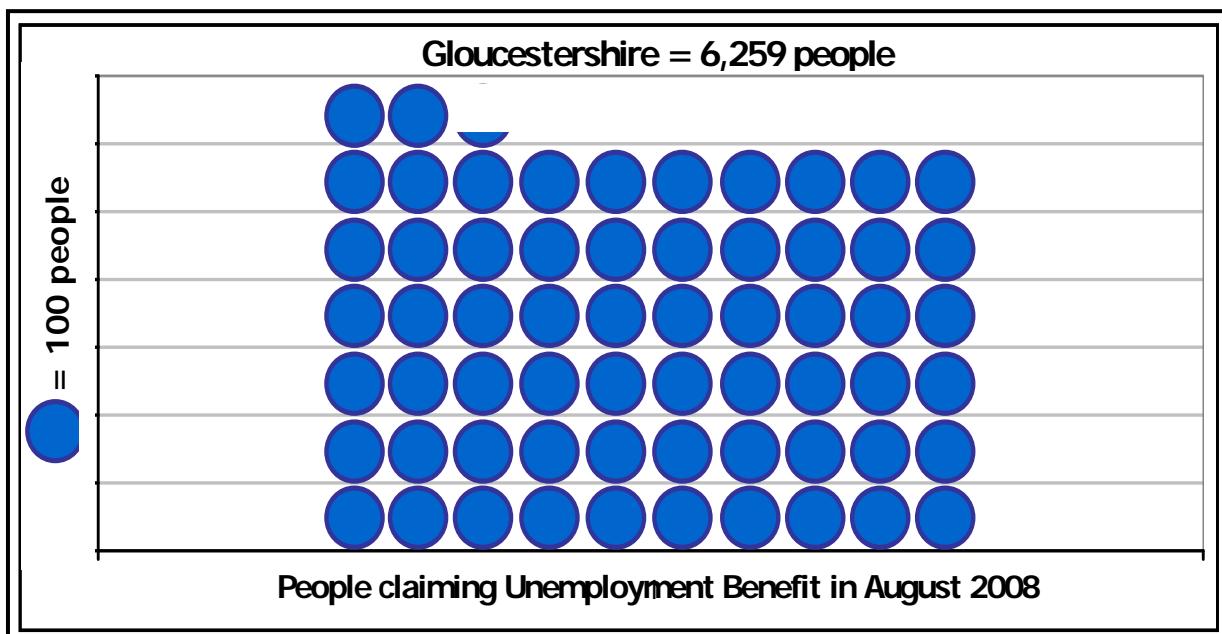


Gloucestershire Unemployment Bulletin

Volume 1: August 2008



Produced by:

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SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 1.8% in August 2008. This was up 0.2% on the July 2008 figure and the third consecutive monthly increase. The rate is slightly above the South West average of 1.6%, but over half a percent lower than the UK average of 2.5%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in August 2008 rose by its fastest rate since December 1990. The amount of people claiming in August was 9.5% higher than the number in July 2008. The increase was 10% across the South West, and 6% for the UK.

The average growth in unemployment in Gloucestershire for the six months to August 2008 was 3.3%. This was slightly higher than the South West average of 2.5%, but twice that of the UK average of 1.5%.

Gloucestershire and district claimants

Area	Claimant Count in August 2008	% Change on July 2008	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
Cheltenham	1,558	6.6	3.1	5
Cotswolds	464	17.8	3.8	2
Forest	886	10.1	2.3	4
Gloucester	1,810	7.4	3.8	5
Stroud	868	18.4	4.0	2
Tewkesbury	673	6.0	2.3	3
Gloucestershire	6,259	9.5	3.3	5
South West	48,017	10.1	2.5	3
UK	923,876	6.1	1.5	3

The claimant rate for August 2008 was up 0.2% for all the districts in Gloucestershire with the exception of Cheltenham, which increased by 0.1%, and Tewkesbury, which stayed at 1.4%.

- In **Cheltenham Borough** the claimant count has increased each month since April 2008. The higher counts occur in Hester's Way, Oakley, St. Paul's and St. Peter's wards.
- In **Cotswold District** the claimant count in August 2008 was the highest for two years and has been increasing since July 2008. Watermoor, Fosseridge, Park, Chesterton, Northleach and Tetbury wards have claimant rates above the district average.
- In the **Forest of Dean District** the claimant count in August 2008 was the highest since April 2007 and has been increasing since May 2008. High rates are present in Cinderford West, Coleford Central, Cinderford East, Coleford East and Lydney East wards.
- In **Gloucester City** the claimant count in August 2008 was the highest for two years and has been increasing since April 2008. Higher rates are observed in Westgate, Podsmead, Barton & Tredworth, Matson & Robinswood, Kingsholm & Wotton and Moreland wards.
- In **Stroud District** the claimant count has been rising since June 2008. Minchinhampton ward had a 0.5% increase on the July 2008 claimant count, and was above the District average for the first time in nine months.
- **Tewkesbury Borough** had the smallest increase in claimant count in August 2008. Prior's Park, Tewkesbury town with Mitton, Shurdington and Brockworth wards have all been above the Borough average for at least the last two years.

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Part 1: UK, South West and Gloucestershire Indicators

Claimant Rate¹

Figure 1

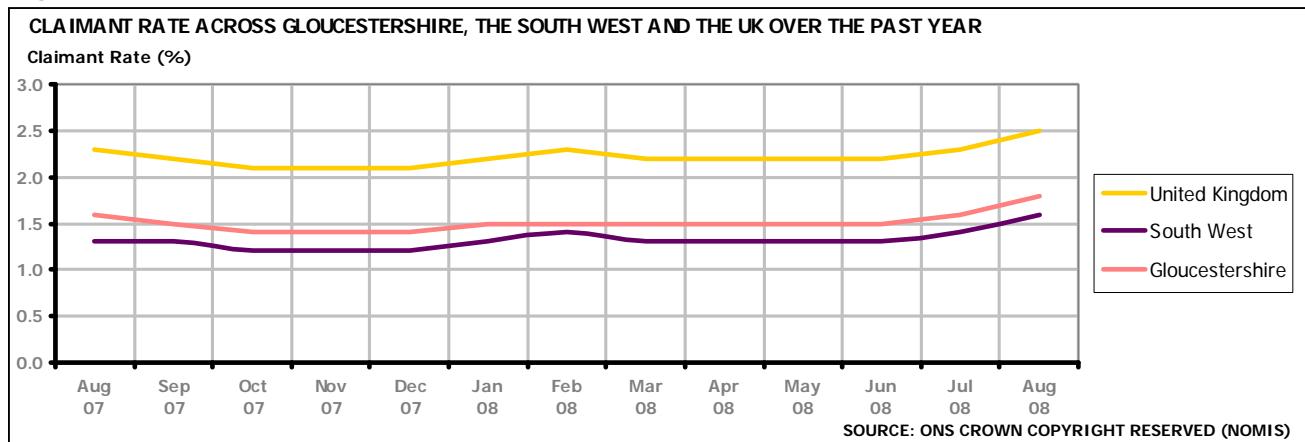


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for the UK, the South West, and Gloucestershire increasing for the third month running. The claimant rate for Gloucestershire was 1.8% in August 2008. This was up 0.2% on the July 2008 figure. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately half a per cent against the UK average during the same period.

Claimant Count²

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

Area	Claimant Count in August 2008	% change on July ³ 2008	Average % increase over the last six months ⁴	Consecutive months increasing
UK	923,876	6.1	1.5	3
South West	48,017	10.1	2.5	3
Gloucestershire	6,259	9.5	3.3	5

Table 1 shows that In August 2008, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 9.5% higher than the number in July 2008. This is a significant increase, as similar rises were last seen during the recession of the early 1990's. This is an indication that the current economic downturn has begun to affect the labour market in a comparable way to before. This is illustrated in Figure 2 (below).

¹ The Claimant Rate is the amount of claimants as a percentage of the working age population for the claimant group.

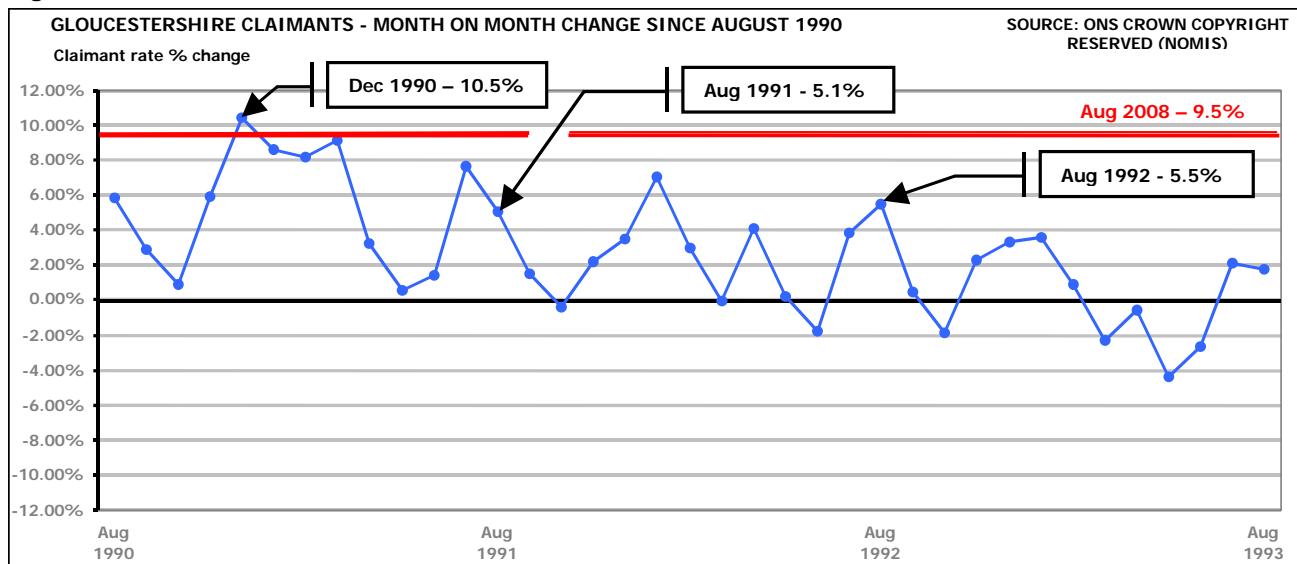
² JSA Claimant Count records the number of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Job Centre Plus Offices. This is not an official measure of unemployment, but is the only indicative statistical measure available for areas smaller than Local Authorities.

