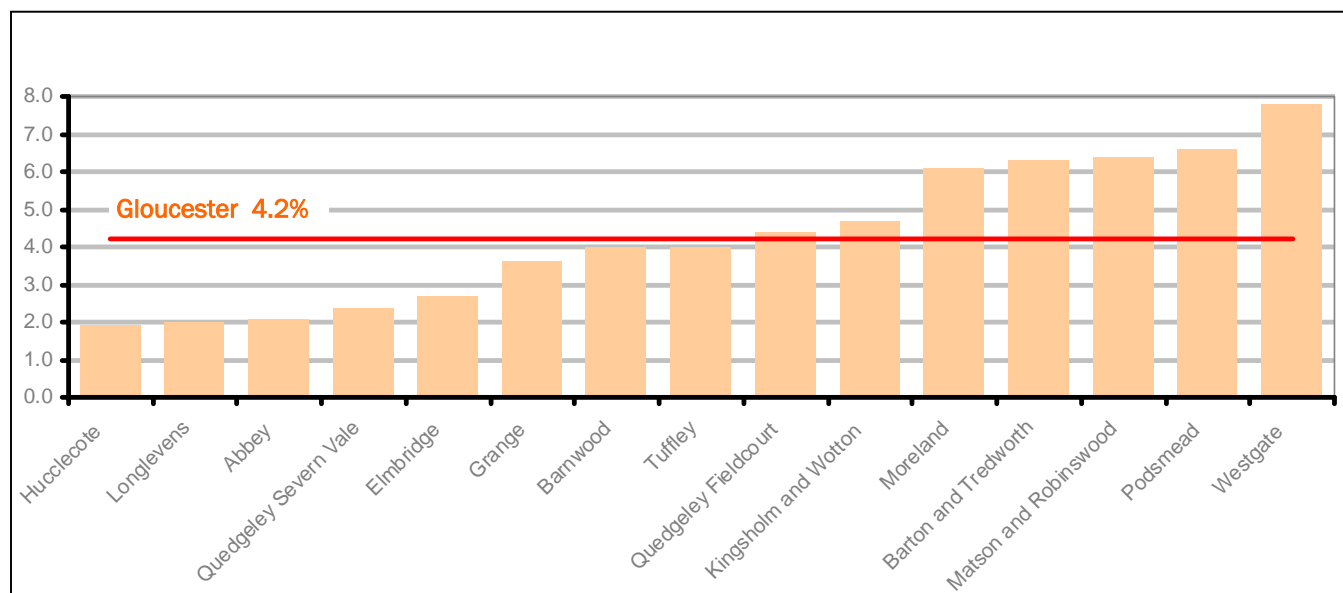
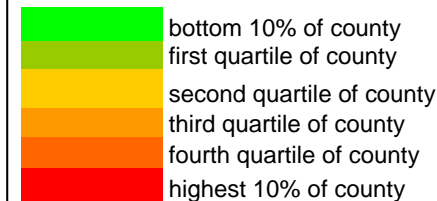


Figure 15 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City. Seven wards are above the City average of 4.2%.

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - February 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.9	40
Gloucester	Longlevens	2.0	51
Gloucester	Abbey	2.1	56
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	2.4	73
Gloucester	Elmbridge	2.7	83
Gloucester	Grange	3.6	102
Gloucester	Barnwood	4.0	111
Gloucester	Tuffley	4.0	111
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	4.4	121
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.7	125
Gloucester	Moreland	6.1	134
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	6.3	136
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	6.4	138
Gloucester	Podsmead	6.6	139
Gloucester	Westgate	7.8	142



