

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 17 December 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.

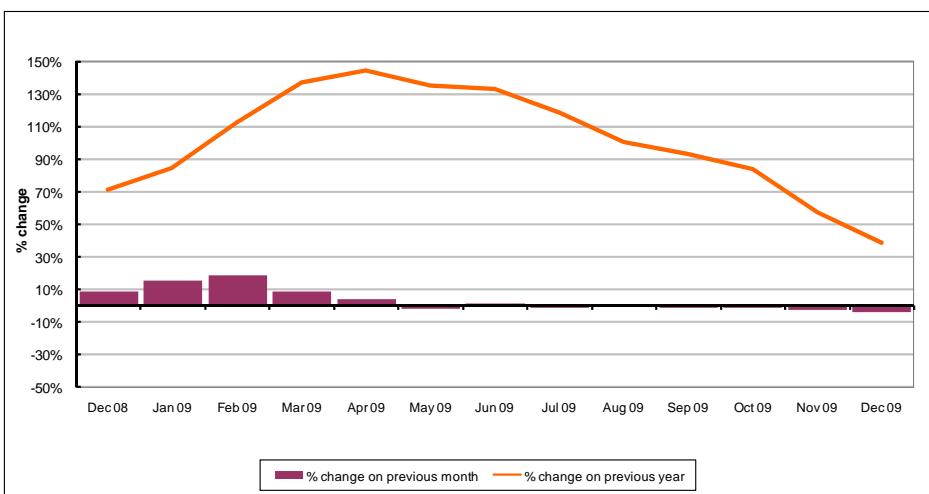
PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire was 3.3% in December 2009. This was a decline of 0.1% on the November 2009 figure. The UK and South West rate remained the same at 4.1% and 2.9% respectively. Gloucestershire's rate remains above the South West average of 2.9%, but 0.8% lower than the UK average of 4.1%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in December 2009 declined by 487 people. The amount of people claiming in December 2009 was 4.1% lower than the number in November 2009 compared to a 1.7% decline in the South West and a 0.2% decrease for the UK.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire has decreased. The count was 38% higher in December 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:
December 2008 to December 2009



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

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

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

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

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

CHELTONHAM BOROUGH

Claim count:	2,629
Compared to last month:	-4.8
Claimant rate:	3.8%
Highest claiming ward	Hesters Way (7.8%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claim count:	3,082
Compared to last month:	-2.0%
Claimant rate:	4.3%
Highest claiming ward	Westgate (8.7%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,007
Compared to last month:	-7.0%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward	Cirencester Watermoor (4.7%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claim count:	1,850
Compared to last month:	-4.4%
Claimant rate:	2.8%
Highest claiming ward	Central (7.5%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claim count:	1,568
Compared to last month:	-1.8%
Claimant rate:	3.2%
Highest claiming ward	Cinderford West (5.6%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claim count:	1,262
Compared to last month:	-7.5%
Claimant rate:	2.7%
Highest claiming ward	Tewkesbury Prior's Park (5.5%)

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

As at the end of December 2009 there were 684 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 4.0%.

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

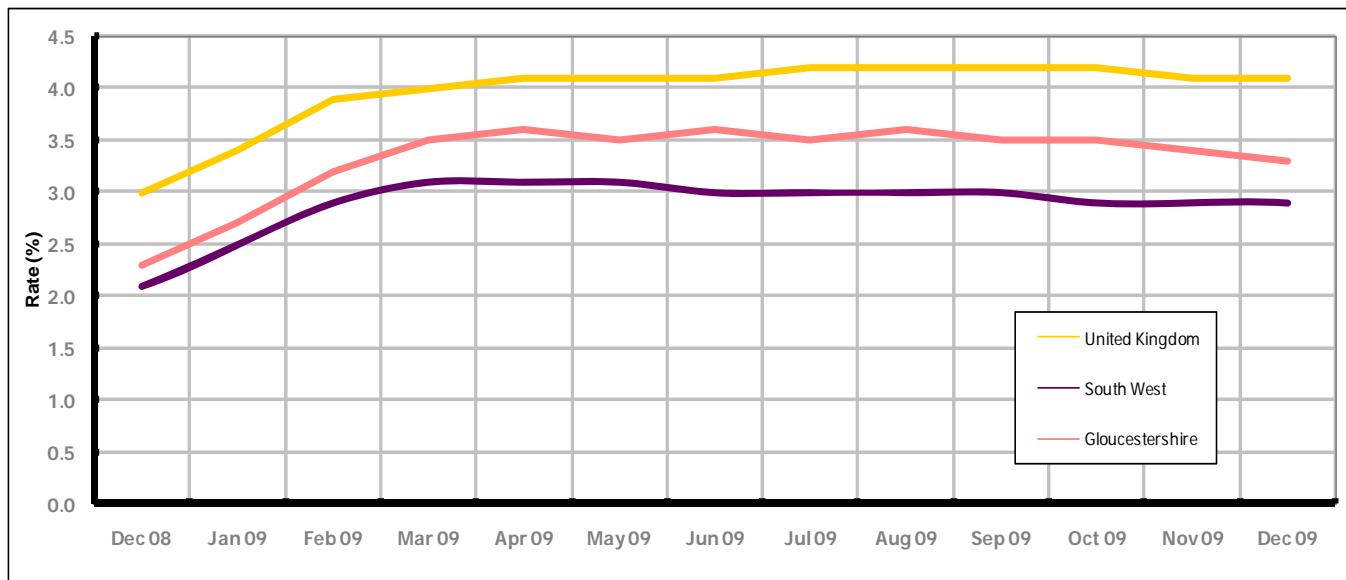


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 3.3% in December 2009. The rate has remained slightly higher than the South West average over the past year, but persistently lower by approximately 0.8% against the UK average during the same period. The December 2009 rate represented a 0.1% decrease on November 2009.

Claimant Count

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

Area	Claimant Count in December 2009	% change on November 2009	Average % increase over the last six months	Consecutive months decreasing
UK	1,567,005	-0.2%	-0.1%	4
South West	90,035	-1.7%	-0.8%	4
Gloucestershire	11,398	-4.1%	-1.5%	4

Table 1 shows that in December 2009, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 4.1% lower than the number in November 2009.

The average growth in claimants in Gloucestershire for the six months to December 2009 was -1.5%. This is 1.4% lower than the UK average and 0.7% lower than the South West region.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

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

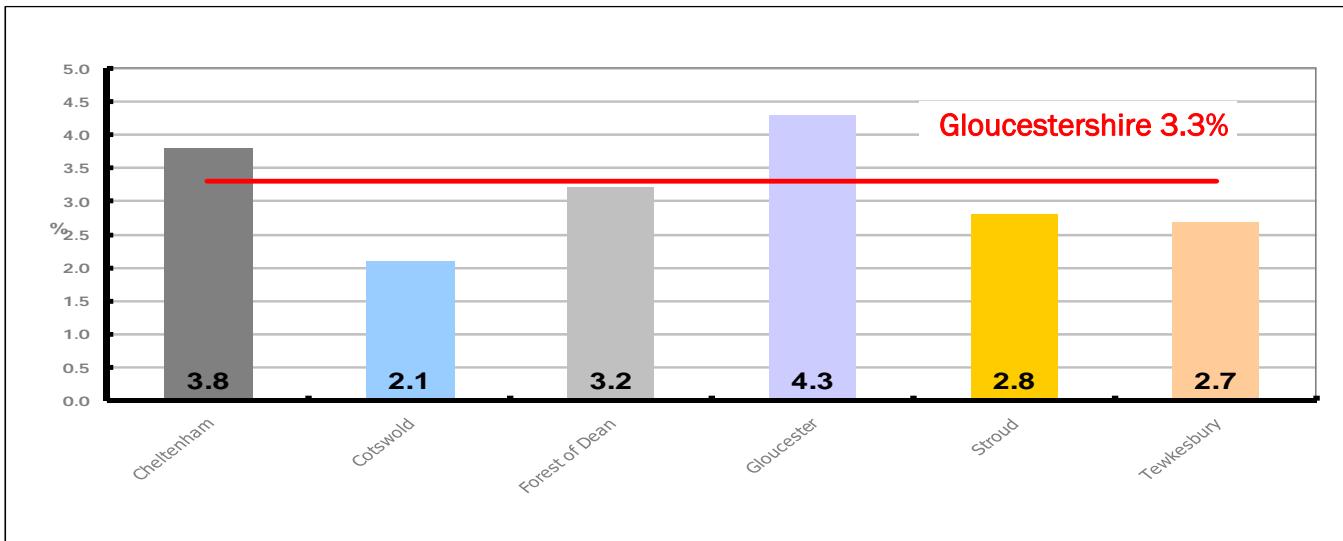


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for December 2009 in Gloucestershire. Between November 2009 and December 2009 all districts declined.