³ The difference between total claimants in August 2008 and July 2008 expressed as a percentage increase or decrease.

⁴ The average monthly rate at which the Claimant Count has been growing for the six months to August 2008

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Figure 2



The blue line represents the monthly change in the claimant count across Gloucestershire between August 1990 and August 1993. It is normal for the graph to show large spikes around temporary seasonal increases in January and July. The red line indicates the 9.5% rise between July 2008 and August 2008. Aside from the month of January (where claimants typically increase after the Christmas period), the number of people claiming benefits during August 2008 rose at the fastest level since the 10.5% increase of December 1990. August 2008 is also notable in that the rise was even higher than the increases observed in August 1991 and August 1992, when the economy was in recession. If the claimant level follows the trends of 1991, 1992 and 1993, the number of claimants is likely to increase in September.

Figure 3

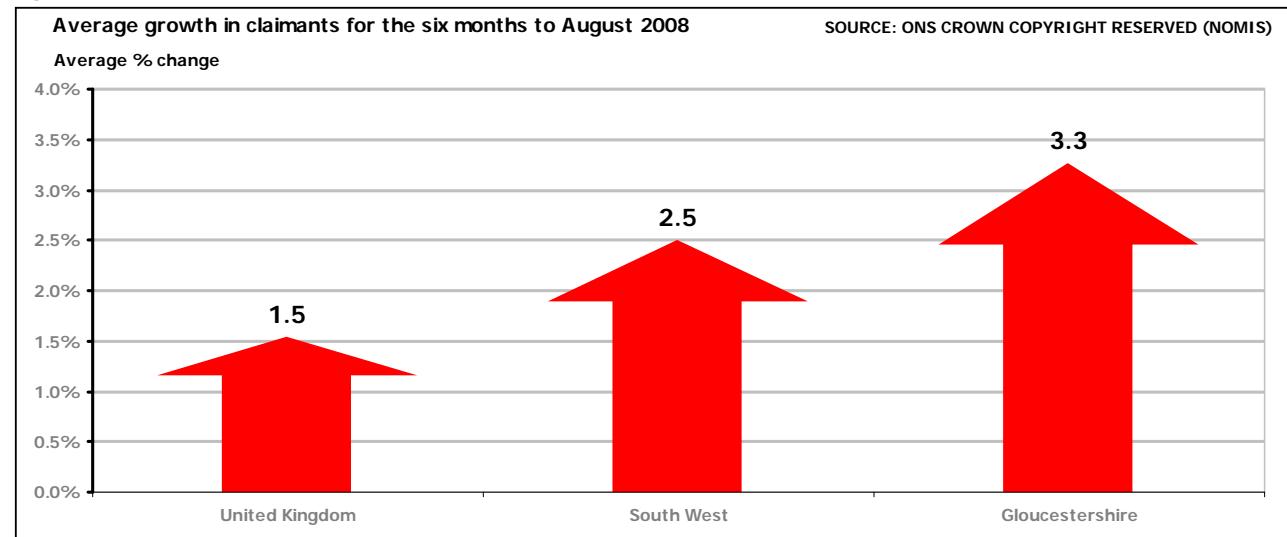


Figure 3 shows that the average growth in unemployment in Gloucestershire for the six months to August 2008 was 3.3%. This is slightly higher than the South West average, but twice that of the UK average. This compared unfavourably with figures for Gloucestershire for the six months to February 2008, where the average growth in unemployment was 0.2% and the six months to August 2007, where unemployment declined by minus 1.2%.

The effects of the current economic downturn may take time to be reflected in the claimant count, as reaction time will depend on the type and size of those businesses affected and the possible consequent need to reduce their workforce.

Inflation

Figure 4

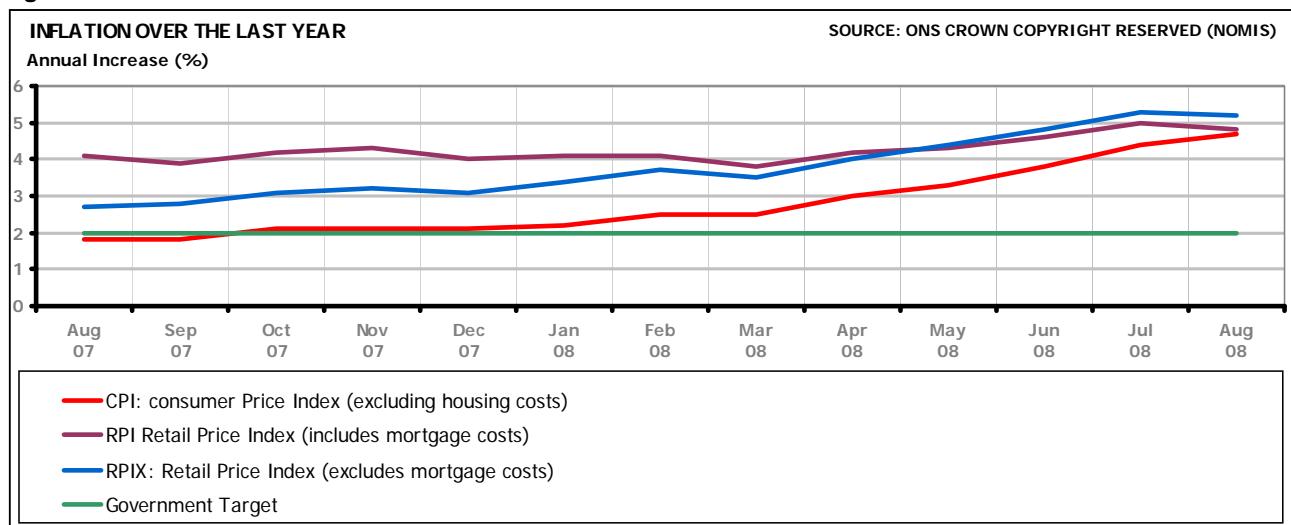


Figure 4 shows the national level of inflation since August 2007. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI), which the Government use for their target measure, was 4.7 per cent in August 2008, up from 4.4 per cent in July 2008. The Retail Prices Index (RPI) was 4.8 per cent in August 2008, down from 5 per cent in July 2008. The Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) was 5.1 per cent in August 2008, down from 5.2 per cent in July 2008.

Upward pressures on inflation

- Housing and household services due to a rise in average gas and electricity bills;
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- Miscellaneous goods and services, particularly from mortgage arrangement fees, and products for personal care.

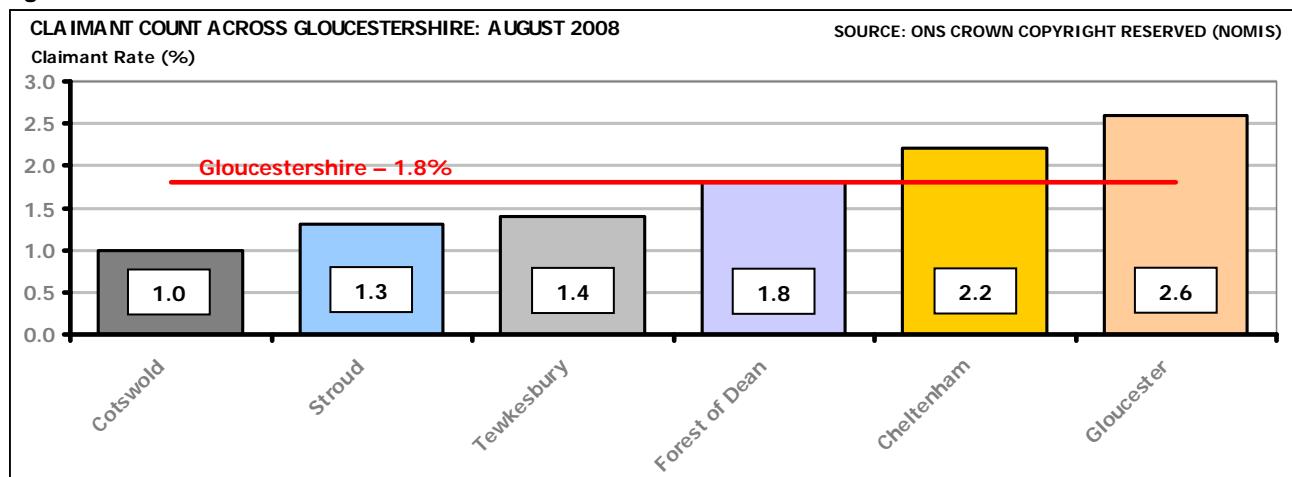
Downward pressures on inflation

- The price of heating oil.
- Transport costs, mainly due to the fall in price of fuels and lubricants.
- Communication where telephone charges were unchanged this year but rose a year ago.

Part 2: Gloucestershire and Local Authority District analysis

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 5



The claimant rate for August 2008 was up 0.2% for all the districts in Gloucestershire with the exception of Cheltenham, which increased by 0.1%, and Tewkesbury, which remained at 1.4%. The present composition of claimants is roughly 75% male and 25% female, across the six districts, with the exception of the Forest of Dean, where the breakdown is 65% male and 35% female.