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

Table 6 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

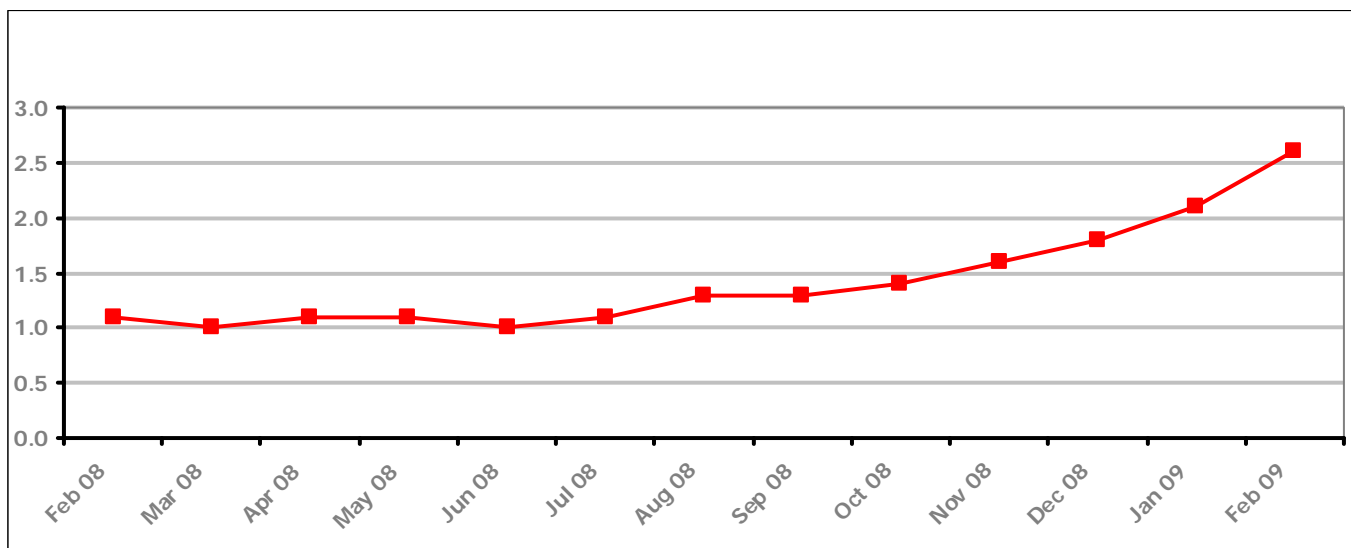


Figure 16 shows the claimant rate for Stroud District was at 2.6%, the highest it has been for over two years.