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

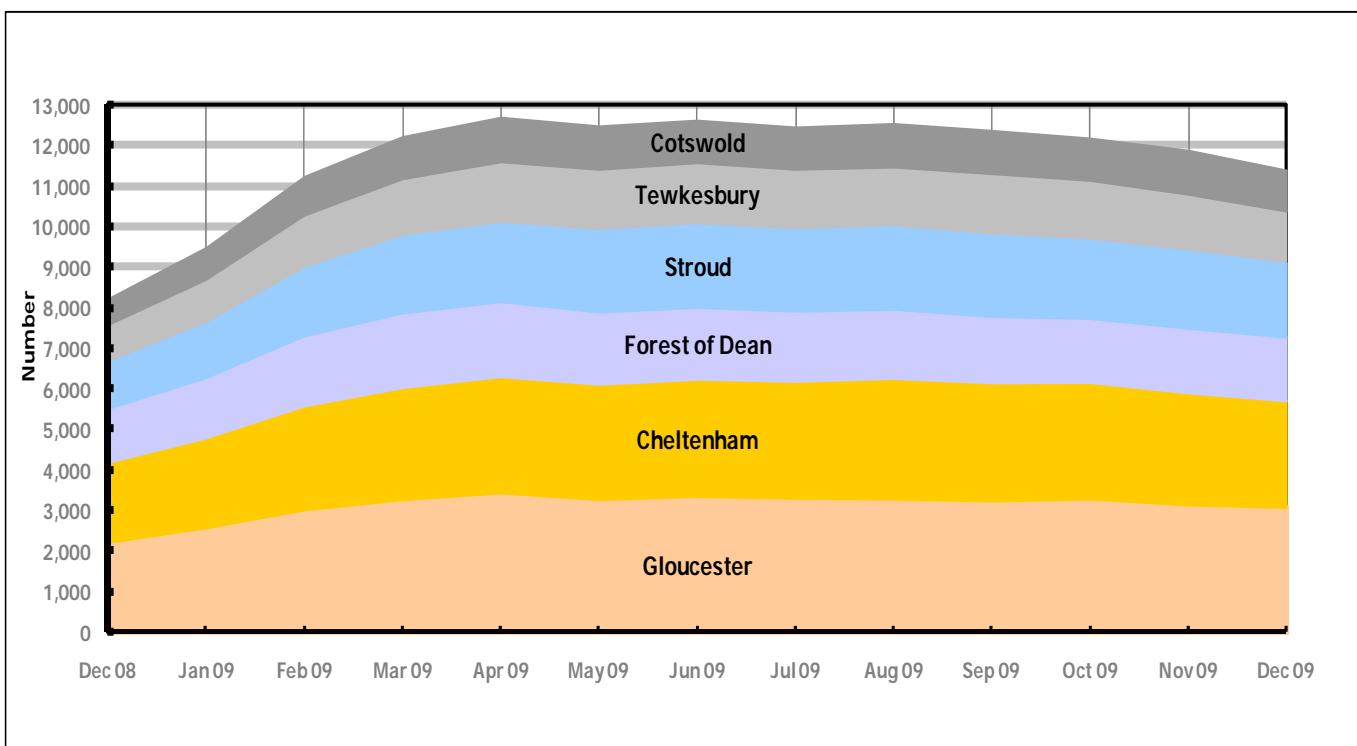


Figure 3 shows the overall claimant count by district for Gloucestershire over the past year. It demonstrates a noticeable decline since September 2009.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Dec 09 Number	Dec 09 Rate	Nov 09 Number	Nov 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	11,398	3.3	11,885	3.4	-487	-4.1%	-0.1
Cheltenham	2,629	3.8	2,761	4.0	-132	-4.8%	-0.2
Cotswold	1,007	2.1	1,083	2.3	-76	-7.0%	-0.2
Forest of Dean	1,568	3.2	1,596	3.3	-28	-1.8%	-0.1
Gloucester	3,082	4.3	3,145	4.4	-63	-2.0%	-0.1
Stroud	1,850	2.8	1,935	3.0	-85	-4.4%	-0.2
Tewkesbury	1,262	2.7	1,365	2.9	-103	-7.5%	-0.2

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in December 2009 compared to November 2009. All districts experienced a decrease in the number of claimants.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Dec 09 Number	Dec 09 Rate	Nov 09 Number	Nov 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	8,390	4.6	8,650	4.7	-260	-3.0%	-0.1
Cheltenham	2,004	5.5	2,055	5.6	-51	-2.5%	-0.1
Cotswold	724	2.9	756	3.0	-32	-4.2%	-0.1
Forest of Dean	1,138	4.4	1,135	4.4	3	0.3%	0.0
Gloucester	2,305	6.2	2,345	6.3	-40	-1.7%	-0.1
Stroud	1,336	3.9	1,404	4.1	-68	-4.8%	-0.2
Tewkesbury	883	3.6	955	3.9	-72	-7.5%	-0.3

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in December 2009 compared to November 2009. Forest of Dean district experienced a small increase while all the other districts underwent a decrease.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Dec 09 Number	Dec 09 Rate	Nov 09 Number	Nov 09 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	3,008	1.8	3,235	2.0	-227	-7.0%	-0.2
Cheltenham	625	1.9	706	2.2	-81	-11.5%	-0.3
Cotswold	283	1.2	327	1.4	-44	-13.5%	-0.2
Forest of Dean	430	1.9	461	2.0	-31	-6.7%	-0.1
Gloucester	777	2.3	800	2.3	-23	-2.9%	0.0
Stroud	514	1.7	531	1.7	-17	-3.2%	0.0
Tewkesbury	379	1.7	410	1.8	-31	-7.6%	-0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in December 2009 compared to November 2009. All districts experienced 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 4: Cheltenham Borough claimant rate over the last year

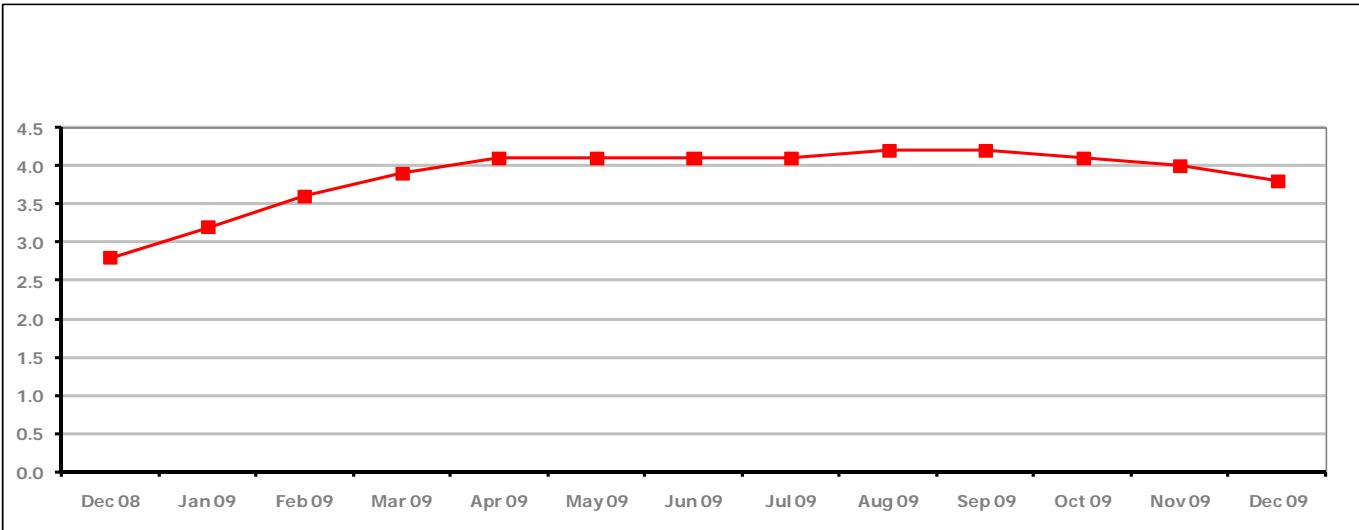


Figure 4 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham declined in December 2009 to 3.8%.

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

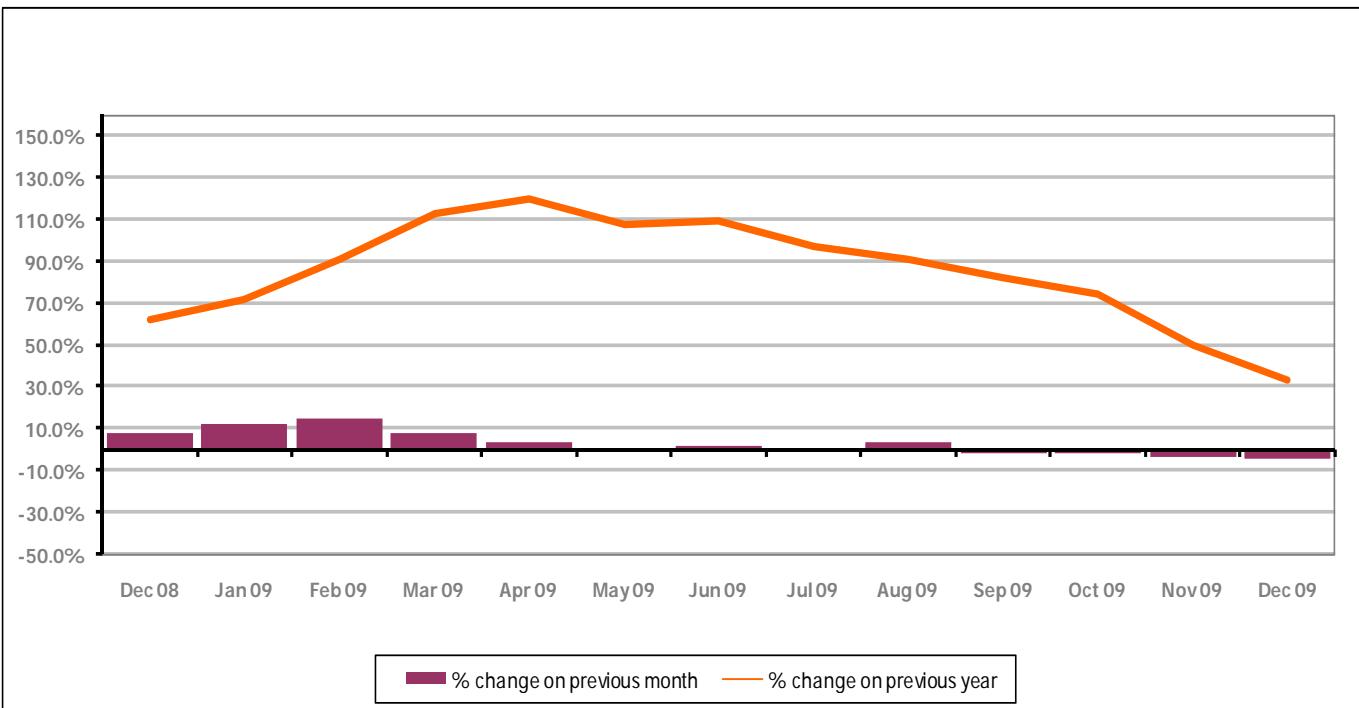


Figure 5 shows the claimant count declined by 4.8% since last month. In addition, the change on the previous year has gone down in December 2009 compared to November 2009 to 33%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