Figure 6

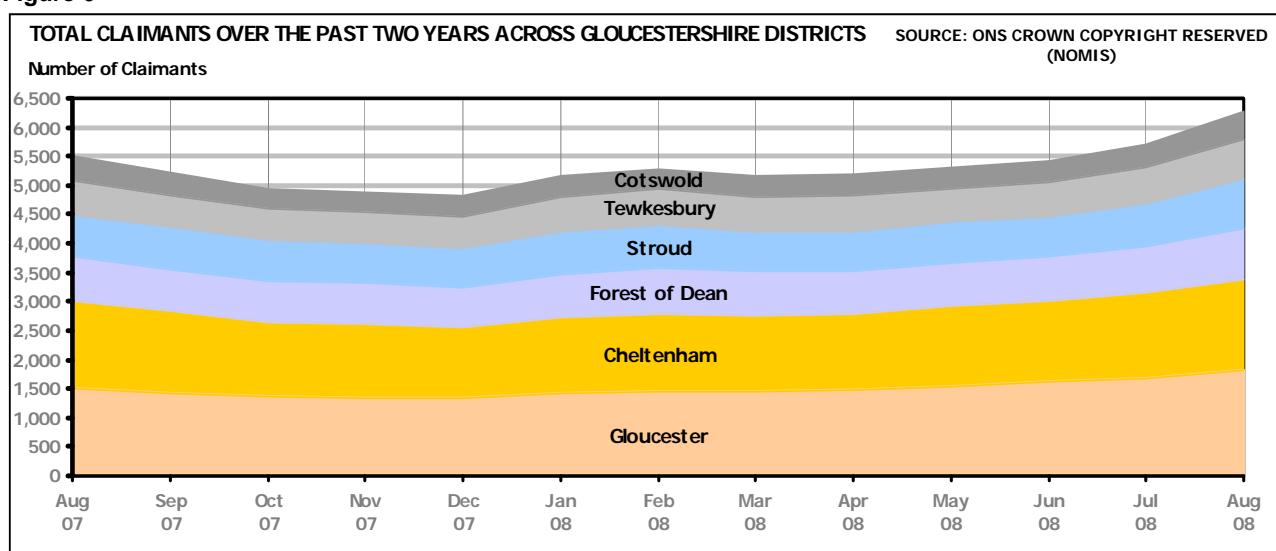


Table 2. Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in August 2008	% Change on July 2008	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months increasing
Cheltenham	1,558	6.6	3.1	5
Cotswolds	464	17.8	3.8	2
Forest	886	10.1	2.3	4
Gloucester	1,810	7.4	3.8	5
Stroud	868	18.4	4.0	2
Tewkesbury	673	6.0	2.3	3
Gloucestershire	6,259	9.5	3.3	5

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Table 2 shows the large increase in the claimant count in August 2008 compared with July 2008. In addition, August 2008 represented the single highest number of claimants in thirteen months in Cheltenham, the Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean; over eighteen months in Tewkesbury; and over two years in Gloucester.

Vacancies

Figure 7

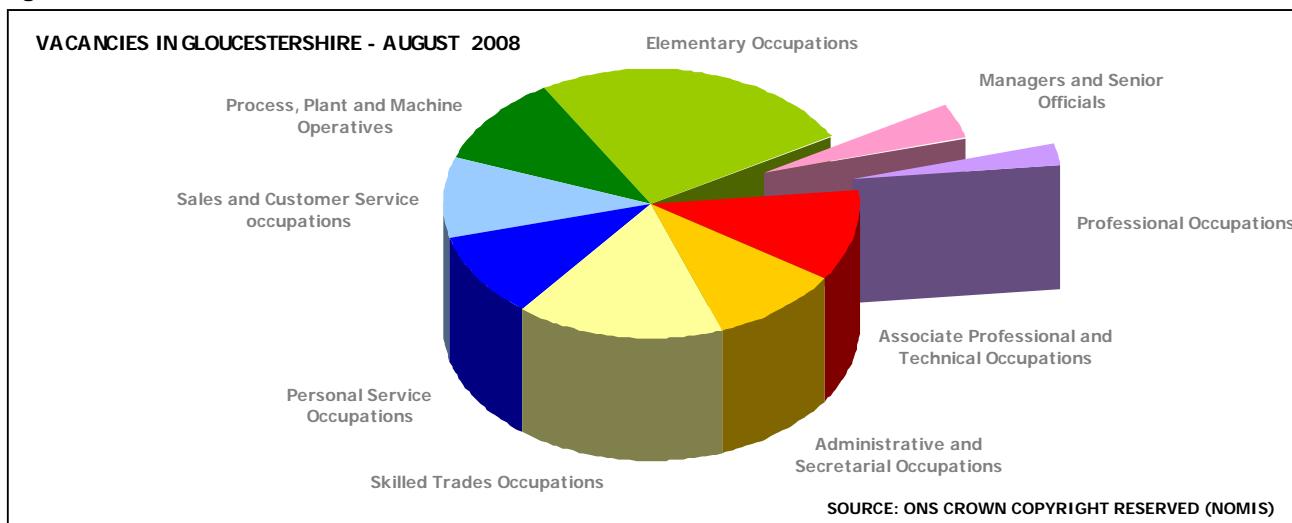
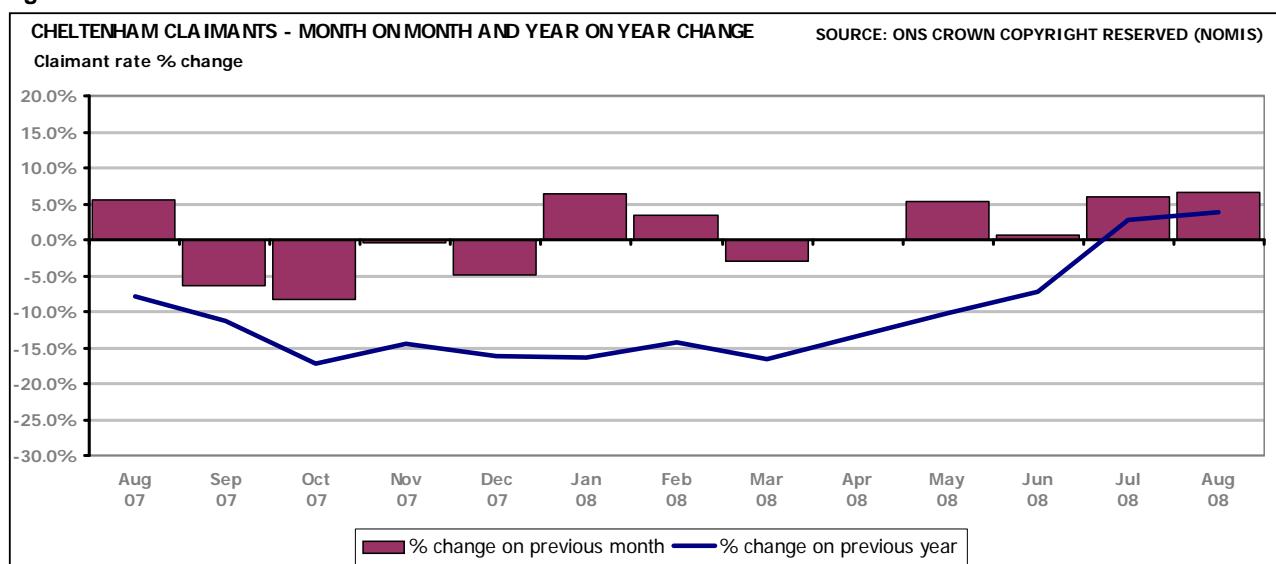


Figure 7 shows the breakdown of vacancy types advertised at local Job Centre Plus offices during August 2008. Not all vacancies are reported to Job Centre Plus. The chart shows that the largest proportion of vacancies occur in the Elementary occupations and Skilled Trades occupation sectors. There was less demand for Managers & Senior Officials, and other Professional occupations, which accounted for 4% and 2% respectively.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Cheltenham Borough

Figure 8



The claimant count in Cheltenham Borough was 1,558 people in August 2008. Figure 8 shows the claimant count increasing each month since April 2008. In addition, claimant counts have increased every month on the same month the previous year since July 2008.

Figure 9

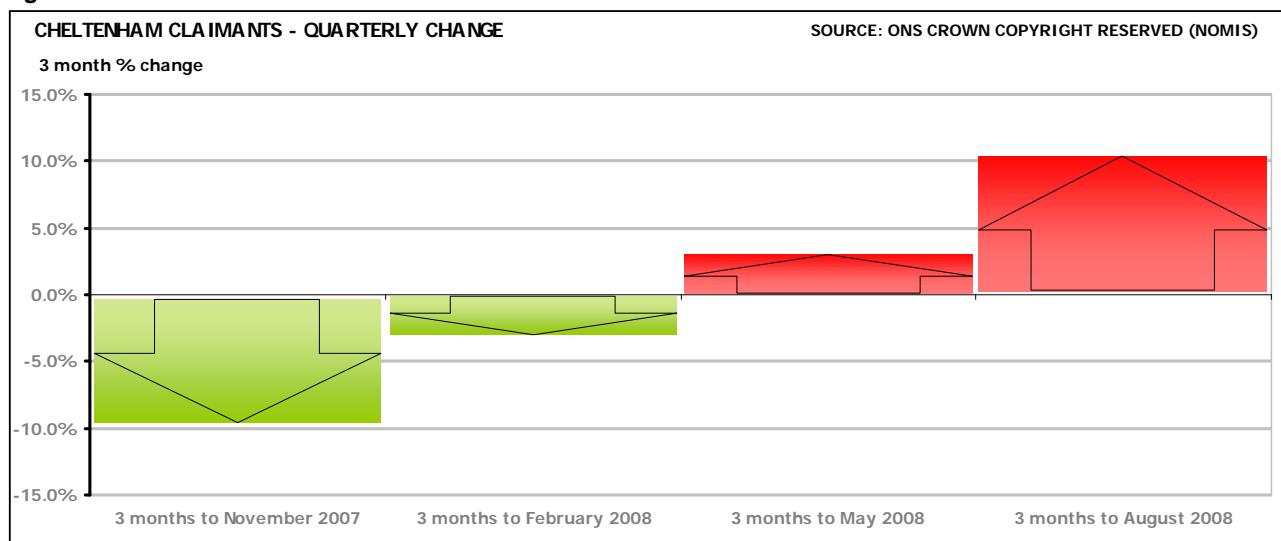


Figure 9 shows the percentage change quarter on quarter also reflects the increases in claimants. For the three months to August, the claimant count was three times that of the previous three month period.