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

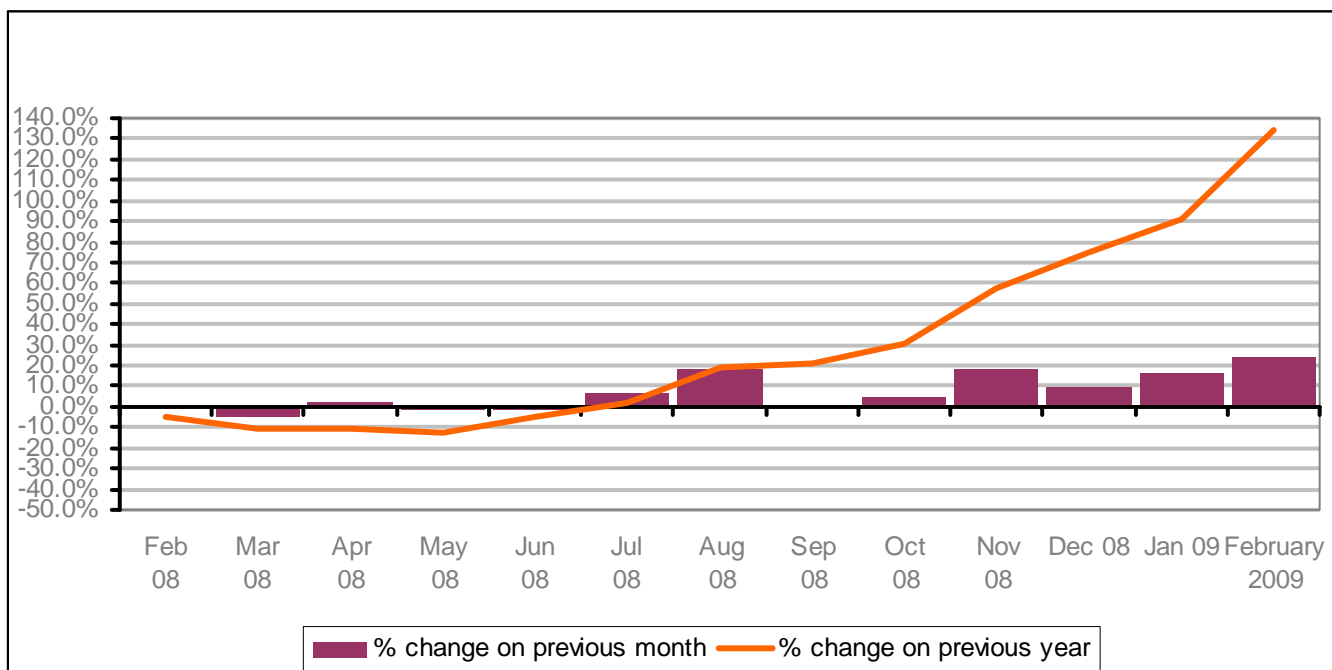


Figure 17 shows that when compared to the same month in the previous year, the claimant count has been increasing since July 2008. The February 2009 figure was 134% higher than it was in February 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