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

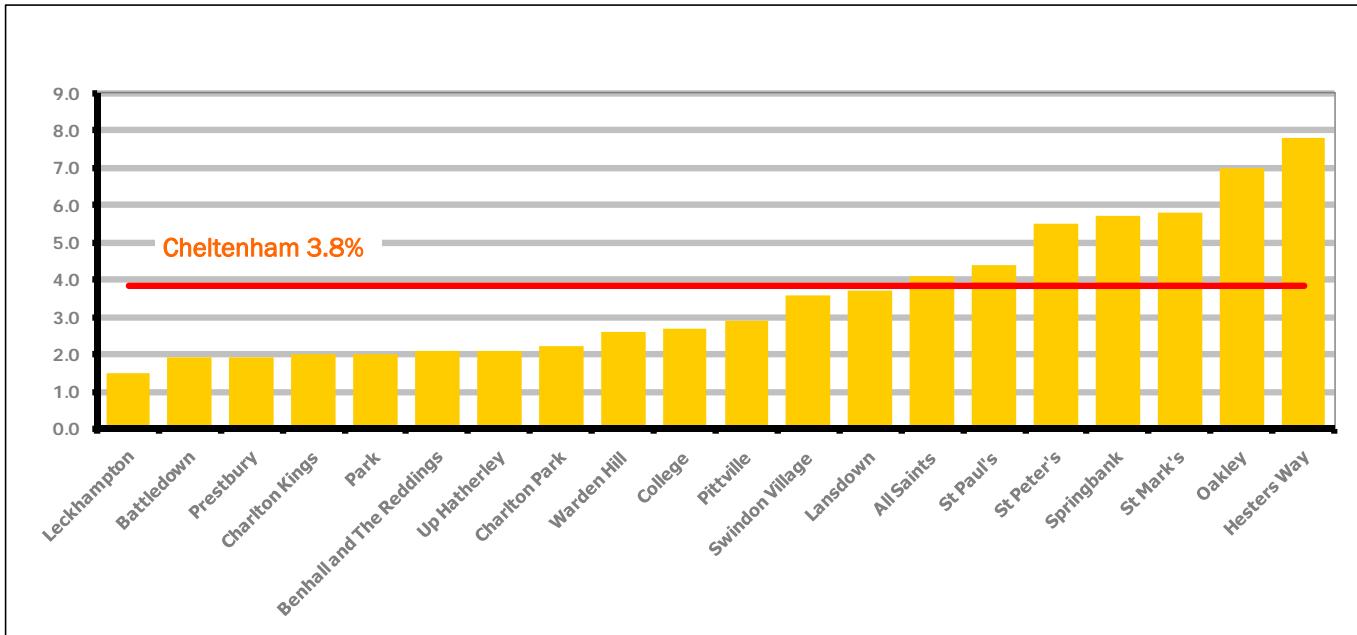
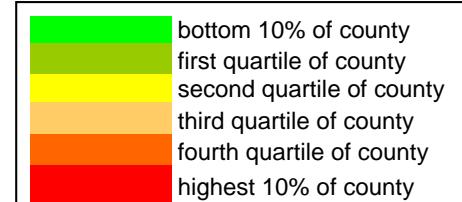


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 3.8%. Seven wards lie above the average.

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.5	16
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.9	34
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.9	34
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	2.0	43
Cheltenham	Park	2.0	43
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	2.1	49
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	2.1	49
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	2.2	59
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.6	77
Cheltenham	College	2.7	80
Cheltenham	Pittville	2.9	88
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	3.6	107
Cheltenham	Lansdown	3.7	111
Cheltenham	All Saints	4.1	118
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.4	120
Cheltenham	St Peter's	5.5	130
Cheltenham	Springbank	5.7	133
Cheltenham	St Mark's	5.8	134
Cheltenham	Oakley	7.0	138
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	7.8	141



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

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

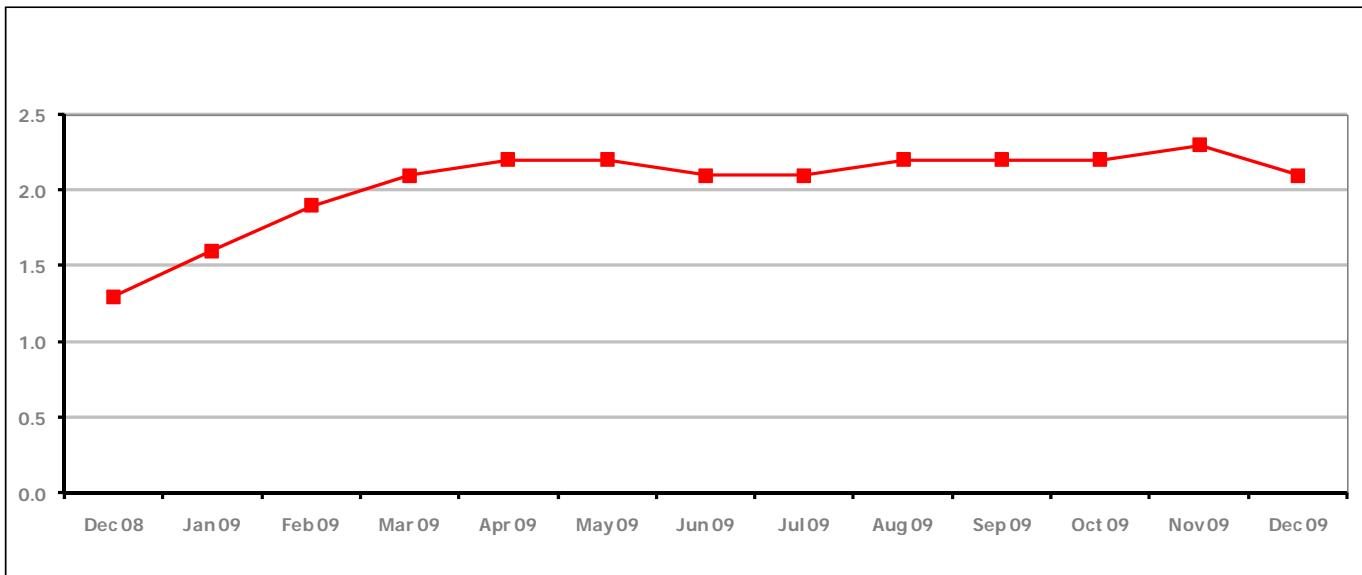
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.2 Cotswold District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 7: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District increased in December 2009 to 2.1%.

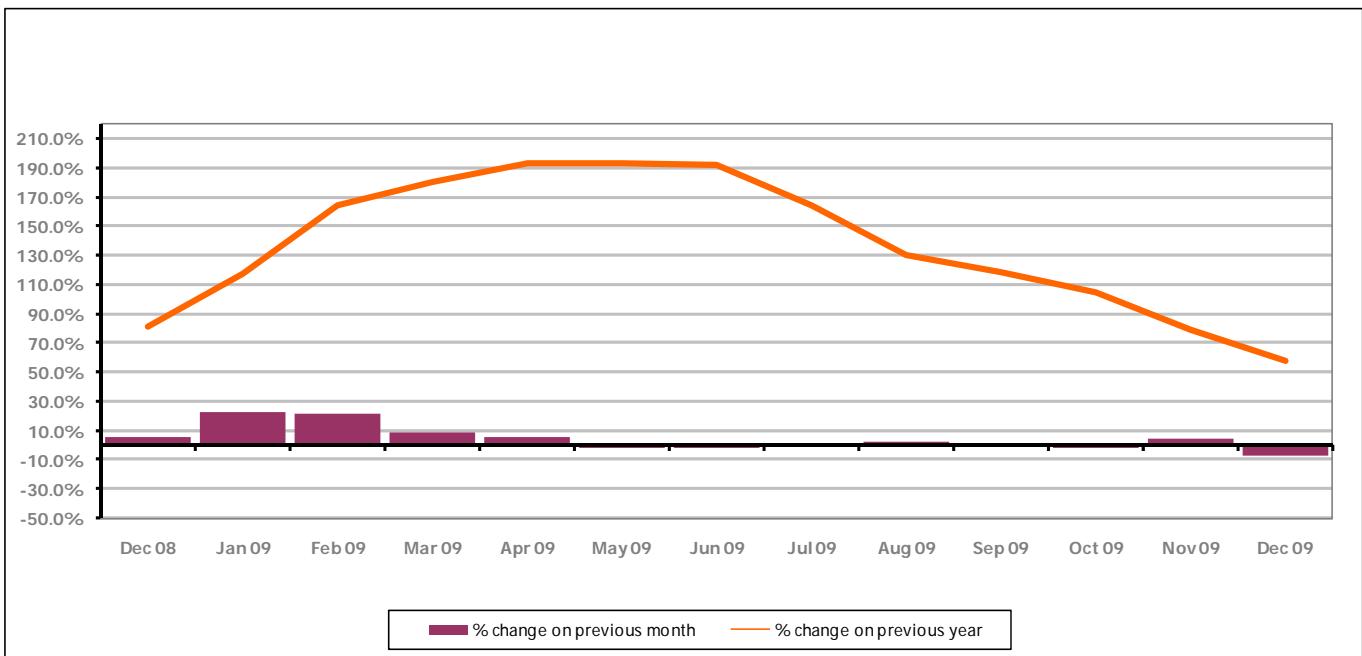
Figure 8: Cotswold District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 8 shows the claimant count declined by 7.0% since November 2009. The change on the previous year has decreased from November 2009 to December 2009 to 57%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District continued...

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

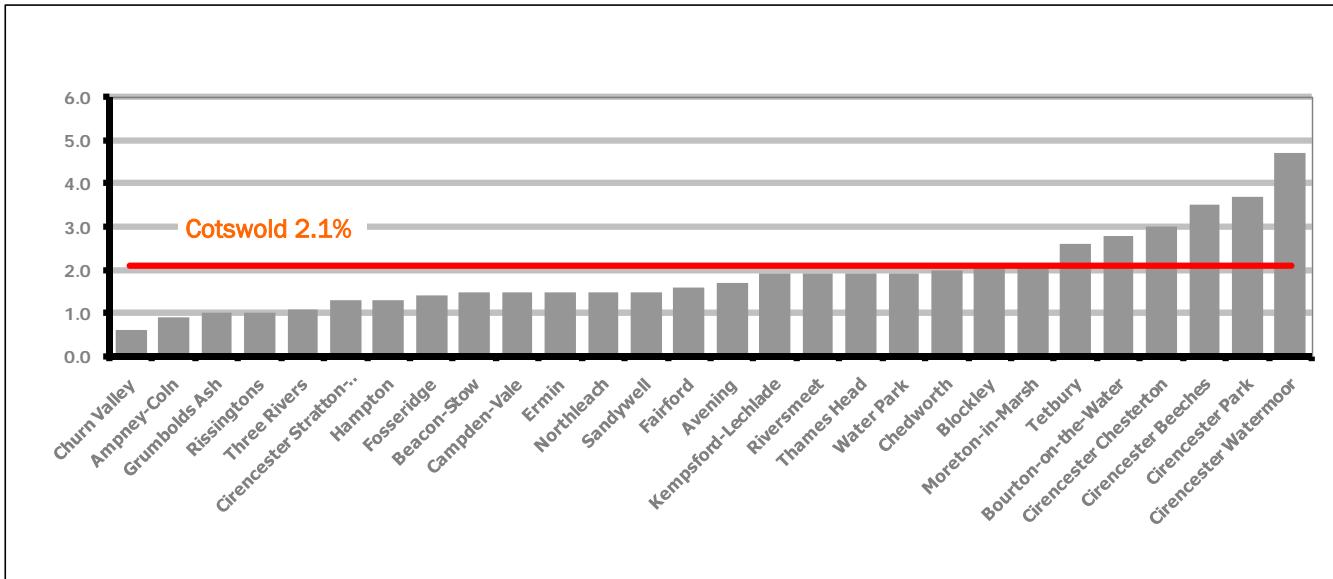


Figure 9 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.1%. Six wards lie above the average.