Cheltenham Borough – Wards

Figure 10

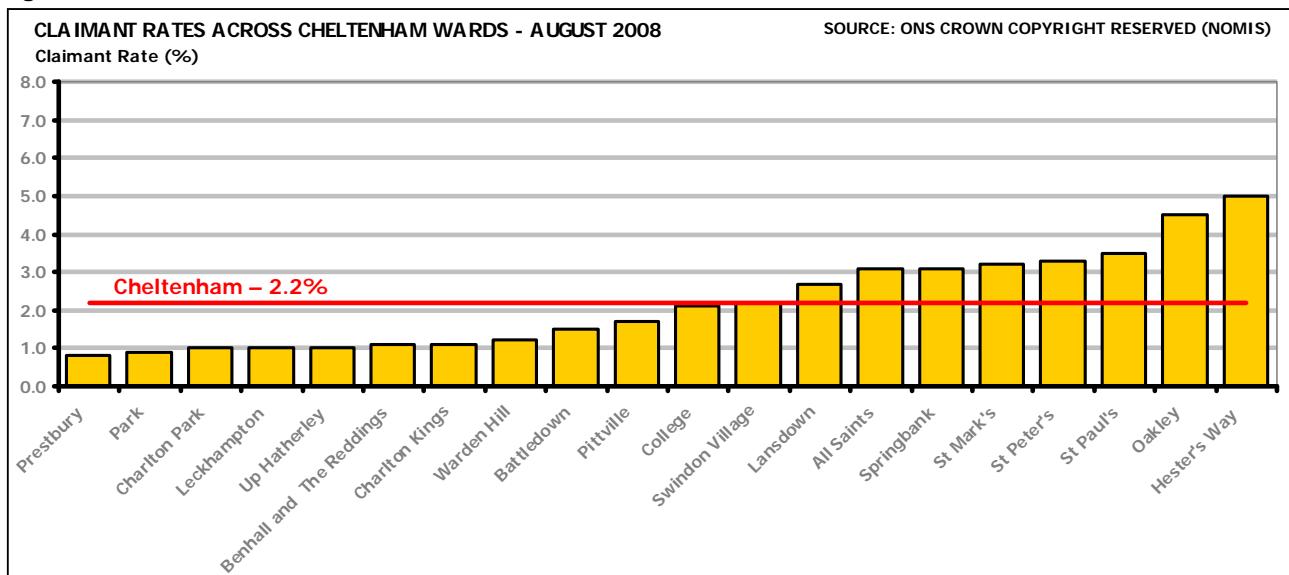


Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough, with nine wards above the average.

Table 3. Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Ward level – August 2008

District	Ward	Claimant Rate	County Rank 1 = 'best'
Cheltenham	Prestbury	0.8	23
Cheltenham	Park	0.9	33
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.0	42
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.0	42
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.0	46
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.1	55
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.1	55
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	1.2	69
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.5	85
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.7	93
Cheltenham	College	2.1	109
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	2.2	116
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.7	122
Cheltenham	All Saints	3.1	126
Cheltenham	Springbank	3.1	126
Cheltenham	St Mark's	3.2	128
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.3	129
Cheltenham	St Paul's	3.5	131
Cheltenham	Oakley	4.5	138
Cheltenham	Hester's Way	5.0	140

Legend:

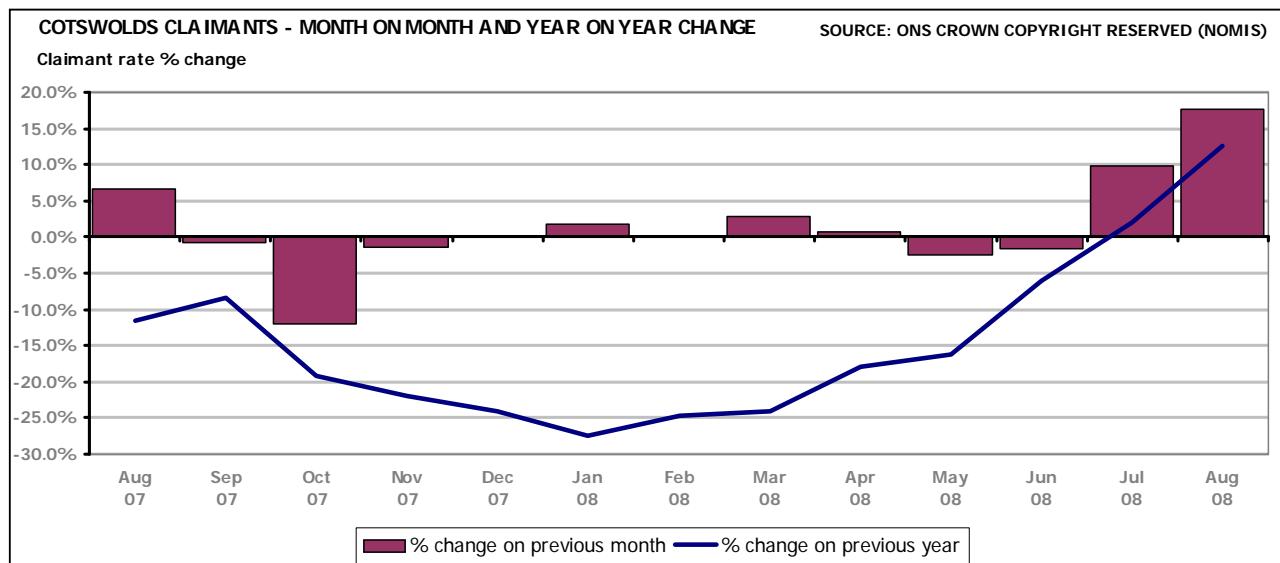
- bottom 10% of county
- first quartile of county
- second quartile of county
- third quartile of county
- fourth quartile of county
- highest 10% of county

Table 3 shows overall claimant counts for Cheltenham Borough wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire. There has been little change in the relative positions of these wards over the last two years, with high claimant rates observed in the same areas month by month. Hester's Way, Oakley, St. Paul's and St Peter's have had claimant rates higher than the Borough average every month for at least the last two years. Springbank and St. Mark's have also frequently had higher claimant rates than the Borough average for the last two years.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Cotswold District

Figure 11



The claimant count in Cotswold District was 464 people in August 2008, the highest for two years. This was a significant increase of 18% on the July 2008 total. Figure 11 shows that the claimant count has been increasing since July 2008. In addition, claimant counts have been higher compared to the same month the previous year since July 2008.

Figure 12

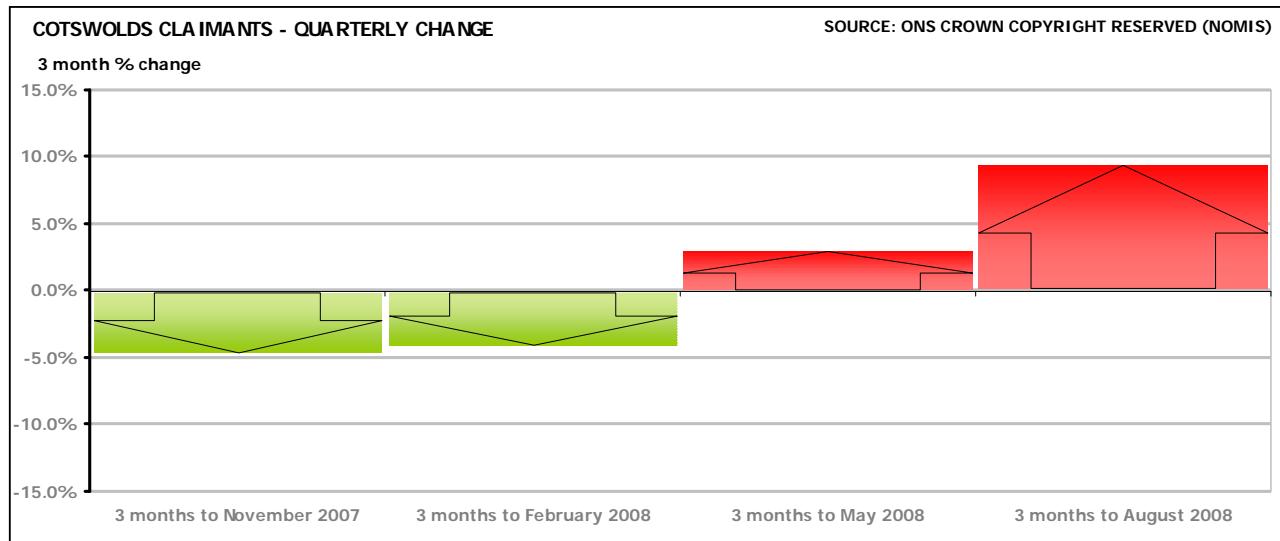


Figure 12 shows the percentage change quarter on quarter also reflects the increases in claimants. For the three months to August, the claimant count was three times that of the previous three month period.