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

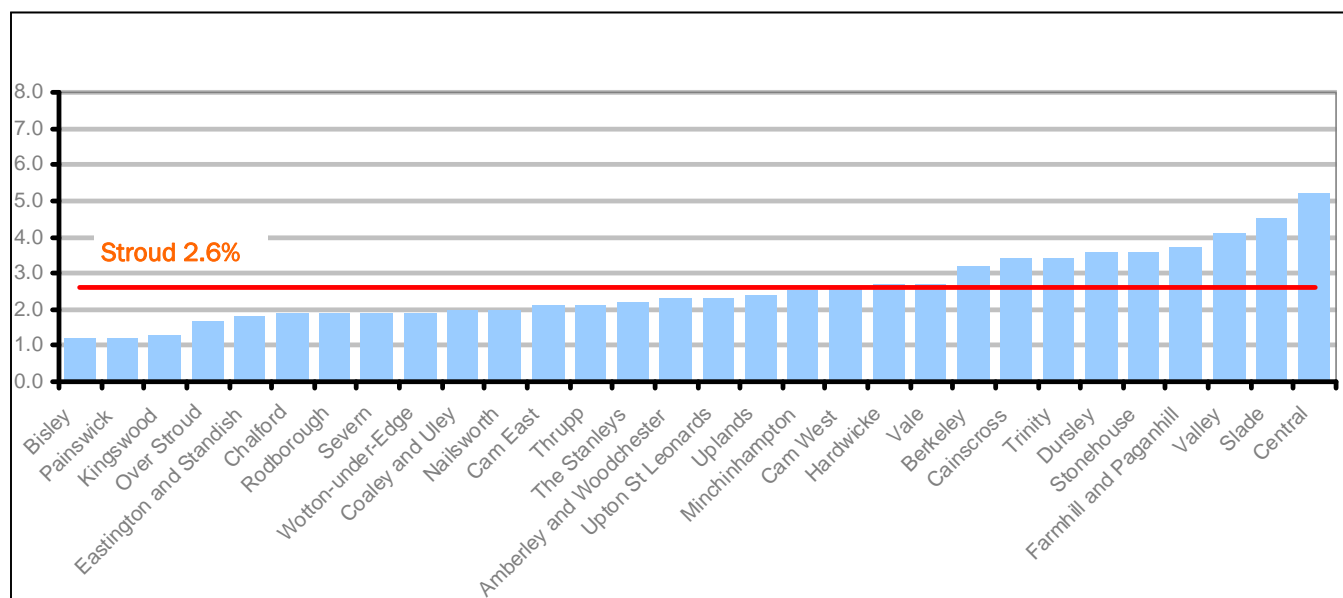


Figure 18 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and eleven of the wards are above the District average of 2.6%.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - February 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Bisley	1.2	5
Stroud	Painswick	1.2	5
Stroud	Kingswood	1.3	10
Stroud	Over Stroud	1.7	24
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	1.8	30
Stroud	Chalford	1.9	40
Stroud	Rodborough	1.9	40
Stroud	Severn	1.9	40
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.9	40
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	2.0	51
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.0	51
Stroud	Cam East	2.1	56
Stroud	Thrupp	2.1	56
Stroud	The Stanleys	2.2	65
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	2.3	70
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	2.3	70
Stroud	Uplands	2.4	73
Stroud	Minchinhampton	2.5	78
Stroud	Cam West	2.6	80
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.7	83
Stroud	Vale	2.7	83
Stroud	Berkeley	3.2	93
Stroud	Cainscross	3.4	99
Stroud	Trinity	3.4	99
Stroud	Dursley	3.6	102
Stroud	Stonehouse	3.6	102
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	3.7	106
Stroud	Valley	4.1	113
Stroud	Slade	4.5	123
Stroud	Central	5.2	129

	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 Stroud District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

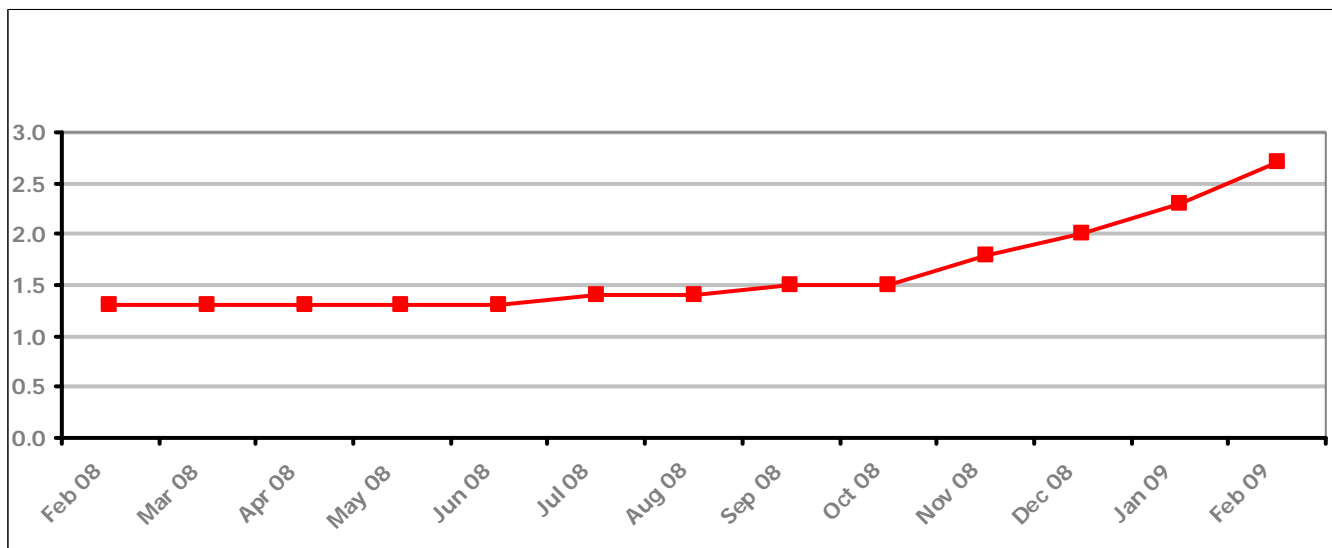
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 19: Tewkesbury District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury District was at 2.7%, the highest it has been for over a year.