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswolds	Churn Valley	0.6	1
Cotswolds	Ampney-Colin	0.9	3
Cotswolds	Grumbolds Ash	1.0	6
Cotswolds	Rissingtons	1.0	6
Cotswolds	Three Rivers	1.1	9
Cotswolds	Cirencester Stratton-Whiteway	1.3	12
Cotswolds	Hampton	1.3	12
Cotswolds	Fosseridge	1.4	15
Cotswolds	Beacon-Stow	1.5	16
Cotswolds	Campden-Vale	1.5	16
Cotswolds	Ermin	1.5	16
Cotswolds	Northleach	1.5	16
Cotswolds	Sandywell	1.5	16
Cotswolds	Fairford	1.6	24
Cotswolds	Avening	1.7	27
Cotswolds	Kempsford-Lechlade	1.9	34
Cotswolds	Riversmeet	1.9	34
Cotswolds	Thames Head	1.9	34
Cotswolds	Water Park	1.9	34
Cotswolds	Chedworth	2.0	43
Cotswolds	Blockley	2.1	49
Cotswolds	Moreton-in-Marsh	2.1	49
Cotswolds	Tetbury	2.6	77
Cotswolds	Bourton-on-the-Water	2.8	83
Cotswolds	Cirencester Chesterton	3.0	92
Cotswolds	Cirencester Beeches	3.5	105
Cotswolds	Cirencester Park	3.7	111
Cotswolds	Cirencester Watermoor	4.7	124



* 1 = "best" and 124 = "worst"

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

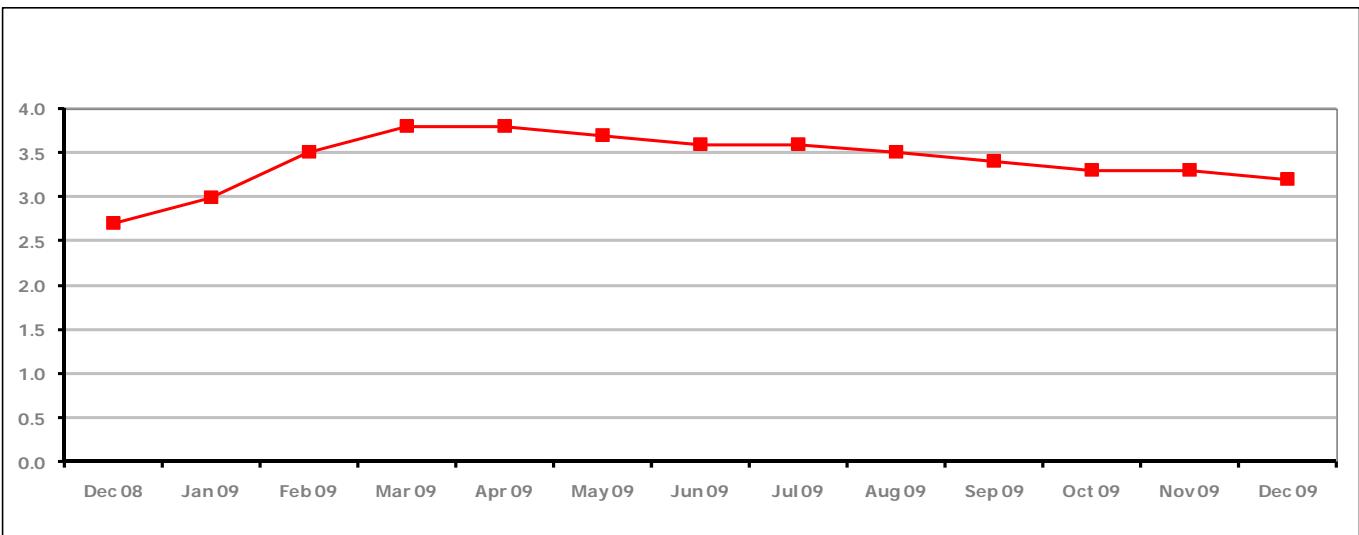
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.3 Forest of Dean District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 10: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 10 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean declined in December 2009 to 3.2%.

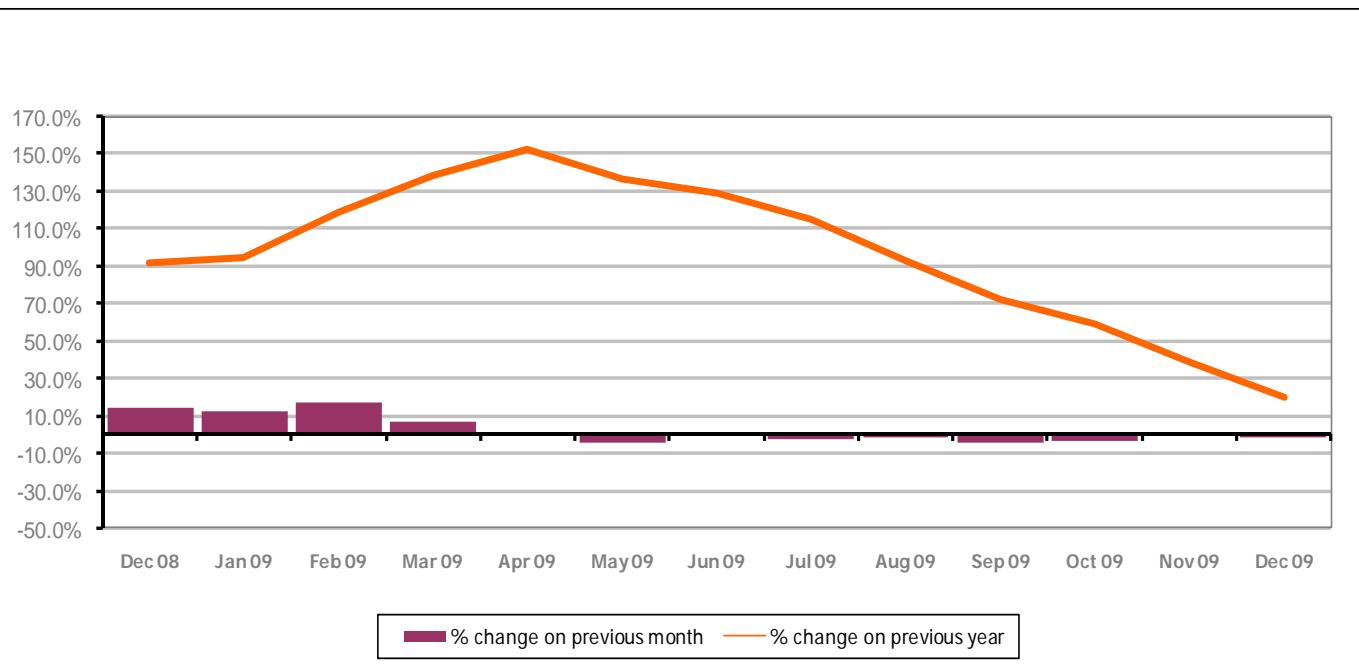
Figure 11: Forest of Dean District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 11 shows the claimant count declined by 1.8% since November 2009. The change on the previous year decreased between December 2009 and November 2009 to 20%.

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 - December 2009

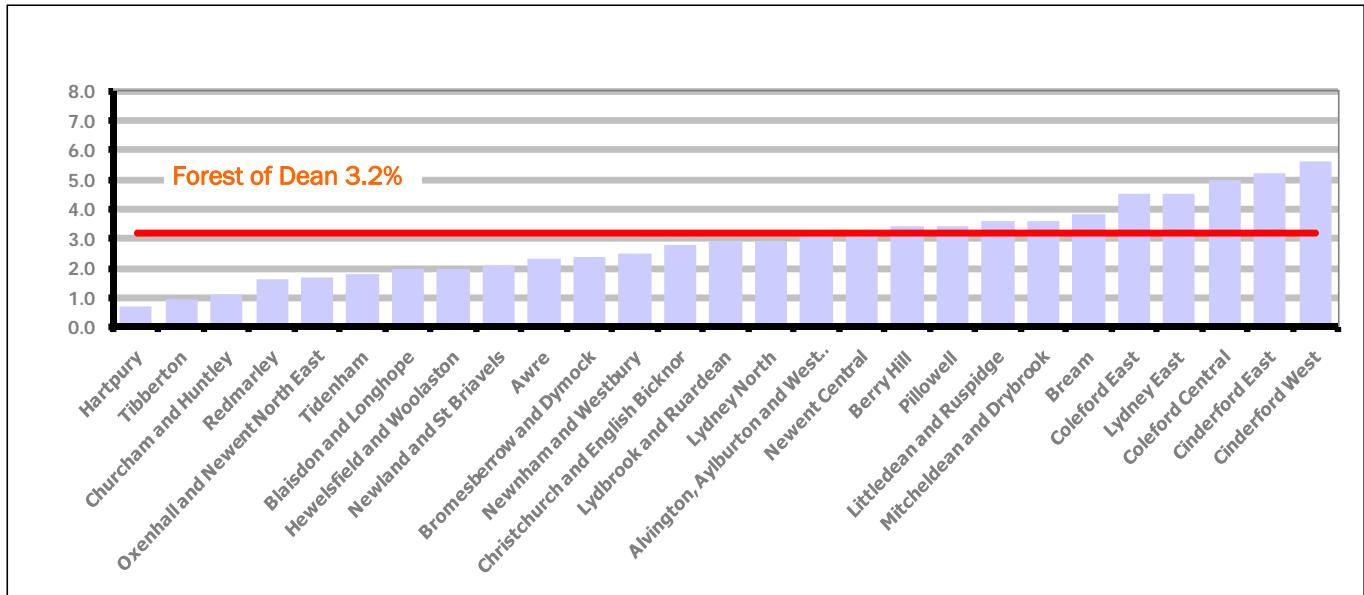
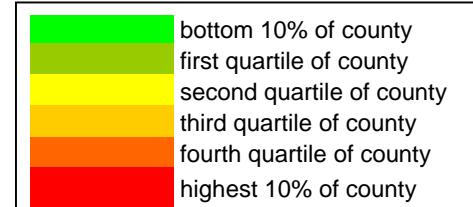


Figure 12 shows the claimant rates for Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 3.2%. Ten wards lie above the average.