Cotswold District – Wards

Figure 13

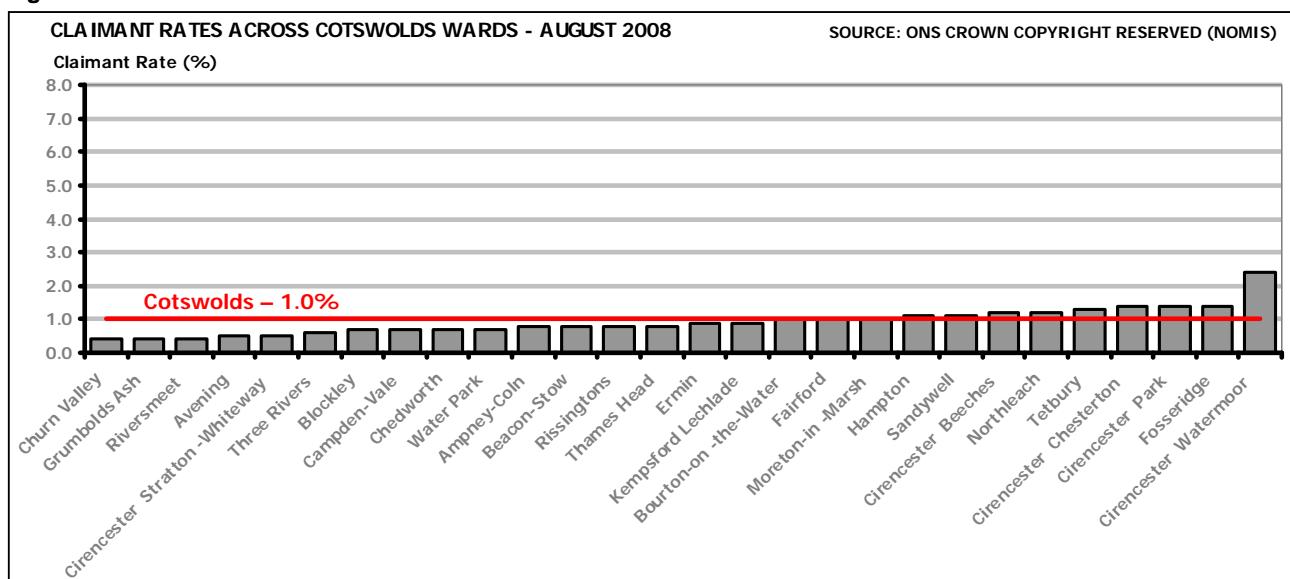


Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for the wards in Cotswold District. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District. Ten wards are above the Cotswold District average.

Table 4. Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswolds Ward level – August 2008

District	Ward	Claimant Rate	County Rank 1 = 'best'
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	0.4	1
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	0.4	1
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	0.4	1
Cotswolds	Avening	0.5	6
Cotswolds	Stratton-Whiteway	0.5	6
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	0.6	8
Cotswolds	Blockley	0.7	16
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	0.7	16
Cotswolds	Chedworth	0.7	16
Cotswolds	Water Park	1	16
Cotswolds	Ampney-Coin	0.8	23
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	0.8	23
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	0.8	23
Cotswolds	Thames Head	0.8	23
Cotswolds	Ermin	0.9	33
Cotswolds	Kempsford Lechlade	0.9	33
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	1.0	42
Cotswolds	Fairford	1.0	42
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	1.0	42
Cotswolds	Hampton	1.1	55
Cotswolds	Sandywell	1.1	55
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	1.2	69
Cotswolds	Northleach	1.2	69
Cotswolds	Tetbury	1.3	80
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	1.4	81
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	1.4	81
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.4	81
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	2.4	119

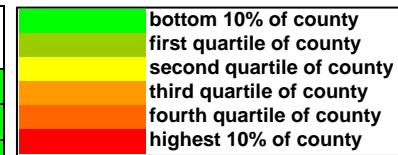


Table 4 shows overall claimant counts for Cotswold District wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

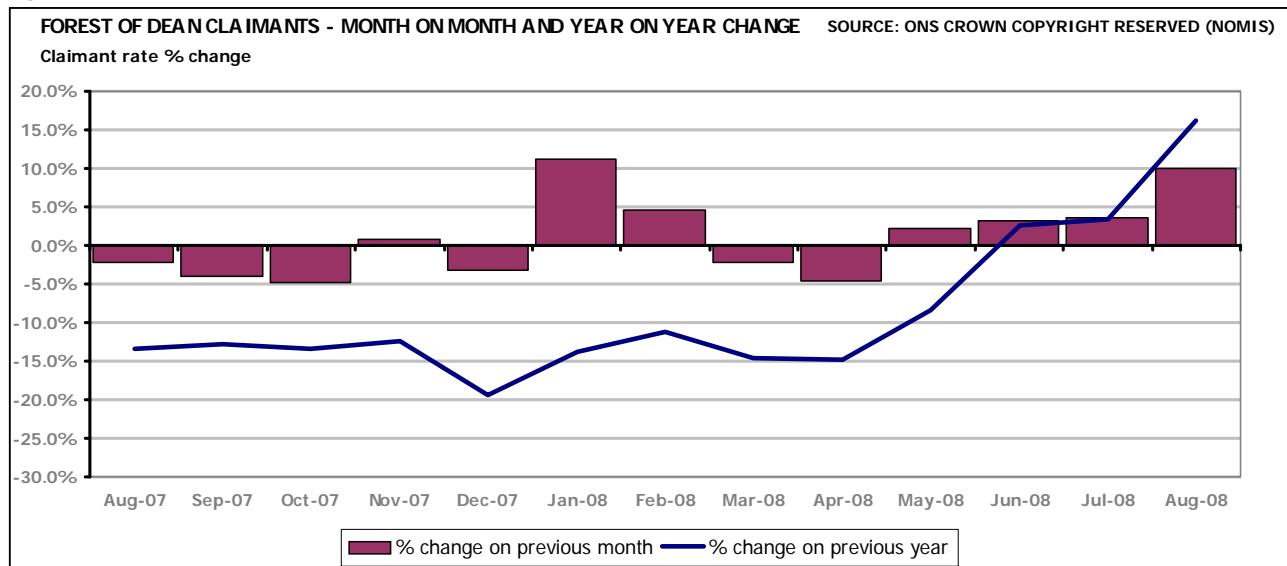
Within the District, five wards frequently have claimant rates above the district average. These are Watermoor, Fosseridge, Park, Chesterton, Northleach and Tetbury.

However, over the past six months a number of other wards have started to experience higher claimant rates. The most notable of these are Ampney-Coin, Beacon-Stow, and Hampton

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Forest of Dean District

Figure 14



The claimant count in the Forest of Dean District was 886 people for August 2008, the highest amount since April 2007. Figure 14 shows that monthly claimant counts have been increasing since May 2008, and that the claimant count compared to the same month the previous year has been higher since June 2008.

Figure 15

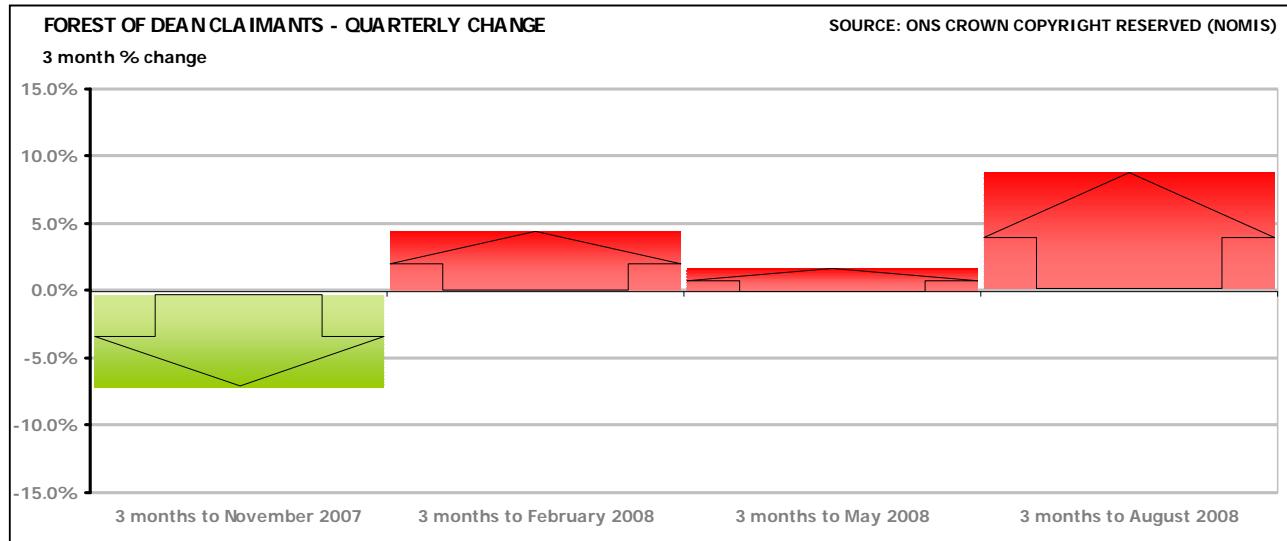


Figure 15 shows the percentage change quarter on quarter also reflects the increase in claimants. For the three months to August, the claimant count was six times that of the previous three month period.

Forest of Dean District – Wards

Figure 16

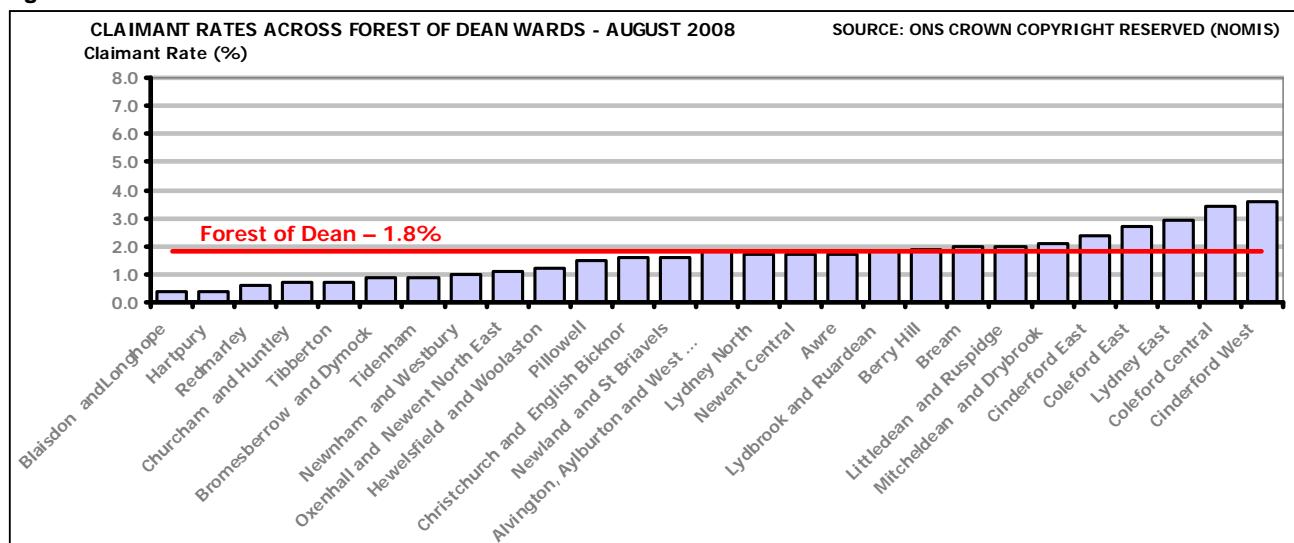


Figure 16 shows the claimant rate for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District, and nine wards are above this average