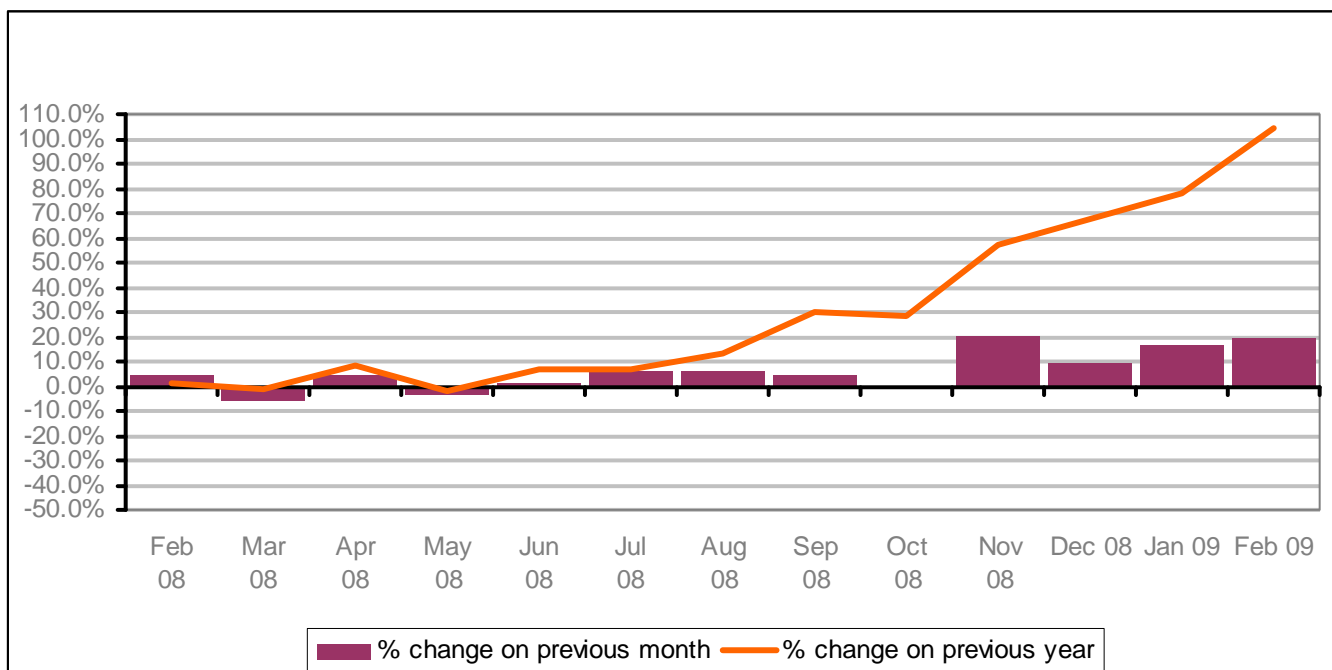
Figure 20: Tewkesbury District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 20 shows that claimant count has on the whole been increasing since June 2008. The rate in February 2009 figure was 104% higher than it was in February 2008.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury District continued...