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Hartpury	0.7	2
Forest	Tibberton	0.9	3
Forest	Churcham and Huntley	1.1	9
Forest	Redmarley	1.6	24
Forest	Oxenhall and Newent North East	1.7	27
Forest	Tidenham	1.8	32
Forest	Blaisdon and Longhope	2.0	43
Forest	Hewelsfield and Woolaston	2.0	43
Forest	Newland and St Briavels	2.1	49
Forest	Awre	2.3	64
Forest	Bromesberrow and Dymock	2.4	69
Forest	Newnham and Westbury	2.5	72
Forest	Christchurch and English Bicknor	2.8	83
Forest	Lydbrook and Ruardean	2.9	88
Forest	Lydney North	2.9	88
Forest	Alvington, Aylburton and West Lydney	3.1	94
Forest	Newent Central	3.2	99
Forest	Berry Hill	3.4	102
Forest	Pillowell	3.4	102
Forest	Littledean and Ruspidge	3.6	107
Forest	Mitcheldean and Drybrook	3.6	107
Forest	Bream	3.8	114
Forest	Coleford East	4.5	121
Forest	Lydney East	4.5	121
Forest	Coleford Central	5.0	127
Forest	Cinderford East	5.2	128
Forest	Cinderford West	5.6	132



* 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.

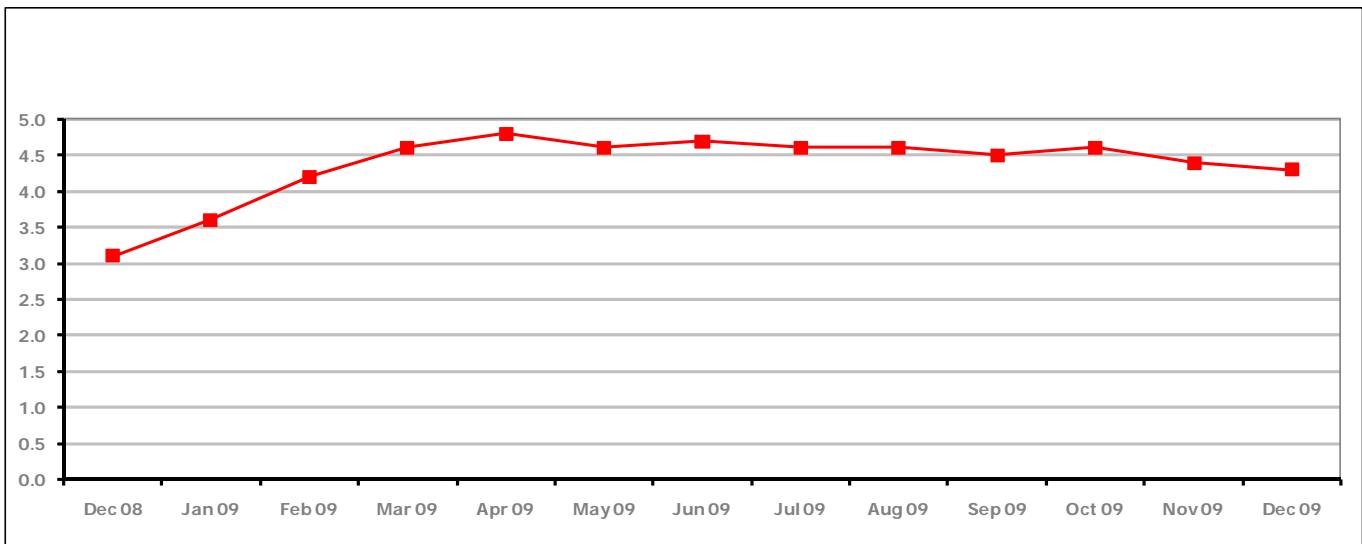
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City declined in December 2009 to 4.3%.

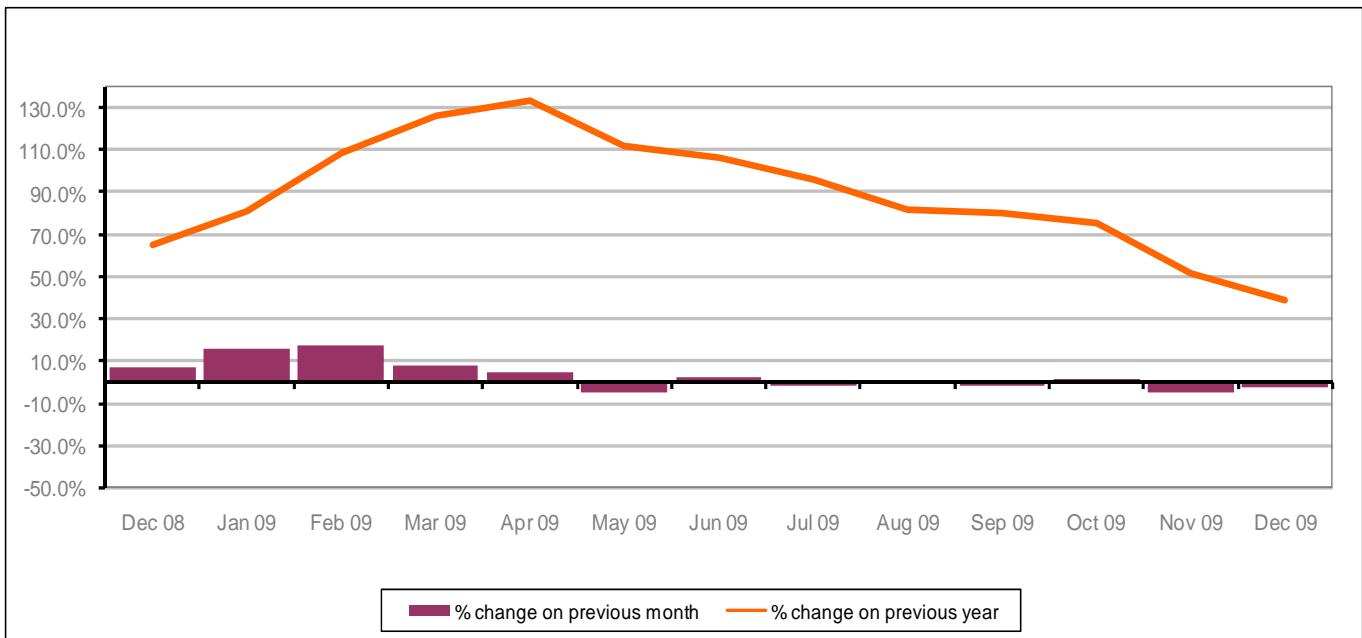
Figure 14: Gloucester City claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 14 shows the monthly claimant count decreased by 2.0% since November 2009. The change on the previous year has decreased between November 2009 and December 2009 to 39%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

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

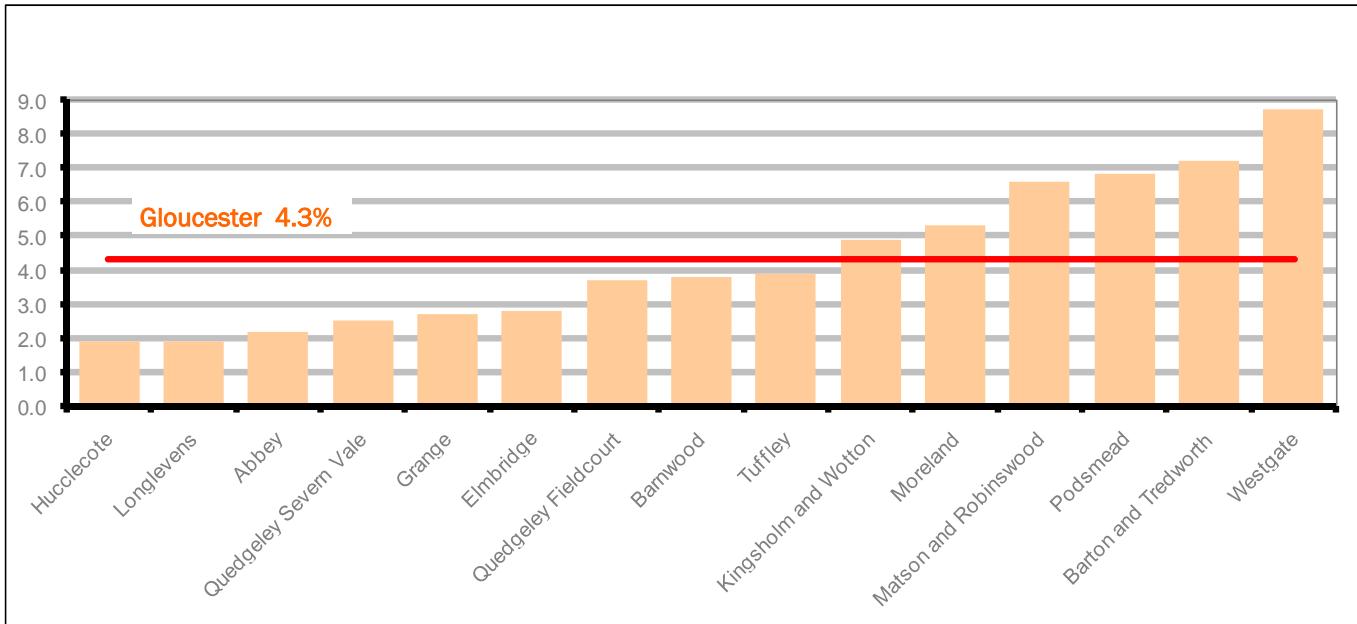
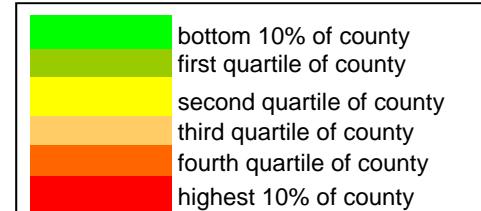


Figure 15 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 4.3%. Six wards lie above the average.