Table 5. Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean Ward level – August 2008

District	Ward	Claimant Rate	County Rank 1 = 'best'	Color Scale
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	0.4	1	bottom 10% of county
Forest	Hartpury	0.4	1	first quartile of county
Forest	Redmarley	0.6	8	second quartile of county
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	0.7	16	third quartile of county
Forest	Tibberton	0.7	16	fourth quartile of county
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	0.9	33	highest 10% of county
Forest	Tidenham	0.9	33	
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	1.0	42	
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent	1.1	55	
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	1.2	69	
Forest	Pillowell	1.5	85	
Forest	Christchurch, English Bicknor	1.6	90	
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	1.6	87	
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton, West Lydney	1.7	93	
Forest	Lydney North	1.7	93	
Forest	Newent Central	1.7	93	
Forest	Awre	1.8	93	
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	1.8	98	
Forest	Berry Hill	1.9	102	
Forest	Bream	2.0	105	
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	2.0	105	
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	2.1	109	
Forest	Cinderford East	2.4	119	
Forest	Coleford East	2.7	122	
Forest	Lydney East	2.9	124	
Forest	Coleford Central	3.4	130	
Forest	Cinderford West	3.6	132	

Table 5 shows overall claimant counts for the Forest of Dean District wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

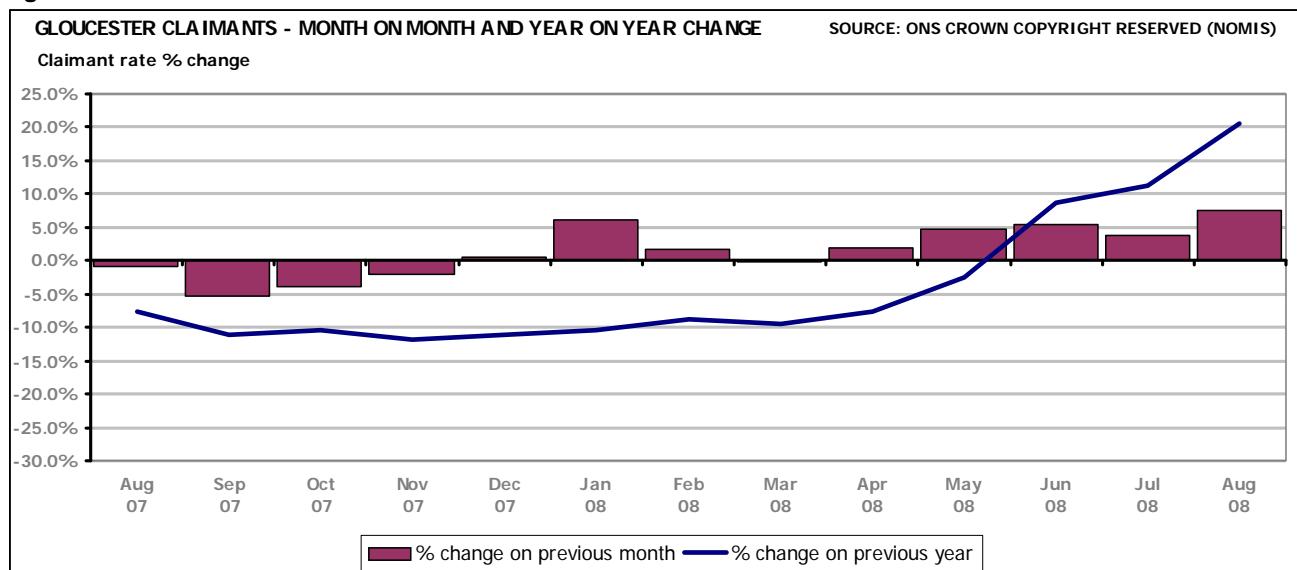
Higher rates have been continually present in Cinderford West, Coleford Central, Cinderford East, Coleford East and Lydney East for the past two years.

Christchurch & English Bicknor and Lydbrook & Ruardean have frequently been above the District average over the past six months, having been below it for the previous eighteen months. Mitcheldean & Drybrook has been higher than average for the past two months, something that has not occurred in the previous year.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Gloucester City

Figure 17



Gloucester City's claimant count was 1,810 people in August 2008, the highest for two years. Figure 17 shows the claimant count increasing since April 2008. In addition, claimant counts have been up every month on the same month the previous year since May 2008.

Figure 18. Trends in Gloucester City's Claimant Count

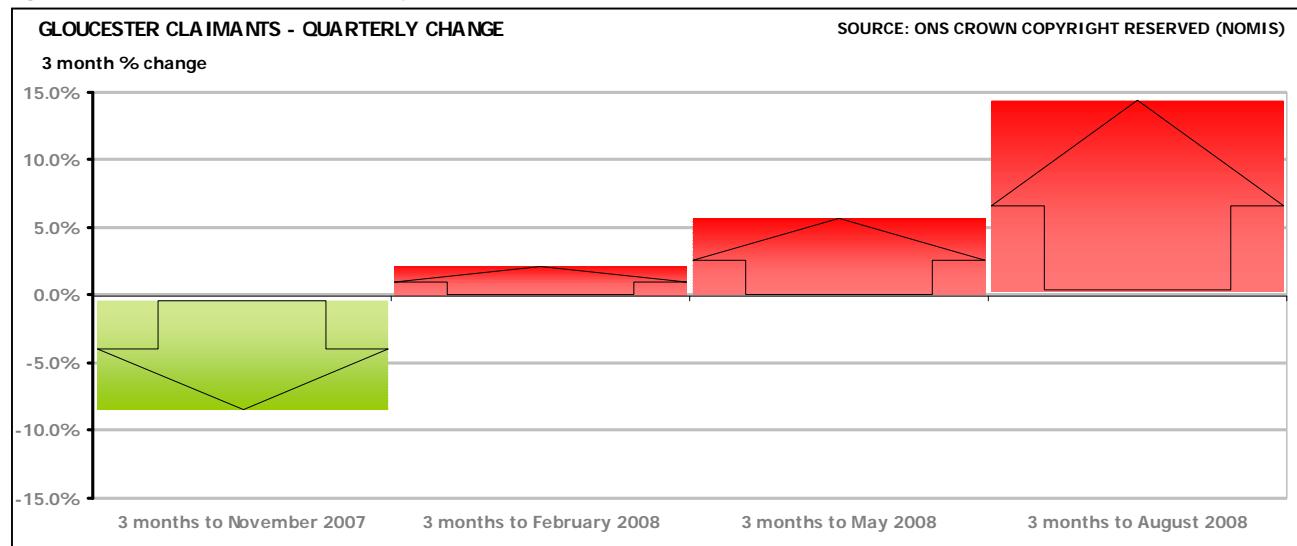


Figure 18 shows the percentage change quarter on quarter also reflects the increases in claimants. For the three months to August, the claimant count was three times that of the previous three month period.

Gloucester City – Wards

Figure 19

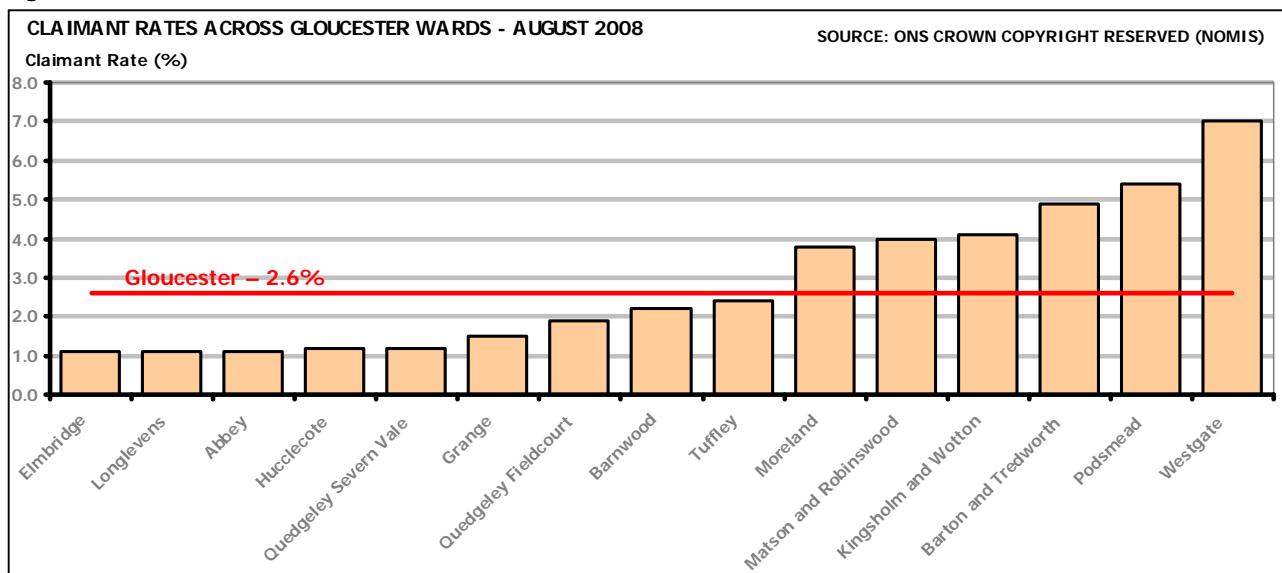


Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City and nine of the wards are above the City average.