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

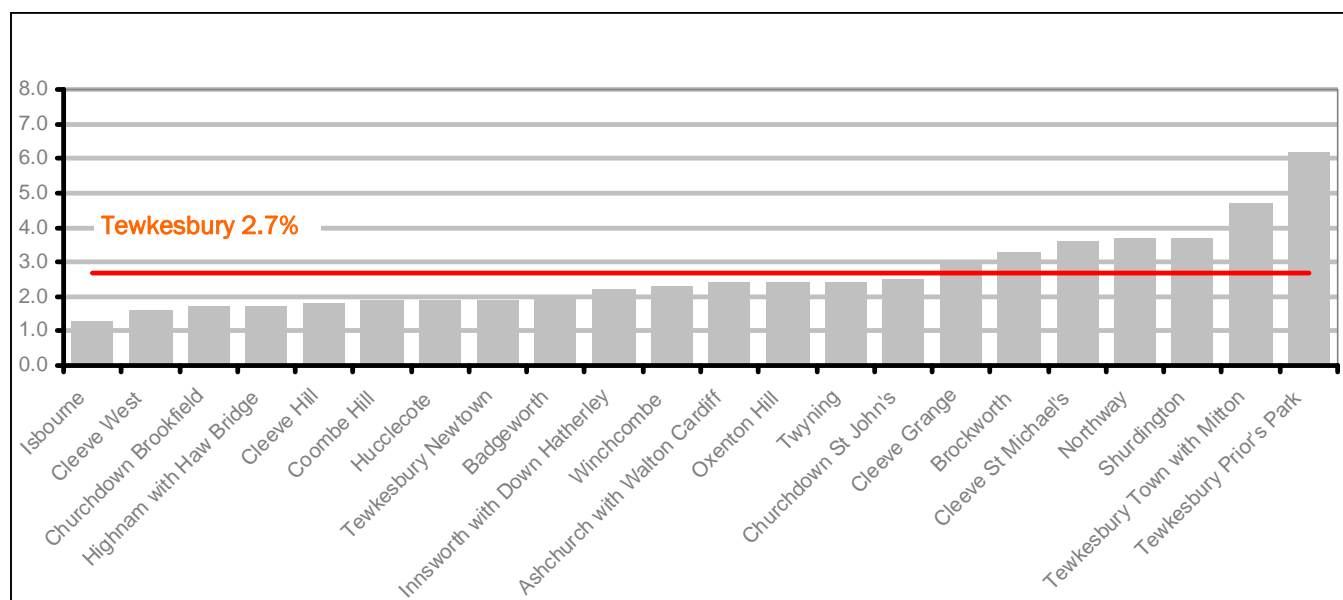
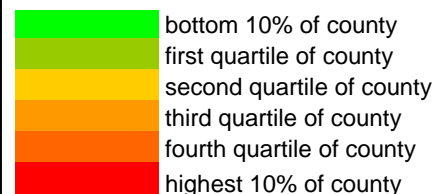


Figure 21 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District and seven of the wards are above the District average of 2.7%.

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury District level - February 2009

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	1.3	10
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.6	17
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	1.7	24
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	1.7	24
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	1.8	30
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	1.9	40
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	1.9	40
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	1.9	40
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.0	51
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	2.2	65
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.3	70
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff	2.4	73
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	2.4	73
Tewkesbury	Twynning	2.4	73
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.5	78
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	3.0	88
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	3.3	97
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	3.6	102
Tewkesbury	Northway	3.7	106
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.7	106
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	4.7	125
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	6.2	135



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

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

PART 5: 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 February 2009 there were 659 young people aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training in Gloucestershire. This figure translates into an adjusted (*) 16-18 NEET population of 4.0% and this shows an increase from the 3.7% achieved at the end of January 2009. We are also reporting increases in the numbers of NEET young people in all Districts with the most significant increase being in Tewkesbury. Analysis of the numbers of NEET joiners in recent months is also evidencing a 30-40% increase based against the same period in 2008.

Total NEET Group by District Area 28 February 2009

	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	Total
NEET Group	149	50	98	174	112	76	659(*)
% NEET of total 16-18 cohort	5.9%	2.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.8%	3.8%	4.0%(*)

Analysis of our NEET group

We are working closely with key stakeholders and partners to ensure that we provide the best possible support during these challenging times. We have already published some evidence of the impact of the recession on NEET young people and have just completed a review of the NEET group in Gloucestershire to help us target the right support in the right places. Using criteria from a recent DCSF report we have categorised NEET into the following sub-groups;

- **Open to learning NEET** – short term and likely to re-engage – approx 55% of our NEET group are in this category and should, with the right support along with the right opportunity, be able to re-engage in learning
- **Sustained NEET** – long term with a range of personal issues/barriers – approx 30% of our NEET group are in this category and will need intensive support and specific provision to help them to re-engage
- **Undecided NEET** – young people who have several episodes within the NEET group – approx 15% of our NEET group are in this category and, like the sustained NEETs, will need enhanced support to help them to enter and remain in a positive outcome

If you would like to receive any further information on Gloucestershire's NEET strategy then please contact 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