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Hucclecote	1.9	34
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.9	34
Gloucester	Abbey	2.2	59
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	2.5	72
Gloucester	Grange	2.7	80
Gloucester	Elmbridge	2.8	83
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	3.7	111
Gloucester	Barnwood	3.8	114
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.9	116
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	4.9	125
Gloucester	Moreland	5.3	129
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	6.6	136
Gloucester	Podsmead	6.8	137
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.2	139
Gloucester	Westgate	8.7	142



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

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

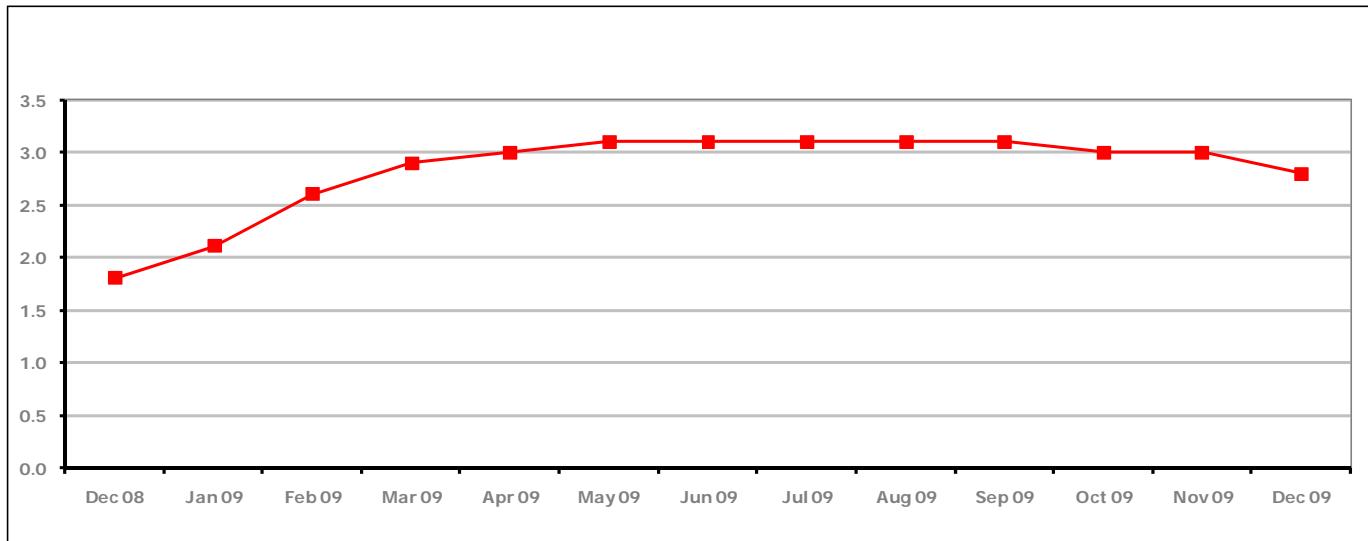
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 16: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 16 shows the claimant rate for Stroud District declined in December 2009 to 2.8%.

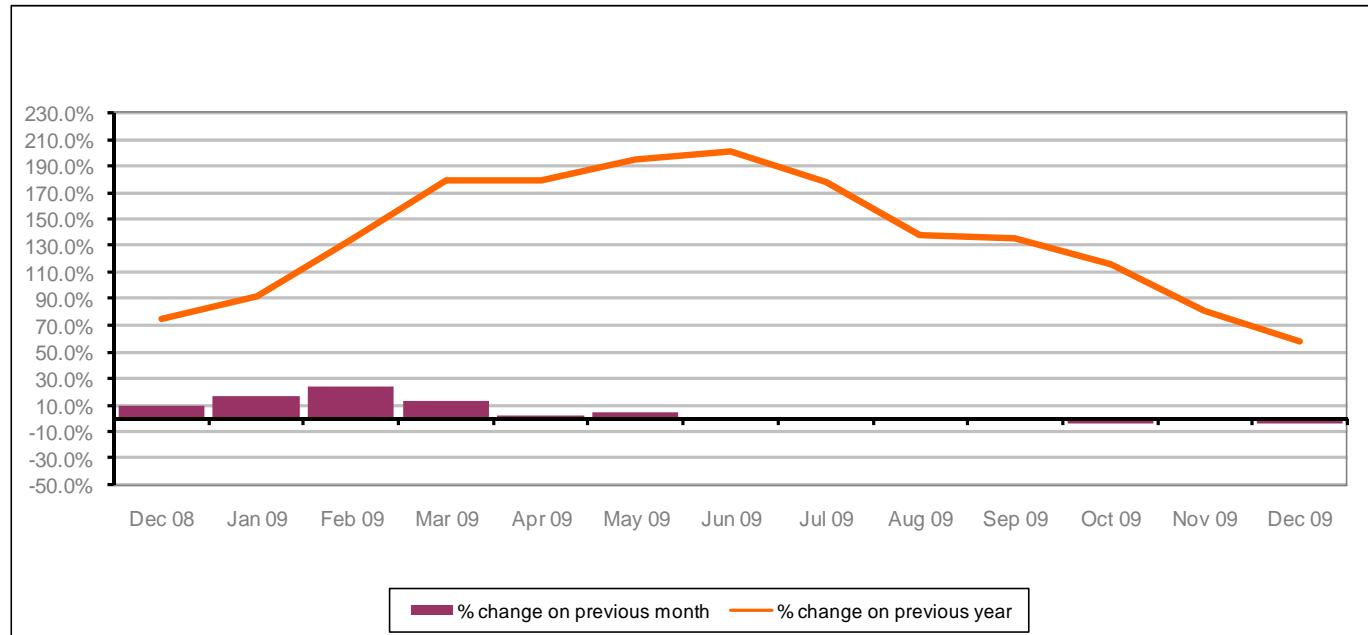
Figure 17: Stroud District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 17 shows the monthly claimant count declined by 4.4% since November 2009. The change on the previous year has decreased between November 2009 and December 2009 to 57%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

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

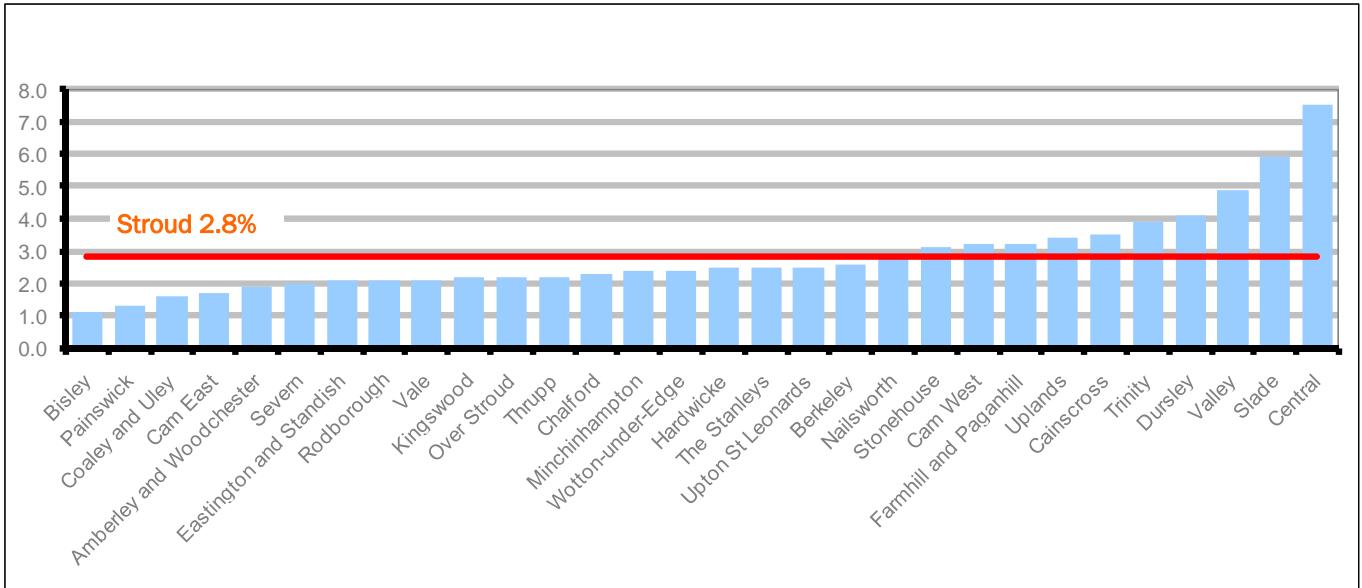
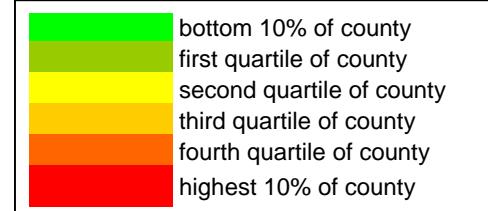


Figure 18 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.8% and eleven wards are above the average.

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Bisley	1.1	9
Stroud	Painswick	1.3	12
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.6	24
Stroud	Cam East	1.7	27
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.9	34
Stroud	Severn	2.0	43
Stroud	Eastington and Standish	2.1	49
Stroud	Rodborough	2.1	49
Stroud	Vale	2.1	49
Stroud	Kingswood	2.2	59
Stroud	Over Stroud	2.2	59
Stroud	Thrupp	2.2	59
Stroud	Chalford	2.3	64
Stroud	Minchinhampton	2.4	69
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	2.4	69
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.5	72
Stroud	The Stanleys	2.5	72
Stroud	Upton St Leonards	2.5	72
Stroud	Berkeley	2.6	77
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.9	88
Stroud	Stonehouse	3.1	94
Stroud	Cam West	3.2	99
Stroud	Farmhill and Paganhill	3.2	99
Stroud	Uplands	3.4	102
Stroud	Cainscross	3.5	105
Stroud	Trinity	3.9	116
Stroud	Dursley	4.1	118
Stroud	Valley	4.9	125
Stroud	Slade	5.9	135
Stroud	Central	7.5	140