Table 6. Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City Ward level – August 2008

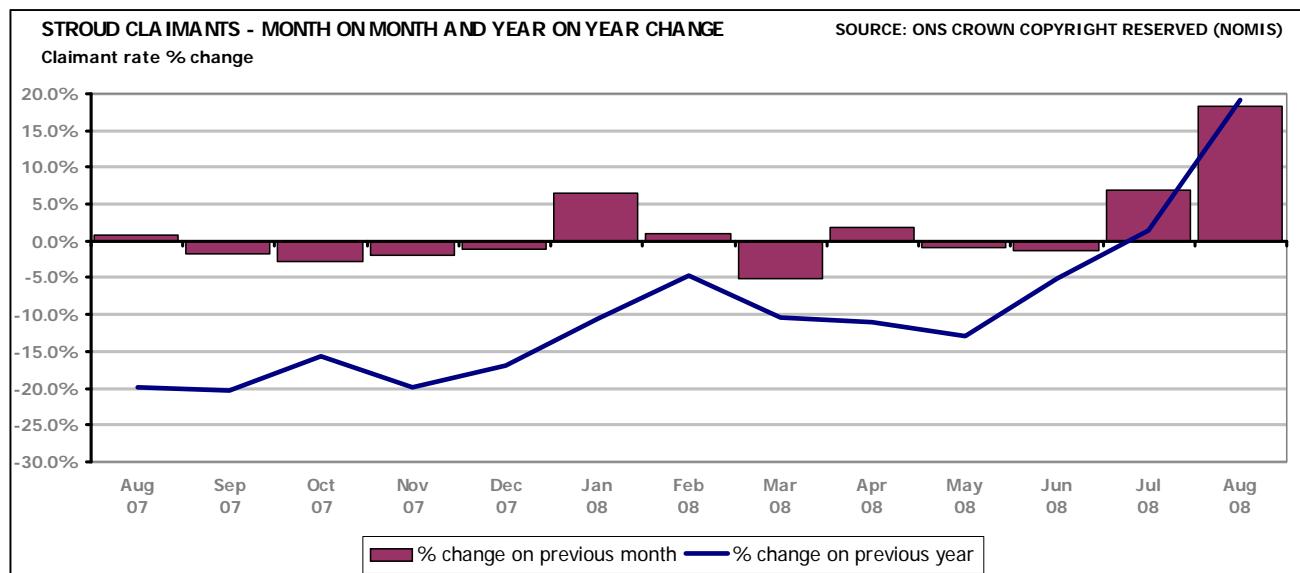
District	Ward	Claimant Rate	County Rank 1 = 'best'	Color Scale Legend
Gloucester	Elmbridge	1.1	55	bottom 10% of county
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.1	55	first quartile of county
Gloucester	Abbey	1.1	55	second quartile of county
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.2	69	third quartile of county
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.2	69	fourth quartile of county
Gloucester	Grange	1.5	85	
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	1.9	102	
Gloucester	Barnwood	2.2	116	
Gloucester	Tuffley	2.4	119	
Gloucester	Moreland	3.8	134	
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	4.0	135	
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.1	136	
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	4.	139	
Gloucester	Podsmead	5.4	141	
Gloucester	Westgate	7.0	142	highest 10% of county

Table 3 shows overall claimant counts for Gloucester City wards, and their position relative to all wards across Gloucestershire. There has been little change in the relative positions of these wards over the last two years, with high claimant rates observed in the same areas month by month. Of these areas; Westgate, Podsmead, Barton & Tredworth, Matson & Robinswood, Kingsholm & Wotton and Moreland have had claimant rates higher than the average for Gloucester City every month for at least the last two years. Tuffley has not been far behind. In addition the Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward has seen claimants steadily increasing at a rate of 0.1% over the last six months a number of wards had half a per cent increases in claimants on the July 2008 figure. These were Podsmead, Moreland, Barton & Tredworth and Kingsholm & Wotton. The only wards that did not have an increase were Matson and Robinswood and Westgate – the latter of which decreased by 0.1%.

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Stroud District

Figure 20



The claimant count in Stroud District was 868 people in August 2008. Figure 20 shows claimant counts rising since June 2008. In addition, figure 20 also shows that when compared to the same month one year previous, claimant counts have been up since July 2008.

Figure 21

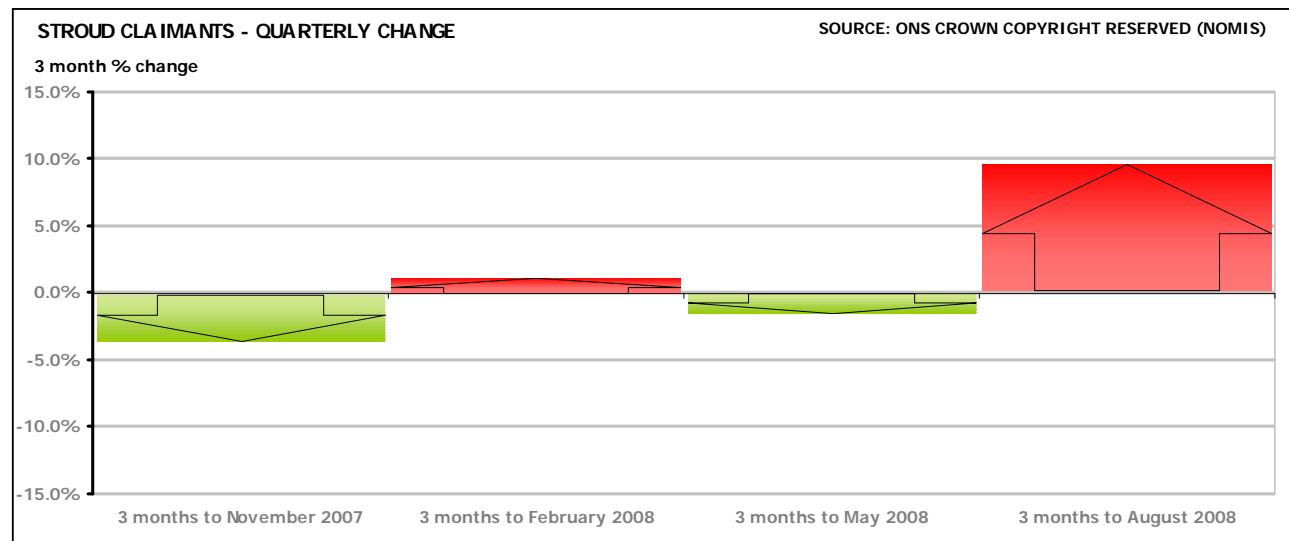


Figure 21 shows the percentage change quarter on quarter also reflects the increases in claimants. For the three months to August, the claimant count was up on the previous quarter – itself down on the three months to February 2008.

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Stroud District – Wards

Figure 22

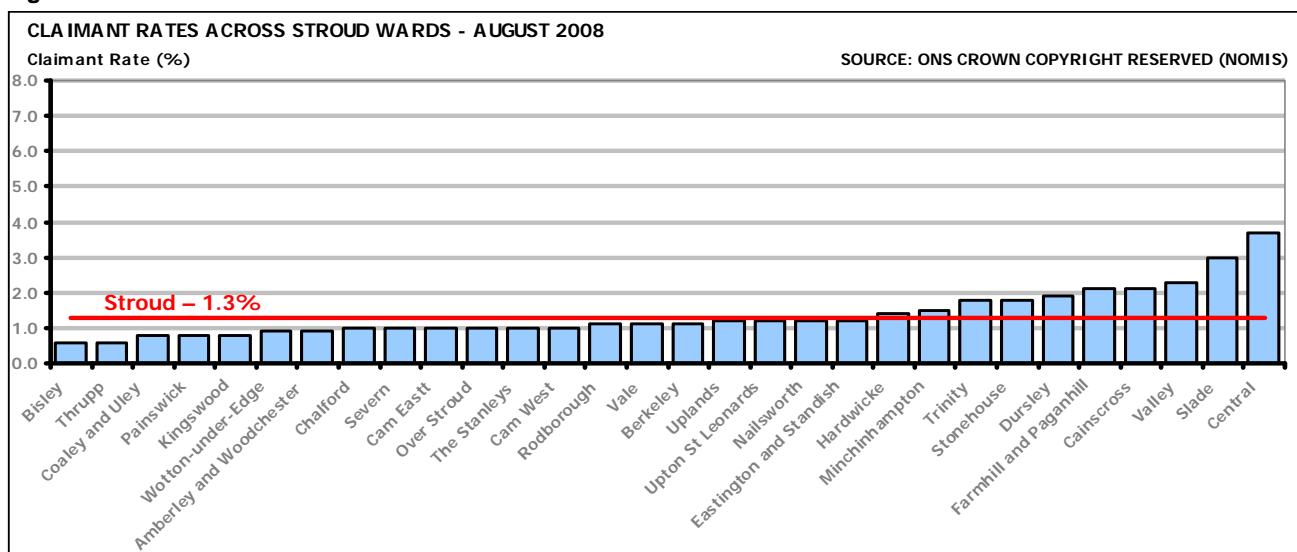


Figure 22 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. Ten wards exceed this district average.

Table 7. Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District Ward level – August 2008

District	Ward	Claimant Rate	County Rank 1 = 'best'	Relative Position
Stroud	Bisley	0.6	8	bottom 10% of county
Stroud	Thrupp	0.6	8	first quartile of county
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	0.8	23	second quartile of county
Stroud	Painswick	0.8	23	third quartile of county
Stroud	Kingswood	0.8	23	fourth quartile of county
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	0.9	33	highest 10% of county
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	0.9	33	
Stroud	Chalford	1.0	42	
Stroud	Severn	1.0	42	
Stroud	Cam East	1.0	42	
Stroud	Over Stroud	1.0	42	
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.0	42	
Stroud	Cam West	1.0	42	
Stroud	Rodborough	1.1	55	
Stroud	Vale	1.1	55	
Stroud	Berkeley	1.1	55	
Stroud	Uplands	1.2	69	
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	1.2	69	
Stroud	Nailsworth	1.2	69	
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	1.2	69	
Stroud	Hardwicke	1.4	81	
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.5	85	
Stroud	Trinity	1.8	98	
Stroud	Stonehouse	1.8	98	
Stroud	Dursley	1.9	102	
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	2.1	109	
Stroud	Cainscross	2.1	109	
Stroud	Valley	2.3	118	
Stroud	Slade	3.0	125	
Stroud	Central	3.7	133	

Table 7 shows overall claimant counts for Stroud District wards, and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

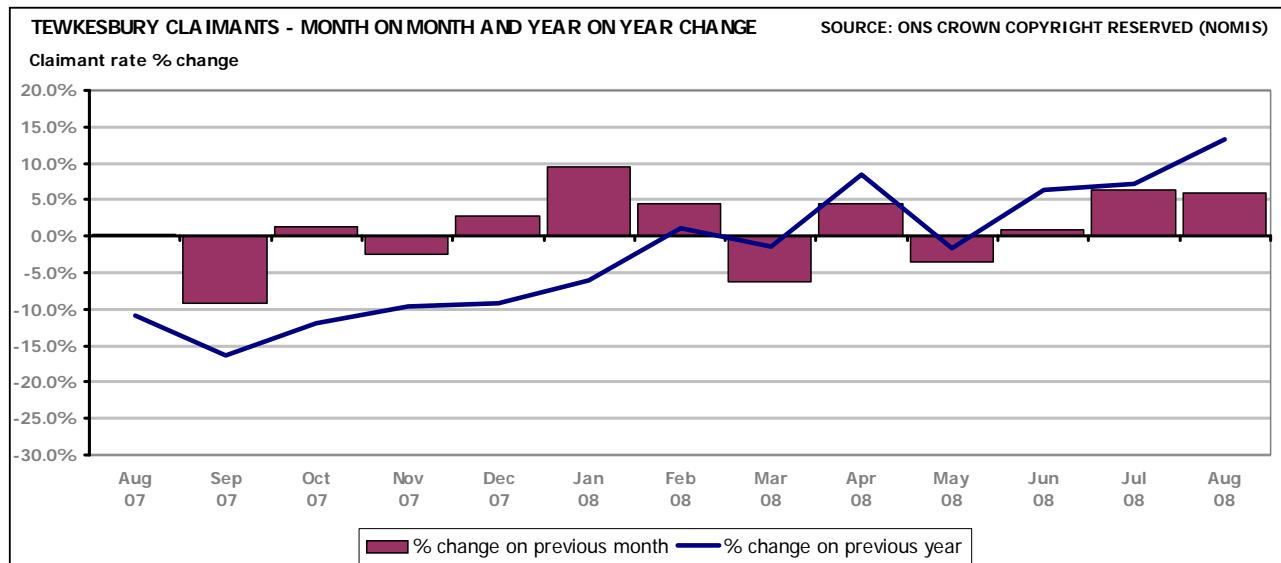
Cainscross, Dursley, Valley, Slade and Central wards have all been above the district average for at least the last two years. Hardwicke has started to experience higher rates of claimants, and has been above the District average for the fourth month running, having spent the previous 18 months below.

It is also worth noting that Minchinhampton had a 0.5% increase on the July claimant count, and was above the District average for the first time in nine months

Part 3: Gloucestershire Local Authority District and Ward analysis

Tewkesbury Borough

Figure 23



The claimant count in Tewkesbury Borough was 673 people in August 2008. The monthly rise has been consistent since June 2008. Claimant counts have been up every month compared to the same month the previous year since June 2008. The unusual spike during April 2008 was caused by greater levels of claimants in the Innsworth with Down Hatherley, Ashton with Walton Cardiff, and Brockworth wards, than there had been the previous year.

Figure 24

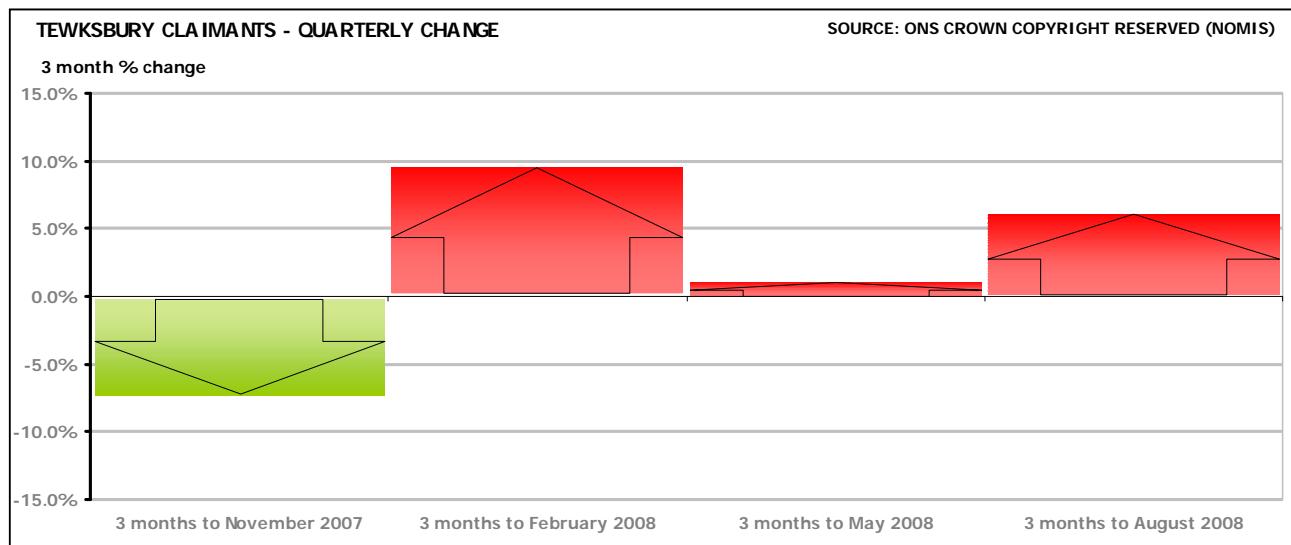


Figure 24 also reflects the increase in claimants over the last three quarters to August 2008.

Tewkesbury Borough - Wards

Figure 25

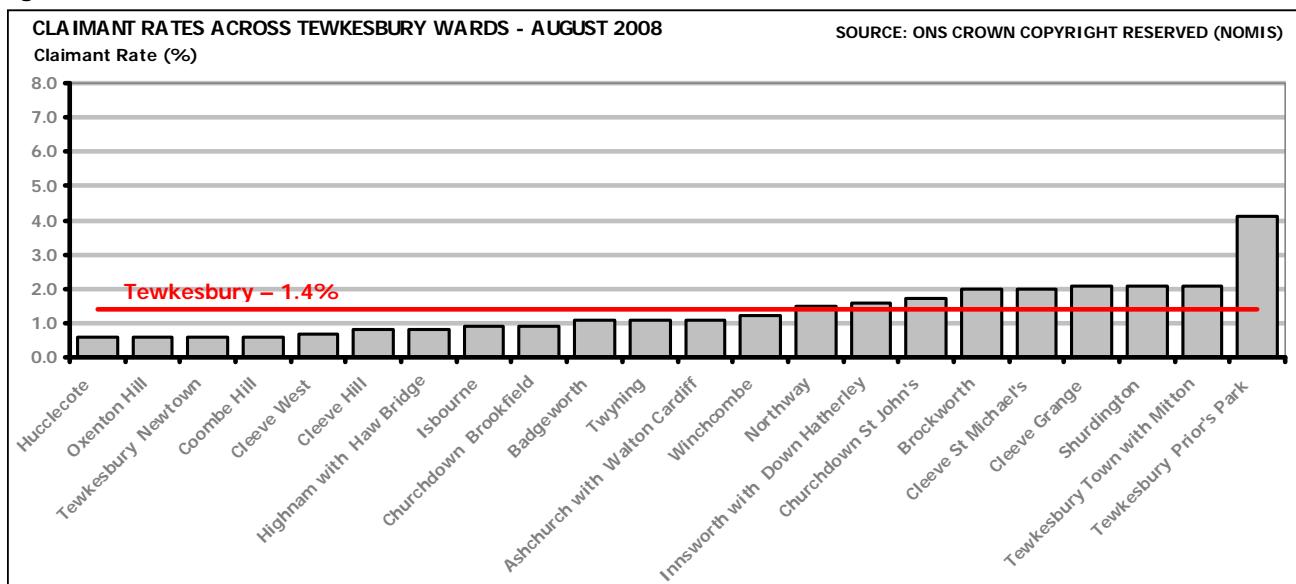


Figure 25 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough and nine of the wards are above the Borough average.

Table 8. Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough Ward level – August 2008

District	Ward	Claimant Rate	County Rank 1 = 'best'	County Rank Category
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	0.6	8	bottom 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	0.6	8	first quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	0.6	8	second quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	0.6	8	third quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	0.7	16	fourth quartile of county
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.8	23	highest 10% of county
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	0.8	23	
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	0.9	33	
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	0.9	33	
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	1.1	55	
Tewkesbury	Twyning	1.1	55	
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton Cardiff	1.1	55	
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	1.2	69	
Tewkesbury	Northway	1.5	85	
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	1.6	90	
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	1.7	93	
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	2.0	105	
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.0	105	
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.1	109	
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.1	109	
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	2.1	109	
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	4.1	136	

Table 8 shows overall claimant counts for Tewkesbury Borough wards, and their position relative to all wards in the County.

There are a number of wards, which have higher levels of claimants within Tewkesbury Borough month on month. In particular, Prior's Park, Tewkesbury town with Mitton, Shurdington and Brockworth wards have all been above the Borough average for at least the last two years.

In addition Cleeve Grange and Ashchurch with Down Hatherley have both been above the Borough average for nine of the past twelve months