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

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

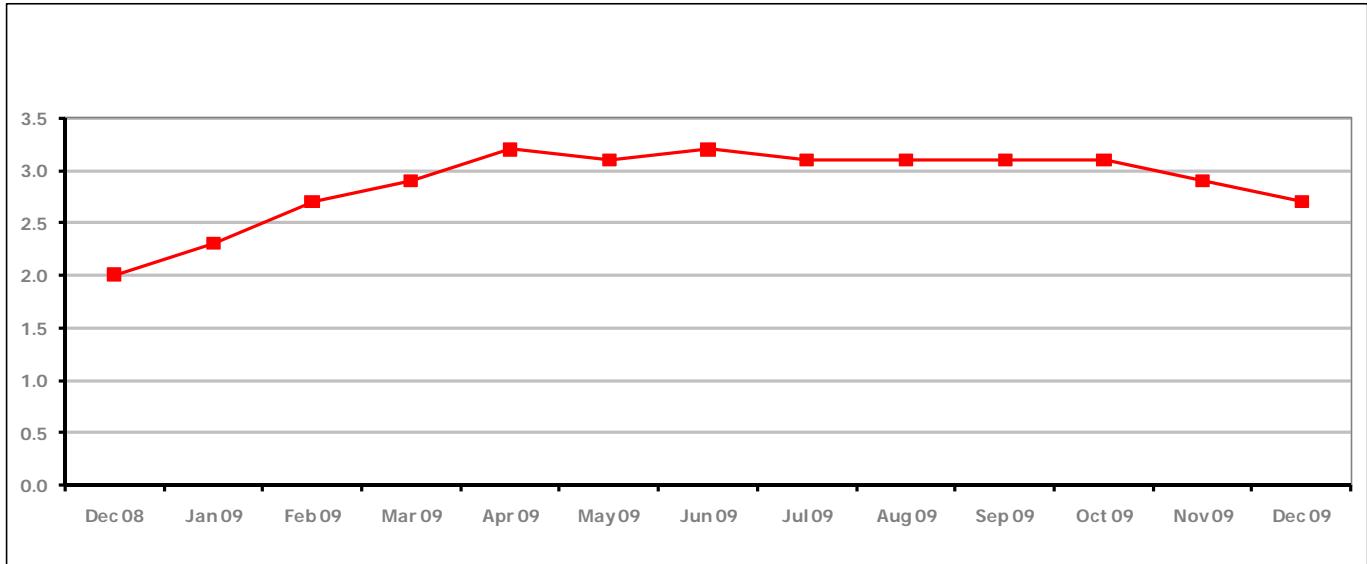
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 19: Tewkesbury District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 19 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury District declined in December 2009 to 2.7%.

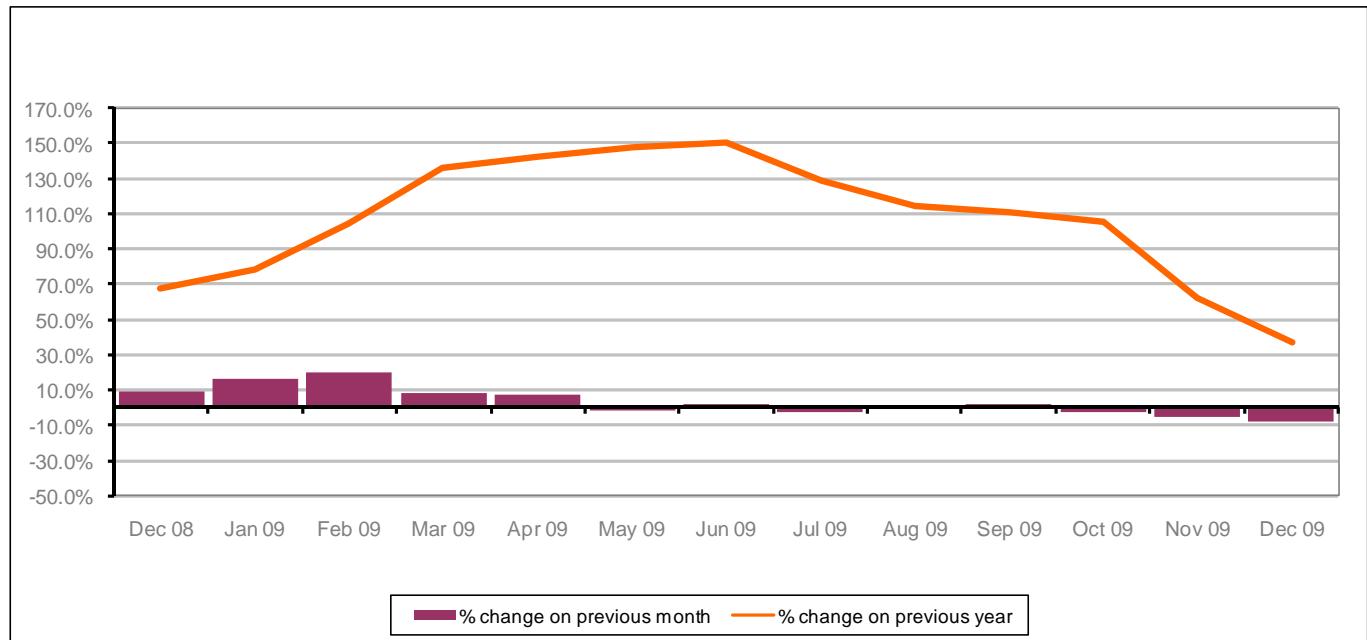
Figure 20: Tewkesbury District claimants - Month on Month and Year on Year change

Figure 20 shows that the monthly claimant count declined in December 2009 by 7.5%. The change on the previous year decreased between November 2009 and December 2009 to 37%.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury District continued...

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

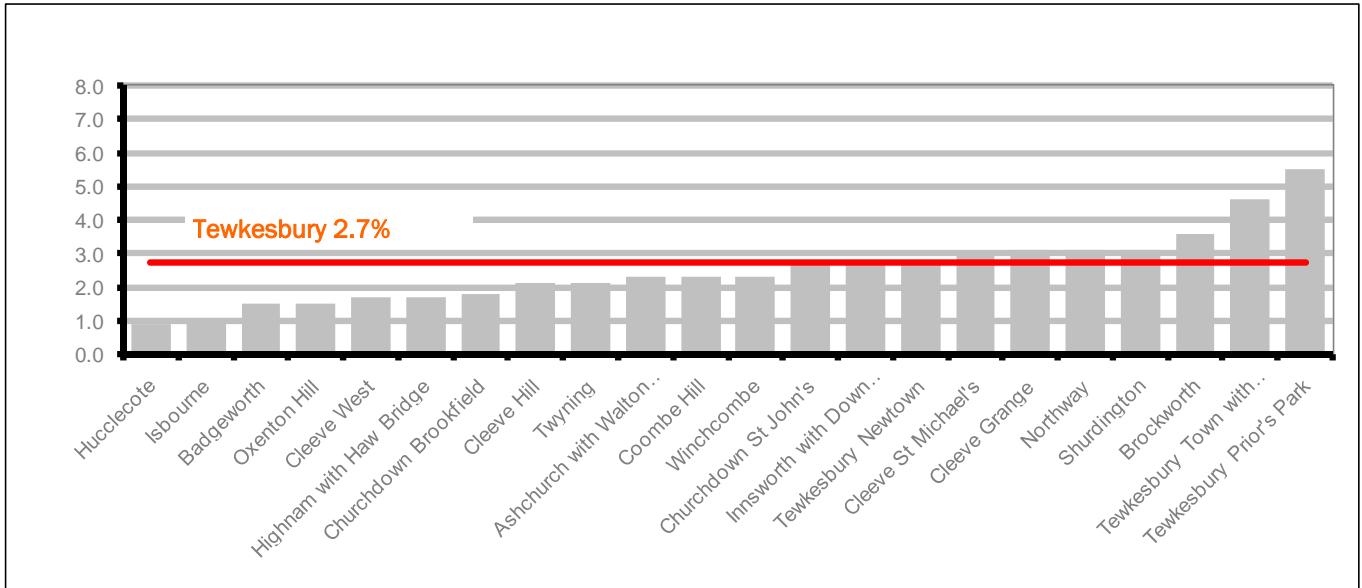
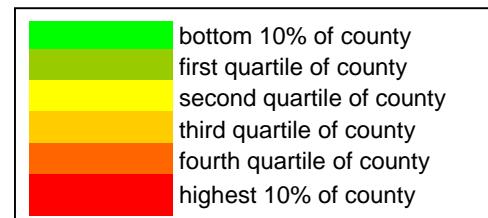


Figure 21 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.7% and nine wards are above the average.

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

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Hucclecote	0.9	3
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	1.0	6
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	1.5	16
Tewkesbury	Oxenton Hill	1.5	16
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	1.7	27
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	1.7	27
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield	1.8	32
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	2.1	49
Tewkesbury	Twynning	2.1	49
Tewkesbury	Ashchurch with Walton	2.3	64
Tewkesbury	Coombe Hill	2.3	64
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.3	64
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.7	80
Tewkesbury	Innsworth with Down Hatherley	2.8	83
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Newtown	2.8	83
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	3.0	92
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	3.1	94
Tewkesbury	Northway	3.1	94
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	3.1	94
Tewkesbury	Brockworth	3.6	107
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Town with Mitton	4.6	123
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury Prior's Park	5.5	130



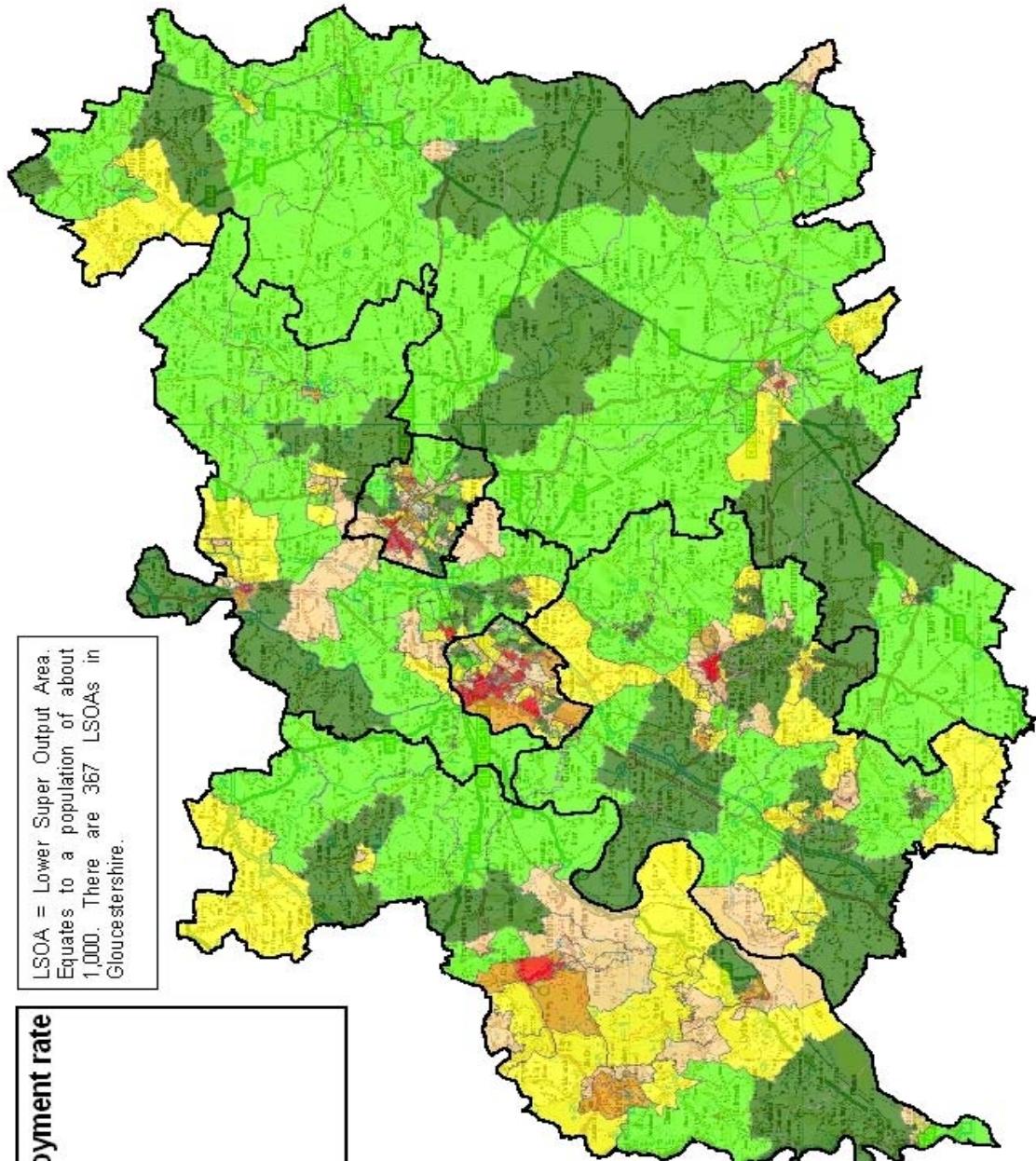
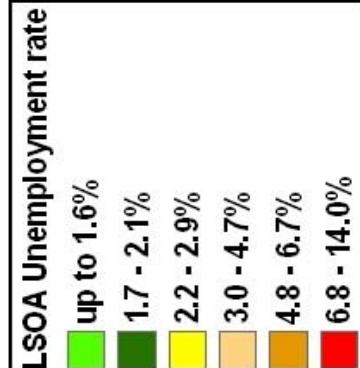
* 1 = "best" and 142 = "worst"

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

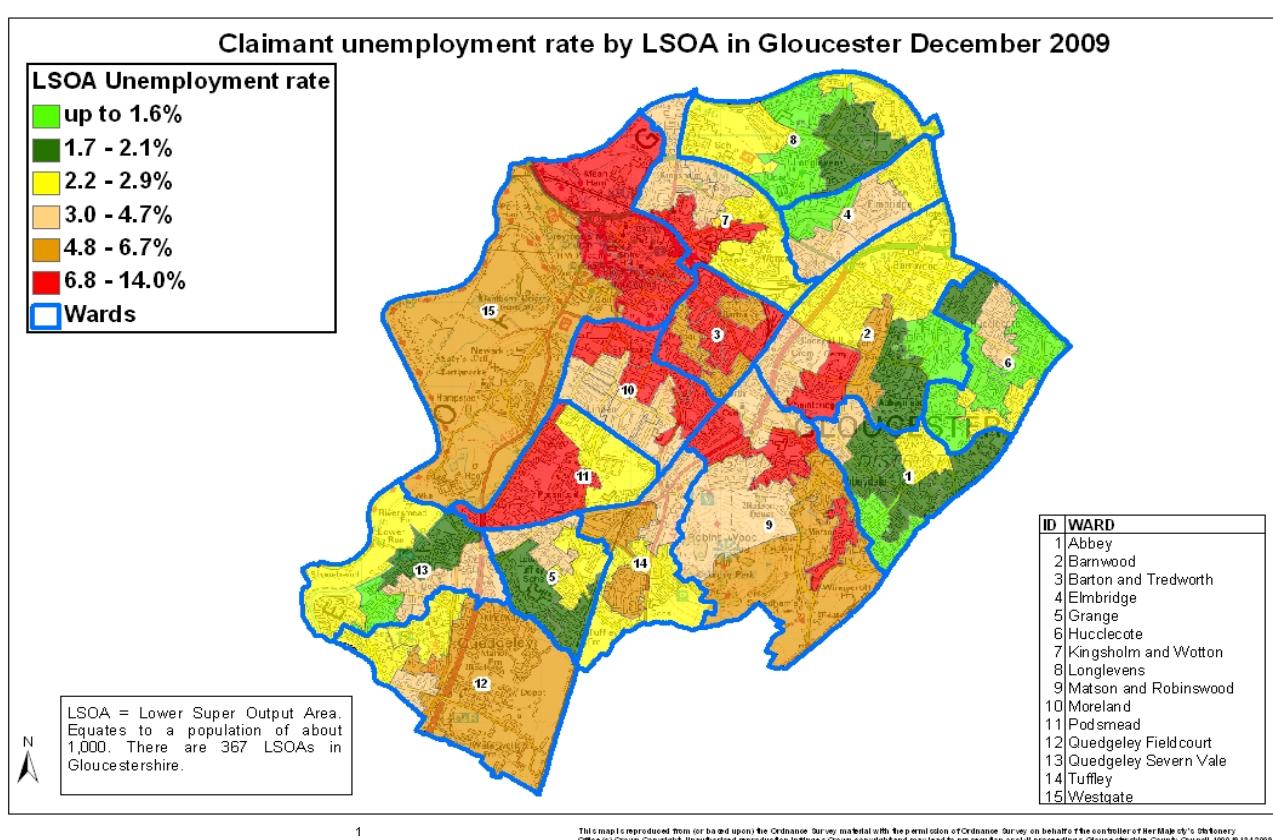
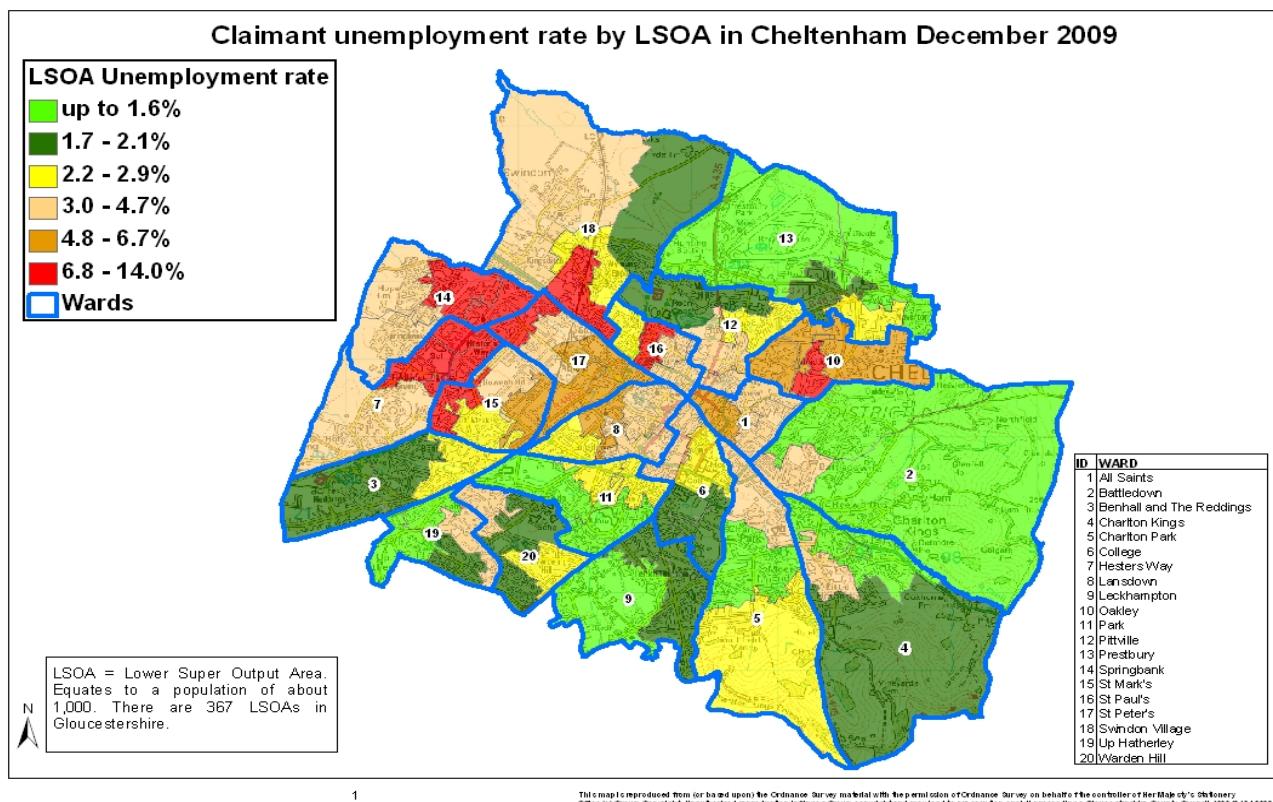
PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Claimant unemployment rate by LSOA in Gloucestershire December 2009

LSOA = Lower Super Output Area.
Equates to a population of about
1,000. There are 367 LSOAs in
Gloucestershire.



PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



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 December 2009 there were 684 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 4.0%. This figure evidences a 0.3% decrease from the performance achieved at the end of November 09 with all districts also showing (for the second month in succession) a decrease in their numbers of 16-18 NEET young people. The largest decrease has been seen in Tewkesbury and Cotswold areas where the rates have decreased by 0.4% and 0.5% respectively. This months performance is of particular significance as December is the second of the three consecutive months from which NEET performance is calculated to provide a

Total NEET Group by District Area 31st December 2009

	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	Total
NEET Group	153	56	85	200	121	69	684(*)
% NEET of total 16-18 cohort	5.2%	2.1%	3.1%	4.0%	3.9%	3.2%	4.0% (*)

January Guarantee

The Prime Minister announced on 18th November plans to build on the September guarantee by guaranteeing the offer of a place on an Entry to Employment programme to all 16 and 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in January 2010.

January is a key point in the year when additional support is needed. Seasonal employment and short courses come to an end and some young people realise that their initial choice was not right for them and do not return to school/College after the Christmas holiday. This Guarantee will allow young people who are NEET to reengage quickly in positive and productive learning, remain motivated and engaged. We will thereby reduce the risk of long term disengagement.

In Gloucestershire we are supporting this and have contacted young people for whom the guarantee applies to encourage them to take up this opportunity.

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